

The Rockefeller Foundation and Digital Square at PATH Commit \$5M to Strengthening Data-Driven Health Systems & Global Immunizations

Note: This post originally appeared on [The Rockefeller Foundation](#) website.



Two-year partnership will support deployment of digital tools and data analytics in Jamaica, Mali, Tanzania, Thailand, Uganda, and Zambia

NEW YORK | December 7, 2022 – The Rockefeller Foundation and PATH announced the Digital Results Improve Vaccine Equity and Demand (DRIVE Demand) project, a two-year, US\$5 million partnership with PATH’s [Digital Square](#) initiative to deploy and expand the use of digital health tools in Honduras, Mali, Tanzania, Thailand, Uganda, and Zambia. Through DRIVE Demand, the partners aim to help ministries of health utilize digital technologies to understand, track, and influence demand for immunizations. Ultimately, it will support target countries’ effort to reach national COVID-19 and routine immunization targets, while strengthening data-driven health systems in Asia, the Caribbean, and Sub-Saharan Africa.

“The COVID-19 pandemic has been one of the most significant global health events in recent history – but it won’t be the last,” said **Greg Kuzmak, Director of Digital Health Initiatives for The Rockefeller Foundation**. “The global community needs to move quickly to prepare for the next threat. Our partners at Digital Square are helping build stronger, more agile health systems that can rise to the challenge.”

The six focus countries were chosen based on an evaluation of their responses to COVID-19, including: vaccine demand; vaccination rates (both low and high); use of existing open source [global good](#) digital health platforms or systems; and intersection with The Rockefeller Foundation's [Vaccination Access Network \(VAN\)](#). The results of this evaluation led to a country-by-country approach to activity generation, which was created with government leaders to ensure that the program aligned with government priorities and responded to individual country needs.

In Zambia, for example, planned DRIVE Demand activities will center on adapting the Zambia Electronic Immunization Registry (ZEIR) by incorporating a new COVID-19 module and expanding its coverage from 22% to at least 60% of on-site, health-care-worker led facilities in Lusaka. An enhanced and expanded ZEIR would enable more informed decision-making and targeted communications interventions to help increase COVID-19 vaccination coverage while simultaneously tracking routine vaccinations.

“Vaccinations are vital for recovering from this pandemic, preventing the next, and ensuring children are protected from everyday threats,” said **Constance Sakala Banda, Acting Expanded Program on Immunization (EPI) Officer with Zambia’s Ministry of Health.**

“We are glad to partner with Digital Square at PATH and The Rockefeller Foundation to strengthen our immunization platforms and drive demand for these lifesaving immunizations.”

In addition to supporting COVID-19 vaccination efforts, the DRIVE Demand project will also guide partners through the process of digitizing existing health record systems and integrating software while applying learnings from COVID-era innovations to routine immunizations and future pandemic preparedness.

“At the start of the pandemic, health leaders around the world reached for digital tools to track the disease and rapidly respond,” said **Zahra Lutfeali, Managing Director of Digital Square at PATH.** “Now that vaccines are available, ministries of health can streamline or upgrade those tools to help identify groups with limited access to or information on immunizations and decide how best to reach them. DRIVE Demand will put specific, actionable data at decision-makers’ fingertips so they can maximize health resources and help ensure all groups are protected.”

The funding for DRIVE Demand is part of The Rockefeller Foundation’s [Global Vaccination Initiative](#) (GVI), a two-year, \$55 million effort launched in April 2022 to support country-led COVID-19 immunization campaigns in Africa, Asia, Latin America, and the Caribbean.

About Digital Square

Digital Square is a PATH-led initiative funded by the Rockefeller Foundation, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, and a consortium of other partners to advance digitally enabled health services around the world to help close the health equity gap. Since its inception in 2016, [Digital Square](#) has raised nearly \$115M to catalyze a range of digital health investments in support of the adoption, adaptation, and scaling of interoperable digital technologies to improve global health equity. Digital Square's coalitions, resources, and community of mature digital public goods for health (global goods) support large-scale, high-quality, sustainable implementations of digital health interventions.

About PATH

PATH is a global team of innovators working to eliminate health inequities so people, communities, and economies can thrive. We advise and partner with institutions, investors, and businesses of all sizes to solve the world's most pressing health challenges. Because better health moves humanity forward.

About The Rockefeller Foundation

The Rockefeller Foundation is a pioneering philanthropy built on collaborative partnerships at the frontiers of science, technology, and innovation that enable individuals, families, and communities to flourish. We work to promote the well-being of humanity and make opportunity universal and sustainable. Our focus is on scaling renewable energy for all, stimulating economic mobility, and ensuring equitable access to health care and nutritious food. For more information, sign up for our newsletter at [rockefellerfoundation.org](https://www.rockefellerfoundation.org) and follow us on Twitter [@RockefellerFdn](https://twitter.com/RockefellerFdn).