

For Children's Rights in the Climate Crisis



Contents

Global Force, Local Heart – For Every Child’s Rights	3
The World We Operate In	5
About Us	7
Vision.....	8
Mission.....	8
Core Values.....	9
Global Commitments.....	10
How We Work.....	11
Scope.....	13
Our Strategy 2026–2030	14
Barnfonden’s Role in 2030 – here is our vision.....	16
Strategic Area 1: Support and Strengthen Local Partners in the Work for Children’s Rights.....	18
Strategic Area 2: Ensure Sustainable and Diversified Funding for Children’s Rights.....	20
Strategic Area 3: Increase Influence and Visibility for Children’s Rights in the Climate Crisis.....	22
Core Commitments	24
Children’s Rights, Voice, and Participation.....	25
Locally Led Development.....	25
Creativity and Innovation Make Us Relevant in the Long Term.....	25
Climate Awareness.....	25
Enablers	26
Conclusion	29

Global Force, Local Heart – For Every Child's Rights

As the world changes and children's rights face ever-greater threats, Barnfonden stands firm. We are a dependable organisation with a loyal donor base, providing long-term support for our local partners. We have the ability to work both locally and across wider systems. This helps us stay flexible and open to new ways of working. At the same time, we can achieve global impact as part of one of the world's largest child rights networks – ChildFund Alliance.

Our mission is clear: to raise funds and mobilise resources directed to where they can achieve the most positive outcomes for children. We do this based on the needs and priorities identified by children and our partners. We know that long-term commitment, close partnerships, and personal engagement are keys to strengthening children's rights and their access to safety and protection, education, and hope for the future.

We combine agility with long-term solutions to act where needs are greatest, while building sustainable systems that strengthen children's resilience over time.

In a time of growing challenges, we are ready to make a difference for children in vulnerable situations.



*Martina Hibell,
Secretary General*



*Patrik Kruse,
Chair*



Two boys wade homeward on a flooded road in Kenya. They represent a fraction of the approximately one billion children being raised in regions affected by extreme weather conditions, including droughts, floods, air pollution, and hurricanes.

The World We Operate In

The strategy period 2026–2030 coincides with the final phase of Agenda 2030. With only five years left until the goals are to be achieved, it is a time to think bigger, bolder, and make decisions that matter for children and young people – both now and far into the future.

Children's rights face significant challenges in the coming years. Climate change, environmental degradation, conflict, and a global decline in democracy are creating conditions where it is increasingly difficult for children to have their rights fulfilled. The most vulnerable children are hit hardest, and trends point to a world where risks are rising faster than the systems meant to protect them.

Children on the Frontlines of the Climate Crisis

The effects of climate change – drought, extreme weather, floods, and loss of livelihoods – push children and their families into poverty, hamper children’s development, and threaten rights such as health, education, security, and protection. Environmental degradation and loss of natural resources exacerbate inequalities and make children especially vulnerable to disease, hunger, violence, and exploitation. Local action and climate adaptation are becoming increasingly critical in places where resources and capacity are limited.

War, Conflict, and Instability

The number of children living in areas marked by armed conflict continues to rise. War destroys schools, health-care facilities, and social structures – but also children’s sense of safety, future prospects, and mental health. Children are recruited as soldiers, exposed to violence, and forced to flee. Protracted conflicts weaken societies for generations and make recovery difficult, placing higher demands on both humanitarian and long-term development efforts.

Democratic Decline and Shrinking Space for Civil Society

In many countries, democratic space is narrowing. Repressive laws, threats to human rights defenders, and reduced freedom of expression make it harder for civil society to operate, influence, and hold decision-makers accountable. Local actors, who carry much of the practical work for change in vulnerable communities, are particularly affected. This makes safe, long term partnerships even more important.

A Changing Financial Landscape

Global funding for children’s rights is today fragmented and insufficient. Humanitarian funds are not enough to meet the growing needs, and long-term development support is being squeezed by geopolitical crises and economic downturns. Private giving is also changing, with fewer donors, increased competition, and growing demands for transparency, innovation, and measurable results. At the same time, more companies and investors are seeking partnerships that combine social benefit with sustainability ambitions, creating new opportunities for child-focused organisations that offer expertise and credibility.

Children’s Rights at a Critical Juncture

The world is at a critical turning point. The climate crisis, conflicts, and democratic decline risk erasing decades of progress. But the developments also create an increased global focus on safety and protection for children, strengthened local resilience, and the need for innovative partnerships. Organisations that can combine child rights expertise, a climate perspective, strong local collaborations, and credible communication will play a central role.

Barnfonden enters the 2026–2030 strategy period with a clear conviction: that children’s rights must be defended, strengthened, and realised – even in a world where risks are increasing. Through close collaboration with local actors, the mobilisation of resources, and using our voice for children’s rights in the climate crisis, we are committed to contributing to lasting changes for children, families, and entire communities.



In Indonesia, we strengthen families, schools, and communities through our child sponsorship

About Us

Barnfonden is a child rights organisation based in Malmö, Sweden. We work to strengthen children's rights, protection, and future opportunities in communities severely affected by climate change, conflicts, and humanitarian crises.

Together with children, we create sustainable solutions that protect and strengthen their rights and well-being. Through long-term partnerships, local ownership, innovative solutions, and a holistic approach, we contribute to children's safety and protection, health, education, and their ability to influence the decisions that shape their lives.

Barnfonden was founded in 1991 and is part of the global ChildFund Alliance network. Together with our partners, we support children and families in over 60 countries. We are politically and religiously independent, and our work is led by an unpaid board.

Vision

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

**I am safe! I am healthy! I am happy!
I have an education! I have a voice!**

Mission

Barnfonden's mission is to work together with children and local partners to develop sustainable solutions that protect and strengthen children's rights and well-being. The child rights perspective forms a fundamental principle of our operations, and we uphold it through long-term efforts that promote a safe, inclusive, and rights-based environment.



Bringing children back to school: Reopenings in Mopti and Bandiagara, Mali.

Core Values

Our core values describe how we work and the principles that guide our efforts.



We Always Stand by Children



We Reach Further Together



We Deliver on Our Promises



We are Biased Towards Action

We Always Stand by Children

As a child rights organisation, our starting point is that the rights of the child shall unconditionally be protected and promoted in all aspects of the child's life. We are committed to achieve the best possible impact, and measure ourselves on how well we succeed in contributing to positive and sustainable development for children. Our commitment and loyalty is to children, and we fight for the best interests of the child at home, at school, in the local community, and at national and global levels. With the child in focus, we choose to do what is right, not what is easy.

We Reach Further Together

Through strategic partnerships, we increase our capacity, impact, and influence. We have an inclusive, respectful, and open approach, with zero tolerance for discrimination, and we recognise the value of different perspectives and experiences.

We Deliver on Our Promises

We take responsibility for doing what we say we will do, and we are transparent about how we work, what we achieve, as well as when we do not achieve what we intended. We must be accountable to everyone who chooses to work with us, from the individual child and family to authorities, sponsors, donors, and colleagues. Through accountability and transparency, we build trust in our daily work.

We are Biased Towards Action

We are curious and have the courage to try new approaches, with the goal of achieving sustainable results in the most efficient, effective, and responsible way possible.

Global Commitments

Our work is rooted in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, and we actively support the efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). In September 2015, the United Nations adopted 17 Global Goals and 169 targets. Together, these form a universal agenda for global sustainable development, known as Agenda 2030. They unite the three dimensions of sustainability: economic, social, and environmental.

Through Barnfonden's holistic approach, we contribute to nearly all of the Global Goals. For our current strategic period, we have identified nine primary focus goals with *the first six* forming the foundation of any child's development.

Our commitment to keeping children safe in a changing climate adds support to the particular focus on *SDG 13: Climate Action*, and target *16.2: End abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence and torture against children*. In addition, *SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals*, represents our strong belief that partnerships are the only way we can achieve sustainable impact for children.

Other key global initiatives guiding our work include the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness and its five core principles.

The Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness, Five Principles

- 1. Ownership**
Developing countries set their own strategies.
- 2. Alignment**
Ensuring that our work links to their plans.
- 3. Harmonisation**
Coordinating efforts to avoid duplication of work.
- 4. Managing for Results**
Taking measures to ensure that change actually occurs.
- 5. Mutual Accountability**



How We Work

Rights-Based Work

Barnfonden works with a rights-based approach and a holistic perspective on children's well-being and daily lives. This means we see how children's rights are influenced by multiple levels simultaneously – the child itself, the family, the surrounding community, local authorities, national decision-makers, and global forums. Every level is significant to a child's well-being, and each carries a responsibility to ensure that children's rights are met. This is why we work with a cross-thematic approach and view children's rights as an interconnected whole. For example, a child's right to education is linked to clean water and sanitation, family livelihood, good nutrition, and a safe environment in which to grow up. Our interventions are based on this holistic vision.

Child rights perspective

A child rights perspective means that children are seen as individuals with the same human rights as adults and with special protection under the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. The work is based on the Convention in all decisions concerning children and follows the UN's interpretations.

The four fundamental principles shall always be considered: non-discrimination, the best interests of the child, the right to life, survival and development, and the right to participation. The perspective also emphasises protection against violence and neglect and applies to society as a whole.

Rights-based work is grounded in the following principles:

- **Participation:**
Individuals and groups should be given real opportunities to participate in and influence decisions that affect their lives, not just be informed about decisions.
- **Inclusion:**
All people should be able to participate on their own terms, with particular attention to those who might otherwise risk being excluded from processes and decisions.
- **Transparency:**
Decisions, processes, and information should be open and comprehensible so that it is possible to understand how decisions are made, who is responsible, and on what grounds.
- **Non-discrimination:**
Everyone shall be treated fairly, and no one should be disadvantaged or excluded based on, for example, gender, age, disability, ethnicity, or other protected grounds.
- **Equality:**
All people have the same value and rights, and efforts should contribute to reducing unequal conditions with regard to different needs and circumstances.

Partnership and Local Anchoring

Partnership is central to Barnfonden's work. We always strive to collaborate with the right partners in every context and to enable partners to share knowledge with one another to complement and strengthen each other's expertise. This may involve thematic knowledge, geographical presence, or new ways of contributing to change.

Our work always takes its starting point in local needs and conditions. By listening to local partners and adapting our interventions to their priorities, we can use our resources most effectively. As a result, the focus may vary in different areas – for instance, between access to clean water, efforts to prevent child marriage, or increasing access to primary education. This requires Barnfonden to have broad capacity and the ability to adapt our support to different needs and contexts. We must be able to support our partners with methodological development, environmental and gender analyses, result measurement, internal governance and control routines, and participatory processes, while remaining agile when they need to quickly pivot a project due to rapidly changing circumstances.

Collaboration for Breadth and Precision

Our strength lies in our ability to collaborate in different ways depending on the need and context. Within our child sponsorship programmes, we work closely with other members of the ChildFund Alliance, where several members contribute to the same programme area. In some projects, we have a financing role; in others, we are involved in developing, managing, and monitoring the

work. This flexibility allows us to contribute to larger, long-term interventions while also implementing more targeted efforts where we hold overall responsibility.

Strengthening Resilience for Children and Families

During the most recent strategy period, we – together with ChildFund Alliance and local partners – have developed and tested working methods that strengthen children’s resilience to climate change and environmental degradation. Together, we develop solutions that improve disaster preparedness and livelihood opportunities, strengthen the agency of children and families, and reduce risks in climate-vulnerable areas. Our goal is for children and young people, together with their families, to not only cope with these challenges but also thrive, develop, and contribute to a sustainable and just future.

We work long-term and build strong, trusting relationships with children, youth, families, and local actors. By operating in the same area over time, we create the right conditions to work on complex issues and adapt interventions based on monitoring and learning. We combine long-term support for local partners with time-bound project interventions to achieve the greatest possible impact in a sustainable way.

Shared Responsibility for Results and Learning

Since our work is based on locally led development, we follow up on results together with our partners. Among other things, we measure how many children are reached, how partners are strengthened, and what changes occur in children’s health, safety, and education. At the same time, we are clear that results are created jointly and that we do not achieve changes alone; they happen through close collaboration with local actors.



In Bangladesh, we support children and youth in leading sustainable change in their communities.

Scope

For Whom

Barnfonden's work is directed toward children and young people, from early childhood up to around 24 years of age. We recognize the importance of supporting the child all the way into adulthood and continuing to stand beside them as they transition to an independent livelihood. By creating favourable conditions for both current and future generations, we can sustainably contribute to breaking negative patterns of poverty, inequality, and social exclusion.

What

Barnfonden's vision is a world where every child can say: "I am safe!" "I am healthy!" "I am happy!" "I have an education!" "I have a voice!" To achieve this, we work thematically with health, water and sanitation, safety and protection, sustainable livelihoods, education, as well as children's right to participation and influence. Because environmental degradation and climate change affect all these rights, we always integrate an environmental and climate perspective into our work.

Barnfonden's primary focus is long-term development work. At the same time, we carry out disaster prevention efforts, respond to humanitarian crises caused by natural disasters, war, and conflict, and support reconstruction once the most acute phase has passed. This requires collaboration with partners who have the capacity to act quickly and effectively, and who have strong local roots to reach the children who are most vulnerable.

With Whom

As a member of ChildFund Alliance, Barnfonden collaborates with other member organisations in the network and supports their work. However, our focus lies primarily on local organisations that implement interventions for children's rights. We strive for long-term partnerships but are also open to new collaborations that can help us reach more children or develop new and more effective ways of working.

Where

Barnfonden's work is primarily conducted outside of Sweden's borders. At the start of this strategy period, we reach children in approximately 20 countries across Africa, Asia, Latin America, and Europe.



Strengthening child health through immunization in Mozambique.

Our geographic focus is prioritized based on the following criteria:

- High child poverty, where many children lack access to education, healthcare, clean water, safety, and protection.
- Inequality and vulnerability, for example, linked to gender discrimination, child labour, child marriage, or the consequences of conflict and climate change.
- Long-term local collaboration, where Barnfonden works together with local organisations and communities, often through partners within the ChildFund Alliance and their networks.
- Access to funding, where the opportunity to mobilize resources makes it possible to contribute to improved living conditions for vulnerable children. This may involve new partnerships or working in new countries, always within the framework of Barnfonden's mission and thematic focus.

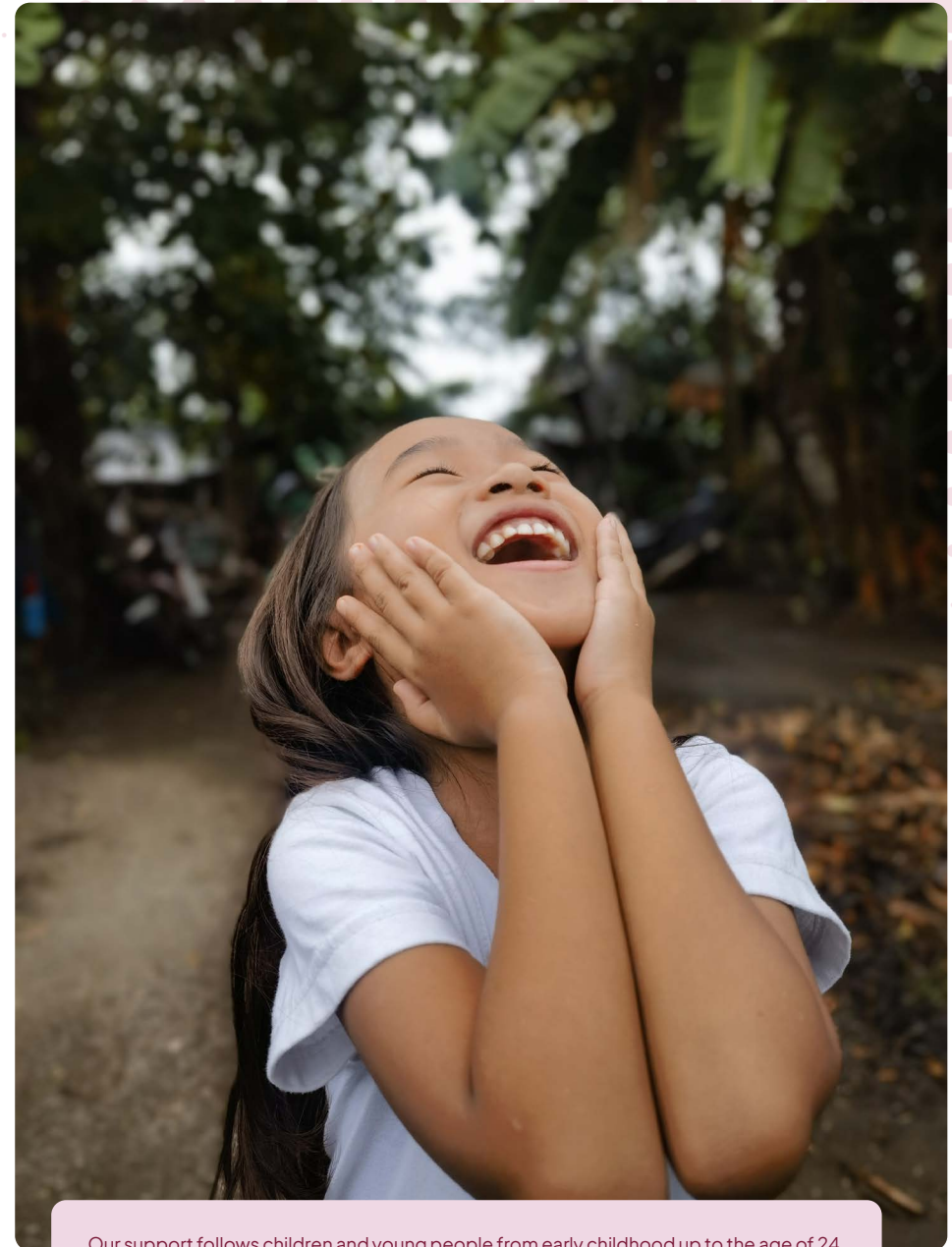
Our Strategy 2026–2030

Our ambition is for children and young people
– especially those most affected by climate change
– to have greater opportunities to exercise their
rights, influence decisions that affect their lives, and
grow up in communities that are resilient, equitable,
and sustainable.

We work in close collaboration with local actors to protect and strengthen children and young people in both everyday life and in crises. Together, we strengthen local resilience, support youth-led contributions to transition and innovation, enable rapid responses to crises, and support the development of well-functioning social structures to ensure children's rights. Through various types of partnerships and funding models, we continue to evolve as an organisation and achieve positive impacts for children living in poverty and vulnerability. We empower children and young people and amplify their voices by creating opportunities for them to participate in the work of securing their rights.

Three primary strategic areas 2026–2030

- Strengthening local partners
- Ensuring sustainable financing
- Being a leading voice for children's rights in the climate crisis



Our support follows children and young people from early childhood up to the age of 24.

Barnfonden’s Role in 2030 – here is our vision

By the year 2030, Barnfonden is an established, relevant, and sought-after child rights actor at the intersection of the climate crisis, children’s rights, and locally led development. Through long-term partnerships with local organisations, Barnfonden contributes annually to improved living conditions for children and youth. This work is built on integrated interventions in health, education, livelihoods, and safety and protection, where the climate and environmental perspective is fully integrated into all programmes and projects.

During this strategy period, Barnfonden has strengthened its ability to operate in the nexus between long-term development work and humanitarian interventions. By combining prevention, climate adaptation, and rapid response, the organisation has contributed to increased resilience in local communities. Children and families are now better equipped to handle climate-related shocks and protracted crises.

By 2030, Barnfonden uses digital tools and a cohesive system for results-based management, with clear links between strategic goals, operational results, and follow-up processes. This has enabled more consistent impact measurement, evidence-based decision-making, faster learning, and more adaptive and agile ways of working in complex contexts. The work culture is characterized by continuous learning, the courage to test new methods, and a strong shared will to achieve the greatest possible impact together.

Financially, Barnfonden stands on a diversified and robust foundation in 2030. Private giving continues to provide a stable base, complemented by institutional

funding, corporate partnerships, and new financing models. At the same time, the organisation has evolved from being primarily funding and implementing programs and projects” till “from primarily funding and implementing programmes and projects. Through strategic collaborations with companies, investors, and innovation actors, Barnfonden has initiated or supported innovative solutions linked to climate change and child-focused resilience. These partnerships have mobilized capital, technical expertise, and local knowledge, contributing to solutions with the potential to scale beyond individual projects to reach long-term and sustainable effects for children’s rights.

Within ChildFund Alliance, Barnfonden holds an active leadership role in issues concerning climate and children’s rights. The organisation has contributed to increased coordination, joint initiatives, and advocacy, including successful multi-member development projects. Local experiences and children’s perspectives are increasingly elevated to regional and global forums, strengthening both the collective impact of the network and the influence of local actors.

What Does This Mean for the Children?

During the 2026–2030 period, Barnfonden has contributed to more children being able to say: “I am safe!” “I am healthy!” “I am happy!” “I have an education!” “I have a voice!” Children in our programme areas have increased access to education, improved health, and a greater sense of security. The children and young people who wish to participate in change-making are listened

to and respected by parents, teachers, and authorities. Their experiences are used to make better decisions that strengthen children’s rights.

Understanding of how climate change and environmental degradation negatively affect children has increased, and effective measures have been taken in the short, medium, and long term. New solutions to local challenges have been developed and are being driven forward by young people. Sustainable job opportunities have been created for both young adults and parents, while traditional sources of income have become more stable and resilient.

More aid reaches children in crisis situations, and more measures are implemented early to counteract the worst consequences of natural disasters. Long-term recovery and reconstruction efforts further contribute to strengthened resilience over time.



Access to education offers a sense of hope in Gaza.

Concrete Goals for 2030

By 2030, Barnfonden's efforts have contributed to:

All local partners with whom we have an active collaboration have strengthened their capacity to drive sustainable change for children's rights.

All our programme areas show documented improvements in children's health, education, safety and protection, livelihood, voice and participation, and climate resilience.

Several innovative solutions for climate adaptation and child resilience have been implemented, demonstrated impact, and scaled up through our partnerships.



Educational support for students in Mozambique.

STRATEGIC AREA 1

Support and Strengthen Local Partners in the Work for Children's Rights

Goal: Increase the effective and impactful support provided to local partners working for children's rights in both humanitarian and development contexts, through capacity development, financing, partnerships, and innovative collaboration.



Expanding access to life-saving healthcare for children in Uganda through local partnerships.

Sub-goal 1.1:

Ensure Strong Technical Expertise and Capacity for Child Rights-Based and Climate-Resilient Development Work

Barnfonden aims to be the natural choice for partners seeking technical expertise and added value in child-focused, climate-resilient development work. Our work encompasses all children's rights, with a particular focus on health, education, livelihoods, and safety and protection.

We will strengthen the capacity and confidence of both our own staff and our partners to manage and advocate for children's voices in the era of the climate crisis. Within our humanitarian work, we aim to both prevent crises and be able to act swiftly when they occur. At the same time, we ensure that all interventions supported by Barnfonden maintain high quality and are permeated by a strong child rights perspective.

PRIORITIES

- Build strong capacity among staff and partners in climate, environment, and child rights.
- Integrate climate and environmental perspectives into all programmes and projects.
- Develop a learning organisation through improved routines for knowledge sharing and documentation.
- Strengthen local actors' voices for children's rights in the climate crisis.
- Clarify child rights and climate perspectives in projects, programmes, and communications.
- Actively contribute to ChildFund Alliance's joint global priorities related to violence against children, humanitarian work, and environment and climate.

Sub-goal 1.2:

Ensure High-Quality Project Management, Coordination, and Quality Assurance

To ensure quality, efficiency, and learning within both humanitarian and development interventions, we will strengthen our internal structure for project management, coordination, and control functions. We work based on clear routines and shared priorities to maximize the impact of our support to partners. We shall also ensure that routines for coordination between humanitarian and long-term interventions, as well as with partners' long-term activities, are well-established within the organisation.

PRIORITIES

- Strengthen competence and collaboration to raise quality and impact in support to partners.
- Improve processes for planning, risk management, monitoring, and reporting.
- Build partners' capacity in project management and financial management.
- Promote cross-functional work within the organisation and strengthen knowledge exchange between different roles.
- Ensure resources for learning and quality, including time, tools, and structures.
- Further develop control functions and risk routines.

Sub-goal 1.3:

Increase Impact for Children's Rights Through Value-Creating Partnerships and Networks

Barnfonden shall be a leading actor and a natural partner for children's rights in the climate crisis – both within civil society and in cross-sectoral collaborations with the private sector and innovation actors. Through strong and value-creating partnerships, we create increased impact, funding, and long-term sustainability in our work for children's rights. Our goal is to have several active collaborations within business, research, and innovation where we either take an active role or function as a catalyst for new partnerships and opportunities that create positive impact for children and young people.

PRIORITIES

- Establish strategic and innovative partnerships that strengthen the impact on children's rights.
- Position Barnfonden's expertise and priorities clearly to facilitate external relationship building and new contact points.
- Create systems for learning and innovation based on local partners' experiences.

STRATEGIC AREA 2

Ensure Sustainable and Diversified Funding for Children's Rights

Goal: Build a stable and well-balanced funding base with several complementary revenue sources that enable organisational development, flexibility, long-term planning, and increased impact.



By investing in local school gardens, we are providing more children with daily access to healthy, nutritious meals.

Sub-goal 2.1:

A Stable Donor Base of Private Individuals and an Increased Share of Unrestricted Funds

In individual fundraising, we work to ensure that as many donors as possible stay with us long-term and feel satisfied with both our work and the service we provide. We want our donors to have high trust in us and to feel that their contributions make a real, positive impact. Our regular givers form the organisation's stable foundation, and we aim to complement this base with more recurring one-time donors. To use the funds entrusted with us as efficiently as possible, our ambition is to increase the proportion of donations that are not earmarked for a specific purpose.

PRIORITIES

- Strengthen and deepen donor engagement through relevant, meaningful, and long-term relationships that build trust, commitment, and loyalty.
- Broaden and modernize fundraising by developing new channels and giving formats to reach more donors and create a sustainable funding base for both development work and humanitarian interventions.
- Ensure a cohesive and efficient fundraising organisation where work is integrated across functions, delivers high quality services and processes, and drives innovation for increased impact and cost-effectiveness.

Sub-goal 2.2:

A Growing Share of Barnfonden's Revenue Comes from a Broader and More Sustainable Mix of Institutions, Foundations, and Companies

Barnfonden has always had an important strength in fundraising from private individuals, but has also taken significant steps to establish itself as a reliable partner for institutions and foundations. To create a more well-balanced and diversified fundraising profile, a growing share of revenue shall come from institutional donors, foundations, and corporations. The objective is both to increase total funds raised and to broaden the donor base, ensuring stable and long-term financing.

PRIORITIES

- Strengthen and develop partnerships with institutional donors and companies through structured prospecting and long-term relationship building.
- Ensure effective, quality-assured grant management processes that maximise the leverage of external funds.
- Explore new tools and fundraising products for broadened funding, such as Grow the Future.

Sub-goal 2.3:

Barnfonden Has Supplemented Fundraising with New Products and Financing Models

As a forward-looking and creative organisation, Barnfonden seeks complementary financing solutions beyond our two main pillars: fundraising from private individuals on one hand, and project grants from institutions, foundations, and companies on the other. The goal is to find new ways to fund the impact we want to see for children.

We will build long-term and results-oriented collaborations with companies, innovation actors, and institutional partners that contribute both funding and expertise. Our partnerships shall be easy to manage, transparent, and value-creating, always originating from the needs formulated by our local partners. With an awareness of risk, we aim to test new, effective, and scalable sales and financing models.

PRIORITIES

- Identify and develop new business models and fundraising products for long-term financing.
- Develop flexible partnerships that enable both time-limited collaborations during campaigns and long-term partnerships, supported by tools such as Grow the Future.

STRATEGIC AREA 3

Increase Influence and Visibility for Children's Rights in the Climate Crisis

Goal: Position Barnfonden as a leading voice for children's rights in relation to climate change, and create platforms where children's voices are heard, taken seriously, and have impact.



Every child's voice and needs must be heard and prioritized in the transition to a sustainable future.

Sub-goal 3.1:

Barnfonden is a Clear, Credible, and Sought-After Actor on Issues Relating to How Children's Rights are Affected by the Climate Crisis

Barnfonden shall be a safe, well-known, and relevant partner with a clear position and a strong message regarding the negative consequences of climate change on children's rights – specifically how the climate crisis contributes to increased vulnerability and violence against children. Our ambition is to be the first choice for private donors, companies, institutions, and the media when these issues are discussed. We will ensure consistent, warm, and professional communication that strengthens both the brand and fundraising efforts, and which clearly reflects Barnfonden's values, expertise, and mission.

PRIORITIES

- Build a strong and clear identity with clarity around Barnfonden's unique value, in both internal and external communication.
- Strengthen external visibility and influence through active channels, events, and strategic initiatives that clarify our mission, vision, and children's right to a sustainable future.
- Develop routines to systematically capture communication material from projects and programmemes, especially where young people's voices and initiatives can be highlighted.
- Integrate internal processes and tools to strengthen internal communication, coordination, and a unified message throughout the organisation.

Sub-goal 3.2:

Barnfonden is a Strong and Clear Voice for Children's Rights in the Climate Crisis, in Public Debate and with Decision-Makers

Barnfonden holds an established expert role in Sweden and is a natural source for media and decision-makers on issues concerning children's rights and the climate crisis. The organisation has clearly designated experts and spokespersons for these core issues.

We act as both a child rights voice in environmental and climate forums and an environmental and climate voice in child rights forums – nationally, internationally, and in our programme countries, including by strengthening the advocacy work of our local partners. We develop our advocacy through strategic partnerships and networks and maintain a clear position in selected national and global contexts, notably within the ChildFund Alliance.

PRIORITIES

- Strengthen Barnfonden's voice and expertise through active presence in relevant forums, media, and our own channels.
- Develop internal experts and spokespersons to clarify our knowledge and position on key issues.
- Raise children's perspectives and voices in public debate, policy processes, and advocacy work.
- Deepen strategic collaborations with national and global child rights actors for joint advocacy.
- Use tools such as Grow the Future to support opinion-forming and knowledge dissemination in Sweden and internationally.



In Guatemala, families work together to plant trees and vegetation to protect the soil from erosion.

Core Commitments

Our core commitments govern everything Barnfonden does and underpin our work for children's rights. They define what we always strive for and how we act in relation to children, partners, and communities. These commitments function as our compass and ensure that we maintain focus on our mission, deliver quality, and build long-term, sustainable results.

Children’s Rights, Voice, and Participation

The child’s perspective always guides our decisions. Children and young people participate in analysis, planning, follow-up, and advocacy.

Children’s rights, as formulated in the 1989 UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, are a cornerstone of all our work. They govern what we do – and what we refrain from doing – and form the basis for all decisions and interventions.

Children’s participation is crucial. Their experiences and voices are a central source of knowledge that strengthens the analysis, planning, and design of local solutions, ensuring our interventions reflect their needs, daily lives, and ideas. Through child-friendly forms of feedback, follow-up, and dialogue forums, children and youth contribute to learning and the continuous improvement of our operations.

By creating space for safe and meaningful participation, children and young people become active co-creators in projects, advocacy, campaigns, and partnerships – both locally and globally – where decisions are made that affect their future.

Locally Led Development

Our interventions always originate from local priorities and are implemented by local actors.

When children, families, and communities lead the work themselves, the results become both relevant and sustainable in the long term. We meet our partners on their terms, adapt our role to their needs, and communicate our work from their perspective – while highlighting their efforts alongside the support from Barnfonden and its donors.

Locally led development and local ownership strengthen capacity, accountability, and participation, ensuring that solutions are built on real needs and cultural understanding. This way of working also promotes resilience and sustainability, equipping communities to continue the work themselves and strengthening children’s rights, gender equality, and long-term development.

Creativity and Innovation Make Us Relevant in the Long Term

We develop and test new solutions, learn from results, and create space for innovation throughout the organisation.

Creativity and innovation are crucial for Barnfonden’s ability to evolve and find effective ways to promote children’s rights. By daring to try new ideas, we can create interventions that are more relevant, sustainable, and innovative – for the benefit of both children and local communities.

Together with local partners, children, and youth, we develop and test new approaches, models for fundraising, and implementation, while continually discussing how the work can be improved. We dare to show results – both when we succeed and when we do not meet our goals – which strengthens learning and transparency. Through creativity and innovation, Barnfonden becomes more flexible, innovative, and effective in its work for children’s rights and sustainable development.

Climate Awareness

Climate change is not just a question of the future; it is also one of the greatest threats to children’s rights here and now.

Children, who have contributed the least to the climate crisis, are those hit hardest by its consequences. Therefore, climate awareness permeates everything Barnfonden does – both in Sweden, in our programme areas, and in our global advocacy. We operate from the insight that climate change affects all parts of society and thus all aspects of children’s well-being and daily lives: health, safety and protection, education, livelihoods, and participation.

By strengthening knowledge and agency internally, among our partners, and in the communities where we operate – not least among children and young people themselves – we build child-friendly resilience and ensure that our work is relevant, sustainable, and prepared for the rapidly changing conditions created by the climate crisis. Through child-rights-based analyses, we reduce vulnerability, strengthen children’s and young people’s hope for the future, and ensure that their voices and perspectives are heard both locally and globally.

Enablers

To realise the strategy, Barnfonden actively works with the following enablers:



In Bolivia, Barnfonden works to strengthen children's rights, health, education, and livelihoods.

Engaging and Strategic Communication

Barnfonden shall strengthen its visibility as a leading child rights organisation focusing on the impact of the climate crisis on children globally. This requires a strong brand with a clear profile, an engaging narrative, and user-friendly channels that build trust and engagement among donors, partners, and the public. From internal communication to strategic advocacy, we create a clear and consistent image that strengthens our ability to influence society professionally and credibly.

Trust and Relationships

Barnfonden shall be a reliable, transparent, and credible organisation in all encounters with donors, partners, and the public. We safeguard the trust we have with existing donors while simultaneously building new relationships with potential partners across various sectors. Our work shall yield measurable results, documented through impact measurement and openly shared reports and tools. By maintaining strong internal control systems, building close relationships with partners and donors, and promoting internal trust and cooperation, we ensure both quality and long-term credibility.

A Healthy Organisation

Barnfonden shall be a workplace where employees thrive, develop, and feel seen. Our employees are our most important resource and make significant results possible, even within limited financial frameworks. We build and protect a safe physical and social work environment, follow labour laws and collective agreements, and work actively to develop both leadership and staff ownership and agency.

Our work climate is built on accountability, clarity, trust, and inclusion, where staff dare to test new ideas and learn from mistakes. Through open communication channels, clear routines, and a balance between flexibility and structure, we promote collaboration, engagement, and a positive work environment – with the goal of being a healthy organisation that delivers long-term, sustainable results.

Evidence-Based Learning

Barnfonden is a learning organisation where evidence and data-driven decision-making permeate all work. Through systematic follow-up, reflection, and collaboration with partners, we ensure that interventions are innovative, evidence-based, and continuously evolving. We openly share our lessons learned and results, which strengthens transparency, trust, and a culture of continuous improvement.

Partnerships and Networks (1+1 > 2)

Through strategic partnerships and networks, we increase our impact, exchange knowledge and resources, and create results greater than the sum of their parts. We are a clear and active voice; we build partnerships that strengthen our understanding, financing, and influence, and ensure that all participation is results-oriented and strategically linked. As an active member of ChildFund Alliance, we purposefully contribute to strengthening the network and take responsibility in line with our mission and goals.



Access to clean water in schools improves learning conditions for children in Kenya, even in times of drought.

Effective Governance and Quality Assurance

We have clear and widely understood processes and routines that all staff are familiar with and use when relevant, ensuring a uniform and efficient way of working. Our partners encounter secure and transparent working methods that create effective collaboration and fulfil both internal and external accountability requirements. We stay continuously updated on donor conditions and sector developments, maintaining a close dialogue with our partners to understand their needs and provide the right support. Through systematic work with risk management, quality assurance, and follow-up, we ensure integrity in our work and promote continuous improvement.

Digitalisation and Data-Driven Development

Barnfonden actively follows digital developments to strengthen operations and create better results for children. Through the strategic use of digital tools, we streamline processes, increase flexibility, and ensure clear data management. Digitalisation creates value for partners, donors, and children, while security, privacy, and responsible use underpin all our work.

Conclusion

The strategy 2026–2030 is Barnfonden’s direction for how we strengthen children’s rights in a time of increasing global risks. Through local ownership, long-term partnerships, climate-adapted development work, and the courage to change, we create sustainable results for children – today and for future generations.



English language training for tech-oriented girls in Sri Lanka.

barnfonden

Member of ChildFund Alliance