

# Cabinet cuts hit poorest people worldwide

On Friday 28 April, Minister Kaag presented the Voorjaarsnota (Spring Memorandum). Unfortunately, the cabinet decides to cut back substantially on support to the most vulnerable people worldwide, to use that money to finance first-year asylum reception in the Netherlands.

## **39% additional asylum spending from the development budget**

Thus, a whopping 1.7 billion will be cut from the development budget, and 1.7 billion will also be taken from the so-called buffer article 5.4 of the development budget. This means €3.4 billion will be cut from emergency aid and development cooperation in the coming years to plug gaps in domestic asylum reception. With this, the BHOS budget picks up as much as 39% of the cabinet's additional asylum spending (8.7 billion).

## **Inappropriate funding system**

This is while three of the four coalition parties recently confirmed the undesirability of the current financing system (covering asylum costs from the development budget) in the [Nederlands Dagblad](#). Partos, therefore, finds it unwise that instead of solving the problem, the cabinet now chooses to increase the pressure on the development budget further.

## **Rising needs worldwide**

The urgency of development cooperation has only grown in recent years. Humanitarian and development needs are rising globally, and global instability is increasing. It is crucial for development cooperation to invest in perspective on the ground. As of 2020, structurally less than 57% of the funding needed for [emergency aid](#) has actually been funded.

## **Structural solution: asylum cap development budget**

The world's most vulnerable people must not fall victim to problems in our asylum shelters. We therefore ask you to **commit to capping the asylum contribution from the BHOS budget at 500 million**. Reception costs above that amount should be paid by the responsible Ministry of Justice and Security or from general resources.

We trust you will make a case for this structural solution in the Chamber. If not for the current year, then at least for the coming years. The Humanitarian Aid Committee debate on 11 May, the Accountability Debate in the first week of June and the debate on the Spring Memorandum in June/July are the next opportunities for you to speak out in favour of adequate funding for asylum reception that is not at the expense of the world's most vulnerable people.

For your information, see the [press release](#) from Partos and over 80 member organisations today, with a similar thrust.