A MESSAGE FROM THE CHINA DIRECTOR

Most people in China have heard of Bill Gates. They know him as a technology industry leader and a co-founder of Microsoft. But fewer people are aware of the foundation that he and his wife, Melinda, created in 2000 to reduce inequity around the globe.

The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation invests in ideas that could change the lives of millions of the world’s poorest people — whether it be through better and cheaper medicines, access to education, improved crop varieties, or digital banking tools. Every project involves partners — big and small — who know more than we do about local needs and local conditions.

Our vision for China is ambitious. While we continue to support development within China in areas such as poverty alleviation, nutrition, tuberculosis, HIV/AIDS, and philanthropic development, we are also committed to supporting China as a development partner for the rest of the world.

By tapping into Chinese resources, innovation, and expertise, we aim to replicate China’s remarkable success in addressing health inequity and poverty in some of the poorest regions of the world. China’s domestic reforms, increasing global engagement, and emerging capacity for innovation only serve to reinforce our faith in China’s potential as a catalyst for development worldwide.

As the director of the China Office, I hope you will explore the work we do and join us in our effort to ensure that everyone in China — and the world — has the chance to live a healthy, productive life.

Yinuo Li
Director, China Country Office, Gates Foundation

OUR GLOBAL OVERVIEW

Guided by the belief that all lives have equal value, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation works to reduce inequity around the globe. We fund new ideas and encourage innovative partnerships so shared resources will do the greatest good for the most people. In developing countries, we focus on improving people’s health and giving them the chance to lift themselves out of hunger and extreme poverty. In the United States, we seek to ensure that all people — especially those with the fewest resources — have access to the opportunities they need to succeed in school and life. Our vision is a world in which all people have the chance to live healthy, productive lives.

Founded in 2000 and based in Seattle, Washington, the foundation is led by CEO Sue Desmond-Hellmann and co-chair William H. Gates Sr., under the direction of Bill and Melinda Gates and Warren Buffett.
WHAT WE DO

We work with partner organizations worldwide to ensure that all lives have equal value. The outcomes that help us achieve our vision include:

Ensure more children and young people survive and thrive

Nearly 800 million people worldwide live on less than US$2 a day, and more than 1 billion suffer from chronic hunger. For these people, the basics of food, water, shelter, and sanitation are in short supply, and healthcare and education can be unaffordable luxuries. We work to help hundreds of millions of people lift themselves out of poverty and build better lives by equipping local communities with the knowledge and resources to ensure that every child has the opportunity to live a healthy, productive life.

Combat infectious diseases that particularly affect the poorest

We believe that by harnessing advances in science and technology, we can save lives. We work with partners to deliver vaccines, drugs, and diagnostics that are affordable and reliable. Equally important is innovation in how we bring health interventions to those who need them most. We invest heavily in vaccines to prevent infectious diseases — including HIV, polio, and malaria — that impose the greatest disease burden.

Empower the poorest, especially women and girls, to transform their lives

We believe that empowering the poorest is the key to reshaping lives. In particular, women and girls can have a catalytic effect on changing entire societies. When a woman has access to healthcare, she is likely to survive childbirth, have healthy babies, and invest in her children’s health and education through childhood and adolescence. Furthermore, a high-quality, broadly accessible public education is key to increasing and adolescent. Furthermore, a high-quality, broadly accessible public education is key to increasing.

HOW WE WORK

We focus on the biggest barriers to people living healthy, productive lives by addressing problems where we can make the greatest impact. Whether the challenge is low-yield crops in Africa or low graduation rates in Los Angeles, we listen and learn so we can identify pressing problems that get too little attention. Then we consider whether we can use our influence and our investments to make a meaningful difference.

We believe in the power of catalytic philanthropy. For us, it is about using our resources and convening power to set up a system to make market forces work for the poor. The governing principle behind our spending is to invest in programs and people that are positioned to act as catalysts for progress in their own nation, their own community, their own family.

Our approach is defined by four core values that guide our decisions and actions every day.

Optimism. The issues we engage in are wildly disparate, but they share the characteristics of being deeply rooted, dynamic, and complex. Addressing these issues requires a strong sense of optimism that allows us to look beyond the enormous barriers of the here and now. We consider ourselves impatient optimists, willing to take risks and learn from mistakes, and committed to doing whatever it takes to achieve impact in the face of the greatest challenges facing our world today and in the years to come.

Collaboration. While our foundation can bring significant resources to bear, these resources are small compared to the challenges we are trying to address. We also know that when it comes to the complex challenges we are trying to tackle, we certainly don’t have all the answers. In other words, we need partners to provide the ideas and the expertise required to make progress. We build partnerships everywhere, with everyone, from global public health agencies to small community groups to venture capital firms firms. We have a unique capacity to bring widely varied organizations together for a common cause — this “convening power” is an important part of our work worldwide.

While the private sector does a phenomenal job meeting human needs among those who can pay, there are billions of people who have no way to express their needs in ways that matter to markets...

Catalytic philanthropy can harness political and market forces to get innovations to the people who need them most.

—Bill Gates
Case: Gavi — an example of catalytic philanthropy to improve access to new and underused vaccines for poor kids.

Close to 6 million under-five children die every year, of which 1.6 million are vaccine-preventable. Immunization has proven to be one of the most cost-effective ways to save and improve lives. A 2015 Johns Hopkins study shows that for every dollar invested in immunization, there is a US$16 return. This adds up to a total economic benefit of US$86 billion across all the countries included in the study.

However, at the end of the 20th century, global immunization efforts were beginning to plateau. Despite promising progress of the previous two decades by Expanded Program on Immunization (EPI), there were 30 million children living in poor countries who were not fully immunized. Coverage was stagnating and in some places even declining. And even though new life-saving vaccines were becoming available, beyond the original 6 EPI vaccines, virtually none were reaching children in developing countries because they were too expensive.

Gavi was launched in 2000 with US$750 million in seed funding from the Gates Foundation. It is an alliance featuring unique public-private partnerships. Partners include key UN agencies such as UNICEF, governments, the vaccine industry, the private sector and civil society.

Gavi uses an innovative business model that not only raises funds to buy new vaccines for developing countries, but also reshapes the vaccine market, spurring the development of vaccines and expanding production. This, combined with the expertise of its members, makes this success sustainable in the long term and ensures it can be owned by the countries themselves.

Specifically, the model features a number of innovations. Some examples are as below:

Secure predictable financing with three innovative mechanisms

- **Gavi matching fund.** Under this mechanism, the Department for International Development of UK and the Gates Foundation have pledged to match contributions from companies, other foundations, their customers, employees and business partners.

- **The International Finance Facility for Immunization.** This mechanism uses the pledge from donor governments to sell "vaccine bonds" in capital markets, making large volumes of funds immediately available for Gavi programs. The World Bank serves as the treasury manager.

- **Advance Market Commitment.** Gavi is piloting this program for pneumococcal vaccines (for pneumonia, the world’s leading killer of under-fives). Five government donors and the Gates Foundation committed US$1.5 billion to launch the pilot. With this "predictable" financing, pharmaceutical companies have an incentive to invest in the capacity to manufacture pneumococcal vaccines that include the additional serotypes required to combat the most common and fatal strains of pneumococcus in low-income countries. In exchange, these same firms have signed legally binding agreements to supply the pneumococcal vaccine at a maximum long-term price of US$3.50 per dose. This allows developing country governments to budget and plan for their immunization programs, safe in the knowledge that vaccines will be available in sufficient quantity and at a predictable price. The success of this pilot project could have far-reaching consequences for addressing market failures to provide the right solutions to eliminate diseases that affect low-income countries.

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Outcomes:

- Since its inception in 2000, Gavi has helped immunize more than 580 million children, averting more than 8 million deaths.

- To ensure that all partners have a thorough understanding of important market characteristics, trends and demand, Gavi uses two main tools: 1) Strategic demand forecasts enable a better understanding of the product-specific demand in each vaccine market. Demand forecasting estimates future needs, and allows Gavi and manufacturers to effectively plan for the long term. 2) Roadmaps determine Gavi’s long-term market ambition for each vaccine, including an analysis of the market landscape, projections of supply and demand, and prioritization of different objectives and options for how to achieve them.

- Supporting tiered pricing. The significant volume and value of demand from Gavi countries have created incentives for vaccine manufacturers to establish a low-pricing tier. This allows Gavi-supported countries to access the same products at a fraction of the price charged in high-income countries.

Strengthen health delivery systems and put countries in charge

- Gavi provides funding to developing country governments to support them in strengthening the vaccine delivery systems including: training nurses; giving expert health workers incentives; deploying enough cold chain and waste disposal equipment; monitoring and measurement, etc.

- A key pillar here is a co-financing model which requires that recipient countries share the cost of the vaccine. Percentage of the contribution varies from country to country. The end goal is to graduate countries as they gain more maturity in sustaining the immunization efforts on their own after Gavi support ends.

Reshape vaccine markets

- Aggregating demand and procurement. By aggregating demand from over 70 countries, using a pooled procurement system, developing strategic demand forecasts and securing long-term donor commitments, Gavi is able to help increase demand certainty. This enables manufacturers to plan production more effectively — reducing the risk of supply shortages and allowing Gavi to obtain lower prices.
**OUR FOUNDATION IN CHINA**

China has achieved remarkable success in addressing health inequity and poverty over the past decades. Its domestic reforms, increasing global engagement and emerging capacity for innovation only serve to reinforce China’s potential as a catalyst for development worldwide.

Since the inauguration of our China office in 2007, we have been focused on unlocking that potential in a way that benefits China and the rest of the world. In working towards this goal, we continue to support China in overcoming domestic health and development challenges, leverage China’s growing innovation capacity to supply high-quality, affordable health products to those in need, and assist China in becoming a stronger partner for global health and development.

China has achieved one of the greatest victories in history — lifting 700 million people out of poverty in just 30 years. It entailed investments in innovation; most importantly, it required channeling that innovation to address human health and agricultural productivity. At our foundation, we want to learn how China made this amazing progress, and how, together, we can help other countries do the same.

—Bill Gates
CONTINUE TO SUPPORT CHINA IN MEETING DOMESTIC HEALTH AND DEVELOPMENT CHALLENGES

Through our core programs in China, we work to tackle the critical health and development challenges, which, in spite of China's remarkable development progress over the past decades, still affect the lives of millions of Chinese people today. In addition, we are working with a wide range of partners to encourage and nurture China's growing philanthropic sector.

Tuberculosis

Over the past two decades, China has expanded the use of the tuberculosis (TB) control strategy recommended by the World Health Organization (WHO) across the country. This approach helped China meet its TB-related UN Millennium Development Goal — to reduce TB prevalence and mortality by half between 1990 and 2015 — five years ahead of the target date.

However, challenges remain huge. According to the WHO, China today still has the third-largest tuberculosis epidemic, with around 900,000 newly developed tuberculosis (TB) cases each year. In addition, China has about one-fifth of the world’s cases of multidrug-resistant TB (MDR-TB), which is especially difficult and costly to treat.

In 2009, we collaborated with the Ministry of Health (now the National Health Commission, NHC) to pilot a joint TB control program to develop and demonstrate innovative TB control models that can help China further reduce the number of patients who develop TB, particularly MDR-TB. The model piloted during the first phase of the program (2009-2012) focused primarily on MDR-TB. It identified nine times the number of new cases of multidrug-resistant TB, which is especially difficult and costly to treat.

The second phase of the program (2013-2015) expanded this model into a comprehensive approach for all TB cases that includes integration with health systems, creative financing mechanisms, and the use of new tools such as molecular diagnostics and medication monitors. This model was piloted in the three prefecture-level cities of Zhenjiang, Yichang and Hanzhong, benefiting about 14 million people.

We are now in the third phase of the collaborative program (2016-2018). We are scaling up the comprehensive TB control model developed and piloted during the previous phases in the Zhejiang, Jilin and Ningxia provinces with a total population of 90 million. This phase intends to help the three provinces streamline the collaboration among hospitals, centers for disease control and prevention, and the primary healthcare units at all levels for TB control, to apply molecular diagnostics for universal TB drug susceptibility testing and electronic medication monitors for case management, and to carry out new financing and payment reform to reduce TB patients’ catastrophic medical expenditures. This phase will also highlight important innovations in information and communications technologies, such as upgrading the national TB information system to capture TB patients’ information from hospitals and primary healthcare units and establishing an e-learning and certification system for TB-related healthcare providers at all levels.

Poverty Alleviation

China has had unparalleled success in poverty alleviation, contributing 76% of all global poverty reduction to date. However, millions of people still live in extreme poverty and the government has pledged to root out extreme poverty by 2020.

We are committed to supporting China in going the final mile. The broad partnerships that we have developed with the public, private and social sectors in China and around the world allow us to engage in policy dialogues and mobilize resources, funding and innovation that are critical for poverty alleviation at scale.

Based on our understanding of local needs and on our own strengths, we have adopted a three-pronged approach in our program:

• Partnering with key government agencies such as the NHC to support the piloting of innovative models and advocate for their wider adoption in prioritized areas such as rural healthcare, early childhood nutrition and financial services for the poor.

• Working with the State Council Leading Group Office of Poverty Alleviation and Development (ICPAD) and leading think tanks to conduct policy research on poverty alleviation, summarize findings, and facilitate experience sharing within China and between China and other countries.

• Catalyzing the establishment of new and stronger platforms to mobilize more vigorous participation from social and private sector actors in poverty alleviation.

Nutrition

Malnutrition early in life can cause irreversible damage to children’s brain development and their physical growth, leading to a diminished capacity to learn, poorer performance in school, greater susceptibility to infection and disease and a lifetime of lost earning potential. Therefore, we need to focus on the critical 1,000-day period: from the onset of their mother’s pregnancy to their second birthday.

Although China has made strong progress in reducing malnutrition, significant inequities exist among different regions. China still has the third largest number of stunted children under the age of five in the world. Many young children in poor rural areas are not fed diversified and nutritious solid foods after 6 months of age. The resulting micronutrient deficiencies have impaired their physical and cognitive development, contributing to intergenerational cycle of poverty.

Breastmilk is the tailor-made superfood that provides all the nutrition that babies need in their first six months, and longer breastfeeding has proven health benefits for both babies and their mothers. However, breastfeeding in China has been under threat in recent years. 0-6 months exclusive breastfeeding rates are low. There is a general lack of knowledge about the benefit of breastfeeding and optimal breastfeeding practices. In addition, new moms have not been able to get enough support for achieving early initiation of breastfeeding, and many working moms are not sufficiently supported by their employers to continue breastfeeding after returning to work.

Starting in 2015, we have worked with the Chinese government and other partners to address these nutrition challenges. In poor rural area, we are supporting nutrition improvement interventions to reduce micronutrient deficiency among rural children. We are also supporting programs to improve the policy and social environment for breastfeeding so that more moms choose to, and receive support for their decision to, breastfeed longer.

HIV

Despite ambitious efforts to expand the diagnosis, treatment and prevention of HIV, China has seen a continual increase in the number of people living with the virus. According to the Chinese Center for Disease Control and Prevention, that number reached 850,000 at the end of 2015. Newly diagnosed cases reached a historic high of 115,000 in the same year. Both heterosexual transmission and transmission among
TAP INTO CHINA’S GROWING INNOVATION CAPACITY TO SUPPLY HIGH-QUALITY, AFFORDABLE HEALTH AND DEVELOPMENT PRODUCTS TO THOSE IN NEED, BOTH IN CHINA AND AROUND THE WORLD

Grand Challenges China Program

In 2003, the foundation launched Grand Challenges, a global health and development initiative that fosters scientific and technological innovation to solve key problems in the developing world. To date, over 2,000 projects from 80 countries, including 23 projects from Chinese innovators, have won Grand Challenges grants totaling more than US$1 billion.

The Grand Challenges China program was launched in early 2016 in collaboration with the National Natural Science Foundation of China (NSFC), where the foundation and NSFC jointly select and fund scientific and technological research projects focused on tackling major infectious diseases, reducing maternal and child mortality, strengthening translation capacity, advancing agriculture, food and nutrition outcomes, and alleviating challenges in other key areas that will benefit people in need in both China and beyond. So far, the program has rewarded four projects focused on innovative TB drug and vaccine research, as well as structure-based HIV vaccine design.

To learn more or to apply for a Grand Challenges grant, visit www.grandchallenges.org

Philanthropic Partnerships

In the short time that China has amassed the world’s second-largest pool of personal wealth, it has seen the emergence of philanthropic activities. At this stage, however, there is still much room for further improvement on the policies, skills, norms, and institutions that are needed to support informed and intentional charitable giving.

China has the potential to significantly increase the level and impact of philanthropic activities. The combination of entrepreneurial spirit among the first generation of wealth creators, an emerging policy infrastructure for the charitable sector, and new social media technologies could lead to new models of philanthropy for the rest of the world.

We work with a wide range of partners in China — including the government, academia, social organizations, and individual philanthropists — to encourage charitable giving and advocate for improved policies in China’s philanthropic sector. Over the past few years, our work has focused on improving the ecosystem of philanthropic development, including support for policy research and advocacy on key issues such as nonprofit registration and tax incentives, and work with private philanthropists.

Global tobacco-related causes, including lung disease, cancer, heart disease, and diabetes.

China is a signatory of the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC), the world’s first and only global public health treaty. The FCTC compels its 180 signatory countries to meet minimum standards in tobacco control provisions, including tobacco taxes that raise cigarette prices for consumers, bans on tobacco advertising, graphic health warning labels and plain cigarette packaging, and indoor smoking bans. These measures have proven successful in reducing tobacco use in higher-income countries and could bring vast benefits in terms of improved health and lives saved in China. In particular, tobacco taxes that raise the price of cigarettes could make a dramatic difference — they offer the most effective way to reduce tobacco use, particularly among young people, and they can provide a significant source of domestic revenue to help fund a range of public health and development efforts.

China’s leadership has put tobacco control on the national agenda, and more progress on FCTC compliance in China is expected over the next decade. We support strategic partners in China in advocating for proven policies in line with the FCTC. These partners work with a network of sub-grantees to produce policy research, build tobacco control capacity, and create advocacy campaigns in support of tobacco control measures. We also support social marketing campaigns that aim to educate people and change attitudes about tobacco use and make it socially unacceptable and unappealing.

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Global Health Drug Discovery Institute

Transformative Sanitation Technologies

Improved sanitation is essential to a healthy and sustainable future for the developing world. By improving how we deal with human waste, we can avert hundreds of thousands of deaths from sicknesses such as diarrhea and greatly reduce environmental contamination. The foundation is working with partners to develop and spur demand for transformative sanitation technologies, identify new delivery models, build markets, and advocate for public policies that support improved sanitation in the poorest communities in the world.

In 2011, we launched the global Reinvent the Toilet Challenge to fund research and pilot testing of inventions including low-water or waterless toilets that do not require a sewer connection or electricity and cost around 0.3 Chinese yuan (five US cents) per user per day. Two years later, we joined with the University of Science and Technology Beijing to bring the challenge to China.

In 2016, we launched the annual National Toilet Technology Innovation Contest in partnership with the former China National Tourism Administration (former CNTA) to fund the development and application of cutting-edge toilet technologies that could benefit those in need both in China and around the world.

Low-Cost Vaccines and Essential Health Products

Lack of access to affordable health products — including vaccines, drugs, contraceptives, and diagnostic tools — contributes to millions of preventable deaths each year around the globe. Not only are these products too expensive for widespread use in developing countries, but they are often impractical to store, transport, and use in communities with limited healthcare infrastructure and few trained healthcare providers.

Given its growing health R&D and manufacturing capabilities, China is uniquely positioned to help improve the quality and lower the cost of drugs, contraceptives, and other health products for use in developing countries, particularly those in Sub-Saharan Africa.

We work with the Chinese government, the private sector, and global health partners to identify, develop and deliver high-quality, low-cost health products such as Japanese encephalitis vaccines, inactivated polio vaccines, HPV vaccines to prevent cervical cancer, and artemisinin combination therapies for malaria, etc. that developing countries are seeking in order to address endemic diseases and other urgent health needs.

Regulatory System Strengthening

Meeting today’s global health challenges requires having reliable sources of high-quality medical products — vaccines, drugs, and diagnostics — at affordable prices for people in developing countries. Despite huge growth in the production of medical products in China and significant investments in research and development, vaccines and medicines manufactured in China comprise less than 4 percent of the products prequalified by the WHO, compared with 67.5 percent from India.

WHO prequalification is often required before medical products are eligible for purchase by developing countries and by multilateral organizations such as Gavi, UNICEF, and UNITAID. Disincentives for Chinese manufacturers to pursue WHO prequalification of their products include differences between the standards and practices of China and the international standards and practices of the WHO prequalification program.

We work with the WHO and other partners to provide technical assistance and other support to the Chinese regulatory bodies to align Chinese regulations and standards with international requirements and improve its overall regulatory capacity to achieve its reform goals. This will enable more high-quality, affordable Chinese-manufactured products to quickly pass WHO prequalification and become accessible to the developing world, thus greatly strengthening the ability of the global community to address severe health challenges.
Case: A Super-Insulated Vaccine Storage Device

Childhood immunization is one of the greatest success stories in modern medicine, but due to the lack of access to life-saving vaccines, about 1.5 million children die each year from vaccine-preventable diseases such as diarrhea and pneumonia. Immunization rates are the lowest in impoverished rural areas that lack the infrastructure and reliable power sources to keep vaccines at the low temperatures needed to maintain their safety and effectiveness.

Through Global Good, an innovation lab founded by Bill Gates and Intellectual Ventures, the foundation has worked with one of China’s largest refrigeration companies, AUCMA, to develop and manufacture a vaccine storage device called Arktek™ that can keep vaccines at appropriate temperatures for a month or more. The super-insulated device uses only ice — no propane, batteries, electricity, solar panels, or other power sources are necessary at the point of use.

Arktek™ can handle travel over rough roads and use in harsh environments, making it ideal for rural areas and for outreach work, or as a stationary device at rural health posts. Arktek™ has enough storage capacity to serve the ongoing needs of a community of about 6,000 people.

The WHO designated Arktek™ as prequalified under its Performance, Quality and Safety (PQS) program in January 2015. PQS prequalification is required by most governments in the developing world for the procurement and use of medical devices, and it represents a seal of approval for real-world conditions. Clinical trials of Arktek™ are in progress in Nigeria, India, Senegal and Ethiopia, and the device is already receiving positive feedback from users.

In early 2015, AUCMA produced a modified Arktek™ device specifically designed to store Ebola vaccines, providing the WHO with a viable solution for storing and transporting life-saving vaccines in West Africa. This device can keep Ebola vaccines frozen at temperatures of -60 to -80 degrees Celsius for at least three days in a tropical environment.

Male circumcision reduces a man’s risk of HIV infection and other sexually transmitted diseases by as much as 60 percent, but circumcision rates are low in some parts of Sub-Saharan Africa. The WHO recommends voluntary male circumcision as one critical element of HIV prevention in places where the epidemic is most severe and HIV is predominantly transmitted through heterosexual sex.

In Sub-Saharan Africa, the world’s hardest-hit region, one in 20 adults is living with HIV/AIDS. We have invested in research on how to expand the use of the Chinese-developed Shang Ring, a disposable male circumcision device that is inexpensive, minimally invasive, easy for healthcare professionals to use, and leads to fewer complications than conventional surgery. The Shang Ring has been proven safe and effective in clinical trials and has received WHO prequalification. We have continued to invest in further clinical trials of the Shang Ring and make it a “universal” device for quick and easy circumcisions.

Case: Expanding Circumcision Options to Reduce HIV Risk

Case: A Lower-Cost Japanese Encephalitis Vaccine

More than a decade ago, the foundation began an effort to turn a little-known vaccine from China into a world-class tool to fight Japanese encephalitis, an incurable disease also known as “brain fever.” The disease, which is transmitted by mosquitoes, primarily affects children. About 70 percent of people who are infected die or suffer long-term neurological disabilities.

We partnered with the China National Biotec Group and PATH to conduct clinical trials of the vaccine and worked toward its 2013 prequalification by the WHO — the first for a vaccine manufactured in China.

To date, more than 400 million doses of the vaccine have been distributed outside of China. In 2015, Laos launched a nationwide campaign aiming to reach 1.5 million children with the vaccine. It is the first country to introduce the vaccine with the support of Gavi, the global vaccine alliance.

The widespread adoption of the vaccine has been fueled by its low cost, which is a fraction of the cost of other Japanese encephalitis vaccines.

Case: An Effective, Affordable Contraceptive Implant

Voluntary family planning is a vital component of global health. Access to contraceptives results in fewer mothers dying during pregnancy and childbirth, fewer unintended pregnancies, fewer abortions, and fewer infant deaths. But 214 million women in developing countries lack access to safe and effective contraceptives. One of the barriers is a lack of appropriate, affordable products that meet their needs.

We invested in Levoplant, a three-year contraceptive implant that is highly effective, easy to use, safe, and inexpensive. It is made up of silicone rods that are inserted under the skin; the rods contain levonorgestrel, a synthetic version of the natural hormone progesterone.

Manufactured by Shanghai Dahua Pharmaceutical Co., the product has received WHO prequalification.
ASSIST CHINA IN BECOMING A STRONGER PARTNER FOR GLOBAL HEALTH AND DEVELOPMENT

As China continues to prove its comparative advantage in innovation and demonstrates its commitment to global engagement, its ability to act as a development partner grows. We are working to support China as it takes on a more active international role, leveraging its policy, experience, resources and know-how in health and development for the benefit of the world’s poorest, especially those living in the Sub-Saharan African region.

Malaria Elimination

Every year, more than 200 million people around the world contract malaria and close to 600,000 lose their lives — 90 percent of those deaths occur in Africa. Malaria remains a leading cause of death for pregnant women and children under five worldwide.

Over the past 60 years, China has reduced malaria cases within its borders from 60 million a year to around 3,000 — an incredible achievement that underlines the depth of experience China can bring to this issue. As China aims to eliminate malaria domestically by 2020, we believe that it can take on a global leadership role in malaria control and elimination.

We are working with partners in China, such as the Ministry of Commerce (MOFCOM) and the NHC to accelerate the entry of high quality, low cost Chinese-made malaria commodities into the global market, leverage China’s role in bilateral and multilateral mechanisms to help fill the gap in funding and expertise, and facilitate the sharing of China’s experience in malaria control in regions with high malaria incidence.

The discovery of artemisinin is one of the most significant breakthroughs in tropical medicine in the 20th century and has saved millions of lives which would otherwise have been lost to malaria. China should be proud of this great contribution to global health, and with the country’s leadership, we stand a chance to make malaria the third human disease — after smallpox and, soon, polio — to be wiped off the face of the earth.

—Bill Gates

Agricultural Development

Three quarters of the world’s poorest people are smallholder farmers, many of whom are affected by severe hunger and malnutrition. In places such as Sub-Saharan Africa, farmers face a daunting array of challenges including unproductive soil, plant and animal diseases, pests, and drought. Reliable markets for agricultural products and good information about pricing are hard to come by, and government policies rarely serve farmers’ interests well. Population growth, dwindling natural resources, and a changing climate have compounded these difficulties.

Agricultural development offers a path out of poverty for millions of people, as China and many other countries have demonstrated in recent decades. In particular, China’s agricultural research and technology institutions have a wealth of expertise and innovation that can be applied to addressing pressing needs in Africa and beyond. Various approaches — ranging from crop improvement and livestock vaccines to technology adoption and effective delivery strategies — have the potential to improve food security and nutrition and increase the incomes of millions of farming families.

We work with China’s government, private sector, and financial institutions to develop and transfer relevant technologies, approaches, and models that are most in demand in the developing world to help their farmers grow more and more nutritious food. Our major partnerships in China include the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs, MOFCOM, the Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences and the Chinese Academy of Agricultural Mechanization Sciences, with the goal of facilitating transformational development of the agricultural sector in Sub-Saharan Africa.

In 2016, we kicked off a joint program with MOFCOM to support the enhancement of the effectiveness of two Agricultural Technology Demonstration Centers in Mozambique and Zambia, respectively. As the first pilot under our partnership with MOFCOM, this program aims to leverage China’s resources in development assistance and appropriate smallholder-farmer-oriented agricultural technologies and models to support the upgrade of local agricultural technology and to benefit farmers in the long run.
Rice is an important staple crop in many countries in Africa and South Asia, but productivity has remained low and some countries have had to spend precious resources importing it. China has made significant investments in rice improvement research and production over many decades. Today, it is the world’s leader in rice production and can serve as a critical resource to benefit many other parts of the world.

With this in mind, we formed a partnership with the Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences to share China’s significant expertise in this area. The Green Super Rice project develops rice varieties that can better withstand stresses related to climate change, drought, flooding, and diseases; require less water and fertilizer; and are specifically bred for conditions in Sub-Saharan Africa and Asia.

The project, whose partners also include the International Rice Research Institute and AfricaRice, aims to benefit at least 20 million smallholder rice farmers and boost rice productivity by 20 percent in target countries.

Tef, a tiny grain the size of a poppy seed, is one of the most important staple foods in Ethiopia, accounting for 30 percent of the country’s total crop area. Tef is still cultivated in the same way it has been for thousands of years. Most of the 4.3 million smallholder farmers in Ethiopia that grow tef do so without any mechanized tools. Not only is their work back-breaking, but they are limited in the size of their crop and how much they can earn from it.

In partnership with the Ethiopian Ministry of Agriculture and the Chinese Academy of Agricultural Mechanization Sciences, we are investing in the development of small- to medium-scale machinery that can help family farmers of tef, particularly women, with land preparation and with planting, harvesting, threshing, and cleaning the grain.

The project aims to develop, test, train farmers and others in how to use it, and work with local organizations to explore ways to commercialize it.

Case: Introducing Higher Yield Rice Varieties

Case: Improving Tef Cultivation

Private Sector Engagement

In a mere two decades, China has become Africa’s largest economic partner. Across trade, investment, infrastructure, financing and aid, there is no other country with such depth and breadth of engagement in Africa. Africa-China trade increased from US$13 billion in 2001 to US$188 billion in 2015, an average annual growth rate of 21 percent. FDI has grown even faster, from US$1 billion in 2004 to US$33 billion in 2015 at an average annual growth rate of 40 percent. It is estimated that there are currently over 10,000 Chinese businesses in Africa, 90 percent of which are privately owned. These contributions have supported many of Africa’s most ambitious infrastructure investments and created long-lasting impact on Africa’s social and economic development.

The foundation believes that the private sector can play a catalytic role in making the market work for the poor by drawing on its innovation and technology platforms, entrepreneurial and scientific talent, commercialization and low cost manufacturing, business model validation and access to large pools of capital. The Chinese private sector, in particular, brings its experience in creating business models that are effective in developing economies and complex market environments. This, coupled with the strong drive to further strengthen the Africa-China economic relationship, provides significant potential to accelerate investments in health, agriculture and other priority development needs in Africa.

In partnership with the China-Africa Development Fund (CADFund), the first dedicated equity investment fund focusing on supporting Chinese enterprises’ investments in Africa launched by the Chinese government, we are establishing a joint fund that focuses on China-Africa investments in health and agricultural development. This innovative funding mechanism brings together public, private and philanthropic capital to invest in businesses that deliver both development impact as well as economic sustainability.

Our Private Sector Engagement work also supports the building of a more favorable investment-enabling environment, particularly for development priority sectors, by supporting research, dialogues, information platforms and other enablers to create more transparency in and awareness of opportunities and impact and drive cross-sector collaborations. In 2016, we, in partnership with the China Chamber of Commerce of Medical and Health Products Imports and Exports, supported the establishment of HealthCAC, the first internet website that brings African countries’ health product needs and Chinese suppliers’ information together. In 2017, we supported the publication of “Dance of the Lions and Dragons” by McKinsey & Co., a large-scale research project based on over 1,000 interviews with Chinese businesses and senior African business and government leaders that provides a fact-based picture of the Africa-China economic relationship.

In addition, we are also working directly with Chinese companies which can help address the unmet demand in Africa for life-changing products and solutions and strengthen the local industry value chains for sustainable development. We draw upon a range of investment tools, including grants, direct equity investments, loans, and volume guarantees, etc., to create incentives for the companies.
We are impatient optimists whose purpose is to reduce inequity.

We are proponents of catalytic philanthropy; our focus is on the areas of greatest need and the innovations which have the potential to do the most good.

We are collaborative in working with partners — big and small — who bring deep knowledge and expertise about local needs and conditions.

We are focused on results: those that can be measured and those evaluated in ways beyond numbers.