

Gates Foundation Chair Bill Gates on Monday stressed that AI-enabled ultrasound, to identify high-risk pregnancies earlier, helping women receive timely, potentially life-saving care in Rwanda is a good example of how African countries are building their next generation healthcare systems.

In an address in Nelson Mandela Hall at the African Union, Gates urged African leaders to seize the moment to accelerate progress in health and development through innovation and partnership, despite current headwinds. He announced that the majority of his \$200 billion spend over the next 20 years will go to Africa with a focus on partnering with governments that prioritize the health and wellbeing of their people.

Addressing over 12,000 government officials, diplomats, health workers, development partners, and youth leaders in person and online, he underscored the critical role of African leadership and ingenuity in driving the continent's health and economic future.

"I recently made a commitment that my wealth will be given away over the next 20 years. The majority of that funding will be spent on helping you address challenges here in Africa," he said.

Gates' speech highlighted how countries like Ethiopia, Rwanda, Zimbabwe, Mozambique, Nigeria, and Zambia are showing what's possible when bold leadership harnesses innovation. From expanding frontline health services and using data to cut child mortality, to deploying advanced tools against malaria and HIV, and safeguarding primary healthcare despite fiscal strain—these country-led efforts are driving scalable, homegrown progress.

Next generation healthcare systems

Reflecting on more than two decades of engagement on the continent, Gates said, "I've always been inspired by the hard work of Africans even in places with very limited resources." He added, "The kind of field work to get solutions out, even in the most rural areas, has been incredible."

Gates spoke about the transformative potential of artificial intelligence, noting its relevance for the continent's future. He praised Africa's young innovators, saying he was "seeing young people in Africa embracing this, and thinking about how it applies to the problems that they want to solve." Drawing a parallel to the

continent's mobile banking revolution, he added, "Africa largely skipped traditional banking and now you have a chance, as you build your next generation healthcare systems, to think about how AI is built into that."

He pointed to Rwanda as an early example of this promise, noting, "Rwanda is using AI to improve service delivery. E.g. AI-enabled ultrasound, to identify high-risk pregnancies earlier, helping women receive timely, potentially life-saving care."

Mission for saving lives

In Ethiopia and Nigeria this week, Gates will see first-hand the state of health and development priorities in the wake of foreign aid cuts, and he will affirm his and the foundation's commitment to supporting Africa's progress in health and development over the next 20 years.

"Our foundation has an increasing commitment to Africa," Gates said. Our first African office was here in Ethiopia about 13 years ago. Now we have offices in South Africa, Kenya, Nigeria and Senegal. That's a great way for us to strengthen partnerships."

Gates's trip follows the foundation's [historic announcement](#) on May 8 that it would spend \$200 billion over the next 20 years to advance progress on saving and improving lives and Gates' commitment to give away virtually all of his wealth to the foundation in that timeframe.

Over the next two decades, the foundation will work together with its partners to make as much progress as possible towards three primary goals: end preventable deaths of moms and babies; ensure the next generation grows up without having to suffer from deadly infectious diseases; and lift millions of people out of poverty, putting them on a path to prosperity. At the end of 20 years, the foundation will sunset its operations.

Over the last two decades, the Gates Foundation has worked alongside African partners to save lives, develop vaccines, and strengthen systems. It has helped catalyze more than 100 innovations and contributed to saving more than 80 million lives through Gavi and the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria.