

**Our strategic direction**

**Pathways to young people's wellbeing**

**1.9**

billion people between the ages of 10 and 24

**Intro**

With 1.9 billion people between the ages of 10 and 24, today's global population of young people is the largest in history, and by 2050, the majority of young people will be living in cities. Today's young people are the first generation born and raised in the digital age, where an increasing amount of human interaction now takes place online. Urban and digital spaces aren't designed to support young people's wellbeing. As young people increasingly live, learn and connect in urbanising areas and new digital worlds, we need to ensure that these are spaces where they can thrive.

**About us**

Fondation Botnar is a philanthropic foundation that works with and for young people worldwide to reimagine the underlying systems of our urban and digital spaces, addressing the challenges and creating opportunities for young people. Our mission is to ensure that young people live, work, connect, and play in inclusive societies that fulfil their rights, enable them to shape decisions, and drive accountability.

**Our focus**

We focus on the following themes to contribute to enabling conditions for young people's wellbeing, particularly in low- and middle-income countries.



**1 Enabling liveable and sustainable city systems**

for well-functioning city systems through local community-led processes and by promoting youth-led city partnerships.

**2 Promoting mental health**

to create favourable conditions that support the mental health and wellbeing of young people today and positively influence their later lives.

**3 Enabling a human rights-based digital transformation**

for an inclusive and equitable digital future for young people with robust, effective, human rights-based governance of digital technology, data and AI, balancing protection, promotion, participation and access to data, digital goods, and infrastructure.

**4 Strengthening quality public education**

to enhance learning outcomes and prepare young people from all backgrounds for the world they will become citizens of and graduate into, while ensuring a safe, nurturing, and enjoyable learning journey.

**5 Biomedical Research**

Further, as biomedical research for the benefit of the health of children and adolescents worldwide is still largely unfocused on their specific needs, Fondation Botnar concentrates its involvement in biomedical research by investing in the establishment of independent institutions that focus on translational research.

**Working principles**

A set of working principles guides our philanthropic work and partnerships. These express our approach to how we can best contribute to creating the conditions for young people's wellbeing.

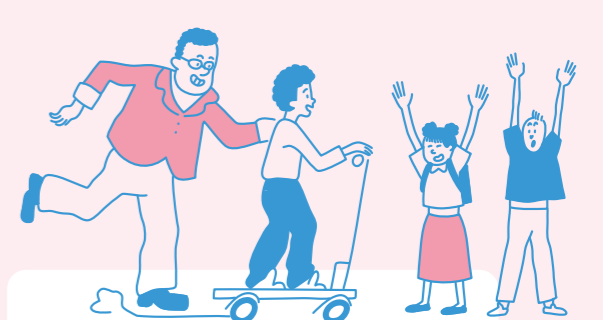


**Relational Wellbeing**

Our work and activities are guided by an approach that emphasises the relational aspect of young people's wellbeing, recognising that young people's wellbeing is constituted by material, economic, socio-cultural, and political, as well as environmental conditions and social relationships.

**Systems view and practice**

Recognising wellbeing as a process and a dynamic interplay between personal, social and environmental relationships leads us to a systems view and practice.



**Long-term commitment and trusted partnerships**

Closely related to this systemic view is a commitment to flexible, long-term engagement and trusted partnerships. Working towards systemic change requires time, sustained effort, and commitment from all stakeholders.



**Evidence and collective learning**

We recognise the need for adaptation and adjustment and emphasise the importance of evidence and collective learning. We adopt an evidence-based approach to strategic decision-making and continuous learning at all levels.

**Human rights**

Our commitment to young people's wellbeing is also underpinned by our commitment to a rights-based approach to our work. Human rights, including the child's rights, are formally recognised under international law.



**Meaningful youth participation**

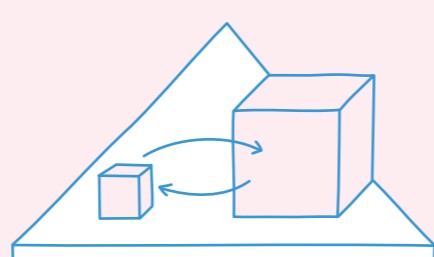
Our commitment to human rights implies a responsibility to promote and enable the meaningful participation of young people. We are committed to exploring how their perspectives and actions can be channelled in partnership to maximise their influence on the laws, policies, services, budgets, strategic priorities, and programmes that affect their lives.



**How**

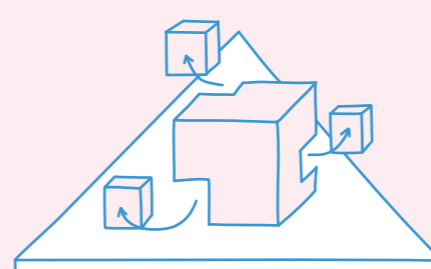
**Trusted Partnerships**

We act as a convener, building trusted partnerships and fostering flexible collaboration, bringing together young people and key actors from different sectors, to create dialogue and meaningful impact.



**Research and Programmes**

We invest in and support research and innovative programmes from around the world as well as purpose-related companies that have a tangible, sustainable impact on the wellbeing of young people in urban and digital spaces.



**Policy Work**

We engage in evidence-based policy work to raise awareness and build political will for policy and behavioural change, helping to create an environment for lasting systemic change that ensures the wellbeing of young people.

