



Established in 1951, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) is the leading intergovernmental organization on migration and works closely with governmental, intergovernmental and non-governmental partners. As the United Nations Migration Agency, IOM is dedicated to promoting humane and orderly migration for the benefit of all.

IOM in the Netherlands

The International Organization for Migration started its activities in the Netherlands in 1991. Various projects include facilitating voluntary return and reintegration, supporting refugees accepted for resettlement and family reunification, services aimed at integration and labour market participation and temporary return assignments for diaspora experts living in the Netherlands.

With 173 member states and more than 13,800 staff worldwide, IOM works to:

- Help ensure the orderly and humane management of migration.
- Promote international cooperation on migration issues.
- Assist in the search for practical solutions to migration problems.
- Provide humanitarian assistance to migrants in need including refugees and internally displaced persons.

Voluntary Return and Reintegration

IOM the Netherlands assists migrants who wish to return voluntarily to their country of origin and supports their sustainable reintegration. Assistance consists of information and counselling services, procuring travel documents, arranging safe travel, and providing reintegration support. IOM is in favour of reintegration assistance, based on human dignity and as a major sustainability factor in countries of origin.



Through the network of IOM offices around the world, IOM the Netherlands offers individual in-kind reintegration support, such as setting up income generating activities, or financing educational or training programmes. Tailored assistance is provided to specific vulnerable groups, including migrants with health concerns, victims of trafficking, unaccompanied minors, families or single parents with underage children, and undocumented migrants.

Resettlement, Family Reunification, Labour Market Participation and SGBV support

IOM the Netherlands facilitates the resettlement of selected refugees to the Netherlands, as part of the Dutch resettlement programme. This happens in close cooperation with IOM offices in countries of departure and partner organizations.

IOM also provides assistance to family members entitled to reunite with their family in the Netherlands, by arranging travel and acting as focal point for the relatives or sponsors in the Netherlands.

IOM furthermore contributes to strengthening support to migrants who are survivors of sexual or gender based violence. Through the PROTECT project, carried out with partners Pharos, Arq and Rutgers, training is offered to professionals working with this group. Also, information about this topic is provided to migrant communities. PROTECT is active in 12 counties in total.



Next to this, IOM the Netherlands promotes labour market participation of statusholders in the Netherlands, because getting a job is vital for a successful integration in society. Projects Skills2Work and VOORwerk have contributed to this, through research, training, and individual consultation.

Migration and Development

In the Netherlands, IOM has built up significant experience in matching public institutional needs in countries of origin with professional expertise among the diaspora in the Netherlands.



Currently, IOM runs two projects related to diaspora engagement. The Connecting Diaspora for Development (CD4D) project is aimed at diaspora experts who would like to contribute their knowledge and skills to their country of origin in Afghanistan, Iraq, Somalia, Sierra Leone, and Ethiopia. Priority sectors are Healthcare, Education, Agriculture/ Food Security, Infrastructure and Rule of Law. A new focus of diaspora engagement is entrepreneurship via the Entrepreneurship by Diaspora (ED4D) project. In other words, IOM assists qualified diaspora with entrepreneurial plans to set-up or expand business in Ghana, Ethiopia and Iraq.