

Global Health Program Fact Sheet

The world has the tools and knowledge to dramatically improve health in developing countries and save millions of lives. Existing vaccines and drugs are effective against many deadly diseases, and recent progress in science and technology could revolutionize our ability to develop new tools to prevent and treat disease.

But advances in health too often fail to reach those who need them most—people in the poorest countries. Two-thirds of deaths in children under age five in developing countries stem from health problems that are preventable or treatable with existing tools.

Furthermore, research on diseases that primarily affect the developing world is severely neglected. Of the billions of dollars spent annually on medical research and development, only a small fraction is devoted to diseases such as tuberculosis and malaria. And only 21 of the 1,500 new drugs approved by the FDA over the past 30 years were for the diseases that disproportionately affect people in developing countries.

How We Work

Our global health mission is to help ensure that lifesaving advances in health are created and shared with those who need them most.

To date, we have committed nearly \$10 billion in global health grants to organizations worldwide. The focus of our grants is to:

- **Discover** new insights to fight serious diseases and other health problems affecting developing countries.
- **Develop** effective and affordable vaccines, medicines, and other health tools.
- **Deliver** proven health solutions to those who need them most.

Global Health Grantmaking Areas

Malaria

Important progress is being made in the fight against one of the world's oldest and deadliest killers—malaria. Our grantees are working to speed R&D on new prevention and treatment methods, and to expand access to existing malaria control tools, such as bed nets. Grant examples include:

- \$456 million to the PATH Malaria Vaccine Initiative to develop a preventive vaccine
- \$202 million for the Medicines for Malaria Venture to develop effective treatments
- \$79 million for the Malaria Control and Evaluation Partnership in Africa (MACEPA), a PATH initiative working to expand effective malaria control programs

HIV/AIDS

HIV/AIDS kills more than two million people every year, overwhelmingly in developing countries. We are committed to fighting HIV/AIDS by expanding access to prevention and treatment, and by supporting research on new prevention tools. Grant examples include:

- \$258 million to support Avahan, an initiative to expand access to effective HIV prevention programs in India
- \$151 million for research on microbicides to prevent HIV transmission
- \$50 million to support the African Comprehensive HIV/AIDS Partnerships, a national HIV prevention and treatment initiative in Botswana

Tuberculosis

TB kills 1.5 million people annually, and more than nine million people develop the disease each year. We support efforts to develop new TB drugs, vaccines, and diagnostic tools, and to strengthen TB control programs. Grant examples include:

- \$309 million to the Aeras Global TB Vaccine Foundation for vaccine development
- \$47 million to improve TB control strategies in areas with high rates of HIV infection
- \$86 million for the Foundation for Innovative New Diagnostics to develop low-cost methods for diagnosing TB

Vaccine-Preventable Diseases

Each year, approximately 2.4 million people die of diseases that could be prevented with existing vaccines. To expand access to immunization, we have provided a total of \$1.5 billion to the GAVI Alliance, a public-private partnership that helps developing countries to purchase and deliver vaccines. Since 2000, GAVI support has helped to immunize 213 million children, preventing more than 3.4 million future deaths.

Pneumonia and Flu

Common respiratory illnesses, such as pneumonia, meningitis, flu or measles, are far more likely to cause death or lifelong problems for children in the developing world. Grants to help fight these illnesses include:

- \$41 million to PATH to develop new vaccines to address pandemic influenza
- \$4 million for the University of Maryland to introduce a vaccine for Hib pneumonia in West Africa

Nutrition

Poor nutrition contributes to about half of all deaths among young children in developing countries. Our grantees are working to develop and produce foods fortified with essential nutrients, and to develop staple crops with higher micronutrient levels. Grant examples include:

- \$109 million to the Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition to fortify foods with essential vitamins and minerals
- \$15 million to the United States Fund for UNICEF to eliminate iodine deficiency through universal salt iodization

Diarrhea

Severe diarrhea and diarrhea-related dehydration take the lives of 1.6 million children every year. We have provided several grants to understand and address the underlying causes of diarrhea, such as:

- \$50 million to PATH to develop vaccines against bacteria that cause diarrhea
- \$7 million for the International Centre for Diarrhoeal Disease Research to implement a zinc treatment program for children in Bangladesh and Ethiopia

Maternal, Newborn and Child Health

Each year, more than 500,000 women die from complications of pregnancy and childbirth, and 4 million children die before they are a month old. We provide grants to reduce pregnancy-related illness and death, improve health care for newborns and young children, and increase access to contraceptives. Grant examples include:

- \$25 million to BRAC to demonstrate a model for improving maternal, newborn and child health in poor urban communities of developing countries

- \$62 million for Johns Hopkins University to support reproductive health programs in developing countries
- \$110 million for Save the Children to expand access to simple, low-cost tools to improve newborn health in developing countries

Tobacco

Tobacco-caused diseases have emerged as one of the greatest health challenges facing developing countries. Fortunately, a number of programs and policies to reduce tobacco use have proven highly effective. We are committed to investing \$125 million over 5 years to fight the tobacco global epidemic, including a \$24 million grant to the Bloomberg Initiative to Reduce Tobacco Use.

Grand Challenges

We are supporting a wide range of cutting-edge research projects that could help achieve new breakthroughs in global health science. Grants to date include:

- \$436 million for the Grand Challenges in Global Health initiative, which supports 43 innovative projects, such as research to stop insects from transmitting disease, and the development of vaccines that do not require refrigeration or needles
- \$10.5 million for researchers in 22 countries to study bold, untested ways to improve global health through the Grand Challenges Explorations initiative

Advocacy

We are supporting efforts to build awareness and understanding of global health challenges, develop novel ways to finance health programs, and improve the collection and use of health data. Grant examples include:

- \$105 million to support the University of Washington's Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation
- \$29 million to the ONE Campaign and \$26 million to DATA to support advocacy on global HIV/AIDS, poverty, and related issues
- \$25 million to the Center for Global Development to conduct analyses of global health policy and financing issues to improve donor decision-making