

human aid now _



annual report 2025

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Introduction

2025 was a year of focus. After eight years of supporting grassroots organizations on the borders of Europe, we concentrated fully on Amsterdam, on the numerous projects we have been involved in since 2020.

The handover of our work on the borders of Europe to Haella Foundation was the right call. Already active in this space, they took over our projects and — helped in part by a generous legacy we were able to pass on to them — scaled up significantly: taking the lead, and actively bringing other funds along with them in a way we would not have been able to do ourselves. We're proud to have played a part in that story.

In Amsterdam, the work continues — and the need has not diminished. Across Europe, the political climate for people on the move has grown harsher still. Pushbacks, criminalisation of solidarity, and the steady erosion of rights that should be non-negotiable: none of this is new, but all of it is worsening. The headlines rarely follow.

We remain a small organization, working alongside many partners with far greater resources. But we have learned that being small has its own strength: the ability to spot what is needed, connect the right people, and help something new take root. That is what we will keep doing.

We also want to take a moment to thank Joshua Shokoor, who left the board in 2026, for his commitment and ideas. We warmly welcome Marina as our new treasurer.

On behalf of the entire Human Aid Now team,
Bart, chair

Amsterdam Food Project

Since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, the Amsterdam Food Project has been providing weekly food and hygiene packages to vulnerable communities across the city. Approximately 75% of our beneficiaries are undocumented individuals who are unable to work due to age or health conditions, single mothers without access to childcare, or people who lost informal employment during the pandemic and have not yet regained stable income. The remaining 25% are documented residents facing complex personal circumstances that make accessing regular social services difficult or, in some cases, impossible.

By the end of 2025, we were distributing 625 packages per week, reaching approximately 2,000 people, nearly half of whom are children. Over the course of the year, we delivered more than 32,000 packages, bringing the cumulative total since March 2020 to approximately 360,000 packages. In addition to food, we continued to provide essential hygiene items, including diapers.

Undocumented beneficiaries

In 2025, we continued to prioritise support for the most vulnerable groups within our undocumented population:

- 43% are elderly and/or chronically ill
- 39% are single mothers and/or pregnant or breastfeeding
- 23% are experiencing homelessness

We anticipate that these groups will require long-term assistance, particularly older individuals who spent most of their lives working in the Netherlands' informal economy and now have no access to pensions or social protection.

The labour market for our target population has also not recovered to pre-pandemic levels. Increased controls on informal employment and ongoing political discussions about the criminalisation of undocumented people continue to deter potential employers, despite persistent labour shortages in sectors where our beneficiaries traditionally find work.



As a result, we are increasingly seeing young and otherwise healthy individuals unable to secure sufficient income and therefore requesting food assistance. This emerging trend is a concern and will require close monitoring in 2026.

Documented beneficiaries

Throughout 2025, we worked closely with the Municipality of Amsterdam and our distribution partners to transition as many documented beneficiaries as possible to mainstream social support services. This has proven challenging.

While some progress has been made, outcomes remain limited due to several factors:

- hesitation or mistrust among some beneficiaries toward public authorities
- communication gaps between informal support organisations and municipal social teams (buurtteams)
- capacity constraints within those municipal teams

We will continue these efforts in 2026, with a focus on improving coordination and supporting beneficiaries through the transition process.

No Cold in the City

Building on previous years, we continued to provide winter essentials to people living in poorly heated or otherwise vulnerable conditions. Through several of our partners in the Amsterdam Food Project, beneficiaries received practical items such as thermal clothing, gloves, beanies, rain protection, and blankets during the colder months.

Focus on blankets

This year, based on direct feedback from beneficiaries and partner organizations, we placed a stronger focus on blankets, which were identified as one of the most urgently needed items. In total, several hundred blankets were distributed alongside thermal underwear, thermo shirts, gloves, and winter accessories. These contributions provided immediate practical support during periods of cold weather and were again greatly appreciated by recipients.



School supplies

In August, we once again supported families with essential back-to-school items for children and teenagers. This year, the project focused on the distribution of durable school bags and indoor sports shoes, which constitute significant expenses for many families.

Giving mothers the choice

In consultation with the donor, part of the budget was allocated differently this year: approximately one third was provided directly to mothers in the form of Action vouchers. This approach recognized that parents themselves are often best placed to determine what their children most urgently need, while also supporting their autonomy and decision-making. The combination of practical material support and flexible assistance was highly appreciated by beneficiaries.



Dynamic Mothers

In 2025, we launched the Dynamic Mothers Project, a pilot initiative aimed at supporting undocumented single mothers participating in the Amsterdam Food Project on their path towards greater independence and self-sufficiency. The project combines practical support, skills development, peer support, and personal empowerment.

Activities and training

Throughout the year, participants took part in activities focused on mental health and stress management, financial literacy and budgeting, basic computer skills, and the development of simple business plans. Vocational training included courses in pastry making, sewing, and beauty care. In addition, biweekly network meetings created a safe environment where women could exchange experiences, support one another, and reduce social isolation.

Results and impact

The impact of the project quickly became visible. Three participants successfully started their own small businesses: two in catering, each targeting different markets, and one offering hairdressing services from home. Beyond these concrete outcomes, the project fostered remarkable levels of motivation, mutual encouragement, and confidence among the participants. The women actively challenged and inspired one another, creating a strong sense of community and shared ambition.

Personal growth

We are especially proud of the personal growth we witnessed during the first year of the project. Several participants expressed that, for the first time in many years, they felt they were moving beyond day-to-day survival towards building a future for themselves and their children. One participant shared how proud she was to finally be able to serve as a positive role model for her daughter.



Mothers & Children

In 2025, we launched a new emergency support initiative focused on undocumented single mothers and children who suddenly lose their housing. Families in this situation are among the most vulnerable groups we encounter. While temporary shelter is sometimes available through informal community networks, the financial and practical burden placed on hosting families often makes this difficult to sustain.

Supporting host families

The project aimed to strengthen community solidarity by supporting households willing to temporarily host mothers and children. Support included food and hygiene vouchers, transportation cards, and small contributions towards increased household expenses, helping to reduce some of the pressure on host families while allowing children to continue attending school and mothers to access services, work, or appointments.

Results in 2025

During the year, temporary shelter solutions were arranged for 12 families. In two cases, these temporary arrangements eventually developed into more stable, longer-term housing situations. Although these outcomes were encouraging, the project also highlighted the severity of the broader housing crisis affecting undocumented families in Amsterdam.

The broader challenge

The lack of affordable and accessible housing remains the central obstacle. We are increasingly concerned by the growing number of single mothers and children who are left without any realistic housing solution and are at risk of ending up on the streets. While this project demonstrated the strength and solidarity that exists within the community, it also underlined the limits of what informal networks alone can absorb.

Diabetes Fund

Obesity and related health issues such as diabetes and high blood pressure remain major concerns among the beneficiaries of the Amsterdam Food Project, particularly among children and elderly people. As our regular food packages mainly contain shelf-stable products, which are often relatively high in carbohydrates, access to fresh fruits and vegetables continues to be an important addition for many families.

Fresh produce each week

Thanks to the continued generous support of Stichting Centrum voor Diabetes en Overgewicht, we were once again able to distribute an average of approximately 500 kilograms of fresh fruits and vegetables each week at a very low cost. The produce was sourced through organizations dedicated to reducing food waste by redistributing surplus food.



Who we reached

The fruits and vegetables were distributed through several channels connected to the Amsterdam Food Project. Weekly food packages reached approximately 210 families, many of them headed by single mothers. In addition, fresh produce supported school breakfast initiatives benefiting around 100 children and social playground activities serving approximately 50 children. Altogether, the project continued to provide healthier food options to roughly 500 children each week.

The distributions were again greatly appreciated by beneficiaries, particularly by mothers who often struggle to afford fresh and nutritious food for their families. As in previous years, a small group of mothers actively assisted with the weekly selection of produce to help ensure that the products matched the needs and preferences of the families receiving them.

Direct Cash Transfer

In 2025, we launched a small-scale pilot project exploring whether direct cash support can be an effective and dignified form of assistance for undocumented families living in extreme precarity. The initiative focuses on a limited group of undocumented single mothers and a small number of elderly undocumented individuals in Amsterdam.

Why this pilot?

The project is inspired by broader national discussions around direct cash transfers as a way to strengthen autonomy and allow people to respond to their own most urgent needs. At the same time, undocumented communities face very specific challenges, and little is currently known about how this approach functions within this context. For this reason, the project was intentionally designed as a carefully monitored pilot linked to a research component supervised by the Amsterdam University of Applied Sciences.

A carefully monitored approach

Throughout 2025, the project focused on participant selection, preparation of the research framework, baseline interviews, and the gradual start-up of the support process. Particular attention was given to confidentiality, safety, and the development of secure procedures adapted to the realities faced by undocumented participants.

What we aim to learn

The primary goal of the project is to learn: to better understand the impact, opportunities, limitations, and practical challenges of this type of support within undocumented communities. The project remains deliberately limited in scale while these questions are being studied, and no decisions about possible continuation or expansion will be made before the research phase has been completed and carefully evaluated.

Partnership with Sina

In 2025, we proudly continued our collaboration with the wonderful team at SINA (Samen is niet alleen) for the third consecutive year. Together, we once again created joyful moments and lasting memories for children and families who rarely have the opportunity to participate in recreational activities or festive events.

Efteling trips

One of the highlights of the year was the organization of trips to the Efteling amusement park, with no fewer than five full buses bringing children and parents to a day entirely focused on fun, relaxation, and togetherness. For many families, these outings represented a rare opportunity to temporarily escape daily stress and hardship.

Christmas market

At the end of the year, SINA also organized a large Christmas market. Hundreds of our families attended and enjoyed an afternoon filled with entertainment, activities, and a warm festive atmosphere. Both children and adults left with generously filled goodie bags, making the event a particularly appreciated end-of-year celebration for many families.



Amsterdam Emergency Needs Fund

Since its launch in 2022, the Emergency Fund Amsterdam has continued to serve as a crucial lifeline for undocumented individuals facing urgent and unexpected situations. In 2025, the importance of the fund remained as evident as ever, as many beneficiaries continued to struggle with severe financial insecurity and limited access to regular support systems.

What the fund covers

The fund provides flexible emergency assistance in a wide range of situations, including support with legalization procedures, transportation costs linked to school or medical appointments, para-medical supplies, and urgent humanitarian needs affecting vulnerable individuals and families. Particular attention continues to be given to women, children, elderly people, and individuals facing serious health issues.

Results in 2025

During 2025, the project increasingly operated in collaboration with a growing network of partner organizations, allowing us to identify urgent cases more rapidly and coordinate support more effectively across Amsterdam. In total, the Emergency Fund assisted 435 people, confirming its ongoing importance as a fast and flexible form of humanitarian support for undocumented communities.

Governance

In the course of 2025, the board and Director had 8 online board meetings and 1 live evaluation and brainstorm-meeting.

We had transferred our work on the borders of Europe to Haella Foundation at the end of 2024, so 2025 has been the first year that we focus entirely on projects in Amsterdam.

For the Amsterdam projects, regular contact was maintained throughout the year with the donating Dutch charity funds, the municipality of Amsterdam, partner NGO's such as the Red Cross and local partners throughout the city, through whom the distribution of goods takes place.

The situation on the ground is constantly being assessed and urgent basic needs are defined and updated, taking into account various specific situations. Furthermore, pilots have been started to enable people to become as self-sufficient as possible.

All of these topics were discussed in the regular meetings of the board and director or through online communication when a speedy decision was required.

Most of our funding now comes from the municipality of Amsterdam, large Dutch charity funds and a few private donors. We have sent an end-of-the-year mailing to those interested in our work.

Complaints

Human Aid Now did not receive any complaints nor reports of incidents in the course of 2025.

The team

Josh Shokoor contributed throughout the year, but decided to withdraw once the board would find a new treasurer (effected beginning of 2026). We are very grateful for his commitment and thoughtful contributions! Marina Šimunović joined the board in januari 2026.



Dominique Nientker
Director

Dominique has a background in investment banking and project finance. Since 2017 she volunteers full-time for Human Aid Now, coordinating projects in Amsterdam for thousands of undocumented migrants living below the poverty line.



Wouter Nientker
Founder

Wouter has a background in mathematics, logistics and humanitarian development, and founded Human Aid Now in 2016 after volunteering around Thessaloniki. Currently based in Kenya, he works in humanitarian development.



Bart Driessen
Board chair

Bart has founded and directed a design studio and now works as CTO in a company serving the building and insurance industries. Bart volunteered in refugee camps in Greece for a year in total.



Carla Houben
Board secretary

Carla has been engaged in social work for some thirty years, serving on various boards in the fields of education, combatting poverty and supporting disadvantaged groups. She advocates a more humane society and translates this into practical commitment.



Joshua Shokoor
Board treasurer (until 2026)

Joshua brings experience in housing policy, humanitarian advocacy and community organising. His contributions gave Human Aid Now a broader perspective on the structural challenges faced by the communities we serve.



Marina Šimunović
Board treasurer (since 2026)

Marina has a background in Service Design and change management. Her own experience as a refugee from the former Yugoslavia gives her a profound understanding of the challenges the people we serve face every day.

Financial statements

Balance sheet

in Euros (€)

	31-12-2025	31-12-2024	31-12-2023
Assets			
<u>Fixed Assets</u>			
Properties, plants & equipment			
<u>Current assets</u>			
Bank account	264.367,95	226.923,67	208.003,45
Cash	44,97	44,97	50,75
Total Assets	264.412,92	226.968,64	208.054,20
Liabilities			
<u>Equity</u>	7.357,73	23.231,64	20.769,20
<u>Provisions</u>	257.055,19	203.737,00	187.285,00
Grassroots partner program		6.423,00	97.392,00
Amsterdam	257.055,19	197.314,00	89.893,00
Total liabilities	264.412,92	226.968,64	208.054,20

Details provisions Grassroots Partner program

Wave in Thessaloniki			40.188,00
Fast in Calais			4.964,00
Vents Contraires		1.085,00	6.000,00
Just Action			10.000,00
Habibi Center			7.800,00
Med'equaliteam Thessaloniki		5.338,00	7.420,00
Kaleidoscope			6.000,00
Reserve Grassroot partner			15.020,00
Total		6.423,00	97.392,00

Details provisions Amsterdam

Food & Hygiene Project	142.252,00	140.515,00	32.249,00
No Cold in the City	289,19		5.958,80
Emergency Needs Fund	29.914,00	8.529,00	4.999,00
Elderlies	289,00	4.498,00	35.583,00
Direct Cash Transfer	14.025,00		
Dynamic Mothers	25.421,00		
Diabete Prevention project	5.944,00		
Other projects in Amsterdam	38.921,00	43.772,00	11.103,20
Total	257.055,19	197.314,00	89.893,00

Profit and loss statement

REVENUES

in Euros (€)

	2025	2024	2023
Projects			
Grassroots partner program		154.455,66	106.404,99
<i>Mobile Info Team in Thessaloniki</i>			
<i>Wave in Thessaloniki</i>		21.400,11	82.660,76
<i>Fast Calais</i>			
<i>Eudaimonia</i>			2.244,23
<i>Not Just a Refugee</i>			
<i>Vents Contraires</i>			6.000,00
<i>Habibi Center</i>			
<i>Just Action</i>			
<i>Med'equaliteam in Thessaloniki</i>			
<i>Reserve Grassroot partner</i>		133.055,55	15.500,00
Amsterdam	871.878,04	874.260,00	677.801,96
<i>Food & Hygiene</i>	719.584,00	808.264,00	597.270,00
<i>No Cold in the City</i>	5.000,00		20.000,00
<i>Elderlies</i>			25.000,00
<i>Emergency Needs Fund</i>	35.000,00		10.000,00
<i>Direct Cash Transfer</i>	44.450,00		
<i>Dynamic Mothers</i>	30.000,00		
<i>Diabete Prevention project</i>	24.992,00		
<i>Other projects in Amsterdam</i>	12.852,04	65.996,00	25.531,96
Other projects			
<i>General Borders of Europe</i>	157,35		
Total Projects	872.035,39	1.028.715,66	784.206,95
Unassigned donations	3.732,52	11.796,68	9.441,07
TOTAL DONATIONS	875.767,91	1.040.512,34	793.648,02
Interest revenues	4.187,58	3.305,23	
TOTAL REVENUES	879.955,49	1.043.817,57	793.648,02

COSTS

in Euros (€)

	2025	2024	2023
Projects			
<u>Grassroot partner program</u>	5.338,00	117.223,01	104.195,75
<i>Wave in Thessaloniki</i>		61.587,03	74.294,61
<i>Fast Calais</i>		4.994,33	5.000,00
<i>Forge for Humanity</i>		6.265,40	
<i>Vents Contraires</i>		6.915,24	8.230,00
<i>Just Action</i>		12.493,66	5.000,00
<i>Habibi Center</i>		8.150,00	4.825,98
<i>Med'equaliteam in Thessaloniki</i>	5.338,00	17.082,75	579,76
<i>Kaleidoscope</i>		6.000,00	
 <u>Amsterdam</u>	815.696,72	766.835,51	802.123,74
<i>Food costs</i>	681.116,40	646.871,98	698.643,03
<i>Hygiene costs</i>	11.701,70	16.748,59	14.158,85
<i>Logistics</i>	25.032,36	36.374,67	38.871,19
<i>No Cold in the City</i>	4.710,81	5.959,00	25.411,92
<i>Emergency Needs Fund</i>	13.614,56	6.470,32	8.181,85
<i>Elderlies</i>	4.209,24	6.085,46	4.416,37
<i>Direct Cash Transfer</i>	30.425,00		
<i>Dynamic Mothers</i>	4.579,70		
<i>Mothers & Children</i>	3.340,00		
<i>Diabete Prevention project</i>	21.372,70		
<i>Other projects in Amsterdam</i>	15.594,25	48.325,49	12.440,53
 <u>Other projects</u>		140.000,00	
<i>Food, clothes, hygiene: Calais & Paris</i>		30.000,00	
<i>Food, clothes, hygiene: Greece</i>		15.000,00	
<i>General Borders of Europe</i>	20.966,15	95.000,00	
 Total Projects	842.000,87	1.024.058,52	906.319,49
 Other costs	510,34	844,61	1.326,66
SG&A	510,34	844,61	1.326,66
 TOTAL COSTS	842.511,21	1.024.903,13	907.646,15
 NET PROVISIONS	53.318,19	16.452,00	-109.299,00
 RESULT	-15.873,91	2.462,44	-4.699,13

Notes concerning the financial statements

Human Aid Now is located at Baambrugse Zuwe 157 in Vinkeveen and is registered with the Chamber of Commerce under file number 66805759.

Human Aid Now is a non-commercial foundation. In accordance with Article 2:10 paragraph 2 of the Dutch Civil Code, a Balance Sheet and a statement of Profit and Loss have been drawn-up in this document for the financial year 2025.

Human Aid Now was established on September 9, 2016 and its mission is to provide essential goods and services (among which food, shelter, clothing, healthcare, safety and information) to refugees, displaced persons and other people in need in Europe. Human Aid Now has obtained the ANBI status (under tax number: 856704659), which means that donations made to this foundation are deductible from Dutch taxable income.

The financial year of the Human Aid Now Foundation is equal to the calendar year.

In 2025, Human Aid Now had a revenue of € 879.956, sourced as follows:

Donations

- From Funds € 351.413
- From subventions € 500.095
This is the contribution from the Municipality of Amsterdam to the Amsterdam Food Project
- From corporates € 15
- From private individuals € 3.287
- From other NGO's € 20.149
- From churches € 809

Total of donations: € 875.768

In addition, we received € 4.188 interest.

Our overhead costs remain extremely low at € 510. To this we should add € 70 of payment costs that have been discounted in the donations. The total of € 580 represents less than 0,1% of donations, which means we continue to spend in excess of 99,9% of donations on projects for our beneficiaries. The overhead costs cover mainly bank and payment costs. All other general costs have either been donated by the providers (website, hosting, expert services, etc), or financed directly by the Board Members (phones, office space, vehicles, etc).

The € 15.594 expenditure for Amsterdam Others was spent as follows:

- € 9.284 for the distribution of filled school bags at the beginning of the school year
- € 1.000 to participate to keeping the Wereldhuis day shelter open during the weekends in the winter
- € 5.000 to finance transportation of homeless undocumented people to the "Winterkoud Regeling (WKR)" shelters
- € 310 for the Christmas Market.

The difference between revenue and expenditures delivered a positive result of € 37.445. € 53.318 was added to the 2024 provisions, bringing the total of dedicated provisions reserved for current projects to € 257.055 allocated as described in the financial statement. The difference of € 15.874 was deducted from our general reserve.

Signatures current board members for approval

Vinkeveen, 26 June 2026

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'B' followed by a long horizontal stroke.

Bart Driessen, chairman
In function since: 12-01-2020

A handwritten signature in black ink, featuring a series of loops and a final dot.

Marina Šimunović, treasurer
In function since: 22-01-2026

A handwritten signature in blue ink, with the name 'Carla' clearly visible followed by a stylized 'Houben'.

Carla Houben, board secretary
In function since: 31-03-2021

Stichting Human Aid Now

Baambrugse zuwe 157

3645 AG Vinkeveen

Chamber of commerce: 66805759

Contact

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*Algemeen Nut
Beogende Instelling*

ANBI
