



STATISTICAL REPORTING BY THE BILL & MELINDA GATES FOUNDATION TO THE OECD DAC

AID TO HEALTH DATA NOW INCLUDES WORLD'S LARGEST PRIVATE FOUNDATION

By Kimberly Smith

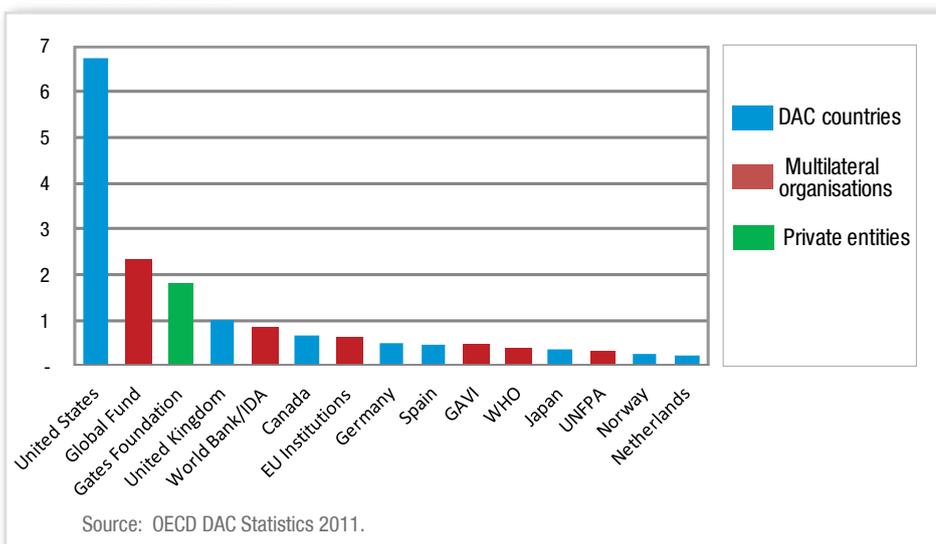
OECD Development Co-operation Directorate

This year, for the first time, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development's Development Assistance Committee (OECD DAC) includes in its aid data grants made by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation in support to global health. The Gates Foundation's investments in health can now be compared with and added to figures for official donors and multilateral organisations – a significant step for both the OECD DAC and the Gates Foundation in their shared goal of attaining greater transparency in aid reporting.

In collaboration with the Statistics and Monitoring Division of the OECD Development Co-operation Directorate (DCD, which serves as the OECD DAC Secretariat), the Gates Foundation has reported their health data at the activity level. These data represent 2009 concessional outflows from a private foundation and are included in DAC statistics as part of "net private grants" from the United States. They are not official development assistance (ODA)¹ and are not to be confused with aid from the United States Government.

The data show that in 2009, the Gates Foundation disbursed USD 1.8 billion in grants to improve health in developing countries, including support for vaccines, polio, HIV/AIDS, malaria, pneumonia, tuberculosis (TB), diarrheal diseases, other infectious diseases, family planning, nutrition, and maternal, newborn and child health. This made the Gates Foundation the third largest international donor to health after the United States and the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (see figure 1).

Figure 1. Aid to health – top donors in 2009
Current USD billion



About the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation

The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation believes that every person should have the chance to live a healthy, productive life. Since its inception in 1994, it has committed a total of USD 24.45 billion in grants for global health and development,² focusing on improving health and giving those in need the chance to lift themselves out of hunger and extreme poverty. Based in the United States in Seattle, Washington, the Gates 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.

The Gates Foundation is organised into three main programmes, each with a specific focus: the Global Health Program

and Global Development Program, which benefit developing countries, and the United States Program, which benefits people in the United States – especially those with the fewest resources. Total cumulative commitments for the benefit of developing countries through the Global Health Program and the Global Development Program have amounted to USD 14.35 billion and USD 3.17 billion, respectively. The United States Program has committed USD 5.93 billion. For its first-time pilot reporting to the OECD DAC, the Gates Foundation reported expenditures from the Global Health Program only.

1. The concept of official development assistance (ODA) has been used to measure donors' expenditures on aid since the 1960s. For a full definition and more information on which expenditures qualify as ODA, refer to www.oecd.org/dac/stats/methodology.

2. This represents a cumulative figure from 1994 through December 2010. For more information see: www.gatesfoundation.org/about/Pages/foundation-fact-sheet.aspx.

About the Global Health Program

The Gates Foundation's Global Health Program harnesses advances in science and technology to save lives in poor countries, focusing on health problems with major impact in developing countries that get too little attention and funding. Where proven tools exist, the foundation supports sustainable ways to improve their delivery. Where they do not, it invests in research and development of vaccines, drugs and diagnostics, the benefits of which could be shared globally. Many of the Gates Foundation's expenditures are thus at the global or regional level and not allocated to one single country, as summarised in Figure 2 below.

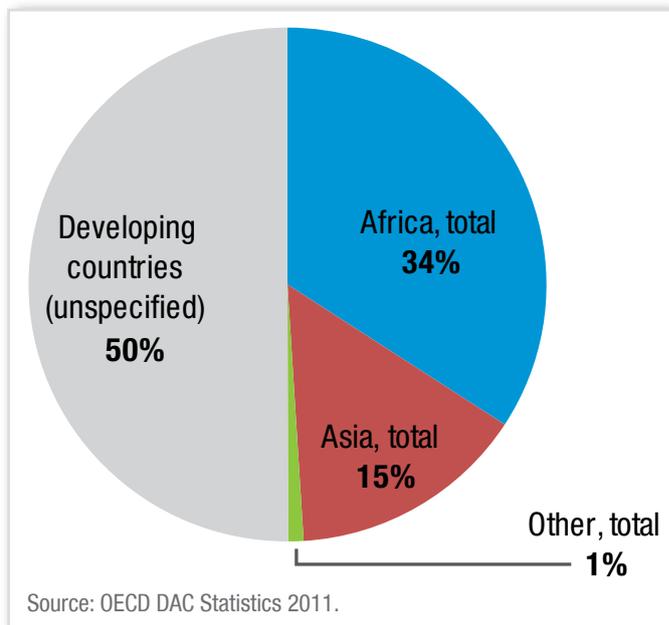
The majority of this work is done through grants to partners in the following priority focus areas:

- **Infectious diseases:** Focusing on developing ways to fight and prevent enteric and diarrheal diseases, malaria, pneumonia and other infectious diseases.
- **HIV and tuberculosis:** Focusing on the development of new tools to aid in the fight against to HIV/AIDS and TB.
- **Family health:** Supporting family planning, nutrition, and maternal, neonatal and child health.

Three cross-cutting programmes address other focus areas:

- **Discovery:** Closing gaps in knowledge and science, and creating critical platform technologies in areas where tools are lacking.
- **Vaccine delivery:** Implementing and scaling up proven approaches by identifying and proactively addressing the obstacles that typically prevent them from being adopted and taken up.
- **Policy and advocacy:** Promoting more effective and better resources and policies, and greater visibility for global health to help address the Gates Foundation's priority health targets.

Figure 2. The Gates Foundation's 2009 global health spending by region



About the OECD DAC

For 50 years now, the OECD DAC has gathered the world's main aid donors to define and monitor global standards in key areas of development. The DAC is increasingly engaging with donors and partners beyond its members³ to leverage collective know-how and foster innovative and integrated approaches on a range of development challenges. The DAC is based at the OECD headquarters in Paris, France, with Brian Atwood as its Chair.

Every year, DAC members and other donors,⁴ as well as the largest multilateral organisations, report their aid flows to the DAC both in aggregate and at the activity level via the Creditor Reporting System (CRS). The CRS database contains detailed quantitative and descriptive data on individual aid projects and programmes. CRS data are used to analyse the breakdown of aid by sector and geography for selected years and donors, examine aid that promotes specific policy objectives and monitor donors' compliance with various international recommendations in the field of development co-operation.

For the DAC, transparency on aid flows is an important tool for accountability. More detailed and comprehensive information on aid flows allows both providers and recipients to make more informed decisions on aid allocations and helps to identify countries and sectors that may be over- or under-funded. The DAC hopes that all major providers of development co-operation will begin to report their aid flows as the Gates Foundation has done and stands ready to collaborate with them to improve the global picture of aid flows.

For additional information about these data, please contact Ms. Kimberly Smith at kimberly.smith@oecd.org. Additional information about the OECD DAC can be found at www.oecd.org/dac and about the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation at www.gatesfoundation.org.

3. The DAC's 24 members are: Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Korea, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, the United States and the European Union. The World Bank, International Monetary Fund and United Nations Development Programme participate as observers.

4. In addition to the DAC's members, 20 donors currently report their aid to the DAC: Chinese Taipei, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Iceland, Israel, Kuwait, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Romania, Saudi Arabia, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Thailand, Turkey and the United Arab Emirates.