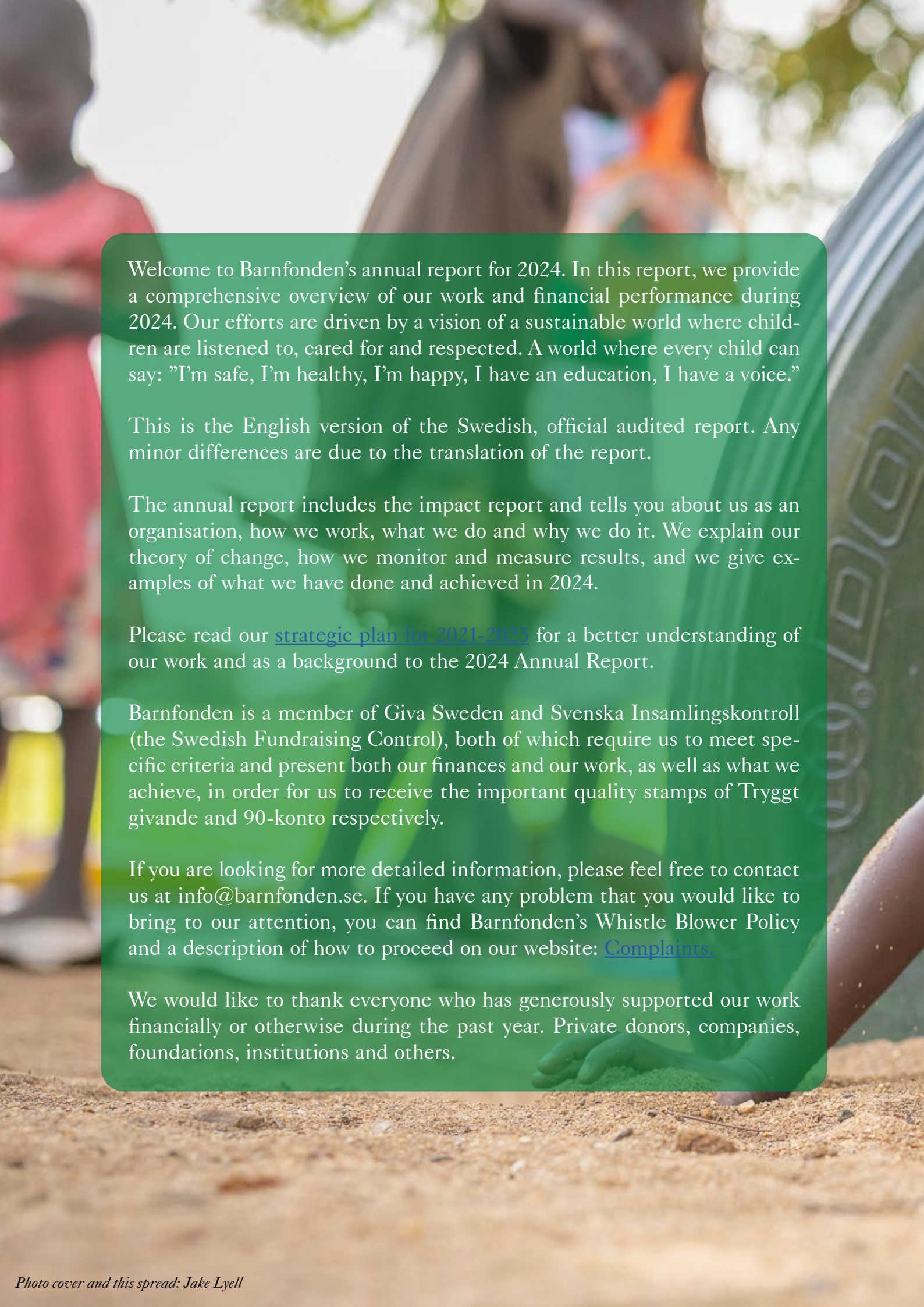


Barnfonden Annual Report 2024





Welcome to Barnfonden's annual report for 2024. In this report, we provide a comprehensive overview of our work and financial performance during 2024. Our efforts are driven by a vision of a sustainable world where children are listened to, cared for and respected. A world where every child can say: "I'm safe, I'm healthy, I'm happy, I have an education, I have a voice."

This is the English version of the Swedish, official audited report. Any minor differences are due to the translation of the report.

The annual report includes the impact report and tells you about us as an organisation, how we work, what we do and why we do it. We explain our theory of change, how we monitor and measure results, and we give examples of what we have done and achieved in 2024.

Please read our [strategic plan for 2021-2025](#) for a better understanding of our work and as a background to the 2024 Annual Report.

Barnfonden is a member of Giva Sweden and Svenska Insamlingskontroll (the Swedish Fundraising Control), both of which require us to meet specific criteria and present both our finances and our work, as well as what we achieve, in order for us to receive the important quality stamps of Tryggt givande and 90-konto respectively.

If you are looking for more detailed information, please feel free to contact us at info@barnfonden.se. If you have any problem that you would like to bring to our attention, you can find Barnfonden's Whistle Blower Policy and a description of how to proceed on our website: [Complaints](#).

We would like to thank everyone who has generously supported our work financially or otherwise during the past year. Private donors, companies, foundations, institutions and others.



This is Barnfonden

Barnfonden is a child rights organisation based in Malmö that advocates for children's right to safety in areas that are severely affected by, or at risk of being affected by, climate change. Climate change contributes to droughts, floods, and other disruptions that directly impact children's access to education, health, future livelihoods, and overall security.

By giving children the opportunity to receive an education, increasing awareness of child rights in society, and improving the social structures that uphold these rights, we strengthen children's voices and their ability to influence both their own development and that of their communities.

We work long-term to create resilience through innovative solutions and to improve the conditions for all children's right to safety, education, good health and a life free from violence. By working with local organisations and authorities, we create long-term change.

Our work is led by an unpaid board where all members are sponsors. We are politically and religiously independent.

Barnfonden Insamlingsstiftelse was founded in Sweden in 1991.

Barnfonden is a member of the ChildFund Alliance, a global network of eleven child-focused development and humanitarian organisations that support around 36 million children and their families in 70 countries around the world. The first ChildFund organisation, ChildFund International, started its operations in 1938, so within the alliance there is experience of development and child rights work that stretches back almost 100 years.

Barnfonden has Giva Sverige's quality stamp Tryggt givande, which means that as a donor you can feel confident that the support you give is managed in the best way by the receiving organisation. We have a 90-account that is controlled by Svensk Insamlingskontroll and we are a member of CHS Alliance, a leading quality standard for organisations that work with humanitarian and development issues.



Kattsundsgatan 15
Box 4100 203 12 Malmö
Ph: +46 (0)40 12 18 85
Org. nr: 846003 - 9020
info@barnfonden.se



Photo: Jake Lyell

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Barnfonden's vision

Barnfonden's vision is a sustainable world where children are listened to, cared for and respected. A world where every child can say:

–I'm safe! –I'm healthy! –I'm happy! –I have an education! –I have a voice!

Barnfonden's mission

Together with children, we create sustainable solutions that protect and advance their rights and well-being. We do this through partnerships, empowerment, and a holistic approach.

Barnfonden's values

We stand with children

As a child rights organisation, Barnfonden believes that the rights of the child should be protected and promoted in every area of their life. We are driven to achieve the best possible impact using all means possible, and we measure ourselves by how well we contribute to positive and sustainable development for children. Our commitment and loyalty are to children, and we will vigorously champion their best interests at home, school, within their community, as well as at national and global levels. With the child in focus, we choose to do what is right, and not what is easy.

Together we make a difference

Through partnerships, we draw on the strengths of others to reach further for realising child rights than each of us would on our own. Working together means being inclusive, not tolerating any form of discrimination, and showing respect in communication, conversations, meetings, programmes, and fundraising. We meet people where they are and realize the importance of different opinions and experiences.

We keep our promises

We assume responsibility to do what we say we will do, and are transparent with how we work, what we achieve as well as when we do not reach our goals. We expect to be held accountable by anyone who chooses to collaborate with us, from the individual child and family to authorities, sponsors, donors – and including our colleagues. We will earn the trust of others. We demonstrate trust to our colleagues in our daily work since that is how we can develop and do what is best for children.

We are biased toward action

We are curious to find better ways of working. We dare to see new opportunities in the same way we challenge old habits, always striving for improvement. We have the courage to act on opportunities and test new ways to operate and achieve sustainable impact as effectively, efficiently, and responsibly as possible. We can show respect to the children, communities, and supporters we work with by being agile, open, and responsive.



2024 in short

Barnfonden supported child-focused interventions in 24 countries in Africa, Latin America, Asia and Europe.

Barnfonden's work reached more than 1,430,000 children, young people, and adults.

75.5 million SEK has been used to strengthen children's rights.

Barnfonden's 17,692 sponsors supported 19,906 children around the world.

Barnfonden is a member of ChildFund Alliance which:



Consists of 11 child-focused development and humanitarian organisations



Reaches 36 million children, young people, and adults



Works together to eradicate violence against children

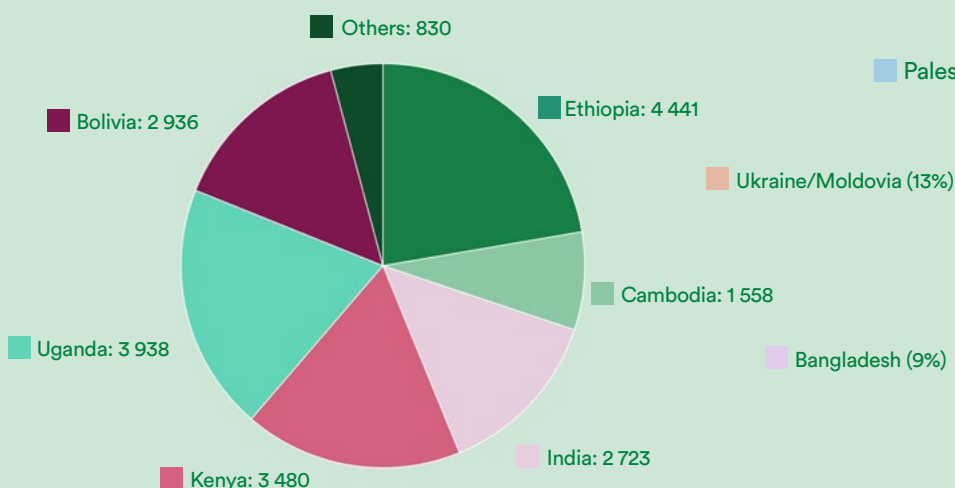


Is active in 70 countries around the world

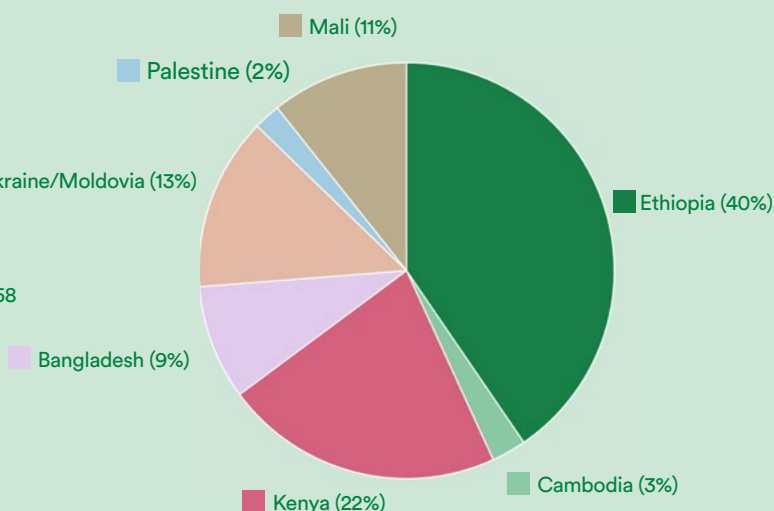
This is where Barnfonden's money come from:

- The general public: 79,200,000 SEK
- Companies: 762,000 SEK
- Foundations: 8,352,000 SEK
- Public grants: 4,055,000 SEK

SPONSORSHIPS PER COUNTRY



PROJECT FUNDS PER COUNTRY



An obligation to stand up and to stand firm

The world is in turmoil, and it leaves no one untouched. Whether we are adults or children, whether we receive the news via the morning newspaper or TikTok, the worry is there. It's unpleasant and scary. Once again, the warmest year on Earth was recorded, and the effects of climate change are now also hitting Europe with full force. The pictures from the floods in the Valencia province in Spain look like the floods in drawings we receive from children around the world. With ink and crayons, they tell of withered harvests, dried-up waterways, empty plates, and destroyed homes.

At the same time, several wars are ongoing in our immediate area, including some of the deadliest conflicts for children in modern times. Rearmament is in full swing. Democracies are being weakened and dismantled. Movements that fight for peace and aid, climate and environment, gender equality, and LGBTQI+ rights are under attack.

In this turmoil, we **MUST** also find hope and believe that it is indeed possible to do things better. We who fight for children's rights have both a responsibility and an obligation not to give up. So here we are. And when we look back at the past year, we also see so much to be proud of.

We have provided security to children in war by ensuring that children in Mali have been able to attend school despite local conflicts, supporting children in Ukraine and Moldova with safety, support, and the opportunity to continue their education, and contributing to clean water and sanitation in Gaza.

We have given schools access to clean water and established school gardens that provide nutritional supplements for students – and in some cases, a small income. As a bonus, the children also learn new methods of cultivation adapted to a changing climate, skills they bring home to their families.

We have engaged children and young people in issues that matter to them and supported them in making their voices heard at both local and global levels.

We have also found new ways of working with local partners that have an impact far beyond individual projects.

The positive examples of the benefits we bring to the world's children are more than can fit here. But we hope this report gives the reader a picture of how, with the support of our donors, we are making real differences.

Two major recognitions for Barnfonden in 2024 are that we have become a humanitarian partner of Rådshjälpen for 2025, and that Barnfonden was one of 30 organisations (out of 2,700 applicants!) invited by Sida to apply for funding for development cooperation.

In April 2025, our largest EU-funded project ever will begin.

We have long known the quality of our work, and now we have received recognition that enables us to do even more. After a thorough evaluation, we now have it in black and white: Barnfonden is an organisation whose activities are characterised by orderliness and whose programmes make a real difference for children and families.

We are also incredibly happy that, after hard work and strong collaborations, we have launched the climate initiative Grow the Future. With this, we have gained a springboard to scale up our work in climate and environment together with partners from different parts of society.

The pieces of the puzzle in our activities come in different colours and shapes, different sizes, but they all contribute to creating a better future for children and young people. Together, we stand firm – even when the world is rocking.

Yasemin Arhan Modéer
Chair of the Board, Barnfonden

Martina Hibell
Secretary General of Barnfonden



Activities in 2024

Here we present some of the activities we carried out in 2024. We want to take the opportunity to highlight our staff and our volunteers. Behind every good initiative is an active and committed team of employees and volunteers.

Conference on mental health in humanitarian contexts

This conference was held in Malmö in March 2024, following the first event of the Nordic MHPSS Network held in Copenhagen in 2022. The conference involved more than 75 actors from governments, civil society, UN agencies, academia and private foundations from the Nordic countries. It resulted in updated recommendations for the "Nordic Road Map 2022-2030", and an open promise to raise awareness, facilitate collaboration and launch initiatives to promote mental health and psychosocial support in vulnerable and humanitarian settings. Barnfonden contributed with a video presentation and co-arranged a workshop on the intersection of climate change and mental health, as well as supporting delegates to exchange ideas and form partnerships. The next conference will take place in Norway in 2026.



Världens Barn 2024

Barnfonden is part of Världens Barn – a collaboration between Radiohjälpen and 13 Swedish child rights and development organisations. Together, we raised around SEK 50 million in 2024, money that will allow many more children in the world to have a safer upbringing and a better future. Several of Barnfonden's programme initiatives over the years have been financed with the help of money from Världens Barn fundraising. It is a privilege to be able to highlight child rights issues and children's situation globally together with 12 of Sweden's most competent organisations in the field.



BUFF 2024

For the sixth year, we presented Barnfonden's prize at the international children's and youth film festival BUFF in Malmö. The prize is awarded to a children's or young person's film that credibly highlights children's voices, participation and living conditions. A jury consisting of Idriss Mohamod, youth leader at Fryshuset, and young people Mohamad Nour Alsayed and Julian Falzon (who at the time were in fifth and sixth grade respectively in two different Malmö schools) voted for the Norwegian film *Lars is LOL*, directed by Eirik Sæter Stordahl and based on the best-selling children's book of the same name. It is a great honour for us to have the opportunity to have our own award at a Malmö-based film festival with a special focus on children and young people and which has existed for over 40 years.

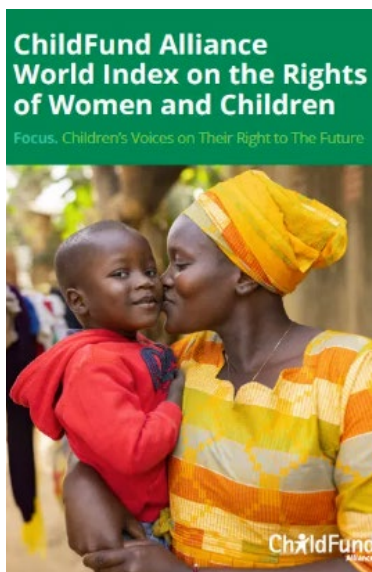


Barnfonden's jury at BUFF 2024. Photo: BUFF

BUFF
 malmö filmfestival

ChildFund World Index 2024

Barnfonden helped develop and launch the ChildFund Alliance World Index 2024. The report, subtitled Right to the Future, is based on a survey of over 10,000 children between the ages of 10 and 18 in 41 countries. It highlights the importance of children being seen as full rights bearers and that their age should not be an obstacle, but an opportunity in the work of securing their rights. The report was presented globally at the UN in New York in November 2024 and in Sweden during the Human Rights Festival in Lund in December. There, the results and recommendations were discussed in a conversation with child rights expert Johanna von Bahr.



Averting disasters

A research agency evaluated parts of our disaster relief to Kenya last year, helping communities prepare for El Niño flooding. We wanted to know which prevention tool best protects children in similar events. We were particularly interested in the role of AI – and the results show that it can be beneficial. We are now creating an advisory panel to develop the ideas further.

Campaigns

We had four major campaigns in 2024 with the aim of spreading awareness of Barnfonden's work and recruiting more donors.

The first three campaigns (spring, summer, autumn) focused on our work within the theme of health, safety and education. In the first two campaigns, we used our ambassadors Jessie Sommarström and Sandra Stojiljkovic to spread our message. Jessie was also the main character in the last campaign of the year, the Christmas campaign in December 2024.

As in 2023, we used the #swishapyttelite hashtag in several campaigns to emphasize that many small contributions together contribute to something big and give us the opportunity to create change for many children.

New marketing platform

In 2024, we started using a new marketing platform provided by the company Symplify. The platform is linked to our CRM and will make it easier for us to target our communication and our fundraising campaigns to our existing donors.

Advocacy

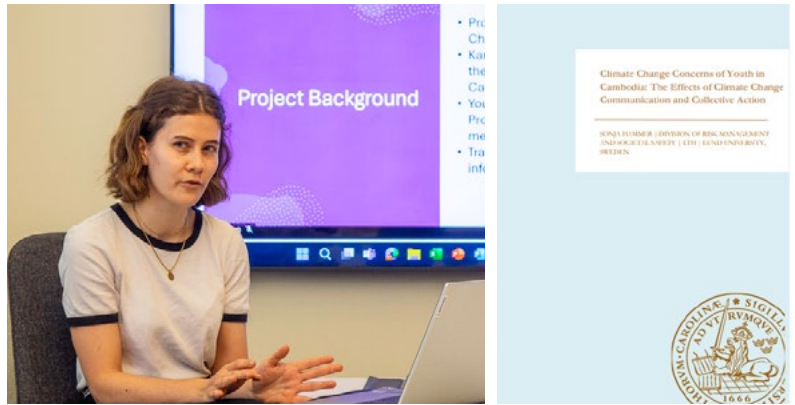
During the year, we have published several debate articles, both on our own and together with other organisations. The focus of the debate articles has been children's rights, children's place in climate work and Swedish development aid policy, which has undergone major changes in recent years. For example, in connection with COP29 in November 2024, we wrote about how important it is [to put children at the centre of climate work](#).



#swishapyttelite

Children's climate concerns

Barnfonden is seeing an increase in climate-related mental illness in children. Programme officer Catherine Larsson, with a university degree as a social worker, has a special focus on the issue and has supported intern Sonja Hammer from Lund University in her studies on how young people's climate anxiety is affected by solution-focused engagement. Her essay shows the importance of including mental health in climate work and it is now a central part of Barnfonden's efforts to help children deal with climate and environmental issues.



Sonja Hammer, intern at Barnfonden and master student at Lund University. Photo: Barnfonden



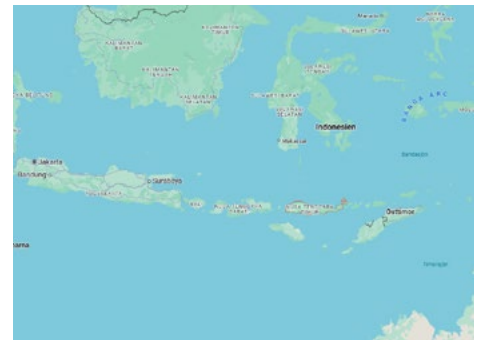
Velma Oseko. Photo: Barnfonden

First remote employee

Velma Oseko works from Kenya as a climate and environmental advisor and she is Barnfonden's first employee to work fully remotely. She is based at ChildFund Kenya's office in Nairobi where she focuses on strengthening the expertise of both Barnfonden and our partners, developing new methods together with external actors, influencing decision-makers and helping local organisations deal with climate challenges. Recruiting internationally was a smart choice - it is better for the environment, saves money and makes it easier to work in locations close to our partner organisations. Velma's local knowledge and network make the work more efficient and give our climate work a greater impact.

New sponsorship area

In 2025, we will start recruiting sponsors for a new sponsorship area in Indonesia. Together with ChildFund Indonesia, Barnfonden has chosen YPPS (Yayasan Pengkajian dan Pengembangan Sosial) as a new partner for its sponsorship program in Flores, Indonesia. YPPS works with climate initiatives that affect children and plans to start a program for child climate ambassadors in East Flores, among other things. In East Flores, many people make their living from agriculture and fishing, but climate change and environmental problems such as drought, illegal logging, and coral destruction threaten their livelihoods. This is a new and exciting area for Barnfonden, and we look forward to learning more about children's lives in this beautiful, but vulnerable part of the world.



The new sponsorship area is on the Flores island in the Nusa Tenggara Timur province.



Human Rights Festival in Lund

As in 2023, Barnfonden participated in the Human Rights Festival in Lund – a meeting place for conversations, culture and engagement on human rights arranged by Altitude Meetings. The festival brings together organisations, researchers and the general public to highlight important issues. Barnfonden is there to spread knowledge about children's rights globally. During this year's event, we presented the ChildFund Alliance World Index 2024. You can read more about the report on page 13.

Lifting the children at COP

We strive to raise children's voices and perspectives in contexts where climate policy is discussed, both nationally and globally. At COP29 in Baku in November 2024, Barnfonden led the ChildFund Alliance Climate & Environment Working Group in the work of developing A Call to Action for COP: Essential Decisions for Protecting Children's Futures. Our main messages included demands for increased climate finance with a focus on children, transparency and accountability, that children's rights are integrated into biodiversity and land policy, that children should be given influence in decision-making processes, and that knowledge transfer and climate education should be promoted.

We also helped to raise the voices of children and young people at COP. In collaboration with ChildFund International, the volunteer organisation VSO and the youth-led United Youth Initiative for Africa, we supported young people to draw and write songs and poems on the theme "Our country, our future". These were presented during side events at COP 29 on climate change and were also shown at COP 16 on desertification.



Business appeal for Gaza

In a petition in June 2024, Barnfonden, together with Altitude Meetings, called on the Skåne business community to contribute to our work for more clean water for children and families in Gaza. We asked the question: How many m3 of clean water can your company donate to Gaza? and managed to collect money equivalent to clean water for 325 families for a month within a short time. The business appeal could be participated in both physically and digitally, and in connection with that, participating companies also received a direct report from our partner on site in Gaza, WeWorld.



Other studies

Barnfonden's project Pamoja in Kenya and Ethiopia involved several study and research projects in 2024. These help to build knowledge in society and they contribute ideas for environmental and climate plans, both locally and throughout the country. Particularly worth highlighting of these are (responsible local partner in brackets):

- Current state of rural water service provisions in Makueni County, Kenya (EDCA).
- State of the allocation and management of funds within the Laikipia County Climate Change Act, Kenya, to facilitate and enable various climate change initiatives (Pioneer).
- Identification of key policy/practice gaps where climate change education/environmental action is lacking in Dugda, Ethiopia. (DCFCO).
- Engagement of children and youth in environmental protection plans in Aynage, Ethiopia. (AC-FDO).



Grow the Future gives children and young people a place in the climate issue

In 2024, Barnfonden, Educo and WeWorld launched the joint initiative Grow the Future – with the aim of equipping children and young people with the tools they need to navigate a future marked by climate change.

”We are convinced that those who are hardest hit by environmental degradation and climate change must be included as part of the solution,” says Martina Hibell, Secretary General of Barnfonden.

Children growing up today are at risk of being affected by twice as many climate-related disasters as previous generations. Without immediate action, more than a billion people – many of them children – could become climate refugees in 50 years. The consequences include reduced access to education, increased poverty and increased vulnerability to exploitation such as human trafficking and child marriage.

We know that crises and disasters have a negative impact on children’s opportunities to get an education, as more people will be forced to leave school – exacerbating the cycle of poverty and limiting their ability to build a secure future.

Within the framework of the initiative, we work with four main areas:

- to educate children and young people about the environment and climate issues and how they affect them;
- to support children and young people to get involved in the way they choose to be involved in driving change;
- building resilient communities where climate change is already affecting access to water and usable land;
- and finally, we also strive to find and use new ways of working - innovation in the form of technology but also methods and research.

The initiative was launched in 2024 and will be developed and grown in the coming years with more and more partners who want to be involved in driving this work forward. We have discussions with partners who want to help finance the work, partners who have ideas for solutions that can create real change, and partners who in various ways want to be involved in spreading information about needs and solutions and, not least, be involved in spreading the voices and commitment of children and young people.

”Grow the Future is an adventurous exploration of the earth’s climate challenges and solutions, with a focus on empowering children, their families and communities to become advocates for positive change. Imagine a world where children are not just spectators in the face of the climate crisis, but active participants shaping a sustainable future. With Grow the Future, we are helping them to make that vision a reality,” says Martina Hibell.

www.growthefutureinitiative.com

Barnfonden at Ystad Summit

Barnfonden participated in the Ystad Summit, a meeting place that brings together leading actors in sustainable development and global issues. Ystad Summit focuses on creating concrete solutions for a more sustainable and just world. Through its participation, Barnfonden wants to raise the issue of child rights and contribute to the dialogue on how we can protect and strengthen children's well-being globally. Among other things, we had our own program item, *How Swedish innovation contributes to food and water in climate-affected areas* with three green tech companies, Tetra Pak and our Secretary General Martina Hibell. Barnfonden's presence at Ystad Summit is an important step in promoting children's right to a better future.



Barnfondens's Secretary General Martina Hibell with panel members at Ystad Summit. Photo: Barnfonden



Our work in 2024



Examples of programme interventions

In the following section, we will tell you about the work in our programme areas in 2024. These are examples of our interventions, and what effects these have had, but not a comprehensive picture of everything we did in 2024. Examples are taken partly from Barnfonden's own programme initiatives and partly from the work done in the programme areas where a majority of the funding comes from Barnfonden's sponsors.

Five overarching themes

Our work focuses on five overarching themes, each of which together is of great importance in order to give children and young people a safe upbringing and the opportunity for a better future. In order to succeed in realizing our vision (see page 7), we need to achieve the goals linked to these five themes. Our themes are health and well-being, education and life skills, protection and resilience, sustainable livelihoods, and voice, participation, and advocacy. On pages 20–45 of this annual report, we present each theme and provide examples taken from our programme work carried out with 30 local partners in 2024. When we describe our efforts in 2024 below, we have clarified which of the UN's global goals our various efforts primarily contribute to fulfilling. If you are interested in knowing more about our overall focus themes and associated goals, read [our theory of change](#).

We work for the Global Goals

The global goals are 17 goals that were adopted by the UN member states in 2015. They set out a fifteen-year plan to end poverty and inequality, protect the planet and ensure that all people enjoy health, justice, and prosperity. Organisations like Barnfonden are working to achieve these goals and understand the need to act with more vigilance and coordination as the 2030 deadline approaches. All of Barnfonden's work contributes to achieving the global goals. When we create and develop projects, we refer to the sub-goals and indicators of the global goals.

We have identified nine of the 17 goals as our primary focus, with the first six forming the basis for each child's development. Our commitment to child safety in a changing climate supports the specific focus of SDG 13: Climate action, and SDG 16.2: Eliminate abuse, exploitation, trafficking in human beings and all forms of violence or torture against children. In addition, Goal 17: Implementation and Global Partnership represents our belief that partnership is the only way in which we can achieve sustainable development for children.



GLOBALA MÅLEN
för hållbar utveckling



Education and life skills

According to the Convention on the Rights of the Child, all children have the right to education and school must be compulsory, free of charge and accessible to all. Children's right to education is a central part of Barnfonden's work. Education is a key to breaking poverty, both at the individual and societal level. In particular, girls' education is one of the most effective strategies for making societies grow economically. Education is a remedy for child labour, child marriage and other harmful traditional practices. Education contributes to better health. According to UNESCO, maternal and child mortality could drop significantly if all girls completed primary school. Education is a catalyst for change, with far-reaching effects on health, economic stability, and societal development.

A lot has happened in the world in recent decades when it comes to education. Many more children start and finish school. The education gap between boys and girls is narrowing globally. But even though girls have been given greater opportunities to go to school, there are still many who do not finish school but instead start working, are married off and become pregnant as children. And the last few years – with the pandemic, economic crisis, war and conflict – have meant a decline in many areas, not least in education. Climate change is also posing an increasing threat to children's education.

Barnfonden's work contributes to more children getting an education. We improve access to different types of education – formal and informal – for children, young people and young adults. These include preschool, compulsory school, further education, practical and vocational education and the education that takes place within the framework of our programme initiatives. It's about learning to read, write and count, but also about what we call life skills. In order to successfully participate in shaping their society, individuals need to develop their ability to solve problems and think critically and creatively to make wise decisions, and to develop self awareness and empathy. Children who grow up in our programme areas should have the best possible conditions to cope with their continued life as adults.

By increasing the knowledge and understanding of the importance of education among families and local populations, we increase the likelihood that children – both boys and girls – will have the opportunity to start school and complete their schooling.

In order for children to thrive and feel safe at school, we work to make schools inclusive and the school environment child-friendly. We train teachers in child-friendly pedagogy. It is also important that the physical environments in which children are educated are safe – especially when they are in areas where the risk of climate and other disasters is higher – and that there is disaster preparedness and clear plans to reduce risks. We work to ensure that knowledge about climate change and how to build both resilient schools and communities is given greater prominence in education.

We know that many girls often feel vulnerable at school and therefore have an extra focus on making school a safe place for them. We equip schools with separate toilets for girls and boys so that everyone can feel more comfortable taking care of their hygiene. We are also working on creating other dedicated spaces for girls, such as separate girls' clubs where girls can exchange experiences and help strengthen each other.

Contributes to UN Global Goals:





THE CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD ON EDUCATION

Children have the right to life, survival and development.

Children with disabilities have the right to a full and decent life and help to actively participate in society.

Children have the right to education. Primary education should be compulsory, free of charge and accessible to everyone.

The school should help the child to develop and teach the child about human rights.

Child-friendly, safer and more resilient schools

Child-friendly and safe school environments are important both in themselves and because they increase the likelihood that children will enjoy school and want to continue instead of dropping out prematurely. In Cambodia, we have renovated schools and school libraries and made them more colorful, bright and ventilated. In addition, we have installed handwashing stations, built separate toilets for boys and girls, and ramps to make it easier for children with physical disabilities. We create a school environment in which the children thrive, feel safe and can develop.

We have worked to give children affected by the long-term conflict in northern Ethiopia a safe school environment to return to. Among other things, we have improved classrooms, created better toilet and hygiene facilities and worked to create a child-friendly and safe environment. The project, which ended in December 2024, focused on 10 schools. At the end of the project, about 86 percent of the children stated that they were happy and felt safe at school. The teachers also feel that there have been positive changes and that it is now a safer, more secure and inclusive environment.



The school environment has been improved in 10 schools in the conflict affected northern parts of Ethiopia. Photo: ChildFund Ethiopia

Improving the quality of education

In our programme areas in Cambodia, we see an increase in the enrolment of children in school, and especially among girls and vulnerable groups. In addition, there has been a significant increase in the number of people enrolled in preschool from 34 to 76 percent. School results have also improved, and there are more people who move on to the next school level and fewer who drop out of school. Through effective training programs, 250 teachers have improved their knowledge of child-friendly methods and inclusion. In general, the quality of teaching and pedagogy has improved.

To foster scientific curiosity and foster a scientific mindset and culture of innovation – and thereby be able to navigate a rapidly changing world more easily – we set up 9 STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) Learning Centers for around 600 students in Gogunda, India. These centers were equipped with Mini Science Labs, STEM libraries, and smart classrooms, which offered hands-on learning opportunities and access to technology-driven education.

Life skills for young people

To improve young people's readiness for work and strengthen their civic engagement, 570 young people in Laikipia and Nyeri in Kenya participated in seminars on effective study techniques, how to create goals, opportunities for green jobs, general life skills and how to deal with peer pressure. They were also given information about reproductive health, family planning, and how to make informed decisions that promote healthy lifestyles, the dangers of drug abuse, and their overall health and well-being.

195 young people aged 15–18 in Dugda in Ethiopia have received training in life skills. The sessions were led by 20 young people who received training through so-called Training of Trainers, where the goal is for the 20 to pass on the knowledge to their peers. The focus was on basic life skills such as decision-making, communication, problem-solving, critical thinking and stress management. The participants in this training in turn carried out training for the members of the schools' youth clubs, focusing on stress management, which can, for example, help girls with menstrual hygiene management.



Youth participating in life skills session in Dugda, Ethiopia. Photo: ChildFund Ethiopia

Strengthened engagement and increased knowledge in the local community

Creating a positive view of school and education among families and in the local community is important to get more children to go to school. Through the training of School Management Committees and Children's Councils, as well as efforts to increase the support and involvement of the local community, the school in our program areas in Cambodia has been strengthened and resources have been more easily mobilized. Through this, we have improved the work of catching students who do not show up for school at an early stage, and we see how the children's councils are significantly more active participants in decision-making regarding school activities now than before.

In Uganda, we have made targeted efforts to ensure that more young children have the opportunity to attend preschool. In the communities of Ibakara and Punena, we have worked to raise awareness among guardians of the value of school and education. In order to be able to give the children food in preschool – which contributes both to them being able to acquire more of the teaching and that more families see the value of preschool – we have also succeeded in getting guardians to jointly donate food and other goods to the preschool. A total of 612 parents and guardians have contributed with goods such as beans, sugar, rice and fuelwood. As a result of these efforts, the number of children attending preschool increased from 120 to 280 during the year. In addition, the number of children who transitioned from preschool to first grade increased from 50 to 80 during the same period.

Targeted support for particularly vulnerable groups

Many children in our program areas come from families with very little financial means where they cannot always afford school supplies, uniforms or school fees. In Kenya, 1,003 students in secondary schools, universities and other higher education institutions received financial support for school fees. The aim was to keep them in school, ensure smooth transitions from one level to the next, ensure that they successfully complete their studies and are well prepared for their future professional life.

"I never imagined that I would experience my own graduation. This is overwhelming given my humble background. I can't thank Pioneer and my sponsor Jennifer enough," explains Daniel, who graduated in tourism management last year.



Daniel from Kenya who has graduated in tourism management. Photo: ChildFund Kenya

In Gogunda, India, we have made it easier for 89 teenage girls from very humble backgrounds to realize their dreams of higher education. The girls received scholarships, mentoring and training in practical skills, along with career counselling, study visits and guidance. Thanks to this effort, we gave girls who otherwise would not have had the opportunity to continue their studies an opportunity to overcome socio-economic barriers and see a brighter future.

In Siltie, Ethiopia, we have distributed school books and school uniforms to a number of selected students with the greatest needs. In Dugda, we have provided 2,725 enrolled children from families with very low incomes with school supplies. These are initiatives that contribute to more children going to school and fewer dropping out.



Children and young people in Siltie, Ethiopia, have received school supplies and school uniforms. Photo: ChildFund Ethiopia





Photo: Jake Lyell

HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

Health and well-being are a central part of our work. Good health is of course something desirable in itself, but good health in childhood also has a strong connection to school results, later livelihoods and opportunities for a safe and good life.

According to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, all children have the right to life, survival and development, as well as to the best possible health, access to health and medical care and to rehabilitation. Traditional practices that are harmful to children's health should be abolished.

The number of deaths among children under the age of five in the world has more than halved over the past 30 years. Yet five million children still die every year, many of them due to diseases that could have been prevented or cured. The most common cause of death for children under the age of five is infectious diseases, diarrhea, and malaria, along with complications of premature birth. A dark cloud in the sky is climate change, which poses a major and direct threat to global health. Access to clean water and nutritious food, the spread of disease, air pollution, mental health – all are affected by the greatest threats of our time.

Barnfonden works to ensure that more children and young people have good physical and mental health. We improve young people's knowledge about sexual and reproductive health and rights and work to ensure that there is a greater focus on this area at youth clinics and in schools. It is also important that families and the local community at large have knowledge in this area and that they act as an important support for young people who are about to become adults. Within the framework of youth clubs, youths can strengthen each other and share knowledge and experiences.

Better access to quality, child-friendly healthcare and relevant health information for children, young people, expectant and new mothers is an important part of our work for better health. We educate families and communities about healthy and sustainable lifestyle habits and make efforts to promote that type of lifestyle.

Through efforts within WASH – water, sanitation and hygiene – we spread knowledge about the importance of good hygiene and ensure that there is a good infrastructure for, for example, clean water in schools and close to households. This type of intervention helps to reduce the emergence and spread of infectious diseases, viruses and bacteria.

We educate children, young people and families in nutrition and how to cook nutritious food. We have regular follow-up of children's growth curves and assist with extra efforts if children show signs of nutritional deficiencies and malnutrition. To increase access to nutritious food, we install nutrient gardens in schools and local communities. In addition, we work for climate-smart and resilient agriculture and for more children to have access to nutritious meals in preschool and school.

We work to improve children's mental health and well-being, something that has become increasingly important in our programme countries as well, not least in connection with the climate crisis and because of how it affects children and young people around the world.

Contributes to UN Global Goals:





THE CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD ON HEALTH

Children have the right to life, survival and development.

Children must be protected from all forms of physical or psychological violence, injury or abuse, neglect or negligent treatment, ill-treatment or exploitation, including sexual abuse.

Children with disabilities have the right to a full and decent life and help to actively participate in society.

Children have the right to the best possible health, access to health care and rehabilitation. Traditional practices that are harmful to children's health should be abolished.

Every child has the right to the standard of living necessary for his or her physical, mental, spiritual, moral and social development.

Clean water for more children is a cornerstone of our work

Clean water is a cornerstone of good health and a central part of our and our partners' efforts. Our local partner Pioneer in Kenya has made great strides in health promotion by distributing safe water solutions. A total of 45 schools have been supported with various solutions that have improved access to clean water and hygiene for over 19,000 children. Regular hand washing has effectively reduced the spread of bacteria and viruses, leading to fewer cases of colds and gastrointestinal diseases – especially important for children's developing immune systems. The intervention also promotes lifelong hygiene habits and encourages healthy behaviours that carry over into adulthood.

"Getting water tanks has been a crucial change for our school. With easy access to water for hand washing, our students have improved their hygiene routines, which has reduced waterborne diseases and created a healthier learning environment."

—Clement, Principal of Mukadamia Comprehensive Schools.



Clean water makes all the difference in the world for students in Kenya.
Photo: Barnfonden

Sexual and reproductive health interventions

Barnfonden's support to ChildFund India has helped them develop a sexual and reproductive health app for young people with the aim of supporting young people, educators, teachers and parents. It is aligned with the public school health programme and has eight modules covering key topics in sexual and reproductive health. The app was introduced to 1,000 young people and has been positively received by users.

In Bolivia, the AIDA backpack is an educational tool that uses gamification as a method to spread knowledge and awareness about sexual and reproductive health, empowering young people to make more informed decisions. The tool covers six key topics selected by youth health professionals. Around 30,000 young people have been given the opportunity to use the AIDA backpack through schools and health centres in Oruro. Adaptable design for both rural and urban areas has ensured access to relevant and practical information even in remote areas.



The Chulbuli app and AIDA backpack contribute to increased knowledge about sexual and reproductive health and rights among young people in our program areas in India and Bolivia.
Photo: ChildFund India and ChildFund Bolivia

School and nutritional gardens provide better health and income

In North Wollo, Ethiopia, six schools received support to start school gardening programmes. These gardens serve as demonstration sites for the community while ensuring that children receive nutritious lunches at school – sometimes their only meal of the day. This also contributes to more children enrolling in schools and reduces the number of early school leavers. In Jaipur and Kotra, India, our local partner has established nutrient gardens for over 600 families that improve food security, provide children with essential nutrition and promote sustainable farming practices.



Newly established school gardens in northern Ethiopia. Photo: ChildFund Ethiopia

The importance of a good start in life: Maternal and child health care

In Gogunda, India, our local partner has established and strengthened 73 mothers' committees, trained and identified 55 mentor mothers, created community-based nutritional rehabilitation centers, and promoted local female leadership. By the end of December 2024, more than 1,500 children had transitioned from severe malnutrition to normal nutritional levels, and 1,000 children had transitioned from moderate malnutrition to normal levels.



Mothers' Committee in Gogunda, India. Photo: ChildFund India

EXAMPLES OF INTERVENTIONS WITHIN HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

In rural Uganda, access to medical facilities is limited due to a lack of hospitals, clinics, and qualified medical personnel. This results in children often having to travel long distances for medical care, and the high cost of transportation and treatment discourages many from seeking help. In addition, a lack of awareness about health contributes to preventable diseases. To address these challenges, our local partner in the Acholi region conducted health education and medical examinations, reaching 1,058



Medical examinations among children and adolescents in the Acholi region. Photo: ChildFund Uganda

children aged 0-18. Guardians were trained in maternal and child health, vaccinations, breastfeeding and family planning. These interventions help them to identify problems with children's health and seek care earlier.

In Masindi, medical examinations were carried out on 3,174 children. While 90% were found to be in good health, sick children were referred to specialized hospitals. A total of 129 children whose parents could not afford medical care received support and were referred.

Increased focus on mental health also in our programme countries

In Gogunda, India, our local partner has trained more than 900 frontline workers in identifying and counseling mental health and psychiatric illnesses, and they have subsequently reached out to many families in need of support and knowledge on how to seek care for their problems.

One of those who received help expressed himself like this:

"For the first time, someone listened to me without judging. I felt a burden lifted from my shoulders. Now I understand that it's okay to ask for help. Mental health is just as important as physical health..."

Response to measles outbreak in Dugda

Our local partner in Dugda, Ethiopia, together with the local government and the authorities, fought a measles outbreak that posed a major threat, not least to the children in the area. The intervention had a strong focus on children under the age of five. 5,650 children were vaccinated, and a number of knowledge-raising sessions were arranged in connection with, for example, local market days and other events to reach as many people as possible. It also provided medical equipment to health facilities and trained 169 community health promoters. 171 guardians were trained in how to counteract the spread of infectious diseases – knowledge that they can then pass on to other families in the area.



SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOOD

To give children a secure upbringing and the opportunity for a better future, we need to ensure that the family they grow up in and the entire surrounding society have as sustainable, long-term and resilient a livelihood as possible. By resilient supply, we mean the ability to cope with different types of shocks, disasters and other types of unforeseen, rapid changes.

According to the Convention on the Rights of the Child, all children have the right to development, social security, a reasonable standard of living – housing, clothing, food – and to be protected against economic exploitation and against work that is harmful. All of this is linked to the ability of families and communities to make a secure living.

Climate change is a major threat to a stable livelihood. Both directly, through destroyed crops and farmland, droughts, floods, people who are forced to flee, and indirectly, through children and young people missing out on education and thus their chances of a stable livelihood when they become adults.

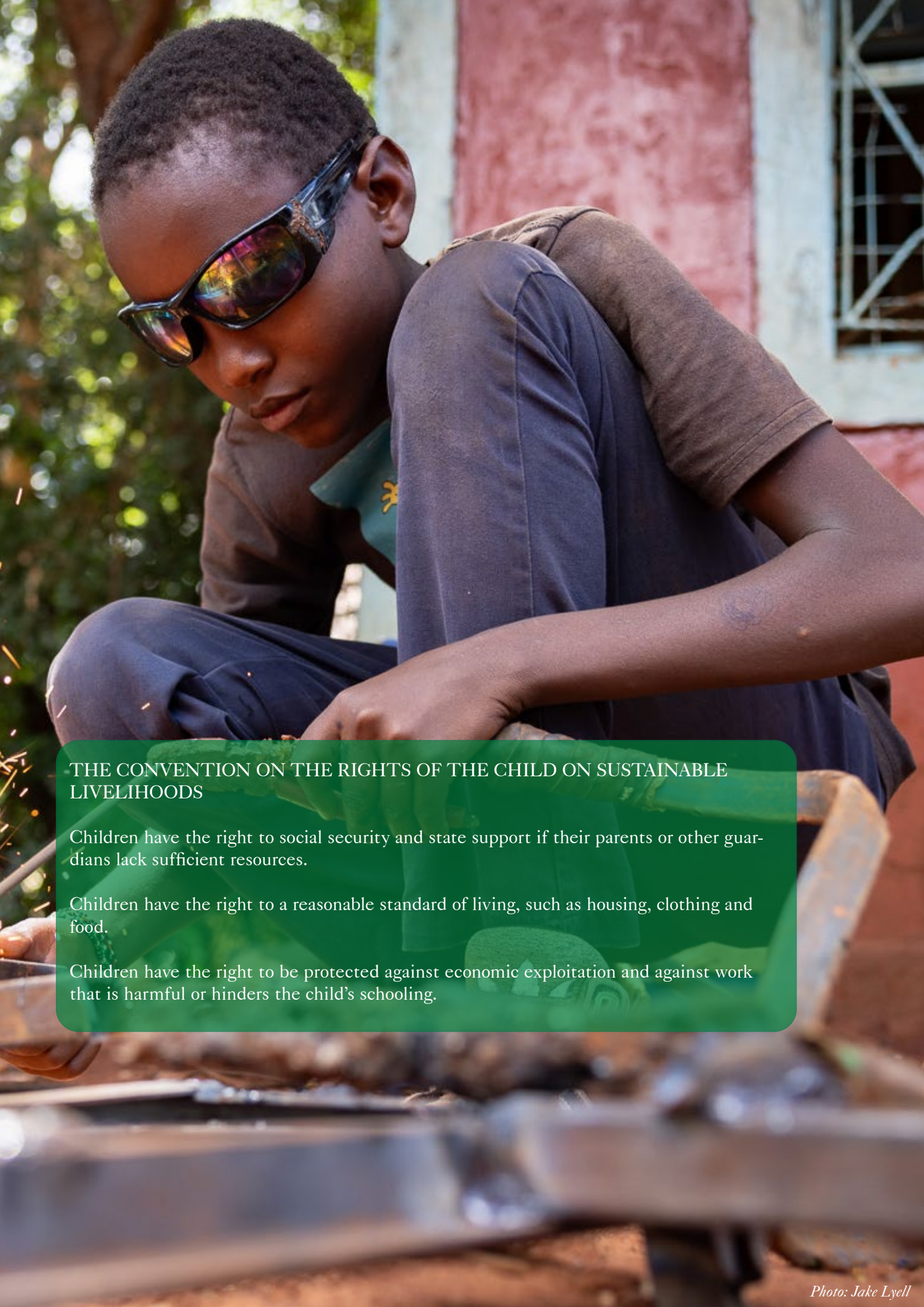
Natural disasters or other types of disasters and conflicts can have devastating effects on families who are already living in vulnerability, not least if there are no saved funds. The consequences for children can be fatal – hunger, homelessness and an increased risk of being exposed to violence and abuse. For children, young people, families and local communities to have a greater understanding of the link between climate change and sustainable livelihoods, we work with knowledge building in this area. We have a strong focus on capacity and competence building for resilient and sustainable supply. For example, we work for better access to and knowledge of climate-smart farming and cultivation techniques.

We improve the opportunities for young people to earn a safe and secure living. We increase their knowledge of what rights they have in working life and as employees. By strengthening young people's technical and professional skills and understanding of livelihood in general, we contribute to them having better opportunities to find jobs where they are not exploited but instead have good working conditions. Other initiatives may involve strengthening the local community's capacity in employment services for young people.

We strengthen opportunities for young people and families to build up their assets, for example through savings, so that they have a larger buffer when the unexpected happens. At a higher level, we work with advocacy, advocating for climate-focused, evidence-based policy change and showcasing project results and innovative methods to achieve sustainable and climate-related improvement of supply systems. We also shape opinion for climate action, climate justice and improved access to climate education at a global level and in Sweden.

Contributes to UN Global Goals:





THE CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD ON SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOODS

Children have the right to social security and state support if their parents or other guardians lack sufficient resources.

Children have the right to a reasonable standard of living, such as housing, clothing and food.

Children have the right to be protected against economic exploitation and against work that is harmful or hinders the child's schooling.

More stable income for guardians with young children

In Siltie, Ethiopia, we support the guardians of young children by helping them to earn a stable income. An important initiative is beekeeping, where they receive training and resources to earn money. Last year, guardians participated in honey production and harvesting, and the proceeds were deposited in a joint cooperative bank account. The profits are used to provide loans, with priority given to those who have children under the age of five in the household. This financial support helps guardians cover basic needs and create long-term stability. Through such initiatives, we strengthen families, improve livelihoods and help promote community development. Our local partner has also distributed 1,500 avocado plants to selected families. Fruit-bearing trees provide both income opportunities and nutritious food for the children.



Beekeeping, honey production and distribution of avocado seedlings provide more stable incomes and better health in Siltie, Ethiopia. Photo: ChildFund Ethiopia

Better resilience through increased productivity

In Dugda, Ethiopia, the final evaluation of one of our interventions showed that small-scale farmers had increased their productivity by 87% and that food insecurity among the households concerned had decreased significantly, from 45% of respondents who were food insecure to 21% who claimed that they did not have sufficient access to nutritious food. A large proportion of the project participants reported that they are now better prepared for climate change and environmental risks to their livelihoods. In another project in the same area, 300 households developed disaster risk reduction plans at household level. Fifty percent of target households are now engaging in new or alternative forms of income generation to diversify their incomes. Fifty percent practice saving regularly, while the remaining 50 percent sometimes manage to save.



Increased productivity and a more secure food supply are effects of our efforts in Dugda, Ethiopia. Photo: ChildFund Ethiopia

Improved agriculture and more efficient water management through SPOWDI in Kenya

The SPOWDI trial, introduced and funded by Barnfonden, was initiated in Kenya and aims to eventually give 10,000 farmers across Africa access to solar-powered drip irrigation systems for improved agriculture and more efficient water management. The system is designed to help farmers get the most out of their land and ensure that crops receive exactly the amount of water they need to thrive.

”With the introduction of the Spowdi system, farmers can expect improved water efficiency, cost savings, increased yields and skills development through the training that Pioneer will provide,” says John Kingori from the Pioneer Child Development Programme, Barnfonden’s local partner in Laikipia and Nyeri.



The SPOWDI initiative provides more efficient agriculture in Kenya. Photo: Barnfonden

Initiatives to generate income and promote sustainability

In Bolivia, we have promoted access to seed capital through traditional, non-bank forms of lending through an initiative that supports sustainable businesses for young people between the ages of 18 and 24 and guardians under the age of 30. The initiative combines theoretical and technical training in production and business management, with a focus on administration, strategic planning and business development. The process was carried out in several stages, with 61 participants in the start-up phase, of which 30 went on to do an in-depth education in entrepreneurship. In 2025, 10 selected participants will receive interest-free, revolving loans to develop their businesses, enabling a continued funding cycle for future entrepreneurs. The initiative aims to generate income while promoting sustainability in the fields of environment, culture, arts and innovation. By prioritising women’s participation (53 out of 61 participants were women), it strengthens their economic, social and personal autonomy.



To the left: Ibeth, 18, is one of the participants in the project in Bolivia. Here she is selling her product at a local fair. To the right: Flora, 30, a mother, is testing sales techniques to market her product. Photo: ChildFund Bolivia

Savings, loans and entrepreneurship training provide security

In Kyankwanzi District, Uganda, 1,127 caregivers (346 men, 781 women) from 47 groups actively participated in the Village Savings and Loan Association’s activities, such as saving and borrowing. The group’s portfolio grew from \$50,616 in 2023 to \$64,287 in December 2024. Through VSLA, parents were able to borrow money to deal with health crises, pay school fees, and meet other basic needs necessary for their children’s development.

PROTECTION AND RESILIENCE

Children's right to safety and protection is a fundamental part of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and a central part of Barnfonden's work. Many children in the world still live insecure lives in great vulnerability where violence in various forms is part of everyday life. This is despite the fact that the Convention on the Rights of the Child, which virtually all countries in the world have signed, states that children have the right to life, survival and development and that children must be protected against all forms of physical or psychological violence, injury or abuse, neglect or negligent treatment, abuse or exploitation, including sexual abuse. The threat to children's safety, security and future is also increasing due to climate change.

We work to give children and young people in our programme areas more security and better protection against different types of risks and threats they or the society they live in face. Individuals and local communities must become more resilient, not least in relation to the negative consequences of climate change.

To stop violence and exploitation of children, we must work at all levels. In order to bring about change, children must know their rights and be part of the development themselves. We work to increase knowledge and awareness among children, young people, families and local communities about children's rights and about the importance of creating resilience in society, so that it can more easily handle different types of crises and disasters. We build capacity around these issues in the local community, with our local partners and protection officers in different contexts (schools, health and medical care, and so on). At a higher level, we work to ensure that laws regarding children's rights and child protection are complied with and strengthened.

Together with children, young people and guardians, we increase knowledge about how to build positive, responsive and empathetic relationships. We strive for children and young people to feel valuable, needed and appreciated, and for their self-esteem and experience of life meaning to be as strong as possible.

We work to ensure that children and young people are protected from exploitation and abusive treatment in both the physical and digital world. It should be easier for them to get help from various agencies in the local community in matters related to child protection, and the general protection mechanisms against abuse and exploitation should be improved.

We support the development of Disaster Risk Reduction Plans (DRRs) to help individuals, families, and communities better anticipate, prepare for, and respond to different types of disasters and the adverse impacts of climate change. We are working to ensure that there are more forums for dialogue on child rights and child protection linked to disaster risk reduction plans and climate change within various authorities and governing bodies. We advocate and support the development of policies that help reduce the negative impacts of climate change, with a particular focus on the vulnerability of children. We also contribute to facilitating the introduction of more climate-smart technology in society.

Contributes to UN Global Goals:

5 GENDER
EQUALITY



8 DECENT WORK AND
ECONOMIC GROWTH



16 PEACE, JUSTICE
AND STRONG
INSTITUTIONS



A photograph of a field of young cabbage plants. The plants have large, green, slightly ruffled leaves and thick, light-colored stalks. They are planted in rows in dark brown, rich soil. The background shows more plants and some dry leaves on the ground.

THE CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD ON THE PROTECTION AND SAFETY OF THE CHILD

Children have the right to life, survival and development.

Children must be protected from all forms of physical or psychological violence, injury or abuse, neglect or negligent treatment, ill-treatment or exploitation, including sexual abuse.

Children must be protected from all forms of sexual exploitation and abuse.

Children have the right to protection against economic exploitation and from performing work that may be harmful or hinder the child's education or have an adverse effect on the child's health or physical, mental, spiritual, moral or social development.

States Parties undertake to respect and ensure respect for rules of international humanitarian law applicable to them in armed conflict and relevant to the child.

Community-based child protection systems: detect, report, follow up

We strengthen community-based child protection systems and ensure that clear structures are in place to monitor, detect, report and follow up on various child protection incidents. Cooperation between different actors in the local community is important to make it work.

In Dugda in Ethiopia, we have worked to strengthen community-based systems for the protection of children in seven villages. During the year, 30 people from each village participated in training on child protection and on mechanisms for monitoring, detecting, reporting and following up on this with the aim of preventing and reducing the incidence of violence against children. Clear improvements in child welfare have been observed thanks to the work carried out under the leadership of the Child Welfare Committee in recent years.



The Child Rights Committee in Dugda, Ethiopia, raises awareness and knowledge about child protection among families and other stakeholders in the area. Photo: ChildFund Ethiopia

In Siltie in Ethiopia, there are major threats to the safety of children and young people in the form of a high incidence of child labour, widespread economic migration to the Arab world, kidnappings and gender-based violence. To address these challenges, we have established Community-Based Child Protection Mechanisms (CBCPMs) in partnership with local authorities and with representatives from different parts of the community, such as religious leaders, administrators, police and child and youth representatives. We also organized training sessions for community-based child well-being committees and government representatives. These sessions focused on child labour, child trafficking and on more general child protection issues with a strong emphasis on the importance of respecting children's rights at all levels.



Training on child labor and trafficking in Siltie, Ethiopia. Photo: ChildFund Ethiopia

EXAMPLES OF INTERVENTIONS WITHIN PROTECTION AND RESILIENCE

Through collaboration between health centres, schools, young people and local councils, an initiative for children's safety and security in Oruro, Bolivia, has affected over 20,000 people. Through a participatory analysis, risks were identified, and an annual action plan was created with workshops, fairs and collaborations with the police and other violence response units. In 2024, cooperation with the formal protection and security systems was expanded and successfully referred cases of child neglect and domestic violence to these formal bodies. Joint efforts and cooperation with institutions create safer environments for children.



From one of the activities to create stronger protection for children in Oruro, Bolivia. Photo: ChildFund Bolivia

Education of young people for knowledge of children's rights

In Gogunda in India, we have built up groups of children and young people and trained the participants in child welfare issues, how to report when someone is being harmed and what the system itself looks like with different contact points in case management. For children between the ages of 9 and 13, we have initiated a Sports for Protection program with the aim of both increasing children's knowledge of child protection and through sports building different kinds of life skills in the children. We have also established 42 so-called Village Level Child Protection Committees and worked to strengthen their capacity regarding child protection issues in the local community.

In Cambodia, we have educated children and young people about their rights and about issues related to child protection and online safety, increasing their awareness and knowledge of strategies to protect themselves. An important aspect of this initiative has been to provide children with a platform to express their concerns and participate in decision-making processes related to the protection of children, thus strengthening their role and influence in protecting their own well-being.

Raising awareness in the local community

In Udaipur, India, we have carried out an awareness campaign about child protection, child marriage and harmful traditional practices in several of the area's villages with the aim of increasing local people's knowledge of the negative consequences of child marriage and the importance of protecting children and giving them a safe upbringing. We have encouraged families to invest in their daughters' education and highlighted education as a crucial path to empowerment and social development. By using culturally relevant methods, we have managed to convey sensitive messages in an effective way. This also promotes inclusion and encourages active participation in society. In several of the villages, they are now working in a more focused way on these issues and different actors are taking increased joint responsibility for the children's situation, for example by acting more quickly and effectively when children are absent from school. There is an extra focus on particularly vulnerable children.

Strengthened adaptability and resilience

At six schools in Cambodia, we conducted consultations with the schools' disaster management committees and children's councils to identify priorities for disaster risk reduction, climate change adaptation, and environmental protection. Fifteen priorities were identified with the support of local councils in three communities. Youth-led mini-projects are now being implemented, and the work shows the power of young leaders in tackling climate challenges and driving change in their communities.



Youth are driving climate action in our program areas in Cambodia.
Photo: ChildFund Cambodia

In 2024, the preparedness and response capacity of 41 schools in Oruro, Bolivia, was strengthened to reduce environmental and climate risks and ensure safer, more resilient school environments. The operation was carried out in cooperation with strategic partners such as the Regional Directorate of Education, the fire brigade and civil society organisations. All teachers in the schools concerned participated in training sessions that included risk management, evacuation drills and first aid. When the training was completed and the schools' own contingency plans were presented, the schools were provided with the necessary equipment such as fire extinguishers, emergency rescue backpacks, first aid kits and clear signage for increased safety.

A total of 18,968 pupils, teachers and administrative staff benefited directly, and families and communities were also positively impacted by a strengthened culture of prevention and shared responsibility. The model from Oruro is now being highlighted as an example for other municipalities that want to work sustainably with risk management in schools.



First aid kits and evacuation drills in Oruro, Bolivia.
Photo: ChildFund Bolivia



VOICE, PARTICIPATION, AND INFLUENCE

Today's children and young people are the ones who will grow up in the world that today's generation leaves behind. In many ways, a better world than a few decades ago, but also a world marked by climate change, perhaps humanity's greatest challenge ever, and deep and serious conflicts. Our children will have to deal with the consequences of our inability to live sustainably and act in time.

For Barnfonden, it is a given that children and young people should have the right to express themselves and participate in discussions and decision-making on issues that affect them and their future. Children's right to freedom of expression and to be listened to and respected are also written into the Convention on the Rights of the Child, which virtually all countries in the world have signed.

Too often, children and young people are excluded from conversations about their lives and their future. This exclusion stems from a mistaken belief that their ideas are of no value. But history and experience prove the opposite. Many of the most transformative movements of our time have been initiated by children and young people – not only global movements such as Fridays for Future, but also smaller, local initiatives with a big impact. Think of rural communities where children have revived polluted waterways, turned desolate schoolyards into shady, welcoming places, or successfully advocated for inclusive education that includes students with disabilities. When children are given the opportunity to dream, plan and advocate for change, their ideas inspire action and inspire others. These young leaders are not only reshaping their communities today but are also preparing to be the changemakers of tomorrow.

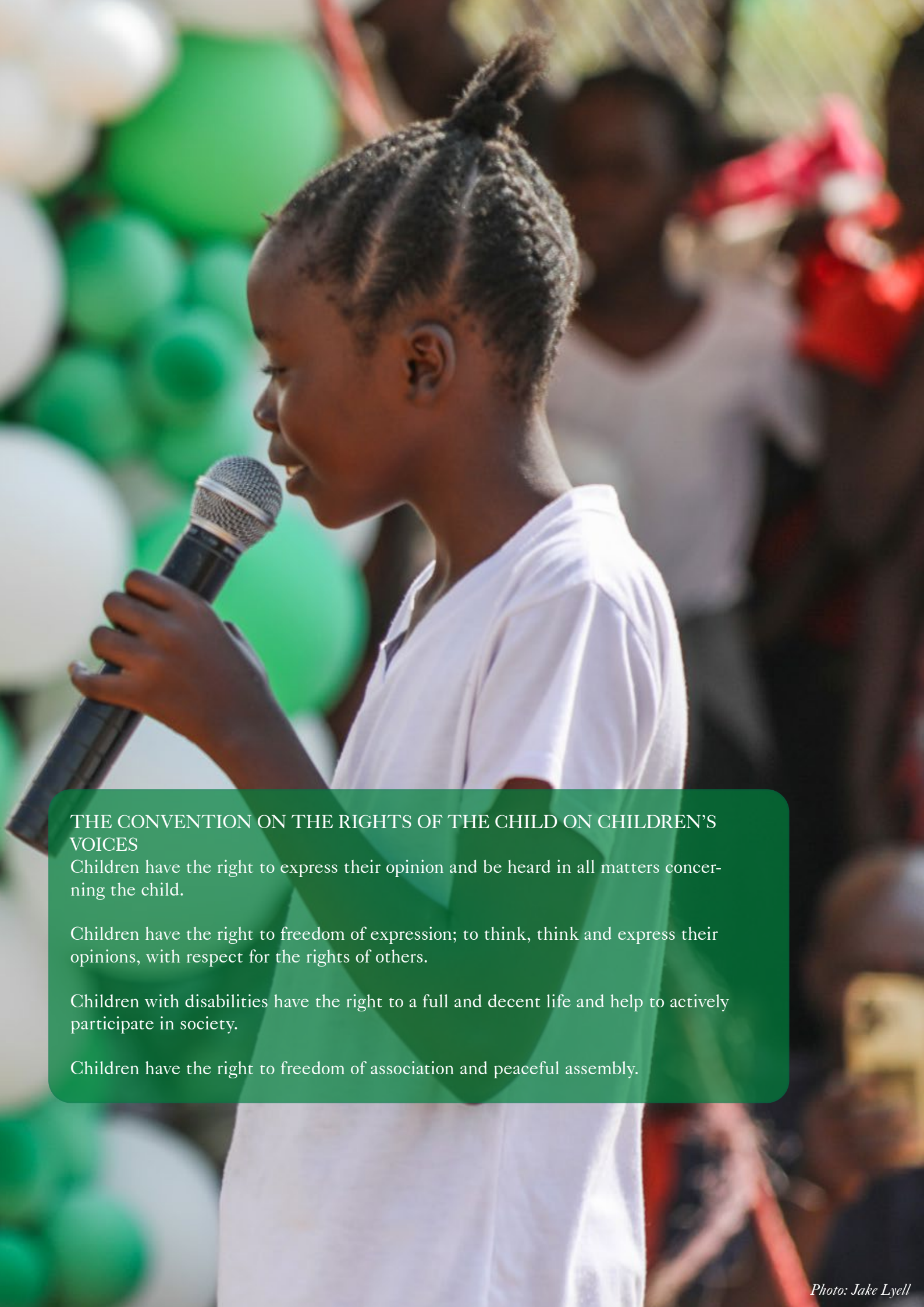
Barnfonden works to ensure that all children have the opportunity to actively participate in decision-making in their communities. And that they should feel safe to express themselves, take up space and influence. Our goal is for children and young people to be confident and involved.

We work to develop children's and young people's social and emotional skills. When their self-esteem and ability to interact with others – children and adults – are strengthened, they have a greater opportunity to take up space and influence both their own lives and society at large. They can then also contribute to sustainable solutions to the climate issue, both in the local community and at a higher level. It is partly about learning and daring to express oneself, partly about having the ability and willingness to listen to others and respect different opinions and standpoints.

Strengthened self-esteem and active participation is a two-way process – they affect each other in both directions. Our efforts are also about influencing society so that it allows children and young people to take their place and understand the value of it. Our goal is for more people to actively participate in (or even lead) decision-making and change processes, whether at home, school or the local community at large. One way into this can be volunteering, being a mentor or participating in networks and events, as well as participating in various decision-making processes. We also work to improve access to various platforms for children and young people where they can express themselves, participate and be treated as important participants in society.

Contributes to UN Global Goals:





THE CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD ON CHILDREN'S VOICES

Children have the right to express their opinion and be heard in all matters concerning the child.

Children have the right to freedom of expression; to think, think and express their opinions, with respect for the rights of others.

Children with disabilities have the right to a full and decent life and help to actively participate in society.

Children have the right to freedom of association and peaceful assembly.

Being the Change in Bolivia

"Being the Change" is a social initiative that provides young people with training to identify societal problems and funding to implement solutions. The aim is to promote active participation and social impact through student-led projects. In 2024, the initiative was implemented in 44 schools in Oruro, where a training cycle resulted in 24 social projects. These addressed digital violence, gender stereotypes, inclusion, leadership, mental health, and environmental protection. The projects benefited 12,279 young people and impacted society through changing norms and improving social conditions.



"(...) What I liked most about the projects was the support and confidence they gave us to discover our abilities."

—Celeste, student council president, 17 years old.

To the left: Alison, 17, a student leader and participant in the Being the Change initiative.

To the right: Celeste, president of the student council.

Photo: ChildFund Bolivia

Vote and participate in Bangladesh for a better climate

Yes4Eco in Bangladesh is a perfect example of voice, participation, and advocacy. Despite the unrest in Bangladesh in 2024, the six Yes4Eco clubs in Shariatpur and Barguna, with the support of Barnfonden's local partners and with 2,580 young people, have yielded several exciting results.

The project has carried out awareness campaigns on climate and environmental issues in six villages and ten educational institutions, as well as through theatre performances on PVA TV and social media. Five tree planting events were organised, where participants received training in waste management, organic fertiliser production and energy-efficient stoves. During the heat wave in summer 2024, events were held on heat management.

Eleven environmental videos on plastic reduction, deforestation, water protection and other topics were produced and received 15,000 views. Two youth conferences on environmental issues brought together 180 participants, including authorities, media and teachers. Members of the Yes4Eco Club worked on six projects, such as repairing roads, installing solar cells and building toilets.

The six clubs carried out environmental assessments and risk plans, validated by local committees. Action plans are now being implemented to develop environmentally friendly model villages.



Photo: ChildFund India

Everyone has a role to play in the climate transition

Our local partner in Nyeri, Kenya, made it easier for children with different disabilities to participate in the Day of African Child held at DEB Muslim Primary School in Nyeri city. The day is celebrated annually to highlight children's often difficult situation and vulnerability and aims to build a culture that prevents violence against children. During the day, the importance of inclusive education and sustainable climate action was highlighted. Children and young people's engagement in the climate issue was identified as the key to building long-term and sustainable resilience. Through the presence of television, messages also gained national distribution. The theme of the day was "Education for all children in Africa: The time is now!". We focused on the need for inclusive climate education for all and emphasised that all children and young people – regardless of their circumstances – have a role to play in the climate transition.



*The Day of the African Child highlighted the importance of inclusion and the equal value of all people.
Photo: ChildFund Kenya*

Youth projects in Cambodia

In July 2022, in collaboration with Cambodia's Rural Development Team, we launched a youth-led project in the Chetr Borei district to strengthen young people's social and emotional skills as well as their participation in decision-making. 80 young people between the ages of 14 and 24 participated, and local youth groups with leaders were formed. The city council and local leaders worked together to ensure fair elections. The project has provided training in life skills, leadership, inclusion and investment planning. The young people participated in meetings with authorities and consultations to identify community needs. Their self-confidence and decision-making skills were strengthened, which increased their involvement and influence. With support from authorities and parents, the project has contributed to strengthening young people's participation and freedom of expression.



*Sodany is one of the participants in the youth-led project in Kratie, Cambodia. Here in an activity where they learn more about leadership
Photo: ChildFund Cambodia*

"My involvement in the youth-led social and emotional learning project has not only benefited me, but also my team members, other community members and authorities. I am proud to participate in social activities and participate in the role of leading a youth group. The project helps me identify future goals and how to work with the youth group. It is good work experience and I continue to strengthen my capacity through the training I have received.

–Sodany, one of the participants in the project



Humanitarian work 2024

Bridging crises and building resilience

When working in humanitarian contexts, it is important not only to respond to acute emergencies, but also to work with long-term development, climate action and peace-building. We must therefore both address the root causes of vulnerability and, at the same time, meet the urgent needs of people, and children in particular. Such an approach encourages cooperation between different areas of expertise to ensure that communities move from emergency relief to long-term recovery and development without interruption of assistance. It is about coordinating short-term help with long-term solutions so that people do not fall back into crisis when the immediate help stops. By working together, this approach addresses interconnected challenges such as poverty, climate change, and conflict, helping communities recover, adapt, and build a better future.

How we support

In all humanitarian efforts, Barnfonden focuses on the children. This means prioritising their protection, their education, and their physical and mental health during crises and recovery, while helping to build resilience. We are also aware of the impact that conflict, climate change and environmental degradation have on the ability to find sustainable solutions. Our work is tailored to meet the unique needs of children, including children living with disabilities as they are particularly vulnerable during a crisis and to the effects of climate change.

Member of CHS

Barnfonden is a proud member of the Core Humanitarian Standard Alliance. The Core Humanitarian Standard on Quality and Accountability (CHS) is a voluntary code that describes the essential elements of principled, responsible and qualitative humanitarian action. The standard is a measurable and verifiable standard for improving aid.

Emergency response

As a member of the ChildFund Alliance, Barnfonden supports emergency efforts by mobilizing resources and working closely with our humanitarian partners. In 2024, we supported emergency response implemented by WeWorld, one of our key partners in emergencies, reaching nearly 823,000 people in multiple regions. In 2024, Barnfonden allocated over SEK 697,000 to emergency interventions. This funding ensured immediate relief while being consistent with our long-term commitment to child protection, education and resilience in crisis regions.

Palestine

In the first year of the humanitarian crisis in Gaza (October 23–September 24), WeWorld staff and daily workers were able to reach over 383,819 children (198,306 girls and 185,512 boys). 7,200 families gained increased knowledge about hygiene, and 46,000 families received non-food (soap, diapers, sanitary towels, hygiene kits). 7,000 families were provided with food parcels. 15,000 families had access to sanitation facilities. We have worked actively to secure access to clean water through water deliveries and repairs of existing infrastructure. During that period, we gave 530,000 people access to drinking water and water to wash in. The people of Gaza have faced total devastation. In the first year, more than 40 000 people have been killed (70 percent of them women and children), more than 100 000 are missing and 93 000 have been injured. Our emergency response in Gaza will continue in 2025.



*From our emergency response in Gaza.
Photo: WeWorld*

Lebanon

On September 23, 2024, the conflict between Israel and Hezbollah escalated, resulting in high death rates and many people forced to flee. Our support focused on internally displaced persons (IDPs) who took shelter in schools, with deliverance of food, water, mattresses, and hygiene kits. We facilitated water distribution and water system repairs in five civil defence shelters and distributed hygiene materials to seven schools. In addition, a cash-for-work program was launched that provided meals to 875 displaced individuals and delivered 3,000 meals daily in Beirut.

Ukraine

Barnfonden, through its partnership with WeWorld and ChildFund Germany, has supported humanitarian efforts in eight areas of Ukraine. In 2024 alone, relief efforts reached 176,531 people, with a strong focus on the most vulnerable – women, children, the elderly and people with disabilities. This includes 35,306 children, who, thanks to our generous donors, have received food, shelter, medicine and essential supplies.



*From our emergency response in Ukraine
Photo: WeWorld*

WATER ACT



Partners, funding, delimitations and obstacles

Our work through local partners

Barnfonden collaborates with local partners, and they are the ones who carry out various initiatives on site. All local partners are fully independent, but Barnfonden plays an important role in evaluating their financial, social and environmental policies and practices, and in reviewing internal and external reports to ensure that specific quality standards are met. This 2024 Annual Report has been compiled using information from face-to-face meetings with staff and participants (including children and their families), project visits, baseline surveys, half-year and audited annual reports, as well as mid-and-or final reports where changes are planned for and tracked.

In 2024, we collaborated with:

- 10 ChildFund Alliance partners.
- 30 local partners (see next page for whom).
- 1,432,222 families and children who in some ways have been recipients of Barnfonden's support, but also crucial for the implementation, long-term and ownership of the activities.

Local partners, financiers and strategic relations

We value our local partners and work closely with many of them. In our anonymous partnership survey 2024 for those we work with in specific projects, we have received very positive reviews. Read more about this survey on page 56.

In 2024, Barnfonden worked primarily with the following organisations:

India: ChildFund India, Mahan Sewa Sansthan, Centre For Community Economics and Development Consultants Society, Jatan Sansthan

Ethiopia: ChildFund Ethiopia, Dudga Children and Family Charitable Organisation, Aynage Child and Family Development Organisation

Kenya: ChildFund Kenya, Pioneer Child Development Agency, Emali Dedicated Children's Agency, WeWorld Kenya, Action for Sustainability Initiative, the youth-based organisations Organisation of African Youth, Stretchers Youth, Kenya Climate Innovation Centre

Cambodia: ChildFund Cambodia, Khmer NGO for Education

Bolivia: ChildFund Bolivia, Estrella del sur

Uganda: ChildFund Uganda, Acholi Child and Family Programme, Community Efforts for Child Empowerment, Masindi Child Development Federation

Bangladesh: EDUCO Bangladesh, Nazrul Smriti Sangsad, Shariatpur Development Society

Mali: EDUCO Mali

Indonesia: ChildFund Indonesia, Yayasan Pengkajian dan Pengembangan Sosial East Flores

Ukraine och Moldavia: WeWorld

Palestine och Lebanon: WeWorld

Barnfonden also contributes to the work of 11 other country offices and their local partners through support to ChildFund International.

Barnfonden's donors

We are very grateful to our donors. Below you can see who they are and what projects they support. You can find more information about the projects under the section Our work 2024.

European Union

- Sikiliza sauti yetu: Dunia inaita! Supporting youth-centred civil society and community engagement in climate action in Kenya (Barnfonden is a co-applicant with WeWorld Kenya)

Sida through ForumCiv

- Pamoja: Collective Action on Climate Change

Radiohjälpen

- Access to safe education for children affected by the humanitarian crisis in Bandiagara and Mopti, Mali (Genom insamlingen Världens Barn)
- Securing Environmental and Child-friendly Understandings by Strengthening Rights-based Empowerment (SECURE), Dugda, Ethiopia (Genom insamlingen Världens Barn)
- The Ukraine-Moldova Cross Border Project (Genom insamlingen Världens Barn)
- Community-Integrated Response to Child Labour in Ethiopia, Dugda, (CIRCLED) (Genom insamlingen Musikhjälpen)
- Protection and Education in Emergency and Recovery (PEER) project in Raya Kobo Woreda, North Wollo, Ethiopia (Genom insamlingen Musikhjälpen)

Svenska Postkodstiftelsen (Swedish Postcode Lottery Foundation)

- Youth Environmental Stewardship for Eco-Friendly Communities (YES4ECO)

Water for All

- School Water Project

Other strategic relationships we have fostered:

Solvatten, Emerging Cooking Solutions, Spowdi, Lunds universitet.

Geographical scope:

In 2024, Barnfonden supported work in 24 countries: Bolivia, Ethiopia, India, Cambodia, Kenya, Uganda, Bangladesh, Ukraine, Moldova, Mali, Indonesia, Brazil, Ecuador, the Philippines, Gambia, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Senegal, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Zambia, Palestine and Lebanon. Approximately 96 per cent of our funds from sponsorships are directed to the first six countries mentioned above – and in these countries mainly to specific areas where we have concentrated our sponsorships. Countries and areas that also in some cases receive additional project support through our programme interventions. In the four countries mentioned next – Bangladesh, Ukraine, Moldova, Mali – we have also had projects of considerable size. This report focuses mainly on the work in these eight countries. In the other countries mentioned, our funding is a small contribution to much larger work.

Thematic scope

Thematic reach is measured as the percentage of efforts within a project that contributes to one of our five specific focus themes. In 2024, we calculated thematic reach by aggregating the percentage contributions from both grant-funded projects and sponsor-funded programmes for each of the five themes. In previous years, we only measured thematic reach based on grant-funded projects. We believe that the incorporation

of sponsor-funded programs provides a more comprehensive picture of the impact of our work.

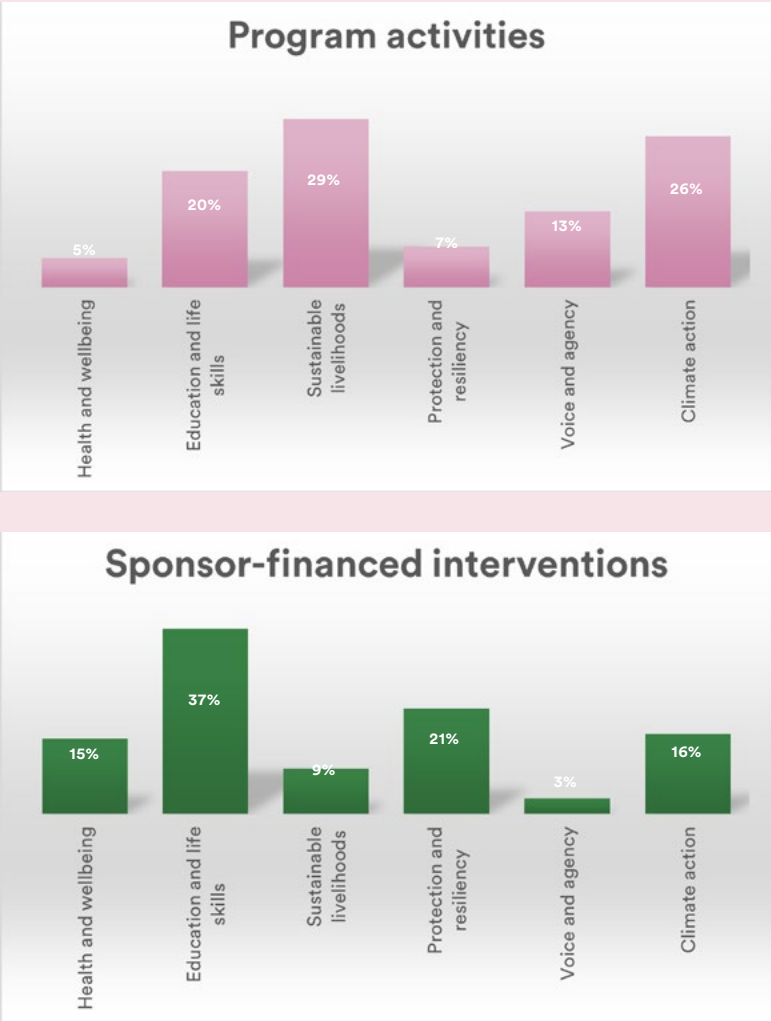
The chart below shows the proportion of the initiatives allocated to each theme in 2024, based on contributions from our project and sponsor partners. This year, we also monitored climate action separately, even though these are not one of our five core themes. This additional measurement allows us to better understand the extent to which our efforts contribute to climate action.

It is important to note that the chart focuses only on our five thematic areas and climate action. However, our work extends beyond these categories to include contributions in areas such as partner empowerment and initiatives tailored to local partners’ strategies and priorities, which may not fall within the defined themes.

From this year’s data, it is clear that the largest thematic contribution came from our sponsorship work. Education and life skills accounted for the highest share (37 percent), followed by protection and resilience (21 percent) and health and well-being (15 percent). However, grant-funded projects had a higher share of grants in the areas of sustainable livelihoods, voice and participation, and climate action. This trend can be attributed to the nature of grant-funded projects, which are often more focused on these three themes. In addition, not all sponsoring partners have been directly involved in climate action or voting and participation initiatives through their sponsorship grants, which may explain the lower percentages in these areas.

Our approach to thematic areas is based on many years of experience and knowledge gained both within Barnfonden and through collaboration with various international networks and organisations. We use evidence-based and experience-driven frameworks and guidelines that provide best practices to achieve impactful results. Some of the key organisations and networks with which we work closely are the ChildFund Alliance, Joining Forces and the Core Humanitarian Standard Alliance.

Proportion of our project activities within each thematic focus area



Boundaries

The reporting in this document is as consistent as we can make it, given the large number of projects that we can have in a programme area at the same time. We record participation in an activity as one person, but that person may also be involved in another activity under the same theme, or an activity under a different theme (for example, they may participate in two health activities and one educational activity). Because of this, when we combine all the activities we do and the number we reach, we can assume that some of the numbers count twice (one person as two). Therefore, we prefer to look at thematic reach (reach in our thematic activities) in a different way than our overall reach.

Our largest funding grants are channelled to ChildFund's various country offices overseen by ChildFund International. Due to a change of reporting system at ChildFund International and a difference between our reporting year and their reporting year, some information – such as global survey data – could not be retrieved from their database. Information on the work carried out within the sponsorship programmes has been taken from annual reports from country offices and local partners.

Temporary obstacles

In many of the communities we support and work in, "getting the job done" is not an easy task. Here we list some limitations that our local partners experienced in 2024.

Wildlife encounters: In September–October 2024, leopard attacks in Udaipur, India, forced villagers indoors, closed schools, and halted Barnfonden's local partner activities. Similar disturbances with elephants and lions have occurred in other communities that Barnfonden supports. As deforestation and food shortages worsen, such incidents may increase. Sadly, several lives were lost before the leopard was killed.

Roadblocks: Our partner community in Bolivia, Oruro, experienced a politically tense environment marked by social mobilizations, blockades and protests that affected more than 20 national roads in October. National protests by Gen Z (youth) against the Kenyan government's finance bill in June and July 2024 also significantly impacted program delivery in Kenya. Events like these hinder access to project areas and delay project delivery.

Storms: In Kenya, 70% of schools in Nyeri and Laikipia districts were unable to reopen in time after the April holidays due to the flooding in the sanitation area as most latrines were full of water and therefore inaccessible to students. Our partner, Pioneer, had to redirect planned activities to help renovate the schools so that the children could return. Several other of our project areas were affected by climate events such as cyclones, hail and storms that destroyed roads and infrastructure.

Navigating conflict areas: Local partners have experience delivering assistance in challenging environments, but there are times when the risks become too great, requiring a temporary pause until conditions improve. In 2024, outbreaks of conflict in parts of Ethiopia and Mali created significant challenges that prevented Barnfonden's local partners from gaining access to project areas. However, the intensity of the conflict in Palestine poses an unprecedented level of danger to those who deliver aid. We deeply appreciate the commitment of our local partners, who confront daily dangers to support children and families living in some of the world's most devastating crises.

Corruption and theft: Despite having many protocols in place to protect against corruption, it would be naïve to think that our projects are immune to crime. We were the victims of thefts in a project that Barnfonden supported this year. Biscuits intended for schoolchildren were stolen in Ethiopia. The commitment of the staff and the community to ensure that the children did not miss out led to negotiations with the perpetrators that led to the return of the cookies. As a result, extra safety measures and investments were made in the school garden so that food could be grown on site.

Our theory of change

Barnfonden's mission is to work with children to create sustainable solutions that protect and strengthen their rights and well-being. We do this through partnerships with local organisations where we find the best ways to both support and empower them and contribute to their important work. We work holistically, which means that we focus on several of the areas that affect a child's life (their education, health, safety and well-being). Over all our work lies an environmental and climate lens that we must constantly look through to understand how children's rights are affected, and in many cases violated, because of environmental degradation, climate change and biodiversity degradation. We know that each individual is in different contexts with different traditions and social structures that affect them in different ways, therefore we also strive to change and influence these structures. Since Barnfonden was founded in 1991, we have, based on our own and our partners' work, learned a lot about how to achieve effective change. Our work is evidence- and experience-based.

The overall picture

We want to see children grow. Many aspects contribute to a child's well-being: their health, education, whether they feel loved, cared for and safe, their opportunities to develop and dream, how they are viewed and respected in their homes and communities, how government policies affect them, and what society's safety net looks like. Our vision is a world where every child can say, "I'm safe, I'm healthy, I'm happy, I have an education, I have a voice." That is why our work must be holistic and multidimensional.

This is how change happens

Change is achieved by:

- We strengthen children's capacity and resilience so that they understand and can assert their rights
- We strengthen families' resilience, capacity and build their wealth
- We empower families, communities and civil society to uphold children's rights
- We call on states to fulfil their obligations and hold them accountable for their actions
- We work to create a global understanding of and prioritisation of children's rights and climate action.

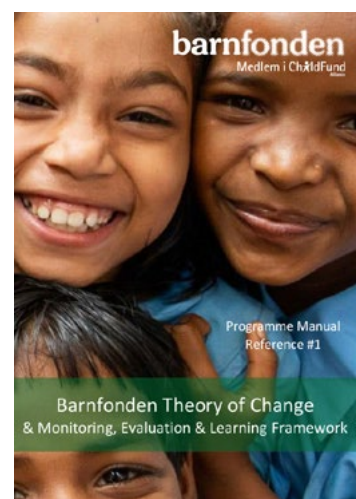
All of this must take place in a healthy and conducive environment. In the section "The big picture" above, we describe our long-term vision, and on pages 18–45 we present the more direct results we are working to achieve, along with examples of our work.

Our multi-level approach: Supporting families and the wider community and advocacy

When you read this report, you will find descriptions of our work covering three different life stages for children and young people: 0-5 years, 6-14 years and 15-24 years. In addition to supporting the children and their families directly, our work also aims to improve the surrounding society and thus the conditions under which today's children and future generations grow up. We work with parents, schools, health centers, traditional leaders and local authorities. Quite simply, a multi-level strategy.

Our cross-cutting themes

There are certain questions we always ask ourselves and think through when we start a new project. Examples of such questions are: Are children's rights appropriately taken into account? How do the gender dynamics work in the area and the project? Are we confident that the project promotes peace, community



Read our Theory of Change at barnfonden.se/var-arbete.



and the ownership and freedom of action of the local population (especially the most vulnerable)? Does our work follow the principle of "do no harm" and does it promote children's safety and security? And how does the physical environment affect society and our work – and what can we do to improve the situation? We call these our cross-cutting themes. Read more about these [on our website](#).

Humanitarian action as early as possible

Sometimes the communities we work with are affected by natural disasters (often linked to climate change), conflicts or wars. When children are at risk, and we have local partners on the ground who can provide the right support, we make a humanitarian effort. Sometimes we can see these disasters are about to happen before they happen, and more and more often we have the opportunity to start acting before the disaster is a fact. We call it prevention, and we see how it saves money, suffering and lives. [Read more about ongoing and past humanitarian efforts.](#)

How we fund the work

We receive funds from several different sources. The most significant contribution comes from sponsors, many of whom are connected to children and project areas in our six focus countries, as well as from our monthly donors. 83.3% of our funding this year has come from these donors together with contributions received through, for example, our gift shop, our collections for emergency efforts, memorial gifts and general single donations to our work. The second largest contribution comes from institutions and foundations. Our largest financier in 2024 was Radiohjälpen, which supported five projects in three countries. Our second largest donor was ForumCiv, which supported a project in two countries. We also thank the EU and Svenska Postkodstiftelsen (the Swedish Postcode Foundation) for their respective contributions. A third and important source of funding is one-time donations from individuals and companies, which amount to MSEK 2,827 in 2024.

Private donors enable institutional support

In this report, we mention specific donors. But it is also important to understand that most of the funding from donors requires Barnfonden to contribute its own part. We use the public funds we receive from, for example, our monthly donors, and sometimes also part of the sponsorship grants, to provide this self-financing. This structure strengthens our ability to do more with the funding we have. We

would like to thank all the donors who give us the necessary funds we need to be able to reach all the children and families who need support to have the opportunity to create a better life for themselves.

How we measure change

The work we do with these gifts follows our theory of change. It is this guidance document that we use in all our work, but it is also something we continuously and systematically develop as more data and evidence is collected. We created our theory of change based on research and evidence on "what works" related to a range of focus areas (health and wellbeing, education and life skills, protection and resilience, livelihoods, voice and advocacy).

Funds received through the sponsorships are pooled with other ChildFund Alliance grants so that significant changes can be achieved in the programme areas. This work is regularly monitored, measured and evaluated by our ChildFund partners locally. The information we get from these surveys includes things like the percentage of children who go to school each year, the number of meals the children eat per day, and so on. The lead ChildFund Alliance partner takes responsibility for compiling and analyzing the information from the surveys. We have access to this data and keep up to date with their practices. We also receive annual reports from our programme areas. Despite this effective system for measuring change, we recognize that there are many variables and other development partners, such as other NGOs and government agencies, that may also be responsible for the changes achieved.

It is easier to measure our projects, which are funded either by donations from our monthly donors, by specific grants, or by both options. All our projects have clearly defined goals and indicators so that we can assess whether the change we were aiming for has been achieved at the end of the project. This means that we need to collect data, which we do at the beginning and end of a project, and sometimes even in the middle. For the baseline and final surveys, a professional team (often outside of Barnfonden) comes in to critically analyze each project's performance against what we intended to do.

To assess the overall impact, Barnfonden's Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Advisor reviews and confirms the results of the combined work efforts to show progress towards our theory of change and provides recommendations on lessons learned and improvements for the coming years along with highlighting best practices/achievements. We complement this with more in-depth investigations in areas where we need to understand more.

About our organisation: Internal commitments

Barnfonden has a number of internal commitments that the management team measures every year. In 2024, we improved our performance monitoring systems that measure staff well-being and how satisfied our local partners are with their collaboration with Barnfonden. We also assess how effectively critical issues described in our handbook on cross-cutting themes – such as gender, environment and climate, child protection and conflict sensitivity – are systematically integrated into our projects. Each year, we evaluate our progress towards these goals, and for 2024, we can see how we are doing in our overall score based on 12 assessment criteria:

- Protection of children: Criteria for the protection of children were addressed in 10 out of 12 projects in 2024 (83% of projects related to the environment and climate change).
- Gender and inclusion: Gender and inclusion criteria were addressed in 12 projects in 2024 (100% of projects have met all gender and inclusion criteria).
- Environment and climate change: Environmental and climate change criteria were addressed in 10 out of a total of 11 projects in 2024 (83 percent of the projects were related to the environment and climate change).
- Conflict sensitivity: Conflict sensitivity criteria were addressed in 3 of the 12 projects in 2024. The tool for conflict and development analysis is used in the project to understand power relations and not do any harm (only 25 percent of the projects were considered to be conflict-sensitive).

In 2024, Barnfonden conducted two surveys; a partnership survey for ChildFund Alliance partners and a programme support survey for six grant partners involved in the project Pamoja: Collective Action on Climate Change, which is our programme to strengthen civil society. The two surveys aimed to assess the quality and effectiveness of Barnfonden's partnerships and to obtain constructive feedback and recommendations for continued improvement.

Partners stated that they were very satisfied with the partnership, with 53.8 percent reporting "satisfied" and 46.2 percent "very satisfied". It also showed that Barnfonden has developed strong, effective partnerships characterised by high mutual responsibility, open communication (92.3% believe there is an open dialogue) and clear roles (100% believe so). Partners mentioned that Barnfonden understands the local context (69.2 percent), supports partners to exercise ownership, and values the local knowledge that partners provide.

In answer to what Barnfonden's main value creation is, a majority mentioned Barnfonden's technical expertise in climate change and the support we offer them in terms of fundraising and advocacy work. One partner mentioned that Barnfonden "provides capacity building" and that we "demonstrate smooth communication, transparency and accessibility in collaboration" and another mentioned "the need to replicate the same project spirit to every corner of the marginalized communities for a better world". This indicates that the parties are generally satisfied, appreciate the collaborative environments and Barnfonden's professional approach.

The six partners of Pamoja: Collective Action on Climate Change gave the capacity-building initiatives high marks: 62.5 percent said they were "very effective", and 37.5 percent said they were "effective." The funding we provide is seen as personalised, relevant, flexible and transparent. One respondent suggested that Barnfonden should explore funding through "impact investment modality in addition to grant projects" to avert declining aid funding globally, while another called for "increasing support for grant applications to supplement sponsorship resources".

Overall, despite the very positive feedback, there is a feeling that there is a need for Barnfonden to improve certain areas, such as strengthening the relationships with the ChildFund Country Offices at management level, streamlining reporting, that Barnfonden continues to share more knowledge, research and possible new innovations, especially in terms of the climate, the need for more field visits and Barnfonden's involvement in national and coordination processes, as well as to seek better mechanisms for learning. However, the majority of partners appreciate Barnfonden's willingness to cooperate and professionalism, and one partner says that "Barnfonden's team is a very professional team with a human touch!".

In line with pillar five of our strategic plan, Barnfonden strives to ensure that our internal environment supports our strategic priorities. We strive to be an organisation where employees can develop, be challenged and contribute in various ways to our common goal. In 2024, we improved our internal system that tracks employee well-being by partnering with Wellbify, a Swedish health tech company that provides a digital platform designed to improve employee well-being and the health of the organisation. We now continuously assess employee well-being in terms of job satisfaction, work-life balance, workload, collaboration and caring, among others, which will ensure that we remain an enabling organisation that proactively promotes a culture of wellbeing





ADMINISTRATION REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENT

The Board and Secretary General of Barnfonden Insamlingsstiftelse, organisation no. 846003-9020, with registered office in Malmö, hereby submits the Annual Report for the financial year 2024-01-01 - 2024-12-31

Photo: Jake Lyell

Administration report

Barnfonden is a non-profit foundation. Our finances aim to contribute to our child-focused activities to the greatest extent possible. We apply a child rights perspective in all our work and have a strong focus on gender equality, child welfare, children's participation and environmental and climate issues. We continuously ask ourselves how we can become even better at raising these issues. Barnfonden works both preventively and to manage the effects of the problems we want to solve in the long term.

In Barnfonden's annual report for 2024, we show how Barnfonden, through its work during the previous year, has addressed children's rights to ensure that they are healthy, safe, educated and involved at different stages of their lives.

Barnfonden has worked with the children themselves, their families and the surrounding community where they live to ensure that the children's right to good health, education, protection, secure livelihood and inclusion is maintained and developed. Whether it is with funding from our 20,208 generous sponsors and monthly donors, via the SEK 12,406,578 that we have received through grants from major donors for project financing, or through the partnerships that provide no funding but only important connections, Barnfonden has made a positive change possible in children's lives.

In the annual report, we mention a number of highlights from the work we have done in our five overall focus areas during the previous year together with children, families and staff on site, as well as together with our donors. We emphasise that, to achieve long-term and sustainable success, we must have a broad focus where, in addition to working with children and families, we also need to contribute knowledge and experience to build strong systems and structures throughout the local area. We must also work with and influence governments and authorities to ensure that they take the responsibility that is incumbent on them to uphold children's rights and the local area's opportunity to develop in a positive direction. Barnfonden does this advocacy work both in Sweden and, through our involvement in the ChildFund Alliance, globally.

Development of the Foundation's activities, results and position (TSEK)

	2024	2023	2022	2021
Cost for the purpose	-75,474	-77,871	-76,980	-74,186
Fundraising costs	-19,761	-16,623	-18,442	-14,215
Administrative costs	-3,089	-2,942	- 3,293	-4,193
Total costs	-98,324	-97,436	-98,716	-92,594
Total incomes	97,756	101,780	101,357	94,210

The reduction in costs for the purpose (TSEK -2,397) is mainly explained by both lower project grants and reduced disaster responses.

The increase in fundraising costs (TSEK 3,138) is mainly explained by the fact that the recruitment of sponsors, which was partially on pause in 2023, started again in 2024 as well as a successful investment in monthly donors. The increased revenue from monthly donors provides increased opportunities for supporting program activities.

Significant events in 2024

Grow the Future

In November, the Grow the Future initiative was launched, a collaboration between Barnfonden, WeWorld Italy and Educo Spain – all members of the ChildFund Alliance. The initiative aims to increase the impact of our work with and for children who are severely affected by climate change through more and broader collaborations with financiers, innovators and social commentators. For Barnfonden, it is the first time of its kind that we are investing in this type of collaboration and product, and it is an investment that will have a strong focus in 2025.

New governance model for ChildFund Alliance

In November 2024, ChildFund Alliance members and the board decided on new statutes and governance model for the network. As of January 1, 2025, ChildFund Alliance has a new board composition that is competence-based instead of based on member representation. A nomination committee has been appointed and the Member Council (formerly CEO forum), consisting of each member organisation's top manager, has been assigned a larger role in the network's governance. This affects Barnfonden indirectly, as membership in the ChildFund Alliance is an important core for many collaborations.

Invitation to partnership with Sida

As a result of the government's change of course for development assistance, Sida launched an application process to select new partners for the implementation of the strategy for Sweden's development cooperation with civil society 2025-2029. Out of a total of 2,728 expressions of interest, Barnfonden has now made its way to the 50 organisations that have been invited to submit proposals for funding to Sida. In February 2025, a five-year program application was submitted for collaboration with nine local partners in five countries. In 2025, we will receive a final decision from Sida on cooperation within the strategy.

Humanitarian work

We continue to invest in disaster relief and fundraising activities to reach as many children as possible who are living in humanitarian crises. At the end of 2024, we also received positive information to enter a partnership for humanitarian work with Radiohjälp in 2025. This is something we have invested in for several years and a collaboration we see will be of great benefit in the future.

Collaborator

During the year, we have had a major shake-up in our finance department with a new finance and administrative manager and a new project and operations controller in place in August. In January, our climate advisor started working in Kenya, which means that Barnfonden has an employee in one of our countries of operation for the first time. This means that we get closer to our partners, can be more present in local forums and strengthen collaborations regionally.

Increase in sponsorship grants

In the spring of 2024, we carried out a campaign with the aim of making our existing donors increase their monthly contribution. The campaign was very successful, and the value is estimated at approximately SEK 2 million per year in extra revenue. Based on the successful results, we have decided to make these kind of campaigns more recurring and will carry out a similar one in 2025. Previously, we have chosen to let at least two years pass before a new increase campaign is carried out, but since we see that dissatisfaction with increase campaigns is relatively low, we choose to do them more often.

Closure of paper magazine

In 2024, we decided to replace the donor magazine with an information sheet. Both the previously conducted market survey and the analysis after the closure show that we have not seen an increase in dissatisfaction among donors or reduced loyalty due to the closure. The replacement with an information sheet meant a cost saving of about SEK 300,000 and reduced the consumption of printed matter by about 2,000 kg.



Photo: Jake Lyell

Examples of the effects of our efforts in 2024

The examples below demonstrate our impact in our multi-level approach and are aimed at individual children, families, community leaders, government agencies and international actors. In 2024, we reached 1,432,222 children and families directly, but the impact of our work with them extends much further and impacted additional individuals indirectly.

Our impact on children's lives

The Community-Integrated Response to Child Labour in Ethiopia, Dugda, (CIRCLED) project in Ethiopia ended in July 2024. The project helped communities develop their knowledge and skills in actively promoting child protection and preventing child labour.

Over 7,000 people were reached with messages about child labour and by the end of the project, participants showed a significant improvement in knowledge about children's rights as well as a deeper understanding of how climate change acts as a threat multiplier.

At baseline, only 10 percent of children were aware of child welfare services. At the end, 97 percent self-reported that they were aware of the problems. This resulted in an increase in reported cases of child labor. 269 children were identified and referred to appropriate services, demonstrating increased awareness and a growing commitment to ending child labour.

The final report shows a significant reduction in child labour in the area, from 45 per cent to 5 per cent, as well as a strengthened general community commitment to ending violence against children.

Our impact on families

Our findings from many years of working with children and their families are that children often lead change by bringing with them the knowledge they have learned in school and through clubs they are involved in.

The case study of Maria is one such example. Faced with economic hardship and climate-related disruptions, Maria joined the YES4ECO club where she learned sustainable farming practices and climate adaptation techniques. Maria brought this knowledge home and introduced eco-friendly practices such as mulching and worm composting, transforming the

family's farm and increasing their income.

Her efforts sparked interest throughout society and inspired other farmers to use these techniques. 30 households in Maria's community have adopted climate-resilient technology, and 15 households received support from the Ministry of Agriculture for efforts to support adaptation to climate change. Two rainwater harvesting systems and a biogas converter have also been installed in the community.

Our impact on the government

On Children's Day in Oruro, Bolivia, the Municipal Committee for Children and Young People presented a municipal law project for childcare, an important step towards ensuring the all-inclusive development of children.

The bill, which is now being reviewed, is inspired by a situational diagnosis and aims to establish local strategies for the care and protection of young children for early childhood care and protection. In addition, the organisation contributed to two other bills: Digital Violence Prevention, which addresses online safety, and Community-Based Protection Mechanisms, which strengthen local measures for the protection of children. These initiatives demonstrate a strong commitment to policies that improve children's well-being, safety, and rights, and highlight the government's call to respond.

"The issue of children under 5 years of age who are left alone at home without the care of their parents; It is not only abandonment but also neglect. This is an issue that needs to be addressed by our authorities."

—Jasmín, 16 years old, Chair of Oruro's Municipal Committee for Children and Youth, April 2024.

Our impact on international players

Being a member of the ChildFund Alliance means that we have the opportunity to influence politics

globally. Participating in the 2024 Global Index on Women's and Children's Rights Report, a report that highlights critical issues facing women and children around the world, is a tool we use to influence and contribute to change.

The report collected children's perspectives on the future they see and the obstacles they face. The Global Index evaluated the status of women's and children's rights in 157 countries, based on findings using 30 key indicators. This included consultations with 10,000 children and young people from 41 countries on the concept of the 'right to the future'.

The main concerns for children are education, health, violence prevention, climate change and economic security. Even more worrying, however, is children's weak perception of their rights, with more than 1 in 5 children reported to have a weak perception of their basic human rights.

The report is central to our advocacy work, which aims to see more children and young people involved in decision-making processes at all levels.

Our impact in Sweden

Barnfonden has a number of opportunities to influence Sweden to ensure that children are considered when decisions are made by our government and the EU.

The main path is through our collaboration with Concord Sweden, a coalition of 82 organisations that advise and urge decision-makers to consider the voices of civil society and citizens from the Global South. Barnfonden emphasises that children must be recognised and heard, while at the same time standing as a voice on climate issues. Other events that we have been a part of in 2024 include the Ystad Summit and the Human Rights Festival in Lund.



Expected future development

The economic situation remains tough, and we expect 2025 to be challenging as well. We are not only seeing higher costs for both us and our partners, but also the economic uncertainty among Swedish households, increased global uncertainty with the climate crisis, war and greater internal focus in many traditional donor countries, and world-changing reforms of financing for development cooperation for human rights and poverty reduction. For 2025, we have presented an underfunded budget, which is mostly due to the fact that we use saved funds to complete our Sida-funded (through ForumCiv) project that ends prematurely.

More major steps were taken in 2024 that will affect us in 2025. As part of this is the launch of Grow the Future, which we see as a key to being able to find more and new partners who can contribute in different ways.

The humanitarian partnership with Radiohjälpen opens up for larger disaster responses, and here we see an opportunity to both scale up but also broaden our work. Within the framework of the Government's new strategy for Sweden's development cooperation with civil society, Barnfonden has been invited to submit an application in fierce competition. We expect to be granted a partnership with Sida, which will contribute positively to the development of both Barnfonden and our local partners.

In 2025, Barnfonden will prepare a new strategy that will apply from 2026. It is a project that will continue throughout the year and set out future direction and priorities, and of course have a significant impact on the organisation's development. Within the ChildFund Alliance, we will also adopt a new strategy in 2025, which Barnfonden will both contribute to and benefit from in the best possible way.

Organisation and management

Barnfonden is led by an unpaid board and in 2024 four ordinary board meetings and two meetings were held per capsulam. All meetings are recorded.

Yasemin Arhan Modéer	Jan–dec	Chair	(4+2möten)
Lena Svensson	Jan–dec	Vice chair	(4+2 möten)
Maya Mbog Rosén	Jan–dec	Vice chair	(2+2 möten)
Anders Henriksson	Jan–may	Board member	(1+0 möten)
David Klose	Jan–dec	Board member	(4+2 möten)
Helena Bruzaeus Graffner	Jan–may	Board member	(2+0 möten)
Helena Bruzaeus Graffner	May–dec	Board member	(2+2 möten)
Ann Svensén	Jan–dec	Deputy Board member	(2+0 möten)
Anna Nambord	May–dec	Deputy Board member	(1+0 möten)
Patrik Kruse	May–dec	Deputy Board member	(2+0 möten)

The Nomination Committee has been chaired by Lennart Wiklund, who until May worked together with Karin Grauers and Petra Bergarp. In May, Karin Grauers and Petra Bergarp were replaced by Yasemin Arhan Modéer and Johanna von Bahr. The Nomination Committee has thus consisted of at least a majority of external members.

Barnfonden's office is located in Malmö. The Secretary General leads the work with the support of the Programme Manager, the Finance and Administration Manager and the Head of Finance and Engagement. In 2024, an average of 17 people worked in donor service, fund-raising, communications, finance, and programs. In addition, 1.5 positions have been staffed

through consulting assignments. At Barnfonden's office, we have also had two volunteers: one who helps with simple administrative tasks such as packing materials and translating letters to the sponsored children, and a climate expert.

Sustainability information

Sustainability for Barnfonden is about us being able to provide the best possible long-term safety and security for children over time. We must ensure that the environment and climate do not create an even worse situation for these most vulnerable and we must meet the social sustainability that involves the daily work of meeting basic needs such as food, education, security, access to electricity and water.

Our mission is to build a long-term and inclusive society where basic human needs and rights are met and children's safety is put first.

We also look at the economic sustainability of self-sufficient families that can withstand the vagaries of the climate as well as political unrest. Ecological sustainability is often seen as a prerequisite for both social and economic sustainability. Social sustainability, in turn, is the basis for economic sustainability being possible.

We are continuously discussing with our partner organisations and through our partners in the ChildFund Alliance how we can best work with all three dimensions in parallel. If one falls, all three fall.

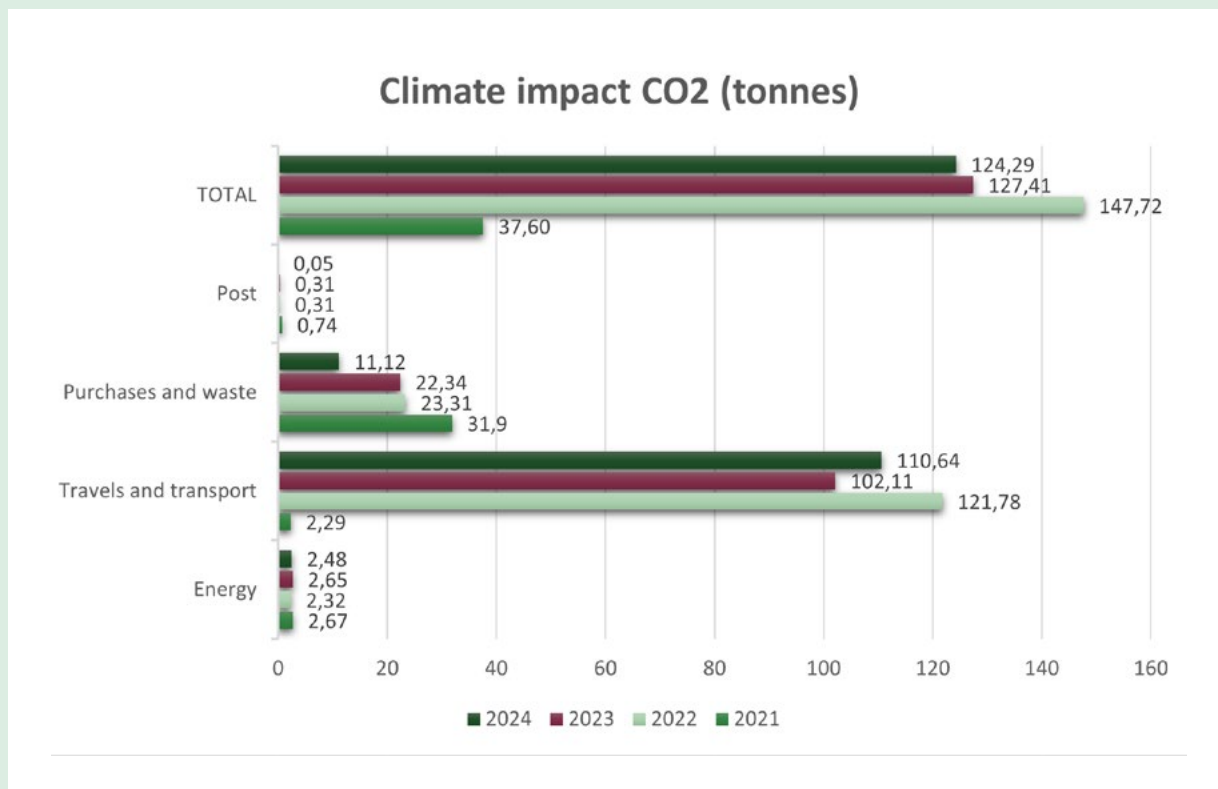
Our work environment policy includes guidelines, procedures, goals and activities to achieve efficiency and quality in our work with the work environment, gender equality and diversity. The work is a continuous process of continuous improvement that is documented and revised regularly. The policy is reviewed and revised as necessary. Laws, regulations and regulatory requirements constitute minimum requirements for the foundation.

We work proactively and actively for a workplace free from discrimination that promotes our employees' health, job satisfaction and efficiency. We do this through training, safety rounds, information and dialogue in various forums for collaboration, as well as evaluation and, if necessary, preventive and active processes and routines.

2021 was the first year that Barnfonden, in line with our environmental policy, measured the climate footprint of the office's operations. The purpose of this is: follow-up and transparency, to learn how to be better, to "compensate" for the emissions that we cannot avoid for operational reasons.

Barnfonden's total footprint is calculated using Vi-skogen's climate calculator and includes (2023 figures in brackets):

- Travel and transport (to and from work and business travel): 110.64 tonnes CO₂e (102.11)
- Energy (heating and electricity): 2.48 tonnes CO₂e (2.65)
- Purchases and waste (office paper, printed matter, computers, mobile phones, tablets): 11.12 tonnes CO₂e (22.34)
- Events (we have not had our own major physical event in 2024)
- In addition, mail is a large and important part of Barnfonden's activities, which is why we have chosen to add that point as well: 0.05 tonnes CO₂e (0.31).



In total, this lands at 124 tonnes of CO₂e for 2024, compared to 128 tonnes in 2023. We have an increased footprint for travel, which is linked to the type of projects we run with more capacity development, as well as higher participation in international conferences. Purchases and waste have been halved, which can be entirely attributed to the fact that we no longer have a physical newspaper that is sent to donors. This also significantly affects the footprint of mail. Even though mail is a very small percentage of the organisation's total footprint, it is still worth paying attention to.

The premises are heated with district heating, and all energy is renewable. In accordance with Barnfondens environmental policy, we buy organic, locally produced and eco-labelled products as far as possible but have no separate follow-up on it as it is a smaller item. We offer vegetarian food, sort waste, buy used office furniture whenever possible, and buy restored mobile phones instead of new ones.

For our emissions in 2024, we take some height and "round up" to 130 tonnes of CO₂e, which we have chosen to compensate for through Solvatten, an invention that through the sun's rays both purifies and heats water. Heating and boiling water cleanly over an open fire is part of everyday life for nearly two billion people. The fuel used comes from trees and forests, which are disappearing at a rapid pace. When the forest disappears, the risk of natural disasters increases for individuals and communities. In addition, forests bind carbon dioxide and give us oxygen to breathe. A Solvatten reduces wood burning by about 50%, which corresponds to about 7-10 trees per year. Conservatively calculated, there is about 1 ton of carbon dioxide per year that does not need to be emitted. In addition to the positive environmental effects, Solvatten also contributes to fewer children getting sick from waterborne and respiratory diseases, girls and women do not have to spend as much time collecting fuel, and families can save money on both fuel and healthcare costs.

Barnfondens is buying 19 Solvatten units that will give about 100 people in our program areas in Kenya access to clean and hot water. Each Solvatten provides a family with an average of 6,000 litres of clean and warm water per year, so the total water saving is about 114,000 litres of water per year and enables about 160 trees per year to continue growing. Through this, we contribute to carbon savings while promoting local development where it is needed most.

When Barnfonden compensates for our climate footprint, we always strive to do so through methods that have a number of benefits for children's rights, and through Solvatten, we create, among other things, lower climate impact (SDG 13), improved health (SDG 3) and clean water and sanitation (SDG 6).

Control and review

For Barnfonden, the trust of our donors is one of the most important building blocks in our business. Barnfonden's financial and operational management is responsible for internal control and that the activities are conducted appropriately, achieve set goals within the budget and that laws and regulations are followed.

Barnfonden's operations in Sweden and in our countries of operation are audited by external auditors in accordance with our statutes and donor requirements. Staff from Barnfonden and our partners also continuously review the work. Financial audits and studies of the impact of the initiatives are carried out to ensure that the work is conducted appropriately and achieves set goals.

Barnfonden is a member of Giva Sweden, the Swedish fundraising organisation's industry body that works for ethical and professional fundraising. As a member of Giva Sweden, Barnfonden is committed to following the quality code for Tryggt givande that applies to all members. Barnfonden's Board approves the quality code, which is also reviewed by an auditor.

In addition, Barnfonden is a member organisation of the Svensk Insamlingskontroll (Swedish Fundraising Control), which checks that our fundraising is managed in a responsible way and that the money goes to the purpose without unreasonable costs. Barnfonden has two 90-account accounts approved by the Swedish Fundraising Control: 901301-2 and 901302-0.

Financial risk management

Barnfonden Fundraising Foundation's investment policy stipulates that the Foundation's financial assets may only be invested in bank accounts in SEK or in one of the currencies EUR or USD, as well as in sustainable fixed income funds and low-risk equity funds.

The organisation's policy is to immediately sell shares received as gifts and thereby not engage in investment activities in shares. A list of current investments can be found in Note 11.

Result and income

Barnfonden is a child rights organisation that works for children's rights in vulnerable areas in Africa, Asia and Latin America. Through contributions from private individuals and companies, through donations, and humanitarian appeals, as well as through allocated grants, Barnfonden works in 21 countries. The financial goal is to show a break-even result.

Income

Total income for 2024 amounted to SEK 97.8 (101.8) million, which is a decrease of 3.9 percent compared to 2023. In 2024, Barnfonden has continued to focus on retaining existing sponsors and monthly donors. An effort was made to recruit more monthly donors, which was successful. Primarily in 2024, Barnfonden's humanitarian response has gone to Gaza and Ukraine.

Donations 80.0 (79.8) MSEK +0.4 percent

Received donations increased marginally in 2024. The continued investment in recruiting monthly donors in particular continued during the year, which led to an increase in donations from the public. However, we lost some on corporate donations

Grants 12.4 (13.2) MSEK -7.7 percent

Unlike Barnfonden's income from donations, the grants can be of more varied size from year to year. This depends on the different projects' reports on which activities have been carried out in the project work. Various events in the countries can delay the project work and the activities have to be postponed, which then also affects the reporting. In 2024, Barnfonden's project grants decreased, which was partly due to the fact that several applied projects were not granted and that some projects started later in the year than planned, which meant that a number of planned activities had to be moved over to 2025.

Operating costs

Barnfonden's operating costs are divided into the following functions: costs for the purpose, fundraising costs, and administrative costs. The organisation has so-called joint costs, which are common for purpose, fundraising, and administration functions. Common joint costs are IT-related costs, the finance and management function, telephony and premises costs. Barnfonden operates a 90-account account, which means that Svensk Insamlingskontroll requires that costs for the purpose must constitute at least 75% of total income, unless special reasons exist.

Costs for the purpose 75.5 MSEK (77.9) -3.1 percent

Costs for the purpose are those costs that can be attributed to the organisation's mission according to its statutes. This includes costs for development work in the countries we support as well as programme costs in Sweden. For example, costs that arise as a direct result of an activity within the organisation's mission, such as planning, monitoring, and reporting. Costs for the purpose also include fees to Barnfonden's partners and the joint costs allocated to costs for the purpose. The decrease is explained by lower programme activities during the year.

Fundraising costs 19.8 MSEK (16.6) +19.3 percent

Fundraising costs refer to costs that have been necessary to generate external income and to retain and recruit new sponsors. This includes costs for fundraising activities, advertisements, advertising, campaigns and mailings. Fundraising costs include both direct costs, such as salary costs for fundraising personnel, and the joint costs allocated to fundraising costs. The increase in fundraising costs is explained by planned marketing activities that did not take place in 2023 but have been carried out in 2024.

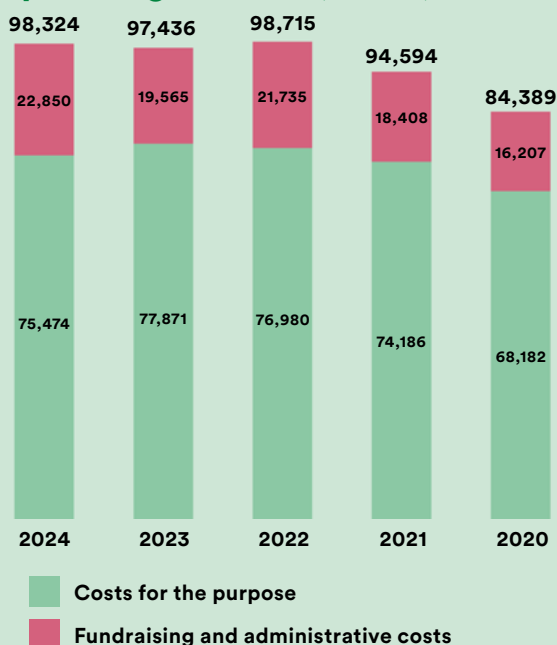
Administrative costs 3.1 MSEK (3) +3.3 percent

Administrative costs are the costs needed to administer and run the organisation. Administration is a guarantee of quality for the mission and for the donor. Examples of such costs are board meetings, accounting and annual report, management of salaries and social security contributions, auditing, administrative systems and costs that are not attributable to costs for the purpose or fundraising costs. This also includes the joint costs allocated to the administrative costs. No significant change in administrative costs in 2024.

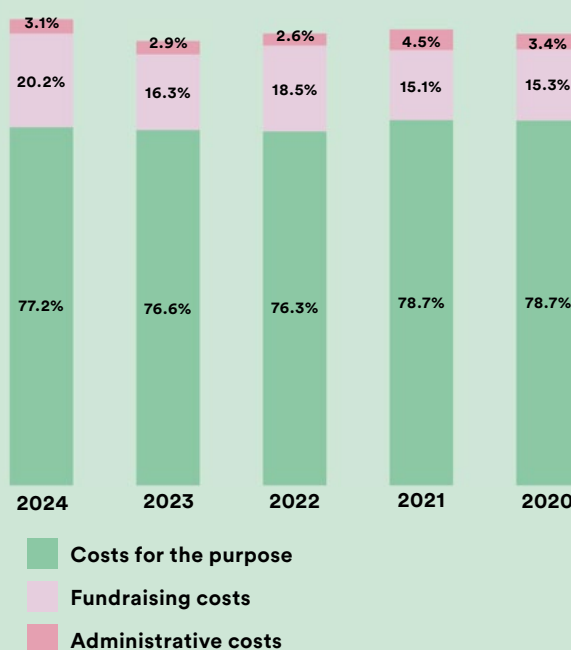
	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020
Total income*	97,756	101,780	101,357	94,210	86,681
Costs for the purpose	75,474	77,871	76,980	74,186	68,182
Fundraising and administrative costs	22,850	19,565	21,735	18,408	16,207
Share in relation to total operating income					
Costs for the purpose**	77.2%	76.6%	76.3%	78.7%	78.7%
Fundraising costs	20.2%	16.3%	18.5%	15.1%	15.3%
Administrative costs	3.1%	2.9%	2.6%	4.5%	3.4%

*Incl. fundraising grant of 4.3 MSEK.
**The fundraising grant affects the costs for the purpose. Excl. the grant it amounts to 81.7%.

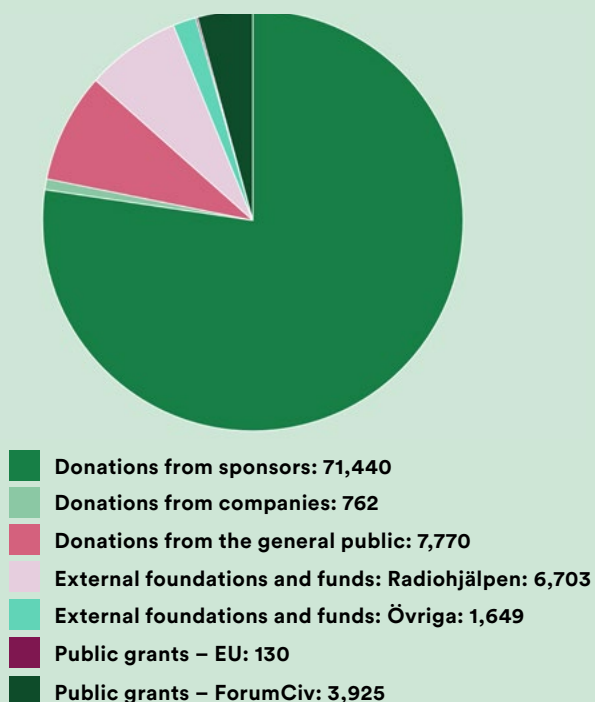
Operating income (TSEK)



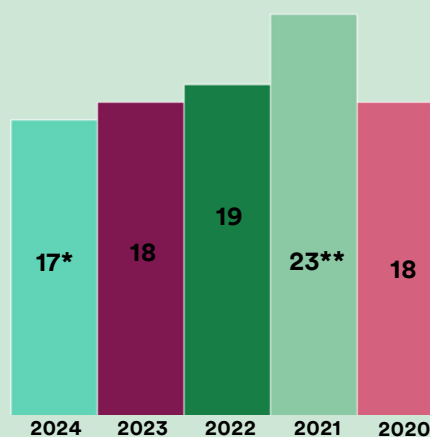
Costs compared to total income



Where the money comes from (TSEK)



Average no. of employees 2020 – 2024



*In addition, 1.5 positions have been filled through consultancy assignments.

**The higher number of employees was primarily due to the fact that in 2021 we had an internal sponsorship recruitment unit.

INCOME STATEMENT

		20240101 20241231	20230101 20231231
Amount in SEK.	Note		
Operating income			
Donations and grants	3	92,379 124	97,429,857
Other income		5,376 746	4,350,146
Total operating income		97,755,870	101,780,003
Operating costs			
Costs for the purpose	4, 5	-75,474,397	-77,871,497
Fundraising costs		-19,761,281	-16,623,293
Administrative costs		-3,088,627	-2,941,990
Total operating costs		-98,324,305	-97,436,780
Net operating result		-568,435	4,343,223
Total profit/loss from financial items 6			
Interest incomes and currency gains		6,105	179,798
Interest expenses and currency losses		673,549	-767
Profit after financial items		111,219	4,522,254
Profit for the year		111,219	4,522,254

BALANCE SHEET

		20241231	20231231
Amount in SEK.	Note		
Assets			
Fixed assets			
Intangible assets			
Capitalised expenditure for computer software	7	974,608	1,559,372
		974,608	1,559,372
Tangible assets			
Equipment and computers	8	21,712	33,040
		21,712	33,040
Total fixed assets		996,320	1,592,412
Current assets			
Current receivables			
Accounts receivable		648,037	-
Current tax receivable		191,851	334,390
Other receivables	9	2,739,929	5 494 026
Prepaid expenses and accrued income	10	546,028	1,823,753
		4,125,845	7,652,169
Short-term investments			
Other short-term investments	11	10,728,523	9,801,250
		10,728,523	9,801,250
Cash and bank balances	14	19,486,170	20,022,674
Total current assets		34,340,538	37,476,093
TOTAL ASSETS		35,336,858	39,068,505

BALANCE SHEET

		20241231	20231231
Amount in SEK.	Note		
Equity and liabilities			
Equity			
Restricted equity			
Equity in non-profit associations and foundations		36,000	36,000
		<u>36,000</u>	<u>36,000</u>
Non-restricted equity			
Funds restricted for the purpose		151,782	395,366
Profit or loss brought forward		21,258,851	15,883,837
Net profit for the year		111,219	4,522,254
		<u>21,521,852</u>	<u>20,801,457</u>
Total equity		21,557,852	20,837,457
Current liabilities			
Liabilities for unused grants	12	4,133,967	7,057,403
Sponsor donations and gifts		4,388,085	4,354,703
Account payable		224,472	1,480,965
Other liabilities		929,348	987,834
Accrued expenses and deferred income	13	4,103,134	4,350,143
		<u>13,779,006</u>	<u>18,231,049</u>
TOTAL EQUITY AND LIABILITIES		35,336,858	39,068,505

CASH FLOW STATEMENT

		20240101 20241231	20230101 20231231
Amount SEK.	Note		
Operating activities			
Result for the year		111,219	4,522,254
Depreciation		596,092	596,092
Cash flow from current activities before changes in working capital		707,311	5,118,346
Cash flow from changes in working capital			
Increase(-)/decrease (+) in short-term investments		-927,273	-996,559
Increase(-)/decrease (+) in receivables		4,135,501	1,664,803
Increase(-)/decrease (+) in current liabilities		-4,452,043	-5,703,899
Cash flow from current activities		-536,504	-3,246,912
Cash flow for the year		-536,504	-3,246,912
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year		20,022,674	23,269,586
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year		19,486,170	20,022,674

CHANGES IN EQUITY

	Foundation capital	Funds restricted for the purpose	Profit or loss brought fwd. incl. profit for the year	Total equity
Opening balance acc. to the approved balance sheet	36,000	395,366	20,406,091	20,837,457
Effect of error correction			609,177	609,177
Adjusted opening balance 2024-01-01	36,000	395,366	21,015,268	21,446,633
Used funds restricted for the purpose from previous years		-395,366	395,366	-
Funds restricted for the purpose		151,782	-151,782	-
Profit for the year			111,219	111,219
Closing balance 2024-12-31	36,000	151,782	21,370,071	21,557,852

NOTES

Note 1 Accounting and valuation principles

Amounts in SEK unless otherwise stated.

General accounting principles

The annual report has been prepared in accordance with the Annual Accounts Act and the Swedish Accounting Standards Board's general advice, BFNAR 2012:1 (K3), and Giva Sveriges governing guidelines for annual reports and Svensk Insamlingskontroll.

The principles are unchanged compared with the previous year.

Income statement

Operating income

Only the inflow of economic benefits received or to be received by the organisation on its own account is recognised as income. Income is valued, unless specifically stated below, at the fair value of what has been received or will be obtained.

Donations and grants

A transaction in which the organisation receives an asset or service that has value without giving back the corresponding value in exchange is a donation or a grant received. If the asset or service is obtained because the organisation has fulfilled or will fulfil certain conditions and if the organisation has an obligation to refund to the other party if the conditions are not met, it is a grant received. If it is not a grant, it is a donation.

Donations

As a general rule, donations are recognized as income when they are received. A donation recognised as income is recognised as either an asset or an expense depending on whether the donation is used directly or not. As a general rule, donations are valued at fair value. In cases where the organisation has made a payment for receiving the gift, the value of the gift is reduced by the amount of the payment. Donations include gifts from the general public, companies, organisations, communities, private and non-profit funds and foundations, as well as sponsorship.

Donations from sponsors

Refers to the monthly amount provided by sponsors in support of the local development programmes in the programme countries of Barnfonden.

Grants

Grants are recognised as income when the conditions for receiving the grant have been met. Grants received are recognised as a liability until the conditions for receiving the grant are met. Income-recognised grants not received before the balance sheet date are recognised as receivables. Grants received to cover certain costs are reported in the same financial year as the cost the grant is intended to cover. Grants related to a fixed asset reduce cost. Grants received are measured at the fair value of the asset that the organisation received or will receive.

Other income

Other income is income that is not primary to the organisation. Other income refers to, among other things, employer support from the Swedish Public Employment Service and fundraising grants.

Operating costs

Operating costs are divided into the following functions; purpose, collection and administration costs. The organisation has costs, so-called joint costs, that are common to the purpose, fundraising, and administration functions. Common joint costs are IT-related costs, the finance and management function, telephony and premises.

NOTES

Costs for the purpose

Costs for the purpose are those costs that can be attributed to the organisation’s mission according to its statutes. This includes costs for development work in the countries we support and costs for the purpose in Sweden. For example, costs that arise as a direct result of an activity within the purpose, such as planning, follow-up and reporting. Costs for the purpose also include fees to the partners of Barnfonden and the joint costs allocated to the costs for the purpose.

Fundraising costs

Fundraising costs refer to costs that have been necessary to generate external income and to retain and recruit new sponsors. This includes costs for fundraising activities, advertisements, advertising, campaigns and mailings. Fundraising costs include both direct costs, such as salary costs for fundraising personnel, and joint costs allocated to fundraising costs.

Administrative costs

Administrative costs are the costs needed to administer and run the organisation. Administration is a guarantee of quality for the purpose and for the donor. Examples of such costs are board meetings, accounting and annual accounts, management of salaries and social security contributions, auditing, administrative systems and costs that are not attributable to purpose costs or collection costs. This also includes the joint costs allocated to the administrative costs.

Leasing

All leases are reported as operating leases, which means that the lease fee is distributed linearly over the lease period.

Payments to employees

Regular payments to employees in the form of salaries, social security contributions and the like are expensed as the employees perform services. Since all pension obligations are classified as defined contributions, the cost is recognised in the year in which the pension is earned.

Balance sheet

Intangible assets – computer software

Intangible assets in the form of software acquired by the foundation are carried at cost less accumulated depreciation and impairment. Expenditure on internally generated work is recognised in the income statement as an expense when incurred.

Intangible fixed assets	Year
Acquired intangible assets	
Computer software	7

Tangible assets

Tangible assets relating to computers has until 2021-12-31 been reported at cost less accumulated depreciation and impairment. In addition to the purchase price, the cost includes expenses directly attributable to the acquisition. Amortisation has occurred on a straight-line basis over the estimated useful life of the asset.

Tangible assets	Year
Fixtures and computers	3

As of the financial year starting 2022-01-01, the acquisition cost of purchased computers is instead recognized as a direct cost. The reason for the change is the assessment of the short economic life of computers, which, with a direct deduction, provides more reliable information and a more accurate result.

NOTES

Financial assets and liabilities

At the date of acquisition, financial assets are measured at cost plus direct transaction costs.

After the first accounting occasion, short-term investments are measured according to the lowest value principle, i.e. at the lower of cost and net realisable value at the balance sheet date.

Trade receivables are valued individually at the amount they are estimated to accrue.

Short-term holdings of shares and participations are valued at fair value in accordance with Chapter 4, Section 14a of the Swedish Annual Accounts Act. The foundation's policy is to immediately sell shares that have been received as gifts and thus not engage in investment activities.

Receivables and liabilities denominated in foreign currency are valued at the closing rate.

Funds restricted to the purpose

The post Funds restricted to the purpose in equity include not yet spent donations and other funds restricted to the purpose. See also the Equity report.

Debt for received, but unused grants

In cases where Barnfonden has received grants, but has not yet fulfilled the conditions, these are reported as a liability.

Cash flow statement

The cash flow statement is prepared using the indirect method, i.e. it is based on the operating result of the organisation. The reported cash flow includes only transactions that involve cash receipts or cash outflows. In addition to bank balances, short-term financial investments are classified as cash and cash equivalents.

Note 2 Estimates and assessments

Barnfonden makes estimates and assessments about the future. The accounting estimates resulting from these will, by definition, rarely correspond to actual results.

NOTES

20240101
20241231

20230101
20231231

Note 3 Funds raised

Donations recognised in the income statement

Donations from sponsors	71,440,373	71,840,161
Donations from the general public	7,770,111	11,215,698
Donations from companies	762,062	1,160,305
Total	79,972,546	84,216,164

Donations from the general public include a recycled reserve of 2,800,000 SEK.

Donations not recognised in the income statement

Funds raised - estimated amounts

Donations that are not recognized in the income statement and where the value in SEK has not been produced consist of discounted IT equipment, advertising discounts, banking services, etc. In addition to the donations above, donations have been received where the value in SEK has been determined.

Rental discount: 200,000 SEK

Advertising: 290,499 SEK

Grants recognised in the income statement

External foundations and funds		
Radiohjälpen	6,703,082	7,094,268
Svenska Postkodlotteriets Stiftelse	1,225,823	917,363
Svenska Institutet	-	322,658
Vatten åt alla	423,224	213,590
Public grants		
EU	129,682	2,075,173
ForumCiv	3,924,767	2,590,641
Total	12,406,578	13,213,693

Other income

Fundraising grants	5,331,027	4,337,555
Other	45,718	12,591
Total	5,376,745	4,350,146

NOTES

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Note 4 Employees and personnel costs

Average numbers of employees

Average number of employees	17	18
Of which male	3	3
Board members	5	5
Of which male	1	2

Salaries, other allowances, and social insurance costs, incl. pension costs

Secretary General	856,682	833,692
Other employees	7,054,672	7,265,302
Total salaries and allowances	7,911,354	8,098,994
Social insurance costs	3,187,822	3,280,476
(of which pension costs excl. payroll tax)	732,494	707,113

Note 5 Leasing

Expensed lease payments amount to	571,536	578,846
Future lease payments are calculated at:		
Within 1 year	596,092	594,548
Within 2 to 5 years	1,356,978	247,728
Total	2,524,606	1,421,122

The agreement on premises rental in Malmö extends until 2028-05-31.

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Note 6 Profit from financial items

Interest	114,542	141,519
Dividends	132,027	125,891
Capital gain on sale	426,981	-94,603
Other	6,105	6,224
Total	679,655	179,031

Note 7 Intangible assets

Accumulated acquisition value		
-Opening balance	4,093,348	4,093,348
-Closing balance	4,093,348	4,093,348
Accumulated depreciation		
-Opening balance	-2,533,976	-1,949,212
Depreciation of the year	-584,764	-584,764
-Closing balance	-3,118,740	-2,533,976
Closing balance at the end of the year	974,608	1,559,372

Note 8 Tangible assets

Accumulated acquisition value		
-Opening balance	615,394	615,394
-Closing balance	615,394	615,394
Accumulated depreciation		
-Opening balance	-582,354	-571,026
-Closing balance	-11,328	-11,328
-Closing balance	-593,682	-582,354
Closing balance at the end of the year	21,712	33,040

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Note 9 Current receivables

Advance projects	2,730,842	5,493,393
Other	9,087	633
Total	2,739,929	5,494,026

Advance projects consists of disbursed project grants that have not yet been used up in our programme countries.

Note 10 Prepaid expenses and accrued income

Prepaid rents	134,274	133,467
Other items	411,755	1,690,286
Total	546,029	1,823,753

Note 11 Short-term investments

	Market value	Acq. value	Book value 2024	Book value 2023
Fixed income funds Swedbank	9,837,509	9,073,539	8,938,364	8,807,480
Capital investment Storebrand	1,964,763	1,776,000	1,776,000	962,000
Trine Mutual Fund	13,221	14,159	14,159	31,770
Total	11,815,493	10,881,239	10,728,523	9,801,250

Note 12 Debt received, unused grants

Public grants	359,809	1,354,657
Foundations, companies, and organisations	3,774,158	5,702,746
Total	4,133,967	7,057,403

The debt consists of grants received for multi-year project activities in our partner countries.

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Note 13 Accrued expenses and deferred income

Accrued holiday wages	1,275,014	1,397,539
Accrued social security contributions	370,216	439,107
Other accrued expenses	2,235,954	2,110,540
Accrued payroll tax	183,835	341,654
Schools' or associations' share of funds raised	5,163	4,535
Other	32,953	56,768
Total	4,103,135	4,350,143

Note 14 Cash and cash equivalents

The following components are included in cash and cash equivalents

Bank deposits	19,486,170	20,022,674
Total	19,486,170	20,022,674

Signatures of the board and the Secretary General

This is the English version of the Swedish, official audited report. Any minor differences are due to the translation of the report.

Malmö, the date stated in our electronic signatures

Yasemin Arhan Modéer
Chair

Lena Svensson
Vice chairordförande

Maya Mbog Rosén
Vice chair

David Klose
Board member

Helena Bruzaeus Graffner
Board member

Martina Hibell
Secretary General Barnfonden

Our auditor's report has been submitted on the date stated in the electronic signature..

Öhrlings PricewaterhouseCoopers AB

Maria Danckler
Authorized Public Accountant



barnfonden

Member of ChildFund
Alliance

Kattsundsgatan 15, Box 4100, 203 12 Malmö

040-12 18 85

barnfonden.se