



Swarovski Foundation

Equity

2023 Impact Report



The Swarovski Foundation believes in an equitable world - where every person, regardless of their background, has fair access to opportunities that enable them to improve their lives.

In 2022, World Bank, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF), UK Government Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO), U.S Agency for International Development (USAID), and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation collectively reported that **learning poverty increased in low- and middle-income countries** from 57% pre-pandemic to **70% of 10-year-olds unable to understand a simple written text** (Learning Poverty Report, 2022). For women, research from the World Bank has shown that **women with primary education earn 14% to 19% more than those with no education at all, while women with secondary education earn almost twice as much.**

These contexts drive our commitment to empowering women and young people from marginalised communities and breaking down systemic barriers, as we work to promote sustainable livelihoods through education to reduce inequality.





Our partners worked in:

**18
countries**



...impacting:

**123,718
beneficiaries**



...indirectly reaching:

**4,510,836
beneficiaries**



These partnerships and initiative aimed not only to improve academic performance but also challenge societal norms and create new opportunities for young people.

Swarovski Foundation Action Fund

The Action Fund supports organisations providing immediate relief to the most marginalised communities affected by urgent crises.



Teach For Austria brings educational opportunities to disadvantaged children in Austria by training top university graduates and young professionals to teach at challenging schools and kindergartens for two years as fellows.



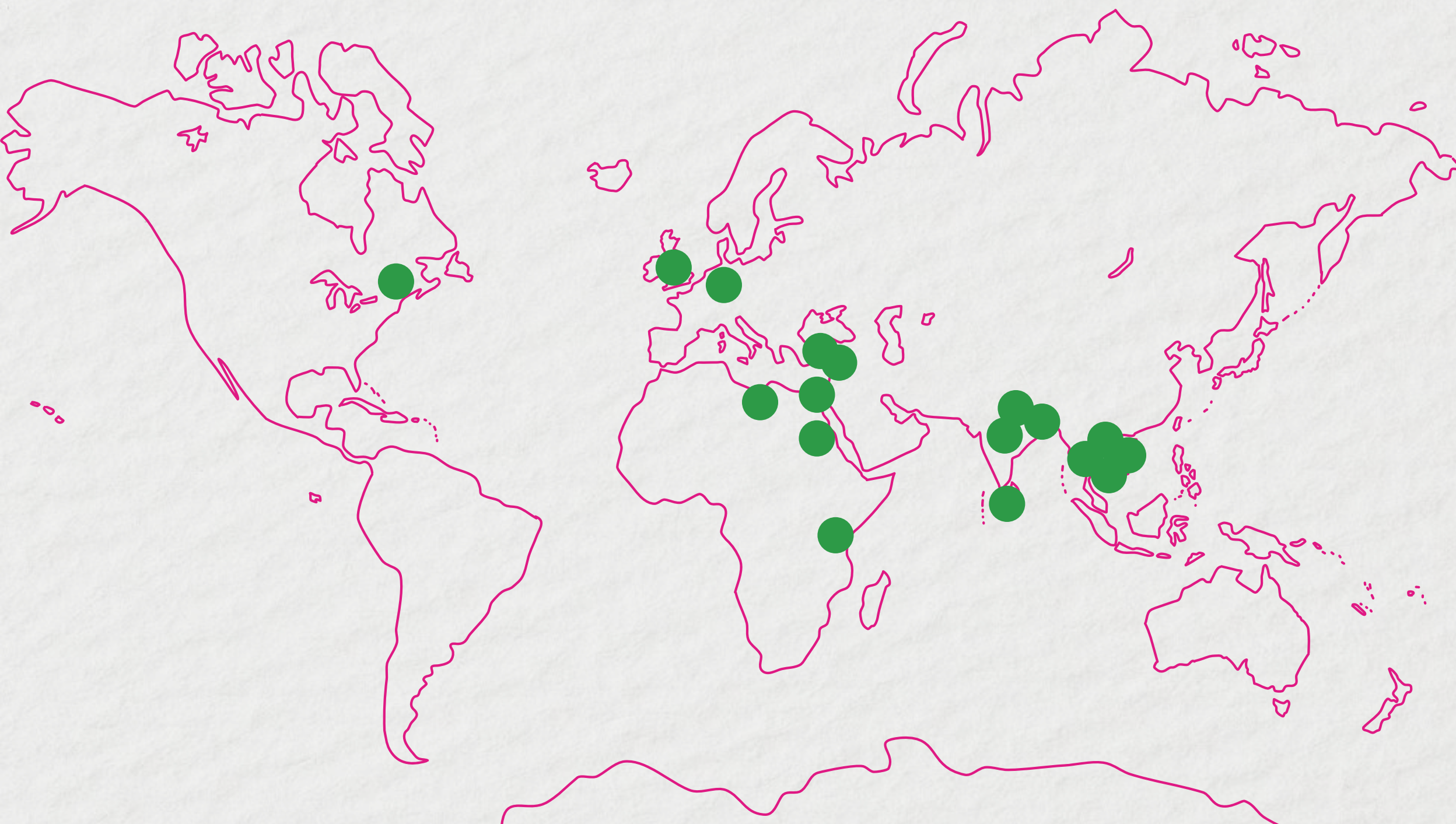
Teach For Thailand's vision is that one day all Thai children, regardless of their socioeconomic status, will receive a quality education that enables them to shape their own future.



Founded in 2000 on the belief that World Change Starts with Educated Children®, Room to Read is creating a world free from illiteracy and gender inequality through education



Day in and day out, UNICEF works across more than 190 countries and territories to reach the children who are most at risk and most in need. The organisation works to save their lives. To protect their rights. To keep them safe from harm. To give them a childhood in which they are protected, healthy, and educated. To give them a fair chance to fulfil their potential. UNICEF stands for every child, everywhere.



Under the Equity Pillar, the Swarovski Foundation is committed to empowering marginalised communities in under-resourced regions worldwide. In 2023, **we worked with over 100,000 beneficiaries**, partnering with charitable organisations who provided education and life skills development to children and young adults from underrepresented backgrounds and low-income families in countries including **Austria, Bangladesh, Cambodia, India, Laos, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Vietnam.**

Austria
Bangladesh
Cambodia

India
Laos
Nepal

Sri Lanka
Thailand
Vietnam

Action Fund

Austria
Israel
Libya
Mozambique

Palestine
Sudan
Syria
Türkiye

United Kingdom
United States



Our partnership with Room to Read **enabled 280 girls** in Bangladesh, Cambodia, India, Laos, Nepal, Sri Lanka, and Vietnam to **gain access to education, life-skills workshops, mentoring opportunities, material support and community engagement workshops to shift cultural norms.**

The partnership additionally enabled **72 boys aged 12-14 years old in Cambodia to access Room to Read's Life Skills for Equality Project pilot**, a curriculum exploring life skills, gender equality and masculinity concepts with boys, including engagement with families and communities, particularly discussions with fathers regarding their role in **creating and supporting more gender equal spaces**, as well as practices in their spheres of influence.

Approximately **90% of programme graduates** surveyed have **enrolled in tertiary education or secured employment** five years after completing the programme.

The **pass rate for gatekeeping exams** (nationally administered exams) for program participants is **98%** and **school dropout is 4%.**





"Because of the life skills sessions, there was a big change in my life. I learned how to have empathy, hope, ambitions and goals. I also learned how to make right decisions and solve problems. And how to be aware of one's self"

Dewmini, Graduate of Room to Read's Girls' Education Programme, Sri Lanka

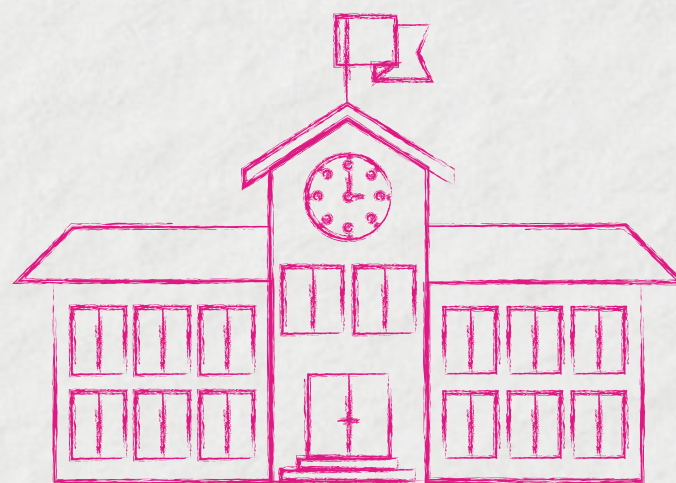


85% of students within our partnership with Teach For Austria **secured a place in postsecondary education**, and **67%** of kindergarten children from low-income schools were considered **ready for school**.

Additionally, our partnership with Teach For Thailand this year saw **more than 70%** of students taught by Fellows **increase their academic proficiency** and **improve their academic performance overall by 27.9%**.



Opportunity to promote
sustainable livelihoods
for young people from
under-resourced
backgrounds



Formal education
Support in national curricula



Knowledge acquisition
Evaluation and
improvement
Behavioural change
Further opportunities
Community involvement



We are committed to listening to what is happening around the world and taking action by bringing relief and support to communities affected by social and environmental challenges. Our approach to aid intervention involves collaborating with trusted humanitarian organisations to understand the diverse needs of society with the aim of reducing inequality and promoting human rights.

Displacement Crises

We committed to supporting displaced people, with donations to the **British Red Cross** humanitarian response in **Gaza, the West Bank and Israel**. Since 2019, we have partnered with **UK for UNHCR**, and this year responded to emergency appeals for **Sudan**.



Supporting

BritishRedCross

Environmental Crises

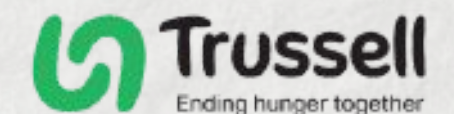
We supported those impacted by environmental crises with donations to **mothers2mothers** following the **cyclone in Mozambique**; and to **UK for UNHCR** following the **earthquakes in Türkiye and Syria**, and the **floods in Libya**.



Cost-of-Living Crises

We supported those impacted by the cost-of-living crisis with donations to **Caritas Tirol in Austria**; **Magic Breakfast** in the **United Kingdom**; **Trussell** in the **United Kingdom**; and **Win** in the **United States**.

Caritas



**magic
breakfast**
fuel for learning

win



Looking Ahead

The Swarovski Foundation is committed to further empowering marginalised communities and strengthening our efforts to promote sustainable livelihoods through education to reduce inequalities.

Together with our partners, we will advance our vision of a more equal society where every person, regardless of their background, has the opportunity to improve their lives.



Swarovski Foundation

Creativity

2023 Impact Report



Image: Creatives For Our Future Alumnas, Namra Khalid

As one of the largest employers of young people and women worldwide, the creative sector carries with it significant potential to influence change ([WorldBank, 2023](#)) .

While both groups are well represented in creative employment, according to the International Labor Organisation ([ILO, 2023](#)), almost one in three young people (31.5%) in the Middle East North Africa region was not in employment, education or training (NEET). More than two in five (44.2 %) young women in the region were in NEET status. Even though representation in the industry is strong, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development ([OECD, 2024](#)) has highlighted **significant barriers to seniority, pay and market access for women**, widening the gender pay gap. Compounding these inequalities, [Bloomberg](#) and the [World Bank](#) report that **87% of textile and garment waste ends up in landfills**, and **4 million tons of garment are shipped to the global south**, furthering the global wealth gap.

The Swarovski Foundation has seen first-hand the impact of nurturing innovation and advancing creative talent to promote sustainable livelihoods through education to reduce inequality.





Our partners and cohort
worked in:

10
countries



...impacting:

1,985
beneficiaries



...indirectly reaching:

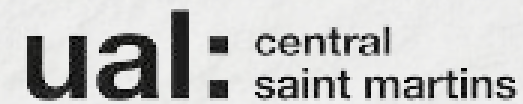
5,036
beneficiaries



Recognising this potential, in 2023, the following partnerships and programme advances creative talent to pursue sustainable livelihoods to address enduring inequalities.



Our signature programme in collaboration with the United Nations Office for Partnerships empowers the next generation of creative talent to unlock innovative approaches to our global sustainability challenges and drive progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals.



Central Saint Martins is part of the University of the Arts London, Europe's largest specialist arts and design university. Its aim is to realize and elevate the creative potential of its students.



The mission of the CFDA is to strengthen the impact of American fashion globally by amplifying creative excellence, business longevity, and positive impact.



Fashion Council Germany e.V. is the patron to empower the German fashion and design landscape, championing a visionary, technological, and sustainable future in a global market.



The Design Museum is the world's leading museum of contemporary design and architecture, and serves as an important centre for education, seeking to harness the potential of design to tackle the challenges of today's complex world.



TURQUOISE MOUNTAIN

Turquoise Mountain provides jobs, skills, and a renewed sense of pride to improve the lives of disadvantaged refugee populations through heritage preservation.





We invested in the development of creative individuals in **Colombia, India, Nigeria, Pakistan, the United Kingdom, and the United States** and partnered with organisations in **Germany, Jordan, the United Kingdom, and the United States**, running educational initiatives that equipped our beneficiaries with the knowledge, skills, and tools to adopt sustainable practices from the outset of their careers.

Colombia
Germany

India
Jordan

Nigeria
Pakistan

United Kingdom
United States



In Germany, our partnership with Fashion Council Germany developed a customised **curriculum focused on sustainability, craftsmanship, and innovation** for young fashion and textile designers **to develop the skills and knowledge to adopt sustainable practices early in their careers.**

The curriculum exposed students to various craft areas, **researching and experimenting with sustainable materials and production methods**, and **sustainable fashion brands and retailers** that enabled them to take **key career steps** through industry exposure while **promoting the use of ethical production practices.**





In the United Kingdom and the United States, our scholarships with Central Saint Martins and CFDA supported students in driving change through bold and innovative projects **addressing sustainability, climate change, and social justice**. Our scholars adopted techniques including **zero-waste and near-zero waste pattern cutting, upcycling mechanical pieces, and using non-traditional materials in their designs**.

Sustainability became a key part of their creative practice - with many using recycled precious metals, gems, and stones, and collecting materials from recycling centres – as our scholars made reducing waste a priority in their final year projects.

100% of Swarovski Foundation Scholars

completed their degrees and have **begun entering the industry or starting their creative businesses**, bringing with them a **vision of a more sustainable and ethical future for fashion and design**.



A close-up, side-profile shot of a woman wearing a beige hijab and a green apron over a dark top. She is focused on her work, with her hands visible at the bottom of the frame. The background is softly blurred, showing what appears to be a workshop or studio environment with various tools and materials.

In addition to supporting young creatives, we **invested in female refugee artisans**, creating high-quality jewellery collections and collaborations that **preserve their cultural heritage while providing them a means to general sustainable incomes.**

In Jordan, our partnership with Turquoise Mountain supported the training of Jordanian and Syrian apprentices, in essential business skills such as collection development, marketing, and sales.

**100% of all collections
have sold out**

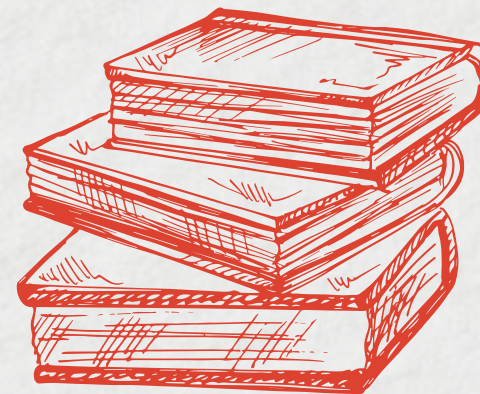
and generated a collective income of \$15,000.
Additionally, longer-term sustainable income was achieved with **60% of participants experiencing an increase in their income or secured full-time jobs in the creative sector as a direct result of the training.**



Alongside our global partnerships, we launched the third year of **Creatives for Our Future** in collaboration with the United Nations Office for Partnerships to **identify and accelerate the next generation of creative leaders in sustainable development**. Building on our commitment to **advance creative talent** to drive positive change through cultural, educational and advocacy collaborations.



Opportunity to promote sustainable livelihoods for young creatives that drive progress towards sustainable development



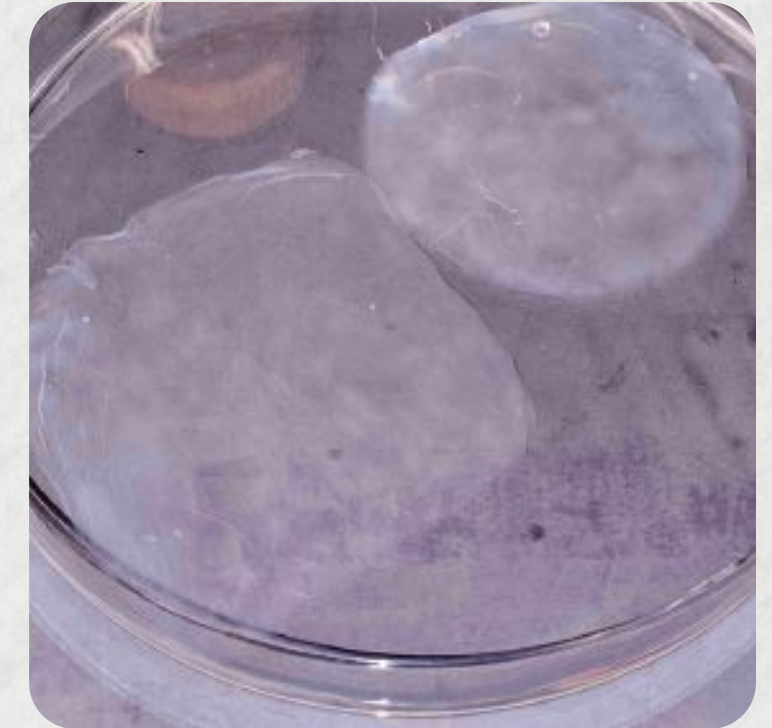
Skills-development
Best practice knowledge sharing
Business development
Network development
Industry exposure



Knowledge acquisition
Evaluation and improvement
Behavioural change
Stewardship
Further opportunities
Long-term engagement
Community involvement
Collaboration and advocacy



In this third year, our 6 cohort members participated in masterclasses, media training, mentorship sessions, and networking events, developing their skills, knowledge, and connections with experts and like-minded young creatives and innovators across sectors.



Stanley Anigbogu is a Nigerian innovator who launched a programme to teach young people how to build clean light sources. After struggling to study by candlelight in his early years, he developed an eco-friendly **energy solution that recycles e-waste and plastic bottles to bring light to marginalised communities.**

Through Creatives For Our Future, Stanley **built a scalable, solar-powered educational hub** using **recycled materials to foster environmental stewardship and innovation among young learners and their communities** and to **promote sustainable practices** through creative educational experiences. **Within 3 months of the Hub launch, over 300 community members participated in workshops at this Avatar Station.**

His goal is to replicate the project in other regions in Africa and beyond to **accelerate international collaborations and promote sustainable technologies and materials.**





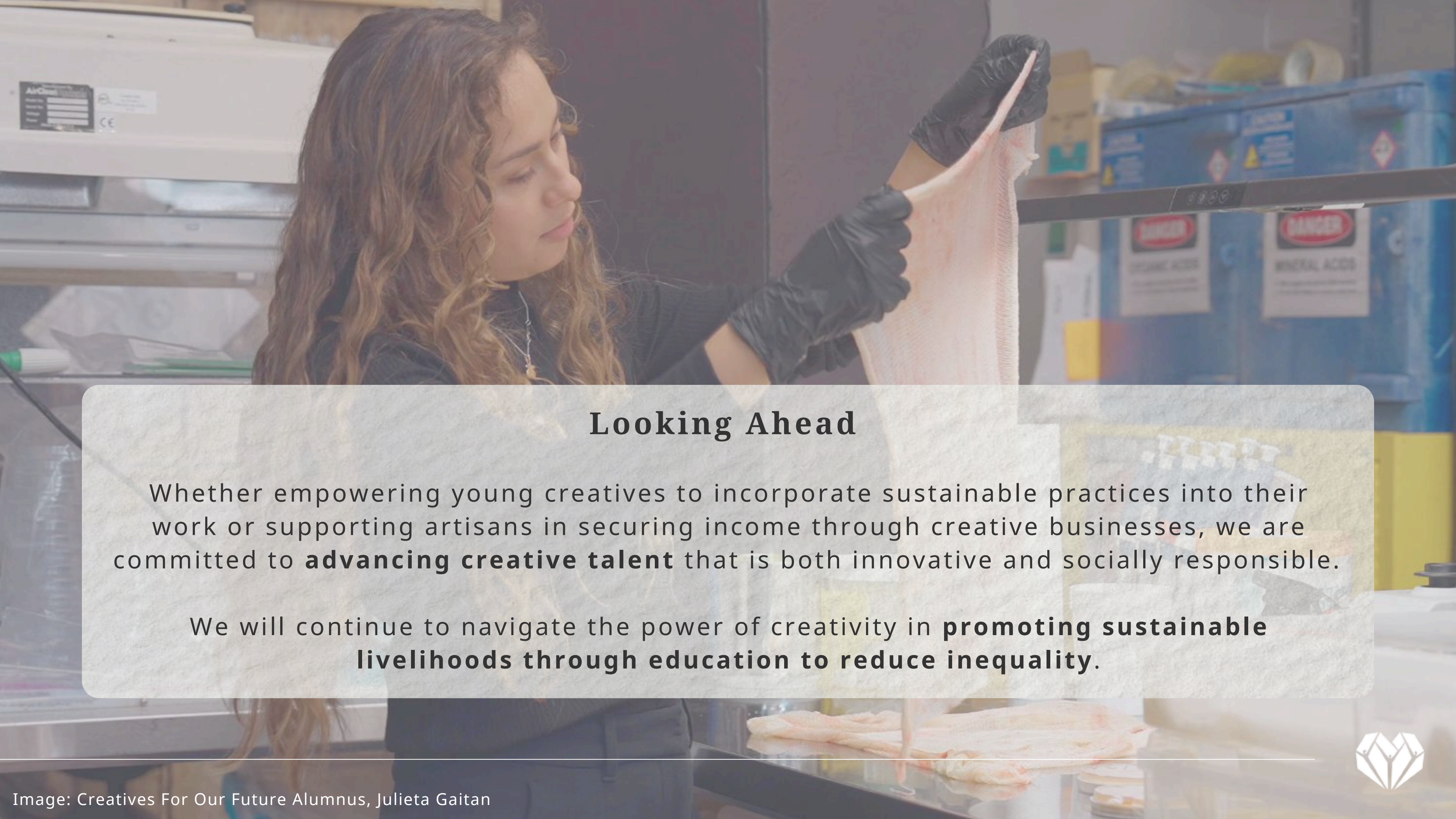
“We need young talents, from fashion to engineering, to use their creativity to tackle sustainable development challenges. With mentorship, industry connections, and funding, these young people are turning obstacles into opportunities and driving real progress toward the Sustainable Development Goals. Through the Creatives for Our Future programme, we are fostering the next generation of leaders.”

Annemarie Hou, Executive Director of the United Nations Office for Partnerships



**UN OFFICE FOR
PARTNERSHIPS**



A woman with long, wavy brown hair, wearing a black lab coat and black gloves, is working in a laboratory. She is holding a large, translucent, pinkish material, possibly a piece of skin or a large petri dish, and is looking at it intently. The background shows laboratory equipment, including a blue storage cabinet with labels for 'DANGER ORGANIC ACIDS' and 'DANGER MINERAL ACIDS'.

Looking Ahead

Whether empowering young creatives to incorporate sustainable practices into their work or supporting artisans in securing income through creative businesses, we are committed to **advancing creative talent** that is both innovative and socially responsible.

We will continue to navigate the power of creativity in **promoting sustainable livelihoods through education to reduce inequality.**



Swarovski Foundation

Water

2023 Impact Report



Water security is fundamental to economic stability, education, and overall health and well-being; without it, our efforts to promote sustainable livelihoods through education to reduce inequalities are hindered, leaving communities that are already vulnerable even more at risk.

At present, the World Bank states that **2.2 billion people lack access to safely managed drinking water, 3.5 billion lack safely managed sanitation, and 2 billion lack basic hygiene services** (WorldBank, 2024), which directly results in infectious diseases that contribute to at least **1.4 million annual deaths and 50% of global malnutrition** (WorldBank, 2024). According to WHO reporting, **improving access to water, sanitation and hygiene can save 1.4 million lives per year** (WHO, 2023).

In 2023, the Swarovski Foundation began our path to improving water security through partnerships and initiatives under our Water pillar. Our goal is to create sustainable livelihoods by addressing water security challenges, particularly for women and the next generation in underserved regions.





Image: Conservation International



Image: Raks Thai Foundation



Image: Nationalpark Hohe Tauern

Our partners worked in:

22
countries

...impacting:

42,348
beneficiaries

...indirectly reaching:

65,553
beneficiaries



This year marked the beginning of our journey to collaborate with partners working on WASH infrastructure, water literacy, and job creation in the blue and green economy.

The following collaborations were focused on building resilient and thriving communities that can sustainably manage and conserve water resources.



Our signature programme worked with National Park Hohe Tauern in Austria, Earthwatch in Australia, Fundação Amazônia Sustentável in Brazil, Raks Thai Foundation in Thailand, AWEC in Uganda, and Earth Child Institute in several locations to educate young people on sustainable practices to address their local water challenges and improve water security globally.



Building upon a strong foundation of science, partnership and field demonstration, Conservation International empowers societies to responsibly and sustainably care for nature, our global biodiversity, for the wellbeing of humanity.





A major focus in 2023 was investing in water literacy and environmental education. Through our partnerships, we brought knowledge and skills development programmes to young people and communities in countries including **Australia, Austria, Brazil, Costa Rica, Thailand, Uganda, and the United States**, equipping individuals with the tools to understand and manage their local water needs.

Global Grant Programme

Australia	Costa Rica	Brazil	Democratic Republic of Congo	Egypt	Kenya	Ghana	Nepal	Sierra Leone
Austria	Thailand	Costa Rica	Republic of	Ethiopia	Malawi	Ivory Coast	Nigeria	Tanzania
Brazil	Uganda	Cameroon	Congo	Fiji	Mexico	Indonesia	São Tomé e Príncipe	Uganda
United States								



In Costa Rica, our focus with Conservation International was on **strengthening community resilience**, with a particular emphasis on empowering women to **upskill, manage and lead in the largest mangrove restoration effort on Chira Island**, which plays a crucial role in protecting coastal ecosystems and mitigating climate change.

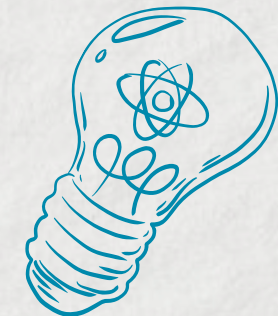
The recovery of the ecosystem in this area is starting to come through; **more and more wildlife is being observed in the area and Punta Flor has now been officially designated as a mangrove ecosystem rehabilitation site** by the national environmental authority, a designation which is recognised at the national level.



Opportunity to promote sustainable livelihoods for women and communities in underserved regions while protecting and restoring natural resources



Training acquired
Skills developed
Best practice knowledge shared
Business development explored



Knowledge acquisition
Behavioural change
Stewardship
Further opportunities
Community involvement
Collaboration and advocacy



Our partner lays the groundwork for **long-term economic development** by supporting women, communities, and the next generation to **create sustainable livelihoods closely linked to water resource conservation.**

Alongside microenterprise training and development, **new income-generating opportunities were explored**, such as organic agriculture and ecotourism, to **create long-term environmental and financial sustainability.**

Negotiations also began with a cooperative specialising in marketing local products to hotels and restaurants. They expressed interest in purchasing all agricultural products from this project, **giving local producers access to a fair distributor that promotes sustainable products.**

Collaborating with local communities, the project **provided skills, techniques, and best practices** for nursery management and restoration efforts. It also **took initial steps to strengthen business capacities and entrepreneurship** launched through the project with specialised consultants.



Alongside our partners, we brought the Waterschool curriculum to **over 40,000 students** and through them, **we reached an additional 20,000 members of their families and communities**, educating beneficiaries on local and global water security issues, as well as best practices for sustainable water management.

Where needed, for example in our Waterschool in Uganda, we took education a step further by combining it with direct action through **access to safe water and sanitation facilities for local schools**, which then became a safe and reliable water source for the surrounding community.



40,000 Students

20,000
Community Members



WASH Infrastructure



A portrait of Uncle Shayne Williams, an Aboriginal man with short grey hair, wearing a dark suit, white shirt, and blue tie. He is looking slightly to the left of the camera with a serious expression.

"The Waterschool programme is deeply meaningful. It is important for young learners to understand how extremely valuable our water resources are. It is equally important, if not imperative, that they also learn about the importance of water preservation and sustainability.

Traditional Aboriginal knowledge has enabled Aboriginal people to thrive on the Australian Continent for thousands of generations. Our traditional knowledge of water and how to sustain it should always be a major aspect of these types of programmes. I believe it is extremely important for young learners to have access to such knowledge so they can gain a deeper understanding of Aboriginal people's cultural relationships with water in the early stages of their learning.

I felt extremely privileged to be a part of the teaching staff. The subject of water gave me the ideal opportunity to share with students the deeper cultural relationships Aboriginal people have with water."

Uncle Shayne Williams, Aboriginal Elder





Looking Ahead

As we reflect on 2023, we recognise the meaningful steps we've taken toward improving water security, while understanding this journey is just beginning.

We are committed to strengthening efforts in water literacy, WASH infrastructure development, and advancing the blue and green economy to promote sustainable livelihoods through education to reduce inequality. Together with our partners, we will continue empowering women, young people, and communities to ensure water security becomes a reality for all.

