

Creating and Managing Philanthropic Funds



#### Addressing global challenges together in a world of disruption

Fiscal sponsoring and donor collaboratives hosted by Swiss Philanthropy Foundation

**Bespoke solution** 

### Swiss Philanthropy Foundation, an established foundation in the field of collaborative initiatives and fiscal sponsoring

In light of the global challenges our world faces, collaboration is a strategic approach we can undertake. The world's pressing issues require philanthropic foundations to go beyond the siloed approach to work together. By pooling their resources, they come up with coordinated responses to have a shot at improving the world in a sustainable way.

Swiss Philanthropy Foundation is convinced that collaborative initiatives are an innovative and efficient way to drastically address the crises facing the world today. Leading philanthropists and foundations increasingly joining forces within a donor collaborative to accomplish their common goal attests to this.

Our foundation acts as a fiscal sponsor for philanthropic initiatives on behalf of over 10 of the world's leading foundations, such as Oak Foundation, The Open Society Foundations, Omidyar Network, Porticus, Laudes Foundation and KR Foundation, and has become an established leader in the field.

To achieve their ambition to make a significant difference in the world, foundations collaborate because it allows them to mitigate risks, generate a movement, or share their diverse skill sets and learn from one another. And all collaborations require a structure capable of hosting them and which can provide them with administrative, financial, and human support and expertise in the management of grants. This is where lies Swiss Philanthropy Foundation's core added value.

Delegating the management of their fund to Swiss Philanthropy Foundation enables foundations to focus on their strategy and good governance, pool their resources, share costs and risks, and simplify their administrative processes. By combining their efforts, they create a powerful leverage effect with the potential to increase the impact of their grants, support large-scale change, and make a difference in their area of focus.



# Swiss Philanthropy Foundation's solutions

Swiss Philanthropy Foundation acts as a platform allowing for the professionalisation of donor collaboratives. Our services, characterized by a great strength of implementation, stretches to being the guardian of good governance between participants, managing the accounts, the disbursement of funds, undertaking due diligence on beneficiary organisations, providing the back-office infrastructure of the fund's operations and hiring the staff needed to realise the fund's mission.

Our experience allows us to position ourselves as a partner of value to foundations and a source of knowledge and expertise whom they can turn to for support and guidance in realising their goals.

We are committed to skilfully accompanying our partners in facilitating the achievement of their funds' mission.

### A reference umbrella foundation

- Founded in 2006 in Geneva, Swiss Philanthropy Foundation is an independent non-profit umbrella foundation. By hosting donor-advised funds and initiatives, we support and encourage demanding and committed philanthropy among private and institutional donors with a purpose of public benefit.
- Our mission is to facilitate philanthropic initiatives in Switzerland, Europe and the world. We also have an American Friends Fund in the US in order to be able to receive donations from donors based in the US.
- ▶ We offer a personalised service to help carry out philanthropic projects and ensure their impact through a simple and flexible alternative to the classic foundation.
- By the end of 2022, our hosted funds have disbursed a cumulated total of CHF 235 million since our creation and have supported nearly 500 organisations per year.
- Our Board of Trustees and our operational team ensure that the management of our mandates meets the highest standards of professionalism and integrity.
- At the heart of an ecosystem of partners on a Swiss and international level, Swiss Philanthropy Foundation follows social developments and the regulatory framework. Committed to creating synergies and partnerships, the Foundation is a member of the leading Swiss and transnational networks: Transnational Giving Europe, Philea, SwissFoundations, proFonds, Swiss Sustainable Finance, Sustainable Finance Geneva.
- Our location in Geneva, home to many of the world's major international and non-governmental organizations, is particularly convenient in terms of East-West coordination.

### Collaboration to generate a movement

The Finance for Biodiversity Initiative (F4B), now NatureFinance, was funded by the MAVA Foundation in 2019, and was then shortly joined by the New Venture Fund and the Children Investment Fund Foundation (CIFF), with the mission to increase the materiality of biodiversity in financial decision making and to better align global finance with nature conservation and restoration. Swiss Philanthropy Foundation acted as a fiscal sponsor for the initiative during its incubation phase from 2019 to 2022, leading to the launch of NatureFinance, an independent foundation based in Geneva.

The initiative served the purpose of generating a movement, galvanising actors around an ambition and served as a bridge to the creation of a new foundation to take over its early success. "Tackling climate change and reversing nature's endangered state needs a reset of the nexus between nature and finance in shaping tomorrow's businesses and economies and the distribution of their economic benefits. Against this backdrop, NatureFinance was launched at Building Bridges 2022 to take forward the work of F4B, which has helped to catalyze action on how investors count nature-related risks, natural capital being valued in sovereign debt markets, and broaden nature crime's visibility to the financial crimes community."

#### Simon Zadek

Executive Director of NatureFinance



### Collaboration to mitigate risks

Partners for a New Economy (P4NE) is a donor collaborative that was founded in 2015 by the MAVA, Oak, Marisla and KR Foundations. Laudes Foundation and Ford Foundation joined P4NE in 2021, and Omidyar Network in 2022. The fund supports innovative projects to build communities that bring new thinking and approaches to traditional economics.

As this fund has an appetite for risk-taking, the coming together of those foundations allows them to mitigate this risk and be ever more ambitious. "KR Foundation's mission is to address the root causes of climate change. By co-funding Partners for a New Economy in collaboration with other leading foundations, we aim to find solutions to ensure that the economic system generates positive effects on the environment and society. Collaboration is central to P4NE's approach and is the very spirit on which the Partnership was founded. Swiss Philanthropy Foundation provides a valuable additional capacity for P4NE, both in terms of the structural and administrative resources we can access and the good governance framework it provides. By choosing a collaborative hosted fund, we ensure that we have the greatest possible impact while mitigating the risks inherent in this type of project."

**Brian Valbjørn Sørensen** Executive Director of KR Foundation



# Collaboration of skills

The S<sup>2</sup>Cities (Safe and Sound Cities) programme was established in 2021 with the aim of improving the safety and well-being of young people in urban areas. A joint initiative of the Basel-based Fondation Botnar and Global Infrastructure Basel (GIB) foundation, the programme is hosted by Swiss Philanthropy Foundation.

This fund is a great example of where three foundations come together to capitalise on each other's strength, with GIB as the project leader and the Fondation Botnar deploying the financial means to support a programme in its area of expertise. As the fiscal sponsor, Swiss Philanthropy Foundation provides grant-making proficiency as well as flexible and agile processes that allow GIB to focus on the programme's content, strategy, and operational management. "At Fondation Botnar, we believe that philanthropic actors can more deeply achieve systemic change through cooperation and shared learning, including with each other. Thanks to our collaboration with Global Infrastructure Basel Foundation and Swiss Philanthropy Foundation, we can catalyse meaningful action for young people through our S<sup>2</sup>Cities (Safe and Sound) Programme; together, we can realise the significant role that young people have as shapers of safer and more inclusive urban environments."

**Stefan Germann** CEO of Fondation Botnar fondation BOTNAR

## Collaboration for a global strategy

The Early Childhood Regional Networks Fund aims to support early childhood development (ECD) by strengthening regional networks organisations across the world. It was established in 2021 by Oak Foundation, the Open Society Foundations, and Porticus.

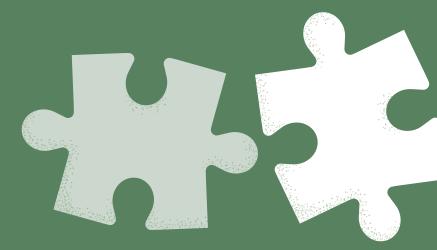
It allows leading actors in the ECD sphere to leverage their resources to coordinate a global funding strategy for improved care provision to young people across different regions and continents. It also allows to simplify the processes for the beneficiary regional networks. "Through my various experiences in the areas of gender equality, good governance, political and electoral reform, I have seen how collaboration in philanthropy can be a powerful force in tackling the most important issues we face and in also fostering the needed collaboration in the field. I continue to apply this learning at Open Society Foundations, where we regularly partner with other foundations to take collective action, as in the case of the Early Childhood Regional Networks donor collaborative, hosted by Swiss Philanthropy Foundation."

#### Ayisha Osori

Director, Executive Vice President's Office, Open Society Foundations OPEN SOCIETY FOUNDATIONS







"At Oak Foundation, we strive to be purposeful and strategic in our grant-making. We actively seek to collaborate with like-minded donors and others to leverage staff expertise and resources. One way we do that is through pooled funds which allows the power of collective action to set and achieve more ambitious goals. Some foundations including Oak have partnered with Swiss Philanthropy Foundation to host a number of donor collaboratives. They provide a valuable framework of good governance and due diligence process as well as important back-office administrative support to achieve the mission of the collaboration."

#### Vinit Rishi

Advisor to the President & Director of the India Programme Oak Foundation



#### Any questions? A project?

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