Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation

AID PRIORITIES
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 opportunity to lift themselves out of hunger and extreme poverty.

The Gates Foundation has four main program areas:
1) The global health program;
2) The global development program;
3) Global policy and advocacy;
4) The United States Program.

The top aid priority areas for the Gates Foundation in 2016 were health, U.S. education, agriculture/food security, reproductive health, and financial services for the poor.

Internationally, the Gates Foundation supports work in more than 100 countries, mostly based in sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia. Overall the Foundation focus countries include India, Nigeria and Ethiopia.

In 2015, the Gates Foundation provided US$ 4.4 billion of charitable support to partner organizations; of this, US$ 94.4 million was devoted to WASH-related activities, spread across four complementary initiatives, all focused on sanitation:
1) Transformative Technologies;
2) Urban Sanitation Markets;
3) Monitoring, Evaluation, and Dissemination for Scale;
4) Policy, Advocacy and Communications.

WASH PROGRAMME OUTCOMES
The Foundation’s WASH program has shown significant progress over the last four years. This includes successful advocacy support around Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 6; many success stories from its city-level engagement and peer-to-peer learning support; and strengthened relationships with partners. The Foundation’s time and investments continue to be aligned in support of its overall goals and strategic priorities.

WASH STRATEGY/ACTIVITIES
The Gates Foundation’s WASH program focuses on developing innovative approaches and technologies that can lead to radical and sustainable improvements in sanitation in the developing world. The topline vision of the WASH strategy is to achieve universal use of sustainable sanitation services.

The Foundation’s objectives include developing non-sewered sanitation approaches, identifying new delivery models, and advocating for public policies that support improved sanitation in densely populated areas. Ultimately, better sanitation will be a key to ensuring healthy, sustainable cities in the developing world, and the approaches that prove successful can be adapted and extended to rural communities.

The Gates Foundation focuses on urban sanitation as its priority within WASH because it has been identified as a neglected area in which the Foundation can spur significant change. Most of the Foundation’s sanitation projects are in sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia, where the burden of inadequate sanitation is greatest.

The Foundation’s top priorities in its WASH program include:
1) Raising the priority of non-sewered sanitation (NSS) among governments, funders and other stakeholders, and ensuring that success is defined as not just access to toilets but also their usage, safe fecal sludge management, with reliable monitoring of both;
2) Accelerating the development and commercialization of transformative sanitation products and services to meet the needs of the global poor;
3) Continuing to support change in India on sanitation issues;
4) Determining what works at a city level and for city governments to prioritize sanitation, especially NSS;
5) Clarifying new opportunities regarding the role of women and girls in sanitation.

Specific targets
The Gates Foundation does not have specific targets related to its WASH programs.

WASH AID PRIORITIES: DISTRIBUTION OF AID DISBURSEMENTS

By activity type
The Gates Foundation WASH aid priorities for 2017 include:
• Raising the priority of NSS among key stakeholders including national and city governments;
• Accelerating the development and commercialization of transformative sanitation products and services;
• Supporting partners to drive positive change in sanitation services leveraging national movements;
• Clarifying new opportunities regarding the role of women and girls in sanitation.

By region in 2015

A note: An additional 33% of water and sanitation ODA is targeted to sector or multi-country programmes

Source: OECD-CRS, 2016
Although the Gates Foundation reviews program strategies on an annual basis, it does not anticipate any major shifts in WASH funding or focus areas from 2016–2020.

**WASH AID COMMITMENTS AND DISBURSEMENTS**

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<th>Commitment</th>
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Source: OECD-CRS, 2016

**WASH SECTOR TARGETING**

A breakdown of aid disbursement for 2015, as it relates to urban/rural areas, is provided below.

- Urban areas, 79%
- Rural areas, 8%
- Both urban and rural areas, 22%

Source: GLAAS 2016/2017 ESA Survey

**LESIONS/IMPACTS**

The Gates Foundation has strong, high level traction with Indian partners. These partnerships have led to a number of sanitation policy improvements, building a collaboration platform, and overall increased National and State Level support for non-sewered sanitation and full treatment of waste.

In Senegal, the Foundation continues to support and see progress on Senegal’s urban sanitation focus, such as through their use of market mechanisms to drive down the cost of pit-emptying for consumers. Specifically, the Foundation’s partnership with the Office National de l’Assainissement du Sénégal (ONAS), the national utility company in Senegal, has supported the roll out of an innovative call centre that matches demand for pit emptying to local supply and has proved this model can be effective.

**COLLABORATIVE BEHAVIOURS FOR MORE EFFECTIVE DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION**

Enhance government leadership of sector planning processes:

Proportion of water and sanitation ODA allocated to water and sanitation policy and administration and education and training (%)

- The median % for all donors is 8%

Strengthen and use country systems:

Percentage of WASH ODA spending using country procurement systems (%)

- A total of 11 countries were reported by BMGF in the GLAAS ESA 2016/2017 survey. This figure may not include all countries in which BMGF works.

Use one information and mutual accountability platform:

Participation (at least moderately) in mutual assessment exercises/reviews (% of countries)

- A total of 11 countries were reported by BMGF in the GLAAS ESA 2016/2017 survey. This figure may not include all countries in which BMGF works.

Build sustainable WASH sector financing strategies:

Percentage of WASH funding published / information shared with Ministry of Finance (%)

- Reports on WASH assistance or spending in countries is shared with Ministries of Finance and other institutions as required by law. More detailed information at country level is not available.

FUTURE OUTLOOK

Although the Gates Foundation reviews program strategies on an annual basis, it does not anticipate any major shifts in WASH funding or focus areas from 2016–2020.

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Source: OECD-CRS, 2016

**A breakdown of funding channels for 2015 disbursements of grants and in-kind services is provided below:**

- Programmes and projects via multi-laterals, 25%
- Programmes and projects via NGOs, 40%
- Academic and training institutes, 15%
- Private sector involvement, 20%

Source: GLAAS 2016/2017 ESA Survey

**FUNDING ACTIVITIES**

A breakdown of aid disbursement for 2015 is provided below.

- WASH basics systems, 94%
- WASH large systems, 3%
- Water sector policy, 5%

Source: OECD-CRS, 2016

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