

# BILL & MELINDA GATES *foundation*

## FOUNDATION OVERVIEW

Bill and Melinda Gates started the foundation because they believe every person should have the chance to live a healthy, productive life. All of the foundation's grantmaking and advocacy efforts support this mission.

This is a unique moment in history: Advances in science and learning are making it possible to solve complex problems like never before. If we focus these advances on helping people improve their lives, then within this century billions of people will be healthier, get better educations, and have the power to lift themselves out of hunger and poverty.

We set clear priorities because we can have the greatest impact by staying focused. Certain problems affect millions of people—diseases in developing countries, low high school graduation rates in the United States, low crop yields in Africa. In our priority areas, we work on long-term solutions for people with the most urgent needs.

**We make grants in three program areas:** Global Development, Global Health, and the United States. Each program area has 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.

**Our grantmaking process involves four key steps:** developing strategy, making grants, measuring progress, and adjusting strategy. Our approach emphasizes partnership, innovation, risk, and, most importantly, results. Achieving the results we want requires the flexibility to learn from mistakes.

We form partnerships and make grants to organizations that we think can get solutions to the people who need them, bring about systemic change, and achieve lasting results. Then we search for ways we can make unique contributions, using our resources, expertise, and ability to bring people together.

We believe in the power of innovation. By applying new thinking to big problems, we can help people improve their lives. Sometimes, to promote innovation, we 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 will 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 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.

Global Development Program  
grants paid in 2009: \$679 million

We have offices in Seattle, Washington; Washington, D.C.; Delhi, India; Beijing, China; and London, United Kingdom. As of December 31, 2009, we had 818 employees and an endowment of \$33.5 billion and had made \$22.61 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 DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

When people in developing countries have opportunities to overcome poverty—to save a little money safely, farm their land more effectively, get valuable information online—they seize them. But far too few people actually get these opportunities. The Global Development Program explores the best opportunities to help the world's poorest people lift themselves out of hunger and poverty.

### OUR GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM COMPRISES THE FOLLOWING FOCUS AREAS:

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

**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.

**Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene:** Helping millions of people gain access to safe and sustainable sanitation and improve the quality of their water and hygiene.

**Global Libraries:** Helping provide free access to computers and the Internet in thousands of public libraries in emerging economies.

**Special Initiatives:** Supporting various projects that have an impact on a range of key development issues, including urban poverty and international response efforts.

## GLOBAL HEALTH PROGRAM

We know from experience that investing in global health saves lives. 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 aim to harness advances in science and technology to save lives in developing countries. We work with partners to deliver proven tools, such as vaccines, drugs, and diagnostics, and invent new solutions where they don't exist. We invest heavily in vaccines in the hope that one day they can be used to prevent HIV, malaria, and tuberculosis; wipe out polio; and help save children from dying of diarrhea and pneumonia.

### OUR GLOBAL HEALTH PROGRAM COMPRISES THE FOLLOWING FOCUS AREAS:

**Enteric and Diarrheal Diseases:** Working to develop and deliver low-cost interventions that prevent and treat diarrhea-related illness in the developing world.

**Family Planning:** Improving health and saving lives by providing families access to voluntary family planning services and contraceptives.

Global Health Program grants  
paid in 2009: \$1.8 billion

**HIV:** Aiming to reduce new HIV infections by delivering proven prevention tools and strategies and advancing research and development on new prevention technologies.

**Malaria:** Making headway against the eventual goal of malaria eradication with proven control programs and promising new research.

**Maternal, Neonatal, and Child Health:** Advancing the use of practical tools and strategies to reduce the number of mothers and newborns who die during and immediately after childbirth.

**Neglected and Other Infectious Diseases:** Working with our partners to reduce the burden of neglected diseases, such as guinea worm and river blindness.

**Nutrition:** Preventing malnutrition in young children to ensure proper physical and cognitive growth and improve disease resistance.

**Pneumonia:** Significantly reducing the number of children in developing countries who contract pneumonia by improving access to affordable vaccines.

**Polio:** Exploring every avenue to help eradicate polio with our partners in the Global Polio Eradication Initiative.

**Tobacco:** Reducing the occurrence of tobacco-related disease in developing countries by accelerating the adoption of strategies to prevent and reduce tobacco use.

**Tuberculosis:** Developing and introducing new ways to prevent, diagnose, and treat tuberculosis.

**Vaccines:** Focusing on the discovery, development, and delivery of vaccines, which offer the greatest and most cost-effective way to prevent disease.

## UNITED STATES PROGRAM

In the United States, our mission is to improve education dramatically so that all young people have the opportunity to reach their full potential. High school is not enough for our students, or our country, to compete in the global economy, yet only two-fifths of those aged 25 to 29 have obtained a college degree. Working with our partners, we invest in solutions that help all students graduate from high school prepared to succeed in college and career and that dramatically increase the number of young people who complete a degree beyond high school with real value in the workplace.

### OUR UNITED STATES PROGRAM COMPRISES THE FOLLOWING FOCUS AREAS:

**Education:** Working with partners to advance reforms that will benefit all students, particularly those in underserved communities. Our priorities include:

- ensuring an effective teacher in every class, every year
- establishing consistent and clear college- and career-ready standards for student achievement
- supporting accelerated academic catch-up to shorten time to degree completion
- promoting alternative financial aid policies that reward completion
- researching and identifying data that provides educators, parents, students, and policymakers the information they need to succeed

U.S. Program grants paid in 2009:  
\$489 million

We also fund college and graduate school scholarships for outstanding low-income students across the country and support high-quality early learning programs in Washington state.

**Pacific Northwest:** Assisting struggling families by supporting innovative community organizations in the Pacific Northwest, where the foundation makes its home and where our domestic investments are actively working together. In particular, we focus on efforts that help break the cycle of family homelessness in the region.

**U.S. Libraries:** Supporting efforts to provide and sustain free access to computers and the Internet in public libraries across the country.

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