



## **Ahlström Capital makes together with Ahlström Collective Impact a significant investment into UNICEF's Global Education Program**

***Ahlström Collective Impact is a joint responsibility initiative by the Ahlström Capital Network companies and foundations. As of June 2021, this unique collaboration forum has been further strengthened as Ahlström Capital's portfolio companies Suominen and Enics along with the Walter Ahlström Foundation have joined Ahlström Collective Impact. For 2021, Ahlström Collective Impact has succeeded in more than doubling the investment it makes and donates 600,000 euros into UNICEF's Global Education Program.***

Initiated by the Eva Ahlström Foundation in 2020, Ahlström Collective Impact is a unique co-operation model that joins together the Ahlström Network companies and foundations. Ahlström Collective Impact consists of Ahlström Capital, Ahlstrom-Munksjö, Destia, Enics, Glaston, Suominen, Antti Ahlström Perilliset, Eva Ahlström Foundation and Walter Ahlström Foundation and it acts in partnership with UNICEF Finland.

Ahlström Collective Impact is designed for targeted strategic investments that support the realization of selected United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). In order to support the goal for quality education (SDG number 4), Ahlström Collective Impact has decided to direct its investment of 600,000 euros – of which Ahlström Capital's share was 100,000 euros – to UNICEF's Global Education Program.

"As a family-owned investment company, Ahlström Capital has its focus on sustainable value creation. We are committed to building a better world for future generations. By joining forces with our portfolio companies, Ahlström foundations and UNICEF Finland, we can really make a difference", says **Lasse Heinonen**, President and CEO of Ahlström Capital.

In 2020, Ahlström Collective Impact focused on supporting the COVID-19 crisis aid to children. In 2021, Ahlström Collective Impact will focus on the learning crisis caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. The pandemic has widened deep gaps in access to quality education, therefore increasing inequality. “It is crucial to safeguard children’s education in order to safeguard their future. UNICEF’s Global Education Program has an essential role in this“, says **Camilla Sångbom**, Director, Corporate Communications and Responsibility of Ahlström Capital.

To address the learning crisis, UNICEF strives to ensure every student gains a solid foundation in basic reading and mathematics – skills that are the foundation for all learning throughout childhood and beyond. Focusing on the most marginalized children in low- and middle-income countries, is critical for meaningful progress on all targets under SDG number 4.

“The private sector has a huge role in the realization of the SDGs and for finding new ways to collaborate. To further demonstrate our belief that prosperous businesses and stable societies are interdependent, shareholders from the Ahlström Family decided to match the companies’ investment for the year 2021”, comments **Maria Ahlström-Bondestam**, Co-founder and Chair of the Board at the Eva Ahlström Foundation.

Read more about the Ahlström Collective Impact initiative here:

<https://ahlstromcollectiveimpact.com/>

**Further information:**

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***Ahlström Capital** is one of Finland’s largest investment companies with a long history of 170 years. We are a family-owned investment company that creates value for our owners by investing in industrial companies, real estate and forest. In 2020, the annual net sales of our holding companies was approximately EUR 4,5 billion and they employed almost 14,600 people in 30 countries. Our current portfolio includes significant holdings in the listed companies Detection Technology Plc, Glaston Corporation and Suominen Corporation. In addition, the portfolio includes Destia Group Oy, Enics AG, Ahlström Invest B.V (including a significant ownership in Ahlstrom-Munksjö) as well as an investment in the AC Cleantech Growth Fund I. Our portfolio also includes major real estate and forest holdings.*