
The Bernard van Leer Foundation was established in 1949 and is based in the Netherlands. Our income is derived from the sale of Royal Packaging Industries Van Leer N.V., bequeathed to the foundation by Dutch industrialist and philanthropist Bernard van Leer (1883 - 1958).

Our mission is to improve opportunities for children up to age 8 who are growing up in socially and economically difficult circumstances. We see this both as a valuable end in itself and as a long-term means to promoting more cohesive, considerate and creative societies with equal opportunities and rights for all.

Our grantmaking works primarily through **supporting programmes** implemented by local partners in selected countries. Through our **publications and advocacy**, we aim to inform and influence policy and practice, globally and in the countries where we operate.

Strategic goals (2010- 2015)

- Taking quality early learning to scale
 - Reducing violence in young children's lives
 - Improving young children's health by improving their physical environments
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The countries where we operate

- Brazil
 - India
 - Israel
 - The Netherlands
 - Peru
 - Tanzania
 - Turkey
 - Uganda
 - European Union
(regional approach)
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Our goals in Peru

1. National increase in the percentage of indigenous, rural children under 3 with access to quality home visiting programmes that integrate birth registration, health, nutritional support and parent education
 2. A reduction in violence in families with young children living in urban slums in the city of Iquitos and indigenous, rural communities
 3. A reduction in the prevalence of gastro-intestinal and respiratory infections among young children growing up in unhealthy physical environments in urban slums in the city of Iquitos
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Why these goals in Peru:

1. Home visiting programmes: As of 2008, only 4% of all children under 3 (2% in rural areas) had access to early learning programmes. Existing programmes are typically center-based and urban-biased. Reaching rural children in their homes can connect them to a range of services and to help parents support their children’s learning from birth. This is most critical for the approximately 190,000 indigenous children under 3, of whom more than 85% live in rural areas. While nine in ten indigenous children have their births registered by age three, only 44% are registered in the first year, indicating a lack of early connection with state services.

2. Reduction of violence: An estimated 41% of women who have had partners have experienced intimate partner violence, and this is more likely to occur in homes with young children. WHO research found that 15% to 28% experienced physical violence during pregnancy and UNICEF estimates that 37% of mothers with children under 5 experience physical violence. This implies an estimated 1.85 million children in Peru aged under 8 live in homes where their mothers are beaten. We target our efforts on urban slums and indigenous rural communities because they are the most under-served by public works and they live in conditions that are correlated with family violence.

3. Healthy physical environments: Peru spends around 3% of its GDP on treating illnesses caused by poor water, sanitation and hygiene, and those most affected are children growing up in urban slums. In Belen, a slum area of Iquitos where 16,600 children under 8 are living, rates of acute diarrhea and respiratory infection among three year olds are 34% and 36%, while chronic malnutrition is 36%. In all, nearly half of Peru’s urban population (9.6 million people) live with at least one of the deprivations that constitute living in a ‘slum’ – overcrowding, precarious house construction, no access to water, no access to sanitary services or no land tenure – and one in five live with two or more of those deprivations.



Lisa Jordan - Executive Director

Lisa joined the Foundation in July 2009, having previously worked with the Ford Foundation.



Leonardo Yanez – Programme Officer

Leonardo joined the Foundation in 2000, having previously worked in academia, NGO and government in Venezuela.



Source: PNAD, 2007

Please visit our website for more information on the Foundation and our work in Peru

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