

Press release 19 June 2023

## **Ahlström Collective Impact invests EUR 800,000 in the welfare of children via UNICEF Finland in 2023**

**Education plays a key role in reducing inequality and poverty and in strengthening societal stability. This year, Ahlström Collective Impact supports UNICEF's global education work with the investment of close to 800,000 euros, which will be directed to UNICEF's global education program.**

Ahlström Collective Impact, a unique cooperation model bringing together the companies and foundations in the Ahlström network, continues to support UNICEF's education work for the fourth consecutive year.

"A. Ahlström's mission is to build a better world for future generations through sustainable value creation. Since 2020, we have been supporting UNICEF's important work together with our portfolio companies and foundations via Ahlström Collective Impact initiative to live true our mission statement. The power lies in collaboration as together we are stronger and can make a bigger impact for the better. I am extremely delighted that our portfolio companies can also see the value in this one-of-a-kind collaboration and have supported the initiative throughout the years", comments Lasse Heinonen, President and CEO at A. Ahlström Corporation.

UNICEF's global education program provides support for millions of children who need to continue to learn, grow and develop the skills necessary to thrive in life.

"Supporting education plays a vital role in building a more sustainable world. As the world's leading children's organization UNICEF has a unique opportunity to create long-term change in children's future. We see our donation to UNICEF as an investment, where the return is a more stable society", continues Maria Ahlström-Bondestam, Chair of Ahlström Collective Impact."

### **Learning in crisis**

Currently, almost 90% of children worldwide are attending school. At the same time, learning is in crisis. More than 600 million children and young people across the world are failing to reach the minimum levels of reading and mathematics, even though two-thirds of them are in school.

“Education is every child's right. It reduces inequality and poverty and creates more stable societies in which businesses can thrive. At the same time, we are contributing to a future where every child has the opportunity to reach their full potential,” says Marja-Riitta Ketola, Executive Director of UNICEF Finland.

### **Training on the importance of children's rights**

As an area of corporate social responsibility, human rights and children's rights are tightly connected to companies' business activities. As part of the cooperation, UNICEF Finland trains the employees of Ahlström Collective Impact companies and foundations on children's rights. In addition to general training on child rights and business, UNICEF Finland provides in-depth training on topics such as child rights in supply chains and creating family-friendly workplaces.

### **About Ahlström Collective Impact**

Launched in 2020, the Ahlström Collective Impact cooperation model brings together companies and foundations in the Ahlström network to invest in the well-being of children in selected UNICEF projects in accordance with the UN's principles of sustainable development. Ahlström Collective Impact includes Ahlstrom, A. Ahlström, Ahlström Invest, Avain Yhtiöt, Destia, Detection Technology, Eva Ahlström Foundation, Glaston, M&J Recycling, Suominen and Walter Ahlström Foundation. Ahlström Collective Impact was initiated by the Eva Ahlström Foundation in 2020, with the purpose of inspiring a new type of collaboration within the Ahlström network. Read more: [Ahlström Collective Impact](#).

### **For further information:**

A. Ahlström Corporation  
Camilla Sågbom  
Director, Corporate Communications and Responsibility  
tel. +358 40 540 8450  
[camilla.sagbom@ahlstromcapital.com](mailto:camilla.sagbom@ahlstromcapital.com)  
[ahlstromcapital.com](http://ahlstromcapital.com)

### **About A. Ahlström Corporation**

A. Ahlström is a strategic industrial owner with core investments in the global space of forest and fiber technologies. We create long-term shareholder value by active business development also in the domains of environmental technologies, real estate and financial investments. We are a family-owned company with a long



history of more than 170 years – with a clear aim to drive a better world for future generations through sustainable value creation.

The current portfolio includes privately held companies M&J Recycling A/S, Munksjö Paper AB, Ahlström Invest B.V. (including a significant ownership in Ahlstrom Oyj), Bast Fibre Technologies Inc, and GPV Group A/S. In addition, significant holdings in listed companies Detection Technology Plc, Glaston Corporation and Suominen Corporation. We also have major real estate and forest holdings, which are managed by our fully owned subsidiary, A. Ahlström Real Estate Ltd. In 2022, the total revenue of our portfolio companies was 5.7 billion euros and they employed almost 18,500 employees in 32 countries.