

United Nations agencies

Befitting its role as the world’s foremost intergovernmental organization, the umbrella of the United Nations organization includes a number of specialized agencies. Six of these – the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), UNAIDS, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), UNICEF, Unitaid, and the World Health Organization (WHO) – are some of the global body’s primary channels for disbursing global health spending.

Most immediately, WHO has acted as a central source of information, guidance, and resources during the COVID-19 pandemic. In addition, WHO based its Thirteenth General Programme of Work, which covers 2019–2023, on the SDGs. The Programme aims to ensure a billion more people have UHC, are better protected from health emergencies, and enjoy better health and well-being overall.⁴⁸

Funding channeled through the six United Nations agencies included in this report totaled \$6.9 billion in 2019, up 4.3% from 2018. WHO provided \$2.5 billion of DAH in 2019, down 1.2% from 2018. Of this, \$630.7 million or 24.9% was disbursed to other infectious diseases and \$1.0 billion or 39.8% to health systems strengthening/swaps.

PAHO works to reduce, control, and eliminate diseases such as onchocerciasis (river blindness), malaria, and Chagas disease across the Americas. PAHO provided \$267.5 million in 2019, down 1.4% from 2018. Funding came from governments (\$27.2 million, or 10.2%) and other sources (\$240.3 million, or 89.8%) and was disbursed primarily to HSS/swaps (\$56.2 million, or 21.0%) and reproductive, maternal, newborn, and child health (\$46.3 million, or 17.3%).

UNAIDS is leading the global effort to end AIDS as a public health threat by 2030. In addition, the agency is working toward its 2020 90-90-90 targets: for 90% of people living with HIV/AIDS to know their status; for 90% of those diagnosed with infections to receive antiretroviral treatments; and for 90% of patients receiving antiretroviral therapy to have viral suppression.⁴⁹ In 2019, the agency disbursed \$207.3 million, up 1.7% from 2018. The top five contributors to UNAIDS in 2019 were the US, Sweden, the Netherlands, the UK, and Norway.

The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) is the United Nations’ sexual and reproductive health agency. UNFPA’s programs include the Maternal and Newborn Health Thematic Fund, focused on preventing maternal deaths through strategic interventions. Training midwives and ending fistula, a childbirth injury caused by prolonged obstructed labor, are also part of the Maternal and Newborn Health Thematic Fund. Additionally, a November 2019 summit held in Nairobi to mark the 25th anniversary of the

International Conference on Population and Development led to a broad agreement to end “all maternal deaths, unmet need for family planning, and gender-based violence and harmful practices against women and girls by 2030,” according to the UNFPA. In 2019, UNFPA disbursed \$1.1 billion in DAH, down 1.7% from 2018. Of this, UNFPA received \$466.8 million, or 43.8%, from governments. In 2018, the US withheld funding from UNFPA for the third year in a row under the Kemp-Kasten amendment.

UNICEF provides long-term humanitarian and development assistance to children and mothers, with a specific focus on nutrition, immunization, and HIV/AIDS, as well as emergency (i.e., pandemic) assistance. UNICEF disbursed \$2.6 billion in DAH in 2019, up 12.5% from 2018. Private philanthropies provided UNICEF with \$519.3 million, or 19.8% of its funding in 2019, and the US contributed \$316.9 million, or 12.1%.

And last but certainly not least, per its website, Unitaid “invests in innovations to prevent, diagnose, and treat HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, and malaria.” In 2019, Unitaid disbursed \$154.1 million in DAH, up 35.2% from 2018. Projects Unitaid has been working on include a net program to combat malaria and a program to distribute and promote HIV self-testing kits in Africa.

Figure 1 shows UN agencies’ DAH provided by source in 2019, while Figure 2 shows trends in DAH by health focus area for the period 2010–2019.

**2018 and 2019 estimates are preliminary.*

Other governments = Austria, Belgium, China, Denmark, Finland, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, Netherlands, New Zealand, non-OECD Development Assistance Community (DAC) countries, Norway, other OECD-DAC countries, Portugal, South Korea, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland

Private philanthropy = other private and corporate donations

“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. Health assistance for which we have no health focus area information is designated as “Unallocable.”

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

FIGURE 1 DAH disbursed by United Nations agencies from each source, 2019*

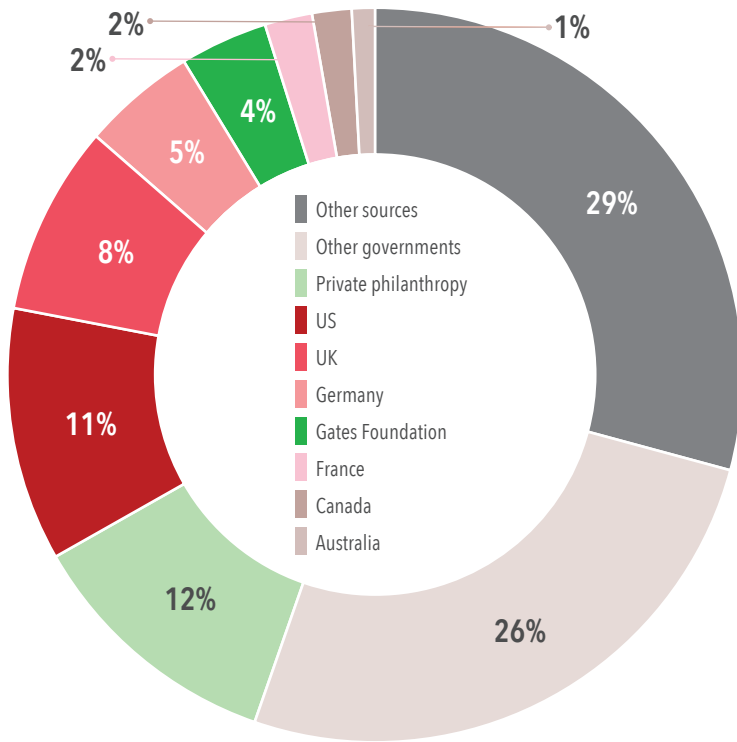


FIGURE 2 DAH disbursed by United Nations agencies targeting each health focus area, 1990-2019

