

Form 5500 Department of the Treasury Internal Revenue Service Department of Labor Employee Benefits Security Administration Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation	Annual Return/Report of Employee Benefit Plan This form is required to be filed for employee benefit plans under sections 104 and 4065 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA) and sections 6057(b) and 6058(a) of the Internal Revenue Code (the Code). ▶ Complete all entries in accordance with the instructions to the Form 5500.	OMB Nos. 1210-0110 1210-0089 2021 This Form is Open to Public Inspection
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Part I	Annual Report Identification Information
For calendar plan year 2021 or fiscal plan year beginning <u>01/01/2021</u> and ending <u>12/31/2021</u>	
A This return/report is for:	☐ a multiemployer plan ☐ a multiple-employer plan (Filers checking this box must attach a list of participating employer information in accordance with the form instructions.) ☒ a single-employer plan ☐ a DFE (specify) _____
B This return/report is:	☐ the first return/report ☐ the final return/report ☐ an amended return/report ☐ a short plan year return/report (less than 12 months)
C If the plan is a collectively-bargained plan, check here.	☐
D Check box if filing under:	☒ Form 5558 ☐ automatic extension ☐ the DFVC program ☐ special extension (enter description)
E If this is a retroactively adopted plan permitted by SECURE Act section 201, check here.	☐

Part II	Basic Plan Information—enter all requested information				
1a Name of plan <u>BILL & MELINDA GATES FOUNDATION EMPLOYEE RETIREMENT PLAN</u>	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 80%;">1b Three-digit plan number (PN) ▶</td> <td style="width: 20%; text-align: center;"><u>002</u></td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2">1c Effective date of plan <u>01/01/2010</u></td> </tr> </table>	1b Three-digit plan number (PN) ▶	<u>002</u>	1c Effective date of plan <u>01/01/2010</u>	
1b Three-digit plan number (PN) ▶	<u>002</u>				
1c Effective date of plan <u>01/01/2010</u>					
2a Plan sponsor's name (employer, if for a single-employer plan) Mailing address (include room, apt., suite no. and street, or P.O. Box) City or town, state or province, country, and ZIP or foreign postal code (if foreign, see instructions) <u>BILL & MELINDA GATES FOUNDATION</u> <u>PO BOX 23350</u> <u>SEATTLE, WA 98102</u>	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td>2b Employer Identification Number (EIN) <u>56-2618866</u></td> </tr> <tr> <td>2c Plan Sponsor's telephone number <u>206-709-3100</u></td> </tr> <tr> <td>2d Business code (see instructions) <u>813000</u></td> </tr> </table>	2b Employer Identification Number (EIN) <u>56-2618866</u>	2c Plan Sponsor's telephone number <u>206-709-3100</u>	2d Business code (see instructions) <u>813000</u>	
2b Employer Identification Number (EIN) <u>56-2618866</u>					
2c Plan Sponsor's telephone number <u>206-709-3100</u>					
2d Business code (see instructions) <u>813000</u>					

Caution: A penalty for the late or incomplete filing of this return/report will be assessed unless reasonable cause is established.

Under penalties of perjury and other penalties set forth in the instructions, I declare that I have examined this return/report, including accompanying schedules, statements and attachments, as well as the electronic version of this return/report, and to the best of my knowledge and belief, it is true, correct, and complete.

SIGN HERE	Filed with authorized/valid electronic signature.	10/03/2022	RACHEL KANACK
	Signature of plan administrator	Date	Enter name of individual signing as plan administrator
SIGN HERE			
	Signature of employer/plan sponsor	Date	Enter name of individual signing as employer or plan sponsor
SIGN HERE			
	Signature of DFE	Date	Enter name of individual signing as DFE

For Paperwork Reduction Act Notice, see the Instructions for Form 5500.

Form 5500 (2021)
v. 210624

3a Plan administrator's name and address ☐ Same as Plan Sponsor BILL & MELINDA GATES FOUNDATION RETIREMENT PLANS COMMITTEE P.O. BOX 23350 SEATTLE, WA 98102		3b Administrator's EIN 81-5318427	
		3c Administrator's telephone number 206-709-3100	
4 If the name and/or EIN of the plan sponsor or the plan name has changed since the last return/report filed for this plan, enter the plan sponsor's name, EIN, the plan name and the plan number from the last return/report: a Sponsor's name c Plan Name		4b EIN 4d PN	
5 Total number of participants at the beginning of the plan year		5	2222
6 Number of participants as of the end of the plan year unless otherwise stated (welfare plans complete only lines 6a(1) , 6a(2) , 6b , 6c , and 6d).			
a(1) Total number of active participants at the beginning of the plan year.....		6a(1)	1661
a(2) Total number of active participants at the end of the plan year		6a(2)	1580
b Retired or separated participants receiving benefits.....		6b	0
c Other retired or separated participants entitled to future benefits		6c	540
d Subtotal. Add lines 6a(2) , 6b , and 6c		6d	2120
e Deceased participants whose beneficiaries are receiving or are entitled to receive benefits.		6e	0
f Total. Add lines 6d and 6e		6f	2120
g Number of participants with account balances as of the end of the plan year (only defined contribution plans complete this item)		6g	2120
h Number of participants who terminated employment during the plan year with accrued benefits that were less than 100% vested		6h	0
7 Enter the total number of employers obligated to contribute to the plan (only multiemployer plans complete this item).....		7	
8a If the plan provides pension benefits, enter the applicable pension feature codes from the List of Plan Characteristics Codes in the instructions: 2F 2G 2L 2M 2R 2S 2T 3H			
b If the plan provides welfare benefits, enter the applicable welfare feature codes from the List of Plan Characteristics Codes in the instructions:			
9a Plan funding arrangement (check all that apply) (1) ☐ Insurance (2) ☐ Code section 412(e)(3) insurance contracts (3) ☒ Trust (4) ☐ General assets of the sponsor		9b Plan benefit arrangement (check all that apply) (1) ☐ Insurance (2) ☐ Code section 412(e)(3) insurance contracts (3) ☒ Trust (4) ☐ General assets of the sponsor	
10 Check all applicable boxes in 10a and 10b to indicate which schedules are attached, and, where indicated, enter the number attached. (See instructions)			
a Pension Schedules (1) ☒ R (Retirement Plan Information) (2) ☐ MB (Multiemployer Defined Benefit Plan and Certain Money Purchase Plan Actuarial Information) - signed by the plan actuary (3) ☐ SB (Single-Employer Defined Benefit Plan Actuarial Information) - signed by the plan actuary		b General Schedules (1) ☒ H (Financial Information) (2) ☐ I (Financial Information – Small Plan) (3) ☐ A (Insurance Information) (4) ☒ C (Service Provider Information) (5) ☐ D (DFE/Participating Plan Information) (6) ☐ G (Financial Transaction Schedules)	

Part III Form M-1 Compliance Information (to be completed by welfare benefit plans)

11a If the plan provides welfare benefits, was the plan subject to the Form M-1 filing requirements during the plan year? (See instructions and 29 CFR 2520.101-2.) ☐ Yes ☐ No

If "Yes" is checked, complete lines 11b and 11c.

11b Is the plan currently in compliance with the Form M-1 filing requirements? (See instructions and 29 CFR 2520.101-2.) ☐ Yes ☐ No

11c Enter the Receipt Confirmation Code for the 2021 Form M-1 annual report. If the plan was not required to file the 2021 Form M-1 annual report, enter the Receipt Confirmation Code for the most recent Form M-1 that was required to be filed under the Form M-1 filing requirements. (Failure to enter a valid Receipt Confirmation Code will subject the Form 5500 filing to rejection as incomplete.)

Receipt Confirmation Code _____

SCHEDULE C (Form 5500) Department of the Treasury Internal Revenue Service Department of Labor Employee Benefits Security Administration Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation	Service Provider Information This schedule is required to be filed under section 104 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA). ▶ File as an attachment to Form 5500.	OMB No. 1210-0110
		2021
		This Form is Open to Public Inspection.

For calendar plan year 2021 or fiscal plan year beginning 01/01/2021 and ending 12/31/2021		
A Name of plan BILL & MELINDA GATES FOUNDATION EMPLOYEE RETIREMENT PLAN	B Three-digit plan number (PN) ▶	002
C Plan sponsor's name as shown on line 2a of Form 5500 BILL & MELINDA GATES FOUNDATION	D Employer Identification Number (EIN) 56-2618866	

Part I	Service Provider Information (see instructions)
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You must complete this Part, in accordance with the instructions, to report the information required for **each person** who received, directly or indirectly, \$5,000 or more in total compensation (i.e., money or anything else of monetary value) in connection with services rendered to the plan or the person's position with the plan during the plan year. If a person received **only** eligible indirect compensation for which the plan received the required disclosures, you are required to answer line 1 but are not required to include that person when completing the remainder of this Part.

1 Information on Persons Receiving Only Eligible Indirect Compensation

- a** Check "Yes" or "No" to indicate whether you are excluding a person from the remainder of this Part because they received only eligible indirect compensation for which the plan received the required disclosures (see instructions for definitions and conditions)..... ☒ Yes ☐ No
- b** If you answered line 1a "Yes," enter the name and EIN or address of each person providing the required disclosures for the service providers who received only eligible indirect compensation. Complete as many entries as needed (see instructions).

(b) Enter name and EIN or address of person who provided you disclosures on eligible indirect compensation
PRUDENTIAL RETIREMENT INSURANCE AND
06-1050034

(b) Enter name and EIN or address of person who provided you disclosures on eligible indirect compensation
TRANSAMERICA RETIREMENT SOLUTIONS
13-3689044

(b) Enter name and EIN or address of person who provided you disclosures on eligible indirect compensation
CHARLES SCHWAB & CO., INC.
94-1737782

(b) Enter name and EIN or address of person who provided you disclosures on eligible indirect compensation

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2. Information on Other Service Providers Receiving Direct or Indirect Compensation. Except for those persons for whom you answered "Yes" to line 1a above, complete as many entries as needed to list each person receiving, directly or indirectly, \$5,000 or more in total compensation (i.e., money or anything else of value) in connection with services rendered to the plan or their position with the plan during the plan year. (See instructions).

(a) Enter name and EIN or address (see instructions)

TRANSAMERICA RETIREMENT SOLUTIONS

13-3689044

(b) Service Code(s)	(c) Relationship to employer, employee organization, or person known to be a party-in-interest	(d) Enter direct compensation paid by the plan. If none, enter -0-.	(e) Did service provider receive indirect compensation? (sources other than plan or plan sponsor)	(f) Did indirect compensation include eligible indirect compensation, for which the plan received the required disclosures?	(g) Enter total indirect compensation received by service provider excluding eligible indirect compensation for which you answered "Yes" to element (f). If none, enter -0-.	(h) Did the service provider give you a formula instead of an amount or estimated amount?
12 15 28 37 38 50 54 59 61 62 63 64 65	RECORDKEEPER	14914	Yes ☒ No ☐	Yes ☒ No ☐	0	Yes ☐ No ☒

(a) Enter name and EIN or address (see instructions)

PRUDENTIAL RETIREMENT INSURANCE AND

06-1050034

(b) Service Code(s)	(c) Relationship to employer, employee organization, or person known to be a party-in-interest	(d) Enter direct compensation paid by the plan. If none, enter -0-.	(e) Did service provider receive indirect compensation? (sources other than plan or plan sponsor)	(f) Did indirect compensation include eligible indirect compensation, for which the plan received the required disclosures?	(g) Enter total indirect compensation received by service provider excluding eligible indirect compensation for which you answered "Yes" to element (f). If none, enter -0-.	(h) Did the service provider give you a formula instead of an amount or estimated amount?
13 15 37 50 64	NONE	13046	Yes ☒ No ☐	Yes ☒ No ☐	0	Yes ☒ No ☐

(a) Enter name and EIN or address (see instructions)

CHARLES SCHWAB & CO., INC.

94-1737782

(b) Service Code(s)	(c) Relationship to employer, employee organization, or person known to be a party-in-interest	(d) Enter direct compensation paid by the plan. If none, enter -0-.	(e) Did service provider receive indirect compensation? (sources other than plan or plan sponsor)	(f) Did indirect compensation include eligible indirect compensation, for which the plan received the required disclosures?	(g) Enter total indirect compensation received by service provider excluding eligible indirect compensation for which you answered "Yes" to element (f). If none, enter -0-.	(h) Did the service provider give you a formula instead of an amount or estimated amount?
33 71	NONE	1731	Yes ☒ No ☐	Yes ☒ No ☐	0	Yes ☒ No ☐

2. Information on Other Service Providers Receiving Direct or Indirect Compensation. Except for those persons for whom you answered "Yes" to line 1a above, complete as many entries as needed to list each person receiving, directly or indirectly, \$5,000 or more in total compensation (i.e., money or anything else of value) in connection with services rendered to the plan or their position with the plan during the plan year. (See instructions).

(a) Enter name and EIN or address (see instructions)

PRUDENTIAL INSURANCE COMPANY OF AME

22-1211670

(b) Service Code(s)	(c) Relationship to employer, employee organization, or person known to be a party-in-interest	(d) Enter direct compensation paid by the plan. If none, enter -0-.	(e) Did service provider receive indirect compensation? (sources other than plan or plan sponsor)	(f) Did indirect compensation include eligible indirect compensation, for which the plan received the required disclosures?	(g) Enter total indirect compensation received by service provider excluding eligible indirect compensation for which you answered "Yes" to element (f). If none, enter -0-.	(h) Did the service provider give you a formula instead of an amount or estimated amount?
15	NONE	0	Yes ☒ No ☐	Yes ☐ No ☒	980	Yes ☐ No ☒

(a) Enter name and EIN or address (see instructions)

NATIONAL FINANCIAL SERVICES

04-3523567

(b) Service Code(s)	(c) Relationship to employer, employee organization, or person known to be a party-in-interest	(d) Enter direct compensation paid by the plan. If none, enter -0-.	(e) Did service provider receive indirect compensation? (sources other than plan or plan sponsor)	(f) Did indirect compensation include eligible indirect compensation, for which the plan received the required disclosures?	(g) Enter total indirect compensation received by service provider excluding eligible indirect compensation for which you answered "Yes" to element (f). If none, enter -0-.	(h) Did the service provider give you a formula instead of an amount or estimated amount?
33 71	NONE	0	Yes ☒ No ☐	Yes ☒ No ☐	0	Yes ☒ No ☐

(a) Enter name and EIN or address (see instructions)

(b) Service Code(s)	(c) Relationship to employer, employee organization, or person known to be a party-in-interest	(d) Enter direct compensation paid by the plan. If none, enter -0-.	(e) Did service provider receive indirect compensation? (sources other than plan or plan sponsor)	(f) Did indirect compensation include eligible indirect compensation, for which the plan received the required disclosures?	(g) Enter total indirect compensation received by service provider excluding eligible indirect compensation for which you answered "Yes" to element (f). If none, enter -0-.	(h) Did the service provider give you a formula instead of an amount or estimated amount?
			Yes ☐ No ☐	Yes ☐ No ☐		Yes ☐ No ☐

Part I Service Provider Information (continued)

3. If you reported on line 2 receipt of indirect compensation, other than eligible indirect compensation, by a service provider, and the service provider is a fiduciary or provides contract administrator, consulting, custodial, investment advisory, investment management, broker, or recordkeeping services, answer the following questions for (a) each source from whom the service provider received \$1,000 or more in indirect compensation and (b) each source for whom the service provider gave you a formula used to determine the indirect compensation instead of an amount or estimated amount of the indirect compensation. Complete as many entries as needed to report the required information for each source.

(a) Enter service provider name as it appears on line 2	(b) Service Codes (see instructions)	(c) Enter amount of indirect compensation
(d) Enter name and EIN (address) of source of indirect compensation	(e) Describe the indirect compensation, including any formula used to determine the service provider's eligibility for or the amount of the indirect compensation.	
(a) Enter service provider name as it appears on line 2	(b) Service Codes (see instructions)	(c) Enter amount of indirect compensation
(d) Enter name and EIN (address) of source of indirect compensation	(e) Describe the indirect compensation, including any formula used to determine the service provider's eligibility for or the amount of the indirect compensation.	
(a) Enter service provider name as it appears on line 2	(b) Service Codes (see instructions)	(c) Enter amount of indirect compensation
(d) Enter name and EIN (address) of source of indirect compensation	(e) Describe the indirect compensation, including any formula used to determine the service provider's eligibility for or the amount of the indirect compensation.	

Part II Service Providers Who Fail or Refuse to Provide Information

4 Provide, to the extent possible, the following information for each service provider who failed or refused to provide the information necessary to complete this Schedule.

(a) Enter name and EIN or address of service provider (see instructions)	(b) Nature of Service Code(s)	(c) Describe the information that the service provider failed or refused to provide
(a) Enter name and EIN or address of service provider (see instructions)	(b) Nature of Service Code(s)	(c) Describe the information that the service provider failed or refused to provide
(a) Enter name and EIN or address of service provider (see instructions)	(b) Nature of Service Code(s)	(c) Describe the information that the service provider failed or refused to provide
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(a) Enter name and EIN or address of service provider (see instructions)	(b) Nature of Service Code(s)	(c) Describe the information that the service provider failed or refused to provide
(a) Enter name and EIN or address of service provider (see instructions)	(b) Nature of Service Code(s)	(c) Describe the information that the service provider failed or refused to provide

Part III Termination Information on Accountants and Enrolled Actuaries (see instructions)
(complete as many entries as needed)

a Name:	b EIN:
c Position:	
d Address:	e Telephone:

Explanation:

a Name:	b EIN:
c Position:	
d Address:	e Telephone:

Explanation:

a Name:	b EIN:
c Position:	
d Address:	e Telephone:

Explanation:

a Name:	b EIN:
c Position:	
d Address:	e Telephone:

Explanation:

a Name:	b EIN:
c Position:	
d Address:	e Telephone:

Explanation:

SCHEDULE H (Form 5500) Department of the Treasury Internal Revenue Service Department of Labor Employee Benefits Security Administration Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation	Financial Information This schedule is required to be filed under section 104 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA), and section 6058(a) of the Internal Revenue Code (the Code). ► File as an attachment to Form 5500.	OMB No. 1210-0110 2021 This Form is Open to Public Inspection
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For calendar plan year 2021 or fiscal plan year beginning <u>01/01/2021</u> and ending <u>12/31/2021</u>		
A Name of plan <u>BILL & MELINDA GATES FOUNDATION EMPLOYEE RETIREMENT PLAN</u>	B Three-digit plan number (PN) ►	<u>002</u>
C Plan sponsor's name as shown on line 2a of Form 5500 <u>BILL & MELINDA GATES FOUNDATION</u>	D Employer Identification Number (EIN) <u>56-2618866</u>	

Part I	Asset and Liability Statement
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1 Current value of plan assets and liabilities at the beginning and end of the plan year. Combine the value of plan assets held in more than one trust. Report the value of the plan's interest in a commingled fund containing the assets of more than one plan on a line-by-line basis unless the value is reportable on lines 1c(9) through 1c(14). Do not enter the value of that portion of an insurance contract which guarantees, during this plan year, to pay a specific dollar benefit at a future date. **Round off amounts to the nearest dollar.** MTIAs, CCTs, PSAs, and 103-12 IEs do not complete lines 1b(1), 1b(2), 1c(8), 1g, 1h, and 1i. CCTs, PSAs, and 103-12 IEs also do not complete lines 1d and 1e. See instructions.

Assets		(a) Beginning of Year	(b) End of Year
a Total noninterest-bearing cash.....	1a		
b Receivables (less allowance for doubtful accounts):			
(1) Employer contributions	1b(1)		
(2) Participant contributions.....	1b(2)		
(3) Other	1b(3)		
c General investments:			
(1) Interest-bearing cash (include money market accounts & certificates of deposit)	1c(1)		
(2) U.S. Government securities	1c(2)		
(3) Corporate debt instruments (other than employer securities):			
(A) Preferred	1c(3)(A)		
(B) All other	1c(3)(B)		
(4) Corporate stocks (other than employer securities):			
(A) Preferred	1c(4)(A)		
(B) Common	1c(4)(B)		
(5) Partnership/joint venture interests	1c(5)		
(6) Real estate (other than employer real property)	1c(6)		
(7) Loans (other than to participants)	1c(7)		
(8) Participant loans	1c(8)	1042442	1060248
(9) Value of interest in common/collective trusts.....	1c(9)		
(10) Value of interest in pooled separate accounts	1c(10)		
(11) Value of interest in master trust investment accounts.....	1c(11)		
(12) Value of interest in 103-12 investment entities	1c(12)		
(13) Value of interest in registered investment companies (e.g., mutual funds)	1c(13)	215626678	247891775
(14) Value of funds held in insurance company general account (unallocated contracts).....	1c(14)		
(15) Other.....	1c(15)	2555484	2849690

		(a) Beginning of Year	(b) End of Year
1d	Employer-related investments:		
(1)	Employer securities.....	1d(1)	
(2)	Employer real property.....	1d(2)	
e	Buildings and other property used in plan operation	1e	
f	Total assets (add all amounts in lines 1a through 1e)	1f	219224604 251801713
Liabilities			
g	Benefit claims payable	1g	
h	Operating payables	1h	
i	Acquisition indebtedness.....	1i	
j	Other liabilities.....	1j	
k	Total liabilities (add all amounts in lines 1g through 1j)	1k	0 0
Net Assets			
l	Net assets (subtract line 1k from line 1f)	1l	219224604 251801713

Part II Income and Expense Statement

2 Plan income, expenses, and changes in net assets for the year. Include all income and expenses of the plan, including any trust(s) or separately maintained fund(s) and any payments/receipts to/from insurance carriers. Round off amounts to the nearest dollar. MTIAs, CCTs, PSAs, and 103-12 IEs do not complete lines 2a, 2b(1)(E), 2e, 2f, and 2g.

		(a) Amount	(b) Total
Income			
a	Contributions:		
(1)	Received or receivable in cash from: (A) Employers	2a(1)(A)	575
	(B) Participants	2a(1)(B)	24246945
	(C) Others (including rollovers).....	2a(1)(C)	4527091
(2)	Noncash contributions.....	2a(2)	
(3)	Total contributions. Add lines 2a(1)(A) , (B) , (C) , and line 2a(2)	2a(3)	28774611
b	Earnings on investments:		
(1)	Interest:		
	(A) Interest-bearing cash (including money market accounts and certificates of deposit).....	2b(1)(A)	
	(B) U.S. Government securities	2b(1)(B)	
	(C) Corporate debt instruments	2b(1)(C)	
	(D) Loans (other than to participants)	2b(1)(D)	
	(E) Participant loans.....	2b(1)(E)	46356
	(F) Other	2b(1)(F)	
	(G) Total interest. Add lines 2b(1)(A) through (F)	2b(1)(G)	46356
(2)	Dividends: (A) Preferred stock.....	2b(2)(A)	
	(B) Common stock	2b(2)(B)	
	(C) Registered investment company shares (e.g. mutual funds).....	2b(2)(C)	3033656
	(D) Total dividends. Add lines 2b(2)(A) , (B) , and (C)	2b(2)(D)	3033656
(3)	Rents	2b(3)	
(4)	Net gain (loss) on sale of assets: (A) Aggregate proceeds	2b(4)(A)	
	(B) Aggregate carrying amount (see instructions).....	2b(4)(B)	
	(C) Subtract line 2b(4)(B) from line 2b(4)(A) and enter result	2b(4)(C)	0
(5)	Unrealized appreciation (depreciation) of assets: (A) Real estate	2b(5)(A)	
	(B) Other	2b(5)(B)	
	(C) Total unrealized appreciation of assets. Add lines 2b(5)(A) and (B)	2b(5)(C)	0

		(a) Amount	(b) Total
(6) Net investment gain (loss) from common/collective trusts.....	2b(6)		
(7) Net investment gain (loss) from pooled separate accounts.....	2b(7)		
(8) Net investment gain (loss) from master trust investment accounts.....	2b(8)		
(9) Net investment gain (loss) from 103-12 investment entities.....	2b(9)		
(10) Net investment gain (loss) from registered investment companies (e.g., mutual funds).....	2b(10)		25646520
c Other income.....	2c		415050
d Total income. Add all income amounts in column (b) and enter total.....	2d		57916193
Expenses			
e Benefit payment and payments to provide benefits:			
(1) Directly to participants or beneficiaries, including direct rollovers.....	2e(1)	25292883	
(2) To insurance carriers for the provision of benefits.....	2e(2)		
(3) Other.....	2e(3)		
(4) Total benefit payments. Add lines 2e(1) through (3).....	2e(4)		25292883
f Corrective distributions (see instructions).....	2f		15360
g Certain deemed distributions of participant loans (see instructions).....	2g		
h Interest expense.....	2h		
i Administrative expenses: (1) Professional fees.....	2i(1)		
(2) Contract administrator fees.....	2i(2)	29110	
(3) Investment advisory and management fees.....	2i(3)	1731	
(4) Other.....	2i(4)		
(5) Total administrative expenses. Add lines 2i(1) through (4).....	2i(5)		30841
j Total expenses. Add all expense amounts in column (b) and enter total.....	2j		25339084
Net Income and Reconciliation			
k Net income (loss). Subtract line 2j from line 2d.....	2k		32577109
l Transfers of assets:			
(1) To this plan.....	2l(1)		
(2) From this plan.....	2l(2)		

Part III Accountant's Opinion

3 Complete lines 3a through 3c if the opinion of an independent qualified public accountant is attached to this Form 5500. Complete line 3d if an opinion is not attached.

a The attached opinion of an independent qualified public accountant for this plan is (see instructions):

(1) ☒ Unmodified (2) ☐ Qualified (3) ☐ Disclaimer (4) ☐ Adverse

b Check the appropriate box(es) to indicate whether the IQPA performed an ERISA section 103(a)(3)(C) audit. Check both boxes (1) and (2) if the audit was performed pursuant to both 29 CFR 2520.103-8 and 29 CFR 2520.103-12(d). Check box (3) if pursuant to neither.

(1) ☒ DOL Regulation 2520.103-8 (2) ☐ DOL Regulation 2520.103-12(d) (3) ☐ neither DOL Regulation 2520.103-8 nor DOL Regulation 2520.103-12(d).

c Enter the name and EIN of the accountant (or accounting firm) below:

(1) Name: **KPMG, LLP**

(2) EIN: **13-5565207**

d The opinion of an independent qualified public accountant is **not attached** because:

(1) ☐ This form is filed for a CCT, PSA, or MTIA. (2) ☐ It will be attached to the next Form 5500 pursuant to 29 CFR 2520.104-50.

Part IV Compliance Questions

4 CCTs and PSAs do not complete Part IV. MTIAs, 103-12 IEs, and GIAs do not complete lines 4a, 4e, 4f, 4g, 4h, 4k, 4m, 4n, or 5. 103-12 IEs also do not complete lines 4j and 4l. MTIAs also do not complete line 4l.

During the plan year:

a Was there a failure to transmit to the plan any participant contributions within the time period described in 29 CFR 2510.3-102? Continue to answer "Yes" for any prior year failures until fully corrected. (See instructions and DOL's Voluntary Fiduciary Correction Program.).....

	Yes	No	Amount
4a		X	

	Yes	No	Amount
b Were any loans by the plan or fixed income obligations due the plan in default as of the close of the plan year or classified during the year as uncollectible? Disregard participant loans secured by participant's account balance. (Attach Schedule G (Form 5500) Part I if "Yes" is checked.)			
4b		X	
c Were any leases to which the plan was a party in default or classified during the year as uncollectible? (Attach Schedule G (Form 5500) Part II if "Yes" is checked.)			
4c		X	
d Were there any nonexempt transactions with any party-in-interest? (Do not include transactions reported on line 4a. Attach Schedule G (Form 5500) Part III if "Yes" is checked.)			
4d		X	
e Was this plan covered by a fidelity bond?	X		1000000
f Did the plan have a loss, whether or not reimbursed by the plan's fidelity bond, that was caused by fraud or dishonesty?		X	
4f		X	
g Did the plan hold any assets whose current value was neither readily determinable on an established market nor set by an independent third party appraiser?			
4g		X	
h Did the plan receive any noncash contributions whose value was neither readily determinable on an established market nor set by an independent third party appraiser?			
4h		X	
i Did the plan have assets held for investment? (Attach schedule(s) of assets if "Yes" is checked, and see instructions for format requirements.)	X		
4i	X		
j Were any plan transactions or series of transactions in excess of 5% of the current value of plan assets? (Attach schedule of transactions if "Yes" is checked and see instructions for format requirements.)			
4j		X	
k Were all the plan assets either distributed to participants or beneficiaries, transferred to another plan, or brought under the control of the PBGC?			
4k		X	
l Has the plan failed to provide any benefit when due under the plan?			
4l		X	
m If this is an individual account plan, was there a blackout period? (See instructions and 29 CFR 2520.101-3.)	X		
4m	X		
n If 4m was answered "Yes," check the "Yes" box if you either provided the required notice or one of the exceptions to providing the notice applied under 29 CFR 2520.101-3.	X		
4n	X		
5a Has a resolution to terminate the plan been adopted during the plan year or any prior plan year?..... ☐ Yes ☒ No If "Yes," enter the amount of any plan assets that reverted to the employer this year _____.			
5b If, during this plan year, any assets or liabilities were transferred from this plan to another plan(s), identify the plan(s) to which assets or liabilities were transferred. (See instructions.)			
5b(1) Name of plan(s)	5b(2) EIN(s)	5b(3) PN(s)	
5c Was the plan a defined benefit plan covered under the PBGC insurance program at any time during this plan year? (See ERISA section 4021 and instructions.) ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Not determined If "Yes" is checked, enter the My PAA confirmation number from the PBGC premium filing for this plan year _____.			

SCHEDULE R (Form 5500) Department of the Treasury Internal Revenue Service Department of Labor Employee Benefits Security Administration Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation	Retirement Plan Information This schedule is required to be filed under sections 104 and 4065 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA) and section 6058(a) of the Internal Revenue Code (the Code). ► File as an attachment to Form 5500.	OMB No. 1210-0110 2021 This Form is Open to Public Inspection.
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For calendar plan year 2021 or fiscal plan year beginning 01/01/2021 and ending 12/31/2021

A Name of plan BILL & MELINDA GATES FOUNDATION EMPLOYEE RETIREMENT PLAN	B Three-digit plan number (PN) ► 002
C Plan sponsor's name as shown on line 2a of Form 5500 BILL & MELINDA GATES FOUNDATION	D Employer Identification Number (EIN) 56-2618866

Part I	Distributions
---------------	----------------------

All references to distributions relate only to payments of benefits during the plan year.

1 Total value of distributions paid in property other than in cash or the forms of property specified in the instructions.....	1	0
2 Enter the EIN(s) of payor(s) who paid benefits on behalf of the plan to participants or beneficiaries during the year (if more than two, enter EINs of the two payors who paid the greatest dollar amounts of benefits): EIN(s): 13-3689044 22-1211670		
Profit-sharing plans, ESOPs, and stock bonus plans, skip line 3.		
3 Number of participants (living or deceased) whose benefits were distributed in a single sum, during the plan year	3	115

Part II	Funding Information (If the plan is not subject to the minimum funding requirements of section 412 of the Internal Revenue Code or ERISA section 302, skip this Part.)
----------------	---

4 Is the plan administrator making an election under Code section 412(d)(2) or ERISA section 302(d)(2)?	☐ Yes	☐ No	☐ N/A
If the plan is a defined benefit plan, go to line 8.			
5 If a waiver of the minimum funding standard for a prior year is being amortized in this plan year, see instructions and enter the date of the ruling letter granting the waiver. Date: Month _____ Day _____ Year _____ If you completed line 5, complete lines 3, 9, and 10 of Schedule MB and do not complete the remainder of this schedule.			
6 a Enter the minimum required contribution for this plan year (include any prior year accumulated funding deficiency not waived)	6a		
b Enter the amount contributed by the employer to the plan for this plan year	6b		
c Subtract the amount in line 6b from the amount in line 6a. Enter the result (enter a minus sign to the left of a negative amount)	6c		
If you completed line 6c, skip lines 8 and 9.			
7 Will the minimum funding amount reported on line 6c be met by the funding deadline?	☐ Yes	☐ No	☐ N/A
8 If a change in actuarial cost method was made for this plan year pursuant to a revenue procedure or other authority providing automatic approval for the change or a class ruling letter, does the plan sponsor or plan administrator agree with the change?	☐ Yes	☐ No	☐ N/A

Part III	Amendments
-----------------	-------------------

9 If this is a defined benefit pension plan, were any amendments adopted during this plan year that increased or decreased the value of benefits? If yes, check the appropriate box. If no, check the "No" box.....	☐ Increase	☐ Decrease	☐ Both	☐ No
--	-----------------------------------	-----------------------------------	-------------------------------	-----------------------------

Part IV	ESOPs (see instructions). If this is not a plan described under section 409(a) or 4975(e)(7) of the Internal Revenue Code, skip this Part.
----------------	---

10 Were unallocated employer securities or proceeds from the sale of unallocated securities used to repay any exempt loan?	☐ Yes	☐ No
11 a Does the ESOP hold any preferred stock?	☐ Yes	☐ No
b If the ESOP has an outstanding exempt loan with the employer as lender, is such loan part of a "back-to-back" loan? (See instructions for definition of "back-to-back" loan.)	☐ Yes	☐ No
12 Does the ESOP hold any stock that is not readily tradable on an established securities market?	☐ Yes	☐ No

For Paperwork Reduction Act Notice, see the Instructions for Form 5500.

Schedule R (Form 5500) 2021
v. 201209

Part V Additional Information for Multiemployer Defined Benefit Pension Plans

13 Enter the following information for each employer that contributed more than 5% of total contributions to the plan during the plan year (measured in dollars). See instructions. *Complete as many entries as needed to report all applicable employers.*

a Name of contributing employer

b EIN

c Dollar amount contributed by employer

d Date collective bargaining agreement expires (If employer contributes under more than one collective bargaining agreement, check box ☐ and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, enter the applicable date.) Month _____ Day _____ Year _____

e Contribution rate information (If more than one rate applies, check this box ☐ and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, complete lines 13e(1) and 13e(2).)

(1) Contribution rate (in dollars and cents) _____

(2) Base unit measure: ☐ Hourly ☐ Weekly ☐ Unit of production ☐ Other (specify): _____

a Name of contributing employer

b EIN

c Dollar amount contributed by employer

d Date collective bargaining agreement expires (If employer contributes under more than one collective bargaining agreement, check box ☐ and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, enter the applicable date.) Month _____ Day _____ Year _____

e Contribution rate information (If more than one rate applies, check this box ☐ and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, complete lines 13e(1) and 13e(2).)

(1) Contribution rate (in dollars and cents) _____

(2) Base unit measure: ☐ Hourly ☐ Weekly ☐ Unit of production ☐ Other (specify): _____

a Name of contributing employer

b EIN

c Dollar amount contributed by employer

d Date collective bargaining agreement expires (If employer contributes under more than one collective bargaining agreement, check box ☐ and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, enter the applicable date.) Month _____ Day _____ Year _____

e Contribution rate information (If more than one rate applies, check this box ☐ and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, complete lines 13e(1) and 13e(2).)

(1) Contribution rate (in dollars and cents) _____

(2) Base unit measure: ☐ Hourly ☐ Weekly ☐ Unit of production ☐ Other (specify): _____

a Name of contributing employer

b EIN

c Dollar amount contributed by employer

d Date collective bargaining agreement expires (If employer contributes under more than one collective bargaining agreement, check box ☐ and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, enter the applicable date.) Month _____ Day _____ Year _____

e Contribution rate information (If more than one rate applies, check this box ☐ and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, complete lines 13e(1) and 13e(2).)

(1) Contribution rate (in dollars and cents) _____

(2) Base unit measure: ☐ Hourly ☐ Weekly ☐ Unit of production ☐ Other (specify): _____

a Name of contributing employer

b EIN

c Dollar amount contributed by employer

d Date collective bargaining agreement expires (If employer contributes under more than one collective bargaining agreement, check box ☐ and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, enter the applicable date.) Month _____ Day _____ Year _____

e Contribution rate information (If more than one rate applies, check this box ☐ and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, complete lines 13e(1) and 13e(2).)

(1) Contribution rate (in dollars and cents) _____

(2) Base unit measure: ☐ Hourly ☐ Weekly ☐ Unit of production ☐ Other (specify): _____

a Name of contributing employer

b EIN

c Dollar amount contributed by employer

d Date collective bargaining agreement expires (If employer contributes under more than one collective bargaining agreement, check box ☐ and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, enter the applicable date.) Month _____ Day _____ Year _____

e Contribution rate information (If more than one rate applies, check this box ☐ and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, complete lines 13e(1) and 13e(2).)

(1) Contribution rate (in dollars and cents) _____

(2) Base unit measure: ☐ Hourly ☐ Weekly ☐ Unit of production ☐ Other (specify): _____

- 14** Enter the number of deferred vested and retired participants (inactive participants), as of the beginning of the plan year, whose contributing employer is no longer making contributions to the plan for:

a The current plan year. Check the box to indicate the counting method used to determine the number of inactive participants: ☐ last contributing employer ☐ alternative ☐ reasonable approximation (see instructions for required attachment).....

14a

b The plan year immediately preceding the current plan year. ☐ Check the box if the number reported is a change from what was previously reported (see instructions for required attachment).....

14b

c The second preceding plan year. ☐ Check the box if the number reported is a change from what was previously reported (see instructions for required attachment).....

14c

- 15** Enter the ratio of the number of participants under the plan on whose behalf no employer had an obligation to make an employer contribution during the current plan year to:

a The corresponding number for the plan year immediately preceding the current plan year.....

15a

b The corresponding number for the second preceding plan year.....

15b

- 16** Information with respect to any employers who withdrew from the plan during the preceding plan year:

a Enter the number of employers who withdrew during the preceding plan year.....

16a

b If line 16a is greater than 0, enter the aggregate amount of withdrawal liability assessed or estimated to be assessed against such withdrawn employers.....

16b

- 17** If assets and liabilities from another plan have been transferred to or merged with this plan during the plan year, check box and see instructions regarding supplemental information to be included as an attachment..... ☐

Part VI Additional Information for Single-Employer and Multiemployer Defined Benefit Pension Plans

- 18** If any liabilities to participants or their beneficiaries under the plan as of the end of the plan year consist (in whole or in part) of liabilities to such participants and beneficiaries under two or more pension plans as of immediately before such plan year, check box and see instructions regarding supplemental information to be included as an attachment..... ☐

- 19** If the total number of participants is 1,000 or more, complete lines (a) through (c)

a Enter the percentage of plan assets held as:

Stock: _____% Investment-Grade Debt: _____% High-Yield Debt: _____% Real Estate: _____% Other: _____%

b Provide the average duration of the combined investment-grade and high-yield debt:

☐ 0-3 years ☐ 3-6 years ☐ 6-9 years ☐ 9-12 years ☐ 12-15 years ☐ 15-18 years ☐ 18-21 years ☐ 21 years or more

c What duration measure was used to calculate line 19(b)?

☐ Effective duration ☐ Macaulay duration ☐ Modified duration ☐ Other (specify): _____

- 20 PBGC missed contribution reporting requirements.** If this is a multiemployer plan or a single-employer plan that is not covered by PBGC, skip line 20.

a Is the amount of unpaid minimum required contributions for all years from Schedule SB (Form 5500) line 40 greater than zero? ☐ Yes ☐ No

b If line 20a is "Yes," has PBGC been notified as required by ERISA sections 4043(c)(5) and/or 303(k)(4)? Check the applicable box:

☐ Yes.

☐ No. Reporting was waived under 29 CFR 4043.25(c)(2) because contributions equal to or exceeding the unpaid minimum required contribution were made by the 30th day after the due date.

☐ No. The 30-day period referenced in 29 CFR 4043.25(c)(2) has not yet ended, and the sponsor intends to make a contribution equal to or exceeding the unpaid minimum required contribution by the 30th day after the due date.

☐ No. Other. Provide explanation _____



KPMG LLP
Suite 2800
401 Union Street
Seattle, WA 98101

Independent Auditors' Report

Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation Retirement Plans Committee
Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation Employee Retirement Plan:

Scope and Nature of the ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C) Audit for the 2021 Financial Statements

We have performed an audit of the financial statements of Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation Employee Retirement Plan (the Plan), an employee benefit plan subject to the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA), as permitted by ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C) (ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C) audit). The financial statements comprise the statement of net assets available for benefits as of December 31, 2021, and the related statement of changes in net assets available for benefits for the year ended December 31, 2021, and the related notes to the financial statements (2021 Financial Statements).

Management, having determined it is permissible in the circumstances, has elected to have the audit of the Plan's 2021 financial statements performed in accordance with ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C) pursuant to 29 CFR 2520.103-8 of the Department of Labor's Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under ERISA. As permitted by ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C), our audit need not extend to any statements or information related to assets held for investment of the plan (investment information) by a bank or similar institution or insurance carrier that is regulated, supervised, and subject to periodic examination by a state or federal agency, provided that the statements or information regarding assets so held are prepared and certified to by the bank or similar institution or insurance carrier in accordance with 29 CFR 2520.103-5 of the Department of Labor's Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under ERISA (qualified institution).

Management has obtained a certification from a qualified institution as of and for the year ended December 31, 2021, stating that the certified investment information, as described in Note 4 to the financial statements, is complete and accurate.

Opinion on the 2021 Financial Statements

In our opinion, based on our audit and on the procedures performed as described in the Auditors' Responsibilities for the Audit of the 2021 Financial Statements section:

- the amounts and disclosures in the accompanying 2021 financial statements, other than those agreed to or derived from the certified investment information, are presented fairly, in all material respects, in accordance with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles.
- the information in the accompanying 2021 financial statements related to assets held by and certified to by a qualified institution agrees to, or is derived from, in all material respects, the information prepared and certified by an institution that management determined meets the requirements of ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C).

Basis for Opinion on the 2021 Financial Statements

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAS). Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditors' Responsibilities for the Audit of the 2021 Financial Statements section of our report. We are required to be independent of the Plan and to meet our other ethical responsibilities, in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements relating to our audit. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C) audit opinion.



Responsibilities of Management for the 2021 Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles, and for the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error. Management's election of the ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C) audit does not affect management's responsibility for the financial statements.

In preparing the financial statements, management is required to evaluate whether there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the Plan's ability to continue as a going concern for one year after the date that the financial statements are available to be issued.

Management is also responsible for maintaining a current plan instrument, including all plan amendments, administering the plan, and determining that the plan's transactions that are presented and disclosed in the financial statements are in conformity with the plan's provisions, including maintaining sufficient records with respect to each of the participants, to determine the benefits due or which may become due to such participants.

Auditors' Responsibilities for the Audit of the 2021 Financial Statements

Except as described in the Scope and Nature of the ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C) Audit of the 2021 Financial Statement section of our report, our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditors' report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not absolute assurance and therefore is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with GAAS will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control. Misstatements are considered material if there is a substantial likelihood that, individually or in the aggregate, they would influence the judgment made by a reasonable user based on the financial statements.

In performing an audit in accordance with GAAS, we:

- Exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.
- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, and design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks. Such procedures include examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Plan's internal control. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluate the overall presentation of the financial statements.
- Conclude whether, in our judgment, there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the Plan's ability to continue as a going concern for a reasonable period of time.

Our audit did not extend to the certified investment information, except for obtaining and reading the certification, comparing the certified investment information with the related information presented and disclosed in the 2021 financial statements, and reading the disclosures relating to the certified investment information to assess whether they are in accordance with the presentation and disclosure requirements of U.S. generally accepted accounting principles.



Accordingly, the objective of an ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C) audit is not to express an opinion about whether the financial statements as a whole are presented fairly, in all material respects, in accordance with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles.

We are required to communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit, significant audit findings, and certain internal control-related matters that we identified during the audit.

Other Matters

2021 Supplemental Schedule Required by ERISA

The supplemental schedule of *Schedule H, Line 4i – Schedule of Asset (Held at End of Year)* is presented for purposes of additional analysis and is not a required part of the financial statements but is supplementary information required by the Department of Labor's Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under ERISA. Such information is the responsibility of management and was derived from and relates directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the financial statements. The information included in the supplemental schedule, other than that agreed to or derived from the certified investment information, has been subjected to auditing procedures applied in the audit of the financial statements and certain additional procedures, including comparing and reconciling such information directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the financial statements or to the financial statements themselves, and other additional procedures in accordance with GAAS. For information included in the supplemental schedule that agreed to or is derived from the certified investment information, we compared such information to the related certified investment information.

In forming our opinion on the supplemental schedule, we evaluated whether the supplemental schedule, other than the information agreed to or derived from the certified investment information, including their form and content, are presented in conformity with the Department of Labor's Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under ERISA.

In our opinion:

- the form and content of the supplemental schedule, other than the information in the supplemental schedule that agreed to or is derived from the certified investment information, are presented, in all material respects, in conformity with the Department of Labor's Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under ERISA.
- the information in the supplemental schedule related to assets held by and certified to by a qualified institution agrees to, or is derived from, in all material respects, the information prepared and certified by an institution that management determined meets the requirements of ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C).



Auditors' Report on the 2020 Financial Statements

We were engaged to audit the 2020 financial statements of the Plan. As permitted by 29 CFR 2520.103-8 of the Department of Labor's Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under ERISA, the plan administrator instructed us not to perform and we did not perform any auditing procedures with respect to the information certified by a qualified institution. In our report dated August 5, 2021, we indicated that (a) because of the significance of the information that we did not audit, we were not able to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence to provide a basis for an audit opinion and accordingly, we did not express an opinion on the 2020 financial statements, and (b) the form and content of the information included in the 2020 financial statements other than that derived from the certified information were presented in compliance with the Department of Labor's Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under ERISA.

KPMG LLP

Seattle, Washington
August 12, 2022



**BILL & MELINDA GATES FOUNDATION
EMPLOYEE RETIREMENT PLAN**

Financial Statements and Supplemental Schedule

December 31, 2021 and 2020

(With Independent Auditors' Report Thereon)

**BILL & MELINDA GATES FOUNDATION
EMPLOYEE RETIREMENT PLAN**

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All other schedules are omitted because they are not applicable or not required based on disclosure requirements of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 and regulations issued by the Department of Labor.	



KPMG LLP
Suite 2800
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Seattle, WA 98101

Independent Auditors' Report

Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation Retirement Plans Committee
Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation Employee Retirement Plan:

Scope and Nature of the ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C) Audit for the 2021 Financial Statements

We have performed an audit of the financial statements of Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation Employee Retirement Plan (the Plan), an employee benefit plan subject to the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA), as permitted by ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C) (ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C) audit). The financial statements comprise the statement of net assets available for benefits as of December 31, 2021, and the related statement of changes in net assets available for benefits for the year ended December 31, 2021, and the related notes to the financial statements (2021 Financial Statements).

Management, having determined it is permissible in the circumstances, has elected to have the audit of the Plan's 2021 financial statements performed in accordance with ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C) pursuant to 29 CFR 2520.103-8 of the Department of Labor's Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under ERISA. As permitted by ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C), our audit need not extend to any statements or information related to assets held for investment of the plan (investment information) by a bank or similar institution or insurance carrier that is regulated, supervised, and subject to periodic examination by a state or federal agency, provided that the statements or information regarding assets so held are prepared and certified to by the bank or similar institution or insurance carrier in accordance with 29 CFR 2520.103-5 of the Department of Labor's Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under ERISA (qualified institution).

Management has obtained a certification from a qualified institution as of and for the year ended December 31, 2021, stating that the certified investment information, as described in Note 4 to the financial statements, is complete and accurate.

Opinion on the 2021 Financial Statements

In our opinion, based on our audit and on the procedures performed as described in the Auditors' Responsibilities for the Audit of the 2021 Financial Statements section:

- the amounts and disclosures in the accompanying 2021 financial statements, other than those agreed to or derived from the certified investment information, are presented fairly, in all material respects, in accordance with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles.
- the information in the accompanying 2021 financial statements related to assets held by and certified to by a qualified institution agrees to, or is derived from, in all material respects, the information prepared and certified by an institution that management determined meets the requirements of ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C).

Basis for Opinion on the 2021 Financial Statements

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAS). Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditors' Responsibilities for the Audit of the 2021 Financial Statements section of our report. We are required to be independent of the Plan and to meet our other ethical responsibilities, in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements relating to our audit. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C) audit opinion.



Responsibilities of Management for the 2021 Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles, and for the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error. Management's election of the ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C) audit does not affect management's responsibility for the financial statements.

In preparing the financial statements, management is required to evaluate whether there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the Plan's ability to continue as a going concern for one year after the date that the financial statements are available to be issued.

Management is also responsible for maintaining a current plan instrument, including all plan amendments, administering the plan, and determining that the plan's transactions that are presented and disclosed in the financial statements are in conformity with the plan's provisions, including maintaining sufficient records with respect to each of the participants, to determine the benefits due or which may become due to such participants.

Auditors' Responsibilities for the Audit of the 2021 Financial Statements

Except as described in the Scope and Nature of the ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C) Audit of the 2021 Financial Statement section of our report, our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditors' report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not absolute assurance and therefore is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with GAAS will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control. Misstatements are considered material if there is a substantial likelihood that, individually or in the aggregate, they would influence the judgment made by a reasonable user based on the financial statements.

In performing an audit in accordance with GAAS, we:

- Exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.
- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, and design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks. Such procedures include examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Plan's internal control. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluate the overall presentation of the financial statements.
- Conclude whether, in our judgment, there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the Plan's ability to continue as a going concern for a reasonable period of time.

Our audit did not extend to the certified investment information, except for obtaining and reading the certification, comparing the certified investment information with the related information presented and disclosed in the 2021 financial statements, and reading the disclosures relating to the certified investment information to assess whether they are in accordance with the presentation and disclosure requirements of U.S. generally accepted accounting principles.



Accordingly, the objective of an ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C) audit is not to express an opinion about whether the financial statements as a whole are presented fairly, in all material respects, in accordance with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles.

We are required to communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit, significant audit findings, and certain internal control-related matters that we identified during the audit.

Other Matters

2021 Supplemental Schedule Required by ERISA

The supplemental schedule of *Schedule H, Line 4i – Schedule of Asset (Held at End of Year)* is presented for purposes of additional analysis and is not a required part of the financial statements but is supplementary information required by the Department of Labor's Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under ERISA. Such information is the responsibility of management and was derived from and relates directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the financial statements. The information included in the supplemental schedule, other than that agreed to or derived from the certified investment information, has been subjected to auditing procedures applied in the audit of the financial statements and certain additional procedures, including comparing and reconciling such information directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the financial statements or to the financial statements themselves, and other additional procedures in accordance with GAAS. For information included in the supplemental schedule that agreed to or is derived from the certified investment information, we compared such information to the related certified investment information.

In forming our opinion on the supplemental schedule, we evaluated whether the supplemental schedule, other than the information agreed to or derived from the certified investment information, including their form and content, are presented in conformity with the Department of Labor's Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under ERISA.

In our opinion:

- the form and content of the supplemental schedule, other than the information in the supplemental schedule that agreed to or is derived from the certified investment information, are presented, in all material respects, in conformity with the Department of Labor's Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under ERISA.
- the information in the supplemental schedule related to assets held by and certified to by a qualified institution agrees to, or is derived from, in all material respects, the information prepared and certified by an institution that management determined meets the requirements of ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C).



Auditors' Report on the 2020 Financial Statements

We were engaged to audit the 2020 financial statements of the Plan. As permitted by 29 CFR 2520.103-8 of the Department of Labor's Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under ERISA, the plan administrator instructed us not to perform and we did not perform any auditing procedures with respect to the information certified by a qualified institution. In our report dated August 5, 2021, we indicated that (a) because of the significance of the information that we did not audit, we were not able to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence to provide a basis for an audit opinion and accordingly, we did not express an opinion on the 2020 financial statements, and (b) the form and content of the information included in the 2020 financial statements other than that derived from the certified information were presented in compliance with the Department of Labor's Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under ERISA.

KPMG LLP

Seattle, Washington
August 12, 2022

**BILL & MELINDA GATES FOUNDATION
EMPLOYEE RETIREMENT PLAN**

Statements of Net Assets Available for Benefits

December 31, 2021 and 2020

	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>
Assets:		
Participant directed investments at fair value:		
Registered investment company funds	\$ 247,891,775	215,626,678
Self-directed brokerage account	2,849,690	2,555,484
Notes receivable from participants	<u>1,060,248</u>	<u>1,042,442</u>
Net assets available for benefits	<u>\$ 251,801,713</u>	<u>219,224,604</u>

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

**BILL & MELINDA GATES FOUNDATION
EMPLOYEE RETIREMENT PLAN**

Statements of Changes in Net Assets Available for Benefits

Years ended December 31, 2021 and 2020

	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>
Investment income:		
Net appreciation in fair value of investments	\$ 25,646,520	24,556,877
Dividends and interest	3,033,656	3,383,684
Other income	415,050	84,247
Total investment income	<u>29,095,226</u>	<u>28,024,808</u>
Interest on notes receivable from participants	46,356	46,980
Contributions:		
Participant contributions	24,246,945	21,800,138
Participant rollover contributions	4,527,091	6,041,242
Employer contributions	575	—
Total contributions	<u>28,774,611</u>	<u>27,841,380</u>
Total additions	<u>57,916,193</u>	<u>55,913,168</u>
Benefit payments	25,308,243	10,257,620
Administrative expenses	30,841	48,180
Total deductions	<u>25,339,084</u>	<u>10,305,800</u>
Net increase	32,577,109	45,607,368
Net assets available for benefits:		
Beginning of year	<u>219,224,604</u>	<u>173,617,236</u>
End of year	<u>\$ 251,801,713</u>	<u>219,224,604</u>

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

**BILL & MELINDA GATES FOUNDATION
EMPLOYEE RETIREMENT PLAN**

Notes to Financial Statements

December 31, 2021 and 2020

(1) Description of Plan

The following description of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (the Foundation) Employee Retirement Plan (the Plan) provides only general information. Participants should refer to the Plan document for a more complete description of the Plan's provisions.

(a) General

The Plan is a defined contribution plan established under the provisions of Section 403(b) of the Internal Revenue Code (the IRC), which includes a cash or deferred arrangement, for the benefit of eligible employees of the Foundation and all participating employers (the Employer). The Plan is subject to the provisions of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA). The Plan's participating employers include Bill & Melinda Gates Medical Research Institute and Bill & Melinda Gates Agricultural Innovations. The Plan is considered a single-employer plan for reporting purposes, as the employers maintaining the Plan are members of the same controlled group.

The Retirement Plans Committee (the Committee) administers the Plan and consists of employees appointed by the Chief Executive Officer. Effective May 3, 2021, the Plan custodian changed from State Street Bank and Trust Company to Prudential Bank and Trust FSB, and the Plan recordkeeper changed from Transamerica Retirement Solutions (Transamerica) to Prudential Retirement Insurance and Annuity Company (Prudential).

(b) Eligibility

Employees are generally eligible to participate in the Plan as of their hire date. Eligible employees hired or rehired on or after March 1, 2014 are automatically enrolled at a pre-tax contribution rate of 3% unless the employee has elected to contribute a different amount or decline elective deferrals entirely.

(c) Contributions

Each year, participants may contribute up to 100% of eligible compensation, as defined in the Plan subject to limitations under the Internal Revenue Code (IRC). Participants may also make rollover contributions from other qualified retirement plans. Participants who have reached age 50 by the end of the calendar year are eligible to make additional contributions to the Plan, subject to limitations under the IRC. Participants direct the investment of their contributions into various investment options offered by the Plan in 1% increments. Participants may change their investment elections or make transfers between funds on a daily basis.

(d) Participant Accounts

Participant accounts are credited with the participant's contribution and allocated earnings or losses on investments. Participants may direct the investment of their account and transfer amounts among a variety of investment funds selected by the Committee. Participants may also opt to invest funds through a self-directed brokerage option. If a participant does not make an affirmative investment election, contributions will be invested in a default investment fund determined by the Committee. The default investment fund consists of a service that automatically allocates the account to a combination of the Plan's investment funds and rebalances the account over time. Participant accounts are valued daily based on the value of the assets of the Plan.

**BILL & MELINDA GATES FOUNDATION
EMPLOYEE RETIREMENT PLAN**

Notes to Financial Statements

December 31, 2021 and 2020

(e) Vesting

Participants are 100% vested upon entering the Plan.

(f) Notes Receivable from Participants

Participants may borrow from their fund accounts a minimum of \$1,000 up to a maximum equal to the lesser of 50% of their account balance or \$50,000 reduced by the excess, if any, of the highest outstanding loan balance during the previous 12 months ending on the day before the date on which the loan was made. The loans are secured by the balance in the participant's account. The interest rate for loans is based on the "bank prime rate" plus 1% reported by the U.S. Federal Reserve on the last business day of a calendar month effective for loans made on and after the first business day of the subsequent month. All loans except those to purchase a primary residence must be repaid within 5 years. Loans to purchase a primary residence must be repaid within 15 years. Principal and interest are paid ratably through semimonthly payroll deductions. As of December 31, 2021, interest rates on outstanding loans ranged from 4.25% to 6.5% and the loans mature through August 2036.

(g) Payment of Benefits

Participants may elect to receive a distribution upon termination of service due to death, disability, retirement, or otherwise. The Plan provides for automatic distribution of a terminated participant's account balance of \$5,000 or less. If a terminated participant with an account balance of between \$1,000 and \$5,000 does not make a timely distribution election, his or her account balance will be paid into an Individual Retirement Account in his or her name. In the event of death of a participant, the participant's account is distributed to the participant's surviving spouse or designated beneficiary.

Under certain conditions, participants actively employed by the Employer are permitted to withdraw a portion of their account balance. These conditions include unreimbursed medical expenses, the purchase of the participant's principal residence, the payment of postsecondary education tuition or to prevent eviction or foreclosure from the participant's principal residence. Effective May 3, 2021, the Plan was amended to add a new hardship withdrawal condition, permitting a distribution for expenses and losses incurred on account of a federally-declared disaster.

(h) Administrative Expenses

Administrative expenses include recordkeeping, participant disbursement and loan fees, and other general services to operate the Plan. The Foundation pays recordkeeping expenses on behalf of active participants. Individual plan participants are charged loan and distribution fees, and, for terminated participants, recordkeeping expenses.

(i) Setting Every Community Up for Retirement Enhancement (SECURE) Act and Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act

On December 20, 2019, the Setting Every Community Up for Retirement Enhancement (SECURE) Act was signed into law and allowed for certain relief provisions. Effective January 2020, the Plan implemented the provision changing the required minimum distribution age from 70^{1/2} to 72.

**BILL & MELINDA GATES FOUNDATION
EMPLOYEE RETIREMENT PLAN**

Notes to Financial Statements

December 31, 2021 and 2020

On March 27, 2020, the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act was signed into law and allowed for certain relief provisions. Effective April 2020, the Plan implemented the provision suspending required minimum distributions during 2020. Effective June 2020, the Plan implemented the provisions permitting qualified plan participants to withdraw penalty-free distributions of up to \$100,000 before December 31, 2020, and to request increased loan amounts up to the lesser of \$100,000 or 100% of the participant's vested account balance through September 22, 2020.

The Plan was amended in April 2021 to reflect these provisions.

(2) Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

(a) Basis of Presentation

The accompanying financial statements have been prepared on an accrual basis. However, benefits are recorded when paid.

(b) Use of Estimates

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and changes therein, and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities. Actual results could differ from the estimates made.

(c) Risk and Uncertainties

The Plan provides for various investment options which in turn invest in a variety of stocks and bonds. Investment securities are exposed to various risks such as interest rate, market, and credit. Due to the level of uncertainty related to changes in the value of investment securities, it is at least reasonably possible that changes in the various risk factors, in the near term, could materially affect participants' account balances and the amounts reported in the financial statements.

(d) Investment Valuation and Income Recognition

The Plan's investments are stated at fair value. Purchases and sales of securities are recorded on a trade-date basis.

Interest income is recorded on an accrual basis. Dividends are recorded on the ex-dividend date. Net appreciation in fair value of investments represents the change in unrealized appreciation from one period to the next and realized gains and losses.

(e) Fair Value of Financial Instruments

In accordance with ASC 820-10-55, *Fair Value Measurement*, fair value is defined as the price that the Plan would receive upon selling an investment in an orderly transaction to an independent buyer in the principal or most advantageous market of the investment. A three-tier hierarchy maximizes the use of observable market data and minimizes the use of unobservable inputs to establish classification of fair value measurements for disclosure purposes. Inputs refer broadly to the assumptions that market participants would use in pricing the asset or liability, including assumptions about risk. Inputs may be observable or unobservable. Observable inputs are inputs that reflect the assumptions market participants would use in pricing the asset or liability developed based on market data obtained from

**BILL & MELINDA GATES FOUNDATION
EMPLOYEE RETIREMENT PLAN**

Notes to Financial Statements

December 31, 2021 and 2020

sources independent of the reporting entity. Unobservable inputs are inputs that reflect the reporting entity's own assumptions about the assumptions market participants would use in pricing the asset or liability developed based on the best information available. The three-tier hierarchy of inputs is summarized in the three broad levels listed below.

- Level 1 – quoted prices in active markets for identical investments
- Level 2 – other observable inputs (other than Level 1 prices) such as quoted prices for similar investments, quoted prices in markets that are not active or other inputs that are observable, either directly or indirectly.
- Level 3 – inputs that are unobservable and significant to the overall fair value measurement and involve judgment (including the Plan's own assumptions in determining the fair value of investments)

Following is a description of the valuation methodology used for assets measured at fair value:

Registered investment company funds: Valued based on quoted market prices.

Self-directed brokerage account: Valued based on quoted market prices.

(f) Notes Receivable from Participants

Participant loans are classified as notes receivable from participants, which are segregated from plan investments and measured at their unpaid principal balance plus any accrued but unpaid interest.

(3) Investments

All participant directed investments are classified as Level 1 in the fair value hierarchy. These include investments in registered investment company funds and self-directed brokerage funds in the amounts presented on the statements of net assets available for benefits.

(4) Information Certified by The Custodians

The Committee has elected the method of annual reporting compliance permitted by 29 CFR 2520.103-8 of the Department of Labor's Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under ERISA. Accordingly, State Street Bank and Trust Company and Prudential Bank and Trust FSB, the custodians for the years ended December 31, 2021 and 2020, have certified that the following information included in the accompanying financial statements and supplemental schedule is complete and accurate:

- Participant directed investments at fair value
- Notes receivable from participants
- Investment income
- Interest on notes receivable from participants
- Investments, as reflected in Schedule H, Line 4i – Schedule of Assets (Held at End of Year) – December 31, 2021.

**BILL & MELINDA GATES FOUNDATION
EMPLOYEE RETIREMENT PLAN**

Notes to Financial Statements

December 31, 2021 and 2020

The Committee instructed the Plan's independent auditors not to perform any auditing procedures with respect to the information certified except for comparing such information to the related information included in the financial statements and supplemental schedule.

(5) Party-in-Interest Transactions

State Street Bank and Trust Company and Prudential Bank and Trust FSB were the custodians during the years ended December 31, 2021 and 2020. Transamerica and Prudential were the Plan recordkeepers during the years ended December 31, 2021 and 2020, and therefore, these transactions are considered party-in-interest transactions. Total fees paid by the Plan for the investment management services amounted to \$30,841 and \$48,180 for the years ended December 31, 2021 and 2020, respectively.

(6) Plan Termination

Although it has not expressed any intent to do so, the Foundation has the right under the Plan to discontinue its contributions at any time and to terminate the Plan subject to the provisions of ERISA.

(7) Tax Status of The Plan

A tax determination letter program is not available for 403(b) employee benefit programs through the Internal Revenue Service. The Committee believes that the Plan is currently designed and operated in accordance with the Internal Revenue Code.

Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require plan management to evaluate tax positions taken by the Plan and recognize a tax liability (or asset) if the Plan has taken an uncertain position that more likely than not would not be sustained upon examination by the Internal Revenue Service. The Committee has analyzed the tax positions taken by the Plan, and has concluded that as of December 31, 2021, there were no uncertain positions taken or expected to be taken that would require recognition of a liability (or asset) or disclosure in the financial statements. The Plan is subject to routine audits by taxing jurisdictions; however, there are currently no audits for any tax periods in progress.

(8) Subsequent Events

On April 1, 2022, Empower Retirement, LLC (Empower) acquired the full service retirement business of Prudential Financial, Inc., which will involve migrating the Plans to Empower's platform. The Committee is coordinating with Empower to plan for this transition.

Subsequent events were evaluated through August 12, 2022, the date at which the financial statements were available to be issued.

**BILL & MELINDA GATES FOUNDATION
EMPLOYEE RETIREMENT PLAN**

Schedule H, Line 4i – Schedule of Assets (Held at End of Year)

December 31, 2021

Identity of issuer	Description of investment	Fair value
	Registered Investment Company Funds:	
Allspring	Special Small Cap Value A	\$ 9,032,374
American Funds	EuroPacific Growth R6	22,976,239
Cambiar	International Equity Institutional	1,456,218
Fidelity	500 Index	40,923,897
Fidelity	Contrafund K6	8,601,190
Fidelity	Total International Index	26,754,464
Harding Loevner	International Equity Institutional	1,781,103
PGIM	Jennison Growth R6	22,380,036
Loomis Sayles	Small Cap Growth Institutional	8,890,930
Metropolitan West	Total Return Bond Class I	20,980,226
MFS	Value R3	21,100,746
PIMCO	Total Return A	4,530,041
T. Rowe Price	Instl Mid-Cap Equity Growth	11,664,732
Vanguard	Mid Cap Value Index Admiral	12,371,893
Vanguard	Total Bond Market Index Institutional	27,966,694
Vanguard	Treasury Money Market Investor	6,480,992
	Registered investment company funds total	247,891,775
Charles Schwab Instl	Personal Choice Retirement Account (Other Funds)	2,849,690
* Participants	Notes receivable from participants with interest rates ranging from 4.25% to 6.50% and maturing through August 2036	1,060,248
	Total plan assets	\$ <u>251,801,713</u>

* Represents a party in interest

See accompanying independent auditors' report.

**BILL & MELINDA GATES FOUNDATION
EMPLOYEE RETIREMENT PLAN**

Schedule H, Line 4i – Schedule of Assets (Held at End of Year)

December 31, 2021

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