Resettlement and humanitarian admission - Netherlands

Overview

Content updated and validated on: 10/11/2026

Relevant EU legislation

The Netherlands is bound by the Union Resettlement and Humanitarian Admission Framework Regulation (URF).

National legislation

Resettlement is handled within existing asylum legislation and the Aliens Act Implementation Guidelines (Chapter C.1.4.7) | Vreemdelingencirculaire 2000.

Competent authority and stakeholders

Authorities responsible for establishing resettlement and humanitarian admission policy	Ministry of Justice and Security | Ministerie van Justitie en Veiligheid

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Identification and referral of refugees for a) resettlement programmes b) humanitarian admission programmes c) community sponsorship programmes	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)
Selection of refugees for a) resettlement programmes b) humanitarian admission programmes c) community sponsorship programmes	Immigration and Naturalisation Service | Immigratie en Naturalisatiedienst (IND) Bureau Medical Advisors (BMA) of the Immigration and Naturalisation Service | Bureau Medische Adviseurs (BMA) van de Immigratie en Naturalisatiedienst Central Agency for the Reception of Asylum Seekers | Centraal Orgaan opvang asielzoekers (COA)
Pre-departure assistance a) resettlement programmes b) humanitarian admission programmes c) community sponsorship programmes	Central Agency for the Reception of Asylum Seekers | Centraal Orgaan opvang asielzoekers (COA)

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Travel arrangements a) resettlement programmes b) humanitarian admission programmes c) community sponsorship programmes	Central Agency for the Reception of Asylum Seekers | Centraal Orgaan opvang asielzoekers (COA) Dutch diplomatic representations abroad, Ministry of Foreign Affairs | Ministerie van Buitenlandse Zaken (BZ) International Organization for Migration (IOM)
Arrival and reception a) resettlement programmes b) humanitarian admission programmes c) community sponsorship programmes	Central Agency for the Reception of Asylum Seekers | Centraal Orgaan opvang asielzoekers (COA) National Police | Nationale Politie Ministry of Social Affairs and Employment | Ministerie van Sociale Zaken en Werkgelegenheid Receiving municipalities Dutch Council for Refugees | Vluchtelingenwerk Nederland NGOs / civil society organisations

Programmes currently in place

Resettlement Programme

As per 2026, on a two-yearly basis, the Netherlands pledges a contribution within the framework of the European Union Resettlement Framework Union Plan. This contribution consists of:

1. the national resettlement quota; and
2. the quota that has been established for resettlement in the framework of migration cooperation with third countries (currently the EU-Türkiye Statement)

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No humanitarian admission programmes or complementary pathways are currently in place.

National quotas on resettlement and humanitarian admission

National commitments for resettlement, humanitarian admission and emergency quota

2-year Union Plan	National commitment for resettlement	National commitment for humanitarian admissions	Emergency quota
Period 2026-2027	1,400 (400 NQ, 1.000 RMC)		Included in the NQ (40)
Period 2028-2029			
Period 2030-2031			

Procedural and practical arrangements

The admission procedure

Referral

Referrals are received exclusively from UNHCR. IND draws up a Pre Mission Questionnaire (PMQ) on the basis of which UNHCR presents a selection of refugees who are eligible for resettlement. UNHCR submits resettlement registrations forms (RRFs) which contain personal data, information about documents (if possible copies), family composition, summary of the refugee status determination and medical information to be considered by IND. In the framework of the EU-Türkiye statement, resettlement is based on the Standard

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Operation Procedures agreed upon between EU Member States and Türkiye. Türkiye refers cases to UNHCR who then submits the cases to IND through Identification Based Methodology forms (IBM's). A small portion of the national quota is reserved for unearmarked dossier-based selection. The number is communicated by IND to UNHCR HQ. UNHCR submits dossier cases to IND by e-mail.

On the basis of the UNHCR selections, IND pre-selects cases in line with national country-based asylum policy, contra-indications (exclusion/security concerns), PMQ, and indications by COA with regard to the resettlement profile. The aim of the pre-selection is to filter out in advance cases that do not meet applicable policy.

Selection and assessment of cases

1. **Selection missions**: During selection missions, the mission team (IND, COA, BMA) carries out in-person interviews with the pre-selected candidates for resettlement. One interview is conducted by IND focusing on the eligibility of asylum in accordance with Article 29 of the Aliens Act 2000. Another interview is held with COA in order to establish the resettlement profile, with a focus on identifying the specific vulnerabilities and assessing whether adequate support can be provided. Finally, the candidate will also have a consult with a physician. It varies per mission how many candidates are interviewed. Minors may in some cases be interviewed personally. Each case is assessed on an individual basis. For the most part the questions are dependent on the individual case, to be determined by the case worker.
2. **Selection on dossier basis**: Cases examined on dossier basis include among others asylum cases from countries not visited by selection missions and emergency or urgent (medical) cases. After receiving the dossier submission from the UNHCR, IND conducts a broad assessment on the eligibility of the applicant or resettlement and whether they would be able to receive international protection in line with national policy. COA also assesses the dossier in relation to the candidate's resettlement profile. In case of medical conditions BMA is consulted.
3. **Emergency cases**: In the Netherlands, there is no separate process for handling emergency or urgent cases. They follow the standard procedure as in dossier selection. However, processing is expedited as much as possible.

Assessment of cases: The average timeframe from selection to arrival in the Netherlands is six months in the case of selection missions. For dossier-based selections, the timeframe varies depending on the nature of the case. It could be

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days, weeks or months.

Type of protection granted and residence permit issued after the admission procedure

On the basis of the 2000 Aliens Act an application for asylum can only be lodged in the Netherlands. Upon arrival in the Netherlands, as a formality, a resettled refugee must fill in an asylum application form and subsequently receives the positive decision granting the international protection status (unless ad hoc contra-indications emerged), which is the same as that provided to refugees and beneficiaries of subsidiary protection who have completed the asylum procedure in the Netherlands. A temporary residence permit is issued, as per the implementation of the Pact valid for three years, which can be prolonged with the possibility after a certain amount of years to request a permanent form of residence such as EU long-term resident status, or Dutch citizenship (after passing the Civic Integration Exams).

Pre-departure assistance

Refugees are obliged to participate in the cultural orientation (CO) course that COA provides for. The aim is to prepare refugees for their arrival and life in the Netherlands, to manage their expectations, and to inform them of what is expected of them and what kind of behaviour contributes to successful integration and participation in Dutch society. It is an interactive program with emphasis on the practice of new behaviour and forming a first network which often turns out to be very useful after arrival in the Netherlands.

Simultaneously information, building on the conversation with COA during the selection mission, is gathered about the refugees (social dossier) and shared with specific stakeholders for the purpose of adequate housing and necessary support for settlement.

COA tailors the CO course, depending on whether upon arrival refugees will be placed directly into the municipality or in a reception centre (where they receive further training before they are housed in municipalities), and depending on the caseload and specific situations. Tailoring can take the form of slightly adjusting both content, mode of delivery (in person and/or remote) and/or duration of the curriculum.

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In general, a CO course consists of 2 or 3 trainings (preferably with some intermittence), depending on the needs of the caseload, each with a duration of at least 4 days of actual interaction. The main goals are to initiate Dutch language training, to improve the self-sufficiency of the refugees and to inform them about arrival procedures. Content of the training includes, amongst others, Dutch language, Dutch society (values), health care, housing, education, employment, social welfare, and -if possible- information about the destined municipality and/or reception facility. Former resettled refugees are involved as mentors. Personal questions or concerns can be addressed during these meetings.

Travel arrangements

Pre-departure activities are arranged by COA. In principle the Ministry of Foreign Affairs is responsible for issuing the required travel documents, based on information from IND that a person is accepted for resettlement and allowed to travel to the Netherlands. IOM is responsible for organising travel logistics, in collaboration with COA and IND. Subsequent to the selection (mission), a request is made to IOM to organise the flight to the Netherlands, with an intended arrival, in most cases, approximately six months later. During this period a municipality is sought to provide housing for the refugee accepted for resettlement. If no municipality has been identified by the time of arrival, the refugee will be accommodated in a reception centre until a municipality becomes available. IOM may also escort a refugee accepted for resettlement throughout the journey. It also conducts a fit-to-fly check to ensure the person is medically able to be transferred. A medical escort may supervise the transfer whilst IOM will make sure all medical facilities, such as a wheelchair are available during the transfer. In the case of unaccompanied minors, an escort who speaks the language of the refugee will accompany the minor during travel.

Arrival and reception

On the basis of the 2000 Aliens Act an application for asylum can only be lodged in the Netherlands. Upon arrival in the Netherlands, as a formality, a resettled refugee must fill in an asylum application form and subsequently receives the positive decision granting the asylum status (unless ad hoc contra-indications have emerged).

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COA is in charge of making practical, administrative and logistical arrangements upon arrival.

In principle, refugees are welcomed at the Airport by the COA CO-trainers. Accommodation for the first 48 hours in the Netherlands is organised by COA to carry out the arrival procedures. During these procedures COA staff accompanies the refugee(s).

The arrival procedures consist of Identification and Registration procedures, registration in the Persons Records Database of the municipality, Tuberculosis screening, and in case of unaccompanied minors assessment of possible guardianship (Nidos). If necessary, the BMA physician provides a medical handover for the general practitioner in the accommodating municipality.

Following these formalities, COA organises transport to the accommodating municipality. In the municipalities the refugee(s) are welcomed in their new accommodation by volunteers (mainly from the Dutch Council for Refugees) and representatives of the municipality.

The arrival and reception process for resettled refugees who will be placed in a reception centre may vary (e.g. resettlement EU-Türkiye Statement, resettlement out of ETM, resettlement NQ refugees for whom direct housing could not be arranged in time). In that case aforementioned formalities are processed in the reception centre.

Integration support to resettled and admitted refugees

In the reception centres refugees can attend (further) CO trainings for living in the Netherlands that are provided by COA until they are transferred to a municipality.

Municipalities are responsible for providing suitable housing for resettled refugees and have a duty to inform them about the education system and offer education to minors who must attend school. Resettled refugees who are placed directly into a municipality upon arrival in the Netherlands receive individual guidance (often by a civil society organisation such as the Dutch Council for Refugees or another organisation contracted by the municipality).

Until refugees find employment, they are entitled to social security allowance, and municipalities have a large number of instruments to ensure that people find

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a place in the labour market.

The Ministry of Social Affairs and Employment is responsible for integration policy (Inburgeren in Nederland | Rijksoverheid.nl, In het kort - U gaat inburgeren - DUO). Implementation is carried out by the municipality.

Resettlement programmes

Humanitarian admission programmes

In the Netherlands there are no humanitarian admission programmes.

Complementary pathways

Community sponsorship schemes related to state-led resettlement programmes

In the Netherlands there are no community sponsorship schemes related to state-led resettlement programmes.

Community sponsorship schemes linked to civil society-led humanitarian admission programmes

In Netherlands there are no community sponsorship schemes linked to civil society-led humanitarian admission programmes.

Community sponsorship schemes linked to other complementary pathways

In the Netherlands there are no community sponsorship schemes linked to other complementary pathways

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