

EXCLUSIONS

**What the FirstRand Foundation and
FirstRand Empowerment Foundation do not fund**

JULY 2024

FOUNDATIONS' FUNDING EXCLUSIONS

WHAT THE FOUNDATIONS DO AND DO NOT SUPPORT

The FirstRand Foundation and the FirstRand Empowerment Foundation (collectively, the foundations) base their investment decisions on the following five core principles:

- The foundations cannot be all things to all people – given limited resources, they narrowly target their investment to maximise impact where possible.
- The foundations do not respond to need only, but to evidence-based programming and performance, proven impact, and innovation.
- The foundations support programmes and organisations that are aligned with national priorities and developmental objectives and outcomes.
- The foundations focus strongly on sustained, measurable impact that is monitored and evaluated on the basis of clearly defined objectives. This allows the foundations to scale and target their investments effectively.
- The foundations are committed to partnerships and collaborations based on mutual trust with organisations (civil society, donors, institutional entities or government) that positively and innovatively pursue the goals of development.

In addition to these core principles, the foundations' basic decision-making is guided by the following:

- Only registered public benefit organisations can be supported by the foundations.
- The foundations prioritise national geographic presence and representation in each province for all programmes supported, where practical.
- The foundations do not generally fund infrastructure projects, although these are assessed on a case-by-case basis.
- The foundations provide multi-year programme funding in most cases, which may include escalations to address inflation, assessed on a case-by-case basis.
- The foundations' funding considers the total costs of delivering the programme, which may include covering the administrative costs of its partner organisations, as long as these can be directly linked to the achievement of set objectives.
- The foundations are committed to supporting the sustainability of their implementing partners. Sustainability is understood both as the ability to create long-term, lasting impact (beyond the foundations' involvement) and to consistently and effectively raise funds from a variety of donors in order to meet set objectives.
- The foundations' exit strategy is implemented responsibly, based on clear and timely communication with all stakeholders to ensure the close-out process considers a variety of factors. These include the impact and performance of programmes, post-funding sustainability of partners, and the foundations' understanding of the role of other funders and stakeholders in each specific circumstance.

The following activities and areas are NOT considered for support by the foundations:

- Sponsorship of overseas tours and student exchanges.
- Sporting activities, sports and recreation clubs (except for specific projects that are focused on and/or linked to community development aligned to the foundations' building thriving and resilient communities focus area).
- Company promotions and membership subscriptions.
- Conferences, workshops and memorial lectures (only considered in special circumstances where the focus of the event is directly aligned with the foundations' focus areas and there is a strong strategic case for support).
- Political or quasi-political bodies.
- Religious organisations.

FOUNDATIONS' FUNDING EXCLUSIONS

- Trade unions.
- Any fundraising requests that are not linked to any of the foundations' focus areas.
- Investment trusts.
- Funding for commercial ventures (closed corporations and other for-profit activities).
- Loans and investments.
- Individual school requests, including early childhood development centres.
- Advertising in educational or other supplements.
- The foundations are prohibited from engaging in the activities/industries outlined in FirstRand's policy statements relating to restrictions on the financing of certain sectors/activities:

<https://www.firstrand.co.za/media/investors/policies-and-practice/pdf/policy-statements-restrictions-on-financing-2024.pdf>