

The Gates Foundation's grants to the World Health Organization, 1998-2022

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BACKGROUND

- **88% of WHO budget** comes from **voluntary contributions**
- BMGF is **WHO's second biggest funder** after USA
- **BMGF** has a “narrowly conceived understanding of **health as the product of technical interventions**” (A-E Birn)
- **WHO** takes a **broader approach** to health in its constitution and programme of work

OBJECTIVE

To understand what BMGF grants to WHO are spent on?

METHODS

Code and analyse data on BMGF grants to WHO from BMGF's website



MAJOR FINDINGS

- BMGF made **535 grants** to WHO between 1998 and 2022
- These grants are worth **\$4.7 billion** – **5.9% of BMGF funds committed across all of its programmes** in the period.
- All BMGF grants to WHO are **earmarked**
- **59.3%** of grants by value to **polio**; **83.3%** to **infectious diseases**
- **51.8%** of grants by value to specific **vaccine-related projects and programmes** + more on supporting these activities
- Almost **nothing to NCDs, health system strengthening, or SDH**

CONCLUSIONS

WHO's reliance on earmarked voluntary contributions from donors like BMGF could **undermine WHO's ability to achieve some of its strategic objectives**

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