

OUR 2020 ANNUAL LETTER

Why we swing for the fences

Twenty years after starting our foundation, we're just a to drive progress.

By **Bill and Melinda Gates** | February 10, 2020 • 27 minute read



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Reflecting on the first two decades foundation

When we started our foundation 20 years ago, the world was, in many ways, very different from the one we live in now. It was before 9/11, before the Great Recession, before the rise of social media.

Then, as now, there was no shortage of worthy causes, and there was no shortage of people made for investing in many of them. We'd known for a while that we could use the majority of our wealth from Microsoft and use it to make people's lives better. Of course, the question of how to do that in a meaningful and high-impact way.