

# Cabinet cuts hit poorest people worldwide

Billions of euros earmarked for development cooperation and emergency aid, are spent by the Dutch government in the Netherlands. The Spring Memorandum shows that in the coming years, 3.4 billion euros will be cut from the budget for international poverty reduction and emergency aid. That is why over 100 development organisations call for reversing these cuts and a ceiling on asylum costs paid from the development budget.

The cuts come as more than €1 billion more is needed to reception asylum seekers in the Netherlands by 2023. Half of that will be paid from the development cooperation budget. This amount will increase sharply in the coming years: in 2025 and 2026, an additional €1.1 billion a year will be taken from the development cooperation budget. On 11 May, the Tweede Kamer will debate emergency aid in crisis areas.

Partos, the trade association for more than 100 development organisations like Cordaid, Oxfam Novib, Plan International and ZOA, finds it very unwise that the government is cutting back on addressing root causes of conflict, climate change, poverty and emergency aid and calls on the Tweede Kamer to reverse these cuts. On behalf of its members, Partos also calls for a structural solution to prevent the emergency and development budget from paying for the cost of first-year asylum reception in the Netherlands every year.

*Liana Hoornweg, director of Partos: "Of course, the Netherlands must ensure adequate reception of refugees, but the painful thing is that regular reception has been cut back for years. Because people are now longer in the asylum chain as a result, the poorest people in the world are becoming the victims of failing Dutch reception policies. It is even more painful that the government is cutting back on international poverty reduction, which actually offers perspective. We call on the Lower House to tackle this problem structurally and thoroughly: introduce a ceiling on asylum costs paid from the development cooperation budget. In this way, the development budget can be used for its intended purpose: to promote sustainable development by tackling the root causes of conflicts, climate change, hunger and poverty."*

In January, the [Algemene Rekenkamer](#) (Court of Audit) reported that the cost of receiving asylum seekers is increasingly being paid from the development budget. Because the number of incoming asylum seekers has been systematically underestimated for 20 years, increasingly expensive reception facilities are needed. And due to this failing government policy, the development budget is increasingly being called upon.

Spokespersons of the coalition parties CDA, D66 and CU confirmed in March in the Netherlands Dagblad the undesirability of increasingly higher contributions from the development cooperation budget to asylum spending in the Netherlands. Party congresses of D66 and CU passed motions in 2022 to cap the cost of asylum reception in the Netherlands from the development cooperation budget. Hoornweg: *"Now is the time for action. We are counting on the coalition parties to stick to their own statements in the coming weeks. The debate on emergency aid on 11 May is a good next opportunity for that."*