

# TIMELINE

## 2011

**July** | The foundation announces the launch of a strategy to help bring safe, clean sanitation services to millions of poor people in the developing world. The \$42 million in sanitation grants aim to spur innovations in the capture and storage of waste, as well as its processing into reusable energy, fertilizer, and fresh water.

**June** | Major public and private donors achieve a milestone in global health by committing funding to immunise more than 250 million of the world's poorest children against life-threatening diseases by 2015 and prevent more than four million premature deaths. Donors commit US\$ 4.3 billion at the first pledging conference held by the GAVI Alliance. This exceeds an initial target of \$3.7 billion, enabling GAVI to reach more children faster than planned and to accelerate the introduction of new vaccines.

**May** | The foundation opens its new headquarters in the heart of Seattle.

**February** | Hundreds of infants in Kenya receive their first shots against pneumococcal disease. Nicaragua, Guyana, Yemen and Sierra Leone also roll out the vaccine with support from the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunisation (GAVI). The GAVI Alliance commits to support the introduction of pneumococcal vaccines in 19 developing countries within a year.

**January** | Bill Gates and His Highness Sheik Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi, announce a joint \$100 million commitment to vaccinate children in Afghanistan and Pakistan. At the World Economic Forum in Davos, Bill also announces a partnership with the U.K. Government to double current contributions to polio eradication to vaccinate an additional 45 million children.

## 2010

**December** | A new meningitis vaccine begins reaching millions of people in Burkina Faso, Mali, and Niger. In less than a decade, PATH and the World Health Organization, with funding from the foundation, have developed the new vaccine that costs less than \$0.50 (US) per dose.

**September** | Melinda Gates speaks about progress toward the Millennium Development Goals at the United Nations General Assembly in New York.

**June** | Melinda urges global leaders to make women's and children's health a top priority, and announces that the foundation will invest \$1.5 billion over

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the next five years to support maternal and child health, family planning, and nutrition programs in developing countries.

**April** | Bill joins representatives of the governments of the United States, Canada, Spain, and South Korea at the U.S. Department of the Treasury to launch a global trust fund to help the world's poorest farmers grow more and earn more. Initial contributions to the Global Agriculture and Food Security Program total nearly \$900 million, including a \$30 million commitment from the foundation.

**April** | Melinda urges community college presidents to boost graduation rates by replacing weak remedial programs with new technologies and fresh ideas. The foundation pledges up to \$110 million in investments to help scale initiatives that accelerate academic catch up.

**January** | At the World Economic Forum Annual Meeting in Davos, Switzerland, Bill and Melinda call for a “decade of vaccines” and pledge \$10 billion over the next 10 years to help research, develop, and deliver vaccines for the world's poorest countries. They call on the government and private sectors to fill critical financing gaps, saying that 8.7 million lives can be saved over the next decade.

The foundation opens an office in London, allowing it to deepen relationships with its Europe-based partners.

## 2009

**November** | The foundation announces that it will invest \$290 million **in four communities across the country**<sup>1</sup> to support bold and ambitious plans to transform how teachers are recruited, developed, rewarded, and retained. The large and mid-size urban school systems that will benefit from these grants currently serve more than 350,000 students, many from underserved communities. The foundation will also invest \$45 million in research to better understand and define what makes a teacher effective and identify multiple measures of effectiveness on which teachers, researchers, and policymakers can all agree.

**October** | At the World Food Prize in Des Moines, Iowa, Bill urges governments, donors, researchers, farmer groups, environmentalists, and others to set aside old divisions and join forces to help millions of the world's poorest farming families boost their yields and incomes so they can lift themselves out of hunger and poverty. He also announces \$120 million in foundation grants that illustrate the range of efforts necessary to empower millions of small farmers to grow enough to build better, healthier lives.

**September** | The foundation joins nearly 100 central bankers and other financial policymakers to launch the Alliance for Financial Inclusion (AFI), a coalition of countries from the developing world committed to making savings accounts, insurance, and other financial services available to millions of people living on less than \$2 a day. Research shows that better access to financial services can fuel economic growth by raising national income through increased savings and investments.

<sup>1</sup> **Intensive Partnerships for Effective Teaching:** The foundation chose to fund the effective teaching plans of Hillsborough County (Fla.) Public Schools, Memphis (Tenn.) City Schools, Pittsburgh (Pa.) Public Schools, and The College-Ready Promise, a coalition of five public charter school management organizations in Los Angeles. The announcement culminated a year-long competitive application process that brought together school district, school board, and local teacher union leadership to develop comprehensive and innovative reform plans.

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**July** | While in New Delhi, India, Bill announces that the foundation will increase its funding commitment to Avahan—an initiative to reduce the spread of HIV in India—from \$258 million to \$338 million.

**March** | The Washington Families Fund, an unprecedented public-private partnership led by Building Changes, announces it is embarking upon a bold new approach to end homelessness among families with children throughout Washington state, with the goal of reducing the problem by 50 percent in the next decade. The foundation commits up to \$60 million over 10 years to the effort.

**February** | During a visit to Nigeria to learn about the country's efforts to combat polio, Bill announces a \$25 million partnership with the World Bank to purchase more than 100 million doses of oral polio vaccine for Nigeria.

**February** | The foundation teams up with GSMA, which represents the interests of the worldwide mobile communications industry, to launch an innovative program that will expand the availability of financial services to millions of people in the developing world through mobile phones. Supported by a \$12.5 million foundation grant, the program will work with mobile operators, banks, microfinance institutions, governments, and development organizations to encourage the expansion of reliable, affordable mobile financial services to the unbanked.

**January** | Bill releases his first annual letter. Along with outlining new, ambitious goals to combat hunger and poverty and improve education in the United States, he makes a strong case for increased foreign assistance for health and development in the face of the global economic crisis.

**January** | The foundation partners with Rotary International and the British and German governments to announce commitments totaling \$630 million to eradicate polio. This includes a \$255 million challenge grant, which Rotary will match with \$100 million raised by its members.

## 2008

**November** | The foundation convenes national education leaders in Seattle to discuss strategy to increase college readiness and completion.

**September** | Bill addresses the UN General Assembly, praising the Millennium Development Goals and calling for increased efforts to meet them. He also announces a \$168 million grant to the PATH Malaria Vaccine Initiative and a \$66 million grant to support a new World Food Programme initiative. Jeff Raikes officially takes over as CEO, succeeding Patty Stonesifer, who continues to work for the foundation as a senior advisor.

**June** | Bill makes his official transition from Microsoft to a more hands-on, day-to-day role at the foundation.

**May** | Jeff is named the new CEO of the foundation.

**February** | Patty announces she is stepping down as CEO to pursue a different role with the foundation.

**January** | Expanding on his Harvard address, Bill speaks in detail about the concept of creative capitalism in his speech at the World Economic Forum in

Davos, Switzerland. He also announces a \$306 million package of **Agricultural Development**<sup>2</sup> grants designed to boost the yields and incomes of millions of small farmers in Africa and South Asia.

## 2007

The foundation announces a \$50 million commitment to support targeted HIV-prevention programs in China, through collaboration with nonprofit, government, and private sector partners.

**October** | At a forum of leading malaria scientists and policymakers, Bill and Melinda call for a new global commitment to the long-term goal of eradicating malaria.

**October** | The foundation launches the \$100 million Grand Challenges Explorations initiative to encourage scientists to explore creative, unorthodox ideas that could lead to major global health breakthroughs.

**September** | Sound Families awards its last round of grants.

**June** | The foundation establishes advisory panels for each of its three program areas to encourage a diversity of voices and feedback on its core areas of investment.

**June** | Bill returns to Harvard to receive an honorary degree. He delivers the university's commencement speech and discusses his optimism about creative capitalism—using market forces to reduce global inequities—and challenges graduates to use their intellectual talents to combat the world's most pressing problems.

## 2006

**October** | The foundation creates a two-trust structure: the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, which distributes money to grantees, and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation Trust, which manages the endowment assets.

**September** | The foundation partners with the Rockefeller Foundation to launch the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA), an Africa-based, Africa-led organization working to help revitalize agriculture on the continent and enable small farmers to overcome hunger and poverty. The foundations commit an initial investment of \$150 million to develop and distribute improved seeds for farmers in Africa. AGRA appoints Kofi Annan as the chairman of the board in June 2007.

**June** | Warren Buffett pledges 10 million shares of Berkshire Hathaway Inc. stock to the foundation. At the time of the pledge, the gift is worth approximately \$31 billion and will be delivered through annual installments. The gift will help the foundation deepen and accelerate work already under way in its Global Health, Global Development, and U.S. Programs.

**June** | Bill makes public his plan to transition from Microsoft to the foundation in July 2008, marking his evolution from benefactor to becoming more deeply engaged with the foundation's strategic initiatives.

<sup>2</sup> **Investing Across the Agricultural Value Chain:** The package of grants spans the range of farmers' needs, including \$164.5 million to help revitalize Africa's severely depleted soils; \$19.8 million to develop and disseminate rice that can resist droughts, floods, pests, and other threats; and \$46.9 million to help small farmers increase the quality of their coffee and sell it to premium coffee buyers.

**April** | The foundation is restructured into four core areas that will enable it to increase its strategic focus and impact: U.S. Program, led by Allan C. Golston; Global Health, led by Dr. Tadataka “Tachi” Yamada; Global Development, led by Sylvia Mathews Burwell; and Operations, led by Martha Choe, named chief administrative officer in 2008.

**January** | Bill helps kick off the Global Plan to Stop TB in Davos, Switzerland, and announces that the foundation will invest \$900 million over the next 10 years to address this critical global health issue.

## 2005

**December** | Time magazine names Bill, Melinda, and Bono persons of the year for their philanthropic work.

**October** | **The foundation continues to deepen its anti-malaria work**<sup>3</sup> with the announcement of grants totaling \$258 million to develop a malaria vaccine, new drugs, and innovative mosquito control methods.

**June** | The foundation provides \$436.6 million in Grand Challenges grants to support innovative global health research projects in more than 30 countries.

**January** | The foundation announces the final round of Staying Connected challenge grants. It awards Public Access Computing Hardware Upgrade Grants in 2006 and Opportunity Online Hardware grants in 2007–2009.

## 2004

**February** | As part of a two-day summit on high school education sponsored by the **National Governors Association (NGA)**,<sup>4</sup> Bill delivers a speech describing America’s high schools as “obsolete” and says the nation has an economic and social obligation to improve them. The NGA, the foundation, and five other partners launch a \$42 million initiative to translate this call into action.

**January** | Early evaluations of the foundation’s Sound Families Initiative help inspire the Washington State Legislature to establish the Washington Families Fund, the nation’s first public-private partnership providing sustainable funding to affordable housing projects statewide. The foundation goes on to make \$4 million in contributions to the fund, which totals more than \$18 million.

**January** | Melinda tours West Virginia’s Sissonville Public Library and announces new Staying Connected grants to support efforts to sustain and improve public access computing in public libraries.

## 2003

**The foundation’s original Libraries initiative concludes**,<sup>5</sup> meeting its goal of connecting nearly every public library in the United States with computers and training.

**September** | Bill and Melinda’s commitment to improving global health deepens with a learning trip to Africa. In Mozambique, they visit infants with

<sup>3</sup> **Expanding Access to Malaria Control:** Access to malaria control has expanded through the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria’s distribution of 70 million insecticide-treated bed nets. For more information, go to [www.theglobalfund.org](http://www.theglobalfund.org).

<sup>4</sup> **Setting Common, Measureable Standards for All Students:** In 2005, all 50 governors signed on to NGA’s Graduation Compact, establishing common standards for measuring graduation rates. In June 2010, the National Governors Association Center for Best Practices (NGA Center) and the Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO) released a set of state-led education standards, the Common Core State Standards. The English-language arts and mathematics standards for grades K-12 were developed in collaboration with a variety of stakeholders including content experts, states, teachers, school administrators, and parents.

<sup>5</sup> **Connecting U.S. Libraries:** Through partnerships with public libraries in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and U.S. Territories, the foundation has helped install and sustain computers and Internet connections and provide training for library staff in more than 11,000 libraries.

life-threatening malaria and observe promising malaria vaccine research at the Manhiça Health Research Center.

**January** | Avahan (“call to action” in Sanskrit), the foundation’s first in-country staffed HIV/AIDS prevention initiative, is launched in India with an initial commitment of \$100 million.

**January** | The foundation launches the \$200 million Grand Challenges in Global Health initiative to encourage scientists to develop revolutionary solutions to infectious diseases in developing countries.

## 2002

**May** | The foundation commits \$50 million to support the launch of The Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN), an innovative partnership between the private and public sectors focused on supporting local food-fortification efforts in developing countries.

**March** | Bill Gates Sr. and President Jimmy Carter visit public health officials, clinic workers, and community members in Africa as part of a learning tour about HIV/AIDS.

**January** | Bill and Bono call upon world leaders at the World Economic Forum to join together to address the complex social and economic issues affecting Africa.

## 2001

**March** | The foundation continues to expand and accelerate its global health work, particularly in infectious disease prevention, and announces a \$60 million microbicide grant in conjunction with the launch of the Global Microbicide Project.

**January** | Building on the success of its U.S. program, the Libraries initiative forms its first relationships with partners outside the country, awarding its first grant in Chile.

## 2000

The foundation launches the **Sound Families Initiative**<sup>6</sup> to triple the number of transitional housing units paired with on-site support services for homeless families in Washington state’s King, Pierce, and Snohomish counties.

The William H. Gates Foundation merges with the Gates Learning Foundation and is renamed the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. The merger’s goal is to build the right organizations, teams, and strategies to increase the efficacy of grantmaking.

The main initiatives of the organization are:

- Global Health
- Education
- Libraries
- Pacific Northwest (PNW)

Bill and Melinda contribute nearly \$16 billion to the newly merged foundation, which moves to a new office on Lake Union in Seattle.

<sup>6</sup> **Housing Homeless Families in the Puget Sound Region:** More than a dozen public and private sector partners from Washington state’s Puget Sound region tripled the number of service-enriched housing units in three counties, serving nearly 1,500 homeless families through the Sound Families Initiative.

**Fall** | Trips to developing nations help shape the co-chairs' thinking about the complex issues affecting the world's poor. Bill visits the NDMC Maternal & Child Health Chanakyapuri clinic in New Delhi, India, **announces a \$25 million grant to support polio vaccinations**,<sup>7</sup> and helps administer oral polio vaccines to children. During a learning tour to Thailand, Melinda tours the Huay Fon Well Baby Clinic in Chiang Rai, where she administers polio vaccines to children.

**March** | The foundation officially launches its **education programs**<sup>8</sup> with a \$350 million commitment to three priority areas:

- model schools and districts
- professional development opportunities for teachers and school leaders
- the elimination of barriers to higher education through scholarship programs

**January** | In Davos, Switzerland, the foundation helps formally launch the GAVI Alliance.

## 1999

Nelson Mandela visits the foundation, discussing the importance of strategic, impactful giving in a forum with employees.

**November** | The foundation makes an initial grant of \$750 million to the **GAVI Alliance**<sup>9</sup> to accelerate the delivery of life-saving vaccines to the world's poorest children.

**September** | Bill and Melinda announce a \$1 billion **Gates Millennium Scholars**<sup>10</sup> gift to the United Negro College Fund aimed at improving the level of diversity in higher education and fostering a generation of leaders who represent the full range of talents in society.

**May** | The International AIDS Vaccine Initiative (IAVI) receives a \$25 million grant from Bill and Melinda, the largest charitable gift to date to combat the AIDS epidemic. The grant allows IAVI to more than double vaccine development efforts.

## 1998

**December** | The foundation's global health emphasis takes root with an initial gift of \$100 million to the Bill & Melinda Gates Children's Vaccine Program.

**February** | Bill and Melinda travel in a bookmobile and tour public libraries in Alabama, the first state to receive grants supporting libraries' efforts to provide free computer and Internet access.

## 1997

Patty leads the newly formed Gates Library Foundation, and the William H. Gates Foundation continues as a separate organization.

**June** | The Gates Library Foundation is established as a sister philanthropy to the William H. Gates Foundation to help bridge the digital divide and ensure that, if you can get to a public library in the United States, you can access the Internet.

### <sup>7</sup> **Winning the Fight Against Polio:**

Through partnerships and the frontline work of its grantees, the foundation has supported the global drive to eradicate polio, which has reduced the number of polio cases worldwide by 99%.

### <sup>8</sup> **Creating and Redesigning U.S. High**

**Schools:** School districts, charter school networks, and other partners have created or redesigned more than 1,800 high schools in 47 states and the District of Columbia (since 2000).

### <sup>9</sup> **Immunizing Millions of Children:**

The GAVI Alliance has immunized 213 million children in developing countries with new and underused vaccines (hepatitis B, Hib, yellow fever) and more than 50 million children with basic vaccines (DTP3) since 2000. As of 2009, the foundation had invested over \$1.5 billion in GAVI, making it the largest investment in the organization's grantmaking portfolio. For more information, go to [www.gavialliance.org](http://www.gavialliance.org).

### <sup>10</sup> **Improving Diversity in Higher**

**Education:** The United Negro College Fund has helped more than 12,000 high-achieving students of color from low-income backgrounds obtain college educations through the Gates Millennium Scholars Program.



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## 1994–1996

**December 1994** | Bill and Melinda consolidate their giving to address two main issues—global health and community needs in the Pacific Northwest—and form the William H. Gates Foundation with an initial stock gift of \$94 million. William H. Gates Sr. manages the new foundation.

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](http://www.gatesfoundation.org).

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