

CHINA OFFICE

FACT SHEET

The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation's efforts in China include fighting HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis (TB), improving tobacco control, and investing in agricultural research. A small office opened in Beijing in 2007 under the sponsorship of the Ministry of Health of the People's Republic of China to coordinate this work. It is directed by Dr. Ray Yip, former China director for the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

HIV/AIDS

Although China's national HIV prevalence is low—less than 0.1 percent of the total population—infection rates are high among key risk groups such as intravenous drug users, sex workers, and men who have sex with men. In order to help avert a widespread HIV/AIDS epidemic, we have committed \$50 million (U.S.) to work in partnership with the government and local non-governmental organizations to expand HIV-prevention efforts for people most vulnerable to infection. These include programs to help reduce high-risk behavior that could pass the virus on to others. The initiative also increases access to counseling, testing, care, and support, and works to fight the stigma and discrimination against people living with HIV/AIDS.

We also support research on new ways to prevent HIV, such as the development of an effective vaccine. Grants for HIV-prevention research in China include \$7 million (U.S.) to Peking University.

TUBERCULOSIS

China has 14 percent of the world's TB cases and 22 percent of its multidrug-resistant TB cases. However, China's increasing governmental commitment to tackle the TB epidemic, its demonstrated capacity to take public health interventions to scale, and its willingness to use innovative health solutions provide major opportunities to reduce the number of TB cases and deaths in the country.

In April 2009, we announced a five-year, \$33 million (U.S.) grant to the Ministry of Health of the People's Republic



A student at Fudan University conducts research on tuberculosis.

of China to help improve TB control by pilot testing and scaling up innovations in TB detection and treatment.

During the first half of this program, innovative tools and delivery approaches will be pilot-tested to determine their effectiveness and feasibility. The most effective innovations will be combined into a model TB control program and scaled up in 20 cities.

EMERGENCY RELIEF

Following the Sichuan earthquake on May 12, 2008, we provided \$1.3 million (U.S.) to assist the Ministry of Health of the People's Republic of China with emergency relief activities.

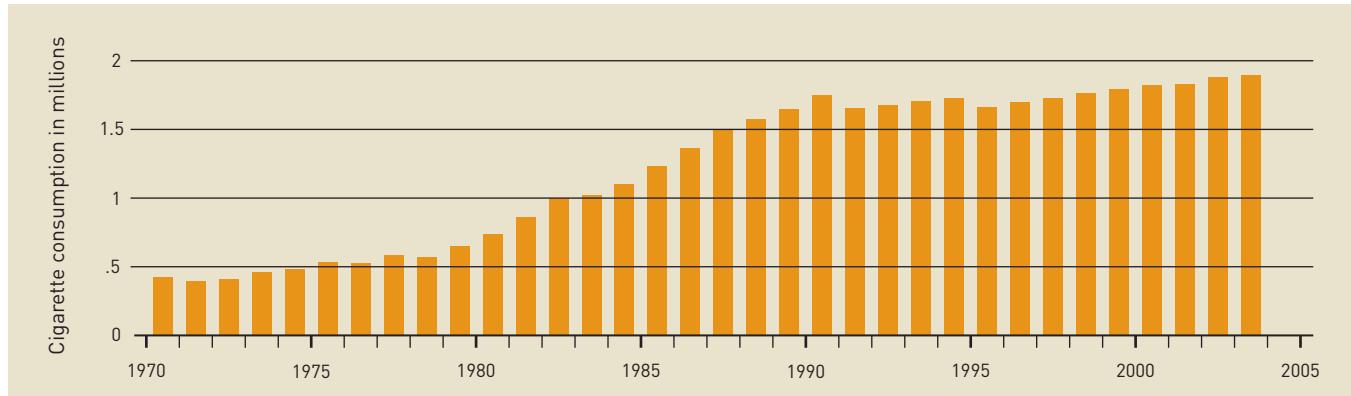
TOBACCO CONTROL

China has the highest burden of tobacco-related diseases in the world, and is home to one-third of the world's smokers. A number of programs and policies to reduce tobacco use have proven highly effective in China, presenting good opportunities to change social norms.

Building on the country's successful tobacco control efforts around the Olympics in Beijing, we provided \$10 million (U.S.)

CIGARETTE CONSUMPTION IN CHINA

Estimated from Trade and Production Data



Tobacco consumption in China has almost quadrupled since 1970. In fact, more than half of China's adult males are smokers, making tobacco use the number one preventable health problem in China.

Source: World Health Organization (WHO) Report on the Global Tobacco Epidemic, 2008

to the China Medical Board to conduct economic research and test models that influence smoking cessation among male healthcare professionals, of whom an estimated 47 percent currently smoke. The initiative also seeks to strengthen anti-tobacco teaching in China's medical universities.

We also provided \$14 million (U.S.) through the Global Tobacco Technical Assistance Consortium to support Emory University in partnership with 25 cities in China in developing effective tobacco prevention and control programs and policies.

HEALTH INNOVATION

We encourage researchers and scientists in China to apply for funding through Grand Challenges Explorations (GCE). GCE was launched in 2008 and is a five-year initiative that seeks to lower the barriers for testing innovative ideas in global health. So far, four \$100,000 (U.S.) grants have been made in China, including grants to:

- Fudan University to study the role of microRNA that may provide clues in the transition from latent to activated TB
- University of Hong Kong to conduct research on an AIDS vaccine capable of inducing neutralizing antibodies against HIV sexual transmission
- Chinese University of Hong Kong to work to develop influenza-resistant chickens

- Hainan Provincial Key Laboratory of Tropical Medicine in China to create a next-generation malaria vaccine

Applications for new topics are accepted twice each year. For more information, please visit www.grandchallenges.org.

AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT

As a part of our Agricultural Development initiative, we funded a three-year, \$18 million (U.S.) grant to the Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences to develop "green super rice" hybrids. These varieties can grow using 50 percent less water and nitrogen than traditional rice seed, which makes them better adapted to the arid environments found throughout Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa. The project's goal is to help 20 million poor rice farmers—most of whom are women—increase their productivity by more than 20 percent in the next 10 years.

TO LEARN MORE

About the Global Health Program:
www.gatesfoundation.org/global-health

About the Global Development Program:
www.gatesfoundation.org/global-development

Guided by the belief that every life has equal value, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation works to help all people lead healthy, productive lives. In developing countries, it focuses on improving people's health and giving them the chance to lift themselves out of hunger and extreme poverty. In the United States, it seeks to ensure that all people—especially those with the fewest resources—have access to the opportunities they need to succeed in school and life. Based in Seattle, Washington, the foundation is led by CEO Jeff Raikes and Co-chair William H. Gates Sr., under the direction of Bill and Melinda Gates and Warren Buffett.

For additional information on the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, please visit our web site: www.gatesfoundation.org.

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