

2015 Social Change Big Bets

Bets are organized by size of commitment in 2015, then alphabetically by recipient. Rounded to the nearest million.

	Big Bet	Donor	Amount	Description
1	Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance	The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation	\$1.55B	To bring life-saving vaccines to children in the world's poorest countries
2	San Antonio Area Foundation, establishing the John L. Santikos Charitable Foundation	John Santikos	\$605M	Bequest; 10 percent of annual disbursements will go to Doctors Without Borders USA and International Orthodox Christian Charities, the rest will be distributed to local nonprofits at the community foundation's discretion
3	Government of Rwanda	The Howard G. Buffett Foundation	\$500M	To partner with the Government of Rwanda to support their national plan for agricultural development
4	Hispanic Scholarship Fund: The Gates Scholarship	The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation	\$417M	To support outstanding minority students from low-income backgrounds, providing financial support at the universities of their choice and ensuring access to resources and support services needed to complete their degrees
5	French Development Agency (AFD), for Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance	The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation	\$164M	To assume the obligation of repayment for a long-term loan to increase vaccine coverage in six French-speaking countries of the Sahel region: Burkina Faso, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Senegal, and Chad *
6	Global Alliance for TB Drug Development	The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation	\$145M	To develop and introduce novel drugs and drug regimens to make treatment of all forms of TB more effective, safe, and affordable
7	Family Planning 2020	The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation	\$120M	To provide 120 million more women and girls with access to effective contraception by 2020
8	Data for Health	Bloomberg Philanthropies	\$100M	To enable 20 low- and middle-income countries to vastly improve public health data collection
9	Lives and Livelihoods Fund (with the Islamic Development Bank)	The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation	\$100M	To address healthcare, disease, smallholder agriculture, and basic rural infrastructure in 56 IDB member states, with a focus on those least developed
10	University of Chicago	The Thomas L. Pearson and The Pearson Family Members Foundation	\$100M	To establish the first research institute and annual global forum devoted solely to the study and resolution of global conflicts
11	Novavax, Inc.	The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation	\$89M	To advance the development of a respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) vaccine for maternal immunization to reduce the burden of RSV disease in infants under six months of age in developing countries
12	International Bank for Reconstruction and Development's Global Financing Facility for Every Woman Every Child	The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation	\$75M	To contribute to the Global Financing Facility's Every Woman Every Child fund, to provide financial support to enable countries to invest in strategies and interventions for improving reproductive, maternal, newborn, child, and adolescent health, and nutrition outcomes
13	San Francisco General Hospital Foundation	Mark Zuckerberg and Priscilla Chan	\$75M	To help fund critical equipment and technology for the new public hospital serving primarily low-income populations
14	Smart Power for Rural Development	The Rockefeller Foundation	\$75M	To bring electricity to 1,000 villages over three years, providing power to one million Indians in the states of Bihar and Uttar Pradesh

*For the purposes of ranking, this gift was included as an additional consideration to the \$1.55B Gavi gift from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation; it was not scored independently.

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15	The Safety and Justice Challenge	The John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation	\$75M	To support jurisdictions across the country to safely reduce over-reliance on jails, with particular focus on addressing disproportionate impact on low-income individuals and communities of color
16	Emory University's Global Health Institute	The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation	\$72M	To create a long-term network of high-quality sites for the collection of data to track preventable causes of childhood death globally
17	100 Resilient Cities	The Rockefeller Foundation	\$64M	To fund partner cities to establish and implement a strategy that better equips them to prepare for and withstand shocks and stresses, specifically urbanization, globalization, and climate change
18	Lyme Disease Research	The Steven & Alexandra Cohen Foundation	\$55M	To demonstrate the impact of Lyme disease on vulnerable communities and educate healthcare providers on the latest tools for diagnosis and treatment
19	Climate Change Mitigation	The John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation	\$50M	To help curb global climate disruption by significantly reducing greenhouse gas emissions
20	Stanford University	The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation	\$50M	To accelerate vaccine discovery efforts for the world's most deadly infectious diseases such as HIV and Malaria
21	Teach for America	The Walton Family Foundation	\$50M	To support teacher recruitment through partnership building and public outreach, and the training and professional development of 4,000 new teachers across the country
22	TheDream.US	Joint Effort (Donald E. Graham and Bill and Karen Ackman)	\$50M	To fund (and prompt matching gifts for) a scholarship fund to support at least 5,000 undocumented immigrants with DACA status to gain associate's and bachelor's degrees
23	United Negro College Fund Career Pathways Initiative	Lilly Endowment	\$50M	To launch an initiative that helps prepare students for meaningful employment in a technology-driven global economy
24	XQ: The Super School Project	Laurene Powell Jobs	\$50M	To inspire teams of educators and students, as well as leaders from other sectors, to rethink high school and develop new high school models
25	Clean energy efforts*	Joint effort (Bloomberg Philanthropies and the Heising-Simons family)	\$48M	To accelerate the transition to clean energy at the state level
26	Drexel University	David and Dana Dornsife	\$45M	To allow the Dornsife School of Public Health to strengthen its expertise in urban health, attract and retain top faculty, and enhance educational programs and research productivity
27	Regional Opportunity Initiatives (Southwest Central Indiana)	Lilly Endowment	\$42M	To advance a range of activities focused on research and development, workforce and education initiatives, and projects that enhance the region's quality of life
28	What Works Cities Initiative	Bloomberg Philanthropies	\$42M	To help 100 mid-sized cities better use data and evidence
29	Inner-City Scholarship Fund	Stephen A. and Christine Schwarzman	\$40M	To kick off the "Kids Are Our Capital" campaign to provide tuition assistance to children from underprivileged families attending Catholic schools in the Archdiocese of New York
30	Monterey Bay Aquarium Research Institute	The David & Lucile Packard Foundation	\$40M	For operations, research projects, and ordinary capital expenses during 2016

*This gift was discovered after the ranking process had been completed, and therefore it was not evaluated against the six characteristics for inclusion in the top 10.

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31	Westport Weston (Connecticut) Family YMCA	Ruth Bedford	\$40M	Bequest to ensure long-term viability, with earmarks for current and future capital development, and to endow programs for wellness and youth
32	World Vision US	David and Dana Dornsife	\$40M	To support World Vision water, sanitation, and hygiene programs (WASH) in Africa
33	Hydroelectric Plants in the Democratic Republic of the Congo	The Howard G. Buffett Foundation	\$39M	To develop two additional hydroelectric plants in North Kivu, Democratic Republic of the Congo to add 33 megawatts of power to the region
34	Teacher Preparation Transformation Centers	The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation	\$35M	To bring together higher education institutions, teacher-preparation providers, and K-12 school systems to share data, knowledge, and best practices
35	University of Washington Foundation	The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation	\$35M	To expand the evidence base for effective policymaking in health by improving how we map and track major global health challenges, including major causes of under-5 mortality
36	ClimateWorks Foundation	The David & Lucile Packard Foundation	\$34M	For general support of ClimateWorks' mission to strengthen philanthropy's response to climate change
37	San Francisco Foundation	Anonymous	\$34M	To create pathways of opportunity in the City of Oakland
38	European Climate Foundation	The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation	\$33M	To expand the European Union's climate ambitions through the development and implementation of its 2030 framework
39	World Health Organization's Global Malaria Program	The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation	\$31M	To support the WHO Global Malaria Program to achieve its goals and targets, and for an analysis on strategies to achieve malaria eradication
40	CDC Foundation: Haiti Malaria Elimination Consortium	The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation	\$30M	To eliminate indigenous cases of malaria on the island of Hispaniola by 2020
41	Forest Park Forever (St. Louis)	Jack C. Taylor	\$30M	To the endowment, which provides support for the maintenance and operations of Forest Park
42	Sierra Club's Beyond Coal Campaign	Bloomberg Philanthropies	\$30M	To secure the replacement of half the nation's coal fleet by 2017 with clean energy through the Beyond Coal campaign
43	NewSchools Venture Fund	The Silicon Valley Community Foundation (Anonymous DAF)	\$29M	No gift information available
44	Family Health International	The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation	\$27M	To support a clinical trial comparing HIV incidence and contraceptive benefits in women using three family planning methods in four Sub-Saharan African countries
45	Indianapolis Neighborhood Housing Partnership	Lilly Endowment	\$27M	To create a strategic acquisition fund to buy and maintain properties
46	Natural History Museum's DeWorm3 Program	The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation	\$27M	To identify effective drug-delivery strategies to interrupt soil-transmitted helminth (intestinal worm) transmission
47	International Development Association: WHO's Expanded Program on Immunization in Pakistan	The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation	\$26M	To increase equitable immunization coverage against vaccine-preventable diseases, including polio, for children between 0 to 23 months in Pakistan
48	International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics	The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation	\$25M	To develop high-yielding, pest and disease resistant legume varieties, and to deliver these new varieties to smallholder farmers in Sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia

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49	City Arch River 2015 Foundation	Taylor family (Jack Taylor)	\$25M	To support the City Arch River project to make the Arch in St. Louis easier and safer for everyone to experience by connecting, invigorating and expanding the park's grounds and museums
50	Collective Shift	The John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation	\$25M	To launch a new nonprofit whose mission is to redesign social systems for the connected age
51	Constitutionalism Fund (in South Africa)	Joint Effort (The Open Society Foundation, the Ford Foundation, the Atlantic Philanthropies)	\$25M	To launch a joint fund to support organizations promoting and advancing constitutionalism in South Africa
52	GiveDirectly	Good Ventures (Dustin Moskovitz and Cari Tuna)	\$25M	To provide cash transfers to thousands of individuals and families, and to accelerate GiveDirectly's growth and build its capacity to partner with international aid agencies
53	Health Research Initiative	The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation	\$25M	To fund innovative research on policies, laws, system interventions, and community dynamics to improve health and well-being, with emphasis on sectors not typically associated with health, such as transportation and housing
54	International Development Research Center	The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation	\$25M	To support research and development on neglected livestock diseases
55	Robin Hood Foundation	Anonymous	\$25M	To launch a fund investing in the best education and technology initiatives
56	Robin Hood Foundation	The Pershing Square Foundation (Bill and Karen Ackman)	\$25M	For Robin Hood's overall mission of fighting poverty, with an emphasis on funding programs directed to the Latino community in New York City
57	Special Olympics	The Golisano Foundation (B. Thomas Golisano)	\$25M	To expand Special Olympics' health services globally for people with intellectual disabilities
58	Water Smart Agriculture	The Howard G. Buffett Foundation	\$25M	To directly touch 250,000 farmers and reinsert soil health as a priority on Central American policy agendas

Source: Bridgespan Group research and analysis of 58 philanthropic big bets made in 2015.