

U-LANDSHJÄLP FRÅN FOLK TILL FOLK I FINLAND SR

# UFF



**10.6 MILLION EUROS  
FOR CLIMATE ACTION AND  
GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT WORK**

**EVERY  
REUSED GARMENT  
SAVES NATURE**

**ANNUAL REPORT 2024**



# THANK YOU FOR BEING KIND TO THE EARTH!

When you donate clothing or shop in our shops,  
you support UFF's work for the benefit of  
sustainable development work. With your help,  
we carry out climate work in Finland and  
work towards creating a more humane  
and fair life for those who belong  
to the world's poorest communities.



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# UFF IN BRIEF

UFF is a Finnish, not-for-profit, politically and religiously independent humanitarian foundation that carries out climate action and global development work. The foundation participates in sustainable development through clothing recycling and helping to reduce extreme poverty in the world. In climate work, UFF focuses on clothing collection in Finland, while its global development projects foster education, healthcare, and economic livelihoods in Africa and Asia.

Since 1987, UFF’s climate action work has helped to mitigate climate change through clothing collection, sorting, and recycling. People living in Finland can effortlessly recycle suitable clothing, footwear, and textiles for reuse through UFF’s national clothing collection service. Extending the lifecycle of clothes in their original intended purpose saves natural resources and curbs climate change, which adversely affects us all.

With the help of development cooperation projects, the foundation wants to be part of the process of building sustainable and fair development among the world’s poorest communities in Africa and Asia.

UFF carries out communication and advocacy work. The goal is to increase awareness on topics related to sustainable development and the reuse of clothing as clothing. The foundation communicates about its clothing collection service, the climate benefits of reusing clothing as clothing, as well as its development cooperation work.

## VISION

A world that is socially, ecologically, and economically sustainable and fair. Everyone has the opportunity and right to actively participate and take responsibility for sustainable development.

## MISSION

UFF works for sustainable development by carrying out climate work and fundraising. The foundation is a partner in global development programmes that are implemented among the world’s poorest communities.

## VALUES

- 1. Fairness, which means local and global responsibility and caring, which improves social capital and sustainability at a personal and societal level.
- 2. Seeking best practices, which means implementing the principle of continuous improvement and searching for solutions that make sense and support sustainable development in the long term.
- 3. Focusing on user and end-user benefits, which is at the heart of public benefit activities and bring about positive development for global wellbeing.

## ORGANISATION

The foundation group includes the UFF Foundation, U-landshjälp från Folk till Folk i Finland sr, and Klädinsamling för miljö och global utveckling sr (KMG). The foundations in the group operate the clothing collection service together. Both foundations share the same purpose, and their boards and rules of operation are identical.

## BOARD

Örjan Österdal, Chairperson of the Board  
Riitta Tamminen, Deputy Chairperson  
Helle Lund, Board Member  
Kaj Pihl, Board Member  
Jesper Wohler, Board Member

## MANAGING DIRECTOR

Virve Groning

The board of directors is responsible for the foundation’s administration and ensuring that the foundation’s operations are managed to fulfil its mandate. The managing director is responsible for ensuring that the foundation carries out its mandate and for the foundation’s day-to-day administration in accordance with the instructions and regulations issued by the board.

UFF is one of the founding members of the international Humana People to People association of charitable organisations. The organisations in the network work independently and locally, while cooperation ensures that development cooperation is long-term and local expertise is utilised as efficiently as possible. In addition, the network can share best practices for clothing recycling and communication among operators, for example.

## SUPPORT FOR BENEFICIAL SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

In 2024, UFF spent more than 10.6 million euros on climate and development cooperation.



From funds collected through Finnish clothing donations

- 80% was used for climate work
- 18% for global development cooperation
- 2% for communication and advocacy

Climate work

8.5

million euros

+

Global development cooperation

1.9

million euros

+

Communication & advocacy work

0.2

million euros

=

Total support for sustainable development

10.9

million euros

Kilos of clothes collected

11.8

million kg

Shops

25

Staff

318

people

# AUTHENTIC SUSTAINABILITY CONSIDERS PEOPLE, THE ENVIRONMENT, AND THE ECONOMY

The year 2024 was the sixth year UFF operated in foundation form, and the second year of operation of the foundation group. **Our work on climate, global social responsibility, as well as communication and advocacy has continued for over five decades in total.** The foundation has continued the public benefit social activities that its predecessor organisation previously carried out as an association.

The foundation's social work includes a nationwide clothing collection service and the foundation carries global social responsibility by funding numerous development cooperation projects. In addition, the foundation communicates about and influences sustainable development.

In 2024, the foundation allocated a total of approximately 10.6 million euros for its social purpose. This public benefit investment was divided as follows: 80% for climate work, 18% for global development cooperation, and 2% for communication and advocacy.

The social impacts achieved included the collection and reuse of nearly 12 million kilos of clothing, the participation of hundreds of thousands of people in developing countries in projects that develop their own communities and societies, and increased employment in some of the world's poorest communities. In addition, several different stakeholder groups were reached on climate and global development issues from loyal customers to readers of local newspapers, the Finnish Minister of the Environment, and Finnish members of the European Parliament. In this report, we will tell you more about the foundation's activities and its impacts in 2024.

**UFF's operational strategy is based on overall utility in society.** The foundation provides a collection service for society and citizens to recover usable clothing, thus enabling the financing of development cooperation. Domestic operations of the foundation are not supported by government funding.

In the careful clothing collection process, all collected items are screened to see if they can be reused as is. All usable clothing is directed for reuse. Unusable clothing is sorted and separated, and its material is diverted for use as raw material whenever possible. Only material (end-of-life textiles) that is completely unusable ends up in energy incineration.

Global social responsibility and partnership in development cooperation is based on long-term change and a committed, concrete contribution from all parties to achieving development. Cooperation is equal, the skills of all parties increase while learning is a lifelong journey.

Entrepreneurship development and community projects aimed at improving livelihoods are a key part of the development cooperation funded by the foundation.

In numerous African countries, up to 85% of the population needs to get by without an official job or an actual wage income. In developing countries, the livelihoods of many people rely not only on them growing their own food but also on micro-entrepreneurship. Selling clothing provides a low-threshold opportunity for millions of small business owners. Clothing sellers, in turn, play an important role in putting usable clothing back into reuse, as the demand for affordable clothes is high. They are an important link that ensures the longest possible lifespan for usable clothing.

Every reused garment helps to combat the waste problem that threatens not only poor countries, but also Europe. Relying on ultra-fast fashion would accelerate the waste problem to unprecedented levels in poor countries. And re-usable clothing collected in Europe would become waste if it were not supplied to places where there's a genuine demand for it.

The supply of used clothing in Europe exceeds demand. That's why extending the lifecycle of clothing requires exporting almost the entire volume. At the heart of the European Union's Green Strategy is the principle that usable clothing within the EU should always primarily be reused as is and not as a raw material for materials. This principle also aptly conveys the foundation's values as it **focuses on genuine sustainability – for people, our planet, and the economy.**

For clothing donors, our advice is to put all clothing that is even slightly reusable into UFF's collection boxes. We will ensure that clothing is always sorted primarily for re-use. This is how the resources of existing products are utilised as best as possible for as long as possible. At the same time, natural resources and materials are saved as there is no need to use natural resources and materials to make new garments. We want to offer services to our clothing recyclers and shop customers where one plus one equals more than two.

Everyday actions like donating clothing and choosing to buy clothing second-hand contribute to sustainability in our society on many levels, from the environment to global social responsibility. The choices we make now will have an impact that extends beyond our own time and well into the future.

We are happy and grateful that so many people are interested in nurturing and creating a better future through sustainable actions.

**Virve Groning,**  
Managing Director

**SELLING USED CLOTHING  
PROVIDES LIVELIHOODS  
FOR MILLIONS OF SMALL  
ENTREPRENEURS IN  
DEVELOPING COUNTRIES.**





# CLIMATE WORK – EVERYDAY SUSTAINABLE ACTIONS

UFF's clothing collection service offers people living in Finland opportunities to participate in everyday climate work by donating unwanted clothes, footwear, and textiles for responsible reuse. We extend the lifecycle of donated usable clothing for as long as possible.

## CLOTHING COLLECTION SERVICE

UFF's clothing collection service reaches more than 5.5 million people in 280 municipalities throughout Finland. In 2024, there were 1,482 collection service points with 3,537 clothing collection boxes. UFF shops also accept donations. The collection network is continuously being developed to make collection points as accessible as possible to clothing donors. The number of collection points grew by 56 from the previous year.

UFF collects clothing and textiles that are usable as they are. The total amount of donated clothing was 11.9 million kilogrammes in 2024. This includes clothing collected by both UFF and its subsidiary foundation KMG. The majority of donations were collected in Helsinki, Oulu, and Turku. On average, people living in Finland each donated 2.2 kilogrammes of clothing to UFF in 2024.

The costs of climate work are covered by the proceeds from clothing sales and operations are not supported by government funding. During 2024, the foundation spent approximately 8.5 million euros on providing the clothing collection service, which represents more than 1.5 euros per resident of the collection service area in Finland.

## CLOTHING DONATION SORTING

UFF sorts clothing according to the principle of extending its lifecycle for as long as possible. Clothing is primarily directed to reuse as such and secondarily to be recycled as material. If an article of clothing is no longer suitable for reuse or for recycling into new material, it is sent for energy recovery by incineration.

Reusing clothing for its original purpose is the best option for the environment. It significantly reduces carbon dioxide emissions and the use of water and chemicals, as most emissions are generated during the production phase.

Clothing donations are screened at collection points. A part of the clothing collected in 2024 was sorted in Finland, while another part was sent abroad for sorting, primarily to the Baltic countries.

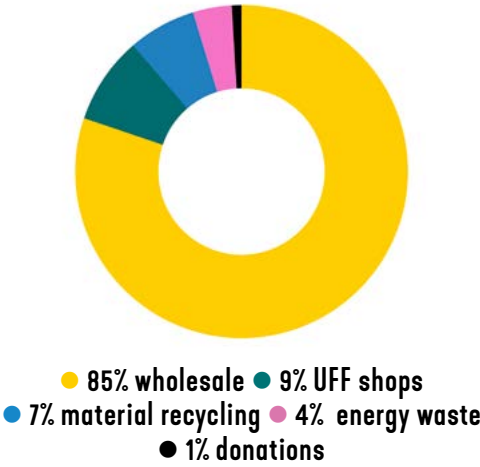
## CLOTHING REUSE

In 2024, 95% of donated clothing was suitable for redirecting to reuse. Of this 95%, 9% went to retail sales in UFF's own shops, 85% went to wholesale customers, and 1% to fundraising for partners in Mozambique and Angola.

Seven percent of the sorted clothing was diverted into raw materials. About 4% of clothing went to energy recovery by incineration. Items that did not belong to clothing collection went to incineration. The amount of clothing processed in 2024 also included clothing from the previous year in stock, bringing the total amount to 106%.

UFF has collected almost 260 million kilogrammes of clothing donated by people living in Finland during its 37 years of operation.

### REUSE OF DONATED CLOTHING 2024\*



\*Figures also include collected clothing in storage from the previous year, bringing the total amount to 106%.



Collected clothing  
**11.9**  
million kg

Clothing collection boxes  
**3,537**

Investments in clothing collection  
**8.5**  
million euros

Investments in clothing collection per resident  
**1.5**  
euros

Clothing to re-use  
**95%**

Clothing to material recycling  
**7%**

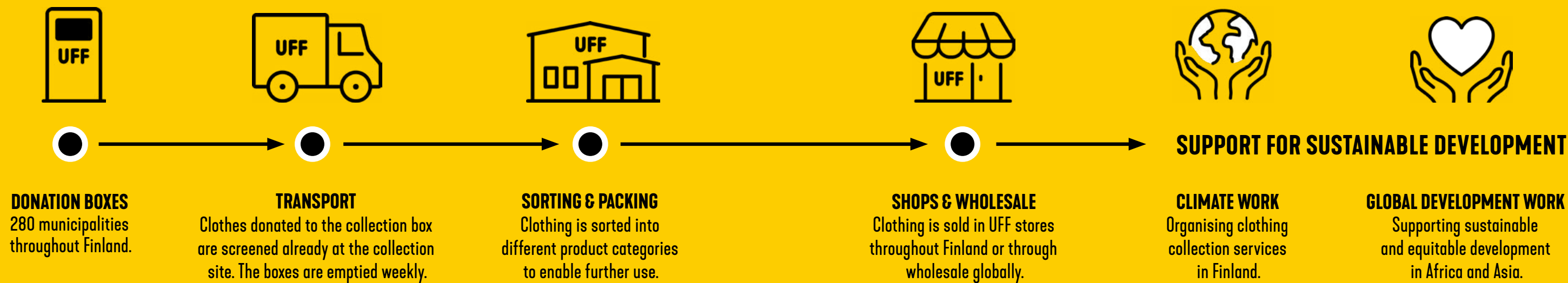






## THE JOURNEY OF CLOTHING

## FROM A FINNISH HOME TO SUSTAINABILITY



# THE USED CLOTHING TRADE IS AN ENGINE OF EMPLOYMENT AND WELLBEING IN AFRICA

Clothing is a basic human right and there is high demand for used clothing in Africa. Used quality clothing is a better-quality and more environmentally-friendly choice over fast fashion. Recent research reports from Africa indicate that the used clothing trade has numerous positive socio-economic effects on people's daily lives in the global south. It extends the lifecycle of textiles, promotes sustainability, creates green workplaces and jobs, and improves millions of people's quality of life. The trade in used clothing makes it possible for people in small income households to purchase quality affordable clothing. About two thirds of Africa's population buys at least some of their clothing second-hand, according to research.

In Africa, the used clothing trade offers millions of people livelihoods and employment. This is of great importance in many African countries, where 85% of the population is outside of the formal labour market. For example, in Angola, Guinea-Bissau, Malawi, Mozambique, and Zambia, each tonne of used clothing supports 6.5 jobs on average. This corresponds to a quarter of the jobs in the service sector in these countries.

Especially for those who live solely in a low-income self-sufficiency economy, the trade of used clothing can offer a significant means of livelihood. This reduces poverty and increases government revenue, mainly through import duties.

Reducing waste and combatting harmful environmental effects in connection with climate change means maximising the circular economy. This, in turn, requires extending the longevity and quality of textiles and increasing the reuse of textiles. Used clothing donated by people living in Finland is of good quality and when re-used is affordable for buyers so people in the global south can afford them. UFF does not forward textile waste. When sorting export categories of clothing, criteria specified by the buyer is carefully considered.

## STUDIES AND REPORTS ON THE EFFECTS OF SELLING USED CLOTHING IN DIFFERENT AFRICAN COUNTRIES

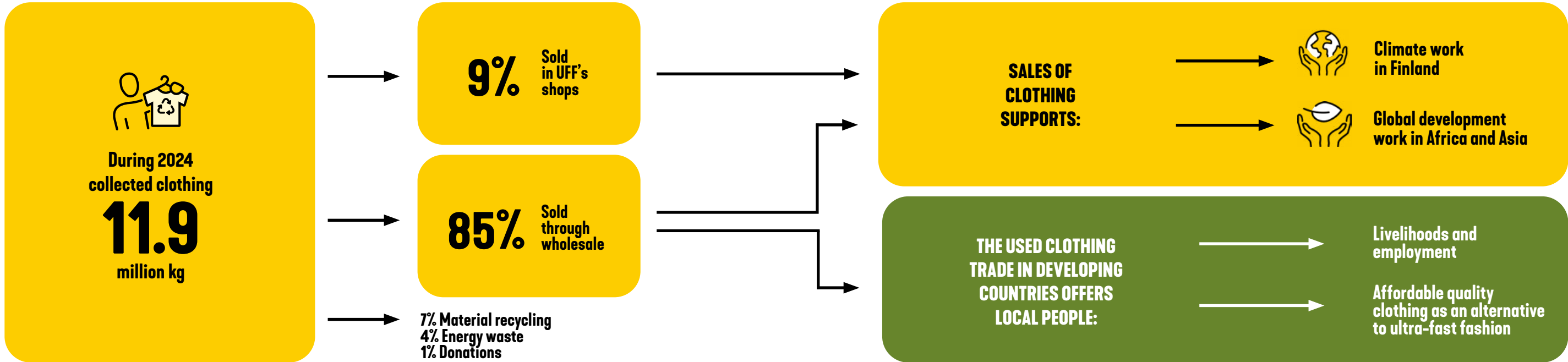
Sustainability assessment of textile reuse and recycling in and outside of Europe – Environmental, economic, and social implications. Swedish Environmental Research Institute (IVL). January 2025.

The Socioeconomic Impact of the Second-Hand Clothing Industry in Africa and the EU27+. Oxford Economics. October 2024.

Job Creation in Africa's Second-hand Clothing Sector – Evidence from Angola, Guinea-Bissau, Malawi, Mozambique and Zambia. Dr. Joseph Feyertag, Professor Patrick Diamond, Queen Mary University of London. May 2024.

An evaluation of the socio-economic and environmental impact of the second-hand clothes trade in Ghana. Stephen Odonkor, Metropolitan Research and Education Bureau and E-volution International. 2024.

The Second-Hand Clothing Industry in the East African Community. Professor Patrick Diamond, Queen Mary University of London. July 2023.





# GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION – SUSTAINABLE AND JUST

With the funds raised through clothing donations, UFF helps people and promotes lifelong learning in the world’s poorest communities. Our work promotes the realisation of the UN’s sustainable development goals through education, children’s aid, community development, and farmer training. With our projects, we want to be involved in building sustainable and fair development in Africa and Asia.

In the year 2024, UFF supported development cooperation in sub-Saharan Africa and India with a total of over 1.9 million euros. We financed projects that promoted improvement of the quality of basic education, as well as food security, livelihoods, and gender equality.

A total of 38 projects reached approximately 192,000 people in Angola, India, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, and Zimbabwe. The projects had an impact that went beyond the direct beneficiaries: for example, the work of trained teachers benefitted a large number of children in local schools.

Three UFF development cooperation projects supported by the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland continued in Mozambique, which the ministry supported with almost 361,000 euros in 2024. Two of the four-year projects focused on teacher training and improving learning outcomes in local elementary schools. A third project strengthened civil society and improved food security together with the help of small farmer groups.

The education-focused projects aimed to improve learning outcomes, teaching quality, and accessibility in local comprehensive schools. One of the comprehensive education projects ended at the end of 2024 and achieved positive development results. At the start of the project only about 37% of boys and 27% of girls completed comprehensive school, whereas by the end of the project in 2024 the corresponding figures were 88% for boys and 87% for girls. The project succeeded not only in raising learning outcomes but also in improving gender equality, with girls striving for equally good school performance.

In addition to clothing donations, the foundation raised funds through a monthly donor programme and fundraising campaigns at UFF stores. These funds were used to support children’s education in Mozambique and India.

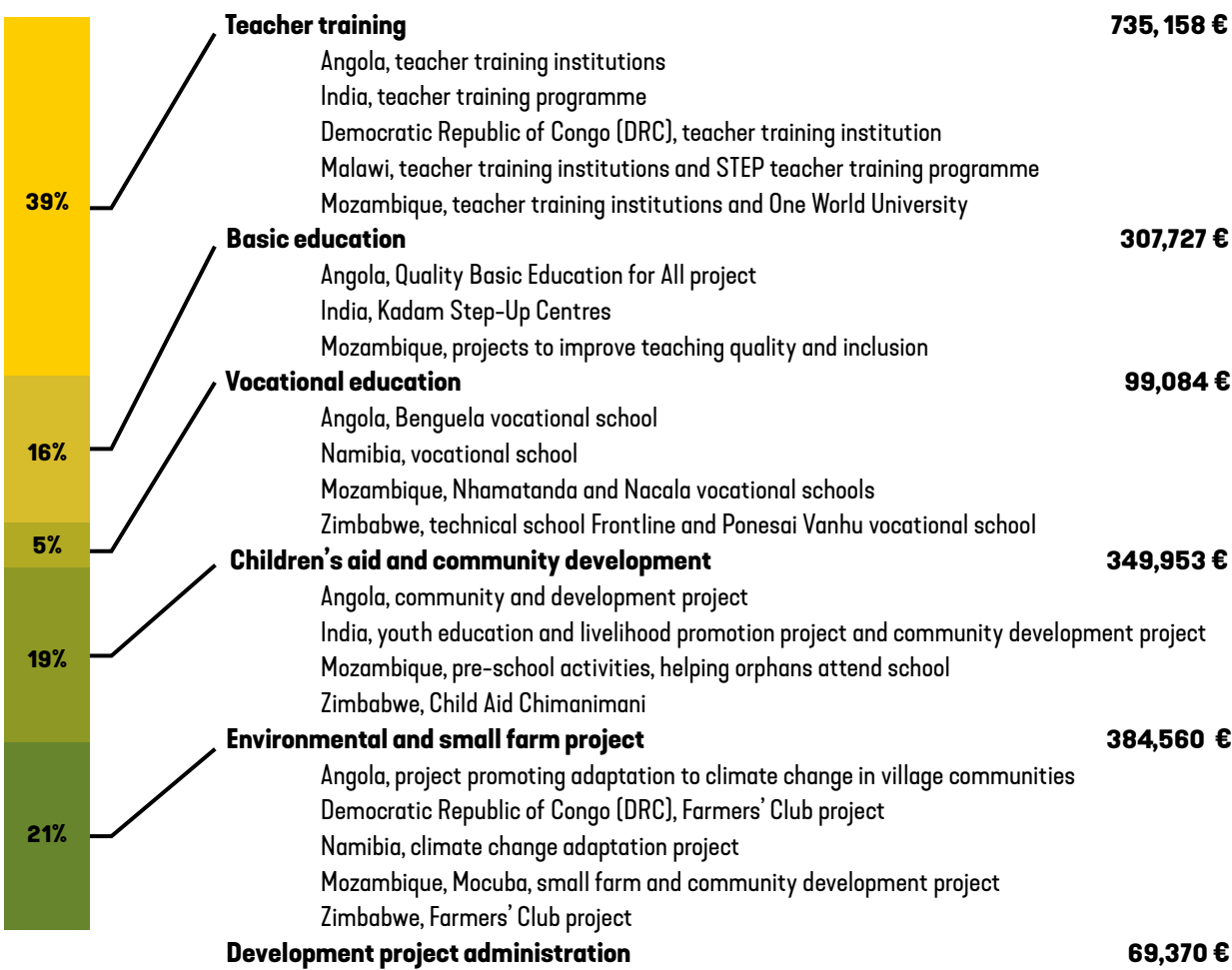
In addition to monetary donations, the foundation supported development cooperation with other donations. Carefully selected and sorted clothing and shoe donations helped UFF’s partners in Angola and Mozambique to raise funds for educational and community development projects.

Thanks to clothing and monetary donations in Finland, UFF has been able to carry out climate and development cooperation work totalling close to 190 million euros during its 37 years of operation. Long-term cooperation has improved the quality of life for millions of people in the world’s poorest countries.



We support the implementation of the UN Sustainable Development Goals through education, healthcare, community development, and farmer training.

## SUPPORT FOR GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS



**IN TOTAL** **1,945,852 €**  
The table illustrates fund allocation to projects during the fiscal year.





EDUCATION

Education plays a major role in UFF’s development cooperation work. The availability and quality of education create the foundation for reducing extreme poverty, creating more sustainable development, peace, equality, and solidarity in societies.

UFF supports basic education and teacher training in the global south. The projects emphasise a participatory and inclusive approach, preparing children and youth to face future challenges and act as agents of change. In 2024, UFF-supported projects reached approximately 3,000 teachers and student teachers.

Educational support is targeted at countries where climate change-related extreme events, such as heat, drought, floods, and tropical hurricanes, are increasingly causing school interruptions. According to UNICEF, up to 242 million children missed school for such reasons in 2024. Among the countries targeted by UFF support, Mozambique in particular suffered from extreme weather events.

Schooling alone is not enough – the quality of education also plays an important role. UFF is responding to the learning crisis by supporting the training of qualified teachers in Angola, India, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Malawi, and Mozambique.



Several projects supported by UFF also promote the rights of children with disabilities to education and learning. In Mozambique, we collaborated with Disability Partnership Finland and trained local teachers to improve inclusive methods.

The village communities surrounding schools have a great impact on children’s learning outcomes and school attendance. Discriminatory or negative attitudes from adults often prevent, in particular, girls and children with disabilities from attending school. For this reason, UFF continued to support teacher training and the advocacy work of our local partner organisations in village communities.

In addition to basic education, UFF supported vocational training, an important pathway to livelihoods in remote areas. With UFF support, approximately 930 young people were able to study vocational skills in Angola, Malawi, Namibia, and Zimbabwe.

**SCHOOL ATTENDANCE  
ALONE IS NOT ENOUGH – THE  
QUALITY OF TEACHING IS ALSO  
OF GREAT IMPORTANCE.**

**WITH THE SUPPORT OF THE  
FOUNDATION, APPROXIMATELY  
3,000 TEACHERS WERE  
TRAINED IN 2024.**



**India: Teacher training in the world’s most populous country**

UFF continued its collaboration with Indian partners to provide teacher training in remote areas of three states. UFF support enabled the studies of approximately 180 student teachers.

Thousands of primary school students benefitted from student teacher internships in local primary schools. In many places, traditional teaching methods and earlier curricula had become outdated. Learning outcomes, especially for vulnerable children, had previously been poor. Students doing internships brought with them newer teaching methods.

**Mozambique: Learning outcomes improved during the four-year project**

UFF supported a project to improve the quality of education in Mozambique’s Namacurra district from 2021–2024. The project included about 6,200 students in their final year.

Amidst the unrest caused by weather events and political tensions, about 88% of all students successfully completed their year of studies and moved onto the next grade. Among students with disabilities, 85% passed the school year. Initially, when the project started only about 38% of students had successfully completed their school year and moved onto the next grade.



## SMALL FARMS AND THE ENVIRONMENT

The effects of climate change are increasingly felt in the lives of smallholder farmers living in sub-Saharan Africa. Extreme weather events pose challenges to the livelihoods and food security of smallholder farmers. At the same time, smallholder farmers are very important actors in food systems and food security, and play a key role in safeguarding biodiversity. Smallholder farmers do not accelerate climate change with their actions, but they suffer particularly from its consequences.

UFF supports smallholder farmers through Farmers' Clubs, smallholder farming and environmental projects. The foundation's projects reached approximately 250,000 smallholder farmers and their family members in Angola, DR Congo, Mozambique, Namibia, and Zimbabwe in 2024.

Soil depletion, longer dry and hot seasons, and increased difficulties with predictability are challenges that smallholder farmer groups in village communities are preparing to face together with UFF's local partner organisations. The activities also promote equality by emphasising the importance of women's participation and, in Mozambique, especially the participation opportunities of people with disabilities.

In addition to agriculture and climate change adaptation, the projects aim to support farmers' access to markets to sell their products to earn additional income. In a project in Zambezia, Mozambique, 77% of 1,000 farmers reported at the end of 2024 that they had managed to increase their sales compared to the previous year.



## COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND CHILDREN'S AID

UFF's community development and children's aid projects use an approach that promotes several different development goals within the same project. Goals can be related to livelihood, health education, supporting orphans, the environment, and various other local needs. Strengthening local communities is key, for example, by establishing village committees. The aim is to develop the functionality and well-being of the community together with UFF's local partner organisations.

The development of pre-school activities and school attendance was the focus of continuing child welfare work assisted by UFF in Nacala, Mozambique. The project supported the preschool journeys of 1,008 children. In the Cabo Delgado region, we helped develop livelihood opportunities for internally displaced people, reaching a total of approximately 3,070 households. These activities strengthened faith in the future among people who had been forced to leave their homes as a result of violence and natural disasters.

In a community development project in India, we supported local women's groups to promote equality and livelihoods. A total of about 9,300 women took part in the activities. In a children's aid project in Chimanimani, Zimbabwe, we continued community rebuilding after cyclone Idai in 2019. The project established, among other things, 32 savings groups for families to enable the initial investments need for livelihoods. In addition, hygiene and health were improved by building 574 toilets.

## SPECIAL PROJECTS

### Collection of medical equipment

UFF collected medical equipment and supplies in Finland to support healthcare in developing countries. The first batches donated from Finland moved forward in July 2024. These included hospital beds, ultrasound machines, and surgical equipment donated by the wellbeing services county of North Karelia.

UFF accepts donations of hospital supplies from public and private healthcare operators in Finland. The donations are sent to the Human Bridge organisation in Sweden, which services, refurbishes, and delivers the equipment to developing countries.



### Truck donation to Ukraine

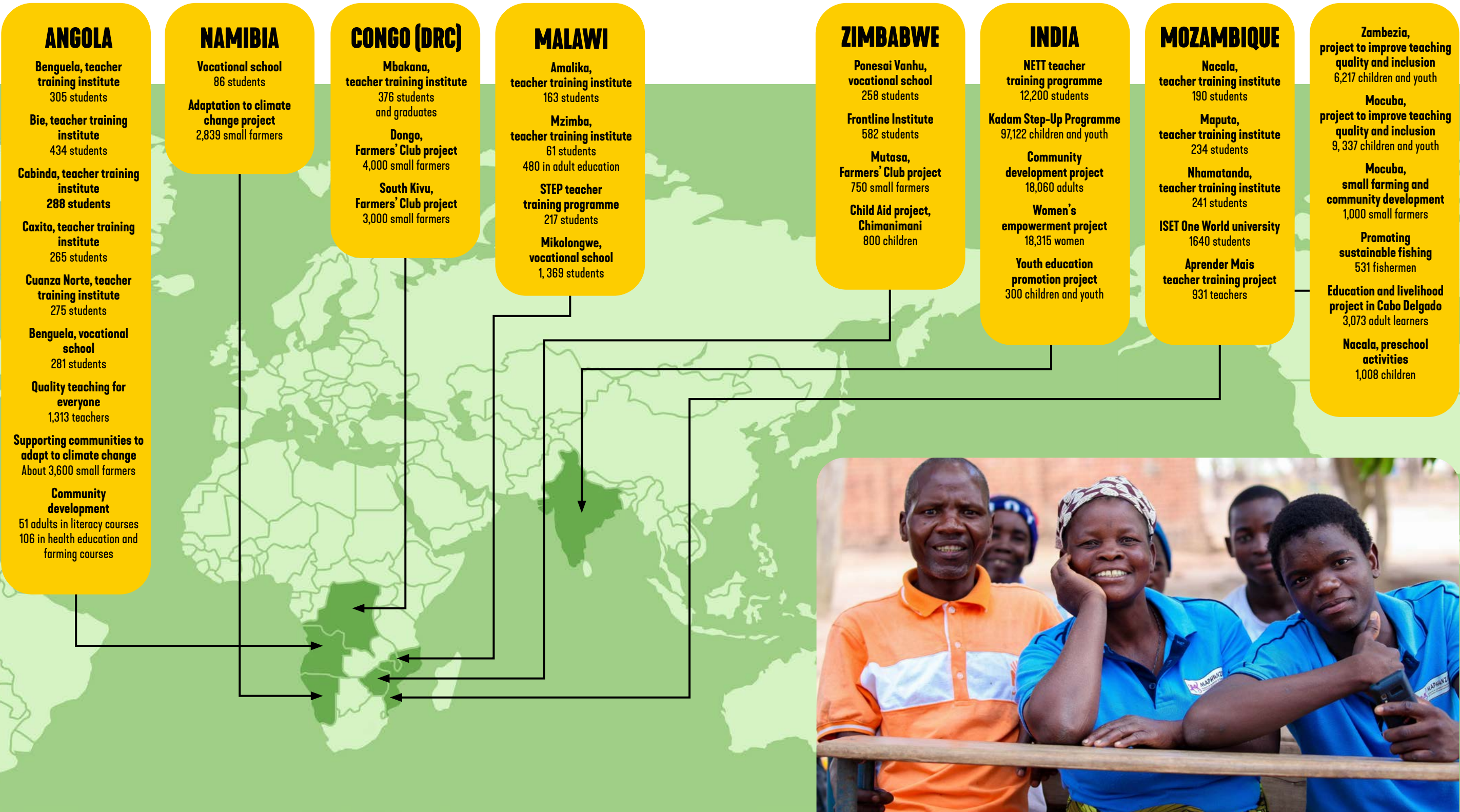
UFF participated in helping Ukraine and Ukrainians. In December 2024, the foundation donated a truck to Ukraine.

The truck, which served for eight years in clothing collection duties in Finland, had collected about eight million kilogrammes of clothing. The reliable truck still has a lot of driving kilometres ahead of it in Ukraine. It was delivered to the country in cooperation with the Finnish Ministry of the Interior. The Ministry coordinated the delivery of civilian material aid sent by Finland to Ukraine through the EU Civil Service Mechanism.



# UFF'S PROJECTS: 192,000 PEOPLE

# EDUCATION, CHILDREN'S AID, LIVELIHOODS







# COMMUNICATION AND ADVOCACY WORK – FOR SUSTAINABILITY

UFF raises issues of sustainable development as topics of discussion and wants to increase people’s climate awareness. We offer up-to-date information on the climate effects of reusing clothing and our development cooperation work. We influence the development of legislation and the operating environment regarding clothing recycling, with the goal of increasing clothing reuse.

We want to be in regular contact with our stakeholders to understand their needs, perspectives, and expectations of our foundation. Our important stakeholders include clothing donors, store customers, employees, transportation partners, clothing and environmental operators, membership organisations in Finland and internationally, as well as development cooperation partners, financiers and beneficiaries, media, educational institutions, and regulatory authorities.

The opinions of customers and clothing donors and information about clothing recycling are ascertained, for example, with the help of regular customer surveys. UFF had almost 69, 800 registered loyal customers at the end of 2024. Weekly, UFF serves researchers, students, and media representatives from different fields in response to requests for information, interviews, and cooperation projects.

During 2024, the exchange of information resulted in several workshops, lectures, research papers, and dozens of media interviews.

During the year, the foundation’s sorting centre was visited by numerous educational institutions and other stakeholders, who were interested in sustainable development, clothing collection services, and development cooperation.

UFF’s advocacy work in 2024 focused on proposals for amendments to the EU Waste Framework Directive in the form of official statements and meetings. The goal was ensuring that legislation always recognises the reuse of clothing as the primary option.

In 2024, we renewed the foundations’s visual communications look, aiming to clarify communications, strengthen the brand, and support advocacy work more recognisably across various channels.



**OUR GOAL IS TO ENSURE THAT LEGISLATION ALWAYS RECOGNISES THE REUSE OF CLOTHING AS THE PRIMARY OPTION.**



# OPERATING POLICY – A COMMITMENT TO CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

UFF is committed to environmental protection, sustainable use of resources, and continuous improvement to develop operations. A certified enterprise control system is in use: quality system ISO 9001, occupational health and safety system ISO 45001, and environmental system ISO 14001.

The operating system's purpose is to ensure sustainable and stable output for the benefit of the foundation's public mission, the environment, and global development. The main goal of the quality system is to achieve production goals and financial goals. In occupational safety, the goal is zero accidents. The goal of environmental management is to identify the environmental impacts of operations and reduce potentially harmful effects.

UFF's operations and decision-making are guided by operational compliance, occupational safety, as well as environmental impacts. These are taken into account in the selection of service providers and subcontractors. Service providers committed to procedures in accordance with the operating policy are prioritised when otherwise equal offers are received.

In accordance with the principle of continuous improvement, the foundation's staff receives regular training. This way we can ensure our work meets evolving quality, environmental, and occupational safety requirements. Operational management, processes, working methods, and tools are evaluated, developed, and renewed. Achieving set goals, as well as the adequacy and appropriateness of resources, are monitored through regular internal and external inspections.



**OUR GOAL IS A  
SUSTAINABLE AND STABLE  
OUTPUT THAT BENEFITS  
THE FOUNDATION'S  
PUBLIC MISSION, THE  
ENVIRONMENT, AND  
GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT.**





# RESPONSIBILITY – EVERYDAY CLIMATE ACTIONS

With the help of UFF's clothing collection services and shops, Finns can participate in everyday climate action by donating clothing and choosing to purchase second-hand clothes. UFF's goal is to keep clothes in use for their original purpose for as long as possible. This reduces the need to produce new textiles, carbon dioxide emissions, or textile waste.

## ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSIBILITY

UFF is strongly committed to the circular economy and curbing climate change and its adverse effects. We are always searching for the best solution for the environment. Everyday climate actions are accessible to everyone through the foundation's clothing collection services and shops. Finns can reduce their own carbon footprint by donating clothes and choosing second-hand clothes over new ones.

Textile reuse means reusing a used garment or its part for the same purpose for which it was originally designed. Reuse as such is the best option from the point of view of the climate because it both extends the useful life of clothing and reduces the need to manufacture and purchase new textiles.

UFF continues the lifecycle of donated clothes in the best possible way by taking into account their condition. We want to ensure that clothes don't end up as material or in incineration before their time. Clothing donations go through thorough manual sorting to achieve the highest possible reuse rate.

In 2024, 11% of collected clothing was sold in UFF's own shops and 80% through wholesale. Seven percent was directed to material recycling. One percent was donated to fundraising for partners in Mozambique and Angola. Products suitable for reuse were also donated domestically to organisations supporting the unemployed and unhoused, for example.

## CLIMATE EFFECTS

The foundation manages its own climate impacts in accordance with the ISO 14001 environmental system. The goal of UFF's environmental programme is to collect usable clothes for reuse so that the lifecycle of ever more clothing continues in its original form for its original purpose.

The goal is also to increase the energy efficiency of offices and work spaces and to promote use of renewable energy sources. The energy used by the foundation's sorting and packaging centres was 100% renewable in 2024.

In 2024, the foundation processed approximately 41 million items of clothing. Buying used clothing from UFF is a much better choice for the climate than buying new clothing from a store. The climate impact is less than 2% of the emissions of a new garment. In other words, a garment purchased from UFF has only a climate impact that is 1/50th of what buying a new, similar garment would have. The comparison takes into account that used and new clothing have approximately the same emissions in terms of use and final disposal. As such, the calculation focuses on emissions saved when new clothing does not need to be manufactured.

UFF's activities reduced climate emissions by a total of 34,445 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>-equivalent in 2024. This corresponds to the annual carbon footprint of over 3,000 people living in Finland. This impact is called the carbon handprint. It arises primarily from avoiding the production of new textiles and extending the lifespan of clothing. This calculation has been made in accordance with the international GHG Protocol and includes all three emission categories (Scope 1, 2, and 3).

UFF trains its drivers in economical driving and the driving management system provides information on the effects of driving. In logistics, renewable diesel made from waste is preferred, which reduces greenhouse gas emissions by up to 90% compared to traditional diesel. In 2024, renewable diesel accounted for 75% of the fuel used. The foundation's trucks meet the EU's highest emission classification (Euro 6).

UFF supports reducing plastic bag usage in accordance with the EU's packaging waste directive. For Commitment 2050, UFF's goal is a 25% reduction in the number of plastic bags sold from the 2016 baseline. This goal was achieved shortly after it was set. In 2024, the foundation continued communicating to customers about the importance of reducing the number of plastic bags. Shopping bag options in UFF shops are recycled plastic bags made of 90% recycled plastic and fabric bags made from Fairtrade cotton.



Of fuel  
**75%**  
renewable  
diesel



In work spaces  
**100%**  
renewable  
energy

**1/50<sup>TH</sup>**

A garment bought from UFF has one-fiftieth of the climate impact of buying a similar new garment from a store.



FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

Financial responsibility is an important part of UFF’s continuity of operations and culture. This includes, among other things, careful operational planning, profitability planning, proactive risk management, and continuous improvement in all of these areas. Goals and indicators are clearly defined, monitored, and reported in accordance with good governance.

In addition to the foundation’s rules and laws, operations are guided by the operational policy and the principles defined in the operational management system, such as ethical principles against bribery and corruption. UFF is one of the founding members of Vastuullinen Lahjoittaminen ry (‘Responsible Donations’) also known as VaLa, and one of the contributors of good governance for the non-profit sector.

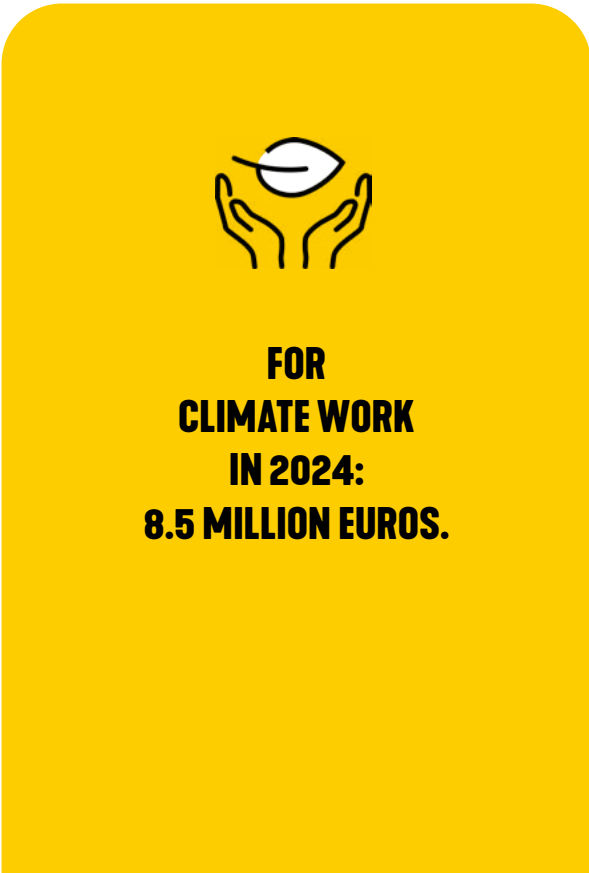
The foundation follows internal and external control routines. Audits in accordance with the foundation’s management and operations management system are carried out according to an annual programme. The inspections assess whether operations are in accordance with the plan, check for possible deviations and their root causes, and implement corrective measures.

Foundation’s operations in Finland and developing countries are subject to annual external audits. An authorised auditor carries out the inspections. In addition to audits, development cooperation is monitored through continuous dialogue and reporting.

ALLOCATION OF FUNDS

In 2024, the costs of climate work were about 8.5 million euros. The operating costs of climate work arise from the costs of clothing collection points and the logistics and personnel costs of clothing collection. Operating costs also included the operating costs of sorting and packaging centres located in Klaukkala and Helsinki.

UFF’s development cooperation focuses on some of the world’s poorest communities. The foundation supported 38 projects with more than 1.9 million euros in Africa and Asia. The costs of communication and advocacy work were approximately 221,000 euros in 2024. Fundraising operating expenses consist of shop network expenses such as rent, and operating and personnel expenses. In 2024, these totalled 9.6 million euros.



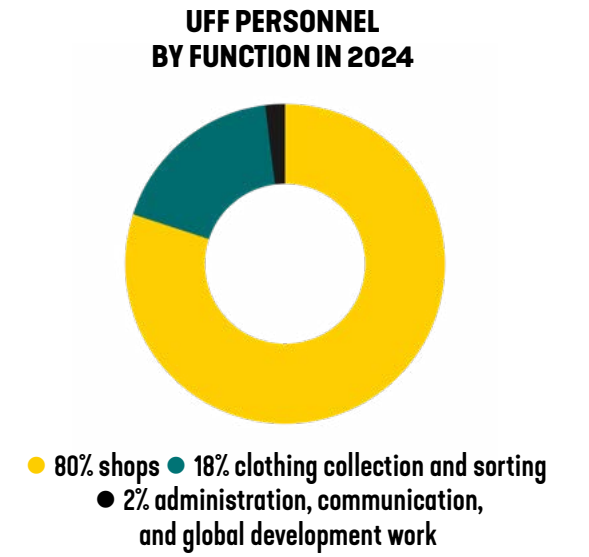
SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

UFF carries social responsibility, which is based on extensive local and international cooperation. We work closely with local nongovernmental organisations, our international cooperation network, as well as public administration, businesses, and the private sector. The foundation’s development cooperation aims to strengthen both ecological and socially sustainable development in the world’s poorest communities.

The foundation’s activities provide a significant number of jobs and meaningful work. We pay special attention to occupational safety, the well-being of all personnel, and equality. Our activities also indirectly employ personnel from various other sectors, such as employees employed by our clothing collection transport partners in Finland.

UFF AS AN EMPLOYER

At the end of 2024, 318 professionals worked at UFF. About 80% of the personnel worked in shops, 18% in clothing collection and sorting, and 2% in administration, communication, and development cooperation. In addition to sustainable development goals, the foundation’s work is guided by the foundation’s values and ethical principles, equality, and non-discrimination.



OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY

The foundation’s goal is to provide a workplace where occupational safety and well-being are an essential part of every working day. Safety thinking is a built-in part of work supervision and work routines. We regularly organise safety training. All UFF employees participate in occupational safety events, such as workplace safety meetings, where best practices are shared and current safety topics are discussed.

We also invest in task-specific training, for example, clothing collection employees have received directive training on safe and proactive driving. In 2024, the number of accidents and accident frequency decreased compared to the previous year. The accident frequency was 25.02, which was below the wholesale and retail trade industry average. All observations related to occupational safety are monitored and near misses and possible safety deviations are carefully investigated. The information is used in preventive safety work. The effectiveness of occupational safety management is monitored through regular reviews, as well as safety and occupational well-being surveys. The occupational safety survey conducted in September 2024 showed positive developments: the occupational safety culture was assessed to be at a better level than in previous years.

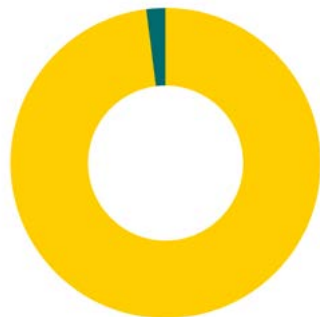


# FUNDRAISING WITH THE HELP OF CLOTHING SALES

UFF raises funds for climate work and development cooperation by selling donated clothing. The foundation's shops offer sustainable alternatives for consumers in Finland. With the help of wholesale, clothing can be reused – not only in Finland, but also in the Baltic countries, Africa, and Asia.

The foundation's clothing sales generated approximately 98% of the foundation's total income. We also raised funds through the monthly donor programme and campaigns in UFF stores. These funds supported children's education in Mozambique and India. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs funded three of the foundation's development cooperation projects.

## FUNDRAISING SOURCES IN 2024



- 98% UFF clothing sales
- 2% Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland funding for global development projects

**SHOP SELECTION IS SUPPLEMENTED DAILY WITH THOUSANDS OF PRODUCTS.**

## SHOPS

UFF shops offer consumers a sustainable and ecological alternative as well as products with a unique style. With their choices, our customers support employment in Finland and abroad, domestic climate work, and development cooperation in Africa and Asia. UFF had close to 69,800 customers at the end of 2024.

The foundation had 25 shops in 2024. Fifteen of the shops were located in Helsinki, three in Tampere, two in Espoo, two in Vantaa, two in Turku, and one in Jyväskylä. Two new shops were opened in Helsinki: one in Citykäytävä and one in Herttoniemi. Our shops had more than one million customer visits during 2024.

The shops' product range consist of high-quality clothing, with an emphasis on either vintage or second-hand with a modern clothing selection. There are shops specialising in vintage fashion in Helsinki, Tampere, and Turku. Second-hand shops carry a selection for the whole family, and some shops also have a vintage section.

The selection at all UFF shops changes seven times a year. During the two-week Tasaraha ('Exact Change Days'), the price of all products drops to one euro. After Tasaraha days, a new selection of products replenished daily follows in all shops.

## 25 SHOPS



**MORE THAN ONE MILLION CUSTOMER VISITS**



**MORE THAN 2.5 MILLION ITEMS OF CLOTHING SOLD**



## SHOPS 06 / 2025

### ESPOO

Iso Omena, Piispansilta 11  
Sello, Leppävaarankatu 3-9

### HELSINKI

Arabia, Hämeentie 111  
Bulevardi 30 (vintage)  
Citykäytävä, Aleksanterinkatu 21  
Fredrikinkatu 36 (vintage)  
Hakaniemi, Hämeentie 4 (vintage)  
Herttoniemi, Hiihtomäentie 14  
Itäkeskus, Turunlinnantie 12  
Kaisaniemi, Vuorikatu 16 (vintage)  
Kalasatama, Hermannin rantatie 5  
Kallio, Helsinginkatu 22  
Kaari, Kantelettarentie 1  
Pasila, Ratavartijankatu 3  
Punavuori, Iso Roobertinkatu 12  
Töölö, Mannerheimintie 104  
Töölöntori, Runeberginkatu 44

### TAMPERE

Hämeenkatu 9  
Hämeenkatu 18 (vintage)  
Hervanta, Pietiläinkatu 2

### TURKU

Humalistonkatu 5 (vintage)  
Eerikinkatu 9

### JYVÄSKYLÄ

Asemakatu 4

### VANTAA

Jumbo-Flamingo, Tasetie 8



## WHOLESALE

In 2024, 85 % of the clothing collected was sold for reuse through wholesale. The foundation has wholesale customers not only in Finland, but also in the Baltic countries, and Africa and Asia.

The foundation also delivered quality-checked selected clothing to development cooperation partners for local fundraising in Mozambique and Angola in 2024.

With the help of sales proceeds, local cooperation organisations financed educational and social development projects. In addition to project financing, clothing sales create jobs in the trade sector and in the maintenance and repair of textiles sector. The jobs created develop both the local economy and the standard of living.

Despite the growing popularity of second-hand clothing, Europeans cannot reuse all of their clothes. Therefore, to extend the lifecycle of used clothing, second-hand clothing must be exported for further use outside of the EU.

The global sales of used clothing ensure that millions of people in developing countries have access to quality, affordable clothing as an alternative to fast fashion.

**EUROPEANS CANNOT  
REUSE ALL OF THEIR USED  
CLOTHING — GLOBAL SALES  
ARE ALSO NEEDED.**

**SALES OF  
USED CLOTHING OFFER  
HIGH-QUALITY AND  
AFFORDABLE CLOTHING  
AS AN ALTERNATIVE TO  
POOR QUALITY ULTRA-FAST  
FASHION IN DEVELOPING  
COUNTRIES.**



## CONTACT INFORMATION

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### POSTAL ADDRESS

Järvihaantie 12,  
01800 Klaukkala, Finland

### ONLINE INVOICING

U-landshjälp från Folk till Folk i Finland sr,  
2952170-7  
Online billing:  
OVT code 003729521707  
Broker ID 003723327487, Apix

### SOCIAL MEDIA

Instagram: uff\_fi  
Facebook: UffFinland  
LinkedIn: U-landshjälp från Folk till Folk i Finland

### WEBSITE

[www.uff.fi/in-english/](http://www.uff.fi/in-english/)









Do you want to give us feedback,  
share ideas or ask a question?

Please contact us using  
the online feedback form:

[www.uff.fi](http://www.uff.fi)

# UFF

## **DONATION ACCOUNT**

**NORDEA FI49 2001 1800 3905 39**

**Permit: RA/2020/1599**