

The **TOP 10** foundations funding development

April 2023

devex
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As the future of development aid remains uncertain — with a looming global recession, numerous natural and human-made disasters, and some key bilateral donors announcing budget cuts — organizations are increasingly looking to foundations to finance projects.

Annually, the [Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development](#) publishes a list of the largest foundations funding the development sector. We take a look at these organizations to understand where they work, how they fund, and what resources they have available.

These foundations have a track record of funding key development issues: from climate change, gender equality, health, hunger, to poverty alleviation.

Our team has aggregated and analyzed data from grant boards, financial statements, and OECD on each foundation's work to offer an overview of its unique strategy. In each case, we used the most recent data available.

By sharing this insight, we hope that you can better understand how these key development players work and potentially identify future partnership opportunities for your organization. To learn more about these and the other foundations we track, become a [Devex Pro Funding member](#).

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■ William & Flora Hewlett Foundation	45
■ Oak Foundation	50

In numbers:

The top 10 foundations funding development

According to data from OECD, private philanthropic providers spent [\\$10.7 billion](#) on development in 2021.

Although this paled in comparison with the [\\$185.9 billion](#) aid spending of [Development Assistance Committee](#) member countries, some of these private funders have become household names in global development.

Based on OECD data, the largest foundations are:

- Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.
- Mastercard Foundation.
- Wellcome.
- Children's Investment Fund Foundation.
- Open Society Foundations.
- Ford Foundation.
- Bloomberg Philanthropies.
- IKEA Foundation.
- William & Flora Hewlett Foundation.
- Oak Foundation.

OECD recently shared its [2021 data on private philanthropic giving](#), but the list is incomplete: Data is not available on all of the largest foundations from previous years. We looked back at data from 2020 to identify organizations we would expect to be in the top 10. We also excluded foundations which were primarily loan – rather than grant – funders and grant-givers funded via national lotteries.

In general, the philanthropic organizations we looked at are growing fast.

Eight of the 10 foundations on the list have data up to 2021. Based on their annual reports, the total grant spending of the [Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation](#), [Mastercard Foundation](#), [Wellcome](#), [Children's Investment Fund Foundation](#), [Ford Foundation](#), [Bloomberg Philanthropies](#), [IKEA Foundation](#), and [Oak Foundation](#) grew by 45.1% from 2017 to 2021 – or from \$9.5 billion to \$13.8 billion.

The list is dominated by the Gates Foundation, which accounted for nearly half of the annual grant spending and recorded a 41.4% increase from 2017 to 2021 — from \$4.7 billion to \$6.7 billion. Meanwhile, the other seven foundations saw a collective growth of 65.8% — from \$4.3 billion to \$7.2 billion.

Overall, the annual growth in grant spending of these eight foundations outpaced the increase in the total official development assistance from the Development Assistance Committee member countries.

Based on OECD's [grant equivalent methodology](#), ODA increased by 12.3% in real terms from 2018 to 2021 — or from \$165.6 billion to \$185.9 billion.

Meanwhile, the grant spending of these eight foundations increased by 52.2% in the same time period — or from \$9.1 billion to \$13.8 billion.

[Hewlett Foundation](#) and [OSF](#) — which only have data from 2017 to 2020 — had a -21.9% and 51.5% growth rate, respectively.

Since most of these organizations carry out some nondevelopment funding, the figures drawn from reports tend to be larger than those provided by OECD.

Wellcome, Ford Foundation, Bloomberg Philanthropies, and Oak Foundation disbursed less than half of their 2021 spending on development.

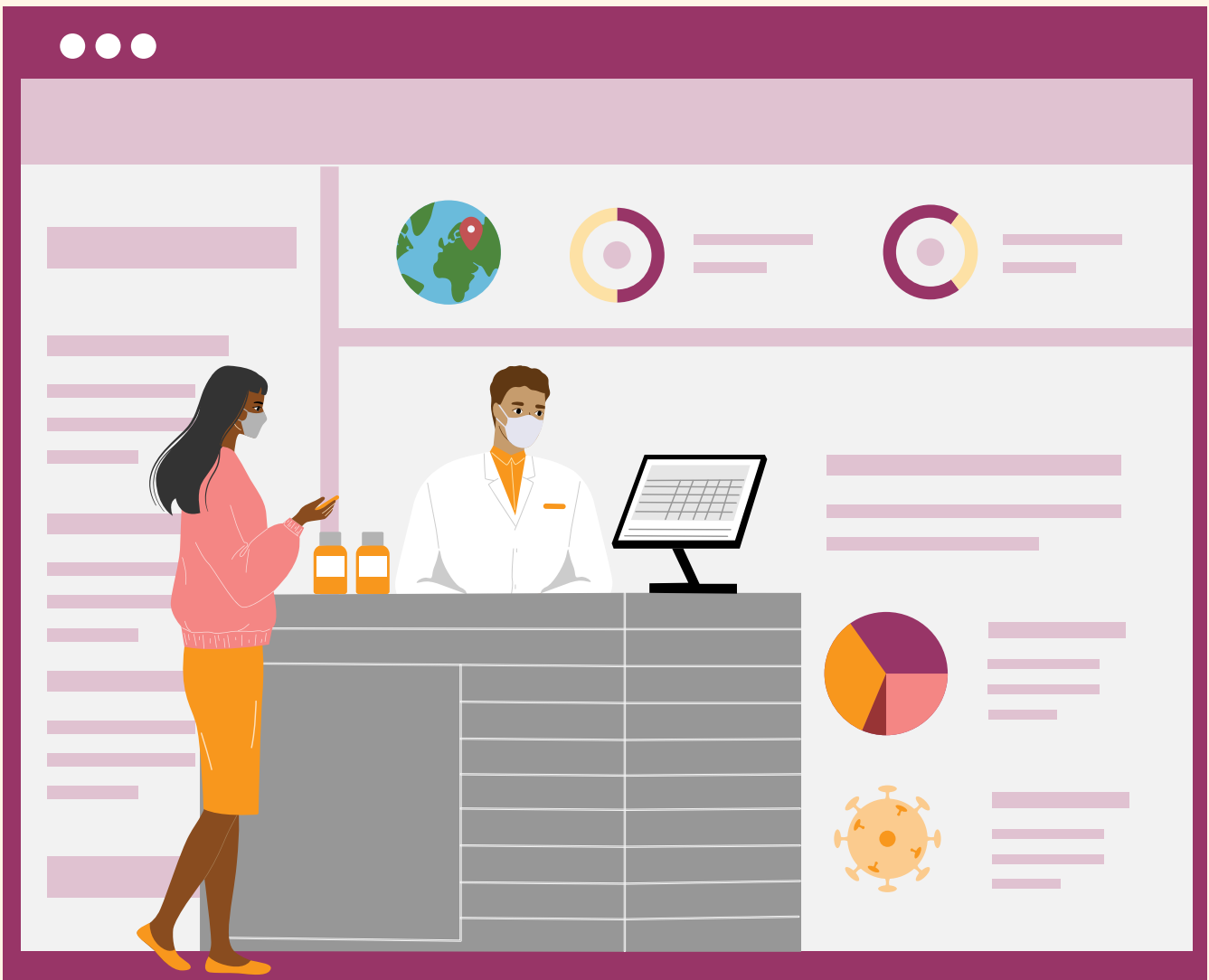
Based on OECD data, Wellcome spent just \$509.8 million on development in 2021 — or 30.1% of its total spending that year — although development appears to be a growing priority for them.

Among the foundations, Mastercard Foundation spent the most on development relative to its total grant spending — \$1.3 billion, or 88.5% of its total in 2021.

It also saw the biggest growth among the top 10 foundations in the last five years — a 345% increase, from \$336 million in 2017 to \$1.5 billion in 2021.

In this analysis, Devex looked into each of the foundations' financial and annual reports to identify total grant spending from 2017 to 2021. In the case of Hewlett — which has not shared its [annual reports](#) after 2014 — OECD data was used.

Throughout the report, we converted the total annual grant spending to 2021 U.S. dollar constant prices, so we could compare changes relative to inflation. In the case of Wellcome — which originally used pound sterling — and IKEA Foundation — which originally used euro — we converted the figures using historical rates before getting their 2021 U.S. dollar contract prices equivalent.



It more than doubled its funding during the early days of [COVID-19](#) — from \$379.5 million in 2019 to \$992.9 million in 2020, or a 161.6% increase. Mastercard Foundation was among the leading private donors for pandemic response, which it has funded through its [COVID-19 Recovery and Resilience Program](#).

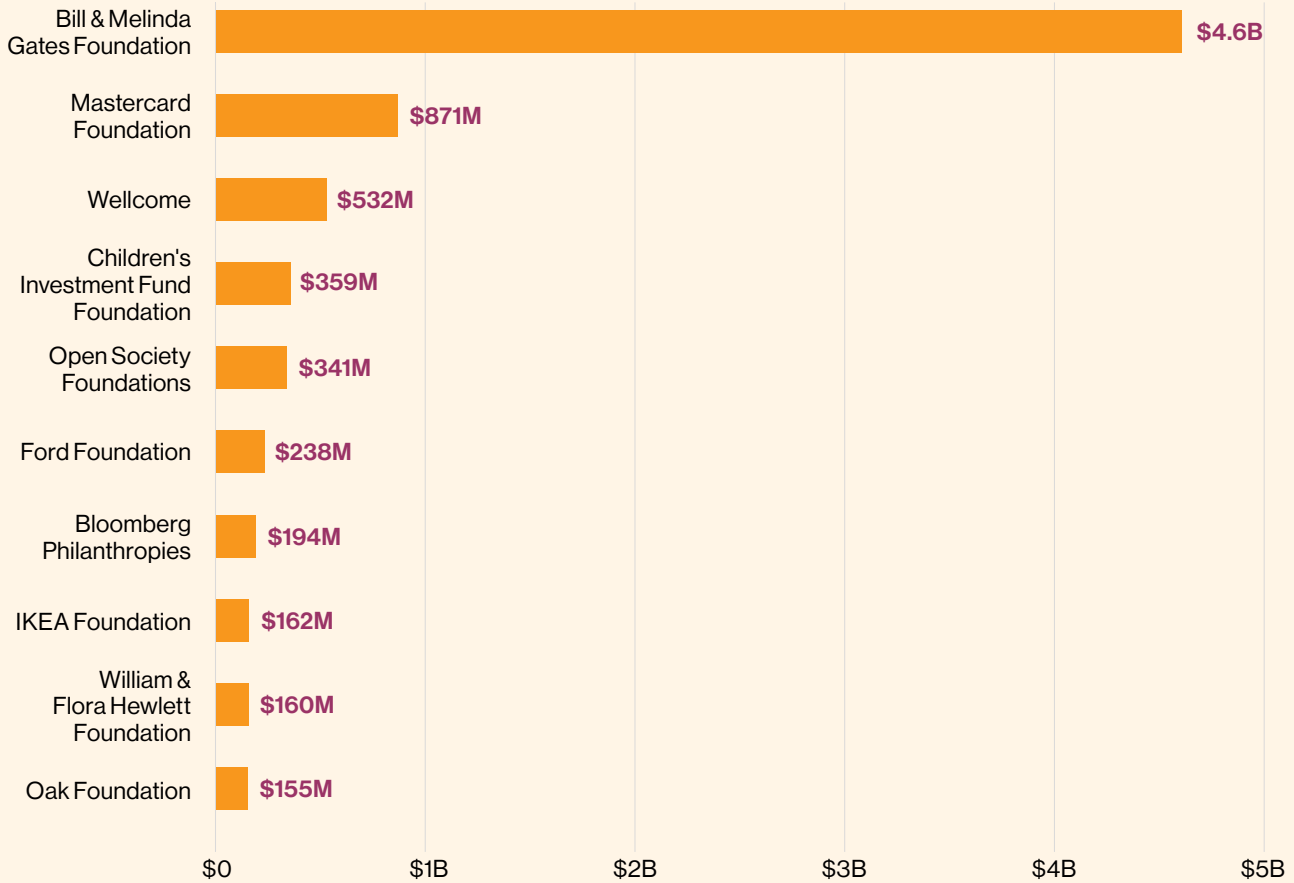
Overall, the top 10 foundations recorded an average growth of 28.9% during the pandemic compared to 2019.

Only IKEA Foundation, Wellcome, and Open Society Foundations had a dip in grant spending that year.

The upward trend continued in 2021, with the top 10 foundations growing by 18.8%. This excluded Hewlett Foundation and OSF, which have no data for the year.

Only Bloomberg Philanthropies recorded a decrease, which was less than 1%.

Foundation Profiles




Top 10 foundations' total spending to developing countries in FY 2020, based on OECD.



BILL & MELINDA GATES *foundation*

 **Founded:**
2000

 **Headquarters:**
Washington, D.C.,
United States

The [Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation](#) was formed through the merger of the William H. Gates Foundation and the Gates Learning Foundation in 2000. From just a \$1 million grant to the Seattle Art Museum in 1994, it has become the largest philanthropic organization in the world — with more than 30,000 grants awarded in a span of two decades to over 11,000 organizations.

Total annual grant spending



Gates Foundation's total direct grantee support from FY 2017 to FY 2021, based on its [annual reports](#). Figures are in 2021 USD constant prices.

Program areas

Gates Foundation works in the following six thematic areas:



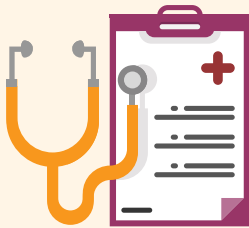
Gender equality



Global development



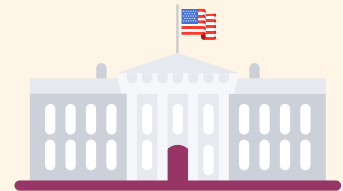
Global growth and opportunity



Global health



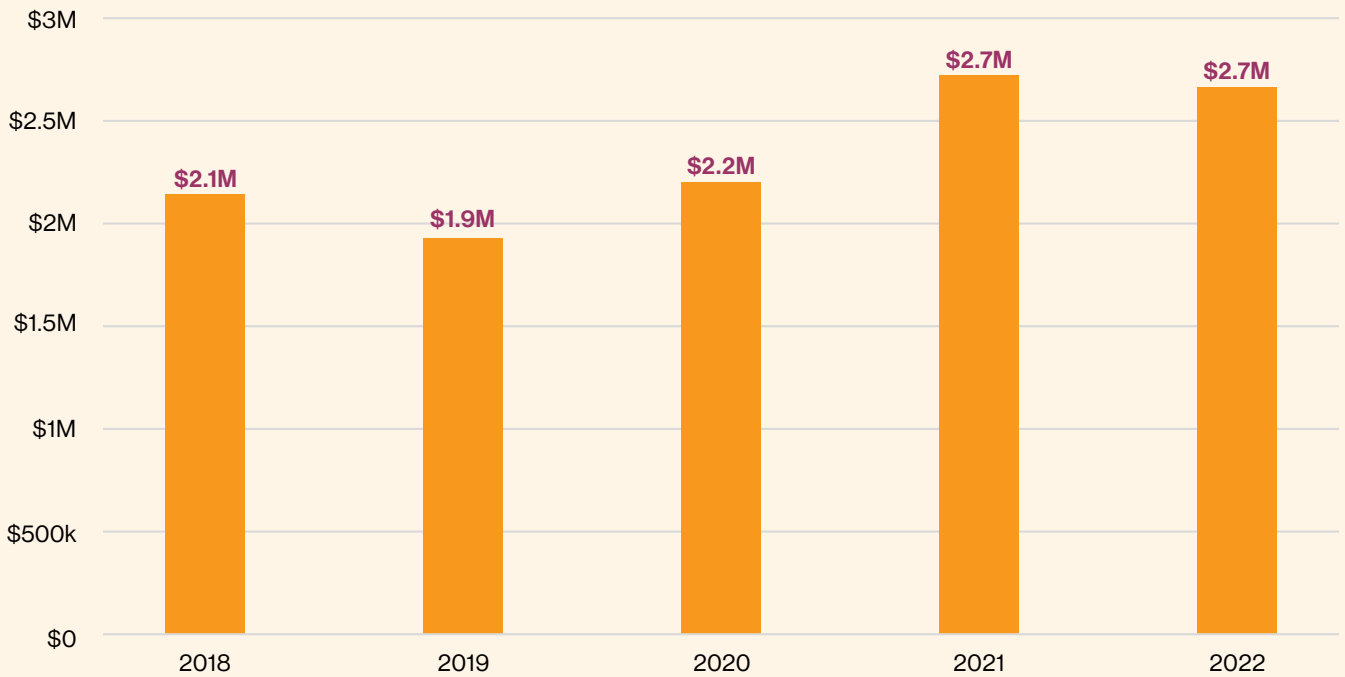
Global policy and advocacy



U.S. programs

Based on our previous analysis, the lion's share of Gates' money went to global health: over 6,600 grants, worth \$24.2 billion, awarded between 1998 and April 2022. Global health grants include vaccine development and surveillance, innovative technology solutions, and addressing epidemics and health threats, such as neglected tropic diseases, HIV, malaria, pneumonia, and tuberculosis.

Average grant size (2018-2022)



Gates Foundation's average grant size, based on its [committed grants data](#).

As of writing, the Gates Foundation has awarded over 40 grants in 2023 — with an average size of \$2.7 million.

Application and partnership process

The Gates Foundation makes awards in two main ways: grants and strategic investments.

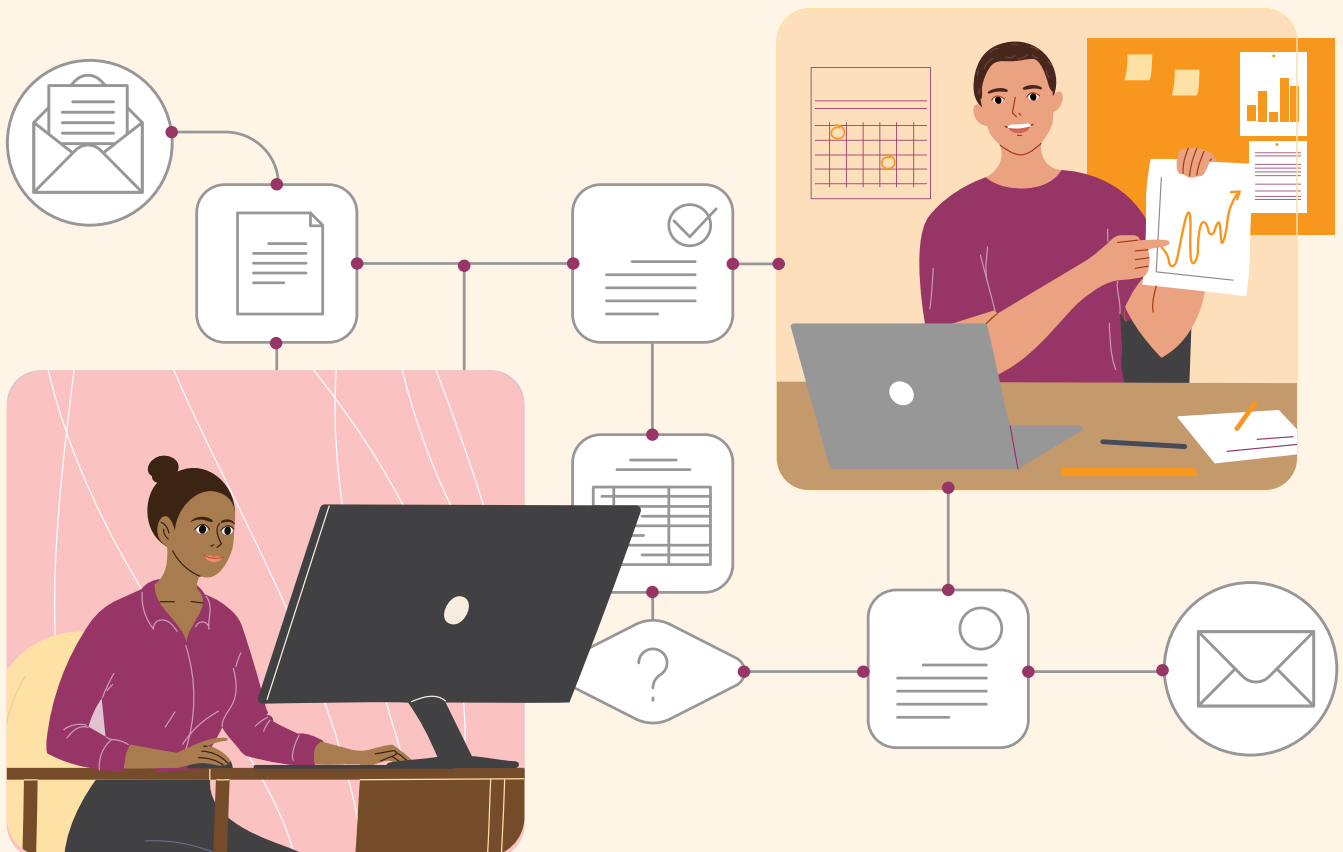
Grants make up more than 90% of all funding.

The majority of Gates Foundation awardees are identified by staff, rather than coming through a request for proposal process. The majority of grants go to U.S. 501(c)(3) organizations and other tax-exempt organizations.

The foundation will issue some requests for proposal from time to time, which appear on the [requests for proposal page](#).

[Grand challenges](#) are a subset of grant funding aimed at tackling particular issues. Gates collaborates with [Grand Challenges Canada](#), the [U.S. Agency for International Development](#), and [Wellcome](#) to hold annual grand challenges meetings, with the last one held in [October 2022](#).

Gates' other main vehicle is the [Strategic Investment Fund](#). This supports entrepreneurs and businesses that are making a social difference, where investment is a better tool than grant funding. It sometimes buys shares in businesses, makes low-interest loans, or issues guarantees to allow companies to produce more of critical products such as vaccines, drugs or contraceptives.



Geographic focus

India



\$276.2M

Nigeria



\$167.8M

Pakistan



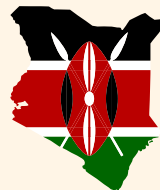
\$134.6M

Ethiopia



\$112M

Kenya



\$88.4M

Gates Foundation's top recipient countries in FY 2021, based on [OECD statistics portal](#).

Based on OECD, Gates Foundation spent \$2.2 billion on activities in multiple countries from different regions. OECD labels it as “Developing countries, unspecified.”

Top grantees in 2022

Rotary Foundation



UNICEF USA



World Health Organization



PATH



Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations



Pfizer



Calibr



CGIAR



International Bank for Reconstruction and Development



University of Washington Foundation



Gates Foundation's top grantees in FY 2022, based on its [committed grants data](#).

Rotary Foundation was Gates' biggest grantee in 2022 — with \$300 million to support its global polio eradication program, PolioPlus.

Last year, we published a special report on Gates Foundation, covering its key priorities, funding process, and overall top grantees in the last two decades. [Learn more](#) about the world's biggest philanthropic organization and how you can become a partner.

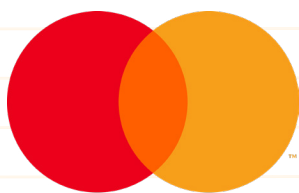
DevExplains: The Gates Foundation's top grantees and how to become one



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mastercard
foundation



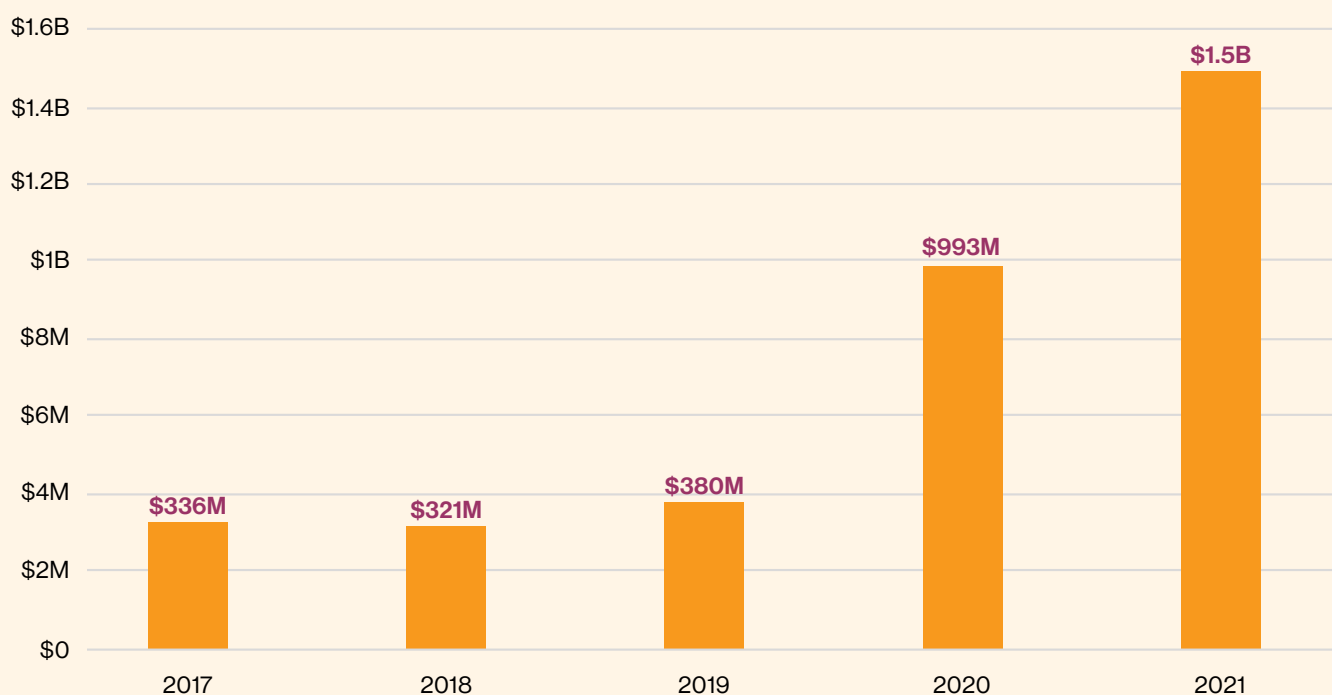
Founded:
2006



Headquarters:
Toronto, Canada

The [Mastercard Foundation](#) focuses on education and financial inclusion in developing countries and the Indigenous youth in Canada. In 2009, it decided to shift its focus to Africa. Then in 2017, it decided to focus specifically on youth unemployment in the continent. Currently, the foundation works with over 245 partners in 33 African countries.

Total annual grant spending



Mastercard Foundation's total program expenditures from 2017 to 2021, based on its [financial statements](#). Figures are in 2021 USD constant prices.

Program areas

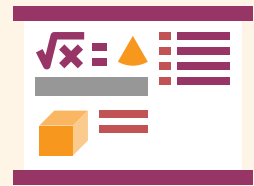
In 2018, the Mastercard Foundation launched [Young Africa Works](#) — its strategy for 2018 to 2030 focusing on youth employment on the continent. Its grants mainly focus on education and financial services. Some of its [initiatives](#) are:



[Expanding access to financial services in Africa](#)



[Innovations in secondary education](#)



[Leaders in teaching](#)



[The Mastercard Foundation scholars program](#)



[Next-generation financial services](#)



[Rural and agriculture finance](#)

Application and partnership process

In 2018, Mastercard Foundation shifted from open grant opportunities to partnerships. The request for proposals are sent to a closed and targeted group, which often are existing partners. The foundation does not accept unsolicited project or investment proposals, nor participates in sponsorship opportunities.

A potential entry point for nonpartner organizations is by connecting with Mastercard Foundation's current and former grantees.

Mastercard Foundation's spending skyrocketed at the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. The foundation was among the leading private donors for pandemic response through its [COVID-19 Recovery and Resilience Program](#).

Geographic focus

Ghana



\$138.5M

Rwanda



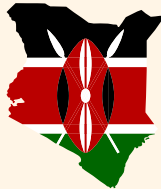
\$101.4M

Ethiopia



\$71.1M

Kenya



\$58.9M

Nigeria



\$49.8M

Mastercard Foundation's top recipient countries in FY 2021, based on [OECD statistics portal](#).



Overall top partners

Equity Group Foundation



KCB Foundation



EARTH University



Camfed



Arizona State University



African Leadership Academy



KPMG East Africa



UNCDF



BRACUSA



Ashesi University College



Mastercard Foundation's overall top partners, based on its [partners' page](#).

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wellcome



Founded:

1936

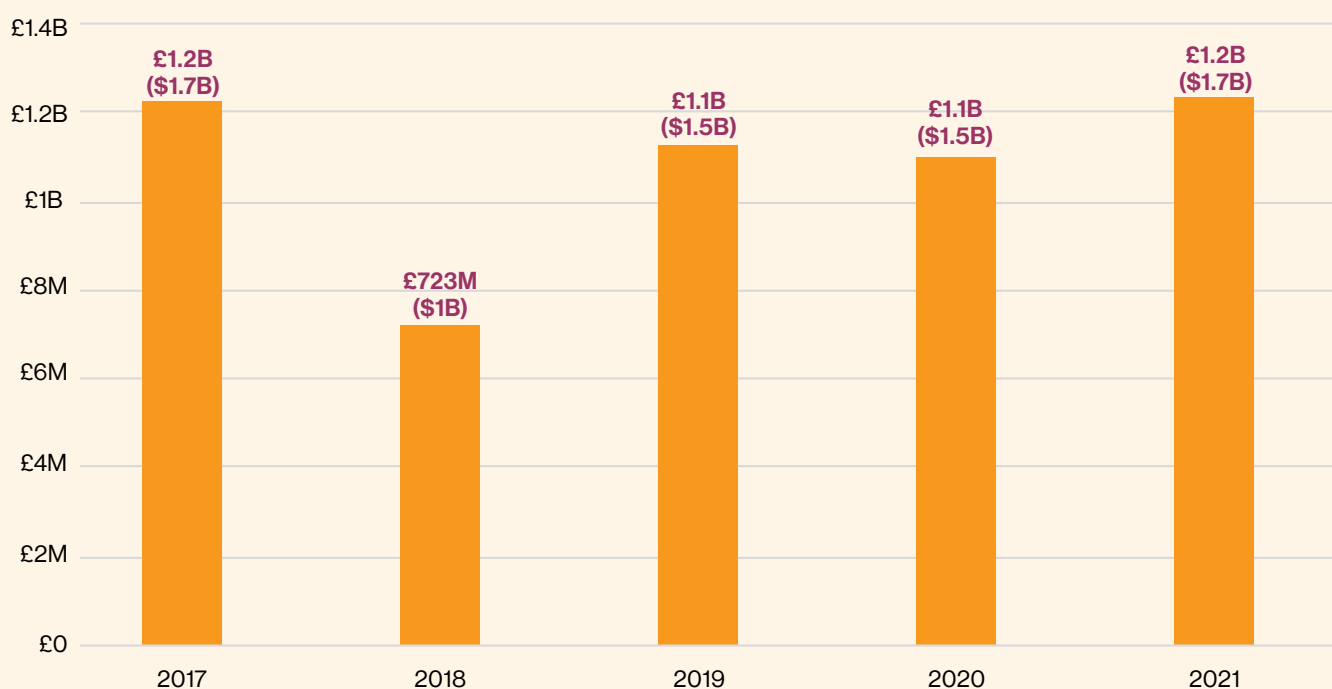


Headquarters:

London,
United Kingdom

Wellcome primarily supports research and studies aimed at solving urgent health issues — from infectious diseases, mental health, to climate change. Its total portfolio in 2021 amounted to [£37.8 billion](#) (\$52 million).

Total annual grant spending



Wellcome's gross spend on charitable activities from 2017 to 2021, based on its [annual reports and financial statements](#). USD conversions are in 2021 constant prices.

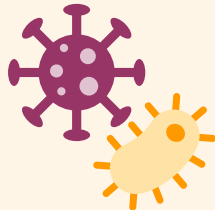
According to its most recent annual report for the fiscal year ending September 2022, Wellcome gross spending on charitable activities amounted to **£1.4 billion (\$1.7 billion)**.

Program areas

Wellcome is one of the leading charitable institutions funding scientific research. In January 2022, it set an ambitious goal – to spend **£16 billion** over the next ten years. Grants are funded under the following **four interlinked programs**:



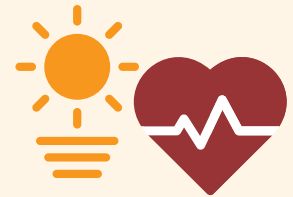
**Discovery
research**



**Infectious
disease**

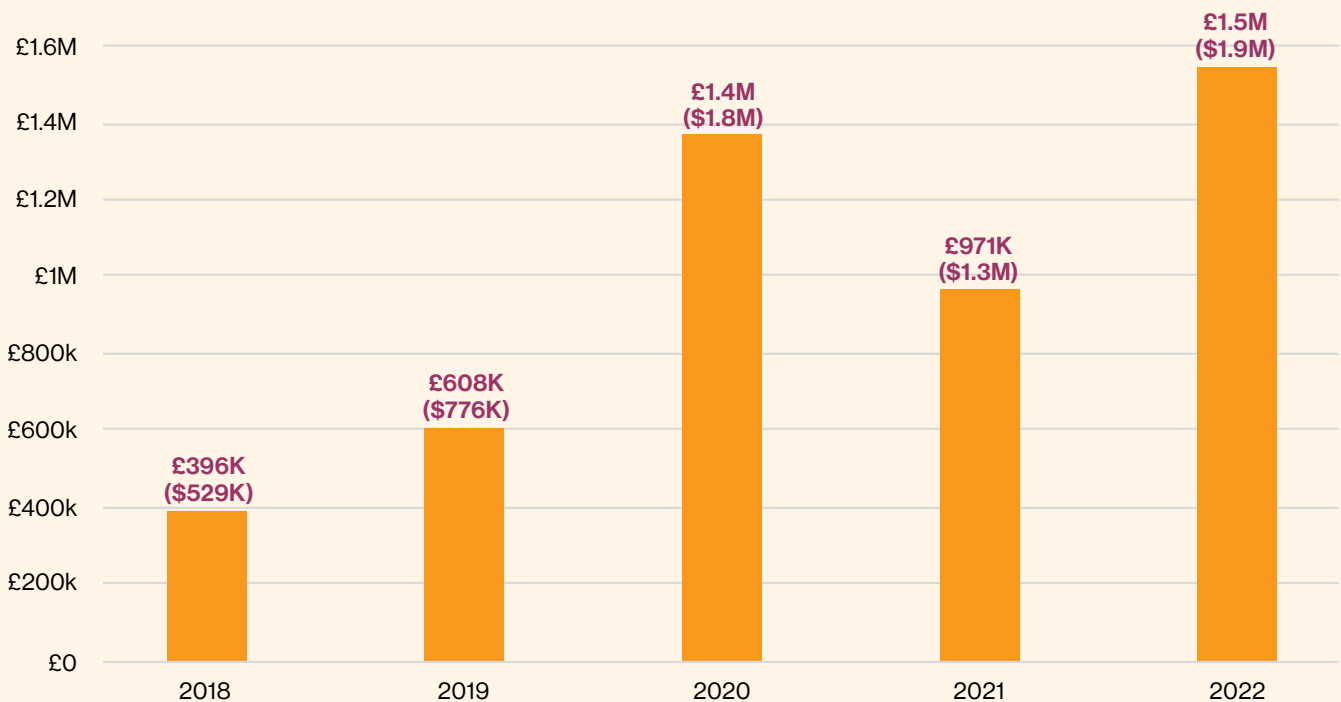


**Mental
health**



**Climate and
health**

Average grant size (2018-2022)



Wellcome's average grant size, based on its **committed grants data**.
USD conversions are based on average historical conversion rates.

Geographic focus

Malawi**\$11M****India****\$10.6M****South Africa****\$6.6M****Democratic Republic
of Congo****\$6M****Vietnam****\$5.9M**

Wellcome's top recipient countries in FY 2021, based on [OECD statistics portal](#).

Based on [OECD](#), the bulk of Wellcome's spending went to "developing countries, unspecified," worth \$381.1 million.

Top grantees in 2022

Although Wellcome mainly awards grants to researchers, these grantees are affiliated with the following organizations.

Wellcome Leap



The Francis Crick Institute



University College London



University of Oxford



The Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations



University of Cambridge



King's College London



University of Edinburgh



Imperial College London



University of Manchester



The University of Manchester

Wellcome's top grantee organizations in FY 2022, based on its [grants portal](#).

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CHILDREN'S INVESTMENT FUND FOUNDATION



Founded:

2002

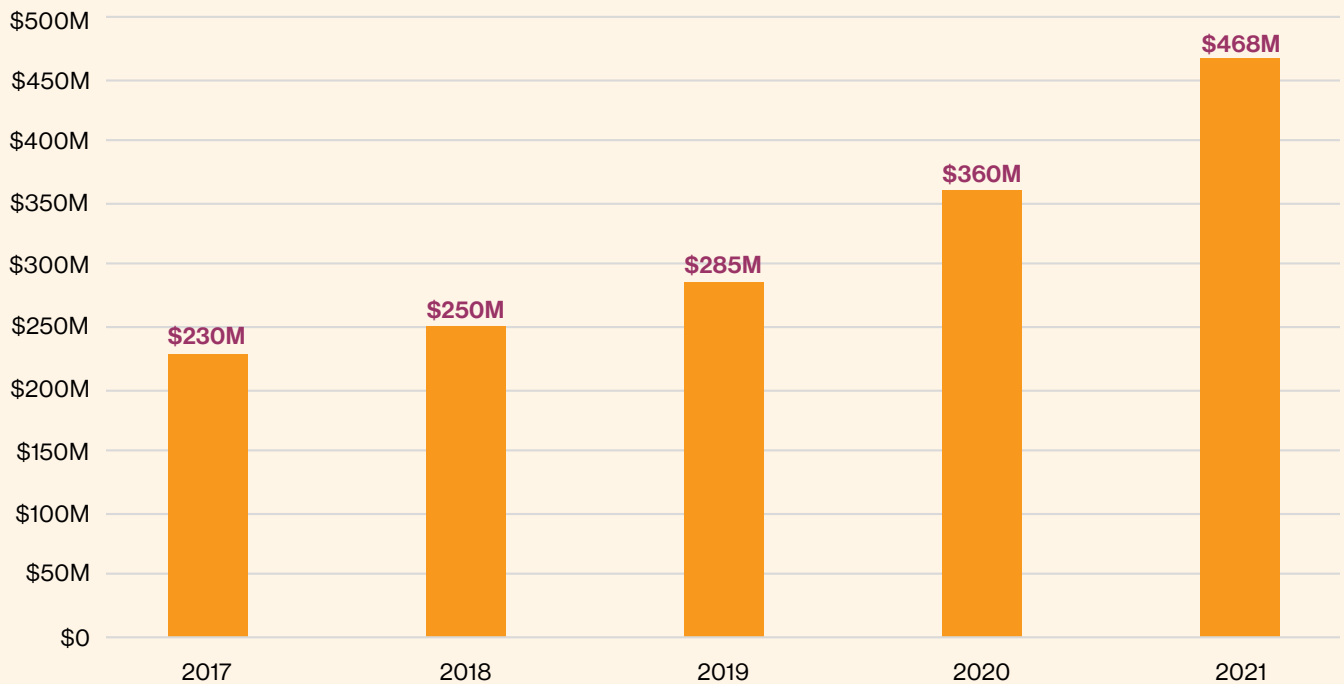


Headquarters:

London,
United Kingdom

CIFF is the largest foundation that focuses on the well-being of children — from reproductive health and protection to supporting a low-carbon world for future generations. CIFF has offices in London, Nairobi, and New Delhi.

Total annual grant spending



CIFF's grants disbursements from 2017 to 2021, based on its [annual reports](#).
Figures are in 2021 USD constant prices.

Program areas

CIFF funds a range of areas with the goal of transforming the lives of children and protecting and securing their future. Its five priority programs are:



Child health and development



Climate change



Sexual and reproductive health and rights

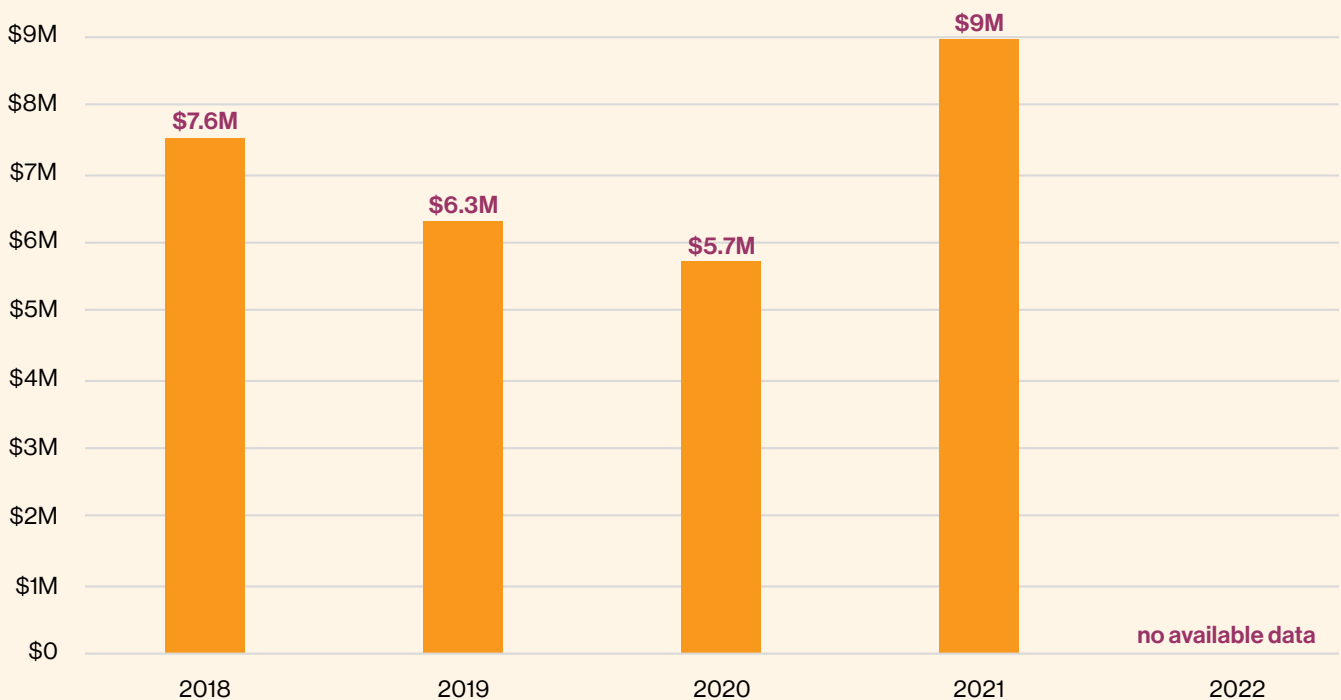


Girl capital



Child protection

Average grant size (2018-2022)



CIFF's average grant size, based on its grant portfolio data.

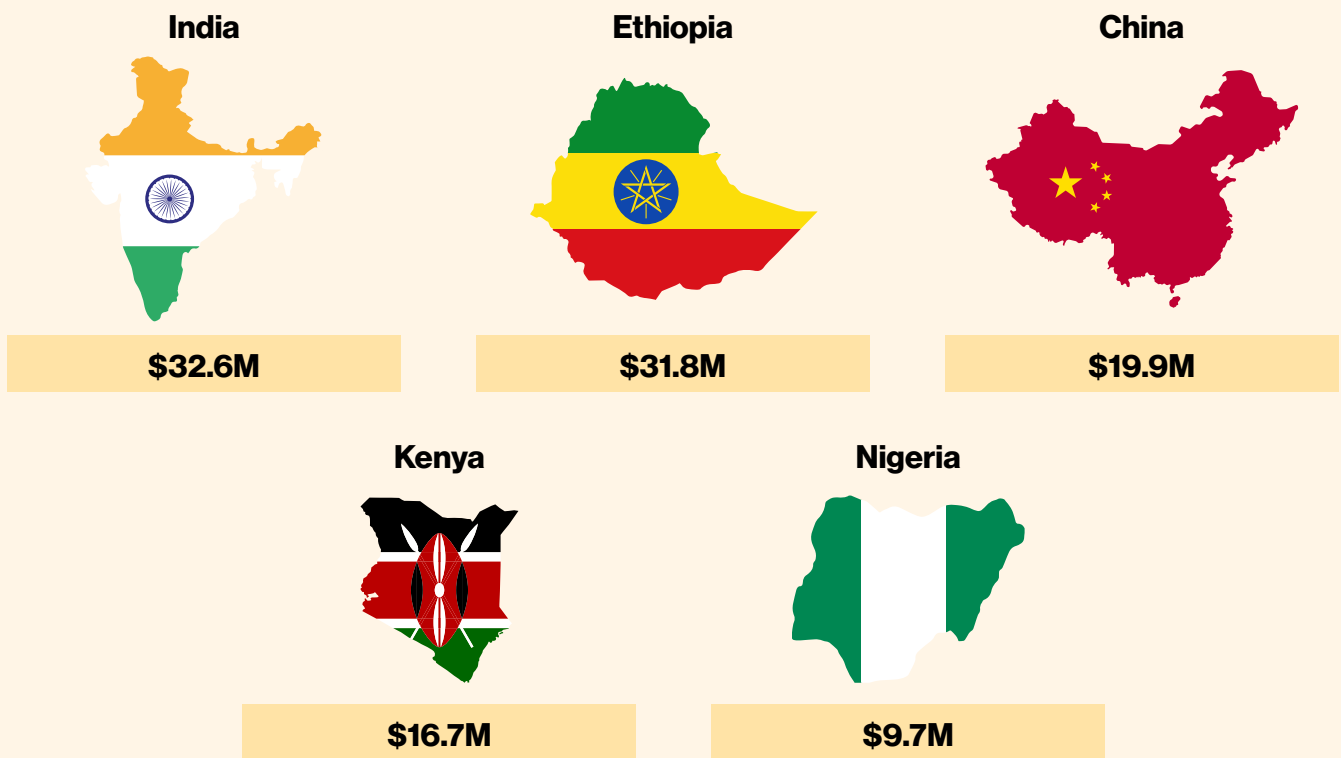
As of the time of writing this report, there are only 13 grants, worth \$61.9 million, awarded in FY 2022. This gives an average grant amount of \$4.8 million.

Application and partnership process

CIFF does not usually accept unsolicited proposals. Instead, it builds partnerships with individuals and organizations working within its priorities. Once a strategic priority is identified, CIFF invites a potential partner to submit a proposal, along with a concept note and investment memo – both of which are collaboratively done.

Approval of a concept note usually takes 15 to 20 weeks.

Geographic focus



CIFF's top recipient countries in FY 2021, based on the [OECD statistics portal](#).

Based on [OECD](#), CIFF spent \$174.4 million on activities whose recipients are multiple countries from different regions.

Top partners in 2022

World Vision Ethiopia, Tesla, Harmonic Systems, and the government of Ethiopia



Ceres, We Mean Business Coalition, ClimateWorks, Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors, The Sunrise Project, and Climate Governance Initiative



MSI Reproductive Choices



Sightsavers, The Carter Center, and Crown Agents



ClientEarth



Energy Foundation (China), World Resources Institute, Environmental Defense Fund, and six other organizations and government agencies in China



One Acre Fund



Foundation for International Law for the Environment



Energy Research Institute



National Skills Development Corporation, Michael and Susan Dell Foundation, and British Asian Trust



CIFF's top partners in FY 2021, based on its [grant portfolio data](#). The list includes both implementers and the co-funders.

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OPEN SOCIETY FOUNDATIONS



Founded:

1993

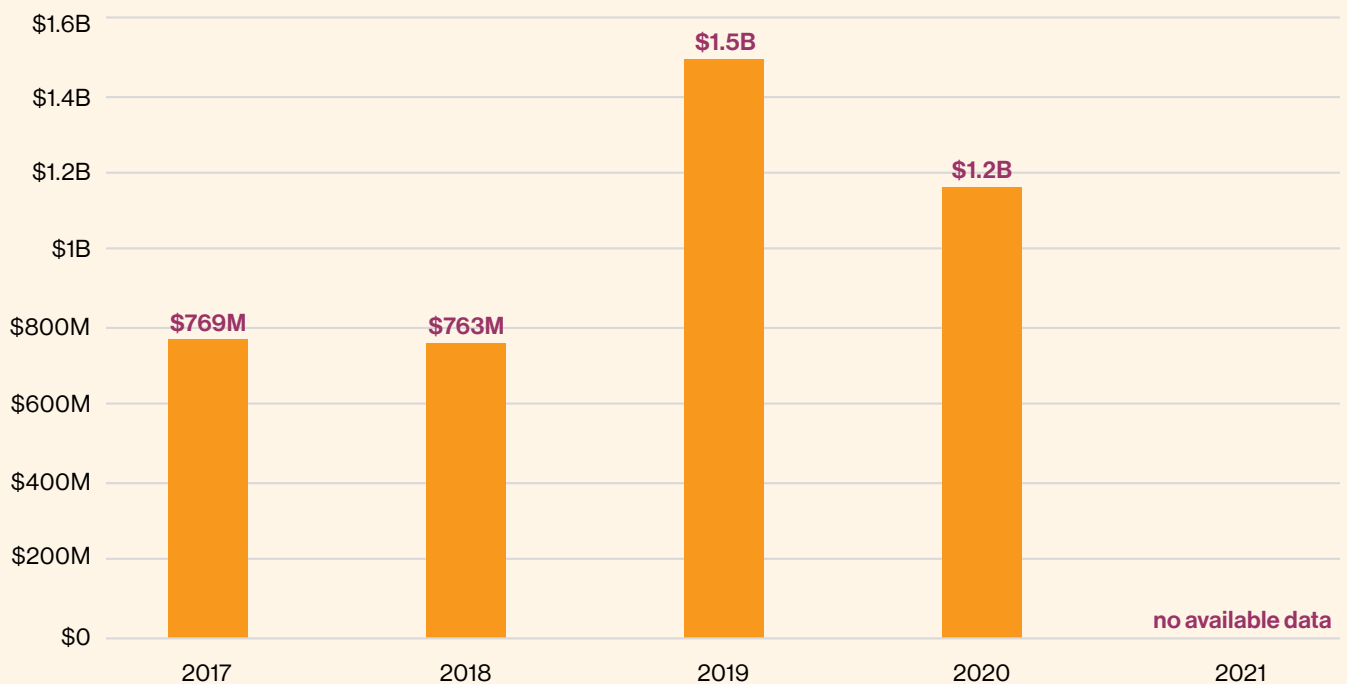


Headquarters:

New York,
United States

Founded by Hungarian-American magnate and philanthropist George Soros, OSF awards grants through a network of foundations and offices — focusing on justice, democracy, and human rights.

Total annual grant spending



OSF's total expenditures — excluding operations — from 2017 to 2020, based on its [financial reports](#). Figures are in 2021 USD constant prices.

Program areas

OSF is present in over 120 countries, funding grants under the following [thematic sectors](#):



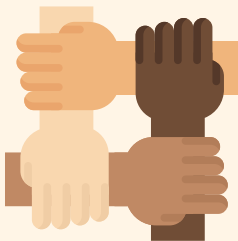
Democratic practice



Economic equity and justice



Education



Equality and anti-discrimination



Health and rights



Human rights



Information and digital rights

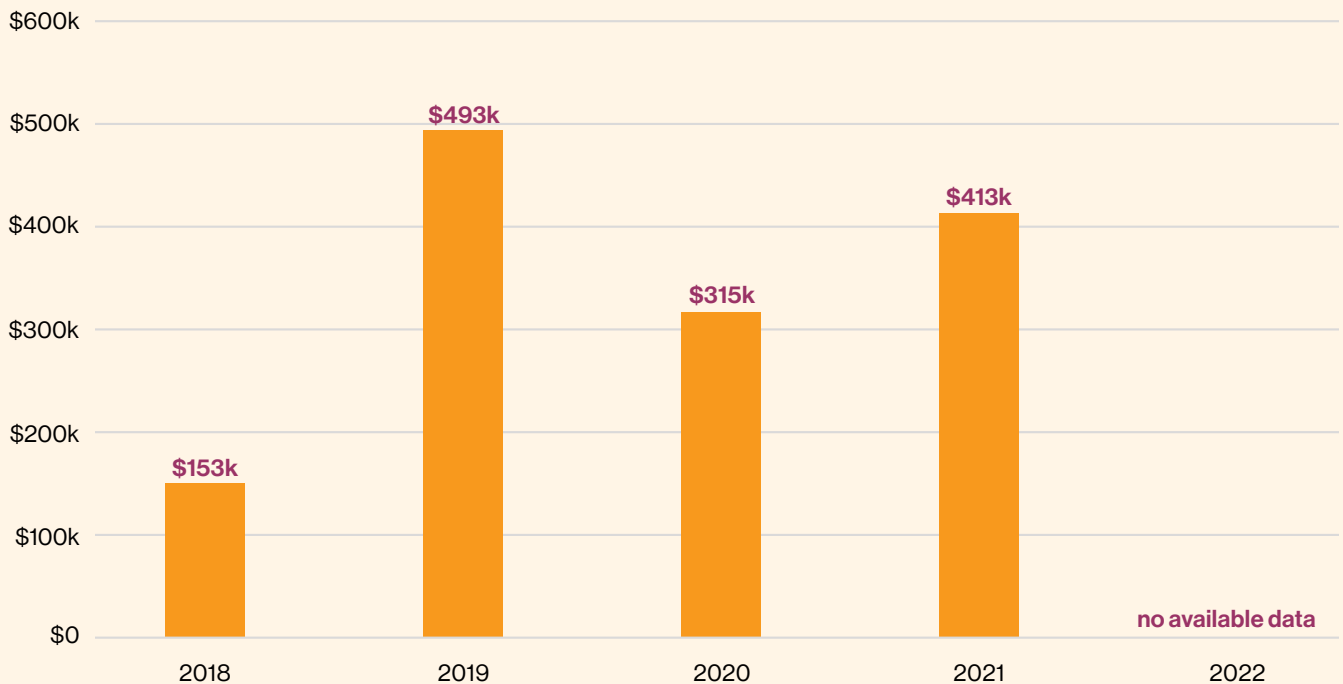


Journalism



Justice reform and the rule of law

Average grant size (2018-2022)



OSF's average grant size, based on its [grants portal](#).

Application and partnership process

OSF identifies the majority of its partners itself, but nonpartner organizations are also encouraged to inquire about the programs in line with their goals and works. OSF also awards a few [grants and fellowships](#) available throughout the year.

Aside from grants, OSF also does [social impact investing](#) — or private sector investing — through the Soros Economic Development Fund.



Geographic focus

United States



\$512M

Worldwide



\$386M

Latin America and the Caribbean



\$83M

Europe



\$74M

Middle East and North Africa



\$29M

OSF's regional spending in FY 2020, based on its [financial report](#).

As of the time of writing this report, OSF's geographic priority in FY 2021 is not yet available on OECD. Meanwhile, its grant data only indicate the regional focus.

Top partners in 2021

<p>Central European University</p> 	<p>Bard College</p> <h1>Bard College</h1>
<p>America Votes</p> 	<p>Institute for New Economic Thinking</p> <h2>Institute for New Economic Thinking</h2>
<p>Sixteen Thirty Fund</p> <h2>sixteenthirty FUND</h2>	<p>Tides Advocacy</p> 
<p>Borealis Philanthropy</p> 	<p>Way to Win Action Fund</p> 
<p>NEO Philanthropy, Inc.</p> 	<p>Common Counsel Foundation</p> <h2>Common Counsel Foundation</h2>

OSF's top grantee organizations in FY 2021, based on its [grants portal](#).

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FORD FOUNDATION



Founded:

1936

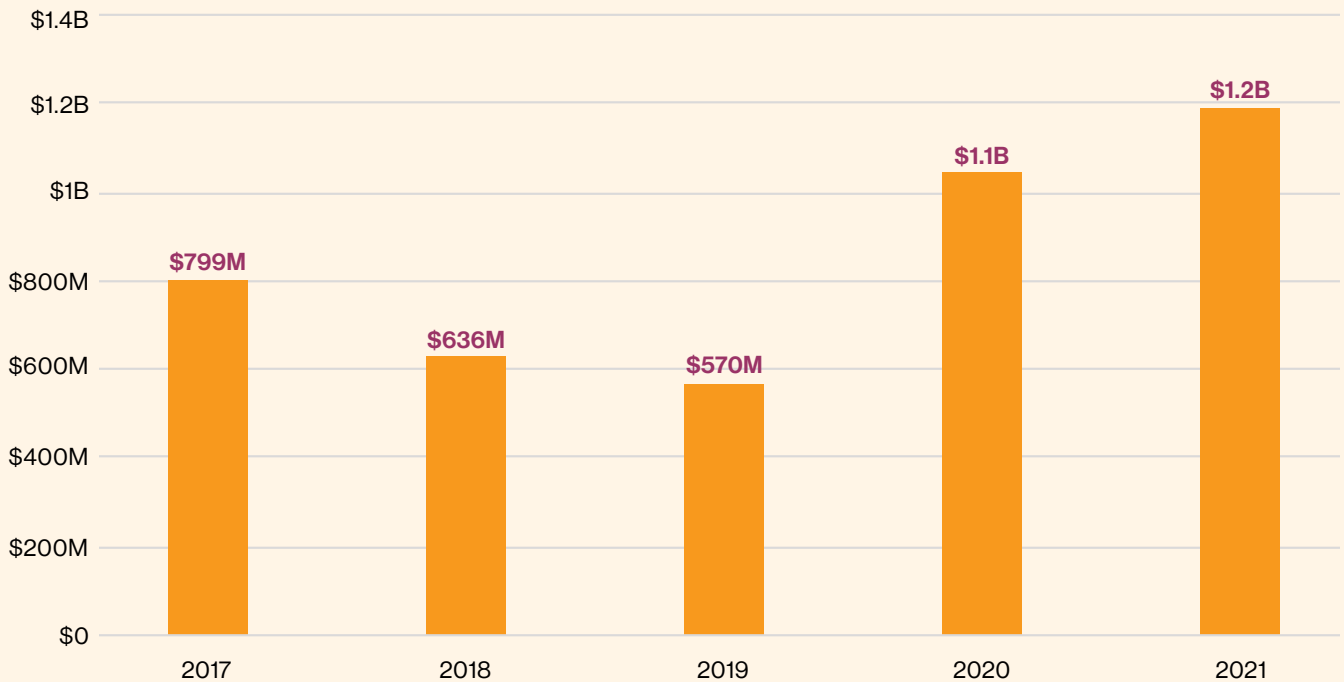


Headquarters:

New York,
United States

In a span of over eight decades, the Ford Foundation provided support to a range of causes aimed at protecting the dignity of all people — from poverty reduction and ending inequality to strengthening democratic values.

Total annual grant spending



Ford Foundation's total spending on program activities from 2017 to 2021, based on its [financial statements](#). Figures are in 2021 USD constant prices.

At the start of the pandemic, Ford Foundation became the first U.S.-based foundation to issue [social bonds](#) to raise funds to support organizations affected by COVID-19. In 2021, it had made a total of 368 grants with the proceeds of its social bond, worth \$613 million.

Program areas

Ford Foundation supports leaders and organizations working toward social change in the following areas:



Civic engagement and government



Creativity and free expression



Disability inclusion



Future of work(ers)



Gender, racial, and ethnic justice



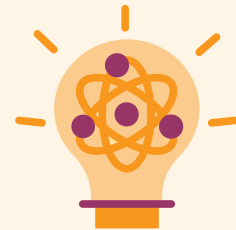
International cooperation and global governance



Mission investments

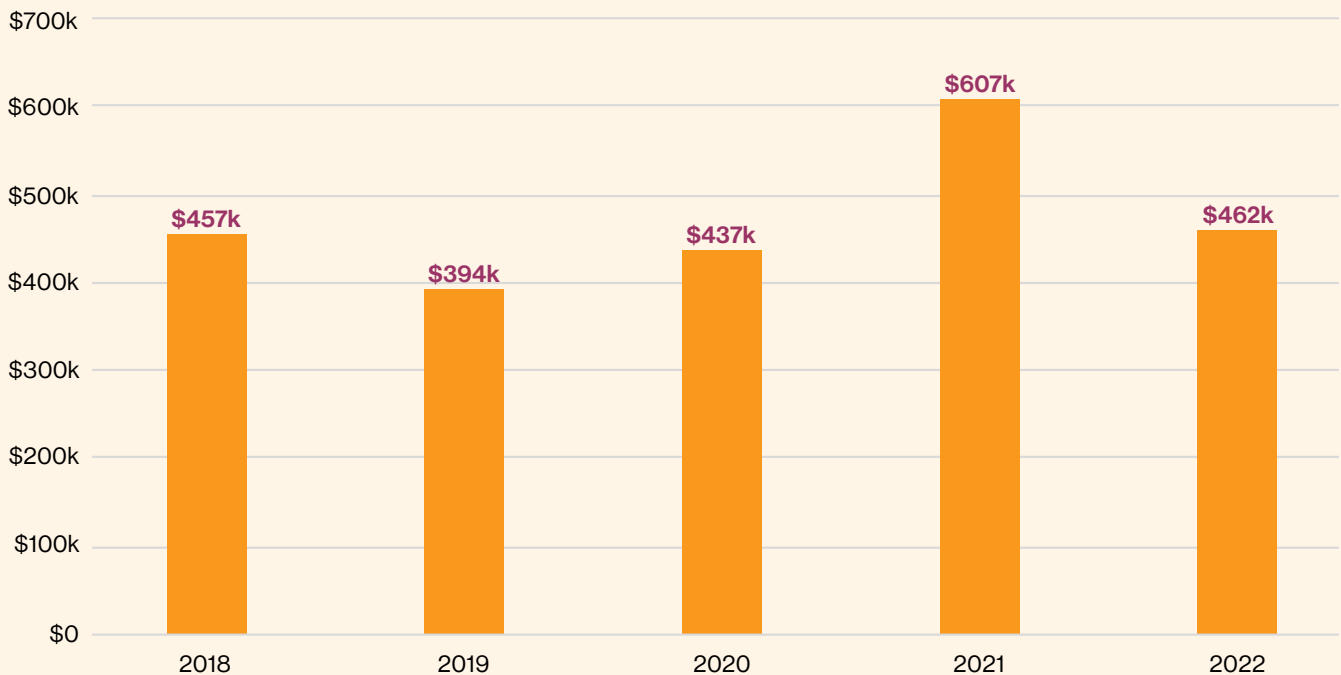


Natural resources and climate change



Technology and society

Average grant size (2018-2022)



Ford Foundation's average grant size, based on its [grants portal](#).

Application and partnership process

Ford Foundation makes approximately 1,400 grants annually — funded through a number of programs. Each of these programs is managed by a team of experts, who set priorities and identify potential partners. After the program teams reach out to prospective grantees, they work together to create a grant proposal, which is then reviewed for approval.

Ford Foundation also supports its current grantees through its [Building Institutions and Networks](#), known as BUILD. BUILD is a \$2 billion invite-only program that awards a five-year grant for general operating support. The initiative is currently on its second tranche, with a \$1 billion budget from 2022 to 2026. The first round, also worth \$1 billion, ended in 2021.

Although the foundation accepts [unsolicited proposals](#), those only account for less than 1% of the total funded grants in a fiscal year.

According to its [grants data](#), Ford Foundation has provided over 25,000 grants — worth almost \$9.7 billion — to more than 7,600 grantees between 2006 and 2023.

Geographic focus

South Africa



\$12.6M

Brazil



\$11M

Mexico



\$7.8M

Nigeria



\$7.3M

Indonesia



\$6.3M

Ford Foundation's top recipient countries in FY 2022, based on its [grants portal](#).

Based on its [grants data](#), Ford Foundation primarily channels its money through multicountry, regional, and global activities. In FY 2022, \$86 million went to global activities. The U.S. was still the primary recipient, with \$377.1 million.

Top partners

New Venture Fund



Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors



Center for Popular Democracy



PowerSwitch Action



Center on Budget and Policy Priorities



Fund for Global Human Rights



National Women's Law Center



Demos



Asia Law Caucus



National Immigration Law Center



Ford Foundation's top grantee organizations in FY 2022, based on its [grants portal](#).

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Bloomberg Philanthropies



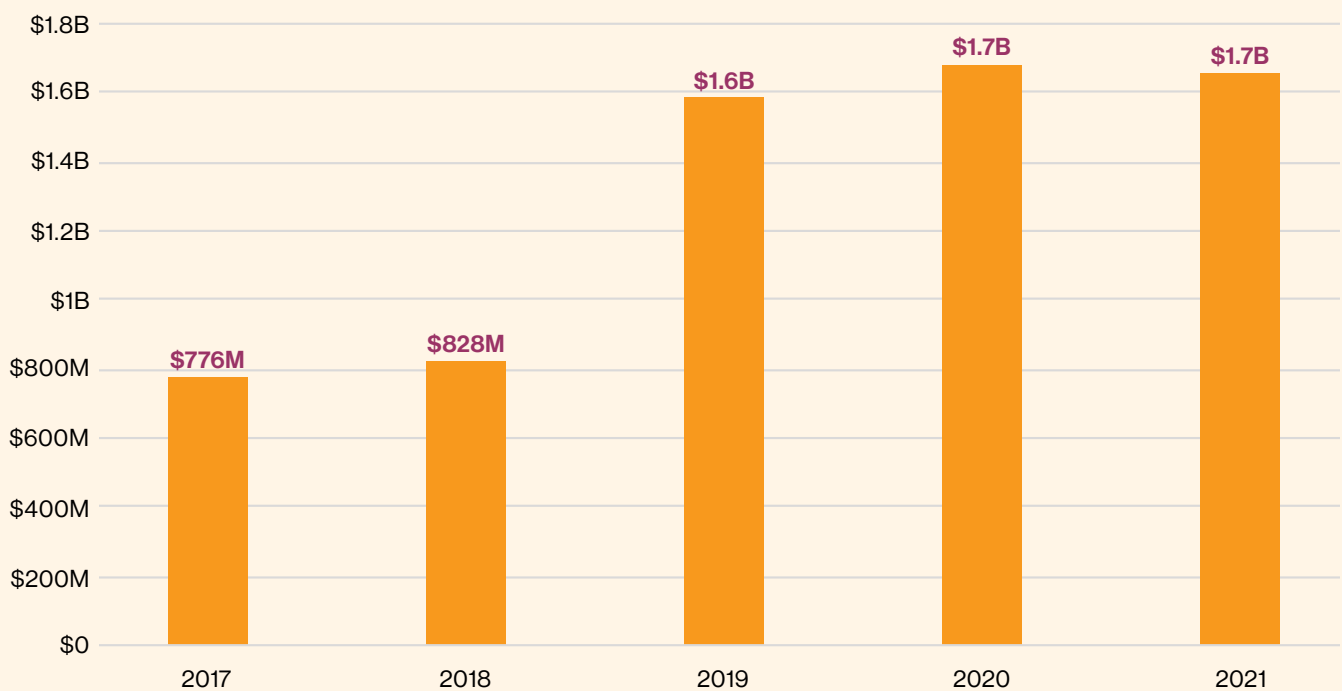
Founded:
2006



Headquarters:
New York,
United States

Bloomberg Philanthropies accounts for Michael Bloomberg's total philanthropic giving — his foundation, corporate, and personal donations, and Bloomberg Associates, which provides pro bono consultancy.

Total annual grant spending



Bloomberg Philanthropies' total spending on program activities from 2017 to 2021, based on its [financial statements](#). Figures are in 2021 USD constant prices.

Program areas

Bloomberg Philanthropies provides support to a wide range of issues, funded under the following focus areas:



Arts



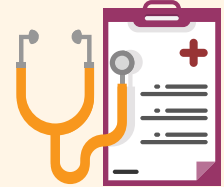
Education



Environment



Government innovation



Public health

Aside from the five main focus areas, a separate program — Founder’s Projects — also funds activities in line with the founder’s focus areas. This includes women’s economic development, disaster relief, and a special commitment to Johns Hopkins University.

Application and partnership process

Bloomberg Philanthropies does not accept unsolicited proposals. It identifies organizations — both public and private — working in priority sectors. Bloomberg Philanthropies also works with city leaders — a unique approach based on Michael Bloomberg’s experience as a mayor.

Geographic focus

Bloomberg Philanthropies channels its funding through organizations. Although there’s no data on its exact geographic spending, it has worked with more than 700 cities in 150 countries to date — with Michael Bloomberg spending a total of \$14.4 billion so far to support its works.



Key partners

Bloomberg Philanthropies does not have a list of grant recipients, but some of its partners for key initiatives are:

Powering Past Coal Alliance



Harvard University



Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health



World Health Organization



Vital Strategies



Global Polio Eradication Initiative



Stavros Niarchos Foundation



Resolve to Save Lives



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IKEA Foundation



Founded:

1982

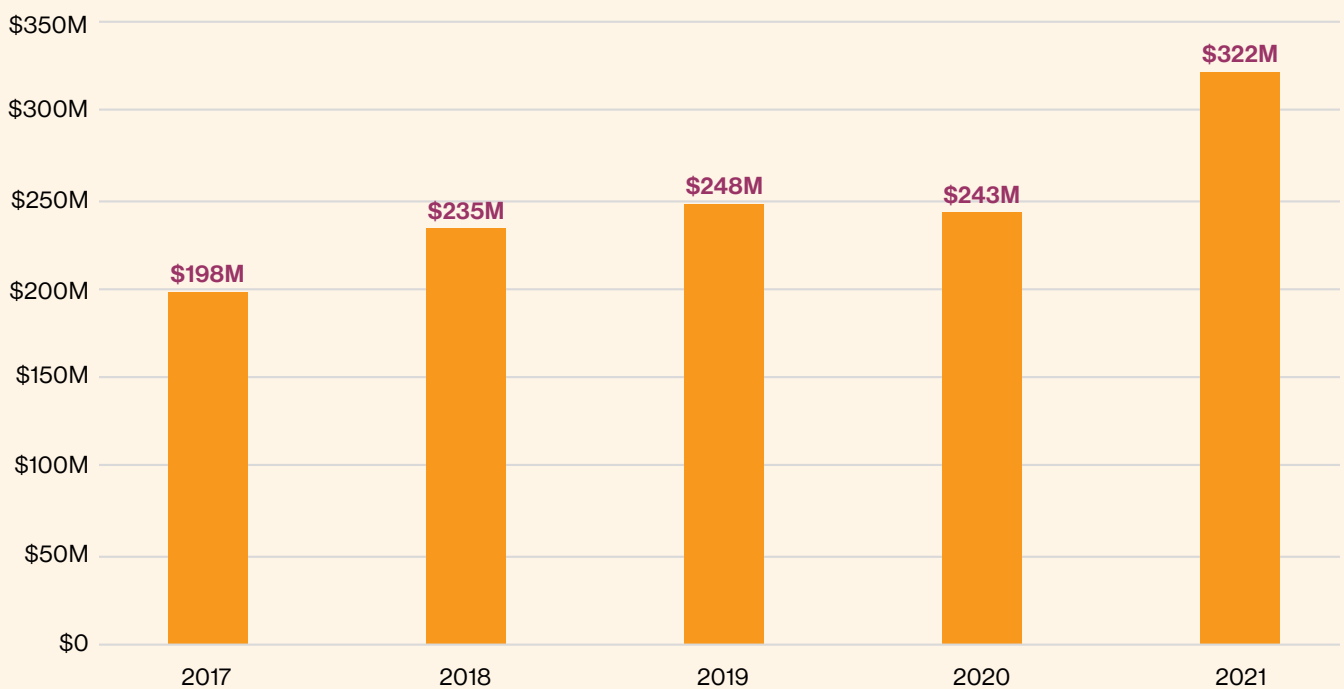


Headquarters:

Leiden,
The Netherlands

IKEA Foundation is a philanthropic grant-maker funded by the INGKA Foundation — owner of INGKA Holding, which controls over 370 outlets of IKEA. Initially limited to funding innovations in architecture and interior design, IKEA Foundation has since expanded its mission to focus on improving children's opportunities.

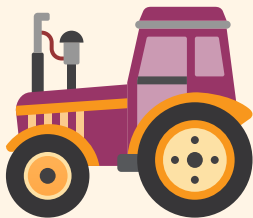
Total annual grant spending



IKEA Foundation's total program expenditures from 2017 to 2021, based on [ANBI Disclosure documents](#). Figures are in 2021 USD constant prices.

Program areas

IKEA Foundation focuses on two goals: To help families afford a better life and to protect the planet. To achieve these goals, the foundation funds grants under six thematic areas:



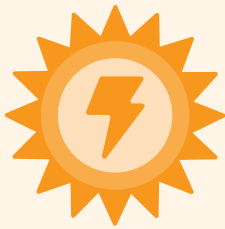
Agricultural livelihoods



Climate action



Employment and entrepreneurship



Renewable energy



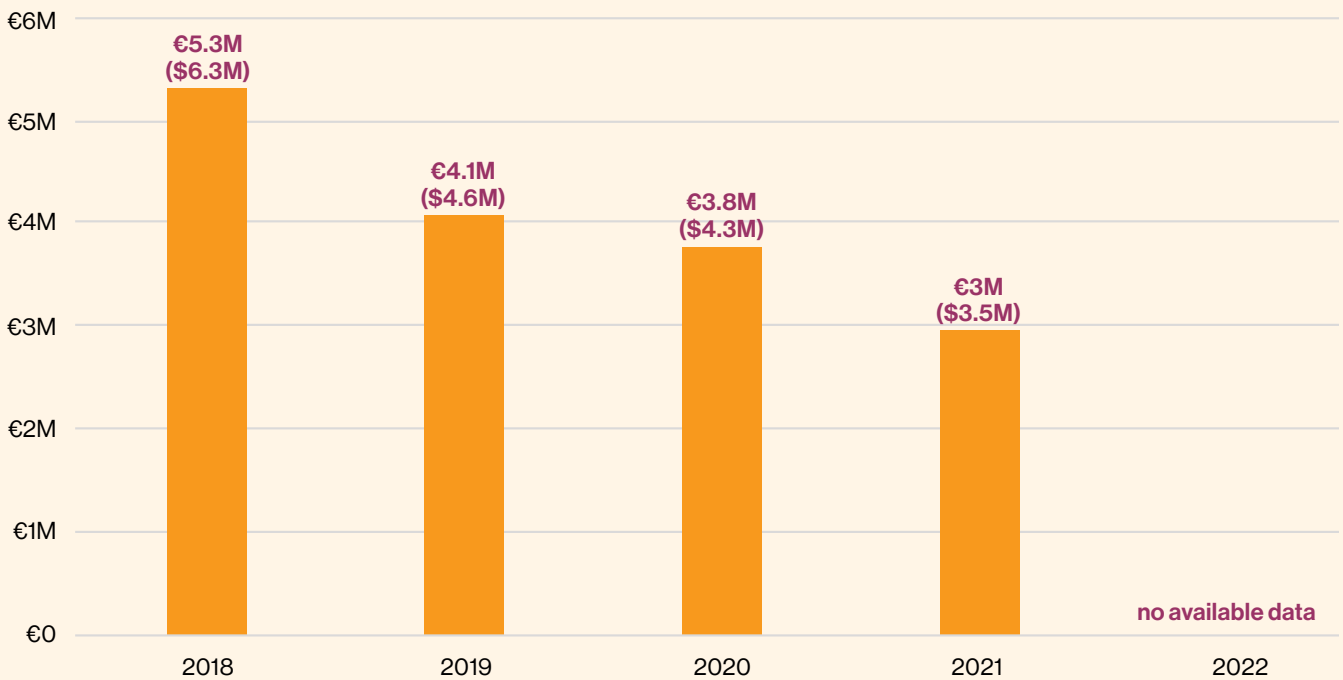
Refugee livelihoods



Special initiatives and emergency response



Average grant size (2018-2022)



IKEA Foundation's average grant size, based on its [grants portal](#). USD conversions are based on average historical conversion rates.

Application and partnership process

IKEA Foundation does not accept unsolicited proposals. It builds partnerships with experts working in areas the foundation wants to support. Partners develop concept notes in close consultation with the foundation. The board then decides whether to approve. After this, the organization will go through the regular project cycle.

Every year, its partners need to prove that funds have been used as intended.

IKEA Foundation also provides unrestricted core support to NGOs working in emergency situations.

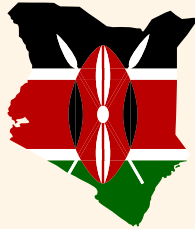
Geographic focus

India



\$34.1M

Kenya



\$16.1M

Indonesia



\$7.9M

Ethiopia



\$7.6M

Uganda



\$6M

IKEA Foundation's top recipient countries in FY 2021, based on [OECD statistics portal](#).

Based on OECD, IKEA Foundation spent \$186.3 million in FY 2021 on activities with multiple recipient countries from different regions.

Top partners in 2021

Selco Foundation



IDH Sustainable Trade Initiative



Purpose Foundation



United Nations Office for Project Services



Climate Outreach



The Energy and Resources Institute



Transforming Rural India Foundation



Buckminster Fuller Institute



IKEA Foundation's top partners in FY 2021, based on its [grants portal](#).

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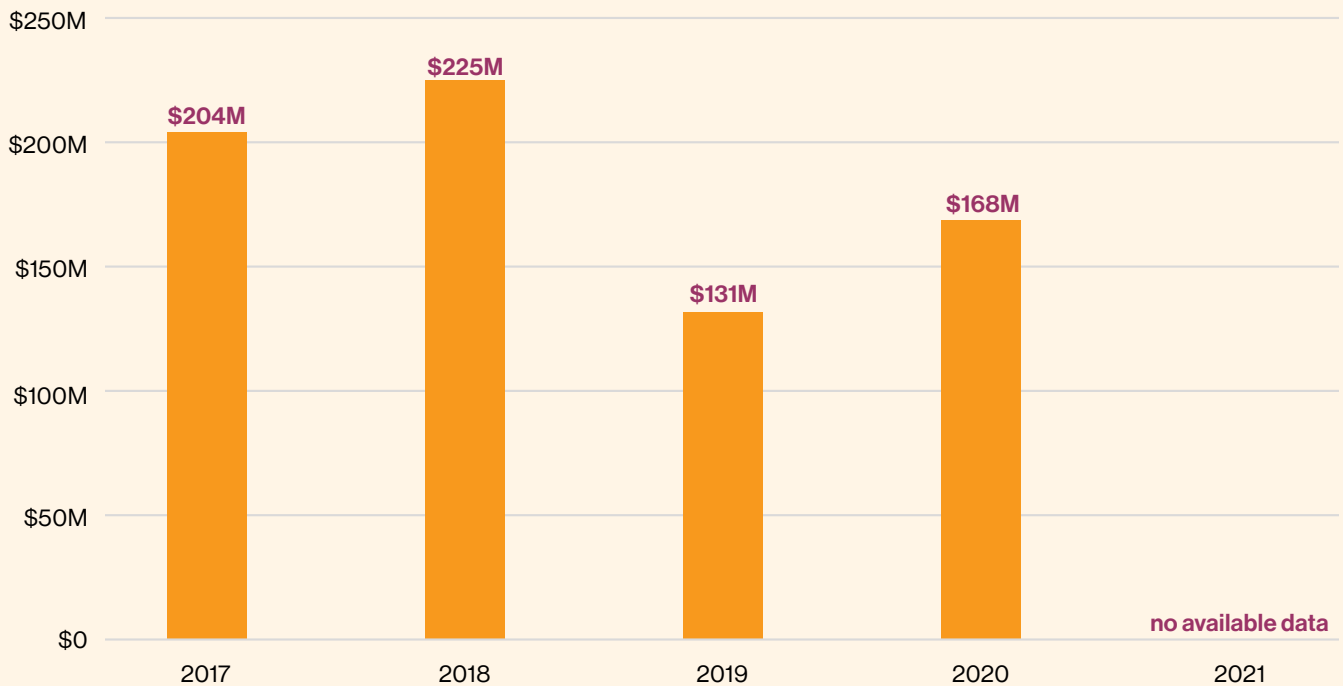

Founded:

1966


Headquarters:
California,
United States

Founded by Hewlett-Packard co-founder William Hewlett and his wife Flora Hewlett, the Hewlett Foundation has become one of the world's largest philanthropic organizations — with total assets of [\\$14.9 billion](#) in 2021.

Total annual grant spending



The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation's total development finance from 2017 to 2020, based on [OECD data](#). Figures are in 2021 USD constant prices.

The Hewlett Foundation's total grants expenditures in 2021 amounted to \$568.2 million, based on its latest [financial statements](#).

Program areas

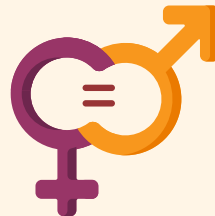
Hewlett Foundation supports a broad range of sectors that promote the well-being of individuals in the U.S. and across the globe. The sectors are:



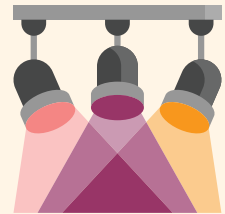
Education



Environment



Gender equity and governance



Performing arts



U.S. democracy



Effective philanthropy



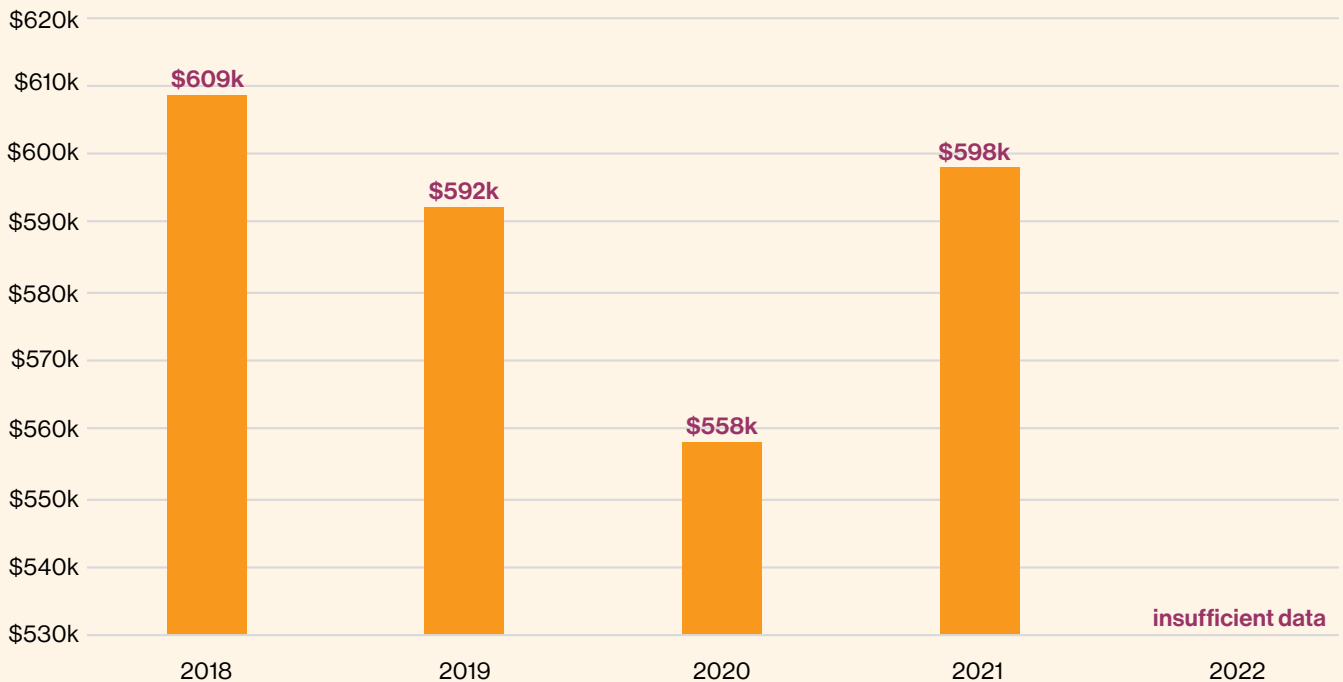
Cyber initiative



Economy and society

As of the time of writing this report, Hewlett Foundation has spent \$307 million under its environment program with nearly 200 organizations.

Average grant size (2018-2022)



The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation's average grant size, based on its [grants portal](#).

Application and partnership process

The Hewlett Foundation usually identifies the organizations it's going to support, although it occasionally accepts proposals through open processes. These opportunities are often announced through [email updates](#) or via [Twitter](#). Outside these channels, the foundation does not accept unsolicited proposals.

Hewlett Foundation does not fund individuals.

As of the time of writing this report, the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation has awarded 41 grants in 2022, worth \$82.4 million.

Geographic focus

China



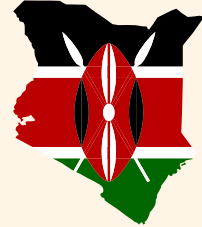
\$19.2M

India



\$8.9M

Kenya



\$4.5M

Mexico



\$4.3M

Brazil



\$2.3M

The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation's top recipient countries in FY 2020, based on [OECD](#). The foundation's geographic priorities in FY 2021 is not yet available on OECD or its website.



Top partners

ClimateWorks Foundation



United States Energy Foundation



European Climate Foundation



Energy Foundation (China)



New Venture Fund



Resources Legacy Fund



Western Conservation Foundation



National Wildlife Federation



African Population and Health Research Center



Natural Resource Governance Institute



William and Flora Hewlett Foundation's top partners in FY2021, based on its [grants portal](#).

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Founded:

1983

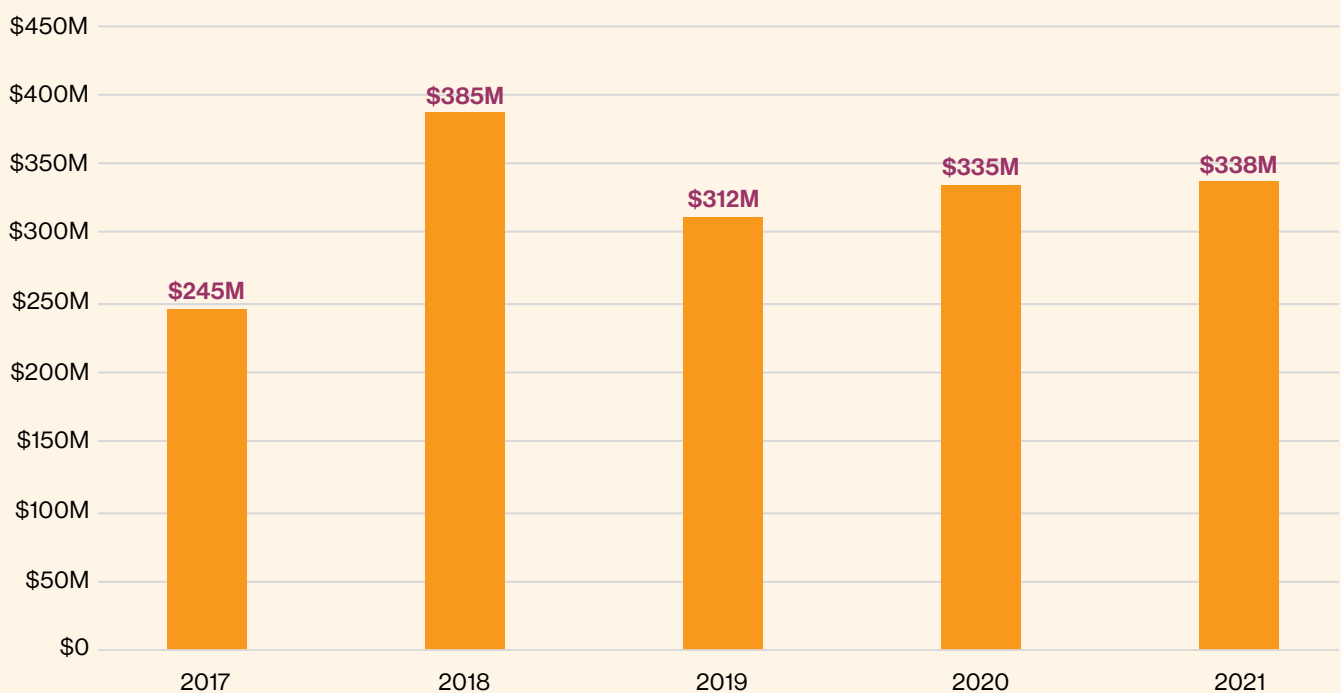


Headquarters:

Geneva,
Switzerland

From a few grants supporting single mothers, torture victims, and vulnerable children and families, the Oak Foundation has grown to having 11 programs — funding nearly 5,500 grants across the globe.

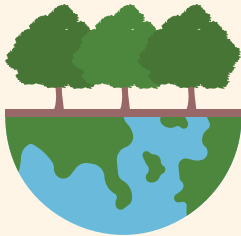
Total annual grant spending



Oak Foundation's total grant-making expenditures from 2017 to 2021, based on its [annual reports](#). Figures are in 2021 USD constant prices.

Program areas

The foundation funds grants under the following areas:



Environment



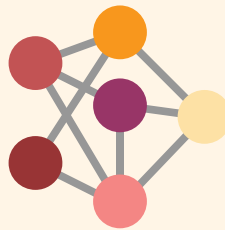
**Housing and
homelessness**



**International
human rights**



**Issues affecting
women**



Learning difference



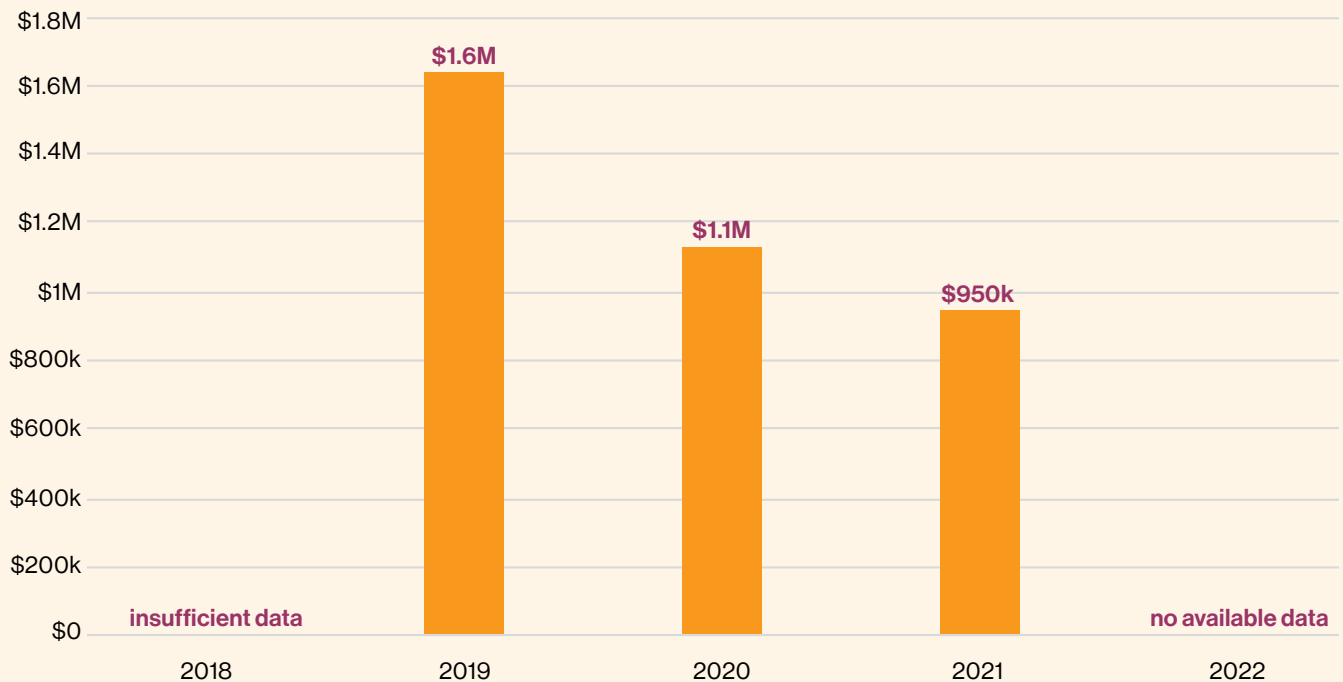
**Preventing child
sexual abuse**



Special interest program

Aside from these priority areas, Oak Foundation funds a number of special projects in Brazil, India, and Zimbabwe. The foundation also supports organizations in Denmark working for the welfare of marginalized groups, such as refugees and immigrants.

Average grant size (2018-2022)



Oak Foundation's average grant size, based on its [grants portal](#).

Application and partnership process

Oak Foundation implements an invite-only application process, with the majority of grants awarded to long-standing partners. But nonpartner organizations working around Oak Foundation's priorities are also encouraged to submit an unsolicited letter of inquiry. An official invitation for application will follow if the foundation sees any alignment in priority.

Each program is managed by staff who are experts in those areas. These teams identify potential partners, which are then asked to submit a concept note or complete an application for funding. Program officers recommend the most suitable partner organization.

Oak Foundation does not award grants to individuals.

Oak Foundation has awarded over 5,500 grants since its establishment. Annually, it spends around \$250 million on over 300 nonprofits — with grant size varying from \$25,000 to \$7 million.

Geographic focus

Brazil**\$7.8M****Zambia****\$4.2M****South Africa****\$2.5M****India****\$1.6M****Uganda****\$1.4M**

Oak Foundation's top recipient countries in FY 2021, based on its [grants portal](#).

Based on its grants data, the bulk of Oak Foundation's grant spending in FY 2021 went to the U.S., with \$133.1 million. Other top recipients that are also high-income countries were: the U.K., with \$51.2 million; the Netherlands, with \$8.1 million; and Australia, with \$7.9 million.

Top partners

Together for Girls



Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors



Trag Foundation



NewSchools Venture Fund



CDC Foundation



European Climate Foundation



Instituto Clima e Sociedade



The International Land and Forest Tenure Facility



University of Oxford



Swiss Philanthropy Foundation



Oak Foundation's top partners in FY 2021, based on its [grants portal](#).

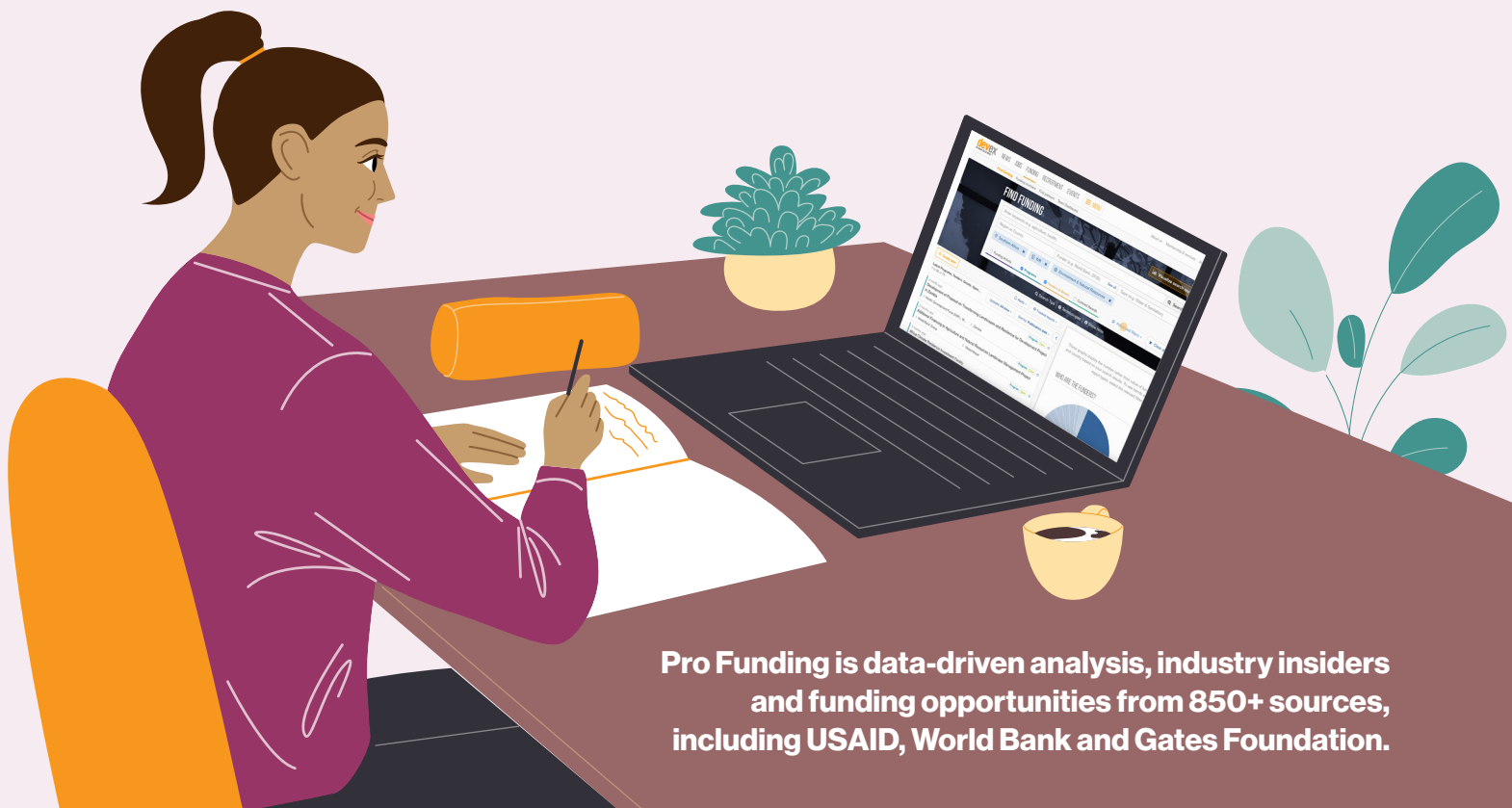
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