THE GATES FOUNDATION



The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation is an American private foundation founded by Bill and Melinda Gates. The foundation, which is based in Seattle, Washington, was started in 2000, and it is the largest private foundation in the world. The primary goals of the foundation are, globally, to improve healthcare and reduce extreme poverty, and in the US, to expand educational opportunities and provide access to information technology. Since its founding, the foundation has donated and supported a broad range of social, health and educational developments including the establishment of the Gates Cambridge Scholarships at Cambridge University. To maintain its status as a charitable foundation, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation must donate funds equal to at least 5 per cent of its assets each year.

The foundation which works in Africa, China, Europe, India and the Middle East is organized into different programme areas. These areas are global health, global development, global growth & opportunity, US programme and global policy & advocacy. They also include some sub-areas. One of them is water, sanitation & hygiene which is classified under the area of global growth & opportunity. The foundation's vision is to enable widespread use of safely managed, sustainable sanitation services. Doing this is believed to contribute to positive health, economic and gender equality outcomes for the world's poorest people. The foundation claims that poor sanitation is a massive problem which is the cause of more than 1,200 deaths of children under the age of 5 per day. However, creating sanitation infrastructure is difficult because it is expensive to build, maintain and operate such new systems. Sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia suffer from inadequate sanitation a lot, so the foundation focuses its efforts on those regions. Its top priority is to develop safe sanitation systems and technologies. To achieve its aim, the foundation collaborates with government leaders, the private sector and technologists to advance new toilet technologies.

While the Gates Foundation works globally, they know that improving people's lives often happen at the local level where individuals take action in their own communities. If people have local organizations which need support in one of those areas, they can get in touch with the foundation to get help. Foundation members believe that only working together can solve the greatest challenges.

Read the text and decide if the statements below are TRUE (T), FALSE (F) or NOT GIVEN (NG).

1. The Gates Foundation is located in the US. T / F / NG
2. The Gates Foundation is interested in the problems in America only. T / F / NG
3. It is an obligation for the foundation to donate some of its assets every month. T / F / NG
4. The foundation doesn't work in Australia. T / F / NG
5. The foundation is concerned with more than one problematic area. T / F / NG
6. Water, sanitation & hygiene is the sub-area of global development. T / F / NG
7. The foundation works in Sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia because of lack of sanitation problems. T / F / NG
8. While coping with the problems in a region, the foundation gets help from governments. T / F / NG

LIVEWORKSHEETS