

# Our Year 2023

Annual Report

*fondation*  
**BOTNAR**



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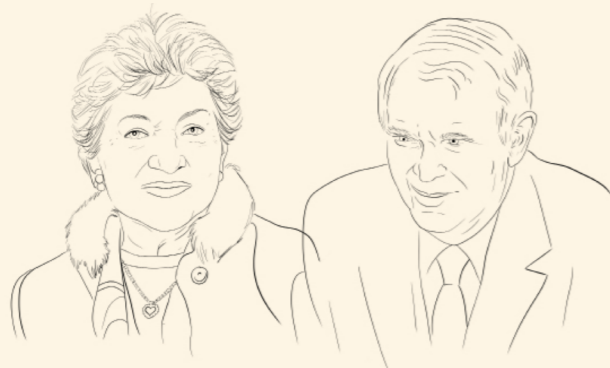


Experience the interactive version of this report [here](#).

# About Fondation Botnar

Fondation Botnar is a Swiss philanthropic foundation based in Basel, which was established in 2003 to continue the philanthropic legacy of Marcela and Octav Botnar. The foundation works to improve the wellbeing of young people living around the world.

Advocating for the inclusion of youth voices and the equitable use of AI and digital technology, the foundation invests in and supports innovative programmes and research, and brings together actors from across sectors to create dialogue and partnerships.



# Working towards a future where every young person has the opportunity to thrive

As we reflect on Fondation Botnar's journey in 2023, we are grateful for the steadfast support and collaboration from our partners, community, and team. Their dedication has been crucial in our mission to enhance the wellbeing of young people globally.

This year underscored the impact young people can have in their communities with the right opportunities. Our Fit4Future projects saw young participants leading initiatives to improve safety, education, and community wellbeing through innovative technology.

The expansion of our OurCity initiative to five cities globally demonstrates the strength of collective efforts in creating inclusive urban spaces where young people actively participate. Our first global workshop in Tanga, Tanzania, highlighted the importance of local ownership in city programmes involving young participants. These participatory governance models enable young people to address local and global challenges.

2023 also marked the launch of u'GOOD, a programme aimed at researching the relational wellbeing of young people in the Global South, focusing on livelihoods, mental health, climate change, and digitalisation. Central to u'GOOD is the direct involvement of young people in shaping the research agenda, ensuring their needs and views are prioritised.

In September, we also catalysed action on youth wellbeing where we rallied organisations to commit to enhancing global wellbeing. This effort aligns with the 1.8 Billion Young People For Change campaign and the PMNCH-led Global Forum for Adolescents, securing government commitments to focus on adolescent wellbeing.

In 2023, we also embarked on a crucial journey of strategic refinement, following an external evaluation to guide more effective action. This process reaffirmed our commitment to listening, learning, and adapting to the evolving needs of young people and our collaborators worldwide.



**Thank you for being part of this journey. Your support, collaboration, and belief in our mission are invaluable as we continue to strive towards a future where every young person has the opportunity to thrive.**

Flavia Bustreo,  
Vice Board Chair, Fondation Botnar

# Thank you to Stefan!

After seven years of exemplary leadership, Stefan Germann, who served as the first CEO of Fondation Botnar since establishing its Management Office in 2017, has decided to move on to a new challenge. Under his leadership, the foundation has reached several milestones, including building a dedicated team with a collaborative culture, awarding high-impact grants for the wellbeing of young people, in particular, promoting the meaningful role of young people in determining responses to their needs, and setting the organisation on an exciting path of innovation. Thank you, Stefan - and all the best for your next endeavour.

*\*Alexander Schulze, Chief Programme Officer, will serve as interim CEO leading the organisation together with the management team from 1 January 2024.*



# A generation of Rising Minds

**We believe that the future belongs to young people. Their perspectives, experiences, and aspirations are important in shaping policies and initiatives that affect their wellbeing. We understand meaningful change can only happen by actively listening to and engaging with young people.**

In 2023, we launched Rising Minds, a radio show designed by and for young people. The aim of this platform was to amplify the voices of young people and showcase their efforts to shape the conversation around issues that impact their wellbeing.

When discussing digital rights, young people explored the need for creative resistance against big-tech, the real-life consequences of online human rights violations, and the need for stronger internet governance structures to combat these issues.

Conversations around adolescent health and wellbeing shared insights around the possibility of adolescent girls offering unique perspectives that could lead to better and more sustainable solutions. Young people also voiced their need to be genuinely included in the decision-making process, not just as a formality but as active participants whose ideas are taken seriously.

When the discussion turned to mental health, the podcast's participants highlighted the need for more support in schools, the importance of storytelling in mental health education, and the role of lived experiences in shaping mental health research. The young contributors also stressed the impact of digital and physical environments on mental health, especially in conflict zones.

From its launch at the Women Deliver 2023 conference to its evolution into a comprehensive podcast library accessible to all, Rising Minds has been shaped by the input and collaboration of young people and our partners. Each episode of the +30 episodes of Rising Minds is a testament to the passion, resilience, and creativity of the young leaders who have sparked conversations and challenged perceptions in their communities – these Rising Minds are already leading the way to a better future for all.



Listen to the podcast [here](#).



**Deepshikha Ghosh,**  
The YP Foundation

"Trust that we are serious. Wherever we are speaking, [young people] want to be heard, we want to be listened to. But, mostly, trust that we can do this."



**Condolizarice Akumawah,**  
Youth for Change and Empowerment

"Only adolescent girls can share special perspectives and experiences of certain things, and this can lead to better, sustainable, and effective solutions. [...] As adolescent girls, we were born ready."



**Muskan Lamba,**  
Lived experience and neurodivergence advocate

"Young people hold the power to address the global mental health crisis, especially in low- and middle-income countries. In India, over 50% of our population is young people, below the age of 35. There is a lot of potential in young people to create change and innovation, and to bring a lot of ideas to the table."



**Safe Sisters Fellow,**  
Zimbabwe

"I understand how physical and institutional safety play a big role in my life. So now I can teach younger people and women within my community how to access the internet safely."



# Wellbeing:

## What does it mean to us?

**At Fondation Botnar, we recognise that wellbeing encompasses not only individual needs but also the web of connections we forge with others and the subjective perceptions that shape our experiences. This led us to delve into understanding wellbeing as relational, exploring its significance and foundations, and how we can work with our partners to realise this in practice.**

Young people today live in a fast-paced, hyper-digitalised world, influenced by geopolitical, environmental, socioeconomic, technological, and cultural shifts. By 2050, over two-thirds of the population will reside in urban areas that are currently ill-equipped to support them. There is an urgent need to transform cities to be inclusive and conducive to the health and wellbeing of young people.

In the face of these challenges, the pursuit of wellbeing often leads practitioners and organisations to focus on individual aspects of our lives: material needs, personal achievements, and physical health. However, the true nature of human existence is far more interconnected and complex.

Therefore, our approach represents a shift from an often siloed perspective that dominates discussions about human wellbeing. It is an approach that recognises that we exist within intricate networks of relationships, both with other people and the streets, cities, environments and systems around us.

As we see it, wellbeing acknowledges the profound interconnectedness of human lives. The story of Maria – a fictional character – illustrates the intersection of various elements in ensuring young people’s wellbeing.

### Maria: an illustrative narrative

Imagine you’re Maria, a 19-year-old woman living in a fast-growing city in Colombia. You’ve finished high school and now help support your family through part-time work. These days, you’re thinking about your future and further education, but you’re not sure how your choices will affect your life.

Some days, you work at the local leisure centre to generate a small income for yourself and your family. Living with parents, grandparents, and siblings, there isn’t much space, but you rely on one another to ensure there is always enough to eat.

When you have downtime, you use your mobile phone to learn English using an app where you receive a free subscription. Your friends encourage you to continue learning and open your tourism business.

Your city is growing and changing quickly. When you think about the future, you’re worried about where and how you fit into it and how the decisions you make now could impact the lives of those around you. You feel a mixture of hope and fear.



## How our partners think about wellbeing and relational approaches

Hear from our partner organisations and programme coordinators as they reflect on relational approaches to wellbeing in the initiatives we support.

### ThinkZone

“At ThinkZone, wellbeing means valuing all opinions, positive or critical, related to our improvements. It involves actively fostering inclusivity, mutual respect, and open communication. Wellbeing isn’t just discussion; daily practice creates a safe, collaborative space. We prioritise continuous engagement, viewing work as an ongoing partnership fostering long-term connections beyond projects.”



### S<sup>2</sup>Cities: Safe & Sound Cities run by Global Infrastructure Basel Foundation (GIB)

“The relational wellbeing framework is holistic, exploring wellbeing and the underlying drivers of healthy environments. It calls for youth input, stakeholder connections, and understanding of processes, and these insights highlight how safety is rooted in interactions, enabling targeted actions and broad collaboration.”





# Stories of change

Discover how our work and our partners are helping to improve wellbeing by promoting positive changes in the lives of young people around the world.

## S<sup>2</sup>Cities: Fostering youth-led urban transformation

S<sup>2</sup>Cities, led by the Global Infrastructure Basel Foundation, enables youth in cities including Envigado, Bandung, Cuenca, Ambato, Baguio, and Naga to address local safety and wellbeing challenges. It supports youth-led projects that improve public spaces, conserve the environment, and provide mental health services.

The Di Bawah Jembatan Youth Community in Bandung exemplifies S<sup>2</sup>Cities' success, revitalising public spaces and strengthening community bonds via strategic placemaking and collaborations with local government and private sectors. In 2023, the programme expanded to include four new cities-Cuenca and Ambato in Ecuador, and Baguio and Naga in the Philippines-bringing the total to six cities, with 16 more in the Global Learning Network eager to join. To date, S<sup>2</sup>Cities has initiated 17 youth-led projects, enhancing public spaces, promoting social interaction, and improving urban safety and wellbeing, highlighted by a Global Convening event with significant virtual and local participation.

- \* 485 young people attended workshops, training, and mentoring; 4,185 engaged in data collection and communication, enhancing community involvement.
- \* Security perceptions improved by 71% among youth participants; seven youth hubs established, including three mobile ones for collaborative activities.
- \* 59 government officials trained in youth-focused decision-making and urban safety; involvement from 60 private sector actors and 115 NGOs to bridge sector gaps.

“Thanks to these initiatives, young people are being heard more. After implementing our initiative, we received invitations to various public spaces that were initially inaccessible to us. Government entities and the community are increasingly interested in youth-led projects that can improve safety and yield positive outcomes.”

Estiven Cano, Youth partner  
“Flow and Bars” initiative  
Envigado, Colombia



## Transform Health catalyses action for Universal Health Coverage

Transform Health is a coalition of organisations that advocate for the equitable digital transformation of health systems to achieve health for all. Through advocacy work on the national, regional, and global levels, it seeks to build public understanding and political support for the digital transformation of health to achieve Universal Health Coverage (UHC) by 2030.

Transform Health has garnered broad support for stronger health data governance, highlighted at the World Health Assembly with collaboration from several ministries of health. Their efforts include leading the Digital Health Bill in Kenya, developing public health curricula in Indonesia, and implementing digital health strategies across multiple countries to support Universal Health Coverage by 2030. Notable campaigns like My Data Our Health mobilised stakeholders and the public in Africa to advocate for health data governance, while their Digital Health Week engaged over 220 organisations globally, including major entities like WHO and AMREF, emphasising the role of digital solutions in achieving UHC.

- \* Successful coalition engagement with governments led to solid support and commitments for stronger health data governance.
- \* Through their national coalitions, Transform Health has been building public understanding and political support for the digital transformation of health to achieve UHC.
- \* Over 220 organisations participated in activities and events during their Digital Health Week.





## RIGHTS Click: Protecting the rights of children and young people in the digital world

RIGHTS Click, a partnership with Amnesty International, aims to enable children and young people to co-create online platforms and other digital technologies that protect their rights – and their health and wellbeing. It combines research, human rights education, and advocacy, and enables young human rights activists globally to lead impactful campaigns.

RIGHTS Click continued to support children and young people by advocating for their digital rights and enabling 10 activists globally to launch their own digital, youth-led campaigns. In Kenya, the “Linda Data” campaign educated young people on online privacy, and in the Philippines, “Ayaw Ko Pagyawa-a” addressed online gender-based violence. Amnesty International’s reports exposed harmful practices on TikTok, leading to the launch of the #FixTikTok campaign, which calls for a safer platform. This initiative included a petition to ban targeted advertising to young users and to change the default settings of the hyper-personalised “For You” feed. The campaign highlighted the risks of prolonged exposure to harmful content and the prevalent overuse of social media among youth globally.

- \* **Young human rights activists across the world are developing digital youth-led campaigns.**
- \* **New key reports reveal the impact of social media on young people’s rights, health, and wellbeing.**
- \* **Over 1,000 children and young people actively engaged in the programme, shaping research, campaigns, and advocacy that affects their lives.**
- \* **Over 1 million views of content featuring young people sharing their perspectives and campaigning for a world that respects their digital rights.**



## OurCity initiative expands to Ghana, and fosters a collaborative learning network

The OurCity initiative, launched in 2018 in Tanga, Tanzania, now extends to Koforidua, Ghana, partnering with the STAR-Ghana Foundation to enable young people to shape their city. It aims to foster a municipality where youth are well-informed and actively engaged in governance to enhance services across all sectors. The initiative emphasises using digital technologies and community engagement to support the wellbeing of urban and peri-urban youth.

Koforidua, Ghana, has joined the OurCity initiative, recognising the need for young voices in urban development as Africa’s youth population becomes a significant global force by 2030. The initiative facilitates positive change through collaboration among youth, civil society, policymakers, and the private sector. The successful OurTanga partnership in Tanzania, TangaYetu, which established the first STEM park and a digital city observatory, among many other youth initiatives, has inspired the expansion into Ghana. In October 2023, a workshop gathered all OurCity partners to share learnings and strategies, further demonstrating the initiative’s commitment to youth-led urban transformation.

- \* **OurCity now operates in five cities, including Tanga (Tanzania), Cluj-Napoca (Romania), Barranquilla (Colombia), Koforidua (Ghana), and Manta (Ecuador).**
- \* **The expansion into Koforidua is a significant milestone for the OurCity initiative, as 70% of the Ghanaian population is under 30.**



“If I could change one thing about Koforidua, it would be to increase youth participation in decision-making and development projects in the city.”

John Adjepong, Youth representative  
STAR-Ghana Foundation





## Empowering young minds and fostering innovation in Ghana with **GSTEP**

The Ghana Science and Tech Explorer Prize (GSTEP), part of Fit4Future, has transformed the lives of young Ghanaians by stirring their passion for STEM and supporting them to develop innovative solutions to real-world challenges. Through a series of competitions, GSTEP has nurtured the talents of future inventors and entrepreneurs.

In 2023, GSTEP's notable accomplishment was earning the support of the public sector. This was highlighted in April when the Genius Six of Uaddara, victors of the 2022 GSTEP Challenge, showcased their Illuminated Child Road Safety Device to Ghana's President, Nana Addo Dankwa Akuffo Addo. The remarkable inventions developed by its young participants show GSTEP's impact, for example an automated seed nursery, a pedestrian safety system, and a water filtration system. These not only demonstrate the creativity and ingenuity of Ghanaian youth but also address critical challenges facing communities.

- \* **In 2023, the GSTEP Challenge doubled its participant teams, increasing from 50 to 100.**
- \* **The programme expanded into the Eastern Region, with 25 new teams representing this area in the 2023 GSTEP Challenge.**
- \* **The Genius Six of Uaddara team, winners of the 2022 GSTEP Challenge, presented their Illuminated Child Road Safety Device to Ghana's President in April 2023.**



"In our schools, we learn science subjects, but we do not put them into practice, such as solving problems in our communities. The GSTEP programme has given us the opportunity to solve problems in our localities and this can help Ghana as a whole."

Frederick Agyepong,  
GSTEP Finalist  
(GasMATT team)

## Making roads safer with **AI&Me**

The AI&Me: Empowering Youth for Safer Roads programme, part of Fit4Future, is revolutionising road safety measures across Vietnam by harnessing the power of technology and youth engagement. Through the Youth Engagement App (YEA), young people are becoming active participants in identifying and reporting high-risk road conditions, fostering a culture of safety and responsibility.

YEA is a notable innovation in road safety, developed with significant youth input. From 2022 to 2023, over 1,805 students trained in the app's usage identified and rated over 18,000 high-risk locations near schools, highlighting various safety concerns. This participatory approach engaged the students in actively assessing their daily routes and provided valuable data to government officials. In 2023, the gathered data was utilised to recommend targeted interventions in identified "blackspot" areas, enhancing the safety of school surroundings. Additionally, to further engage youth in road safety awareness, the programme launched the "Youth Act for Safer Roads" music video in collaboration with Vietnamese artist DATMANIAC (feat. CAM), promoting proactive youth involvement in advocating for safer roads.

- \* **Over 18,000 pins were scored to indicate high-risk areas.**
- \* **98 schools out of 106 were identified to have road dangers in their school zones.**
- \* **Over 1,800 young students are now equipped with road safety skills.**



# Moments & milestones

Explore key highlights from our initiatives and our partners' launches, engagements, and achievements in 2023.

## A new initiative for inclusive food systems

With HIVOS and RUAF, we launched Urban Futures to enable youth to shape food policies and boost investment in local food systems across five countries.



## Launch of the Digital Health and Rights Project

An international consortium hosted by the University of Warwick will study how digital transformation affects youth rights in Colombia, Ghana, Kenya, and Vietnam using a community-centric approach.

## New projects for research on youth, tech, and urban governance

TYPCities explores tech's role in youth governance in intermediary cities via research to shape policy and promote inclusive urban governance.

## New youth mental health insights

A milestone for the international mental health initiative Being, with their analysis of youth mental health in 12 countries to inform future research and funding, highlighting drivers of mental health such as family dynamics, academic pressure or stigma.

## New research on relational wellbeing

u'GOOD was launched with the National Research Foundation and the Human Sciences Research Council (South Africa) to study young people's wellbeing in the Global South.

December

ALL YEAR

January

June

October

August

September

## Expanding paediatric digital health research

The Basel Research Centre for Child Health (BRCCH) received an additional CHF 50 million to expand, adding six new paediatric digital health professorships at the University of Basel and ETH Zurich.



## Governing Health Futures 2030 becomes DTH-Lab

Following GHFutures2030 Commission recommendations, we supported creating the DTH-Lab to promote equitable and sustainable health futures by enhancing digital and data governance.

## Commitments to adolescent wellbeing at CGI 2023

We gathered over 10 organisations at the Clinton Global Initiative 2023 Meeting to commit to enhancing youth health and wellbeing, focusing on safe cities, digital environments, and mental health.





# Reflecting on our learning

Review our reflections and learnings from 2023, which will help shape our work in the future.



Learnings

## Learning with partners

This year was notable for the learning opportunities with partners in our programmes. The OurCity initiative, connecting five cities around the world, held its first global workshop in Tanga, Tanzania, highlighting local ownership as crucial for youth-focused city programmes. In-person and digital meetings, like the Fit4Future projects which met online in September, showed that youth participation can improve community safety, revise curricula to address Non communicable diseases (NCDs) and food waste, and use technology to improve education. We also continued to better understand meaningful youth participation, identifying key practices with partners for designing programmes and building partnerships without compromising the quality of participation. We're grateful for our partners' insights and collaboration.



## Learning from our experience

In 2022, Fondation Botnar began a journey of self-reflection, commissioning an external evaluation to improve our organisational effectiveness. This process included a strategic review to advance our grantmaking approach and further develop a strategic learning and evaluation function. In 2023, we received the evaluation report and initiated work on refining our philanthropic strategy to better guide our actions. We look forward to sharing our updated strategy in 2024 and continuing to learn from our community, including listening more to young people.



## Learning from young people

This year, we launched Rising Minds to give young people a platform to discuss issues affecting their wellbeing and highlight how young people are already leading the way in shaping solutions, from a pop-up radio show at the Women Deliver 2023 conference to a podcast and blog series with 88 contributors addressing several issues. We learnt, for example, about ideas young people have around technology and human rights, including data privacy. We also launched u'GOOD, an initiative that engages young people in shaping research to better meet their needs, focusing on better understanding young people's wellbeing in the Global South through themes of livelihoods, mental health, climate change, and digitalisation. We look forward to learning together with young people around the world through these initiatives and many more.

Learnings



# Funding awarded

In 2023, Fondation Botnar continued its work to improve the wellbeing of young people by awarding funding to high-impact programmes, innovative companies, and initiatives with exciting potential for groundbreaking research.

## Commitments to biomedical research on child and adolescent health in 2023

As biomedical research for the specific health needs of children and adolescents is still largely neglected, we have invested in independent institutions focused on translational research, to move scientific results into real-world practice for the benefit of children and adolescent health worldwide:

- \* The establishment of the Botnar Institute for Immune Engineering (BIIE) with a commitment of CHF 900 million over 15 years through the Foundation Immune Engineering for Global Child and Adolescent Health (FIE). The institute, the first of its kind in the world, will focus on the study and engineering of the immune system in children and young people by integrating systems, synthetic, and computational approaches.
- \* An additional CHF 50 million was committed for the period of 2029-2033 to the Basel Research Centre for Child Health (BRCC), which drives innovative health research with a focus on digital paediatrics.

## Grants awarded

In 2023, the Foundation Board approved grants for the following new projects and programmes, with a total funding amount of CHF 69.6 million.

Project	Organisation	Countries	Amount	Timeline
U'Good?! Research Programme	National Research Foundation (NRF)	Colombia, Ecuador, Egypt, Ghana, India, Indonesia, Morocco, Romania, Senegal, South Africa, Tanzania, Vietnam	USD 10,159,631	2023-2028
Place-Based, Innovative Systems Change for Global Opportunity Youth	The Aspen Institute	Global	USD 8,211,995	2023-2026
Transform Health - Health for all in the digital age	Transform Health Association	Global	CHF 7,578,012	2024-2026
The future of human rights in the digital age: Research, education, and global advocacy	University of Warwick	Global	GBP 5,312,255	2023-2026
Afya-Tek Phase 2: Preparing for Government-Led Scale as part of the national Unified Community System	Apotheker Health Access Initiative	Tanzania	USD 4,980,000	2023-2025
The Digital Transformations for Health Lab (DTH-Lab)	University of Geneva	Global	CHF 4,638,524	2023-2026
Tanga Adolescent Health and Wellbeing Programme (TangaYetu)	INNOVEX Development Consulting Ltd.	Tanzania	CHF 4,092,000	2024-2027
Ghana Co-Funding Mechanism (cFMx)	UBS Optimus Foundation	Ghana	CHF 3,000,000	2023-2026
Colombia Evidencia Potencial en Educación	Fundación Empresarios por la Educación (FExE)	Colombia	CHF 3,000,000	2024-2026
CATAPULT – a funding platform and community which empowers and enables young people to shape their environment and contribute to wellbeing	CATAPULT Basel	Switzerland	CHF 2,500,000	2023-2028
Digital citizenship as a whole-school approach	Intercultural Institute Timisoara	Romania	USD 1,877,147	2023-2026
Digital literacy transformation for Romanian youth	Centrul pentru Jurnalism Independent	Romania	CHF 1,797,406	2023-2026
Children & Young People, Cities and Climate (CCC) Action Lab	London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine (LSHTM)	Global	GBP 1,380,718	2023-2025
Co-producing digital platforms for youth-inclusive urban governance	University College London	Indonesia, Lebanon	CHF 999,699	2023-2026
Next-generation urban governance in Colombia's vanguard intermediary cities (NextGenC)	London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE)	Global	CHF 999,411	2023-2027
Digital policies, infrastructure development and youth participation in Saint-Louis and Ziguinchor	École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne (EPFL)	Senegal	CHF 900,000	2023-2026
Co-Constructing 'Neighbourhoods Fit for Diverse Young People': Civic Media Technologies for Equitable Urban Governance	University of Sheffield	Global	GBP 878,814	2023-2026
Wello - School of Health	Wello Association	Romania	CHF 787,000	2023-2026
Technology and Youth Participation in Governing Jamaica's Intermediary Cities	Caribbean Policy Research Institute (CAPRI)	Jamaica	CHF 742,000	2023-2026

Com'ON Next	Grupul PONT	Romania	EUR 607,296	2023-2026
Ambato Design District	Corporación de Desarrollo de Ambato y Tungurahua CorpoAmbato	Ecuador	USD 405,000	2023-2026
Scaling Quality Life Skills and Financial Education: Integration of life skills and financial education in national education systems	Aflatoun International	Ecuador, Egypt, India, Indonesia, Kyrgyzstan, Morocco, Senegal	EUR 380,050	2023-2025
Building teacher capacity for effective implementation of social, emotional, and ethical learning curriculum using digital technology	Kayma Labs	Israel	CHF 380,000	2023-2024
Engaging Youth to Reimagine Data Use for Access to Services	The Data Tank	Global	EUR 380,000	2023-2025
Youth Advocacy and Leadership for The Global Forum for Adolescents 2023	Plan International Canada	Bolivia, Ghana, Malawi, Nigeria, Senegal, Tanzania, Zambia	CHF 379,996	2023-2024
Children's rights in Israel	National Council for the Child	Israel	CHF 379,977	2023-2025
Large-scale teacher certification in SDGs and Social Innovation	Learning by Helping SLU	Argentina, Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Paraguay, Uruguay	EUR 379,960	2023-2025
Safeguarding urban interim spaces: Understanding the needs, improving the practices	Kanton Basel-Stadt	France, Germany, Switzerland	CHF 379,650	2024-2026
Boosting the growth and impact of local organisations supporting Tanga's entrepreneurship ecosystem	Inco.org	Tanzania	CHF 379,240	2023-2025
Young Experts: Tech for Health	Transform Health Association	Global	CHF 378,900	2023-2025
Participatory co-development of academic funding scheme on children's rights	Schweizerische Friedensstiftung - swisspeace	Palestine	CHF 371,630	2024
TechTown Koforidua: Activating Ghana's first tech-enabled city designed for and by young people to safeguard the future, elevate lives and drive a new vision for emerging cities in Africa	Eastern Tech Hub Foundation	Ghana	USD 300,000	2023-2025
Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Framework for OurTanga initiatives	Rural Senses LTD	Tanzania	USD 299,394	2023-2026
Talent Kick	Kick Foundation	Global	CHF 100,000	2023-2024
Climate Youth Negotiator Programme	Future Leaders Network Limited	Global	GBP 89,500	2023
Grant Development Support	Babes-Bolyai University	Romania	CHF 70,000	2023-2024

## Venture philanthropy investments

In 2021, we initiated our venture philanthropy approach to invest in early-stage start-ups whose products and services positively impact young people's wellbeing. In 2023, we invested a total of CHF 2.9 million, as listed in the table below.

Company	Sector	Main countries of operation	Amount	Description
smartBeemo	Education	Chile, Colombia, Mexico, US	USD 470,000 (follow-on)*	Digital learning platform offering courses in business and entrepreneurial skills
Miya Health	Health services	Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines	USD 280,000	Software-as-a-Service digital health platform to help patients manage their care
Helex	Health services	India	USD 250,000	Developing gene therapies for rare genetic diseases
Flevo	Financial inclusion	Chile, Colombia	USD 250,000	Provider of education financing for students
Workpay	Access to employment	Kenya, Nigeria, South Africa, Tanzania	USD 250,000	Software-as-a-service solution for HR and payroll management for small and medium-sized companies
Aora	Access to employment	Ecuador, Mexico	USD 250,000	Digital platform for home installation and repair services
Chargel	Sustainable transportation	Senegal	USD 250,000	Digital trucking marketplace that connects shippers with transporters
Ace Green Recycling	Waste management	India, Singapore	USD 250,000	Battery recycling company that has developed innovative technologies to recycle both lead acid batteries and lithium-ion batteries
EBOOST	Environmental sustainability	Vietnam	USD 250,000	Intelligent and interoperable electric vehicle charging solutions
Muta	Waste management	Colombia	USD 250,000	Collects and recycles a variety of solid waste and used cooking oil, which it buys from waste generators and sells to transformers, disrupting the current informal market of waste pickers
Ekincare	Health services	India	INR 20,010,943	B2B corporate healthcare platform that enables employers to pay for employee medical and wellness expenses
Fibrizo	Digital technologies	Argentina, Colombia	USD 200,000	Provides last-mile fibre optic broadband Internet access to underserved, peripheral urban areas

\* A follow-on investment is a second investment in a start-up company's subsequent funding round. Start-ups tend to raise capital in multiple rounds to grow and scale their activities and acquire more clients.



# Financial statements

Accounting is based on the Swiss GAAP FER 21 standard for charitable social non-profit organisations by the provisions of Swiss law, particularly Articles 957 to 962 of the Swiss Code of Obligations on commercial bookkeeping and accounting. The annual financial statements of the foundation present an accurate and fair view of the foundation's assets, as well as its financial and earnings position. Funds are recognised when the Foundation Board decides on the expenditure. In each case, the entire amount is recognised as an expense. Future payment obligations are recognised as current liabilities. Payments to funding recipients are recognised as a reduction in liabilities.

INCOME STATEMENT	1.1. - 31.12.2023 mCHF	1.1. - 31.12.2022 mCHF
<b>FINANCIAL RESULT</b>		
Securities income incl. fees	218.91	-598.07
<b>NET INCOME</b>	218.91	-598.07
<b>DIRECT PROJECT COSTS ACCORDING TO THE FOUNDATION'S DEED</b>		
Funding contributions	-895.78	-64.02
<b>GROSS PROFITS</b>	-676.87	-662.09
<b>OPERATIONAL EXPENSES</b>		
Personnel expenses incl. remuneration	-5.87	-5.29
Material expenses	-10.25	-8.80
Depreciation and valuation adjustments on fixed asset items	-3.11	-3.51
Extraordinary result	0.00	-0.20
<b>NET PROFIT</b> (before allocation to organisation capital)	<b>-696.10</b>	<b>-679.89</b>

BALANCE SHEET	2023	2022
<b>ASSETS</b>	mCHF	mCHF
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>		
Cash and cash equivalents	66.45	79.10
Other current receivables	14.68	13.15
<b>NON-CURRENT ASSETS</b>		
Financial assets	3,529.00	3,422.74
Furniture, office equipment	0.15	0.18
Property	4.56	4.71
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>3,614.84</b>	<b>3,519.88</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>		
Short-term liabilities	2.59	1.70
Short-term provisions for funding contributions	88.96	82.55
Deferred income and accrued expenses	1.26	1.16
Long-term provisions for funding contributions	869.70	86.04
Organisational capital	2,652.33	3,348.43
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<b>3,614.84</b>	<b>3,519.88</b>

# Governance

Fondation Botnar is a foundation established in Basel in 2003 to carry on the philanthropic work of the Botnar family. It is a member of SwissFoundations, an umbrella organisation of charitable foundations in Switzerland, and follows the guidelines and recommendations of the Swiss Foundation Code (2021).

## Fondation Board

The Board of Fondation Botnar comprises at least five members. Board members are elected for three-year terms and can be re-elected (as of 2015) for up to twelve years of service.

## Audit and supervision

KPMG AG, Viaduktstrasse 42, 4002 Basel, Switzerland, is appointed Fondation Botnar's statutory auditor. It audited the foundation's 2023 annual financial statements and recommended their approval. The supervisory authority of Fondation Botnar is the Federal Department of Home Affairs, Foundation Supervision, Bern, Switzerland.

## Committees and commissions

The Audit & Risk Committee, HR & Organisational Committee, Philanthropy Committee, and Investment Commission hold responsibility for the strategic oversight and governance roles described on Fondation Botnar's website.

## Asset management

The assets of Fondation Botnar are invested based on principles of responsible investing for institutional investors. These principles are published on our website as "Investment Beliefs and Principles". In 2023, Fondation Botnar continued the build-up of private market asset classes, which were introduced in 2021 as a complement to the core Strategic Asset Allocation.





# Foundation team

## Board

### Chair

Thomas Gutzwiller

### Vice Chair

Flavia Bustreo

### Board Members

Otto Bruderer  
Martin Lenz  
Amalie Molhant Proost  
Elsbeth Müller  
Florian Schweitzer  
Marcel Tanner

### Honorary Chair

Peter Lenz  
(Chair until 2019)

## Audit & Risk Committee

Flavia Bustreo  
Martin Lenz (Chair)  
Amalie Molhant Proost

## HR & Organisational Committee

Otto Bruderer  
Martin Lenz  
Elsbeth Müller (Chair)

## Philanthropy Committee

Amalie Molhant Proost  
Elsbeth Müller  
Florian Schweitzer  
Marcel Tanner (Chair)

## Investment Commission

Otto Bruderer (Chair)  
Urs Ernst  
Thomas Gutzwiller  
Susanne Haury von Siebenthal  
(Deputy Chair)

## Management Office

Illan Acher, *Young Professionals Programme*  
Heike Albrecht, *Risk & Compliance Manager*  
Adria Berari, *Young Professionals Programme*  
Stefanie Besmens, *People and Office Administrator*  
Theresa Budzinski, *Young Professionals Programme*  
Aline Cossy-Gantner, *Chief Development Officer*  
Manuel Crain, *Young Professionals Programme*  
Stefan Germann, *Chief Executive Officer (until Dec.)*  
Susanna Hausmann-Muela, *Cities Portfolio Lead*  
Thuy Anh Huynh-Le, *Grants and Finance Administrator (until Feb.)*  
Ursula Jasper, *Governance & Policy Lead*  
Marcus Jenal, *Strategic Learning & Evaluation Lead*  
Siddhartha Jha, *AI & Digital Innovation Lead*  
Sary Lock, *IT & Digital Platform Lead*  
Manuela Mächler, *Grant Operations Manager*  
Kiara Marvuglio, *Engagement & Communications Lead*  
Szandra McCrory, *Executive Assistant*  
Eva Moldovanyi, *Programme Manager*  
Zur Oren, *Partnerships Coordinator*  
Alexander Schulze, *Chief Programme Officer*  
Karin Schumacher, *Chief Operating Officer*  
Sushant Sharma, *Chief Investment Officer*  
Samira Stauffiger, *Grants Administrator*  
Rineke Veenendaal, *Communications Manager*  
Nicolas Vetterli, *Monitoring, Evaluation & Learning Manager (from Sep.)*  
Antoine Veyrassat, *Venture Philanthropy Lead*  
Daniela Weber, *Venture Philanthropy Investment Manager*



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## Imprint

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Editorial office & Design: Shape History,  
social impact communications agency,  
London UK

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[info@fondationbotnar.org](mailto:info@fondationbotnar.org) if you would like  
to provide feedback on this Annual Report.

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**BOTNAR**