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News Release

SDG Outcomes Fund hits USD 100mn target with anchor commitment from the European Union

- **Successful final closing of the SDG Outcomes Fund, with total commitments of USD 100 million, developed by UBS Optimus Foundation and Bridges Outcomes Partnerships.**
- **EIB joins fund with an anchor commitment backed by the European Commission through the ACP Trust Fund.**
- **First fund to invest in outcomes-based financing programs in low- and middle-income countries, already resulting in nearly USD 13.5 million of payments for social and environmental outcomes.**
- **Hundreds of thousands of people are receiving health, employment, or education support[1].**
- **Fund uses an innovative "blended finance" approach, whereby the UBS Optimus Foundation provides first-loss capital and senior capital is provided by EIB, BII, DFC and private investors.**

Zurich / London / Luxembourg / Sevilla, 3 July 2025 – UBS Optimus Foundation and Bridges Outcomes Partnerships today announced the successful final closing of the SDG Outcomes Fund at the 4th UN International Conference on Financing for Development (FFD4) in Sevilla. Through the new anchor commitment from the European Union, the fund reached its subscription target of USD 100 million. This Luxembourg-based SFDR Article 9 fund is a pioneering blended finance initiative designed to accelerate progress towards the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by supporting outcomes-focused programs in low- and middle-income countries, particularly in Africa and Asia.

European Union joins fund with new anchor commitment

The fund was created as a partnership between UBS Optimus Foundation, which provides first-loss capital, and Bridges Outcomes Partnerships (BOP), a not-for-profit impact specialist which acts as a portfolio and delivery manager. Mezzanine and senior capital have been committed by the US International Development Finance Corporation (DFC) and British International Investment (BII), alongside private investors including Legatum, family offices such as the Tsao Family Office, Ferd, and high net worth individuals. The European Investment Bank recently completed a USD 18 million commitment to the fund through funding from the European Commission via the ACP Trust Fund, enabling it to reach its USD 100 million target. This investment will contribute to the Africa-EU Global Gateway Investment Package objectives. This operation is fully in line with the European Commission's priority to promote impact investments and find innovative ways to finance programs in low- and middle-income countries, including in fragile countries.

A transformational way of achieving better outcomes for underserved people

SDG Outcomes is the first fund specifically designed to support outcomes-based programs in low- and middle-income countries, with a focus on health, education, women's economic empowerment, and the environment. For each program, BOP brings together like-minded partners to find innovative solutions that can achieve measurable impact. Expert local partners are identified to deliver the program, with the SDG Outcomes Fund covering the up-front costs. Funders – typically local or national governments, donors, foundations, corporates, NGOs, or even individuals themselves – only pay if successful, verifiable outcomes

are achieved. The focus on outcomes, instead of on the traditional approach of paying for activities or inputs, allows delivery consortia to adjust and tailor their programs as they go along, learning from real-time impact data about how to achieve the best possible results in each context. As a result, nearly USD 13.5 million of outcome payments have already been achieved.

Proven track record of impact

The SDG Outcomes Fund aims to have a broader systemic impact by developing completely new delivery models, building the capacity of high-impact local organizations, and transforming the way local governments and donors fund services for underserved populations. This collaborative and flexible approach to delivering critical programs is already helping hundreds of thousands of people to improve their lives, including[1]:

- Supporting 50,000+ schools in India and 100,000+ children in Sierra Leone and Ghana.
- Delivering 1.5+ million sexual and reproductive health services to 700,000+ girls aged 15-19 in Kenya.
- Collecting 3,000 tons of plastic waste for recycling in Nigeria.
- Providing IT upskilling and employment opportunities for 800+ long term unemployed young adults in Türkiye.

Tom Hall, Global Head of Social Impact and Philanthropy and CEO, UBS Optimus Foundation Network, says: "The SDG Outcomes Fund is a ground-breaking initiative that shows how different forms of capital can come together to deliver outcomes for people who need it most. Reaching the USD 100 million milestone demonstrates the powerful potential of outcomes-based funding programs and their role in shaping future impact investment models."

Mila Lukic OBE, CEO of Bridges Outcomes Partnerships, says: "The results achieved by the SDG Outcomes Fund already show that by bringing together a range of partners, and critically, by learning from the data about what works best and adjusting our programs accordingly, we can achieve better outcomes for individuals and better value for our funders. This more flexible, more collaborative approach has already helped to improve the lives of hundreds of thousands of people, and we are hugely grateful to all our investors for supporting this fund, which will ensure impact-seeking capital catalyzes high-impact programs in some of the areas of greatest need."

Ambroise Fayolle, Vice-President of the European Investment Bank, says: "Our commitment is more than just financing – it's investing in a future where every investment delivers tangible, measured impact. This fund is already bringing advancements in health, education, and climate action to vulnerable communities around the world, with a strong focus on Africa and emerging markets."

Jozef Síkela, European Commissioner for International Partnerships, says: "New opportunities — better education, impactful training, quality jobs. That is one of the core goals of the Global Gateway. That's why I appreciate the ACP Trust Fund, which enables us to invest in high-impact programs across Africa. It will help us deliver on our goals. Improve education, create jobs, or build stronger health systems."

Leslie Maasdorp, CEO, British International Investment, says: "BII is proud to support the SDG Outcomes Fund which is dedicated to achieving better outcomes for underserved communities. This initiative exemplifies the power of mobilizing like-minded partners to unlock innovative solutions that deliver significant and tangible results, and we are grateful for EIB's support to get this impactful fund to the target size. We look forward to the fund's continued success in improving livelihoods and supporting high-impact projects."

[1] Data as of March 2025. Please visit Bridges Outcomes Partnerships' website for further information about the impact its programmes have achieved. Outcomes are verified by a third party and/ or an outcome funder.

About UBS
UBS is a leading and truly global wealth manager and the leading universal bank in Switzerland. It also provides diversified asset management solutions and focused investment banking capabilities. UBS manages 6.1 trillion dollars of invested assets as per fourth quarter 2024. UBS helps clients achieve their financial goals through personalized advice, solutions and products. Headquartered in Zurich, Switzerland, the firm is operating in more than 50 markets around the globe. UBS Group shares are listed on the SIX Swiss Exchange and the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE).

About UBS Optimus Foundation
Established 25 years ago, the UBS Optimus Foundation is a global network of separately organized and regulated, tax-exempt, charitable organizations, founded and managed by UBS, that offers UBS clients a platform to use their wealth to drive positive social and environmental change. The Foundation selects programs that have the potential to be transformative, scalable, and sustainable.

About Bridges Outcomes Partnerships
Bridges Outcomes Partnerships (BOP) is a not-for-profit dedicated to radically improving outcomes for people, planet, and value for society, by creating a world where funders partner based on impact. Bridges has been a world-leader in the design and delivery of 'outcomes partnerships' since 2012. Its team has worked with funders (including multilateral and bilateral donors, national and local governments, philanthropy, corporates and others), social investors, community groups, and delivery partners across the world to design, structure, deliver, and manage over 80 of these programs. To date these have achieved over US$280m worth of outcomes for 935,000 people. In the UK alone, the estimated public value created by these outcomes partnerships has been estimated at c. £1.3bn.

About European Investment Bank
The European Investment Bank (EIB) is the long-term lending institution of the European Union, owned by its Member States. It finances investments that contribute to EU policy objectives.

EIB Global is the EIB Group's specialised arm devoted to increasing the impact of international partnerships and development finance, and a key partner of Global Gateway. It aims to support €100 billion of investment by the end of 2027 – around one-third of the overall target of this EU initiative. Within Team Europe, EIB Global fosters strong, focused partnerships alongside fellow development finance institutions and civil society. EIB Global brings the EIB Group closer to people, companies and institutions through its offices across the world.

The African, Caribbean and Pacific Trust Fund (ACP Trust Fund) was created in 2023. It is managed by the EIB under the European Fund for Sustainable Development Plus governance and funded from reflows of the ACP Investment Facility. It aims to foster the sustainable economic, social and environmental development of African, Caribbean and Pacific countries, with the primary aim of promoting growth and prosperity. The ACP Trust Fund invests in high-impact projects for the private sector by offering technical assistance and financial instruments such as equity, quasi-equity, subordinated debt, risk-sharing and local currency lending, with particular focus on Least Developed Countries (LDC) and countries in fragile situations.

About British International Investment
British International Investment is the UK's development finance institution and impact investor. As a trusted investment partner to businesses in Africa, Asia and the Caribbean, BII invests to create productive, sustainable and inclusive economies in our markets. Between 2022-2026, at least 30 per cent of BII's total new commitments by value will be in climate finance. BII is also a founding member of the 2X Challenge which has raised over US $33.6 billion to empower women's economic development. The company has investments in over 1,580 businesses across 65 countries and total net assets of £8.5 billion. For more information, visit: www.bii.co.uk I watch here. Follow British International Investment on LinkedIn and X.

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