

Addressing Immunization Service Delivery Issues in Tanzania and Zambia – BID Initiative Combines Better Data and Better Decisions to Improve Health Outcomes

Challenge

Improve the quality and use of health data to reach more children with life-saving vaccines in Tanzania and Zambia.

Solution

While the world has made incredible progress in providing access to life-saving vaccines, immunization coverage has stalled, leaving children vulnerable to preventable diseases. The barriers to vaccination are not always clear, and evidence can be anecdotal at best. Did a child miss a vaccine due to a health center stockout? Did a caregiver not know the child was due for an immunization? Are there other reasons for a child missing a life-saving vaccine?

To improve immunization coverage, health workers, managers, and other health professionals need easy access to reliable, actionable data. Led by PATH and the governments of Tanzania and Zambia, the [BID Initiative](#) believes that better data, plus better decisions, will lead to better health outcomes. BID was designed to help health workers access and use data to reach more children with life-saving vaccines. By transforming data collection, data quality, and the use of that data to make evidence-based decisions, BID worked to empower health workers and countries to improve immunization and overall health service delivery.

Since 2013, BID has been partnering with the governments of Tanzania and Zambia to design, test, and roll out a holistic suite of interventions that are flexible enough to apply to other countries and health areas.

These include:

- Electronic immunization registry (EIR) integrated with a supply chain information system.
- Automated, simplified report generation and visualization.



- Data use campaigns.
- Peer support networks and targeted supervision for health workers.
- Barcodes or QR on child health cards and vaccine supplies to help uniquely identify patients and track vaccine stocks.
- Dashboards to monitor facility and neighboring facility performance.

Impact

- More than one million children have been registered in both electronic immunization registries (EIR).
- Tanzania's EIR is now in use in 15 regions of the country, with plans to scale nationally by the end of 2020.
- Tanzania is also beginning to transition to a fully digital system, retiring its paper-based records.
- Zambia's EIR is now fully scaled in one province.

Key Project Partners

- BID Initiative/PATH teams
- Tanzania's Ministry of Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly, and Children (MOHCDGEC)
- Zambia's Ministry of Health

Architecture Components in Practice

- Client Registry
- Health Management Information System
- Logistics Management System
- Health Facility Registry
- VIMS – Vaccine Information Management System

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