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OUR 2019 ANNUAL LETTER

We didn't see this coming

Nine surprises that have inspired us to act.

By **Bill and Melinda Gates** | February 12, 2019 • 21 minute read



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How would you describe 2018?

Was it what you expected?

We'd probably say no. From especially devastating natural disasters c numbers of women campaigning for office on the other, 2018 felt to surprises. The world looking backward from today is very different f couple years ago looking forward.

A benefit of surprises is that they're often a prod to action. It can gna that the realities of the world don't match their expectations for it. So people see that the status quo needs to change. Some surprises under transformation is happening already.

Twenty-five years ago, we read an article that said hundreds of thous