Jacobs Foundation

Introduction and Strategy 2030
Where We Come From

„I always felt driven to ensure that children have a good future ahead of them”
Klaus J. Jacobs, Jacobs Foundation Founder

Current Assets

Key Figures

CUMULATIVE GRANTS
CHF 778.113 Million

GRANTS APPROVED IN 2020
CHF 64.639 Million

FOUNDATION ASSETS AS OF 2020
CHF 7.0 Billion

PAYMENTS FOR GRANTS IN 2020
CHF 37.655 Million
Extensive history supporting premier research. Our work is shaped by more than three decades of experience supporting the highest quality research exploring the frontiers of learning and development.

Holistic approach evidence—action—systems. We promote the generation and use of evidence, support policy innovation, ignite multi-stakeholder coalitions, and use catalytic investments to create positive impact.

Commitment to learning and building the field. We embrace a culture of reflection, collaborative learning with partners, and sharing of what is learned to inspire impact beyond our direct reach.

Background & Milestones
We invest in the future of young people so that they become socially responsible and productive members of society.

1989
- Founded by Klaus J. Jacobs and his family to offer better opportunities to young people and future generations.

1991
- Host of the annual Jacobs Conference convening leading scientists and scholars on issues of child development and learning.

2009
- Creation of Klaus J. Jacobs Awards for exceptional achievements in research and practice in the field of child development and learning.

2015
- Launch of CHF 50 million investment in Côte d’Ivoire for the development of a sustainable learning ecosystem.

2021
- Announcement of 10-year Strategy 2030 to enable all children to learn and thrive together.
Strategy 2030 Pledge

Enabling all children to reach their full learning potential and thrive together.

Foster adaptive learning ecosystems.
We support learning ecosystems to provide all children with the knowledge, skills, attitudes, tools and equitable opportunities to reach their full learning potential and thrive together.

Work across global and local contexts.
We co-create evidence-based knowledge about learning, support schools in sharing good practices, and transform education systems around the world.

Focus on core theme of variability in learning.
When learning ecosystems are adapted to children’s individual differences, preferences, and needs, children can fulfil their aspirations and thrive together.
Thematic Focus

Key challenge for education systems.
Many educational and learning settings – and the systems they are embedded in – do not foster children’s individual learning potentials and differences, which hinders children’s ability to learn and thrive together.

Major multidisciplinary research topic.
We want to understand how heterogeneity and individual differences drive learning and explore how these findings can be utilized in policy and practice, including the smart use of learning technologies.

Relevant and applicable across contexts.
Learning approaches, methods, and tools vary greatly – but the need to address the increasing heterogeneity in student populations is a global phenomenon across high and low-income contexts.
We support **communities of change leaders to advance systems transformations** and create adaptive learning ecosystems that embrace learning variability and continuously learn and evolve to enable all children to thrive together.

**FIELD BUILDING**

Multi-stakeholder coalitions & communities collaboratively design, deliver and scale effective education policies, programs and practices.
A multi-disciplinary community of the most innovative researchers and practitioners strengthens the global research and evidence base and shapes the future of learning and development.

Programs

The Jacobs Foundation Research Fellowship
Generate rigorous, state of the art evidence to advance the field.

Jacobs Foundation Conference
Foster ground-breaking research, collaboration, idea generation, and solution co-creation.

The Klaus J. Jacobs Awards
Support exceptional achievements in research and practice.

Jacobs Network
Create global and local ecosystems around the most important issues of child development and the future of learning.

Strategy in Action

Advancing the frontiers of science on child learning and development: The Jacobs Foundation Research Fellowship is a globally competitive program for highly talented researches whose work shapes the future of child learning and development with impact on policy and practice.
A strengthened community of school leaders learns together, collaborates, and leverages resources to codify and replicate evidence-informed school practices across global contexts.

Programs

School Evidence for Adaptive Learning (SEAL)
Strengthen the creation and use of school-level rigorous scientific evidence.

School Knowledge and Innovation Learning Lab (SKILL)
Codify and share best practice in teaching and school management.

Scientific Capital (SciCap)
Transform the way evidence is used in EdTech investment, design, and purchase decisions.

Strategy in Action

Supporting schools to scale locally-rooted solutions and improve holistic learning outcomes:
Schools2030 is a ten-year school-based participatory research and learning improvement program launching in 2021 in 1,000 schools across 10 countries.
Learning Societies

In Switzerland, Ghana, and Cote d’Ivoire, a community of change leaders drives systemic change together, by integrating evidence, learning, resources and advocacy.

Programs

Evidence for Policy & Practice Program
Generate and use reliable evidence in creating learning ecosystems.

Building Partnerships & Practice Program
Build the capacity of change leaders to learn and work together to create and sustain their learning ecosystem.

Scaling through Systems Program
Leverage resources to support the creation and sustainability of learning ecosystems.

Strategy in Action

A blueprint for public-private collaboration in education financing:
A partner coalition of foundations, Côte d’Ivoire government, GPE and cocoa industry has joined forces to launch the Child Learning and Education Facility (CLEF) and Early Learning and Nutrition Facility (ELAN) to reach over 6 million children with better quality education.
Funding research excellence.
We promote the generation and use of evidence on child learning and development with impact on policy and practice.

- JF Research Fellowship
- Klaus J. Jacobs Awards
- School Evidence for Adaptive Learning
- School Knowledge & Innovation Learning Lab
- Evidence for Policy & Practice Program*

Igniting partnerships.
We foster multi-stakeholder coalitions between governments, industry, schools, and social purpose organizations to leverage resources and jointly scale up effective education policies and practices.

- Jacobs Network
- Jacobs Foundation Conference
- Building Partnerships & Practice Program*

Investing for impact.
We use innovative financial instruments to create positive impact at scale and encourage increased investment by others.

- Scientific Capital (EdTech)
- Scaling through Systems Program*

Enabling policy innovation.
We support policy entrepreneurship by facilitating access to knowledge, data, and tools, instigating change processes, and inspiring leadership approaches to strengthen global and local ecosystems.

- Engagement in JF target countries*
- Engagement in global policy and philanthropy fora

* Programs active in JF target countries: Switzerland, Cote d'Ivoire, and Ghana
We aspire to be a leading learning foundation that embraces a culture of openness and reflection and proactively learns with and from others, and shares what is learned to inspire systems change transformation beyond our direct reach.

Learning Dimensions & Illustrative Questions

**«Why»**
Examing key aspects of our systems change and field building approach

- What are the critical factors that drive systems change in different learning ecosystem contexts?
- How can multi-stakeholder collaborations and communities leverage knowledge and evidence to create adaptive learning ecosystems?

**«What»**
Answering critical research questions on what does and does not work

- What are promising ways to design for learner variability at scale to enable all children to reach their potential as learners and in life?
- What school-level learning approaches, environments and experiences are effective in improving learning outcomes in widely heterogeneous student groups?

**«How»**
Informing our core competences and the role the foundation plays

- How can we foster multidisciplinary research collaborations?
- How can we best effect innovative and effective policy change?
- How can we influence the EdTech ecosystem and promote an evidence-based impact focus?
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