



SAVING LIVES THROUGH BETTER DATA

Strategies and Tactics from the BID Initiative

Q2 2014

From the Director

It's been just four short months since our last newsletter and we have so much to share! First, I'm excited to announce that we've officially launched the BID Initiative website (www.BIDinitiative.org)! From the start of our journey, we knew we needed a way to not only keep you informed of our progress, but also provide you with a forum to share feedback, participate in the dialogue, and be directly involved. This website is your resource center, your platform. I invite you to watch our [video](#) and explore the website for more information about our approach and how you can get involved. You are a critical part of the BID Initiative solution and we hope you will visit us frequently, [let us know](#) how it's working for you, and what we can improve on to help keep you updated.

In addition, we've reached several other critical milestones which include; hosting the inaugural BID Learning Network (BLN) meeting in Kigali, Rwanda and closing out our Phase 0 planning

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stage with deliverables submitted to our funder, The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.



Liz Peloso
Global Director, Better Immunization Data Initiative
PATH

The BID Learning Network Launches in Kigali, Rwanda



The BID Learning Network (BLN) held its inaugural meeting in Kigali, Rwanda on May 28-30 and brought together delegates from 13 different countries (Burkina Faso, Cote D'Ivoire, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Mozambique, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, Tanzania, Uganda, South Africa, and Zambia) as well as international partners (WHO, UNICEF, and GAVI) to connect and discuss strategies for strengthening national immunization programs.

The successful meeting was met with active participation and lively discussion that will be critical to shaping the BID Initiative's direction. For reflections on the meeting, including a full recap and PowerPoint deck that outlines the objectives, highlights, presentations, and next steps from the meeting ready for you to share with your colleagues, [read our blog](#).

The BID Learning Network (BLN) is intended to be a platform where participants can contribute ideas, share experiences and actively participate, helping each other as you face similar challenges.

[JUMP IN. GET INVOLVED. →](#)

STAY CONNECTED

[READ BID'S LATEST ON OUR BLOG. →](#)

[SUBSCRIBE TO AND VIEW PAST ISSUES OF SAVING LIVES THROUGH BETTER DATA: STRATEGIES AND TACTICS FROM THE BID INITIATIVE. →](#)

Led by PATH and funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, the Better Immunization Data (BID) Initiative is grounded in the belief that better data, plus better decisions, will lead to better health outcomes. Its vision is to empower countries to enhance immunization and overall health service delivery through improved data collection, quality, and use.



LEARN MORE ABOUT THE BID LEARNING NETWORK AND ITS GOALS. →

JOIN THE DISCUSSION. →

Demo Country Updates

After several site visits and detailed discussions with government officials and key stakeholders, the BID Initiative has formalized its partnership with demonstration countries Tanzania and Zambia to develop and test innovations and solutions at scale. Based on discussions with our country partners, we have identified issues of focus, which include:

- Delays and inaccuracies in data moving from one level to another;
- Denominator issue (e.g., not knowing accurate catchment numbers);
- Supply chain (stock outs, no visibility into stock levels at facilities, distribution issues);
- Local data use (e.g., data is often seen as being collected for someone else, and is not used to improve local decision making);
- Issues of access (e.g., hard to reach populations, marginalized populations)

Many of these problems are common to other countries, which supports our hypothesis and goal of creating common solutions that should be suitable and relevant to many countries. We are now developing work plans to begin implementing pilot interventions and conducting baseline assessments in the two demonstration countries.

There are three major groups of interventions that both demonstration countries are interested in pursuing to address these issues. First, the use of a national electronic immunization register that will contain all children from birth and their immunization schedules. Second, both countries are interested in improving ways to manage their supply chain more effectively and efficiently. Finally, and most important, we hope to improve the capacity to use data for better decision-making, as well as generate a “data culture” at all levels of the health system.

To support this work, the BID Initiative is hiring and onboarding staff in Lusaka, Zambia; Dar es Salaam, Tanzania; and is also setting up satellite offices in Tanzania’s Arusha region and Zambia’s Southern Province, where the initiative will conduct a

test phase of select interventions in addition to baseline assessments.

Interested in becoming BID's third demo country partner in the next few years? Please reach out: BIIDinitiative@path.org.

[LEARN WHAT'S TAKING PLACE IN OUR DEMONSTRATION COUNTRIES. →](#)

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The BID Website, Now Live

www.BIIDinitiative.org

The BID Initiative website is designed to keep you updated on our progress, provide a space for you to share and consume helpful resources, and allow you to participate in discussions with your colleagues.

To submit resources for online posting, or if you're interested in authoring a blog, please email BIIDcomms@path.org.

If you are a subscriber to this newsletter, you have been pre-signed up for the BID Learning Network's [Google Group](#). This group provides you with a convenient way to stay linked with your peers and lead and contribute to discussions that are valuable to your work. If you would prefer not to participate in this group, you may opt out after receiving the initial communication.

You can also stay up-to-date on BID Initiative happenings by [subscribing](#) to email notifications letting you know whenever new posts, resources or blogs are added.

Wrapping up a Successful Phase 0

The BID Initiative concluded its preliminary planning phase with the submission of Phase 0 deliverables to the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation at the end of March. Further funding and continuation of the initiative were contingent upon review of Phase 0 work, and we are thrilled to report that we have received a "go" decision from our donor to move forward with the implementation phase of the project!

Phase 0 deliverables submitted include the following:

- Revised budget and budget narrative.

- Revised milestone template from proposal.
- M&E plan and narrative, which outlines assumptions and provides information on the larger learning and evaluation work we plan to do.

Implementation planning is well under way, and we look forward to keeping you updated on major activities and milestones. Much gratitude to all of our partners and stakeholders who contributed their expertise and feedback in helping to build the foundation of the BID Initiative!

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