

# ANNUAL REPORT 2025



IOM is committed to the principle that humane and orderly migration benefits migrants and society. As an intergovernmental organisation, IOM acts with its partners in the international community to: assist in meeting the operational challenges of migration; advance understanding of migration issues; encourage social and economic development through migration; and uphold the human dignity and well-being of migrants.

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Publisher: International Organization for Migration  
IOM the Netherlands Office  
The Hague, The Netherlands  
Tel.: +31 70 318 1500 | Email: [missionthehague@iom.int](mailto:missionthehague@iom.int)  
P.O. Box 10796, 2501 HT The Hague  
[www.netherlands.iom.int](http://www.netherlands.iom.int)

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# ABBREVIATIONS

|                     |   |
|---------------------|---|
| <b>AVIM</b>         | Aliens, Identification and Human Trafficking Department                     |
| <b>AVRR</b>         | Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration                                 |
| <b>AZC</b>          | Asylum Seekers' Centre  |
| <b>COA</b>          | Central Agency for the Reception of Asylum Seekers                          |
| <b>DT&amp;V</b>     | Repatriation and Departure Service  |
| <b>DTM</b>          | Displacement Tracking Matrix  |
| <b>EURP</b>         | European Union Reintegration Programme                                      |
| <b>IBG</b>          | Immigration and Border Governance   |
| <b>IND</b>          | Immigration and Naturalisation Service                                      |
| <b>KVAC</b>         | Korea Visa Application Center   |
| <b>MFA</b>          | Ministry of Foreign Affairs   |
| <b>NGO</b>          | Non-Governmental Organisation   |
| <b>PSEAH</b>        | Prevention of Sexual Exploitation, Abuse and Harassment                     |
| <b>REAN</b>         | Return and Emigration Assistance from the Netherlands                       |
| <b>RIAT</b>         | Reintegration Assistance Tool   |
| <b>ROK</b>          | Republic of Korea   |
| <b>ROS</b>          | Rotterdams Ogedocumenteerden Steunpunt                                      |
| <b>SGBV</b>         | Sexual and Gender-Based Violence  |
| <b>SDG</b>          | Sustainable Development Goals   |
| <b>SOGIESC</b>      | Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity and Expression, and Sex Characteristics |
| <b>STEM</b>         | Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics                           |
| <b>UMC</b>          | Unaccompanied Migrant Children  |
| <b>UNHCR</b>        | United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees                               |
| <b>VCS-verified</b> | Verified Carbon Standard  |
| <b>VC-interview</b> | Videoconferencing Interview   |
| <b>VNG</b>          | Association of Dutch Municipalities   |

# FOREWORD

As Chief of Mission, I am pleased to present the 2025 Annual Report of the International Organization for Migration (IOM) in the Netherlands. We have been building on the foundations consolidated in the previous years when it comes to operational scale, complexity, and strategic engagement within the Dutch migration system.

Throughout 2025, IOM the Netherlands strengthened its role as a trusted operational partner. Our core programmes, particularly the Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration (AVRR), Korea Visa Application Center (KVAC), and DNA Sample Collection for Family Reunification experienced notable growth. Additionally, our projects related to family reunification, resettlement, and labour mobility stayed on track. The growth of migrants assisted with their voluntary return and reintegration was not only in numbers, but also in the vulnerability and complexity of the assisted cases. Our projects are carried out with close cooperation within the migration chain. The evolving nature of migration management requires a corresponding need for specialised, coordinated, and humane responses.

At the same time, 2025 marked a shift in our engagement with national and European partners. IOM the Netherlands continues to contribute to shape policy, notably in the areas of return and reintegration systems, labour migration governance and diaspora engagement. Our integration into European reintegration frameworks, our technical leadership in family reunification procedures, and our policy relevant outputs with reports on labour mobility, and research on return intentions of Syrians in the Netherlands and Syrian diaspora mapping demonstrate a mission that is not only delivering assistance but also actively contributing to the effectiveness and credibility of the broader migration architecture.

None of these achievements would have been possible without the continued trust and cooperation of the Dutch government, the engagement of our diplomatic and civil society partners and the dedication and professionalism of IOM staff in the Netherlands and across our global network. Their collective efforts have enabled IOM the

Netherlands to respond effectively to a rapidly evolving migration landscape while upholding the values and objectives of IOM's Global Strategic Plan 2024–2028.

This report captures an operationally robust, policy relevant mission, firmly positioned as a strategic partner in advancing orderly, humane, and well governed migration.

Fabien Sambussy  
Chief of Mission  
IOM the Netherlands



# ASSISTED VOLUNTARY RETURN AND REINTEGRATION

In 2025, IOM the Netherlands continued to provide comprehensive support for migrants considering voluntary return. Building on decades of experience under the Return and Emigration Assistance from the Netherlands (REAN) programme, the Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration (AVRR) team strengthened counselling, medical assistance and reintegration pathways across the country.

## Voluntary Return Counselling

Since 1992, IOM the Netherlands has been implementing the REAN programme at the request of the Dutch government. Reintegration and medical assistance remain crucial for the humane and sustainable return of migrants voluntarily returning to their countries of origin. As part of its global operations, IOM operates 550 offices across 180 countries, offering essential support for migrants worldwide throughout the return and reintegration process. In 2025, IOM the Netherlands coordinated voluntary returns in collaboration with IOM missions in receiving countries, ensuring smooth transitions and referring beneficiaries for post-return assistance.

In 2025, 4,335 migrants received counselling to support a well-informed decision about their future. To guide migrants through the decision making process and adequately prepare them for return, 25 IOM return counsellors were available across the Netherlands, offering confidential, obligation free counselling. In response to the growing number of AVRR departures, the Field Counselling Unit strengthened its capacity in the Randstad region.

IOM's counsellors speak more than 20 languages and are trained to provide tailored support to vulnerable groups, including victims of trafficking, unaccompanied migrant children, and migrants with medical conditions. Counselling was delivered in asylum reception centres, cities, and administrative detention centres. This year, specific attention was paid to providing information and outreach to Unaccompanied Migrant Children (UMCs).

Throughout 2025, the Field Counselling Unit further expanded its outreach and presence through a wide range of community based and partner focused activities. Counsellors engaged directly with migrants at events such as the large outreach day at Asylum Seekers' Centre (AZC) Rijswijk and an activity for undocumented mothers with children organised in Wereldhuis Amsterdam. IOM also facilitated "speed date" sessions with the Repatriation and Departure Service (DT&V) and several Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) to strengthen operational collaboration among frontline practitioners, and reinforced information provision to AVIM police officers.

In total, IOM conducted 143 information sessions and 206 network meetings nationwide. By the end of 2025, 2,961 migrants departed with IOM's assistance to 83 different countries.

## Support for Unaccompanied Migrant Children

IOM the Netherlands remained committed to assisting migrants in vulnerable situations throughout the voluntary return process. Specifically, for unaccompanied migrant children in the Netherlands who are living without parental support, IOM provided specialised counselling through trained professionals and conducted family assessments in the children's countries of origin. In 2025, 8 unaccompanied migrant children were successfully reunited with their families in the country of origin under the REAN programme.



143  
information  
session



206  
network  
meetings



2,961  
migrants



83  
different  
countries



2,351  
reintegration  
grants

## Assistance for Migrants with Health Concerns

Migrants with medical conditions remained a priority within IOM's return operations especially since IOM sees an increase in complex cases. This is partially due to an increase in the lack of personnel in the regular care system which affects the possibilities for uninsured migrants. Irregular migrants generally wait longer before going to a doctor, have precarious living conditions and have to deal with more pressure due to their status.

Support varied based on individual needs and included:

- ▶ Verification of medication and treatment availability post-return;
- ▶ Translation of medical records;
- ▶ Coordination with airlines and stakeholders regarding medical concerns;
- ▶ Fit-to-fly assessments and medical escorts;
- ▶ Financial assistance for medical costs post-return;

In total, 333 migrants with health needs received assistance, compared to 228 in 2024. 56 Of those requiring operational or medical escorts during their return journey.

## Assistance for Victims of Trafficking

In 2025, IOM supported the voluntary return and reintegration of 8 victims of trafficking. The majority of these individuals were referred to IOM by shelter organisations dedicated to assisting possible victims of trafficking. While most had experienced sexual exploitation, some faced labor exploitation. When relevant, IOM collaborated with partners in the receiving countries to develop suitable return plans and provided post-return referrals to aid reintegration. Through these initiatives, IOM the Netherlands continues to facilitate dignified and sustainable voluntary return and reintegration, working in close coordination with governments, NGOs, and diplomatic entities to support migrants.

## Reintegration Assistance

IOM the Netherlands provided reintegration assistance to eligible returning migrants, working closely with IOM missions in the countries of origin. In 2025, 2,375 returnees benefited from reintegration grants (compared to 1,412 in 2024) partially paid in cash upon departure and partially

paid in kind post-return. IOM implemented 84 reintegration grants on behalf of Stichting Wereldwijd, Stichting Rotterdams Ongedocumenteerden Steunpunt (ROS) and Stichting Goedwerk. IOM also provided cash grant upon departure to 36 beneficiaries on behalf of Vluchtelingenwerk Nederland, Stichting ROS and Stichting Goedwerk.

In 2025 IOM started preparing for the inclusion of reintegration assistance through the Frontex led European Union Reintegration Programme (EURP). After signing an agreement with the Repatriation and Departure Service on data sharing, IOM The Netherlands has started registration of application for reintegration assistance through the Reintegration Assistance Tool (RIAT) platform.

## Diplomatic Liaison

In 2025, IOM strengthened engagement with diplomatic missions in the Netherlands and Belgium to enhance awareness of available return assistance. This outreach plays a crucial role in referring migrants who require return assistance and in assisting them in obtaining emergency travel documents to facilitate their voluntary departures.

At the beginning of the year, over 170 embassies received information on IOM's initiatives and relevant statistics. Through these partnerships, IOM secured travel documents for 692 migrants. Through these partnerships, IOM secured travel documents for 692 migrants, compared to 587 in 2024, enabling their return to 63 countries.

## Diplomatic Network Meetings

IOM expanded diplomatic outreach by organising networking meetings with ambassadors and consuls from different countries and aimed to provide a comprehensive overview of IOM initiatives and operations and as crucial platforms for dialogue regarding our collaborative efforts to support migrants. The discussions yielded valuable insights into the Embassy roles and opportunities for enhanced cooperation in supporting migrant populations.

## Outreach events

We organized outreach events, such as a festive day at Asylum Seekers' Centre Rijswijk to celebrate International Migrants Day on 18 December as well as an activity for undocumented mothers with children organised at the Wereldhuis Amsterdam.

# MOVEMENTS

It was once again a busy year for the IOM movements team at Schiphol Airport. The airport itself is one of the busiest in the world, handling 68.8 million passengers in 2025, a level that is almost back to pre-pandemic levels.

## Departure, Transit, and Arrival

As a major international hub, a large number of IOM beneficiaries pass through the airport every year, with 6,673 either departing, transiting or arriving in 2025. The movements team ensure that each beneficiary's journey is handled in an orderly and humane way, taking into account the individual needs of all. Every day is different and the team take a flexible approach in order to deal with any situation that may arise.

For AVRR beneficiaries in particular, the movements team take care of the organisation of beneficiary's complete travel from booking, assistance at the airport, as well as any additional services that may be needed during the travel. It is imperative that beneficiaries can travel all the way to their final destination in a safe and orderly manner, and as such the team liaise with colleagues worldwide to make sure this can happen.

IOM assists many beneficiaries with a range of complex needs, be they unaccompanied minors, victims of trafficking or those with considerable health concerns. In some cases, this may mean an IOM escort is needed for the travel of the bene-

ficiary to be conducted safely. During 2025 staff from the movements team travelled the globe ensuring safe movement of beneficiaries, to countries including Kenya, Ghana, Colombia, and many more.

The work of the movements team never stops, and they are always ready to offer assistance to IOM beneficiaries travelling through Schiphol Airport.



In February 2025, IOM assisted with the family reunification of two minors from Iran to the Netherlands. The movements team were on hand to provide arrival assistance to ensure all went smoothly before a smooth reunion with their family.

# KOREAN VISA APPLICATION CENTER

Since its launch in 2023, the Korea Visa Application Center (KVAC) in The Hague has become an essential point of service for applicants to the Republic of Korea. In 2025, the centre strengthened its role in ensuring transparent, efficient and secure visa processing.

## KVAC Initiative

The Korea Visa Application Center, operating under the Immigration and Border Governance (IBG) division's Immigration and Visa Unit, officially launched in July 2023. It became the fourth KVAC in Europe, following the centres in Berlin, Paris, and London.

The KVAC initiative plays a vital role in centralizing visa processing and safeguarding the authenticity of personal documents submitted with applications. Through in-person verification, KVAC acts as a trusted intermediary between the Government of the Republic of Korea (ROK) and relevant issuing authorities, ensuring that all visa applications are handled transparently and fairly.

Across Europe, KVAC centres are committed to delivering a smooth and efficient visa application experience, supported by the latest guidance and policies from the ROK government. Guided by its core values of efficiency, security, and reliability, KVAC continues to uphold high standards of dependable and user-friendly service. In 2025, KVAC The Hague processed 2,490 applications, reflecting a modest increase compared to the 2,178 applications handled during the same period in 2024.



# SAFE AND REGULAR PATHWAYS

In partnership with the Dutch government and United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), IOM supported safe, regular and protection-based pathways to the Netherlands in 2025. Through resettlement, family reunification and the Mileage Fund, IOM enabled refugees and vulnerable migrants to travel safely and smoothly.

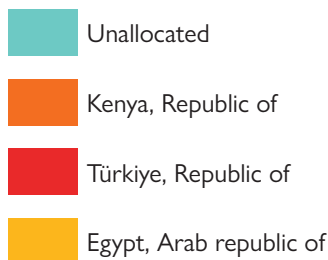
## Resettlement

For many years, IOM has supported refugees to start new lives in safety. In 2025, this work continued through support to the Dutch government's resettlement programme. Extra attention was given to people with medical needs and women facing risks. Throughout the process, IOM arranged the practical steps needed for a smooth and dignified journey to the Netherlands- such as organising selection missions, preparing refugees for travel, and coordinating a safe transfer to the Netherlands. This was done in close cooperation with the Immigration and Naturalisation Service (IND), the Central Agency for the Reception of Asylum Seekers (COA), the UNHCR and Dutch Embassies in the countries of departure.

524 Refugees were able to travel to the Netherlands through the resettlement programme. IOM supported selection missions to Egypt and

Kenya and provided logistical support to Pre-departure Orientation sessions in Lebanon, Rwanda and Kenya to help refugees prepare for life in the Netherlands. Before departure, IOM carried out medical checks to ensure that everyone could travel safely and, when needed, conducted medical assessments for people with serious health conditions. IOM also helped with visas, travel arrangements and assistance during transit, especially when no direct flights were available.

Beyond daily operations, IOM took part in the National Resettlement Coordination Platform (Nationaal Hervestigingsoverleg), led by the Ministry of Asylum and Migration. This platform brings together government agencies, municipalities and civil-society organisations to coordinate the selection, transfer and reception of resettled refugees in the Netherlands.



2025 Resettlement Arrivals by Country of Departure

## Family Reunification

In 2025, family reunification remained an important part of IOM's work in the Netherlands. The policy environment continued to evolve, with new legislation being developed and a high number of applications processed by the IND. Throughout the year, IOM worked closely with the IND, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) and the Ministry for Asylum and Migration to keep procedures running smoothly. Together with partners, IOM also presented joint efforts during a national conference on migration and participation, organised by the Association of Dutch Municipalities (VNG).

### Further Investigation (DNA Sample Collection & Videoconferencing Interviews)

As part of the family reunification process, IOM helps the IND verify family relationships when this cannot be done through documents alone. When needed, IOM collects DNA samples from family members abroad to confirm biological ties or facilitates a videoconferencing interview when the IND needs to understand the nature of the relationship.

IOM arranges appointments, carries out the sampling at its medical centres, and ensures that all samples are handled securely in cooperation with Dutch embassies and relevant partners. Videoconferencing interviews are organised at IOM locations so that applicants abroad can speak directly with IND caseworkers in the Netherlands.

Since this collaboration began in 2021, IOM has supported more than 13,000 people with DNA testing and videoconferencing interviews across a wide range of countries, including Egypt, Ethiopia, Greece, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Lithuania, the Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Türkiye, Uganda, the United Arab Emirates, and Yemen.

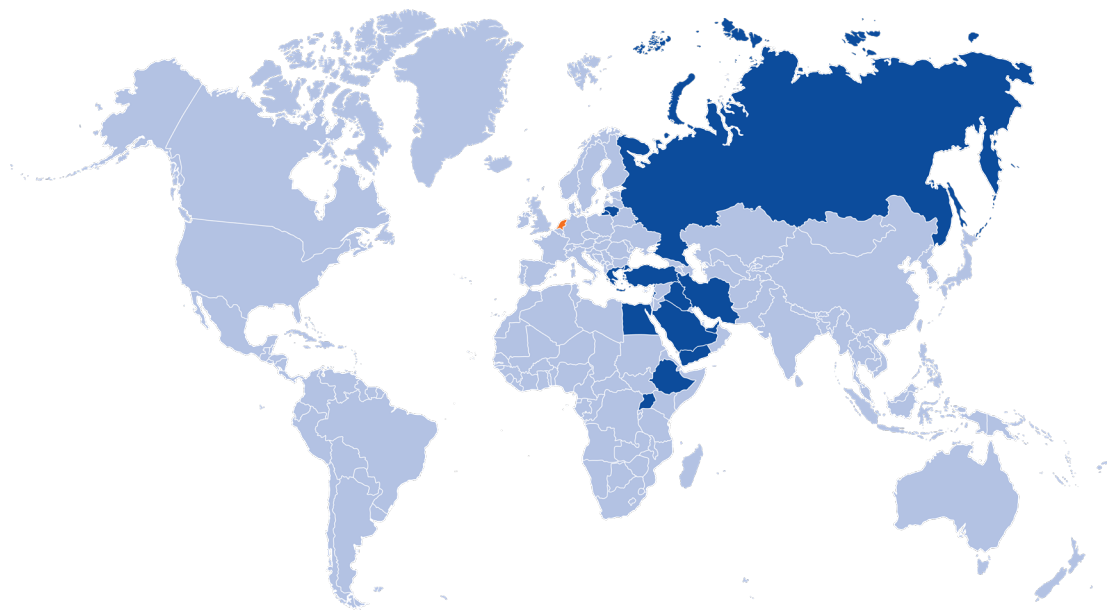
In 2025 alone, IOM collected 5,179 DNA samples and facilitated 1,615 videoconferencing interviews, working closely with the IND, MFA and Dutch embassies worldwide.

Despite a complex operational environment in 2025, IOM managed to keep these activities running across all countries. Border restrictions, limited travel permissions and communication challenges -such as locations where international phone calls were not possible- required constant coordination with the IND, MFA and local

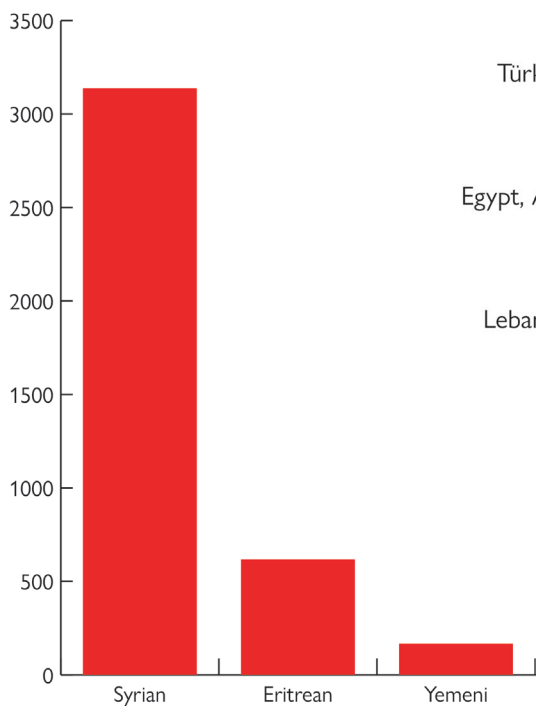
authorities. Through flexible case management and strong collaboration with our partners, IOM ensured that families could continue their process without interruption.

### **IOM's Mileage Fund: Bringing Families Together**

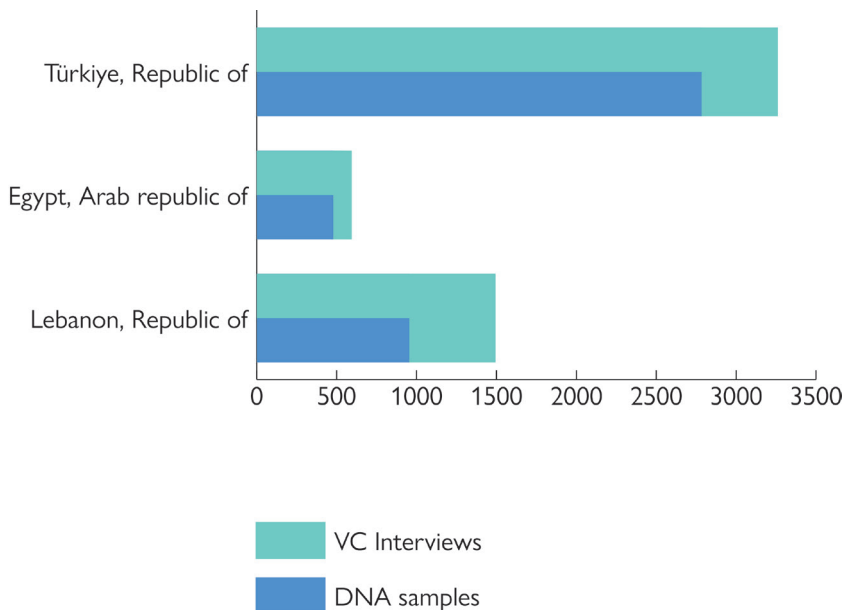
Through the IOM Mileage Fund, vulnerable migrants who would otherwise be unable to travel are supported in completing their reunification journey to the Netherlands. The fund covers essential flight ticket costs for individuals facing financial constraints, complex logistical situations, or heightened protection needs. In 2025, support through the Mileage Fund enabled unaccompanied minors and other vulnerable family members to safely reunite with their loved ones in the Netherlands, illustrating the crucial impact of this targeted assistance mechanism.



Since this collaboration began in 2021, IOM has supported more than 13,000 people with DNA testing and videoconferencing interviews across a wide range of countries, including Egypt, Ethiopia, Greece, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Lithuania, the Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Türkiye, Uganda, the United Arab Emirates and Yemen.



Top three nationalities of whom DNA samples have been taken.



Main locations where DNA samples have been taken and VC interviews have been held.

## Visa Application Assistance

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs oversees visa applications for family reunification, but the process can be difficult for people facing vulnerabilities, language barriers or limited access to reliable information. To address this, the Consulate General of the Netherlands in Istanbul asked IOM for support in 2025.

Building on IOM the Netherlands' coordination role in family reunification, IOM began offering on-site assistance at the Consulate. This included translation and interpretation, help completing visa application forms, and checks to make sure documents and photos meet all requirements. These services improve the accuracy of applications, make the process more efficient, and reduce the risk of applicants turning to intermediaries or brokers.

Because most applicants in Istanbul are Syrian, IOM deploys Arabic-speaking staff to support them. Between April and December 2025, this initiative assisted 1,055 families, representing 3,637 people.

## Travel Assistance

Once a family reunification application is approved by the IND, IOM can help families travel safely

to the Netherlands. Some journeys are particularly challenging. For example, when travelers have medical needs, lack documents, or when children travel alone. IOM assesses each case, coordinates travel arrangements, and provides support throughout the journey.

Many beneficiaries are unaccompanied minors, people with medical concerns or individuals in difficult humanitarian situations. IOM's support helps lift the administrative and logistical burden and ensures families are guided safely to the Netherlands.

With support from the IOM Mileage Fund, IOM assisted 18 people in 2025 -mostly unaccompanied children- who would not have been able to travel without financial or logistical assistance.

# LABOUR MOBILITY AND SOCIAL INCLUSION

Labour mobility and social inclusion remained key themes for IOM the Netherlands in 2025. Through targeted engagement with employers, universities and policymakers, IOM advanced discussions on talent attraction, skills shortages and migrant inclusion.

## Labour Mobility

In 2025, labour mobility continued to be an important theme for IOM the Netherlands. Throughout the year, IOM contributed to discussions on skills shortages, attracting international talent, and supporting migrant integration. IOM engaged with employers, civil society organisations and government partners during events such as the Indeed Job Fair in January and the “Work and Migration Law” conference at Radboud University in June. These activities helped strengthen connections between IOM, employers, universities and policymakers, and supported a better understanding of how international talent can contribute to the Dutch labour market.

## STEMTALENT4NL

STEMTALENT4NL is a project funded by the European Commission that helps the Netherlands attract and retain highly skilled graduates in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM). From December 2023 to June 2025, the project focused on both international students graduating from Dutch universities and skilled professionals from outside the EU who want to work in the Netherlands.

The project addressed ongoing labour shortages, especially in IT, technology, business services and healthcare. This was done by evaluating how well the Orientation Year Permit supports talent attraction. The resulting Recommendations and Roadmap Report provided practical suggestions for improving the process. By making procedures faster and clearer, improving access to information, strengthening cooperation between universities and employers, and creating a long-term plan for implementation.

To develop these recommendations, IOM carried out extensive research, spoke with more than 40 stakeholders, organised working sessions, and facilitated a study visit to Denmark.

## Reception and Next Steps

The project concluded with a final conference that brought together more than 50 represen-

tatives from government, universities, employers and partner organisations. Participants agreed that the recommendations were timely and relevant. Several stakeholders have since continued the collaboration through follow-up meetings and activities.

With the 2026-2030 Dutch coalition agreement placing renewed emphasis on education, innovation and research, the STEMTALENT4NL recommendations provide a valuable roadmap for future improvements in attracting and supporting international talent.



STEMTALENT4NL Final Conference (IOM, 5 June 2025, The Hague).

## Protection

In 2025, IOM the Netherlands worked to improve the protection and well-being of migrants living in the country. Particular focus was placed on access to healthcare and the prevention of Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV) and other harmful practices.

IOM contributed to national discussions through its participation in the National Network on Harmful Practices and by engaging with the Government Commissioner on Transgressive Behaviour. Through these efforts, IOM helped strengthen understanding of the challenges migrants face and the support systems available to them.

IOM's work in this area focused on:

- ▶ Identifying practical and systemic barriers that migrants encounter when seeking protection or services;
- ▶ Highlighting challenges in accessing health-care, especially for vulnerable groups;
- ▶ Raising awareness of SGBV risks, including risks faced during migration journeys;
- ▶ Fit-to-fly assessments and medical escorts
- ▶ Financial assistance for medical costs post-return.

## Social Inclusion

In 2025, IOM continued to promote social inclusion by contributing to public dialogue, supporting diaspora engagement, and deepening understanding of migrant communities in the Netherlands. IOM worked with policymakers, members of the Syrian diaspora, civil society organisations, academics and practitioners to promote evidence-based approaches to migration, development and inclusion.

A key activity in 2025 was a mapping of Syrian Diaspora Organisations in the Netherlands and Germany. This research explored their priorities, activities, networks and potential roles in Syria's future recovery.

In the Netherlands, many Syrian Diaspora Organisations are still relatively young, with most having been established within the past five years. Despite their recent creation, they are remarkably active. Much of their work focuses on providing humanitarian assistance inside Syria while also helping Syrians build their lives in the Netherlands. Their initiatives range from engineering and healthcare projects to women's empowerment and community based programmes.

These organisations often operate with limited resources. Funding can be difficult to secure, and international sanctions sometimes restrict their access to banking services. Many groups rely on volunteers, which affects their capacity, and the sensitive nature of working on activities linked to Syria can raise safety concerns. Practical challenges—such as long travel times or high shipping costs for materials—add further complexity to their work.

Even so, a significant number of these organisations are already contributing to, or preparing for, Syria's reconstruction. Their members show

strong interest in sharing skills and knowledge, raising funds where possible, and supporting efforts to rebuild infrastructure, strengthen the medical sector and engage in transitional justice processes. Together, these activities highlight the important role that Syrian communities in the Netherlands can play in shaping recovery and future development.

As part of this work, IOM was invited to present the findings at a VNG International event on Syria's reconstruction, contributing expert insight from the mapping research.

# EXTERNAL RELATIONS AND COMMUNICATION

IOM the Netherlands strengthened its visibility and stakeholder engagement in 2025 through sustained outreach, events and publications. Communications efforts focused on informing partners, supporting migrants and contributing to the national dialogue on migration.

## Informing Government Partners and the Public

In addition to keeping the general public and beneficiaries informed through our website and social media channels, the quarterly digital AVR R Newsbox kept stakeholders and those interested informed about recent trends, return stories, and outreach efforts within the voluntary return and reintegration programme. As in previous years, IOM took part in the From Migration to Participation congress, organised by the VNG in collaboration with the Ministries of Justice and Security, Social Affairs and Employment, Justice Employment, and Foreign Affairs. Furthermore, IOM was present at the annual AZC open day, where staff engaged with the public and shared information about IOM's role and activities in the Netherlands.

## Outreach events

We organized outreach events, such as a festive day at Asylum Seekers' Centre Rijswijk to celebrate International Migrants Day on 18 December where residents were brought together through creative activities, music, dance and food representing different cultures, as well as an activity for undocumented mothers with children organised at the Wereldhuis Amsterdam.

## Publication

The Data Tracking Matrix (DTM) study 'Reconsidering "Home": The Aspirations and Intentions of Syrians in the Netherlands in the Context of Syrian Political Transition', was published last year. The research was commissioned and carried out in close coordination with IOM Netherlands. The study provided timely evidence on the future mobility intentions of Syrians living in the Netherlands. The research examines intentions related to voluntary return, continued stay in the Netherlands, or onward movement, as well as the factors shaping these decisions. Return intentions were found to be driven primarily by developments in the country of origin rather than by circumstances in the Netherlands, with safety, housing, access

to services and employment identified as key considerations. The study provides an important evidence base to inform policy dialogue, advocacy and programming related to voluntary return and reintegration for Syrians in the Netherlands.

## Study Visits

Past year, IOM the Netherlands organised two incoming member state exchange visits in close coordination with IOM Serbia and IOM Montenegro. With IOM Serbia, an exchange visit focused on green practices in migrant reception and asylum centres, showcasing sustainable approaches in the Dutch system. As the visit with IOM Montenegro, the visit centred on strengthening capacities to identify and investigate technology-facilitated human trafficking. Both exchanges supported the sharing of best practices and strengthened cooperation with Dutch and international partners.

## Media Contacts

Annually, IOM the Netherlands receives approximately 50 to 70 requests from national media outlets, including print, television and radio. As a strong supporter of independent journalism, IOM aims to facilitate these requests wherever possible, either by connecting journalists with migrants that are willing to share their experiences or by providing accurate information and data on IOM programmes. As the majority of media enquiries relate to the AVR R programme, statistics have been published monthly since the launch of the Dutch AVR R programme in 1992.

## Annual Reception

In February, IOM hosted its annual reception. The event brought diplomatic representatives, donors, and key stakeholders together to celebrate the contributions of migrants and foster meaningful connections. Additionally, it served to highlight IOM projects, thank partners for their support and collaboration, and underscore migration's positive role in addressing labour shortages and building an inclusive society.

# WORKING GROUPS

IOM the Netherlands continued with two Working Groups, IOM Goes Green and IOM Diversity and Inclusion (D&I). IOM Goes Green advanced its environmental sustainability commitments as the D&I Group remained a driving force in promoting inclusive, safe and gender-responsive practices.

## IOM Goes Green

As part of its commitment to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the IOM continues to strengthen efforts to reduce its environmental footprint. In the Netherlands, this work is coordinated through IOM Goes Green, a staff driven initiative promoting sustainability across operations and community engagement.

In 2025, IOM Goes Green continued its collaboration with Anthesis to offset CO<sub>2</sub> emissions generated by essential air travel. Air transport remains a core component of two key programmes, AVR and Resettlement, making complete emission reduction unattainable. To mitigate this impact, IOM offsets emissions through a Verified Carbon Standard (VCS) certified programme, investing in a mix of Afforestation & Reforestation credits and REDD+ Forestry credits.

IOM also organised a community trash picking activity in partnership with the Vadercentrum in The Hague's Laak neighbourhood. The event brought together local residents and IOM staff to support a cleaner environment while strengthening community ties.

In 2025, IOM purchased 4,083.34 carbon credits matching the estimated tons of CO<sub>2</sub>.



Did you know, that the office in The Hague has a total of 57 plants?

## IOM Diversity and Inclusion

A person's sex characteristics, gender identity and expression, personal history, sexual orientation or potential disabilities, can shape every stage of their migration experience. These factors can influence why a person decides to migrate, how they migrate, and the services and opportunities accessible to them. To support migrants and to address migration-related risks and vulnerabilities, IOM the Netherlands has an active Diversity and Inclusion (D&I) Group. Comprising staff members from different units within the organisation, the D&I Group represents the interests and concerns of staff members and migrant beneficiaries.

In 2025, the D&I Group of IOM the Netherlands had a particular focus on the topics of Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV), Diverse Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity and Expression, and Sex Characteristics (SOGIESC), the Prevention of Sexual Exploitation, Abuse and Harassment (PSEAH), and migrant inclusion.

This included reinforcing collaboration with SOGIESC-focused organizations, sharing expertise with national stakeholders, building staff capacity, and contributing to international advocacy efforts. At the operational level, D&I considerations were further embedded in procedures to ensure more inclusive and responsive support for migrants.

More information about the effects of the IOM Diversity and Inclusion Group can be found on the next page.

Through the efforts of the D&I Group, IOM the Netherlands strengthened its network of partners supporting and representing diverse SOGIESC communities in the Netherlands, allowing us to better accommodate migrants with diverse SOGIESC. Additional efforts were undertaken in 2025 to strengthen existing partnerships across the country.



IOM the Netherlands was consulted by Dutch ministries and national organisations to share its expertise on D&I-related themes such as combatting SGBV, participating in work-group sessions, conferences and network meetings. For instance, IOM the Netherlands facilitated an online training for Dutch healthcare professionals on combatting and preventing SGBV in migrant communities.

IOM the Netherlands evaluated and updated its Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) on resettlement, specifically for movements arrival assistance, to further integrate Diversity and Inclusion (D&I) aspects.

IOM the Netherlands actively participates in international campaigns related to D&I, such as the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence and International Women's Day.

All staff at IOM the Netherlands are trained on gender inclusion and PSEAH.

International Organization for Migration the Netherlands Office  
The Hague, The Netherlands

+31 70 318 15 00 • [missionthehague@iom.int](mailto:missionthehague@iom.int) • P.O. Box 10796  
[www.netherlands.iom.int](http://www.netherlands.iom.int)