

Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation

Mandate: We work with partners worldwide to tackle critical problems in five program areas. Our Global Health Division aims to reduce inequities in health by developing new tools and strategies to reduce the burden of infectious disease and the leading causes of child mortality in developing countries. Our Global Development Division focuses on improving the delivery of high impact health products and services to the world's poorest communities and health countries expand access to health coverage. Our Global Growth and Opportunity division focuses on creating and scaling market based innovations to stimulate inclusive and sustainable growth. Our United States Division works to improve U.S. high school and post-secondary education, and support vulnerable children and families in Washington State. Our Global Policy and Advocacy Division seeks to build strategic relationships and promote policies that will help advance our work. Our approach to grant making in all five areas emphasises collaboration, innovation, risk taking and, most importantly, results.

Graduation Lessons Learned:

Our support of graduation programming to-date, combined with our active engagement in the global graduation community of practice, has helped us to develop an appreciation and understanding of the import of the various forms of implementation. Given our focus on digitization of government safety net programs and promoting financial inclusion, we do see the critical role that graduation programs could play in support of promoting resiliency, especially for women. This can only be done provided there is sufficient capacity at the implementation level and a strategic focus on gender intentional programming to promote women's economic empowerment.

Scale:



HQ: No office in Kenya. We have country offices in the US (HQ), London, Abuja, Addis, Beijing, Johannesburg, New Delhi

Initiation: Over 15 years.

Graduation work: The foundation made a 2.5-year grant in 2015 to the BOMA Project to better understand how their graduation model impacted women's household decision making.

Future Plans: At this point the foundation is still determining whether it will have an overt strategy focused on graduation. We are exploring its relevance through specific strategies most notably: family planning, savings groups, government-to-person payments and women's economic empowerment, and agriculture/market linkages. It remains to be seen if any additional direct funding for graduation implementation approaches will be made.

Where do you hope you organisation will be in 5 to 10 years?

We would like to better understand how graduation at scale, especially when combined with a digitized government safety net scheme, can better support long-term development and growth of women's economic empowerment. We would also like to better appreciate the long-term results on outcomes (re: women's economic empowerment and resiliency) of different implementation models when compared against one another.

We would like to better understand how graduation/groups serve as a platform for information dissemination/training on a variety of topics. Additionally, we think there is important in establishing consistency in measuring for Women's economic empowerment outcomes across graduation implementations.

From a gender perspective the foundation is prioritizing the role that digitized safety net programs that direct payments into a women's account and that incorporate gender intentional program design as we think those factors can be important in promoting women's economic empowerment.

Given the foundation's multi-sectoral focus in Kenya (Gender, Family Planning, Financial Inclusion, etc.), we currently work with relevant stakeholders to ensure alignment of priorities with government strategic objectives.

We have been working closely with Financial Sector Deepening Kenya, especially with regards to the promotion of financial inclusion in a way that is scalable and leverages local partnerships within the public and private sector.