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Gates pledges US\$1.5b for women and kids

WASHINGTON: The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation pledged US\$1.5 billion (RM5 billion) on Monday to support family planning, maternal and child health and nutrition programmes in developing countries.

"This new pledge will complement our spending in other areas that affect women's and children's health such as developing

and delivering children's vaccines and preventing pneumonia, diarrhea, malaria and HIV/AIDS," Melinda

Gates announced at the Women Deliver conference on women's health.

The wife of Microsoft co-founder Bill Gates also pledged to personally speak with world leaders in rich and poor countries and urge them to make women's and children's issues priorities on their policymaking

agenda. The three-day Women Deliver conference was opened on Monday with a keynote speech by UN Secretary Ban Ki-moon, who called on world governments to

work with the United Nations to improve women's and children's health by the UN-set target date of 2015. "We must fight for women's health with all our resources, all the time. When we work together, we succeed," Ban said. - AFP.