

BILL & MELINDA GATES *foundation*

The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation is based on a simple premise: all lives have equal value. Today, billions of people never have the chance to live a healthy, productive life. We want to help all people—no matter where they live—get that chance.

We know it can be done because this is a unique moment in history: Advances in science and learning are making it possible to solve complex problems like never before. If these advances are focused on helping people who have the most urgent needs and the fewest champions, then within this century billions of people will be healthier, get a better education, and have the power to lift themselves out of hunger and poverty.

HOW WE WORK

We believe we can have the most impact by focusing our work on a few areas. To find those areas, we look for problems that cause great harm but get too little attention. Then we search for ways we can help close those gaps, using our resources, expertise, and ability to bring people together.

Our chief strategy is to identify the root causes of the problems and then to promote innovative solutions to help alleviate them. We form partnerships and make grants to organizations that we think can get the solutions to the people who need them, bring about systemic change, and achieve lasting results.

Sometimes, to promote innovation, we need to take calculated risks on promising ideas. Some of these risks will pay off; others won't. But we expect to learn from all of them—and as we learn, we adjust our strategies accordingly.

We share what we're learning because we want to expand the body of information available about the issues we work on and encourage others to continue striving for solutions. Our resources are small compared to the scope of the challenges we are trying to address. In 2008, the United States National Institutes of Health will have spent about 15 times more than the foundation's budget for global health. Or, to take another example, our entire endowment would not be enough to fund public schools in the state of California for even one year.

We're convinced that major problems can be solved if governments, businesses, nonprofit organizations, and individuals work together. We make grants in three main areas: Global Health Program, Global Development Program, and United States Program. Each program includes a policy and advocacy team dedicated to raising awareness of problems—and solutions—to motivate change. Their work includes public affairs, to increase interest in the issues and strengthen the voice of the public; grantmaking to organizations that support our mission; and public education, to provide policymakers and others with information on issues.

We have offices in Seattle, Washington; Washington, D.C.; Beijing, China; Delhi, India; and London, United Kingdom. As of September 30, 2009, we had 786 employees and an endowment of \$34.17 billion, and made \$21.08 billion in total grant commitments. The foundation supports grantees in all 50 states and the District of Columbia. Internationally, we support work in more than 100 countries.

Global Health grants paid in 2008:
\$1.8 billion

GLOBAL HEALTH PROGRAM

We know from experience that investing in global health saves lives. And when people are healthier they can build better lives for themselves, their families, and their communities. Yet advances in health still too often fail to reach those who need them, and research on diseases of the developing world is severely neglected. As a result, millions of people in the developing world die each year from preventable diseases. We're focused on addressing health problems in the developing world that cause the greatest harm but receive too little attention, including malaria, HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, polio, diarrheal diseases, and many others.

OUR GLOBAL HEALTH PROGRAM COMPRISES THREE FOCUS AREAS:

Discovery: Researching diseases and other health problems affecting developing countries to gain insight into potential new interventions.

Development: Fostering partnerships to translate scientific breakthroughs into effective and affordable vaccines, drugs, and other tools for developing countries.

Delivery: Supporting local, national, and international efforts to ensure that proven health tools reach the people who need them most.

GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

When people in developing countries have opportunities to overcome poverty—to save a little money safely, to farm their land more effectively, to get valuable information online—they seize them. But far too few people actually get these opportunities. Today, nearly 2.5 billion people live on less than \$2 a day. So, we aim to increase chances for people in the developing world to overcome hunger and poverty.

OUR GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM COMPRISES THREE FOCUS AREAS:

Agricultural Development: Helping small farmers increase their productivity and income through better seeds, improved farm-management techniques, and access to markets.

Financial Services for the Poor: Supporting new products, technologies, and business models to make safe, affordable financial services—particularly savings accounts—much more widely available in developing countries.

Special Initiatives: Learning and having an impact on a range of key development issues—like water, sanitation, and hygiene—as well as expanding free access to computers and the Internet and the opportunities they provide.

Global Development grants
paid in 2008: \$462 million

U.S. Program grants paid in 2008:
\$170 million

UNITED STATES PROGRAM

We are committed to the goal of extending greater possibilities for everyone in the United States. Public education is a great American invention, and has long been the key to unlocking opportunity, which keeps our society dynamic. In the United States, more than 1.2 million students drop out of high school every year, and half of those who do graduate are not adequately prepared for college or a career. Compounding this challenge, only one-quarter of young adults from low-income families get any kind of postsecondary degree. Working with our partners, we aim to invest in solutions that prepare all students for success in college, career, and life.

OUR U.S. PROGRAM COMPRISES SEVERAL FOCUS AREAS:

Increasing High School Graduation and College Readiness Rates: Significantly raising the number of students—particularly low-income, Hispanic, and African-American students—who graduate from high school ready for college and work.

Increasing Attainment of Postsecondary Credentials: Appreciably improving postsecondary-enrollment and completion rates among low-income students, whether for certificate, trade license, associate's, or bachelor's degrees with value in the labor market.

Scholarships: Removing the financial barriers to college for promising students who can't afford it.

Early Learning in Washington State: Helping make sure that all children in Washington state start learning before they begin school and start kindergarten ready to succeed.

Ending Family Homelessness in Washington State: Working with government partners, along with multiple nonprofit housing and service providers to reduce family homelessness in Washington state by half over the next decade; assisting low-income families to access life-improving services.

U.S. Libraries: Helping public libraries continue to offer free, high-quality computer and Internet services to low-income communities.

Special Initiatives: Exploring potential new areas of giving; funding one-time opportunities in response to unique challenges and unanticipated events.