The power of philanthropy

Annual Review 2022

UBS Optimus Foundation

The power of philanthropy

The year 2022 witnessed the power of philanthropy and its vital role in responding to global events. Here at UBS, connecting people for a better world is central to our purpose and these connections came to the fore during the year.

When Russia invaded Ukraine, the UBS Optimus Foundation was able to mobilize quickly to establish the UBS Ukraine Relief Fund within a matter of days. We were proud to see just how UBS's clients and employees responded. Thanks to their generosity, with matching by UBS and our external partner XTX Markets, we have raised USD 56 million to date. A remarkable groundswell of philanthropic energy.

This giving enabled us to support international and Ukrainian organizations helping people on the ground to access emergency shelter, supplies and healthcare, as well as addressing longer-term needs as the Ukrainian people seek to rebuild their lives and their country. We also moved to support some of the three million plus refugees forced from their homes into neighbouring countries. The Ukraine Relief Fund quickly established several grassroots organizations in Poland, supported by UBS volunteers who helped displaced Ukrainians rebuild their lives. Sadly, it was not the only large-scale humanitarian crisis last year. In September, unprecedented flooding in Pakistan wreaked havoc on lives, livelihoods, crops and homes, with millions impacted. Again, thanks to the generosity of our clients and employees, the UBS Optimus Foundation was able to mobilize funds to provide emergency support for those most in need.

These events showed the power of philanthropic partnerships to pool resources and direct funds swiftly to reputable organizations working on the ground to deliver the help that is needed. And thanks to an innovative approach we are piloting, we will now be able to measure the impact of those donations.

Maya Ziswiler
CEO
UBS Optimus Foundation

Suni Harford
UBS GEB lead
Group Sustainability and Impact

An ongoing focus on climate, health and education

The UBS Optimus Foundation is a global network that connects clients with inspiring programs that are making a measurable, long-term difference to the most serious and enduring social and environmental problems. In 2022, the UBS Optimus Foundation opened an office in Australia, bringing our total on-the-ground offices to eight worldwide.

We continued to build on our 20-year track record, incubating impact ventures, scaling through partnerships and increasing transparency. We remain focused on health, education, climate and the environment, and are managing over 370 programs, with grants deployed in 80 countries around the world.

From Healthy Learners in Zambia, which provides healthcare access to over 450,000 students, to Youth Impact's phone-tutoring model, proven to be the most cost-effective method for delivering one-on-one tutoring in Southern Africa, we see that across our education portfolio the work of the UBS Optimus Foundation is helping to shape lives.

In 2022, our long-standing support for the Luminos Fund, giving out-of-school children a second chance, produced remarkable results with a 46% rise in student literacy and a 26% rise in numeracy across the project in Liberia. We were the first funder of their program and we're proud to support these best-in-class education innovations to help those children in greatest need.

On the environmental side, UBS Optimus Foundation signed a memorandum of understanding with Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation, creating a program within the Pelagos Initiative to accelerate climate action in the Mediterranean Sea. Our SDG Impact Finance initiative partnership with the Swiss Government has continued to progress, and by the end of 2022, the four founding donors had committed nearly a third of the fundraising target of CHF 100 million. The first set of grants have been dispersed to tackle climate change, ensure access to quality education and support smallholder farming and small business owners.

The importance of partnerships

The challenges our world faces cannot be solved by one organization alone. Last year, we therefore launched key new partnerships around common goals that can drive change at a global scale.

In 2022, we joined USAID and GHR Foundation to co-fund a World Bank Rapid Social Response initiative that will give small grants to World Bank teams to develop, cash-plus-care social protection responses for children affected by Covid-19-related adversities.

We also worked with the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and the Government of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg to support the development of sound, investable ocean projects under the banner of Blue Natural Capital Financing Facility. Blue Natural Capital supports solutions with clear ecosystem service benefits, based on multiple income streams and appropriate risk-return profiles.

Philanthropists are most impactful when working together to drive change and this is a key principle behind the UBS Collectives.

The UBS Accelerate Collective supported innovative financing models to unlock more capital to improve health, education, climate and environment outcomes in developing countries; the UBS Climate Collective harnessed the blue carbon market to enable climate mitigation and climate resilient livelihoods for communities and smallholders living off of mangroves; the UBS Transform Collective worked with child protection systems to prioritize best-practice models of family-based childcare, redirecting resources toward solutions where children grow and thrive in safe, loving, families. Again in 2022, we saw how partnerships helped unlock a larger potential, as different groups of philanthropists and social investors came together under the UBS Optimus Foundation banner.

New impact projects like these show the power of philanthropy to make a difference to people and the planet. We invite you to get in touch and find out more about how we can work together to have a positive impact on a global scale.

We thank you sincerely for all of your time and generosity.

Maya Ziswiler
CEO
UBS Optimus Foundation

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UBS GEB lead
Group Sustainability and Impact

At a glance

5.9

million people reached
(of which 2.2m children)

371

programs managed

172,415

professionals reached

250

partners engaged

9

offices/entities globally

125

philanthropy experts
globally

274

million USD
donations raised

80

countries in which grants
were deployed

150

million USD in
grants committed

384.7

million USD invested in
programs under management

25+

years of experience

Collective philanthropy

UBS believes that philanthropists are most impactful when working together as drivers of change.

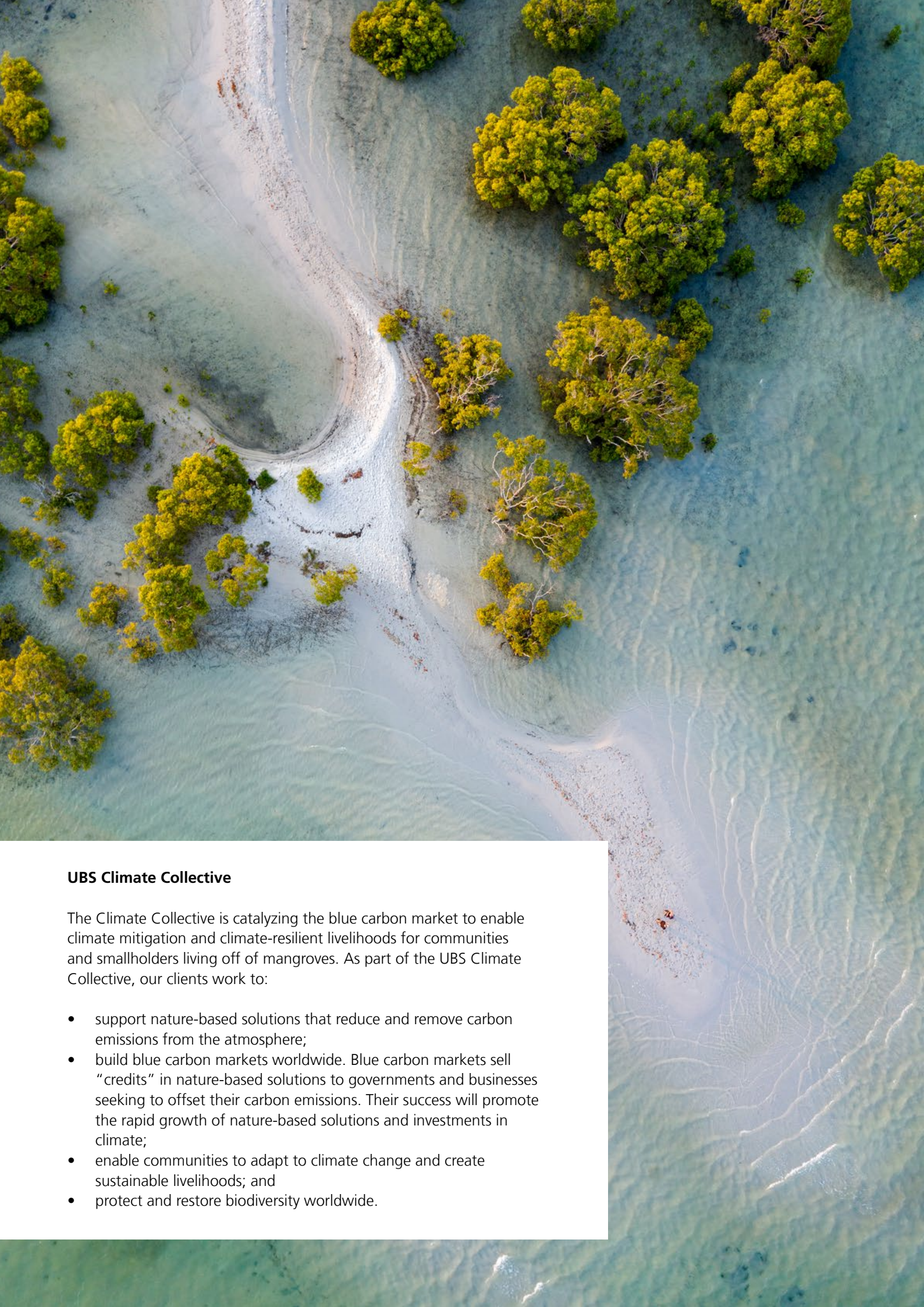
We are committed to harnessing the power of collective partnerships with philanthropists, organizations and governments. With this in mind, we have formed UBS Collectives, different groups of philanthropists and social investors who combine their resources and skills towards solving an issue close to their hearts. We're bringing these powerful cohorts together in three ready-made collectives.

Join the movement >

UBS Accelerate Collective

The Accelerate Collective harnesses the use of innovative financing models to unlock more capital to improve health, education, climate and environment outcomes in developing countries. As part of the UBS Accelerate Collective, our clients work to:

- improve the health and education of disadvantaged children worldwide and preserve our planet for future generations;
- create a system where innovative "social finance" investments will soon become the first choice for individuals and organizations seeking to solve social and environmental issues. Social finance is a type of investment that gives a vital financial boost to solutions while recycling the returns from investment capital, thereby multiplying the effect of your financial contribution. They help make social finance mainstream, attracting the massive private and commercial investments needed to give children the healthcare, education, and environment they deserve; and
- support social businesses – mentoring, training, and investing in social businesses to help them grow, achieve more impact, and take their solutions to the world.



UBS Climate Collective

The Climate Collective is catalyzing the blue carbon market to enable climate mitigation and climate-resilient livelihoods for communities and smallholders living off of mangroves. As part of the UBS Climate Collective, our clients work to:

- support nature-based solutions that reduce and remove carbon emissions from the atmosphere;
- build blue carbon markets worldwide. Blue carbon markets sell "credits" in nature-based solutions to governments and businesses seeking to offset their carbon emissions. Their success will promote the rapid growth of nature-based solutions and investments in climate;
- enable communities to adapt to climate change and create sustainable livelihoods; and
- protect and restore biodiversity worldwide.

UBS Transform Collective

The Transform Collective is transforming child protection systems to prioritize best-practice models of family-based childcare and redirecting resources going to orphanages toward these solutions so that children grow and thrive in safe, loving families. As part of the UBS Transform Collective, our clients work to:

- enable vulnerable children to grow up safely in nurturing families and communities;
- redirect millions in donations away from institutions and toward quality family-based care systems;
- reform child protection systems to better protect children and strengthen families; and
- reduce the number of children living in institutions (currently around five to six million worldwide).[1]

1 The Lancet (2020): "Institutionalisation and deinstitutionalisation of children 2: policy and practice recommendations for global, national and local actors"

UBS Optimus Foundation portfolios

The **UBS Optimus Foundation** pioneers innovative ways to tackle some of the world's most pressing social and environmental problems.

As a leader in social finance, we test and prove new tools in support of education, health, climate and child protection, like outcomes-based finance and blended finance. We apply an investment-based philosophy and specialize in scalable, evidence-based approaches.

Education portfolio highlights

CLEF

The Child Learning and Education Facility (CLEF) has been launched in 2022. The Government of Côte d'Ivoire, the Jacobs Foundation, the UBS Optimus Foundation, and 16 cocoa and chocolate companies have set up this innovative public-private partnership focused on scaling investments to systemically improve access to quality education as one essential tool for promoting children's rights and fighting child labor in Côte d'Ivoire. By 2030, CLEF aims to provide quality education for five million children and influence the behavior of 10 million parents. To achieve this goal, CLEF is expected to bring effective learning to up to 10,000 primary schools in cocoa growing areas and beyond, and to build 2,500 classrooms and other education infrastructure. CLEF will first focus on the areas of greatest need in the cocoa-growing regions based on a heat map developed by Enveritas and in consultation with relevant ministries. CLEF's target capitalization is CHF 110 million, committed funding is now at CHF 75 million, including USD 13 million from GPE's Multiplier fund.

CEEE

Since 2021, the UBS Optimus Foundation has been supporting the Center for Experimental Economics in Education (CEEE), Shaanxi Normal University on designing interventions that leverage information technology to deliver high-quality education resources to rural China. By adopting a proven "Computer-Assisted Learning" and further piloting a set of effective, implementable and scalable delivery models in rural areas, the project directly provides English, science and social-competence classes to students in poor regions and improve the capacity of local teachers. By the end of 2022, a total of 18,509 children benefitted from the project, and 460 professional teachers were trained in 79 rural schools in two provinces in Northwest China. CEEE will also validate the effectiveness of the interventions through randomized control trial for future scale-up and policy advocacy, and thus contribute to the long-term education equality in China.

Education Partnership Group (EPG)

In 2022, EPG continued to support governments in low- and middle-income countries to improve education outcomes for children. EPG worked on policy projects across five countries in sub-Saharan Africa, which will eventually reach almost five million children and 220,000 teachers from pre-primary to senior secondary school. In Sierra Leone, EPG developed an implementation plan for its flagship Radical Inclusion Policy. In Côte d'Ivoire, EPG facilitated a new government pilot of an accelerated school readiness program for children who have had no access to pre-primary education, signing a new five-year MOU with the Ministry of National Education and Literacy. EPG's efforts to expand and grow impact continued to gain momentum as it hosted a Ministerial Roundtable in London on approaches to early and continuous teacher training, with delegations from seven sub-Saharan African countries.

Youth Impact

Youth Impact continued implementation of its ConnectEd program in 2022. ConnectEd is one of the most cost-effective methods for delivering one-on-one tutoring, delivering roughly one year of quality schooling for every USD 100 spent. Results from a five-country replication study show large and significant impacts in each of the five countries where ConnectEd was implemented. The effort, which included partnerships with NGOs and governments in Kenya, Nepal, India, the Philippines and Uganda, reached over 16,000 children and represents some of the largest, fastest-produced research efforts ever in education. Rapid impact assessments have been key to readying ConnectEd programming for scale. Successive rapid tests have resulted in small program tweaks to improve cost-effectiveness and double program impact for enrolled participants. Youth Impact's phone-tutoring model inspired a similar effort in Central and South America through the Inter-American Development Bank.

Education portfolio highlights

LIFT

In 2022, LIFT reached 1,753 families across the US, helping more than 90% progress toward their financial goals, such as increasing savings, eliminating debt or securing a living wage. Almost two thirds made progress on their educational goals and just over half increased their well-being, including increased levels of hope and decreased levels of stress. LIFT continued to enhance its coaching model with new approaches (trauma-informed and racial-equity-driven), new formats (virtual and group coaching), and new programming that continues to respond to families' needs and interests, such as an entrepreneurship program in partnership with Rising Tide Capital. An external evaluation study, LIFT's Model and Two-Generation Prevention of Intimate Partner Violence, found that LIFT members see statistically significant shifts in income, social support, financial well-being, education and employment – all factors correlated with prevention of intimate partner violence.

Imagine Worldwide

Imagine Worldwide's child-directed, tech-enabled intervention was successfully piloted in 250 schools in Malawi since 2014, serving 225,000 children via the Unlocking Talent program. It has proven to be effective at remediation and acceleration as well as taking pressure off of teachers and systems. As a result of this strong track record, the Government of Malawi is now committed to launch a countrywide scaling in September 2023. This will be the largest edtech scale-up on the African continent. Children learn at their own pace in the national language, Chichewa, on dedicated tablets that can be used both at home and at school with no need for internet. This has proven effective in supporting learning during times when schools may close due to pandemics, natural disasters and other unforeseen circumstances. Imagine Worldwide is planning an outcomes-based funding structure in the second year of implementation.

Educate!

Educate! is back in scale-up mode following the pandemic. Educate! successfully resumed its in-school model in Uganda, reaching a total of 35,000 students in 2022. Educate! reached over 4,000 in Kenya and Uganda through its bootcamps for out-of-school youth. An evaluation of the autumn Kenya cohort showed an average income increase of 100% three months after participation. At the start of Rwanda's school year, Educate! scaled up its education system solution from a third of secondary schools to 55% of all upper secondary schools, preparing for full nationwide scale to reach 158,000 students. Educate! also continued advocacy efforts and technical advisory services for Kenya's education system. And Educate! established a formal relationship with Tanzania's national education body, laying the foundation to impact millions of students in the years to come.

Health portfolio highlights

Healthy Learners

Healthy Learners trains teachers to become school health workers who ensure timely diagnosis and treatment for school-aged children, reducing sickness and absenteeism. Healthy Learners won the UBS Optimus Foundation COVID Prize competition in 2021 and helped Zambia to be one of the first countries on the continent to reopen schools safely. Healthy Learners' national expansion with the Zambian Government more than doubled program coverage in 2022 and for the first time, the program was implemented in rural settings outside of Lusaka. Healthy Learners now provides healthcare access to over 450,000 students, 15% of Zambia's public primary school population. Healthy Learners is at a crucial inflection point with the model being adopted as policy by the Ministry of Education of Zambia, which concurrently established a School Health and Nutrition Department responsible for supporting the scale-up and management of the program.

Jacaranda Health

Since 2020, we're supporting Jacaranda Health to scale. Now, two million expectant and new mothers in Kenya are receiving information and referral to care through Jacaranda Health's PROMPTS, an AI-based triage system. PROMPTS – which is completely free to the user – answers 5,000 questions from mothers daily and offers customized referral during emergencies in 15 minutes or less. Thanks to PROMPTS, 90% of high-risk mothers now report receiving care in a referral facility. PROMPTS also provides mothers with the ability to report on whether they were treated with respect in facilities as well as the clinical quality of their prenatal care.

Integrate Health

Integrate Health reached a significant milestone in Togo in the process of handing over program ownership to Kozah district health officials in the Integrated Primary Care pilot sites. In November 2022, Integrate Health signed a protocol agreement with the Kozah district health director and Kara regional health director, formalizing next steps for the handover process. This agreement defines and formalizes the budget and payment structure, monitoring and evaluation plan, and supply chain management process. Integrate Health and government partners are recruiting a comptroller who will sit on the district health team and oversee the handover process, including finalizing the work plan and budget for the first quarter. A communication plan will inform all stakeholders, including community members, for the 2023 handover.

Health portfolio highlights

Leapfrog to Value

The UBS Optimus Foundation established a partnership with Leapfrog to Value to test models for insurance schemes to pay for healthcare outcomes for mothers and newborns. This value-based care model is innovative in that it is specifically aiming to transform the ways in which we measure, deliver and pay for care, with a focus on rewarding providers for quality and outcomes, rather than the volume of services provided. It also is innovative in its approach to bringing providers, patients and payers together at the design stage to maximize the potential for impact and scale.

World Child Cancer

The positive impact of World Child Cancer's programs on childhood cancer survival rates in Ghana continues to rise. Overall survival rates stand at 71% (with no significant gender difference) compared to 49% when the UBS Optimus Foundation's investment began in 2018. The proportion of patients abandoning or refusing therapy within the first 90 days was 13.8% from 2018 to 2020, compared to 7.5% in 2021 – a reduction that is expected to translate into improved long-term outcomes. There were 325 children diagnosed with childhood cancers from the two main pediatric treatment centers – Korle Bu Teaching Hospital and Komfo Anokye Teaching Hospital – in 2021, the latest figures available. This compares to an average of 235 patients per year in the preceding three years – a dramatic increase indicating that the interventions to improve early diagnosis of childhood cancer are also working.

Learn more about Health >

Penda Health

The UBS Optimus Foundation made an equity investment in Penda Health, a social enterprise that provides low-cost, trustworthy, high-quality primary healthcare services to low-income families in urban and peri-urban Nairobi, expanding across Kenya. This is a flagship investment for UBS Optimus Foundation's new health strategy, launched in early 2022, which seeks to increase access to and affordability of quality primary care through public and private sector channels. Penda's focus on the delivery of quality care at a low cost and reaching low-income populations makes it a great fit. The investment will support Penda to grow its telemedicine offering while optimizing the brick-and-mortar clinic model for further scale.

Climate portfolio highlights

African Parks

A new partnership between the UBS Optimus Foundation and African Parks was launched in 2022 that includes general support as well as a specific focus on the Nkhotakota Wildlife Reserve in Malawi. Since African Parks took over Nkhotakota, poaching has reduced and elephant numbers have increased from a low point of fewer than 100 individuals to 769 in 2021, and growing. UBS Optimus Foundation's support enables African Parks to build on this achievement, bringing 1,800 hectares under sustainable management and continuing increase in wildlife populations by up to 10%. Local community engagement is supporting 32,000 people to strengthen livelihoods, and a large-scale tree planting program will restore degraded areas with 247,518 trees planted over the five years of the program, with 139,459 planted in 2021 and 2022.

Peace Parks Foundation

A new five-year partnership was initiated with Peace Parks Foundation for conservation of Banhine National Park in Mozambique. Rewilding Banhine will enable ecological connectivity of the Great Limpopo Transfrontier Conservation Area in Mozambique, Zimbabwe and South Africa. The program also incorporates Herding 4 Health (H4H), a herder-based rangeland restoration program that uses rangeland stewardship and climate-smart livestock management to reduce human-wildlife conflict, conserve biodiversity, and strengthen coexistence between community and protected areas.

M40 Initiative

Mangroves are a powerful nature-based solution for climate adaptation, climate mitigation and biodiversity. Yet the world's mangrove ecosystems are critically under threat – 50% of global mangroves have already been lost. The M40 Initiative tackles this challenge head on, enabling mangrove restoration and conservation at scale by identifying good projects, enabling capital flow and delivering benefits for climate, community and conservation. The M40 Initiative identifies 40 locations globally that hold over 70% of remaining mangrove ecosystems. It engages with cities in these locations to create hubs of mangrove finance; and it aims to catalyze global financing for mangroves and coastal resilience. Beginning in Indonesia, which holds 12 of the 40 locations, the M40 Initiative has shortlisted 20 projects and in 2023 will select six pilots. These projects will demonstrate innovative approaches to financing scalable mangrove conservation through replicable, impact-driven investments with potential blue carbon revenue.

The Nature Conservancy and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation

In 2022, the first climate and environment grants were made on US soil, bringing direct benefits to local US communities and ecosystems. Funded by both UBS clients and employees, the UBS Optimus Foundation launched support for programs with partners The Nature Conservancy (TNC) and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF). This includes the Southern High Plains Initiative (SHPI), the Bayou Grand Marsh Restoration Program and the Five Star Urban Waters Regeneration Program. These three programs began delivering activities with benefits for biodiversity, climate mitigation and local communities: conserving biodiverse grassland ecosystems for ranchers and wildlife, restoring tidal salt marshes to protect coastal communities and restore biodiversity, as well as rescuing and regenerating urban wetlands and waterways providing key ecosystem services to local communities in US cities. The SHPI has identified a growing pipeline of potential direct land protection projects and is established in all five states, with on-the-ground projects in three states. TNC's Southern High Plains Initiative has reached first year targets of protecting over 16,000 hectares of ranch land across the Midwest of the USA and in East Africa, a new partnership with Tanzanian NGO Six Rivers Africa provides over 5000 sq km of African wildlands with enhanced protection from poaching and land degradation.

Climate portfolio highlights

Farm Africa

Farm Africa's environmental and climate resilience work in Ethiopia's Bale Ecoregion is helping communities build resilience through specific and much-needed improvements in resource management, with a focus on the livelihoods of pastoral communities. In 2022, the first phase of the Farm Africa project created a framework to help the government sustainably manage forests, rangelands and water sources, while developing forest-friendly enterprises and increasing yields on existing agricultural land to prevent communities from further deforestation. Farm Africa and its partners are tackling unsustainable practices from multiple angles, successfully working with stakeholders to become active participants in the sustainable management of forests and water resources, while improving the livelihoods of communities living in the region. Phase two will expand the project to reach 1.6 million people by the end of 2024, while improving drought resilience and food and nutrition security for an estimated 12 million people living downstream who depend on the region for their water supply.

myclimate

Fundraising by the Global Giving Campaign team enabled a partnership with myclimate foundation, supporting the rewetting and restoration of upland peat across the Swiss mountains. Moors are enormous carbon stores and biodiversity hotspots. In Switzerland, moors are protected but are nonetheless in poor condition due to lack of funding. Restoration of these precious systems can both capture carbon as well as avoid further emissions. Healthy moors are also rich in biodiversity, providing habitats for rare and even endangered plant and animal species, while also improving flood protection and water management. This project is funding the restoration of 1.6 hectares of moorland, which has so far resulted in verified emissions reduction of 496 CO_2e in 2021 and 1,310 CO_2e in 2022. Further work to come will provide additional emissions reductions, and the rewetting will also lead to additional sequestration of CO_2 as well as enhancing local biodiversity. As an indicator of success to date, in Neuchâtel 24 dragonfly species were identified on site where previously no dragonflies had been observed; of these, five species were characteristic of peat bogs.

Learn more about Climate >

Child protection portfolio highlights

Street Business School

We commissioned Street Business School (SBS) to build the capacity and amplify the impact of up to 10 non-government organizations (NGOs) in the UBS Optimus Foundation's Families Not Orphans portfolio, advancing these organizations' work by training them to customize and deliver SBS-proven training models to help families increase their incomes so they can keep their children at home. SBS will provide comprehensive training and support, including an 8-day Immersion Workshop to train two staff members of each organization, all curriculum and teaching materials, a monitoring and evaluation system to track impact data, and ongoing support through the SBS network. NGOs certified in SBS at the workshop will go on to train an estimated 3,600 women over the next five years. The positive gains in income these women will experience from business ownership will positively impact the lives of an estimated 18,000 children, increasing the likelihood that they are raised in a family environment instead of in an institution.

Hope and Homes for Children

Nepal's orphanage economy, largely funded by tourists and overseas donors, is confining over 11,000 children and placing them at high risk of abuse and exploitation. Hope and Homes for Children and its partners, Forget Me Not and The Himalayan Innovative Society, are working with the Nepalese Government to change this. Momentum is gaining and in the past five years, the number of registered orphanages has reduced by 26%. In 2022, Hope and Homes for Children partnered with civil society organizations to develop policy briefings to ensure sustained political pressure for a care reform that is strategic and safe for children. A network of care-experienced young people is influencing government officials through a series of inspiring care reform workshops. Hope and Homes for Children is also partnering with two municipalities to develop community-owned models for family support and foster care, with potential to scale countrywide.

ECPAT International

In 2022, ECPAT International provided evidence and recommendations to governments and the private sector on how to address legal and policy framework gaps that make children vulnerable to sexual exploitation. These recommendations were presented to changemakers through targeted advocacy at global, regional and country levels, drawing attention to Summary Papers on voluntourism and country overviews. As a result, there is increased recognition of the need to enforce regulations and safeguard measures for children to prevent offenders from taking advantage of orphanages, schools, clubs and other settings where unregulated volunteering opportunities provide access to children. The project also engaged travelers and tourists through social media and podcasts to examine the impact of unregulated tourism on children and discuss what needs to be done to protect them as part of responsible tourism.

Child protection portfolio highlights

Impact Foundation India

Large-scale social change requires broad cross-sector coordination. The UBS Optimus Foundation has embraced the model of collective impact with the Transform Collective, which aims to catalyze a global movement for children in families. The first group of partners for Transform, Neev, has been established in Maharashtra, India. Key to the Transform Collective's success is connecting partners to act collaboratively in tackling the problem of lack of priority given to supporting children in families and continued reliance on harmful forms of alternative care. Coordinating the collectivization of Neev is Dasra, acting as Neev's backbone organization. This is an important strategic relationship because Dasra has deep local knowledge, extensive experience with the philanthropic sector (which Neev aims to educate on the importance of support for family-based care), and sound technical capabilities for programming and strategic advice.

Justice and Care

The charity is committed to an all-out assault on human trafficking. It works in Asia, Eastern Europe, the UK and is beginning operations in the US. It partners with more than 100 organizations globally to tackle the issue. As well as developing innovative frontline projects that fill gaps in a country's response to the crime and then uses its frontline experience to spark systemic change. This approach has led the charity to receive a number of prestigious awards in 2022, including its Bangladesh Country Director being named as one of the Global Heroes in the fight against human trafficking by the US State Department. In 2022, and supported by UBS Optimus Foundation, globally 67 victims of human trafficking have been freed as a result of Justice and Care's work. They have supported more than 400 survivors, helping them to rebuild their lives, their work has seen 28 traffickers brought to justice and they are currently involved in 310 prosecution cases against more than 900 accused traffickers.

World Bank

The UBS Optimus Foundation entered a collaboration with the World Bank, USAID and GHR Foundation to provide small grants for cash-plus-care social protection programs that address children orphaned and made vulnerable by COVID-19. Around 10.6 million children have lost parents or other caregivers to COVID-19 – 10 times the number of children who lost a parent during the decade following the discovery of HIV/AIDS. Grants will come from the World Bank's multi-donor Rapid Social Response Adaptive and Dynamic Social Protection Program trust, to which the Foundation contributed, and will help World Bank teams work with client country governments to design, implement and scale up their cash-plus-care social protection programs. Social protection schemes that offer cash transfers and complimentary programs are highly effective in improving the well-being of children in adversity. These small grants will incentivize other World Bank groups to consider children in need of parental care in their social protection programming. To date, the RSR initiative has approved catalytic grants worth USD 175 million in at least 100 countries, which has led to more than USD 14 billion of financing for social protection operations.

Learn more about Child Protection ›

Social finance

Our social finance portfolio

The UBS Optimus Foundation has invested USD 37 million cumulatively from 2018 up to the end of 2022. This includes outcomes contracts as well as direct equity and debt investments into impact enterprises. Our portfolio at the end of 2022 included 13 impact enterprises working to solve social and environmental challenges through innovative revenue-generating business models. The growth of our direct investment portfolio reflects our strategy to unlock more capital on a sustainable basis to improve education, health, climate and child protection outcomes.

Learn more about Social Finance >

Utkrisht and QEI DIB results

Two of the largest outcomes contracts (also known as development impact bonds, or DIBs) in India funded by the UBS Optimus Foundation have achieved strong results, outperformed their impact targets and provided the agreed maximum return. The Utkrisht Maternal and Newborn Health Development Impact Bond in Rajasthan, strongly exceeded its targets and led to quality improvements in over 405 clinics, reaching 450,000 mothers and newborns. The Quality Education India (QEI) Development Impact Bond reached 200,000 students, with students in the program learning 2.5 times more than those in non-participating schools. Both programs performed strongly despite the COVID-19 pandemic. Key to this was the outcomes contract structure design that provided a transparent structure for the partners and allowed them to quickly adapt their implementation models for best results.

Learn more about the QEI DIB >

Outcomes Accelerator

The Outcomes Accelerator is an initiative of the Impact Bonds Working Group funded and supported by the UBS Optimus Foundation, the UK Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) and the Swiss State Secretariat of Economic Affairs (SECO) in making outcomes-based financing approaches more efficient, mainstreamed and to move the market ecosystem toward maturity. This public-private initiative brings together governments, development agencies, investors, services providers, intermediaries and corporates to accelerate adoption of outcomes-based financing approaches to address the UN SDGs. In its 2022 first call for proposals, out of over 80, three were awarded an equal share of the USD 400,000 of funding. The successful applicants were:

- MAZE Impact, to fund the design and feasibility study for an impact bond structure in Angola for Monami, a mobile health intervention coupled with a case management support system, that informs pregnant women and supports their pregnancy journey to ensure that they have the recommended number of antenatal care visits (at least four) and give birth assisted by a healthcare professional, reducing maternal mortality.
- Vision Catalyst Fund, to create a social impact guarantee to fund a government-driven school eye health program in Vietnam.
- Total Impact Capital, to create an outcomes-based financing mechanism to scale innovations that enhance performance of African medical supply chains and improve the lives of underserved populations.

Learn more about the Outcomes Accelerator >

Tertiary Education Financing Prize

In partnership with Convergence, the UBS Optimus Foundation awarded a shared USD 1 million prize for inclusive, fair and affordable student financing solutions with a business model (such as loans or income share agreements) for access to tertiary and vocational education in emerging markets. The four winners receiving USD 250,000 each – Lumni in Latin America, PROtalento in Colombia, as well as Eduvanz and Varthana in India – were selected through a competitive process that looked at over 70 applications from around the world. This prize is the first step toward our longer-term vision of mobilizing capital at scale to support student financing to transform life chances and improve employment opportunities for young people.

SDG Outcomes Fund

UBS Optimus Foundation's pioneering investment in outcomes has been joined by the United States International Development Finance Corporation (DFC) and British International Investment (BII as anchor funders, as well as two family offices leading the private investment component. Through this blended finance structure, which includes a 20% philanthropic catalytic tranche provided by UBS Optimus Foundation, investors will receive returns linked directly to verified social and environmental outcomes. The fund will invest USD 100 million in 15-20 SDG-aligned outcomes-based programs in developing countries, focusing on areas such as education, health, employment and the environment with a strong focus on benefiting children and youth. The first three investments have been closed covering education in Sierra Leone and Ghana and an environmental program in Nigeria.

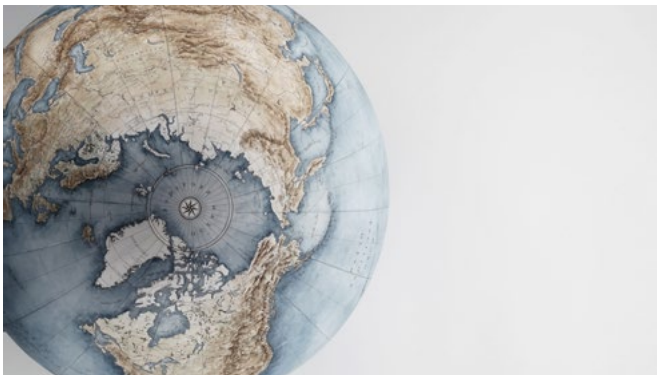
Multistakeholder Partnerships

100x Impact Accelerator

The UBS Optimus Foundation entered a partnership with philanthropist Sir Paul Marshall and the 100x Impact Accelerator at the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE). The 100x Impact Accelerator will fund a pilot of brand-new financial instruments that offer follow-on financing to help scale the most promising ventures supported by the Accelerator. With a GBP 5 million donation from the UBS Optimus Foundation, as well as skills-based mentoring from UBS employee volunteers, we will support the effort to bring together promising social enterprises with the funding and expertise they need to be able to achieve impact at scale.

Learn more ›

Special Initiatives



Human Family Fund

Launched in October 2022 at the Faith and Philanthropy Summit, hosted at the Vatican, the Human Family Fund is part of an overall endeavor to redefine how philanthropists can work together, across all faiths, to help solve some of the world's most pressing issues. With a goal of raising and deploying at least USD 50 million, the Human Family Fund will pilot a results-based approach to delivering impactful philanthropy to address issues across four thematic pillars: education, health, combatting human trafficking and environment. In 2022, the Human Family Fund worked closely with the impact advisor, the Common Good Marketplace, to onboard the first cohort of four grantees. These grantees will be working in Malawi, Sierra Leone, Nigeria and Liberia to increase school enrollment, build reading and math proficiency, reduce neonatal and maternal mortality, and increase access to essential health services.

Learn more about Faith and Philanthropy at UBS ›

OutcomesX

We established a novel partnership with the social impact marketplace OutcomesX to pilot the use of outcomes purchasing to channel funding to grassroots Ukrainian NGOs. Through our previous experience with outcomes contracts, we learned the value of paying for outcomes versus paying for inputs or activities. With OutcomesX we saw the clear potential to break down some of the barriers to funding grassroots NGOs in Ukraine. OutcomesX vetted more than 60 nonprofits, out of which UBS Optimus Foundation selected a portfolio of organizations working to improve learning outcomes and the mental well-being of children in Ukraine, with results to be achieved and verified over the ensuing 6-12 months.

Learn more about the full case study ›

SDG Impact Finance Initiative

The Building Bridges Summit in Geneva in October 2022 was a moment to reflect on a fast-paced year of growth for the SDG Impact Finance Initiative. It was at the same event in 2021 that the State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO), the Swiss Development Cooperation Agency (SDC), the UBS Optimus Foundation and the Credit Suisse Foundation launched a fledgling initiative with big ambitions. Not only would it raise CHF 100 million for innovative financial solutions to mobilize new capital around the SDGs, but it also set a target of unlocking CHF 1 billion in private finance by 2030 – all focused on accelerating progress on delivering the SDGs. The urgency of the challenges is reflected in the pace at which the Initiative has achieved a number of milestones. By the end of 2022, the four founding donors had committed nearly a third of the fundraising target and were ready to start disbursing grants to the seven winners of its first call for proposals, tackling climate change, education access and quality, smallholder farming and SME support.

Learn more about the initiative ›

Emergency Philanthropy

Ukraine Relief Fund

More than USD 56 million raised to help those affected by the war in Ukraine.

Together with 12,000 employees and some 10,000 clients – as well as matching funds from UBS and strategic partner XTX Markets – we raised more than USD 56 million to help those affected by the devastating war in Ukraine. We are currently supporting 19 programs through the UBS Optimus Foundation and have committed nearly USD 30 million for relief and recovery efforts. Of these programs, 80% work in Ukraine. We supported at least 62 local grassroots organizations so far (directly or through intermediaries) to ensure as much funding as possible is reaching local Ukrainian organizations that have been working in their communities for some time and will continue to do so. We are proud that our work with the Ukraine Relief Fund was recognized by the 2022 Money Management Institute/Barron's Industry Awards. The awards recognize innovation and leadership in the investment advisory solutions industry.

Pakistan Relief Fund

USD 1.2 million allocated towards mobilizing emergency support for Pakistani families.

The unprecedented flooding in Pakistan had a devastating impact, with an estimated 33 million people affected, many with homes, livelihoods and crops washed away. Through our two existing partners, The Citizens Foundation and Americares, we provided USD 1.2 million toward mobilizing emergency support for Pakistani families in affected regions. The partners provided economic assistance, meals, as well as medical and non-food emergency supplies; they provided health-focused humanitarian aid by sourcing and distributing critically needed medicine, deploying emergency medical teams and supporting access to health services and programs; and they supported vulnerable children and families to rebuild and repair homes and schools. The Citizens Foundation reached over 10,000 families with cash transfers and delivered over 5.2 million meals to 65,000 households. Americares installed hand pumps wells in 16 communities and partnered with a local NGO at four medical camps supplying medicines and medical supplies.

Donate to our active emergency philanthropy funds ›

About us

Our unique network

The UBS Optimus Foundation Network consists of the UBS Optimus Foundation in Switzerland, its branch in Hong Kong and the representative office in China, its sister organizations UBS Optimus Foundation Europe Deutschland, UBS Optimus Foundation UK and UBS Optimus Foundation Singapore, as well as a donation platform in the United States.

We receive funds from UBS, its clients and employees. We give grants to program partners who are helping underprivileged or vulnerable children and youth around the world in the areas of health, education and child protection, as well as funds for emergency response. In addition, we are also active in the areas of climate and the environment through our network of entities.

Our network is governed through individual Boards in Switzerland, the UK, Singapore and Germany. The Boards are made up of UBS employees and independent external members. Annually, a strategic meeting of representatives from each of these Boards is held in Zurich, Switzerland.

To make sure we have the highest standards of transparency in terms of decision-making, and in line with good governance practices, the network has established a Network Management Committee.

Get in touch

We are dedicated to finding innovative ways to tackle some of the world's most pressing social and environmental problems. Building on our 25-year track record and applying an investment-based approach, our global team makes it simpler for you and your family to manage your philanthropy and maximize your impact.

Ready to start a conversation? Contact our UBS Philanthropy Services team or your UBS advisor today.

Get in touch >

Donate now

We make philanthropist contributions go further.

UBS covers all the costs for the administration, review and continued development of programs so all phlanthropic giving goes toward maximizing impact. And whenever we can fund alongside philanthropists, we do so with UBS match funding.

To find out how to donate in your region, please visit our webpage.

www.ubs.com/global/en/ubs-society/philanthropy/donate.html

Disclaimer

Photos: UBS Optimus Foundation partners and Unsplash collaborators**.**

Rounding: Numbers presented in this report may not add up precisely to the totals provided in the tables and text. Percentages and percent changes are calculated based on rounded figures displayed in the tables and text and may not precisely reflect the percentages and percent changes that would be derived based on figures that are not rounded. US dollar to Swiss franc conversion used a rate of 1.05, rounded to nearest thousand.

Disclaimer: The UBS Optimus Foundation is a network of foundations 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 in the area of children's health, education and protection, as well as environment and climate conservation.

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