
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). These funds are managed by the Van Leer Group Foundation based in Amstelveen.

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.

Strategic goals (2010- 2015)

- Taking quality early learning to scale
 - Reducing violence in young children's lives
 - Improving young children's health through improving the physical environments in which they grow up
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Countries where we operate

- Brazil
 - India
 - Israel
 - The Netherlands
 - Peru
 - Tanzania
 - Turkey
 - Uganda
 - European Union
 - *Caribbean, Mexico and South Africa until 2012*
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Goals in the Netherlands

1. A reduction in violence in families with children under 4 years of age growing up in social and economic disadvantage.
 2. Reduce the learning gap between children of low socio-economic status and other children in the Netherlands.
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Geographic focus in the Netherlands

Our work in the Netherlands is focused on the 4 largest communities – Rotterdam, Amsterdam, The Hague and Utrecht - and communities in Groningen and Friesland. These are the areas which have the highest percentage of low-income households.

www.bernardvanleer.org



