

# Gates Foundation

Since its inception in 2000, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation has grown into one of the wealthiest and most impactful private foundations in the world.<sup>31</sup> The Foundation makes grants through four global programs (Development; Growth & Opportunity; Health; and Policy & Advocacy) as well as through its education and learning access-focused United States program.

In their 2020 Annual Letter,<sup>32</sup> Bill and Melinda Gates highlighted their work with a number of organizations – including Gavi and the Global Fund – and their focus on immunization and reducing HIV/AIDS burden, as well as a continued commitment to making progress on malaria, tuberculosis, child and maternal health, and other focus areas. The Gates Foundation’s 2019 numbers reflect these commitments. In 2019, the Gates Foundation gave a total of \$3.9 billion to DAH, putting it ahead of many sovereign governments. Top channels of Gates Foundation aid include its own programs, NGOs and foundations, and Gavi. Leading health focus areas supported include child health, HIV/AIDS, and other health focus areas.

The Gates Foundation’s 2019 DAH total of \$3.9 billion was an increase of 9.9% from 2018. Of this, \$2.5 billion or 64.0%

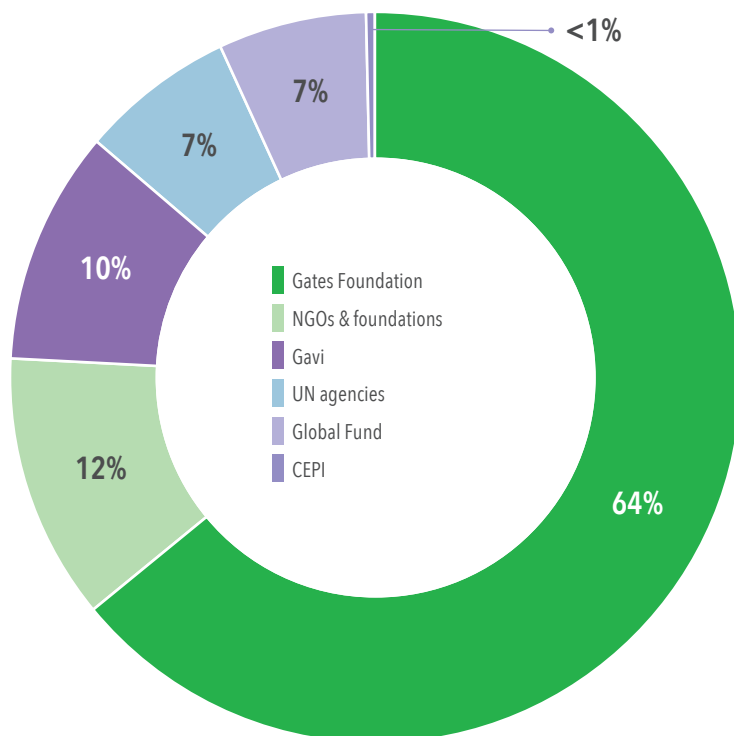
was channeled through the Gates Foundation directly to implementing institutions. In 2019, \$266.8 million in Gates Foundation DAH went to UN agencies, \$256.9 million went to the Global Fund, and \$406.1 million was directed to Gavi.

In 2019, the Gates Foundation directed \$1.5 billion, or 38.3%, of its DAH to reproductive, maternal, newborn, and child health; \$709.3 million, or 18.1%, to HIV/AIDS; \$303.9 million, or 7.8% to malaria; \$237.6 million, or 6.1%, to tuberculosis; \$266.5 million, or 6.8%, to health systems strengthening; and \$72.4 million, or 1.9%, to non-communicable diseases.

In addition to these important disbursements, the Gates Foundation appointed an advisory board to accelerate SDG progress in 2019; the Foundation highlighted inequality in its third annual Goalkeepers report; and awards were given to youth activists and world leaders working to advance the SDGs.<sup>33</sup> In early March 2020, the Foundation announced a partnership with Mastercard and the Wellcome Trust to commit \$125 million to speed “the response to the COVID-19 epidemic by identifying, assessing, developing, and scaling up treatments.”<sup>34</sup>

Figure 1 shows Gates Foundation DAH provided by channel in 2019, while Figure 2 shows trends in DAH by health focus area for the period 2010–2019. And per Figure 3, in 2017, the Foundation provided 41% of its DAH to global recipients and programs and 18% to sub-Saharan Africa.

**FIGURE 1** DAH provided by the Gates Foundation to each disbursing channel, 2019\*



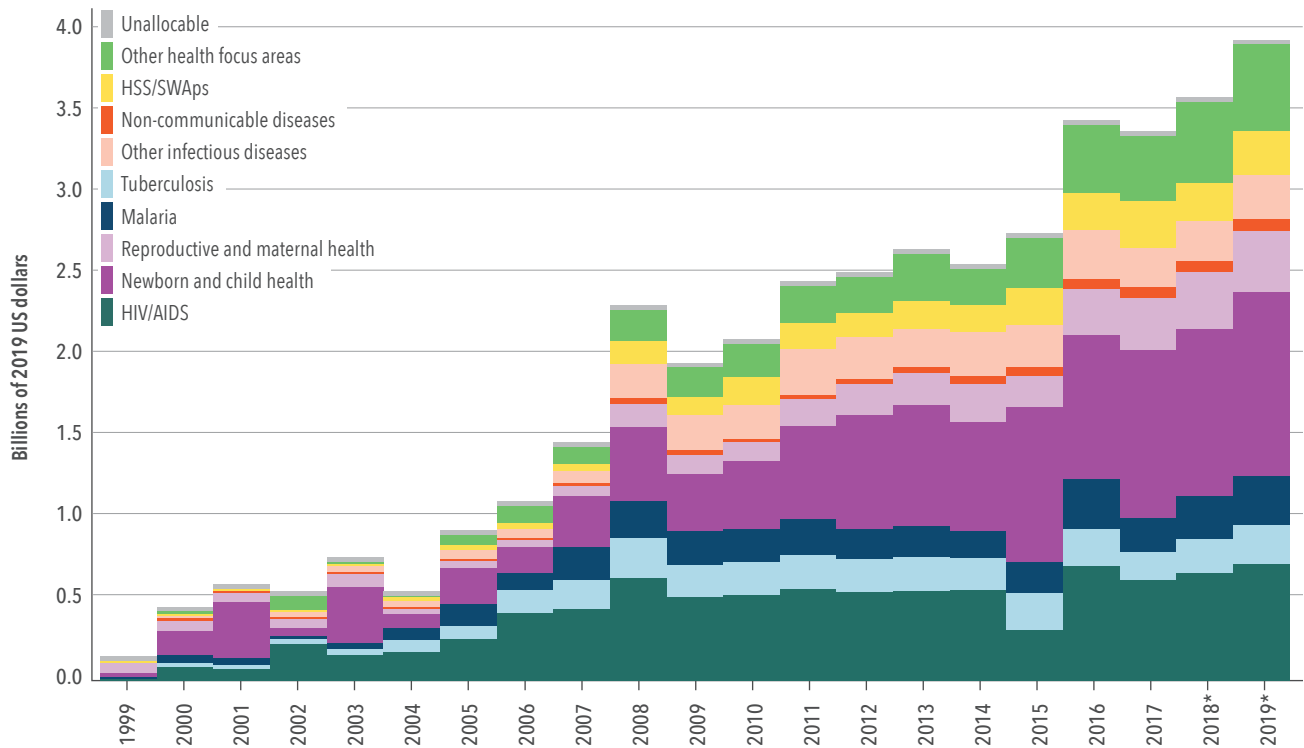
\*2019 estimates are preliminary.

CEPI = Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations

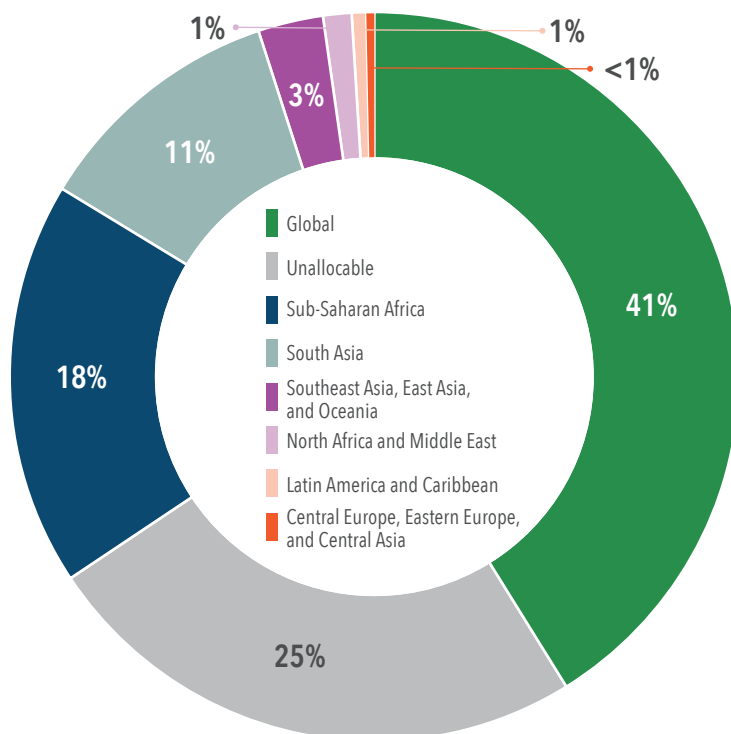
NGOs = non-governmental organizations

UN agencies = PAHO, UNAIDS, UNFPA, UNICEF, Unitaaid, WHO

**FIGURE 2** DAH provided by the Gates Foundation targeting each health focus area, 1990–2019



**FIGURE 3** DAH provided by the Gates Foundation for each GBD super-region, 2017



*\*2018 and 2019 estimates are preliminary.*

*“Other health focus areas” captures development assistance for health for which we have health focus area information but which is not identified as being allocated to any of the health focus areas listed.*

*HSS/swaps = Health systems strengthening and sector-wide approaches*

*Health assistance for which we have no health focus area information, or for which no recipient country or regional information is available, is designated as “Unallocable.” Due to data limitations, development assistance for health estimates are not available by recipient region for 2018 or 2019.*