

# Robeco Foundation

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Policy plan 2022-2025



## 1. Introduction

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Robeco has a longstanding tradition of supporting sustainable growth via our activities in the field of investment, engagement and active ownership. Robeco is also one of the signatories of the Dutch SDG Investing Agenda and is committed to contributing to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) formulated by the United Nations.

To match this business focus by also contributing to the SDGs with its social commitment activities, Robeco has established the Robeco Foundation (“the Foundation”) in 2018.

This policy plan describes the Foundation’s mission, activities, governance and finances and applies to the period of 2022 to 2025.

## 2. Mission, vision, strategy

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### Mission

The Robeco Foundation's mission is to help create equal opportunities for disadvantaged children and youth by investing in education and skills development.

### Vision

According to the UN, the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) aim to 'make the world a better place in 2030'. We consider the SDGs drivers for positive change around the globe.

The Foundation wants to contribute to the SDGs, specifically to:

- SDG 1 – No poverty
- SDG 4 – Quality education
- SDG 10 – Reduced inequalities

At the Foundation, we feel passionate about achieving equal opportunities for all children and youth, quality education and ending poverty.

### Strategy

The Foundation makes financial contributions to educational projects aimed at helping children and youth reach their full potential and reducing inequalities. We do so in locations where Robeco is active in order to strengthen our bond with our local communities.

Initiatives can apply for funding (via application forms available from [Robeco Foundation](#)) if they:

- contribute to SDGs 1, 4 and 10
- focus on children and youth
- are in cities/countries where Robeco has a presence.

The Foundation Board reviews applications and decides on donations, agreeing whether they meet the criteria and are in line with the (spirit of the) Foundation's mission and policy plan.

We currently distinguish three types of activities and/or support:

- Rotterdam Digital Skills program
- Partnerships
- Support for local programs around the world

The Foundation's first initiative was the Rotterdam Digital Skills program. We continue to run this program, which offers support to primary and secondary schools in the city where Robeco's HQ is based, to fund activities that can improve the digital skills of children from less advantaged backgrounds.

Since 2019 the Foundation has expanded its activities to also support other initiatives and programs that are in line with the mission of the Foundation, both in Rotterdam and in other places around the world where Robeco is active. This includes both longer-term partnerships with non-profit organizations and (one-off) donations to specific programs or initiatives that tailor to local needs.

The Foundation's ambition for the period 2022-2025 is to continue our international focus. We are working with our offices around the world to raise awareness of the Foundation.

The Foundation asks all initiatives that it supports to report back on the impact that it has been able to achieve with the support from the Foundation, including the number of children a that benefited.

### 3. Activities

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The Foundation's activities include:

#### Rotterdam Digital Skills Program

The Rotterdam Digital Skills Program, launched in 2018 as the Foundation's first initiative, offers support to primary and secondary schools in Robeco's home city to fund activities that can improve the digital skills of children from less advantaged backgrounds, to better prepare them for tomorrow's world. Schools for example invested in chrome books, robots and programming tools.

#### Partnerships

The Foundation has signed partnerships with two non-profit organizations, providing longer-term support:

- Room to Read: a non-profit focused on girls' education and children's literacy in Asia and Africa. Our donation enables Room to Read to implement its three-year program at a primary school in South Africa, close to the region where our clients are based.
- JINC: a Dutch NGO that helps young people to a good start in the labor market. Our partnership focuses on the Rotterdam area, benefiting children mostly from socioeconomically disadvantaged neighborhoods.

#### Supporting local programs around the world

The Foundation supports local educational projects aimed at helping children and youth reach their full potential and reducing inequalities. Programs or initiatives in countries where Robeco is active and that contribute to SDG 4 'Quality education' and SDG 10 'Reduced inequalities' and are eligible for funding.

Examples from 2021 include:

- Digitale leerlijn: a pilot project for educational curriculum development on digital citizenship, targeting a sub-group of secondary school pupils in Rotterdam for whom the digital divide is the largest.
- Team Toekomst: a collaboration between schools, activity providers and mothers in Rotterdam neighborhood Delfshaven, who work together to ensure disadvantaged children have access to opportunities for development.
- City Year New York: initiative that works in partnership with 17 public schools across New York City bridging the gap between what students need and what most schools are equipped to provide, and providing tutoring and after-school programs.
- Fresh Air Fund: a not-for-profit youth development organization providing educational, life-changing and transformative summer experiences in the outdoors to children from New York City's low-income communities.

*Refer to the latest Robeco Foundation Annual Report for the most recent overview.*

## 4. Organization

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Name: Robeco Foundation  
Adress: Weena 850, 3014 DA Rotterdam, The Netherlands  
Email: robecofoundation@robeco.nl  
Chamber of Commerce (KvK) number: 71779663  
Tax identification number: 858846032

The Robeco Foundation is a non-profit organization.

Governance  
Chair: Victor Verberk  
Treasurer: Jochem Gottmers  
Secretary: Michiel Prinsze

The members of the Board are Robeco representatives. Their mandate is part of the articles of association of the Robeco Foundation. The members of the Board are unpaid and can't individually dispose of the foundation's assets.

### Employees

The Robeco Foundation does not employ any staff. The Foundation aims to work with Robeco staff as much as possible. Several Robeco employees carry out (unpaid) activities in support of the Foundation on an ad hoc basis, such as administrative and communication tasks.

## 5. Finances

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The Robeco Foundation is primarily funded by Robeco. Robeco staff and clients can make donations as well. All donations made to the foundation will be held on Robeco Foundation account with a reputable bank. The Board does not expect to keep substantial funds as equity and the Foundation aims to not hold more funds than necessary for the continuity of the activities of the Robeco Foundation.

The Covid-19 pandemic resulted in fewer applications for support, which resulted in an increase in the Foundation's own funds. To compensate for this, the Foundation anticipates a slightly higher spending rate in the coming 1-3 years and will monitor closely that its spending rate will be consistent with its charity status.

Ongoing and one-off expenses by the Robeco Foundation will be covered by Robeco. The Robeco Foundation will provide an annual report on its website.