



BID INITIATIVE

Better data. Better decisions. **Better health.**



Improving health
service delivery
through better data
collection, quality,
and use.

ANNUAL REPORT
April 2015–March 2016



LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

This year marks our most significant progress to date! With [rollout underway in Tanzania](#) and soon to start in Zambia, members at all levels of the health system are one step closer to realizing and leveraging the benefits of data collection and use to make better decisions in providing health services and reaching more children.

As BID's third year closes, we're celebrating our progress and many lessons learned to date. We've always had a fail fast, learn fast approach-- sharing our challenges and iterating on BID's solutions with our end users to ensure they're sustainable, can scale beyond our test sites, and are applicable in other country contexts through the [BID Learning Network](#).

We continue working closely with country leaders and partners and look forward to seeing the BID Initiative's impact as interventions are implemented in facilities throughout Tanzania and Zambia.

I encourage you to continue to follow our journey through our [website](#), [email newsletter](#), [blog](#), [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#)!

Sincerely,



Laurie Werner, Global Director

THE BID INITIATIVE EMPOWERS COUNTRIES TO CREATE AN ENVIRONMENT WHERE RELIABLE, EASILY ACCESSED, AND ACTIONABLE DATA CAN BE USED TO IMPROVE HEALTH OUTCOMES.

While our initial focus is on immunization data to first test and prove our approach, interventions are designed to be applicable and adaptable to several health verticals such as nutrition or maternal, newborn, and child health.

BUILDING ON COUNTRY PARTNERSHIPS IN ZAMBIA AND TANZANIA

In early 2016, we met with delegations, including the [Deputy Ministers, from both Tanzania and Zambia at the first Ministerial Conference on Immunization in Africa](#). The BID Initiative is positioned to play a critical role in creating a data-use culture among health workers and help strengthen health systems, two key priorities for both countries in closing the immunization gap. Both parties reiterated the importance of scaling BID beyond our initial test sites and are committed to partnering to ensure success.

Rollout continues in the Arusha region of Tanzania and is set to begin in Southern Province of Zambia. Tanzania's new electronic immunization registry is being used in 54 facilities and more than 15,000 children and their vaccination



schedules are in the system. Health workers in Arusha City can now project how many kids they'll see in a month, ensure they have enough stock on hand, and follow up with mothers if their child didn't come in for a scheduled vaccine.

In Zambia, we're partnering with the University of Oslo to develop the Zambia immunization registry system and recently met with the [User Advisory Group](#) to gather initial feedback on the design and functionality. To complement the immunization registry, several interventions have been designed to encourage data use among health workers to improve their service delivery.

We've made incredible progress in both Tanzania and Zambia. While we originally envisioned adopting a third country, we made a strategic decision to fully invest funds into our initial demonstration countries where we've already dedicated significant resources and seen great headway. This refocus of resources is intended to sustain momentum and set us up for even more success. It will allow us to reach greater impact and scale with proven solutions, which can then be replicated in many countries.

OPTIMIZING BID SOLUTIONS FOR USE ACROSS AFRICA



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The BID Learning Network (BLN) continues to be an effective mechanism in designing not only sustainable, but scalable solutions. We held another successful [Design Collaborative](#) in Senegal and are planning the next meeting in Ghana in May. Our second [Discussion Meeting](#) in December convened a broader group of partners and participants from across 17 countries in Arusha, Tanzania, to review updates on implementation progress and challenges in our test region and weigh in on packaging BID solutions for scale and wider country use.

We are currently reviewing applications for the [BLN Small Grant Program](#) and recently launched [BLN study visits](#) for demonstration and design countries. The study visits promote further relationship building between BLN countries and enable learning from others working toward improving data collection, quality, and use.

CREATING A DATA-USE CULTURE

Introducing a new technology, such as an electronic immunization registry system, requires user acceptance. But even before users get to a stage of understanding and ease, they often have to adapt or adjust their old behavior to adopt the new techniques or technologies.

The BID Initiative is acutely aware of this transition and incorporated change management approaches at district and facility levels to ease the transition from current, paper-based tools to digital-based data collection and analysis with the new electronic immunization registry system currently in development.

“These techniques are designed with the user in mind,” says Mandy Dube, Change Management Lead for the BID Initiative Zambia. “We developed specific interventions such as data use guides and posters to improve data capture, encourage behavior change, and build confidence in the use of data among health workers. These interventions are critical because the success of the system also depends on the success of the health workers – if they can use the digital tools well, the immunization registry system will perform better, and we will be more successful at rolling out sustainable solutions to more health facilities.”

Change management approaches add value to health service delivery by creating a culture of data use to increase efficiency, resulting in a more positive experience for clients and ultimately, improved health outcomes for children.

Our [Google Group](#) and partner-hosted webinars continue to be strong platforms for discussing challenges and sharing solutions to common problems around improving immunization and overall health service delivery.

Continued

Funder: Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

Key Partners & Stakeholders: Tanzania Ministry of Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children; Zambia Ministry of Health; Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance; World Health Organization (WHO); WHO African Region; UNICEF; University of Oslo; Mohawk College.

