

Media release

Obviam launches new impact investing fund with USD 60 million contribution from Fondation Botnar

Bern, 15 May 2020 – Basel-based Fondation Botnar has entrusted the Swiss firm Obviam with the set-up and management of a USD 60 million impact investing portfolio. Obviam's objective is to achieve not only a financial return by making sustainable investments in developing and emerging markets, but also a measurable contribution to development. With this mandate from Fondation Botnar, Obviam is also launching its new umbrella fund for professional and institutional investors, bringing its assets under management to over USD 1 billion for the first time.

Obviam has over 20 years of experience in impact investing. On behalf of Fondation Botnar, it will make equity investments in small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and fast-growing local businesses in developing and emerging markets. In this activity, Obviam is working closely with trusted local partners to enable long-term, broad-based and sustainable growth while mitigating the associated risks.

Obviam is using the USD 60 million by Fondation Botnar to launch its new umbrella fund, *Obviam Impact Investing ICAV*. The fund is structured as an Irish Collective Asset-management Vehicle with subfunds, giving Obviam the flexibility to create new subfunds with no major administrative hurdles for professional and institutional clients wishing to engage in impact investing.

"We are very pleased that Fondation Botnar has placed its trust in us with this mandate. Thanks to the new fund we have launched in connection with this mandate, we will be able to offer a flexible option for long-term, profitable impact investing to other clients as well. With the current Covid-19 crisis, investments in SMEs in developing and emerging markets are more important than ever," says Claude Barras, Obviam CEO.

Sushant Sharma, Chief Investment Officer at Fondation Botnar, states: "After we took the strategic decision to engage a part of our foundation's capital in impact investing, we launched a detailed selection process. We then reached the conclusion that Obviam's track record and its flexible investment solutions are the perfect fit for our foundation."

Obviam

Obviam invests profitably in improving the livelihoods of people in developing and emerging markets, and thereby supports comprehensive growth. Its institutional, governmental and qualified individual clients benefit from bespoke portfolios tailored to their needs. For Obviam, economic success is a key requirement for achieving long-term development goals. All investments are individually selected for their expected contribution to poverty reduction and sustainable development and their effects are measured and analysed systematically. Obviam actively supports the adoption of international best practice on environmental, social and governance issues (ESG).

Obviam manages the investment portfolio of the Swiss Investment Fund for Emerging Markets (SIFEM), the Development Finance Institution (DFI) of the Swiss Confederation. The firm also manages UBS's first impact fund and oversees the impact investing portfolios of other institutional and professional investors. Obviam's assets under management have now passed the USD 1 billion mark for the first time.

www.obviam.ch

Fondation Botnar

Fondation Botnar is a Swiss foundation based in Basel which champions the use of AI and digital technology to improve the health and wellbeing of children and young people in growing urban environments. To achieve this, it supports research, catalyses diverse partners and invests in scalable solutions globally. With assets of CHF 3.3 billion, it is one of the largest foundations in Switzerland.

www.fondationbotnar.org

Covid-19 crisis

SMEs in developing countries and emerging markets have been badly hit by the Covid-19 crisis. Lockdowns and the grinding to a halt of economic activity are having a direct impact on businesses. Developing countries and emerging markets are also suffering under an unprecedented outflow of capital. In these circumstances, new long-term investments are not only especially important for development, they also promise attractive long-term returns.

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Obviam Facts and Figures – www.obviam.ch

As an **impact investor**, Obviam provides financial support to **commercially viable small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and fast-growing local companies** and thereby contributes to **job creation** and the **reduction of poverty** in the world.

- Since 2005, Obviam's investment portfolio has created and maintained over **830,000 jobs** worldwide.
- In 2020, Obviam has assets under management of over **USD 1.01 billion** (including the new mandate).
- Obviam currently invests in over **500 businesses** in more than **70 countries**.
- The average **return** on exited investments in the Obviam portfolio is **15.3%**.
- In 2018, Obviam's portfolio companies paid a total of **USD 1.86 billion** in local taxes.
- Obviam supports **climate protection**: portfolio companies made total **CO₂ savings of 6.1 million tonnes** in 2018.