

# → Maria Bystedt – Strategy Lead, H&M Foundation

Maria Bystedt joined the H&M Foundation at its inception in 2013, where she was part of building up the organisation that today is a team of eleven, funding development projects around the globe. As Strategy Lead, Maria is responsible for setting the strategic direction of the Foundation's Social Development Programs and is also heading our global programs within Women's Economic Empowerment and Water and Sanitation, as well as our Collective Impact Initiative in India.

With a background in the international development sector, Maria previously worked as a Project Manager at the Swedish Postcode Foundation, part of the United Postcode Lotteries which is the world's third largest private donor to charitable causes.



Prior to this, Maria has also worked at the Swedish UN Association, the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida), and the Centre for International Youth Exchange. She has done an internship at the European Parliament Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality in Brussels as well as volunteer work in Guatemala, Sri Lanka and Costa Rica.

Maria holds a degree from Sussex University, BA (Hons) in Social Anthropology with Development Studies, and a Post Graduate Certificate in Social Science Research Methods from Nottingham Trent University.

## H&M Foundation

The H&M Foundation is an independent non-profit global foundation headquartered in Stockholm, Sweden. It is privately funded by the Stefan Persson family, founders and main owners of the H&M group. Founded to fast track the achievements of the UN Sustainable Development Goals 2030 to improve lives for everyone everywhere, H&M Foundation uses collaboration and innovation to co-create, fund and share solutions for the world's most urgent challenges. To help safeguard the welfare of humanity we're ushering the fashion industry to become planet positive, and we accelerate development for inclusive societies. Since 2013, the family has donated SEK 1.5 billion.

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