



Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration

of migrants returning from the Netherlands

The DT&V and voluntary return

In order to achieve a more just and more secure society, it is important that migrants who are not allowed to stay in the Netherlands actually leave the country. According to Dutch law, the responsibility for leaving the country lies with the migrant. However, as the implementing agency of the Dutch Government's return policy, the Repatriation and Departure Service (DT&V) of the Ministry of Justice and Security facilitates and supervises the departure of migrants who are not allowed to stay.

The DT&V encourages voluntary return as we believe it is the preferable option for all parties concerned, as opposed to forced return or illegal stay in the Netherlands. That is why the DT&V reaches out to all migrants in the Netherlands who are not allowed to stay or have expressed a willingness to return voluntarily to their country of origin. And that is why the DT&V supports the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in the Netherlands to also reach out and help migrants.

Working together with IOM and civil society

Many different assisted voluntary return and reintegration projects have been set up by IOM and NGOs in order to inform and assist migrants with regard to voluntarily return to their country of origin and good reintegration prospects for the future.

Three levels of support to migrants

Assisted voluntary return and reintegration projects financed by the Dutch Government offer support to migrants on three levels.

Basic return support facilitates the actual return by:

- informing migrants about the possibilities of assisted voluntary return and reintegration;
- assisting migrants with obtaining and paying for travel documents and airline tickets;
- disbursing a small cash allowance to pay for the first necessities upon return;
- offering special provisions for vulnerable migrants, i.e. unaccompanied minors, victims of trafficking and migrants with health concerns for a safe and human return.

Reintegration support, in addition to the basic return assistance, creates a perspective on social and economic reintegration in the country of origin by:

- preparing migrants for voluntary return with empowerment, family tracing, help with finding birth certificates and other documents, translating certificates, vocational training and the drafting of a personal reintegration plan;
- assisting migrants after return with the implementation of their personal reintegration plan (business start-up, job placement, education, housing, etc.).

Additional return support for priority cases provides an extra incentive for specific (categories of) migrants to return voluntarily by offering tailor-made solutions in the field of holistic case management, counselling and reintegration support.

Who provides the support

The basic return support is implemented by IOM in the Netherlands with the support of the DT&V through the Return and Emigration Assistance from the Netherlands (REAN) programme. All migrants from countries with visa requirement for the Netherlands, who had the intention to settle permanently and who lack the means to provide for their own return, are eligible for IOM assistance.

Up-to-date information about the REAN programme can be found on www.iom-nederland.nl/en/voluntary-return/return-programme-rean.

The reintegration support is provided by IOM and several Netherlands based NGOs, such as the Dutch Refugee Council (VluchtelingenWerk Nederland), Bridge to Better Foundation (based in Amsterdam), ROS Foundation (based in Rotterdam), IETA Foundation (based in Ter Apel), WereldWijd Foundation (based in Maastricht) and Solid Road Foundation (based in Nijmegen). Support is available for all migrants who meet the criteria for the basic return support and return to an official (OECD) Development Aid Recipient Country.

Because of the recent exceptional migratory pressure, migrants from countries immediately surrounding the European Union have been excluded by the Dutch Government from receiving reintegration support.

Additional return support for priority cases can be provided by the DT&V, several Netherlands based NGOs and IOM. To meet the challenges in the rapidly changing migration field tailor-made solutions may be offered to vulnerable migrants and other priority cases, including unaccompanied minors and families with underage children.

An up-to-date overview of projects offering reintegration support and/or additional return support can be found on english.infoterugkeer.nl

Reintegration Assistance After Return of migrants returned from the Netherlands non-voluntarily

Reintegration assistance after forced return

Migrants who do not leave voluntarily and do not make use of the related assistance from the Repatriation and Departure Service (DT&V), the International Organization for Migration (IOM) or non-governmental organisations, are forced to leave the country. This non-voluntary return is organized by the DT&V.

In several countries, reintegration assistance *after* return can be provided to non-voluntary returnees. These services are offered in the countries of origin/return by local service providers that have been contracted by the DT&V in the framework of the European Reintegration Network (ERIN) programme, co-funded by the European Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund. The assistance aims to facilitate the sustainable reintegration in the country of origin by providing counselling and referral assistance and identifying and implementing a suitable reintegration package after return (business start-up, job placement, education, etc.).

Currently, ERIN services for non-voluntary returnees from the Netherlands are available in Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Guinea, India, Iraq, Côte d'Ivoire, Nepal, Nigeria, Pakistan, Senegal, Somalia, Sri Lanka and Sudan.