

U-LANDSHJÄLP FRÅN FOLK TILL FOLK I FINLAND SR

UFF

**9.5 MILLION EUROS
FOR CLIMATE ACTION
AND PEOPLE**

**EVERY REUSED
ITEM OF CLOTHING
CONSERVES NATURE**

ANNUAL REPORT 2025



THANK YOU FOR BEING KIND TO THE EARTH!

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

Cover photo: Kongwe 1 primary school, Dowa, Malawi, 2026; UFF / Erkki Kumpula



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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 with the goal of increasing 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 2025

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.

MEMBERSHIPS AND NETWORKS

UFF is a member of domestic and international networks that support the development of the industry, sustainability work, and social impact.

- The Federation for Associations connected to the International Humana People to People movement
- The Helsinki Region Chamber of Commerce
- Finnish Commerce Federation
- Fashion and Sports Commerce Association
- RENET Reuse Network Finland
- Finnish Development NGOs Fingo
- Association of Finnish Waste and Material Circulation Professionals

SUPPORT FOR BENEFICIAL SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

In 2025, UFF spent more than 9.5 million euros on climate and development cooperation.



From funds collected through Finnish clothing donations:
● 75 % was used for climate work
● 23 % for global development cooperation
● 2 % for communication and advocacy

Climate work

7.2

million euros

+

Global development cooperation

2.1

million euros

+

Communication & advocacy work

0.2

million euros

=

Total support for sustainable development

9.5

million euros

Kilos of clothes collected

12.0

million kg

Shops

26

Staff

301

people



MANAGING DIRECTOR'S REVIEW: GENUINE SUSTAINABILITY CONSIDERS PEOPLE, OUR PLANET AND ECONOMY

The year 2025 was the seventh year UFF operated in foundation form, and the foundation group's third year of operation. Our work on climate, global social responsibility, as well as communication and advocacy has continued for 38 years.

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

In 2025, the foundation allocated a total of approximately 9.5 million euros for its social purpose. This public benefit investment was divided as follows: 75% for climate work, 23% for global development cooperation, and 2% for communications and advocacy.

The social impact achieved included the collection and reuse of nearly 12 million kilos of clothing. This saved 75 million kilogrammes of CO₂e emissions.¹

In developing countries, hundreds of thousands of people participated in projects that develop their own communities and societies. At the same time, this 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 and environmental authorities.

UFF aims for long-term overall benefit to society. The foundation uses its own funds to provide a clothing collection service in Finland. At the same time, it enables the collection of funds, which not only finance the collection service, but also bears global responsibility through development cooperation. No tax funds are used for the foundation's domestic operations.

In the careful clothing collection process, all collected items are screened and directed to sorting, where all products are inspected and sorted for reuse. In 2025, a high reuse rate was achieved for the clothing collected: 78% was reusable as is and the rest was directed to material recycling (15%) and incineration (7%).

Community projects aimed at developing entrepreneurship and 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 a regular income. Selling clothing provides a low-threshold opportunity for millions of small business owners, many of whom are women taking care of their families.

Reusing clothing is always beneficial, even if it requires transportation. Reusing textiles has 70 times less environmental impact² than making new clothes – even when taking into account transportation around the world. Every reused garment helps to combat the waste problem. If affordable and good used clothing were not available in the global south, ultra-fast fashion would replace it and this would accelerate the waste problem to unprecedented levels in poor countries. And reusable clothing collected in Europe would become waste if it were not supplied to places where a genuine demand for it exists.

During its operations, UFF has invested approximately 200 million euros in climate and development cooperation for the common good. A total of about 270 million kilogrammes of clothing has been collected for reuse. This has been made possible over the years by all the customers who have donated clothing and purchased used clothes.

Ensuring continuity is a key part of UFF's responsibility, also in terms of financial sustainability. The foundation covers almost all of its charitable expenses through its own fundraising. During the current decade, UFF's annual donations to development cooperation have reached an average of 90% of distributable funds. The share of self-financing for development cooperation has been exceptionally high in the Finnish field of organisations, up to 80%.

Since the COVID-19 pandemic, securing funds to ensure the continuity of societal work has become more challenging, due to increased costs and fluctuations in consumer demand. To ensure the continuity of social work, several continuous improvement and adaptation measures have been taken to ensure positive results remain to be shared.

The implementation of the European Union directive on producer responsibility for textiles is currently being prepared in Finland and several other countries. The Foundation is participating in the discussion and supporting preparations with information it has accumulated over decades of collecting used clothing and preparing it for reuse. At the same time, extensive information has been accumulated on the social, economic, and environmental impacts of operations in developing countries.

UFF wants to offer clothing donors and customers of the Foundations' stores a service where one plus one equals more than two. Every day actions in favour of clothing reuse and shopping create sustainability for society on many levels. In these times, we cannot afford to waste a single resource. The effects of the choices we make now will reach beyond our own time and far into the future.

Used clothing is not waste! When reused, clothing is a valuable resource that a small country like Finland can use to make a larger positive impact on the environment and global responsibility.

Virve Groning,
Managing Director

1. UFF Carbon Footprint Assessment 2025
2. IVL, 2025, Swedish Environmental Research Institute

**DONATING
AND BUYING USED
CLOTHING BRINGS
SUSTAINABILITY TO
SOCIETY ON MANY
LEVELS.**



CLIMATE WORK – EVERYDAY SUSTAINABLE ACTIONS

UFF’S clothing collection service offers people living in Finland opportunities to participate in everyday climate work by donating unnecessary clothes, footwear, and home textiles for responsible reuse. We extend the lifecycle of donated usable clothing for as long as possible. Reusing clothes as such reduces the consumption of natural resources and the amount of textile waste.

CLOTHING COLLECTION SERVICE

UFF’s clothing collection service reaches more than 5.6 million people in 280 municipalities throughout Finland. In 2025, there were 1,631 collection service points with 3,641 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. From the previous year, the number of collection points grew by an additional 93.

UFF collects clothing and textiles that are usable as they are. The total amount of donated clothing was 12 million kilogrammes in 2025. Compared to the previous year, the amount of clothing collected increased by one percent. The majority of donations were collected in Helsinki, Oulu, and Espoo. On a per capita basis, Finns donated an average of 2.2 kilogrammes of clothing to UFF in 2025.

The costs of climate action work are covered by the proceeds from clothing sales and operations, not by government funding. During 2025, the foundation spent approximately 7.2 million euros on providing the clothing collection service, which represents about 1.3 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. The aim of sorting is to ensure that the reuse rate of clothing is as high as possible. Clothes are transported to sorting centres in the UFF cooperation network in Lithuania and Estonia. The goal of sorting is to find the best possible use for each textile and thus keep the lifecycle of usable clothes for as long as possible. Clothes are carefully sorted into numerous different categories and sold on either through second-hand shops or wholesale.

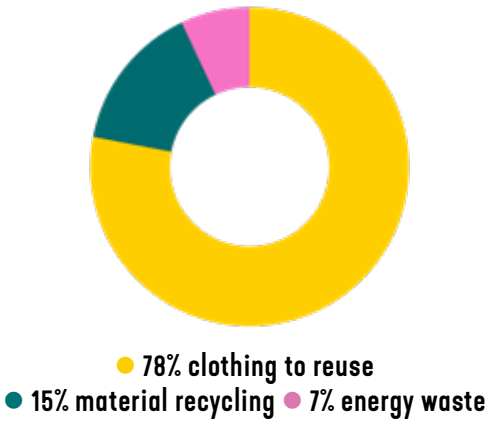
*Springer, 2025, Lifecycle Assessment in Textiles

CLOTHING REUSE

In 2025, 78% of donated clothing was suitable for re-directing to reuse and 15% of sorted clothing was sent for material recycling. About 7% was directed to energy recovery by incineration. Items that did not belong to clothing collection went to incineration.

Of collected clothing, 9% went to retail sales in UFF’s own shops. Other reusable clothing was sold wholesale to retailers who resell it in their own stores or markets in Europe, Africa, and Asia. In total, more than 40% of the reusable clothing went to Europe, about one third to Africa and the rest to Asia. International reuse allows clothing to find a new user, even when there is no local demand for it.

REUSE OF DONATED CLOTHING
2025



Collected clothing
12
million kg

Clothing collection boxes
3,641

Investments in clothing collection
7.2
million euros

Investments in clothing collection per resident
1.3
euros

Clothing to reuse
78%

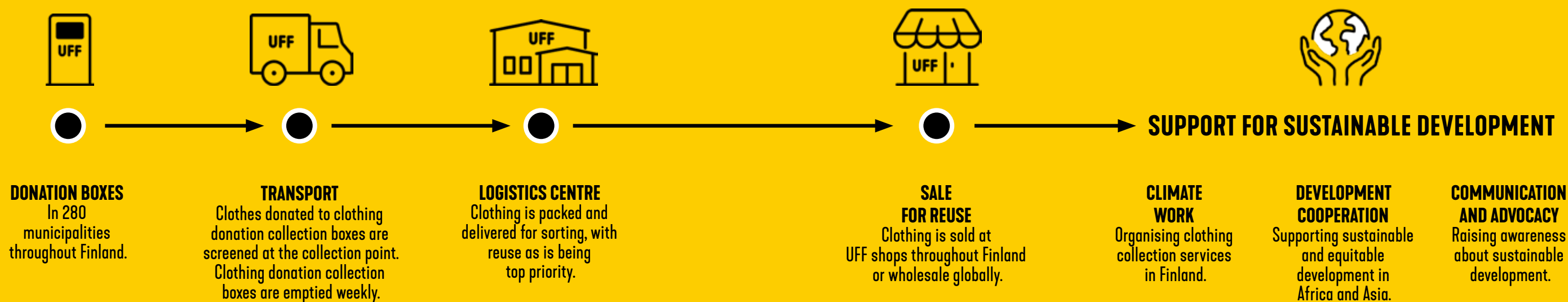
Clothing to material recycling
15%





THE JOURNEY OF CLOTHING

FOR THE PUBLIC GOOD



THE USED CLOTHING TRADE IS AN ENGINE OF EMPLOYMENT AND WELLBEING IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

Clothing is a basic human right and there is high demand for used clothing in developing countries. Used quality clothing is a better-quality and more environmentally-friendly choice over fast fashion. About two thirds of Africa’s population buys at least some of their clothing second-hand, according to research.

Research indicates 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 the quality of millions of people’s lives.

The second-hand clothing trade is an important employer and source of income. It offers millions of people livelihoods and employment, especially in sub-Saharan Africa and supports small businesses, especially those run by women. Employment opportunities are crucially important in countries where the formal labour market is insufficient to secure livelihoods for the population.

Strengthening the circular economy and reuse requires international trade, as the demand for used clothing in Finland and Europe is clearly lower than the supply. According to the Swedish Environmental Research Institute (1/2025), the best option for the environment is reusing clothing as clothing – despite the emissions caused by transportation.

RESEARCH FINDINGS: REUSE IS THE BEST OPTION FOR THE CLIMATE, WHETHER IT TAKES PLACE IN EUROPE OR ELSEWHERE

[Making trade work for circularity: Improving circularity in second-hand clothing through trade regulation.](#) YK, The United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) and the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC). January 2026.

[From Collection of Used Clothes in Sweden to Reuse in Kenya.](#) Swedish Environmental Research Institute (IVL). May 2025.

[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.

ABOUT 40 MILLION ITEMS OF CLOTHING RECYCLED IN 2025



WORK AND INCOME

SALES OF CLOTHING SUPPORTS:



Climate work in Finland



Global development work in Africa and Asia



THE USED CLOTHING TRADE IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES OFFERS LOCAL PEOPLE:



Livelihoods and employment



Affordable quality clothing as an alternative to ultra-fast fashion

DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION BUILDS EQUITABLE AND SUSTAINABLE GROWTH GLOBALLY

With the proceeds from 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, community development, child welfare, and farmer training. With our projects, we want to be involved in building sustainable and fair development in Africa and Asia.

In the year 2025, UFF supported development cooperation in sub-Saharan Africa and India with more than 2.1 million euros. We financed projects that promoted improvement of basic education quality, as well as food security, livelihoods, and gender equality. Special attention was paid to the realisation of the rights of children, women, and people with disabilities.

A total of 38 projects reached approximately 450,000 people in seven countries: 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.

In addition to clothing sales, the foundation raised funds through a monthly donation programme and fundraising campaigns in UFF stores. These funds supported preschool education in Nacala, Mozambique, and the education of vulnerable children and youth in two schools in Jaipur, India.

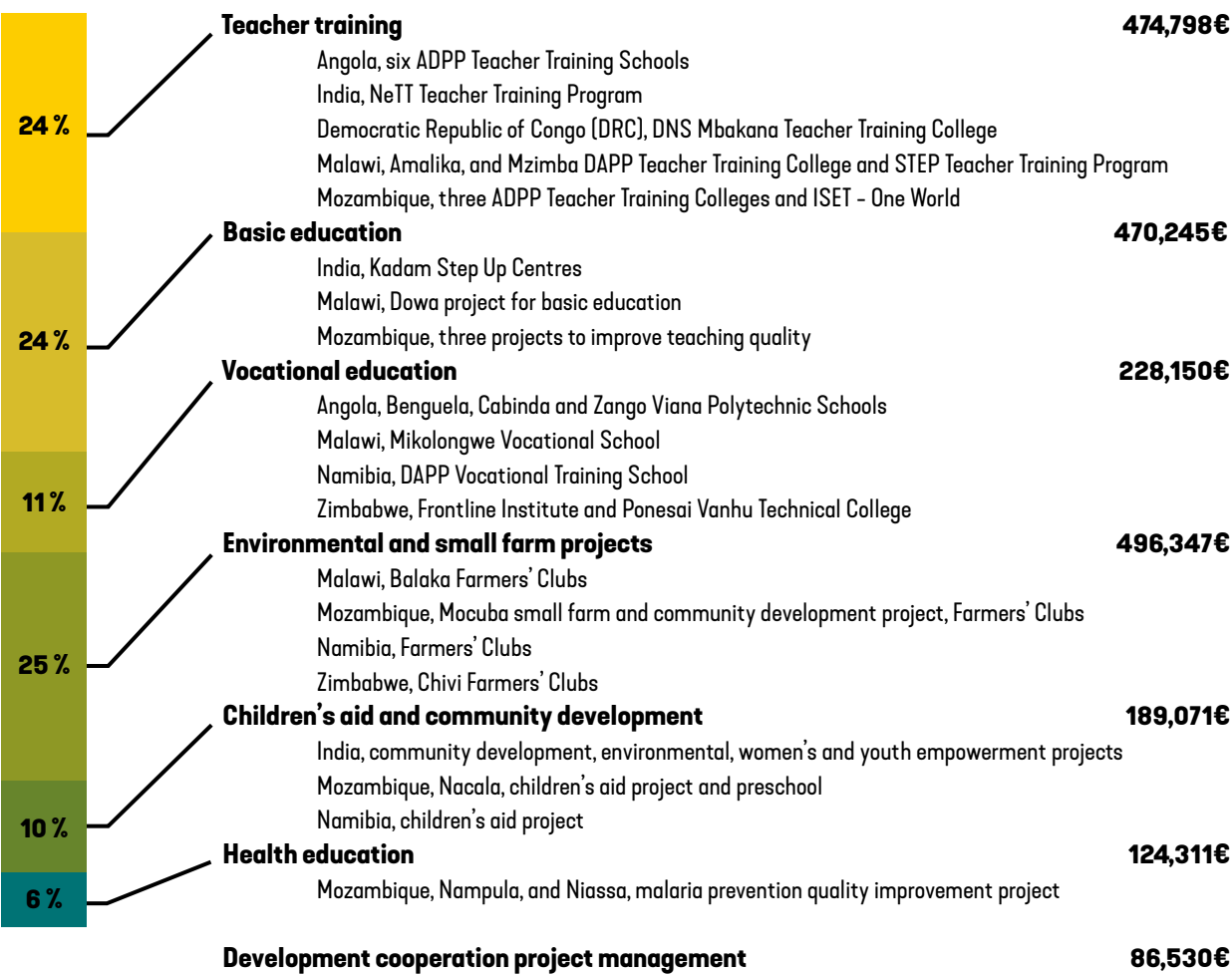
In 2025, four new UFF development cooperation projects supported by the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland were started: two in Mozambique and two in Malawi. The four-year projects focus on developing basic education and strengthening the livelihoods of rural village communities. Education projects place particular emphasis on access to basic education for girls and children with disabilities, while agricultural projects focus on poverty reduction and improving food security.

In Mozambique, two previously launched projects to develop basic education and small-scale farming also continued. The basic education project succeeded in increasing the number of children attending school compared to 2024. In total, more than 10,000 comprehensive school students studied in schools supported by the project. Almost 90% of children who had challenges with learning outcomes the previous year were able to improve their results during 2025. In the small-scale farming project, 90% of farmers managed to increase the sales and income of their products over 2024 results.

The Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland provided a total of 792,000 euros for six projects. Local partners, DAPP Malawi and ADPP Mozambique, played an important role in the implementation of the projects. In addition, all new projects will collaborate with Disability Partnership Finland to ensure that disability perspectives are systemically taken into account. Local disability organisations such as FEDOMA in Malawi and ADEMO in Mozambique are also involved.

Thanks to Finnish donations of clothing and money, UFF has been able to provide climate and development cooperation worth almost 200 million euros over its 38 years of operation. Long-term cooperation has improved the quality of life for millions of people in the world’s poorest countries.

SUPPORT FOR GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS 2025



IN TOTAL **2,069,452€**

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 and equality in societies.

UFF supports basic education and teacher training in the global south. The projects emphasise a participatory, inclusive, and egalitarian approach, preparing children and youth to face future challenges and act as agents of change. In 2025, UFF-supported projects reached approximately 4,200 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.

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.



Many projects also promote the rights of children with disabilities to education and learning. In Malawi and Mozambique, we collaborate with Disability Partnership Finland and train local teachers and parents to help disabled students attend school.

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 organizations in village communities.

In addition to basic education, UFF supported vocational training, an important pathway to livelihoods in remote areas. With UFF support, approximately 590 young people were able to study vocational skills in Angola, Malawi, Mozambique, 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 4,200
TEACHERS WERE
TRAINED IN 2025.**



Angola: Over 220 teachers graduated from the four-year training programme

UFF’s long-standing support for teacher training projects in Angola reached a new milestone when a four-year training programme, replacing the previous three-year curriculum, produced its first teacher graduates in 2025. The more comprehensive curriculum raises the quality of teaching in Angolan primary schools and also makes it more inclusive and equitable. Our local partner ADPP Angola is responsible for the teacher training in cooperation with the country’s education authorities. With UFF’s support, more than 220 teachers graduated across Angola.

Mozambique: Support for teachers in managing disaster risks caused by climate change

Due to climate change, the likelihood of various disasters in school environments is increasing. For this reason, UFF’s local partner ADPP Mozambique is implementing a project in Zambezia province to increase the preparedness of local teachers to face the effects of natural disasters. The aim is to train teachers to adapt their teaching methods in potential crisis situations. The project also aims to strengthen school-level crisis management teams and emergency plans so that information flows as well as possible in the event of a potential crisis. In crisis situations, schools play a significant role in children’s wellbeing, sense of security, and normalisation of the situation. A total of 919 teachers participated in the training in 2025.



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 small-scale farmers.

UFF supports smallholder farmers through Farmers' Clubs, in effect, small-scale farming and environmental projects. The foundation's projects reached approximately 40,000 small-scale farmers and their family members in Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, and Zimbabwe in 2025.

Soil depletion, longer dry and hot seasons, and increased difficulties with predictability are challenges that small-scale 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 participation by women and 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.

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 wellbeing of the community together with local partner organisations.

In Mozambique, UFF continued to support preschool activities in the Nacala region to improve children's school readiness before the start of the actual school journey. The project supported the preschool journeys of 1,011 preschool children.

Through a community development project in India, we supported local women's groups to promote equality and livelihoods. More than 30,000 women took part in the activities.

In Namibia, UFF's support focused on a local children's aid project. The project's various development goals were related to children's daycare activities and the promotion of nutrition and kitchen garden activities. Together, these areas supported the holistic development, health and wellbeing of children in a project that reached 120 families in northern Namibia during 2025.



DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION PARTNERSHIPS

UFF implements its development cooperation projects in close collaboration with domestic and international partners. Partnerships are based on long-term cooperation, shared goals and strengthening local expertise.

- Ajuda de Desenvolvimento de Povo para Povo em Angola, ADPP Angola
- Associação dos Cegos e Ambliopes de Moçambique, ACAMO
- Associação dos Deficientes Moçambicanos, ADEMO
- Associação Moçambicana para a Ajuda de Desenvolvimento de Povo para Povo, ADPP Mozambique
- D.A.P.P. Namibia
- Development Aid from People to People in Malawi, DAPP Malawi
- Development Aid from People to People in Zimbabwe, DAPP Zimbabwe
- Federation of Disability Organizations in Malawi, FEDOMA
- Humana People to People Congo
- Humana People to People India
- Malawi Council for Disability Affairs, MACODA
- The Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland
- Disability Partnership Finland



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

SPECIAL PROJECTS

Collection of medical equipment

In addition to clothing donations, UFF collects medical equipment and supplies in Finland.

The wellbeing services county of North Karelia made their second donation of equipment in 2025, included 30 hospital beds and electrocardiograph equipment.

UFF accepts donations of hospital supplies from public and private healthcare operators in Finland. The collected equipment is sent to Sweden, where it is serviced, refurbished, and delivered to developing countries through the Human Bridge organisation.

Hospital supplies collected in Finland have been delivered to countries including Ukraine and Somalia.



UFF'S PROJECTS: 450,000 PEOPLE

EDUCATION AND LIVELIHOODS

ANGOLA

Benguela, ADPP Teacher Training School
318 students

Bie, ADPP Teacher Training School
296 students

Cabinda, ADPP Teacher Training School
269 students

Caxito, ADPP Teacher Training School
268 students

Lunda Sul, ADPP Teacher Training School
208 students

Benguela, Polytechnic School
184 students

Cabinda, Polytechnic School
61 students

Zango Viana, Polytechnic School
638 students

NAMIBIA

DAPP Vocational Training School
115 students

Farmers' Clubs
1,425 small-scale farmers

Child aid
71 children

CONGO (DRC)

DNS Mbankana, Teacher Training College
86 students

MALAWI

Amalika, DAPP Teacher Training College
331 adult learners

Mzimba, DAPP Teacher Training College
775 students

STEP Teacher Training Programme
169 adult learners

Dowa, project for basic education
32,519 children and youth

Mikolongwe, Vocational School
884 students

ZIMBABWE

Ponesai Vanhu, Technical College
326 students

Frontline Institute
478 students

Chivi, Mutasa Farmers' Clubs
750 small-scale farmers

INDIA

NeTT Teacher Training Programme
20,072 students

Kadam, StepUp Centers
231,636 children and youth

Community Development and Environmental Projects
56,757 adults

Women's Empowerment Project
30,754 women

Youth well-being promotion project
429 children and youth

MOZAMBIQUE

Chimoio, ADPP Teacher Training College
193 adult learners

Maputo, ADPP Teacher Training College
227 adult learners

Tete, ADPP Teacher Training College
209 adult learners

ISET One World university
1,361 adult learners

Project to strengthen teachers' resilience in disaster-prone areas
919 teachers

Namacurra, project to improve teaching quality and inclusion
10,958 children and youth

Mocuba, project to improve teaching quality and inclusion
10,438 children and youth

Mocuba, small farming and community project
1,058 small-scale farmers

Mocuba, Farmers' Club
655 small-scale farmers

Nacala, Preschools
1,011 children

Nampula & Niassa, malaria prevention project
40,000 community members



COMMUNICATION AND ADVOCACY WORK – FOR SUSTAINABILITY

UFF raises sustainable development issues 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, shop 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 62,200 registered loyal customers at the end of 2025.

The foundation's communications reach a broad range of stakeholders through its website, social media channels, and customer newsletters. In 2025, the website received more than 230,000 visitors, while the foundation's social media channels had a combined audience of approximately 40,000 followers.

Weekly, UFF serves researchers, students, and media representatives from different fields in response to requests for information, interviews, and cooperation projects. During 2025, the exchange of information resulted in several workshops, lectures, research papers, and media interviews.

The goal of UFF's advocacy work is for legislation to always recognise the reuse of clothing as a primary option. It is important that clothing that is still useable can be collected for reuse. This ensures that it does not end up wasted or treated as a source of raw material.

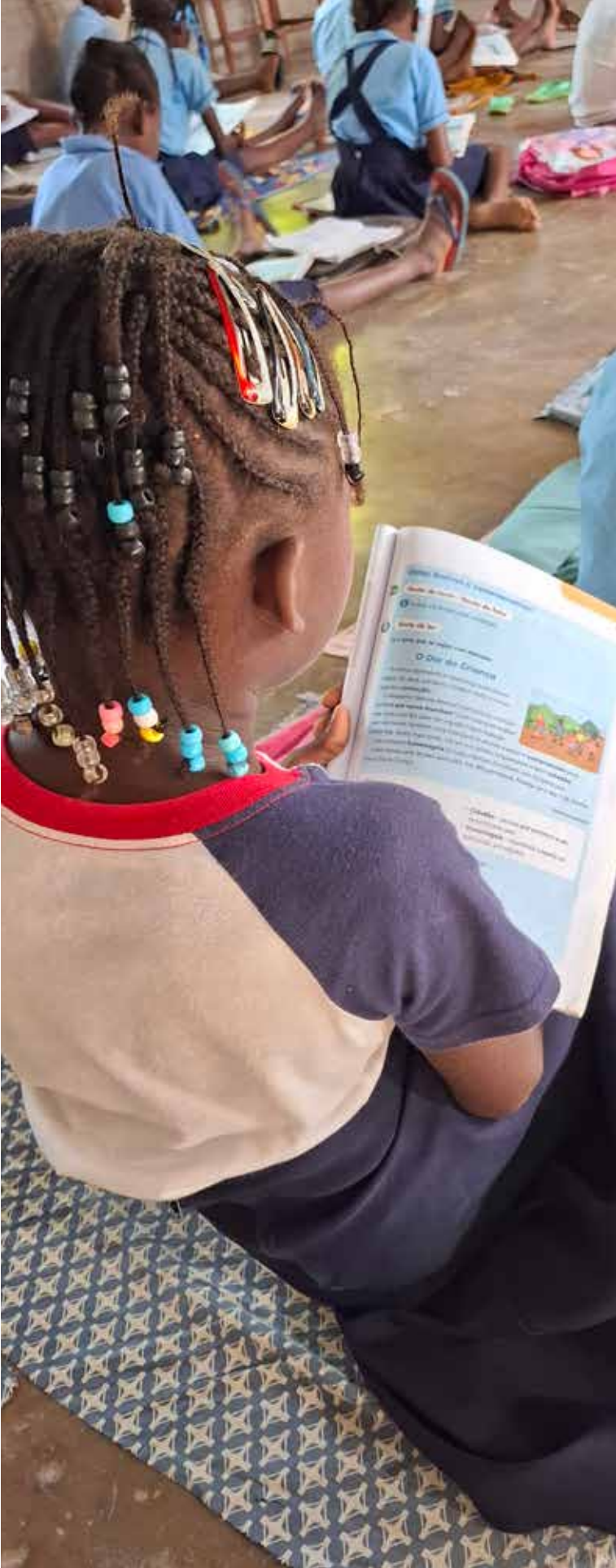
In 2025, a broad reform progressed when the European Union adopted the Revised Waste Framework Directive. Its aim is to extend the lifecycle of textiles and reduce environmental impact. The Foundation actively participated in the dialogue between different stakeholders and in the studies, discussions, and consultations organised by authorities and other actors.

The Waste Framework Directive ensures that a producer responsibility system for textiles will be introduced in Finland. Under producer responsibility, textile manufacturers and importers are obliged to bear the costs of separate collection, sorting, reuse, and recycling of textiles. The aim of producer responsibility is that cost responsibility would encourage manufacturers to design their products to be long-lasting, repairable, reusable, and recyclable. This will extend the service life of textiles and increase sustainable consumption of textiles. The producer responsibility system is scheduled to start in 2028.

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



UFF's clothing was used to conjure up an '80s atmosphere for the popular Finnish TV series Munkkivuori.



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 committed to the circular economy and curbing climate change and its adverse effects. We are always searching for the best solution for the environment. People living in Finland 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. The clothes are carefully sorted into numerous different product categories, ensuring the highest possible reuse rate.

In 2025, 78% of the clothing collected was reused as is. Fifteen percent was recycled, for example as industrial raw material. The remaining 7% was sent to local incineration as an energy waste because it could not be reused or recycled.

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 2025. Electricity consumption was reduced by 4% compared to the previous year.

In 2025, the foundation collected more than 40 million items of clothing. Buying used clothing from UFF is a much better choice for the climate than buying new clothing from a store. According to a carbon footprint assessment, the emission intensity of one kilogramme of textiles was 0.5 kg CO₂e, meaning that the climate impact was only 3% of the emissions of a new garment. 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.

In 2025, UFF helped customers reduce emissions by more than 75,000 tCO₂e in total. This impact is called the carbon handprint. It arises primarily from avoiding the production of new textiles. 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 2025, renewable diesel accounted for 82% of the fuel used, which was 7% more than the previous year. The foundation's trucks meet the EU's highest emission classification (Euro 6).



Of fuel
82%
renewable
diesel

In work spaces
100%
renewable
energy

The climate impact of clothing
purchased from UFF is
3%
compared to buying
a similar new garment.

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 principles defined in the operational management system, operational policy, and operational principles such as ethical principles against corruption and bribery.

The foundation operates in accordance with the requirements and practices of ISO standards. Audits in accordance with the foundation’s management and operations management system are carried out according to an annual programme. The audits assess whether operations are in accordance with the plan, check for possible deviations and their root causes, and implement corrective measures.

The Foundation’s operations in Finland and developing countries are subject to a statutory annual external audit. An authorized auditor is responsible for the audits. Development cooperation is monitored through continuous information exchange and regular reporting, in addition to audits.

SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

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

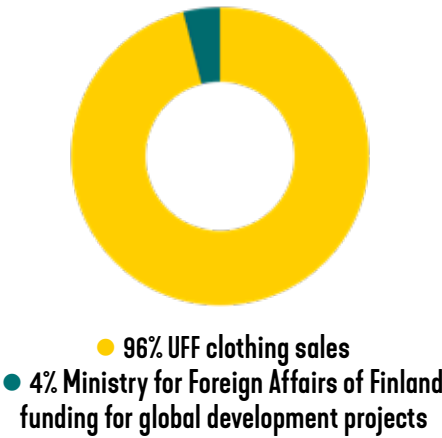
The foundation’s activities provide a significant number of jobs and meaningful work for our employees. We pay special attention to occupational safety, the wellbeing of all personnel, and equality. Our activities also indirectly employ employees employed by our clothing collection transport partners in Finland.

ALLOCATION OF FUNDS

In 2025, the costs of climate work were about 7.2 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 running the logistics centre located in Klaukkala.

UFF’s development cooperation focuses on some of the world’s poorest communities. The foundation supported 38 projects with more than 2.1 million euros in Africa and Asia. The costs of communication and advocacy work were about 197,400 euros in 2025. Fundraising operating expenses consist of shop network expenses such as rent, and operating and personnel expenses. In 2025, these totalled 10.6 million euros.

FUNDRAISING SOURCES IN 2025



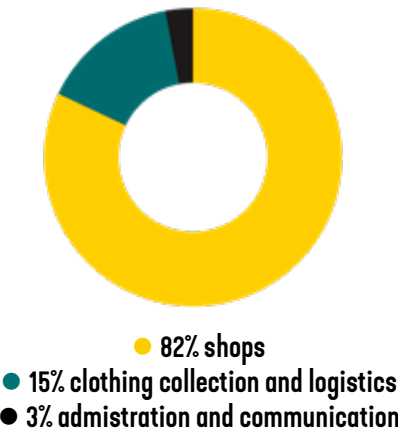
UFF AS AN EMPLOYER

At the end of 2025, 301 professionals worked at UFF. About 82% of the personnel worked in shops, 15% in clothing collection and logistics, and 3% in administration and communication.

In addition to sustainable development goals, the foundation’s work is guided by the foundation’s values and ethical principles. We are committed to ensuring a safe and equal working environment, where any kind of discrimination and harassment are not tolerated.

For personnel training, the emphasis in 2025 was on training supervisors. Training goals included strengthening uniform operating methods, sharing best practices, and providing practical tools for everyday management.

UFF PERSONNEL BY FUNCTION IN 2025



**7.2 MILLION EUROS
FOR CLIMATE WORK
IN 2025**

OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY

The foundation’s occupational health and safety is based on wellbeing of personnel and maintaining work ability. Our goal is to secure the continuity of the foundation’s operations and its personnel, prevent accidents, and eliminate disruptions to operations. The objective is to maintain a safe and healthy working environment and to manage the associated risks. Another key objective is the continuous improvement of operations to prevent workplace accidents.

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 2025, the number of accidents and accident frequency decreased compared to the previous year. The accident frequency was below the wholesale and retail trade industry average. Accident frequency is calculated using Total Recordable Incidence Frequency (TRIF), which indicates the number of workplace accidents in relation to the number of hours worked.

All occupational safety observations, near misses and possible deviations are recorded and carefully investigated. The information is used in preventative safety work. The effectiveness of occupational safety management is monitored through regular safety and occupational wellbeing surveys. The occupational safety survey conducted in 2025 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 96% 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 for Foreign Affairs of Finland funded six of the foundation's development cooperation projects.



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 62,200 loyal customers at the end of 2025.

The foundation had 26 shops in 2025. Fifteen of the shops were located in Helsinki, three in Tampere, two in Espoo, two in Vantaa, two in Turku, and one in Jyväskylä. In August 2025, one new shop was opened in Oulu. Our shops had more than 1.2 million customer visits during 2025.

The shops' product range consist of high-quality clothing, with an emphasis on vintage and second-hand with a modern clothing selection. The selection at all UFF shops changes several times a year according to season. 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.

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

26 SHOPS



**MORE THAN 1.2 MILLION
CUSTOMER VISITS**



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



SHOPS 08 / 2026

HELSINKI

Arabia, Hämeentie 111
Fredrikinkatu 36 (vintage)
Hakaniemi, Hämeentie 4 (vintage)
Herttoniemi, Hiihtomäentie 14 (vintage)
Kaisaniemi, Vuorikatu 16 (vintage)
Itis, Itäkatu 1–5
Kaari, Kantelettarentie 1
Redi, Hermannin rantatie 5
Kamppi, Annankatu 34
Punavuori, Bulevardi 30 (vintage)
Punavuori, Iso Roobertinkatu 12
Töölö, Mannerheimintie 104

ESPOO

Iso Omena, Piispanilta 11
Sello, Leppävaarankatu 3–9

VANTAA

Jumbo-Flamingo, Tasetie 8
Tikkurila: Asematie 4–10

TURKU

Eerikinkatu 9
Humalistonkatu 5 (vintage)

TAMPERE

Hämeenkatu 9
Hämeenkatu 18 (vintage)
Duo, Pietiläinkatu 2

JYVÄSKYLÄ

Asemakatu 4

OULU

Kirkkokatu 27

WHOLESALE

The international second-hand clothing trade makes it possible for clothing to find new users when there is not local demand. Despite the growing popularity of second-hand clothing, people in Finland cannot reuse all of their clothes. About a tenth of all donated clothing is sold in UFF stores in Finland. Some of the clothing collected in Finland is sold through UFF's cooperation network in shops in the Baltics and other European countries.

Some of the clothing is sold wholesale to retailers who then sell it in their own stores or markets in Europe, Africa, and Asia. The sorting process takes into consideration criteria specified by the customer. This ensures that the selection is as carefully sorted as possible, suitable for local climate and usage needs.

In order for as many clothes as possible to remain in use, they need to travel to where there is demand for them. The global sales of used clothing ensure that people in developing countries have access to quality, affordable clothing as an alternative to ultra fast fashion. In addition, the used clothing trade creates employment and supports the livelihoods of millions of people, particularly in African countries.

**GLOBAL TRADE
HELPS GIVE
USED
CLOTHING
A SECOND LIFE.**

**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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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/





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

Please contact us using
the online feedback form:

www.uff.fi

UFF

DONATION ACCOUNT

NORDEA FI49 2001 1800 3905 39

Permit: RA/2020/1599