

REVIEW 2025



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Deze balans bestaat ook in het Nederlands.

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Brussels, October 2026.

Cover photo: seasonal work of applicants for international protection staying in a Fedasil reception centre. ©Katrijn Van Giel

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RECEPTION OF APPLICANTS FOR INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION

2025 was once again marked by the Belgian reception network reaching capacity, despite a slight increase in the number of people leaving reception centres.

The downward trend in applications for protection in Belgium has led to a slight decrease in the number of entries into the Fedasil network. As a result, a total of 25,003 people were allocated a place in the reception network in 2025, representing a 5% decrease compared with 2024.

The profile of new arrivals has also changed: there have been more families and single women in the reception network, while the number of single men and unaccompanied foreign minors (UFMs) has continued to decrease.

At the same time, 26,602 people left the network in 2025, representing an increase of 1.5%, or around 400 people, compared with 2024. Of these, more than 6,500 asylum seekers have left the reception centres as part of the voluntary departure scheme, having been provided with meal vouchers. This measure has therefore, just as in 2024, helped to speed up departures from the centres.

While there have been more exits from than entries into our network, the average length of stay in the reception centre remains too high: an average of 449 days, or nearly 15 months.

Saturation

The combination of the decrease in arrivals and the slight increase in departures has enabled reception capacity to be reduced slightly. At the

end of 2025, the Fedasil network comprised 34,771 reception places, spread across 105 collective centres and individual accommodation (Public Centres for Social Welfare, NGOs), representing a decrease of 1,434 places compared with the end of 2024.

Nevertheless, the occupancy rate remained very high throughout the year, averaging 94% (93% at the end of December).

Partly because of this overcrowding, Fedasil was forced to refuse to receive single men seeking a place in a reception centre on the same day. Reception is given by priority to families, women and minors. Single men who are not vulnerable must join a waiting list and are then invited to move into a reception centre when a place becomes available. At the end of 2025, there were still 1,700 men on the waiting list - fewer than at the start of the year (3,000 people) and far fewer than at the height of the crisis (more than 4,000 people during the summer of 2024). Some of the people on the waiting list are being temporarily housed in the Brussels homeless system (2,000 places available under an agreement between the regional and federal authorities).

Profile of the persons received

By the end of 2025, Fedasil and its partners were providing accommodation for 32,431 people. The proportion of people with families has been rising for several years: they now account for 55% of the network's residents. More than a third of the residents are under 18. Palestine (11%) remains the

leading country of origin for residents, ahead of Syria (9%).

UFMs

The decrease in arrivals of unaccompanied foreign minors (UFMs) observed since 2023 continued in 2025. Consequently, in view of the need for places for families, Fedasil converted a certain number of UFM places into generic places. At the end of 2025, the Fedasil network had 2,789 UFM places, a decrease of 461 places (or -8.5%) compared with the end of 2024.

Further information at www.fedasil.be.

Information for migrants who are difficult to reach

Fedasil has a mobile, multilingual team which actively approaches and provides information to migrants (whether or not they are seeking protection) outside its reception network. In 2025, Fedasil's 'Reach Out' team was able to make contact with 2,200 migrants in vulnerable situations (up 29% on the previous year). Reach Out is thus increasing its impact. During these discussions, a range of topics are covered: access to medical care and reimbursement for such care, support throughout the asylum process and referral to (possibly emergency) reception or a voluntary return desk. The colleagues of Reach Out strive to provide migrants with information, support and accurate guidance.

Brussels Info Point

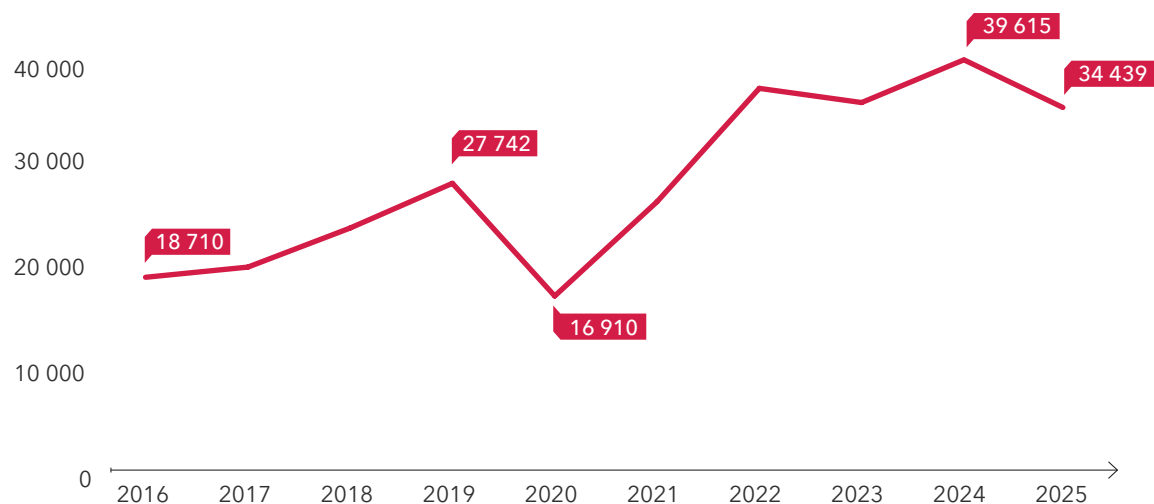
Since September 2023, Fedasil has an information point in Brussels located on the site of the former Bordet Institute (Porte de Hal). Our 'Info Point' is primarily designed to support the many applicants for international protection who live outside the reception network, but migrants in transit and irregular migrants can also benefit from a personal interview there. The Red Cross (French-speaking Belgium) organises a 'Refugee Medical Point' in a neighbouring building.

Fedasil recorded 10,945 visits to its Info Point in 2025 (down 10% on 2024), an average of 57 visits per day on which the Info Point is open. The visitors are mainly single men whose asylum application was under consideration. The main countries of origin are Palestine, Syria and Afghanistan.

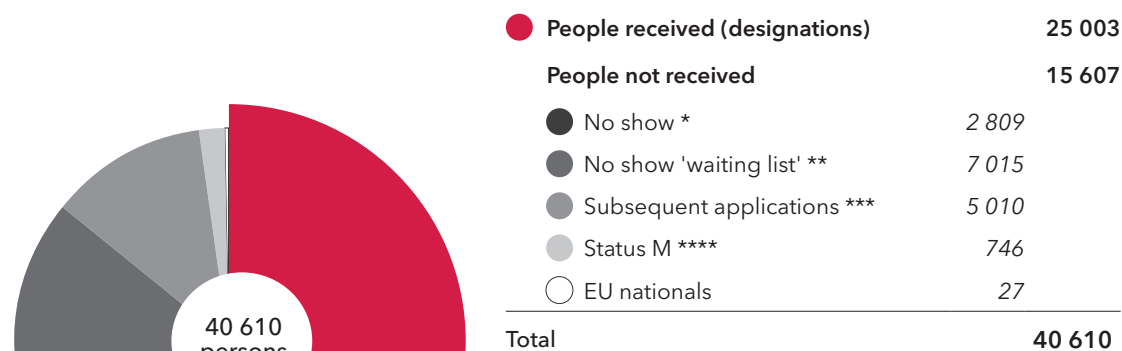
The website www.fedasilinfo.be, available in 14 languages, also offers useful, up-to-date information.

Number of people who have applied for international protection (asylum) in Belgium

(Source: CGRS)



Reception applications in 2025



* People who do not wish to be offered a reception place

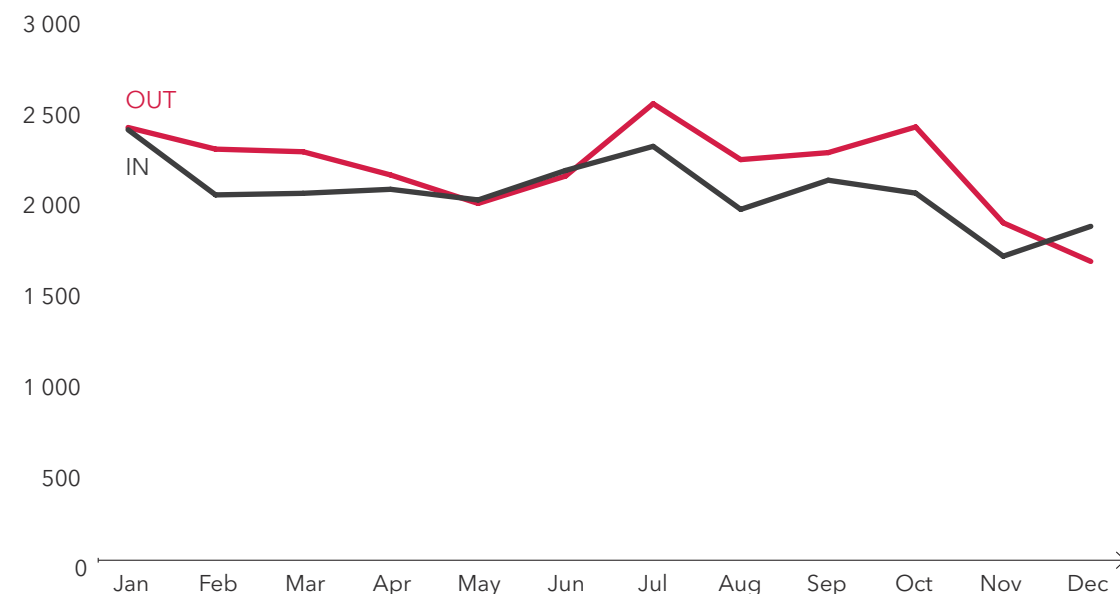
** People who, due to a lack of places, were not received in 2025. Some of them joined a waiting list and were received in 2026.

*** The right to reception is not automatic for people submitting a second (or subsequent) application for protection

**** Persons with a protection status in another Member State. Some were received in 2026.

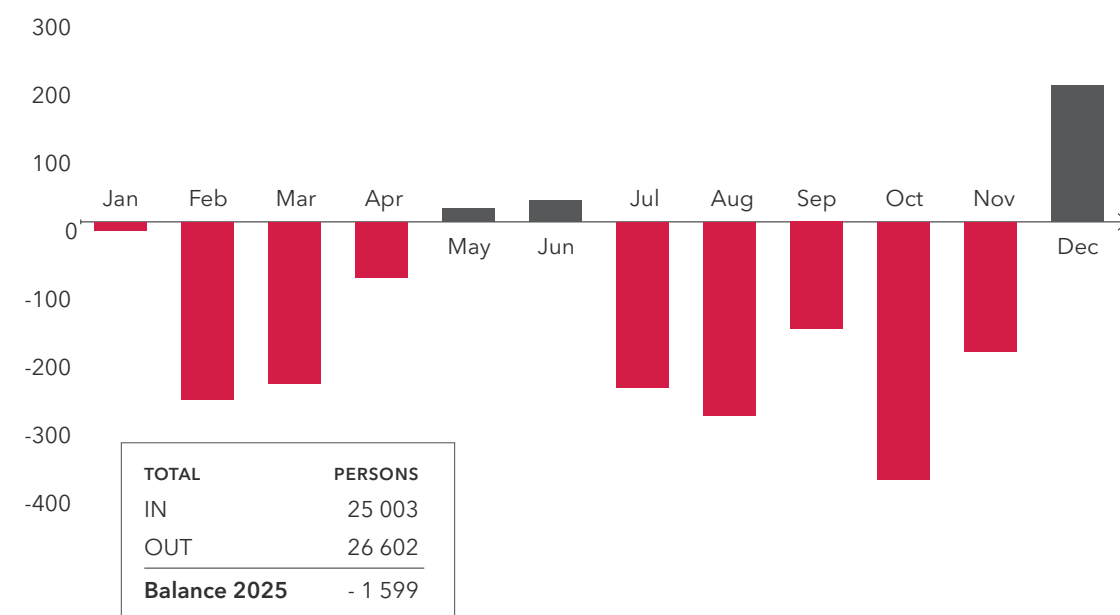
Arrivals (IN) and departures (OUT) in the reception network in 2025

The persons who have not been allocated a reception place and have registered on the waiting list are not included in the IN.



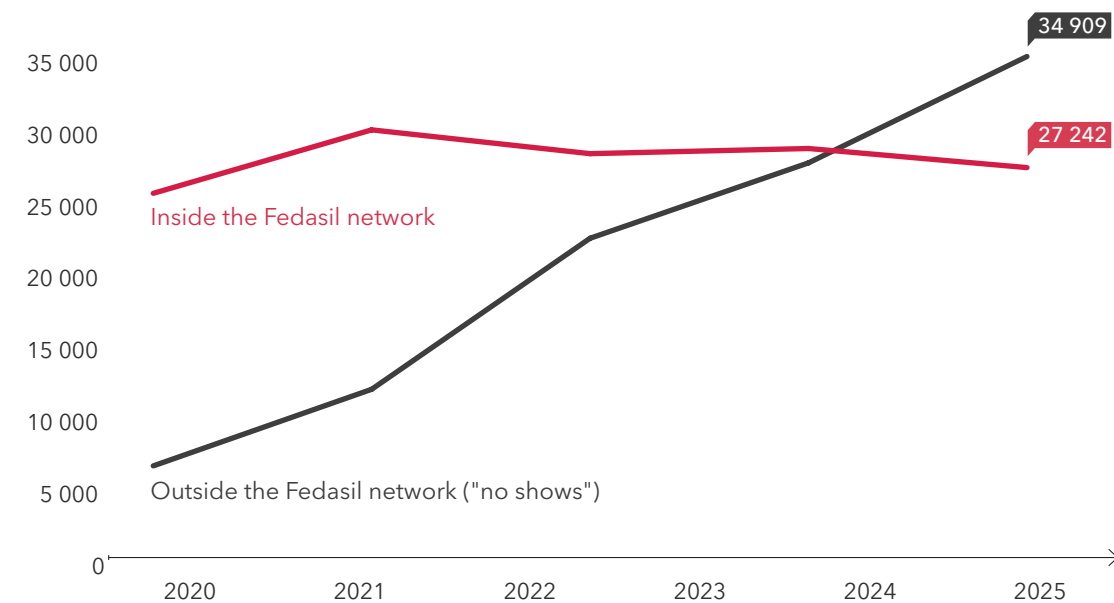
Arrivals and departures in the reception network in 2025: IN/OUT balance

The persons who have not been allocated a reception place and have registered on the waiting list are not included in the IN.



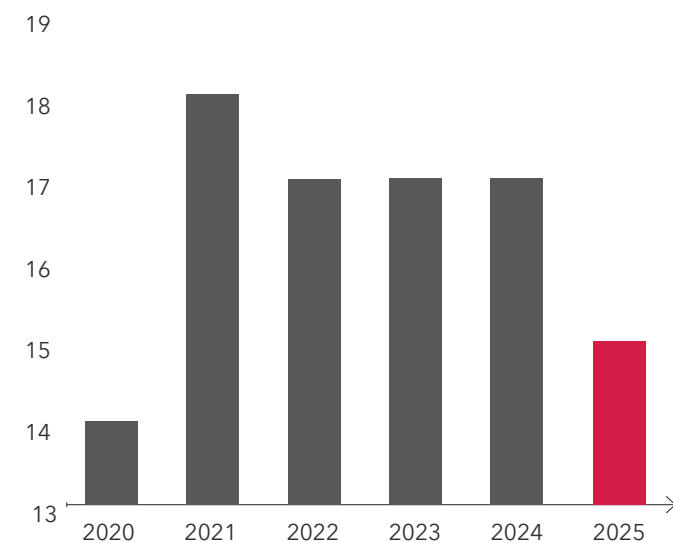
Evolution of the number of applicants for international protection inside and outside the Fedasil reception network

Situation at the end of December each year



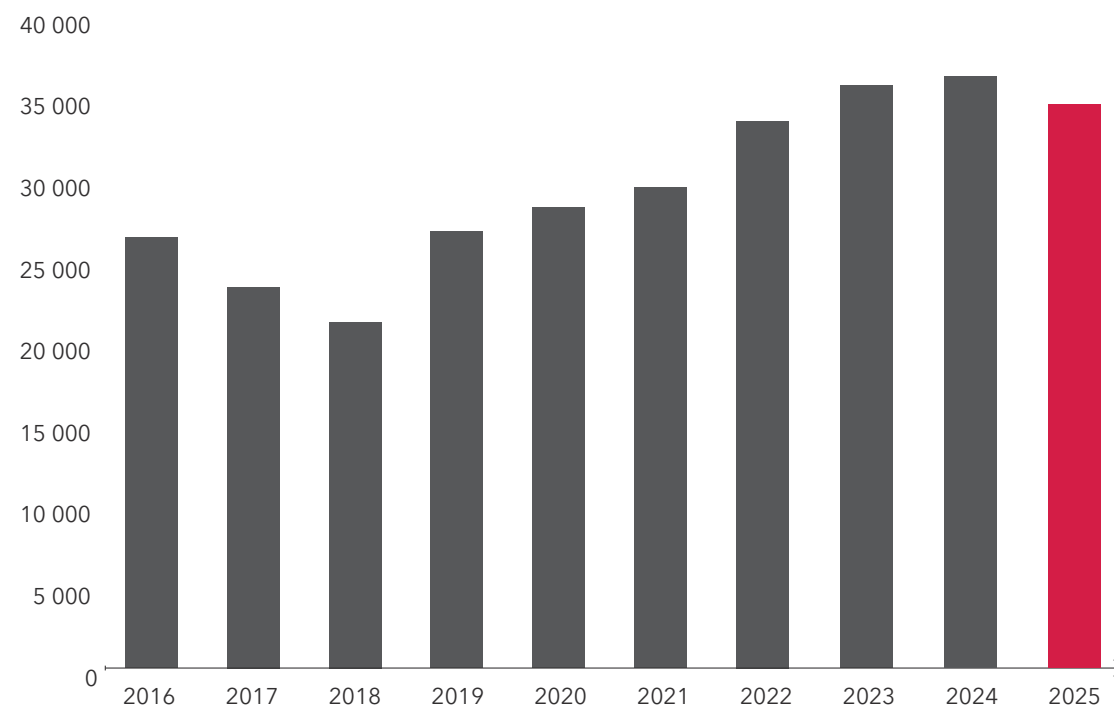
Average length of stay within the reception network

Total length of stay of people who left the network, by year of departure, expressed in months.



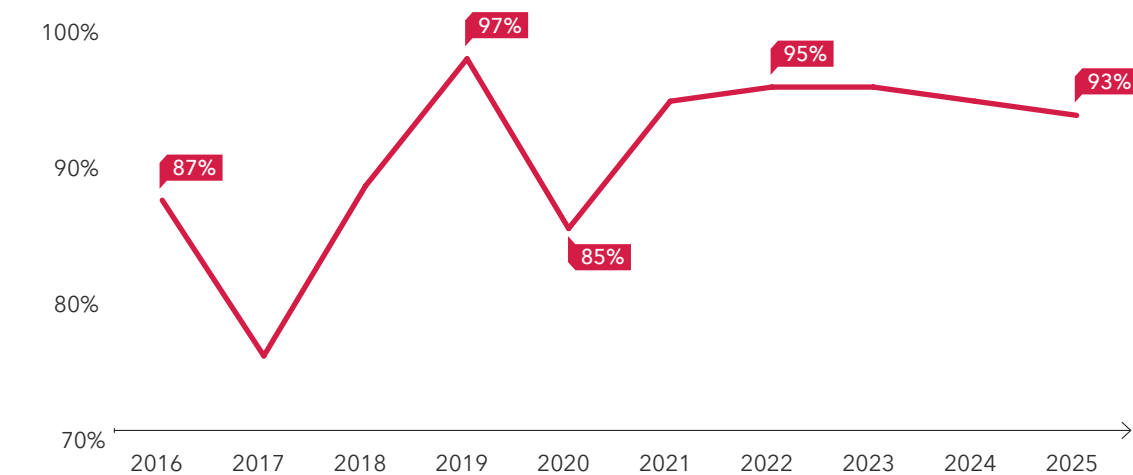
Evolution of the reception capacity

Situation at the end of December each year

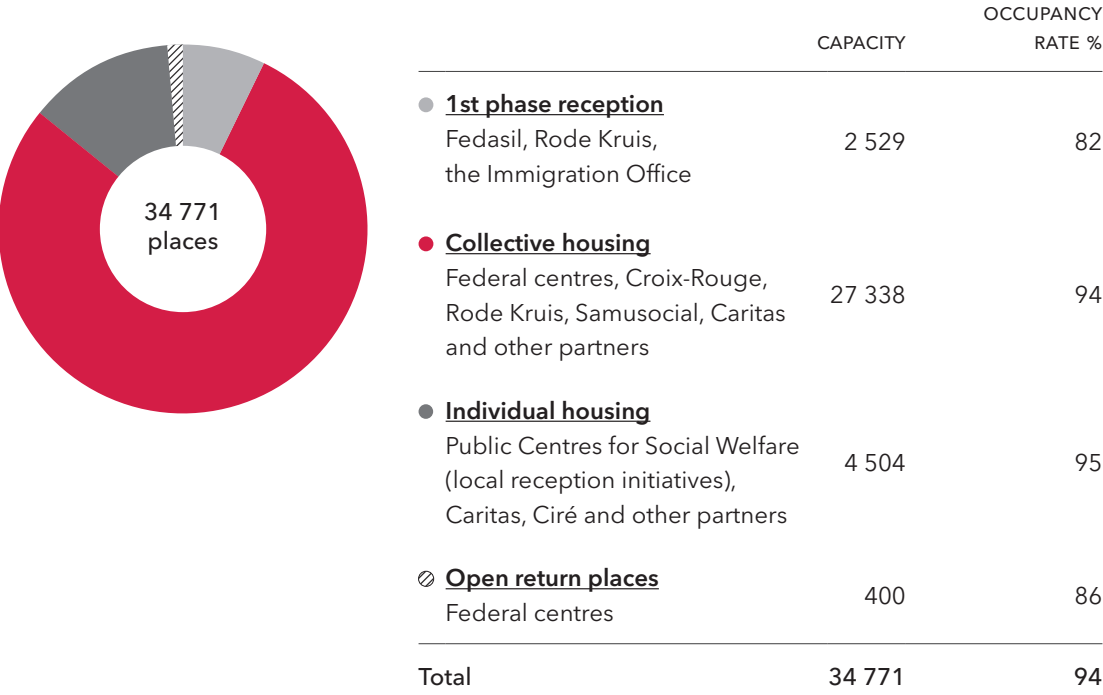


Evolution of the occupancy rate

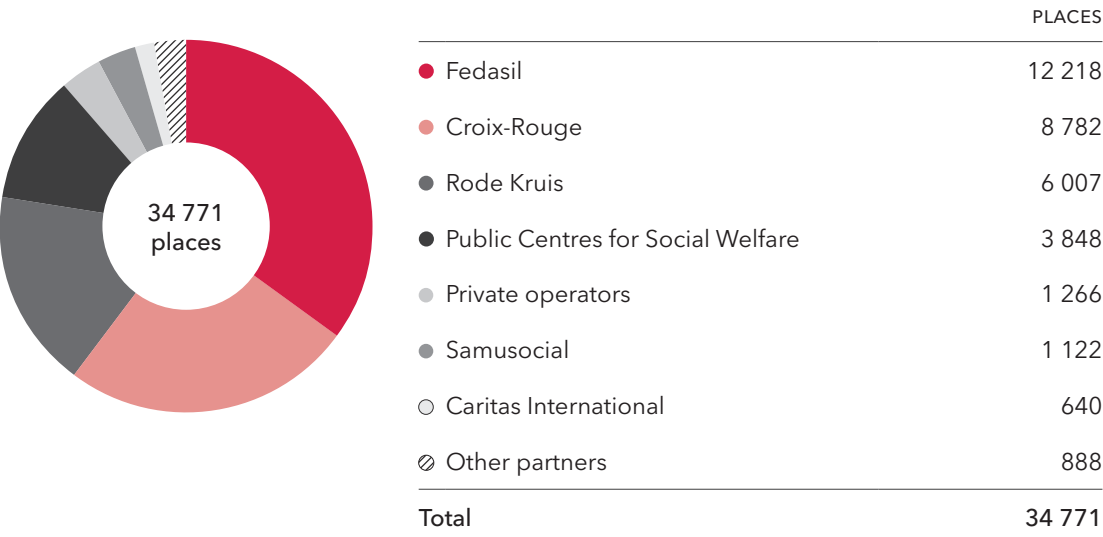
Situation at the end of December each year



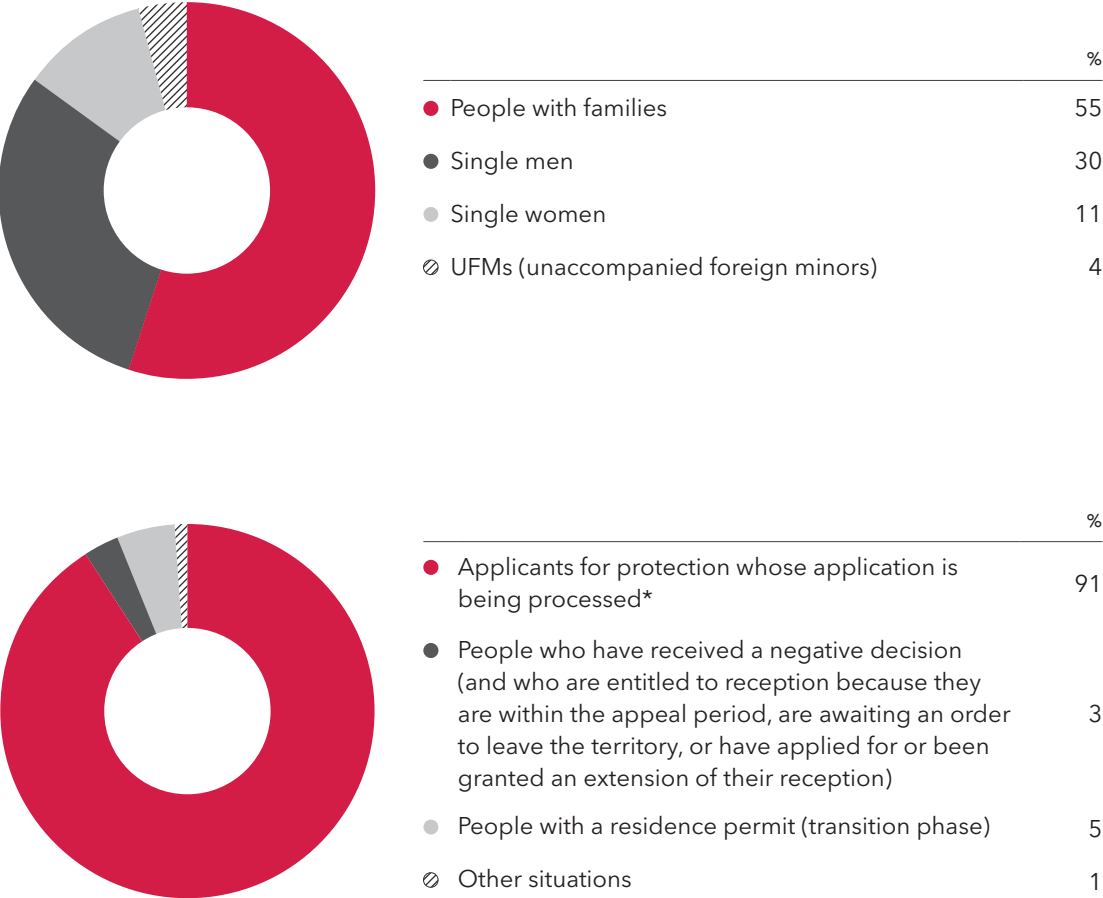
Types of reception places / end 2025



Contribution of the partners / end 2025



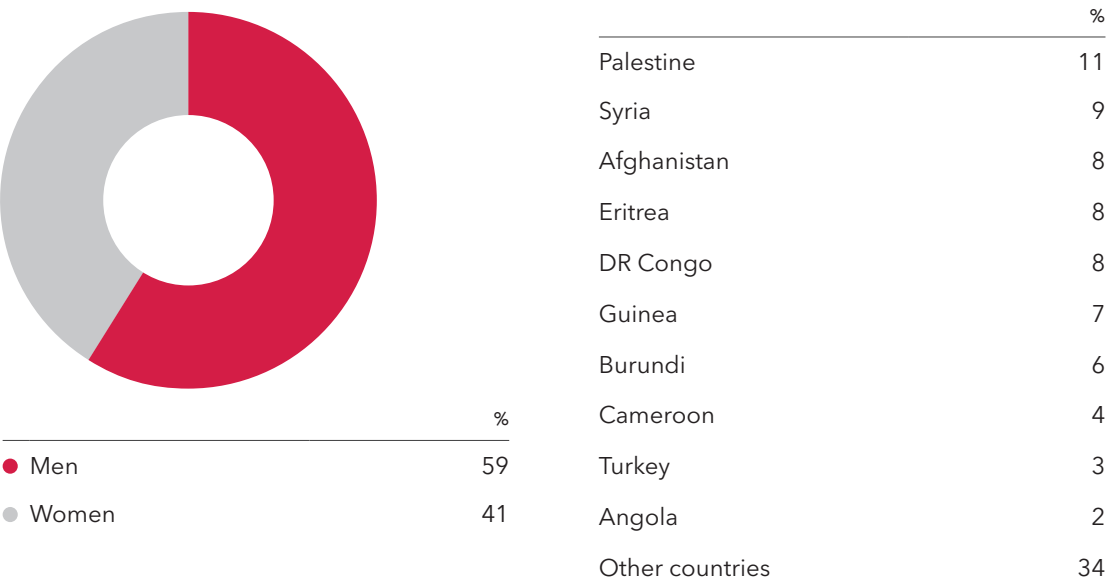
Profile of the persons received / end 2025



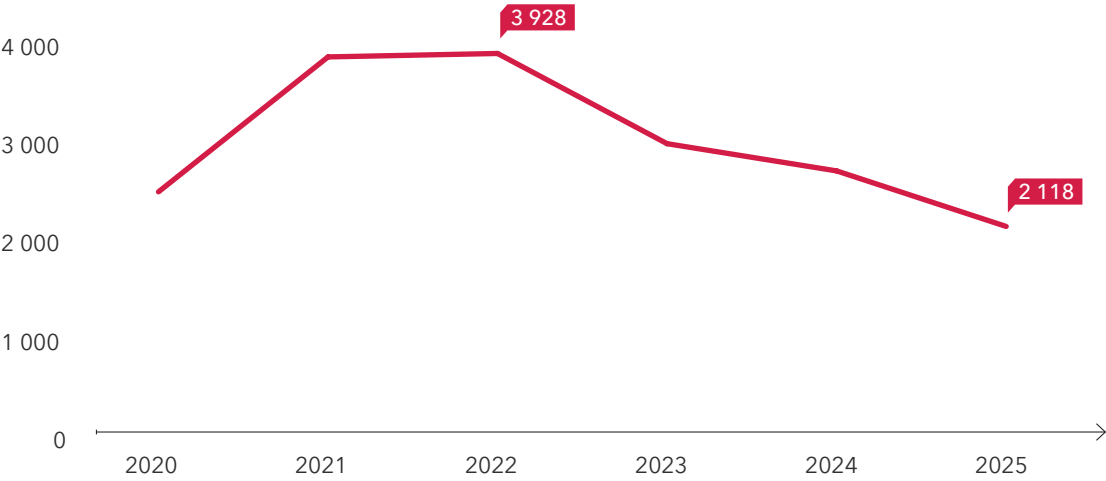
* Source: application status in Match-IT



Profile of the persons received / end 2025

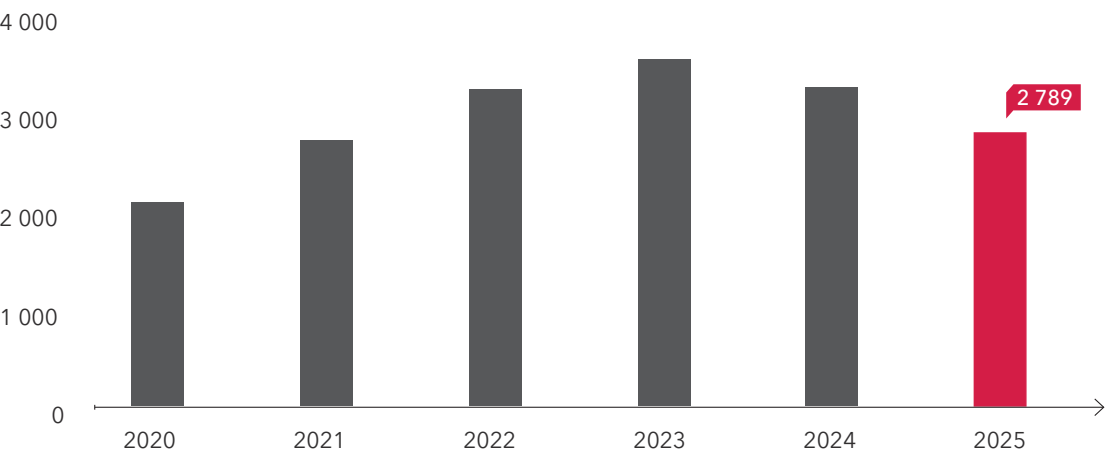


Unaccompanied foreign minors (UFMs): arrivals in the reception network

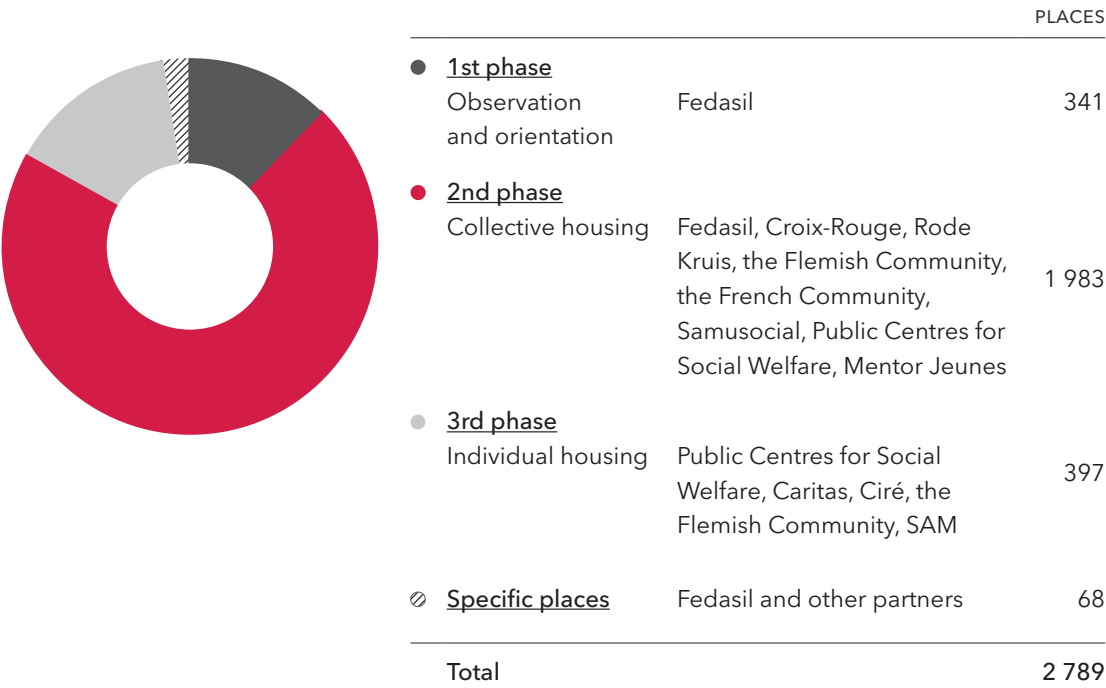


UFMs: evolution of reception capacity

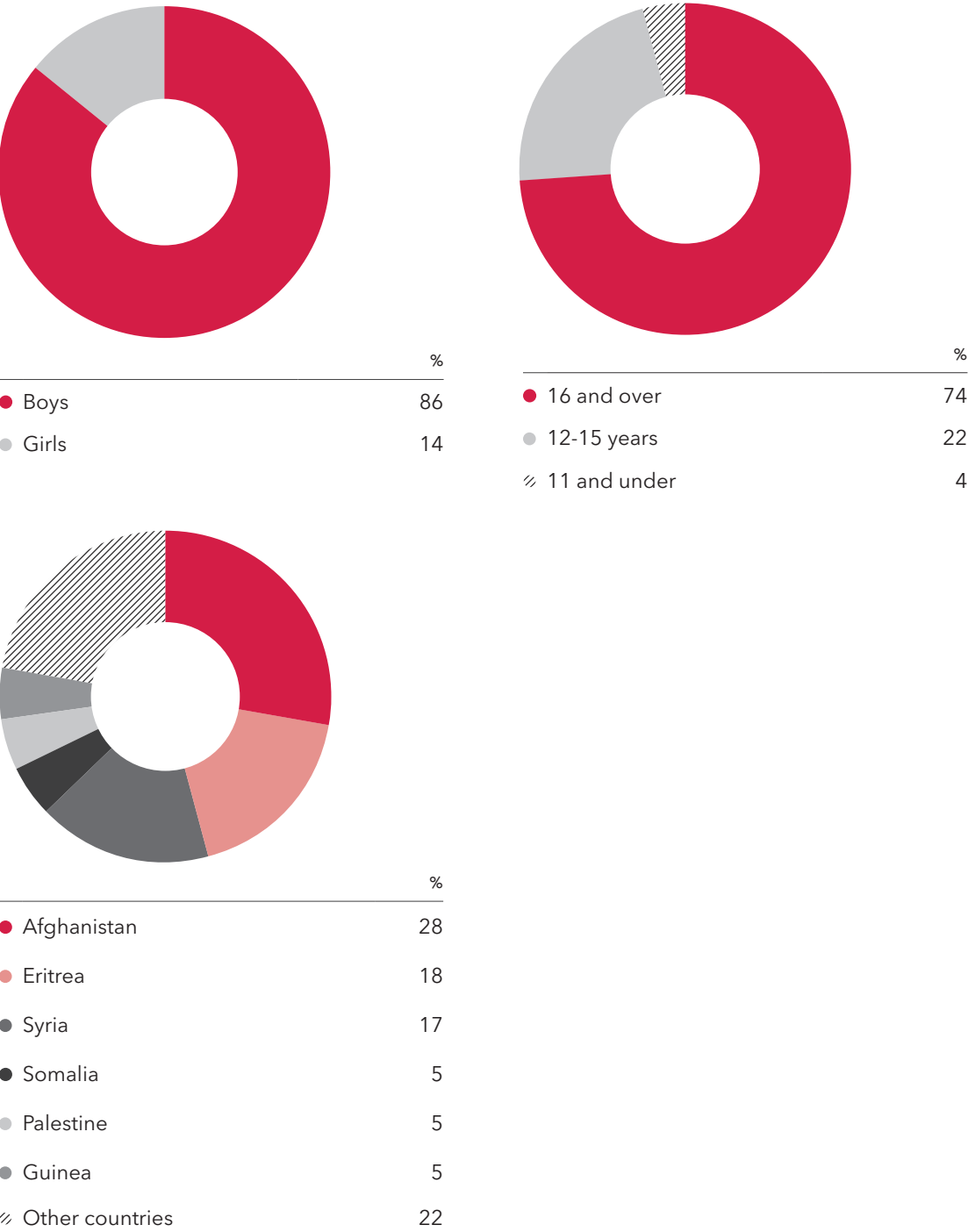
Situation at the end of December each year



UFMs: capacity per reception phase / end 2025



Profile of the UFM's received / end 2025



VOLUNTARY RETURN

The number of voluntary returns from Belgium has decreased slightly compared with 2024. Most of the returnees received reintegration support in the country of origin.

In 2025, Fedasil accompanied 3,122 people who decided to return to their country of origin. Fedasil has taken on the task of providing migrants with tailor-made support, in collaboration with its partners IOM and Caritas International.

The number of returnees is down slightly compared with 2024 (-4.5%), but up compared with 2023 (+6%). In 2025, Fedasil organised 60% of the journeys itself, without assistance from the IOM, using the FAR (Frontex Application for Return) booking tool.

Country of destination

The top five destination countries in 2025 were: Brazil, Moldova, Syria, Colombia and Turkey. Syria is the latest addition to this list. In 2025, no fewer than 219 Syrians returned to their country, compared with 6 in 2024. This sharp increase can be attributed to the fall of the Assad regime.

Brazil and Moldova remain in first and second place respectively, as they did in 2024. For these two countries, the Minister for Asylum and Migration decided in 2025 to limit reintegration support from now on.

45% of the returnees were undocumented migrants. The remaining individuals were applicants for international protection (27%) and those at the final stage of the procedure (28%).

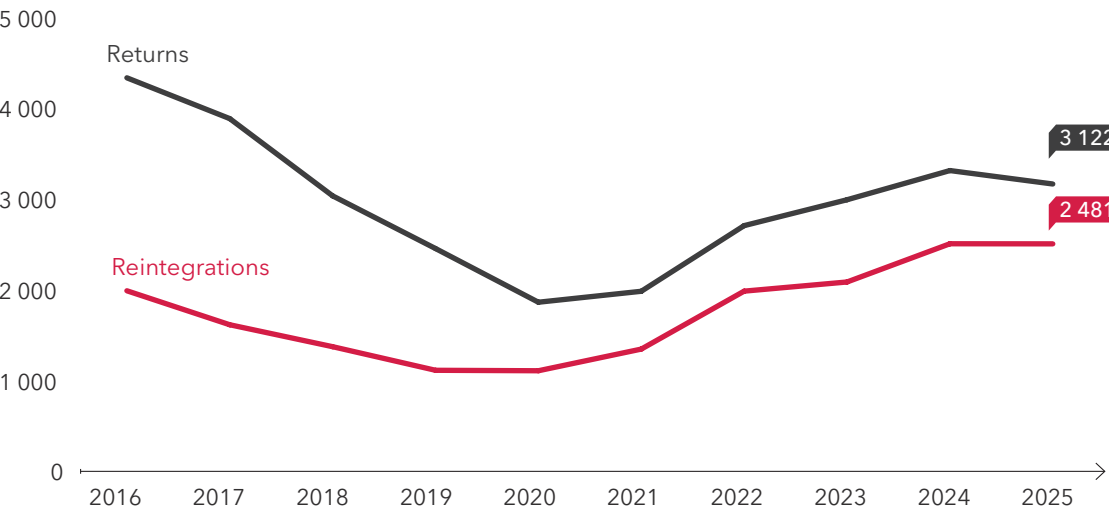
Reintegration after return

Not only does Fedasil provide support before and during the return, it also offers reintegration assistance following arrival in the country of origin. Not all returnees are entitled to this; it depends on their personal situation. Support can include, for example, setting up a micro-business, renovating or renting accommodation, reimbursing medical expenses or helping find a job or a training. To achieve this, Fedasil can count on the worldwide network of partners of IOM and Caritas International.

In 2025, 2,481 migrants - representing 79% of the returnees - received reintegration support, spread across no fewer than 87 different countries around the world.

Return projects from Belgium benefit from European support (AMIF fund). Further information at www.vrijwilligeterugkeer.be/en-gb.

Evolution of voluntary returns from Belgium (number of returnees)

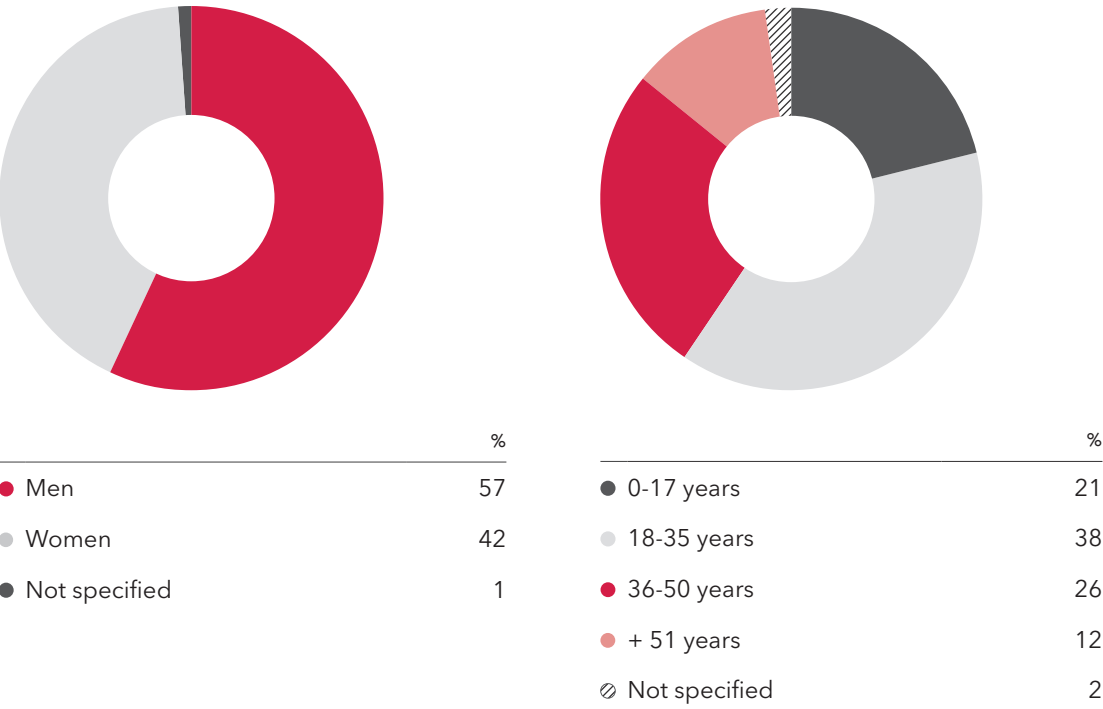
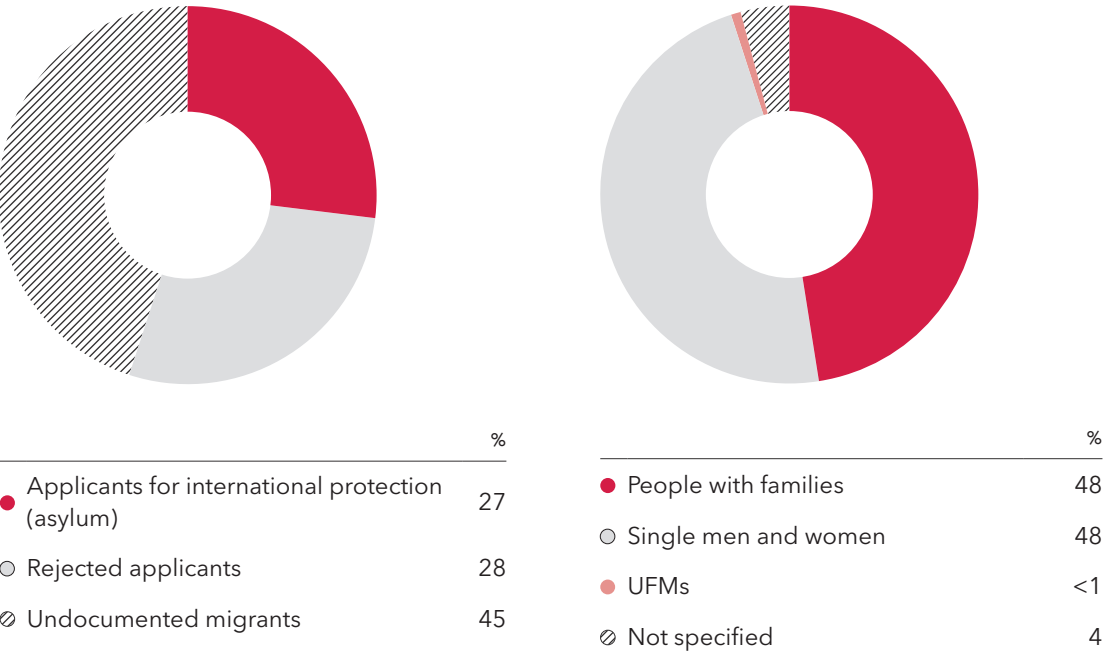


Note
The figures also include the voluntary returns to the country of origin organised by the Immigration Office (63 people in 2025). However, these figures do not include voluntary returns carried out within the framework of the Dublin Convention (organised by the Immigration Office to the EU countries where migrants have already applied for asylum).

Destination countries in 2025

RETURNEES (WITH OR WITHOUT REINTEGRATION)		RETURNEES WITH REINTEGRATION SUPPORT	
Brazil	953	Brazil	732
Moldova	286	Moldova	228
Syria	207	Colombia	153
Colombia	156	Turkey	133
Turkey	144	Georgia	125
Georgia	130	Syria	116
Mongolia	92	Armenia	77
North Macedonia	80	Mongolia	73
Armenia	80	Russia	64
Russia	74	Morocco	45
Other	920	Other	735
Total	3 122	Total	2 481

Profile of the returnees in 2025



Fedasil is responsible for the reception of applicants for international protection (asylum) and other target groups in Belgium and ensures quality and compliance across the various reception structures. We prepare our residents for life after reception, coordinate the various voluntary return programmes and fulfil the commitments made under international programmes.

This review summarises the events and statistics for the year 2025 relating to reception and voluntary return.

Information and news about our organisation can be found on our website www.fedasil.be.

Information for applicants for international protection is available (in 14 languages) on our website www.fedasilinfo.be.