

The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation Invests \$1.4 Billion in Climate Adaptation

Announcement Fact Sheet

November 2022

For more than a decade, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, through its Agricultural Development program, has been committed to building an inclusive agricultural transformation in Africa and South Asia led by small-scale food producers who are empowered with the knowledge, tools, and technologies to improve their livelihoods, lift their families out of poverty, and contribute to a sustainable global food system.

But today hundreds of millions of these small-scale producers are suffering because climate change is ruining crops and killing livestock. It's not just causing food shortages – it's wiping out their means of survival. Right now, farmers and pastoralists in large areas of Ethiopia, Kenya and Somalia are experiencing the worst drought they have ever seen. In Pakistan, recent flooding killed nearly 1,500 people and a million farm animals, dealing a devastating blow to the country's farmers. Nigerian farmers have seen a wild swing from drought to floods.

On November 7 at COP27 in Sharm El Sheik, Egypt, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation pledged to invest at least \$1.4 billion over the period 2022-2025 to support initiatives to help the world's poorest farmers adapt to the increasing challenges they face from climate change, including rising temperatures, shifting rainfall patterns, more frequent and intense droughts, floods and tropical storms, and greater incidence of pest and disease outbreaks in crop and livestock systems.

Aligned with IPCC, the foundation defines adaptation as supporting small-scale producers in avoiding harm and exploiting beneficial opportunities from climate variability and change; reducing vulnerability and improving adaptive capacity through investments in focal themes including R&D, varietal improvement, seed systems, livestock, digital farmer services, inclusive markets, nutrition, gender, and adaptive systems. We will do this in a way that supports country priorities, strengthens capacity, and builds on the considerable progress that countries have made in climate risk and adaptation assessment, planning, and policy. We also commit to work with other donors to co-create, co-fund and reduce fragmentation in the climate adaptation funding landscape. The foundation's investments will focus in three areas: Innovation for Impact, Strengthening Country Systems, and Enhancing African and South Asian Leadership.

Innovation for Impact

We will invest in science and technology targeted to the needs of small-scale agricultural producers today and in the future – because we know that farmers often do not have the solutions they need to navigate these challenges and that additional negative impacts of climate change are already locked-in. For example, we will support research and innovation in plant and animal genetics to improve tolerance of climate-related stresses and accelerate field testing and breeding so products better suited to farmers' climate realities are more affordable and more rapidly available. We will strengthen predictive digital agronomy and redouble our efforts in digital services that bundle weather information with other services for farmers.

- We are partnering with Canada's International Development Research Center (IDRC) to support African-led efforts to develop climate-smart options for improving livestock health and productivity while also reducing livestock's climate footprint. There are new varieties of native, nutritious forage grasses that can improve animal productivity while enhancing soil health and carbon sequestration. This investment also explores ways to process crop residues to make more nutritious and digestible feed.

Strengthening Country Systems

We will support responsive and inclusive country systems for planning, policy, extension, finance, water management, and markets aimed at more rapid development and deployment of adaptation solutions that mitigate local climate-related production and price shocks.

- We are investing in a new partnership between the Kenya Agricultural and Livestock Research Organization (KALRO) and TomorrowNow using an innovative weather intelligence platform to provide climate-smart agriculture information to farmers in East Africa via text messages. The investment takes advantage of advances in weather modeling that blend data from multiple sources to provide more accurate forecasts. The platform will provide farmers with regular updates linking climate/weather data to production advisories for six crops: maize, potato, sorghum, sunflower, soybean and green gram (mung bean).

Supporting African and South Asian Leadership and Agency

We will invest in African and South Asian organizations that are elevating key issues and promising solutions in those geographies, including scaling up climate finance and extending gender-transformative models for climate finance.

- We are partnering with the African Group of Negotiators Expert Support (AGNES) to support researchers and scientists from Africa in generating and disseminating tailored evidence to shape national policies. Their work will also ensure international reports, including the IPCC assessments, include the perspectives and contributions of a greater number of scientists and researchers from the continent. AGNES will also help African negotiators to raise adaptation ambitions and to accelerate action in line with national needs and continental priorities by ensuring they have access to the latest science and data.

Additional detail on our commitment

- We plan to ramp up spending over the next four years:

	2022	2023	2024	2025	Total
Total Spend on Climate Adaptation (in millions)	313.3	366.7	388.5	391.8	1,460.3

- Of the \$1.4 billion we are committing, \$434m is new and additional over our previously planned, but unannounced, level of spending on climate adaptation.
- 100% of our commitment will use grant finance.
- To gauge how our investments contribute to climate adaptation, we have developed a climate adaptation classification guide and assessed our planned investments. These classifications correspond to the OECD-DAC Rio Convention marker for Climate Adaptation and include investments that have climate adaptation as a “Significant Objective” or a “Principal Objective” under the OECD DAC criteria.

Commitment to report on progress and update on recent commitments

The foundation reports all its grant data to the OECD DAC and IATI on a voluntary basis so our investments can be tracked. Additionally, we commit to publishing a fact sheet annually at COP summits to report on progress towards the commitment we are making today. We have made several climate related commitments over the past several years:

- At the One Planet summit in 2017, we committed to invest 300m Euros over the period 2017-2019, and we fully met this commitment.
- We made commitments to fund the CGIAR with at least \$521M between 2020-2024 to advance climate-smart innovations for smallholder farmers (commitments made at UNCAS in 2019 and at COP26 in 2021). By the end of 2022 we will have spent \$304M towards these commitments, with \$217M remaining (although we expect to exceed this amount by the end of 2024). Our 2022-2024 funding commitment to the CGIAR accounts for \$268M of our \$1.4B climate commitment.

As donor governments deliver on their COP26 commitment to double adaptation finance by 2025, we call on them to provide a similar level of granularity about how they will deliver this, by year, grant equivalency and focus.

To learn more about the foundation’s work in agricultural development and climate adaptation or to schedule an interview with an expert, please contact media@gatesfoundation.org.