





Colophon

Data sender



The Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) of the Netherlands has drawn up this report. In doing so, the MFA greatly benefitted from input from policymakers at the Ministry of Justice and Security, the Ministry of Social Affairs and Employment, and the Repatriation & Departure Service (R&DS) of the Ministry of Justice and Security.

The Netherlands government has for long opted for a wide-ranging, comprehensive approach to migration. A comprehensive approach means first and foremost that the government's actions in different areas cannot be seen in isolation. Efforts include tackling the root causes of irregular migration, ensuring respect for the human rights of migrants, combating people smuggling and human trafficking, promoting legal migration routes, as well as

can also be used as a diplomatic tool for countries to improve their bi- and multilateral migration cooperation. As explained in the Voluntary National Review submitted by the Netherlands in 2020 on its progress in the implementation of the GCM, the Netherlands is of the opinion that its existing migration policy is in line with the GCM objectives.<sup>2</sup>

The following section provides various examples that highlight in which ways Dutch migration policies are in line with the GCM objectives. The examples highlight how the Netherlands government has further strengthened its migration policies and projects in and outside the Netherlands and which way it reflects the GCM objectives.

In line with GCM objective 1, the Netherlands supports initiatives that strengthen the global evidence base on international migration. One example is funding for the collection of disaggregated data via funding for the Displacement Tracking Matrix of the International Organisation for Migration (IOM).

Additionally, the Netherlands aims to base its policies and programmes on a strong evidence base. Related activities included the financing of research that resulted in numerous publications on migration related issues in the Netherlands in 2019. The publications focused amongst others on the Dutch labour market and integration. Furthermore, the Dutch Central Bureau for Statistics published several in depth analyses on migration, including the motives to migrate to the Netherlands. Also, work is done on developing an integral Knowledge Agenda to further support the development of Dutch migration policy.

Internationally, a best practice is the COMPASS programme with IOM, which was launched in 2012. 02 698.13 Tm0 g0 G[-02(b)-43(e)-70(s)-61(t)-22( )102(p)-43(r)10(a)-65(c)21(t)-22(i)22(c)2

instead of one year, for applications with a full labour market test. Other measures include proposals to strengthen the position of the employee such as requirements regarding the monthly payment of salary and payment by giro.

Another important initiative was the creation of a task force that addresses the problems of migrant workers in the area of labour, housing, transport, and health care. The government initiated this task force as the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic exacerbated the already unfavourable position of many migrant workers in the Netherlands in terms of housing and dependency on their employers. In 2020 and 2021, the government has provided a budget of 100 million euros for the housing of vulnerable groups, including labour migrants. The government focuses on regional agreements to find solutions for the adequate housing of labour migrants. One of the efforts on a European level, following Directive 2014/67/EU, is the decision of the Netherlands government that as of March 2020, companies that employ workers from the other EU Member States must register at an online desk for foreign employees in the Netherlands. The purpose of this directive is to prevent the exploitation of labour migrants and to guarantee minimum labour standards.

In line with GCM objective 7, the Netherlands is committed to protecting the rights of migrants and addressing and reducing vulnerabilities that may arise in countries of origin, transit, and destination. To do so, the Netherlands government promotes national initiatives that cover a broad range of topics such as fair work, the prevention of discrimination, as well as proper access to basic services including medical, psychological and psychiatric care. The Netherlands for example funds projects to make basic services more accessible, including a project of ASKV Refugee Support in which support and shelter for undocumented migrants with psychological or psychiatric health issues is provided. Additionally, the Netherlands funds initiatives that provide support for migrants on the move, for example through the provision of adequate information, access to medical or legal services, as well as (the development of) human-rights based migration-related policies and their implementation in transit and destination countries.

Initiatives include support for human rights agencies and monitoring missions on human rights, such as a mission to Niger in 2019. Furthermore, the Netherlands finances the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) via the PROMIS programme. Via PROMIS, OHCHR supports various NGOs and national human rights agencies in West Africa to protect the human rights of migrants and to improve legal assistance to migrants. With this support, Amnesty International helped 179 migrants to obtain a residence permit in Senegal. Moreover, the Netherlands supports projects of IOM to improve access to justice in Ethiopia and Nigeria and OHCHR's work with various West African countries to develop gender-responsive migration policies. Other initiatives focus, for instance, on supporting the Niger Judicial Training School to improve the capacities of magistrates on access to justice and protection of human rights of migrants. Besides, OHCHR also co-organized a regional consultation of National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs) in West Africa and the Sahel in 2018 and 2019. Finally, the Netherlands supports the provision of direct assistance by IOM and UNHCR in Tunisia and Libya, aimed at providing shelter, as well as food and non-food items to migrants in vulnerable positions, to uphold their minimum living standard.

In line with GCM objectives 9 and 10, the Netherlands government aims to strengthen the transnational response to the smuggling of migrants and to counter trafficking in persons through national and international efforts.

One of the most important programs of the Netherlands government to counter human trafficking is [the National and International Program Against Human Trafficking](#). This program contains both national and international aspects. The program was launched in 2018 to prevent victimization, identify victims, provide them with adequate support and care, and punish perpetrators. On a national level, the programme increased the investigative capacity of the Netherlands police through financing, training, and usage of new technologies. Besides, it improved support for young victims and multiproblem victims. On an international level, the program has led to good practices such as stronger cooperation between Netherlands and foreign police and judicial authorities, municipalities, and NGOs through the European Multidisciplinary Platform Against Criminal Threats (EMPACT). The programme provides a good example of cooperation between various national governmental services on the local and international level, as well as with NGOs. The programme is coordinated by the Netherlands Ministry of Justice & Security and carried out by various other ministries. Active participation of NGOs and regional and local authorities is part of the strategy of the programme. While the cooperation between these stakeholders is good, one of the challenges in implementing the programme has been the sharing of information on victims between these various partners due to the Netherlands Data Protection Regulation. In 2020, a compass was created and shared with various partners to clarify when and how information can be shared in various stages of the process (investigation, prosecution, care, and shelter). Yet, challenges continue to exist and the Netherlands government is exploring, with its partners, how to best address these.

Furthermore, the Netherlands supports EMPACT partner countries in designing and adopting legislation against human trafficking and 0( )102(p)-43(r)10(o)-59(ETq0.000008874 07 325913(



In line with GCM objective 21, the Netherlands government aims to facilitate safe and dignified returns from the Netherlands and transit countries, as well as to promote sustainable reintegration. To work towards these goals, the Netherlands works on arrangements with transit countries and countries of origin and also funds national and international projects that focus on return, readmission, and sustainable reintegration. Return and reintegration projects are often implemented by IOM and (local) non-governmental organizations (NGOs).

On a national level, NGO's can provide voluntary and personal pre-departure guidance to returnees via the national Subsidy Scheme, which was amended in 2019. This scheme has improved cooperation between the actors involved in the

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The Netherlands also supports States to provide assistance with return and