

IBO-NEDERLAND ACTIVITY REPORT 2025

PROJECTS, STATISTICS & FEEDBACK



OCTOBER 2025

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1. FOREWORD

Welcome to IBO-Nederland's Activity Report of volunteer season 2025! In this report we reflect on the past year in quantitative and qualitative terms, supported by statistics and (updated) project evaluations written by our highly esteemed volunteers.

In terms of the total number of volunteers, in 2025 we have witnessed a slight increase since last year, which means we are slowly getting back on track. After the decrease in 2023 and 2024, this is a very welcome positive development. Although we are still seeing many (last-minute) cancellations in both individuals and group registrations, it seems we are slowly overcoming the aftermath of the years of pandemic social distancing measures related to COVID-19 (resulting in less word of mouth advertisement) and the tumultuous times of many personnel and board changes over the past years, hampering the internal structure of the IBO organisation. The past season we have worked hard to make the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Inner Development Goals (IDGs) more visible, we have updated our Code of Conduct for volunteers and partner organisations, we have included personal development questions in our evaluation forms and we have started a certification program where volunteers can receive tangible proof of their volunteering achievements.

The volunteers could choose to make a positive local impact and experience cultural exchange in practice in 51 projects spread over 19 different countries in Europe, Africa and Asia, of which 21 projects organised by IBO-NL. Volunteers have, among others, contributed to an ecological building project in Uganda facilitating water and sanitation, working on the land in Lesbos to help feed refugees and supporting the renovation of a social project for vulnerable Roma youth in Romania. Most volunteers were in their twenties, chose to travel by plane and went to projects which offered activities both in the department of construction and ecological work. In the evaluations, the volunteers were most positive about the goal of the project, enough work to do, enough materials to work with and the feasibility of the work. Areas that still need improvement are the contact with the target group, the technical guidance and contact with the local population. Many volunteers have joined an IBO project for the first time or already went on a project for the third time or more, so we hope more volunteers will join again in the near future.

In 2023 we established a CO2 emission compensation program, in collaboration with our Ugandan partner, through which volunteers can offset the emissions for their travel to a volunteering project. Unfortunately, this program has not been used frequently last season. However, our IBO Supporters group of active members, established in 2022, has been slowly expanding. In 2023 we reestablished the 'Returning Drinks' (where all volunteers of the past season are invited for a get-together) and this year we combined the drinks with volunteering at a brand new ecological and building project in the Netherlands at the 'Kleverbergh', where we have engaged in working on the land and preparing reusable building materials. We celebrated with an extensive lunch and some drinks and bites afterwards. The tradition continues.



2. PROJECTS

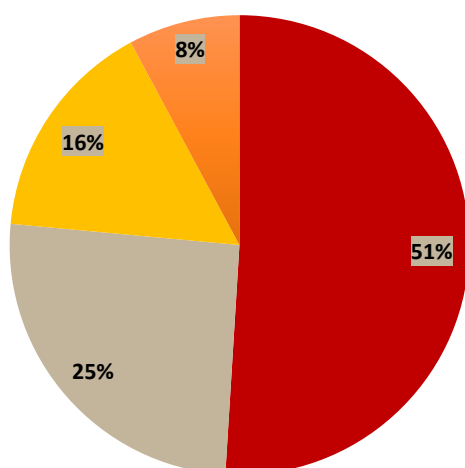
2.1 PROJECTS ORGANISED BY IBO-NEDERLAND

In 2025, we offered a total of 51 projects on our website of which 21 were organised by IBO-NL. Some tailor-made projects did not receive interest and were standby. We organised 13 projects with fixed dates and 8 tailor-made projects; 2 within our national borders, 10 in other European countries and 9 in Africa. 30 projects have been organised by other IBO offices in Europe and 4 projects were organised by other organisations, outside the International IBO network. The demand for volunteers was bigger than the supply, which explains why for most projects no volunteers were found. No projects were cancelled or had taken place only with volunteers from the international IBO network (2 hidden categories in the picture below, on the right). This year we have not send any groups to our project partners. However, we received interest from several groups (and individuals) who are planning to go on a project in December this year or in the beginning of 2026. This can be explained by the fact that arranging tailor-made projects takes time.

In the diagrams below, we distinguish between different project categories:

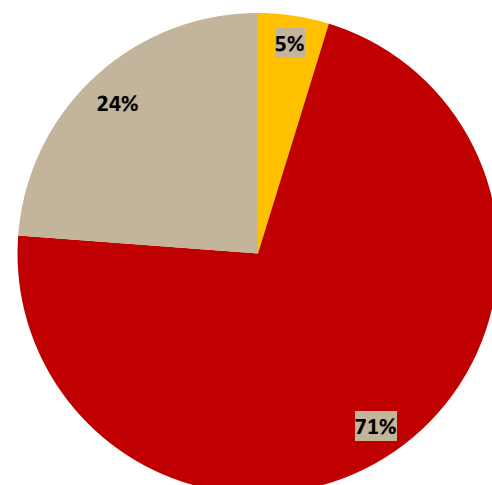
- Fixed project: organised by IBO-Nederland (2-3 weeks)
- Tailor-made project: organised by IBO-Nederland (for groups or individuals)
- Organised by the international IBO-Network: fixed dates (2-3 weeks)
- Organised by other parties: In this case Solidarité Jeunesses & COCAT

**PROJECT CATEGORIES
(51 TOTAL)**



- International IBO Network
- IBO-NL fixed dates
- IBO-NL Tailor-made
- Organised by other parties

**PROJECTS TAKEN PLACE
(21 IBO-NL PROJECTS)**



- Taken place with international volunteers
- No volunteers found
- Taken place with IBO-NL volunteers

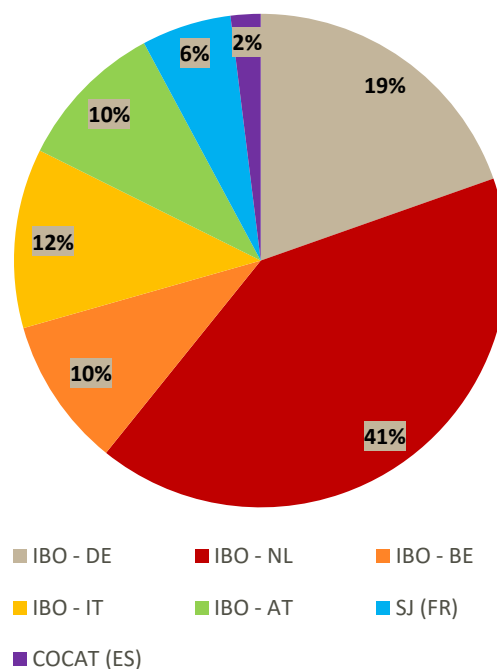
Table 1. Volunteering projects 2025

#	Project description	Project period 2025 Or year-round (group/tailor-made)	Project category Construction, Ecological, Social	Country	Organised by
1	Renovate a monumental and cultural station in Leisnig	16/02 - 01/03	Con	DE	IBO DE
2	Renovate a historic half-timbered house in Gröningen	02/03 - 15/03	Con	DE	IBO DE
3	Creative space for an inclusive shared apartment in Leimen	16/03 - 29/03	Con	DE	IBO DE
4	Help grow a vibrant and diverse living-working community in Schwerin	30/03 - 12/04	Con	DE	IBO DE
5	Work along in the ecological gardens and food forests in Orval	13/04 - 21/04	Con / Eco	BE	IBO BE
6	Contribute to the food supply in a refugee camp on Lesbos	20/04 - 03/05	Soc / Eco	GR	IBO NL
7	Bring some sunshine to the seniors of Straseni	08/06 - 22/06	Con / Soc	MD	IBO NL
8	(ESC) Support in healthcare, cultural projects and human rights in Fano	14/06 - 29/06	Con / Soc	IT	IBO IT
9	Help build a sustainable eco-village in the middle of the forest in Slovenia	29/06 - 16/07	Con / Eco	SL	IBO BE
10	Organise activities for people with a disability in Presov	29/06 - 12/07	Soc	SK	IBO NL
11	(ESC) Strengthen a wildlife oasis with agri-tourism and nature education in Argenta	01/07 - 16/07	Con / Eco	IT	IBO IT
12	Work along in the ecological gardens and food forests in Orval	02/07 - 11/07	Con / Eco	BE	IBO BE
13	Building ecologically with 'bottle bricks' in Uganda	05/07 - 26/07	Con / Eco	UG	IBO NL
14	Help build a community space for social meetings in Vellexon	05/07 - 26/07	Con / Eco	FR	SDJ FR
15	Living Lab: Shaping the future together in Vienna	06/07 - 19/07	Con	AT	IBO AT
16	(ESC) Support a horse riding school that provides horse therapy to children in Cona	14/07 - 29/07	Con / Soc	IT	IBO IT
17	(ESC) Participate in an inclusive and environmentally friendly mural in Parma	16/07 - 31/07	Con / Soc / Eco	IT	IBO IT
18	Contribute to the food supply in a refugee camp on Lesbos	20/07 - 09/08	Soc / Eco	GR	IBO NL
19	Help build a home and meaningful work for the formerly homeless in Mayerling	20/07 - 02/08	Con / Eco	AT	IBO AT
20	Renovate a centre for underprivileged children and youngsters in Kaspi	20/07 - 03/08	Con / Eco	GE	IBO DE
21	Support the school for vulnerable children and youngsters in Ghana	27/07 - 16/08	Con / Soc	GH	IBO NL
22	Protect cultural-historical heritage on land and at sea in Amendolara	27/07 - 07/08	Con / Eco	IT	IBO IT
23	Experience and contribute to self-sufficient and sustainable living in Topolovec	28/07 - 06/08	Con / Eco	SL	IBO BE
24	Take part in the renovation of a 16th century estate on the île d'Oleron	31/07 - 21/08	Con / Eco	FR	SDJ FR
25	Contribute to the management and restoration of a protected Catalan wetland in Sils	02/08 - 16/08	Con / Eco	ES	COCAT ES
26	Support an integration project for Roma youngsters in Sanmarghita	03/08 - 16/08	Con / Soc	RO	IBO NL
27	Renovate a nature school for children and youngsters in Tipu	03/08 - 16/08	Con / Eco	EE	IBO DE
28	Contribute to the conservation of the Maasai tribe in Kenya (UNESCO supported)	03/08 - 24/08	Con / Soc / Eco	KE	IBO NL
29	Protect a UNESCO World Heritage site in Accra	03/08 - 23/08	Con / Soc	GH	IBO NL
30	VOLT Helps the formerly homeless in Mayerling	03/08 - 10/08	Con / Eco	AT	IBO AT
31	Learn to renovate with ecological building materials in Greiffenberg	03/08 - 16/08	Con	DE	IBO DE
32	Renovate an emergency shelter for homeless women in Graz	03/08 - 16/08	Con	AT	IBO AT
33	(ESC) Contribute to the conservation of natural heritage in San Lorenzo	09/08 - 24/08	Con / Eco	IT	IBO IT
34	Help build a sustainable future for the local community around Oyugis	09/08 - 30/08	Con / Soc / Eco	KE	IBO NL
35	Help out for young people with complex problems in Voorst	11/08 - 15/08	Con / Soc	NL	IBO NL
36	Expand an inclusive art workshop for all kinds of people in Borrentin	17/08 - 30/08	Con	DE	IBO DE
37	Support the increase in biodiversity in Millingen aan de Rijn	17/08 - 30/08	Con / Eco	NL	IBO NL
38	Help build a sustainable bicycle repair shop and organize workshops in Cercoux	19/08 - 02/09	Con / Eco	FR	SDJ FR
39	Build a 'house within a house' on an abandoned station in Schopfheim-Hasel	31/08 - 13/09	Con	DE	IBO DE
40	Help to build a peaceful ecovillage in Srebrenica	31/08 - 13/09	Con / Eco	BH	IBO DE
41	Contribute to the food supply in a refugee camp on Lesbos	21/09 - 04/10	Soc / Eco	GR	IBO NL
42	Renovate a spiritual centre in Heiligenkreuz	28/09 - 04/10	Con / Eco	AT	IBO AT
43	Build a sustainable health post in the mountains of Nepal	01/10 - 30/11	Con	NP	IBO BE
44	Support the elderly of Straseni	Year-round	Con / Soc	MD	IBO NL
45	Activities with people with a disability in Presov	Year-round	Soc	SK	IBO NL
46	Support the school for vulnerable children and youngsters in Ghana	Year-round	Con / Soc	GH	IBO NL
47	Support an integration project for Roma youngsters in Sanmarghita	Year-round	Con / Soc	RO	IBO NL
48	Exchange project with the Chorzów Youth Association	Year-round	Soc	PL	IBO NL
49	Give vulnerable children hope for a bright future in Kamuli	Year-round	Soc	UG	IBO NL
50	Build classrooms in Oyugis and support the community	Year-round	Con / Soc / Eco	KE	IBO NL
51	Building ecologically with 'bottle bricks' in Uganda	Year-round	Con / Eco	UG	IBO NL

2.2 PROJECTS ORGANISED BY THE INTERNATIONAL IBO NETWORK

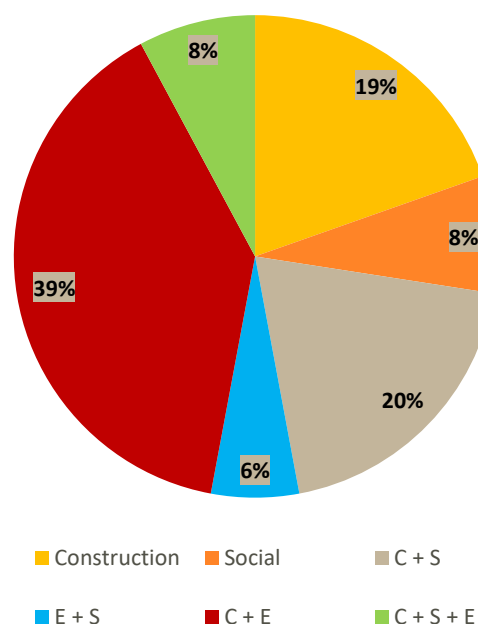
In total IBO-Nederland could offer 51 projects on her website – organised by IBO-Nederland, Internationaler Bauorden DE, IBO Italy, Bouworde BE and IBO Austria. Some projects were organised by organisations outside of our European IBO network, namely: Solidarité Jeunesses (France) and COCAT (Spain). After IBO-Nederland, the projects of Internationaler Bauorden DE make up the biggest part of our project list. Most of the projects that were organised have taken place. Unfortunately, some projects did not receive any volunteers.

PROJECTS OFFERED PER ORGANISATION



The International IBO network offers projects under several categories. Most projects were a combination of construction and ecological work, the smallest part was a combination of ecological and social work. Construction projects and projects with a combination of social and building activities were also well represented. No projects were listed as solely ecological this year (a hidden category).

TYPE OF PROJECT

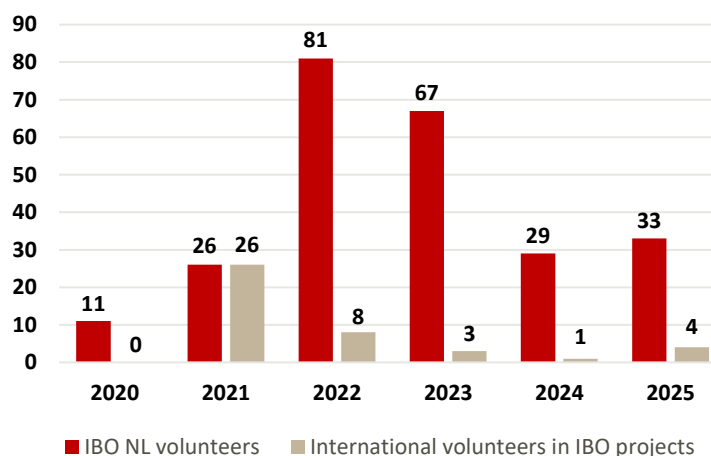


3. VOLUNTEERS

3.1 VOLUNTEERS AND PROJECTS

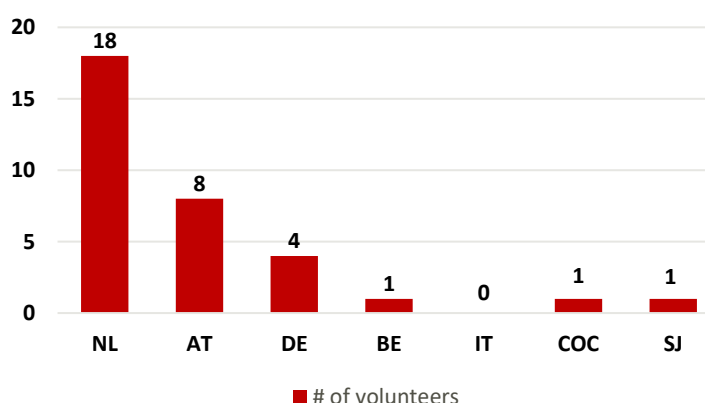
A total of 33 volunteers enrolled with IBO-NL and participated in one of the international projects, all on an individual basis. This year there were no group registrations. Of the 33 places filled, 1 person has participated in 3 projects and another person in 2 projects. In addition, 4 international volunteers enrolled in IBO-NL projects. 2 international volunteers from Belgium joined the project in Sanmarghita (Romania), organised by IBO-NL. Furthermore, 2 international volunteers from Austria have participated in our IBO-NL project in Kayunga (Uganda). This makes a total of 37 volunteers. Of the 33 IBO-NL subscriptions, 5 volunteers were from another country than the Netherlands, namely Turkey, Hungary, Kenya and Indonesia.

NUMBER OF VOLUNTEERS (NL / INTERNATIONAL)



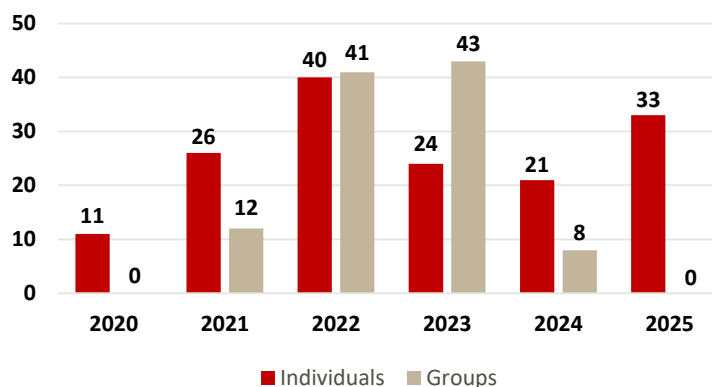
The 33 volunteers that enrolled with IBO-NL went to projects organised by the IBO's in Austria, Germany, Belgium and the Netherlands. No volunteers have joined a project in Italy this year. 1 volunteer joined a project organised by Solidarité Jeunesses in France and another volunteers joined a project organised by COCAT in Spain.

VOLUNTEERS IN PROJECTS ORGANISED BY:



In 2025, all IBO-volunteers joined a project as an individual volunteer. Usually, we send groups of volunteers as well (school, business, association, club, etc.). Although we have received interest from several groups, they will start beginning of next year, which can be explained by the time it takes to arrange a tailor-made group project. In 2026 we expect to send several groups and hope to keep our total number of volunteers growing.

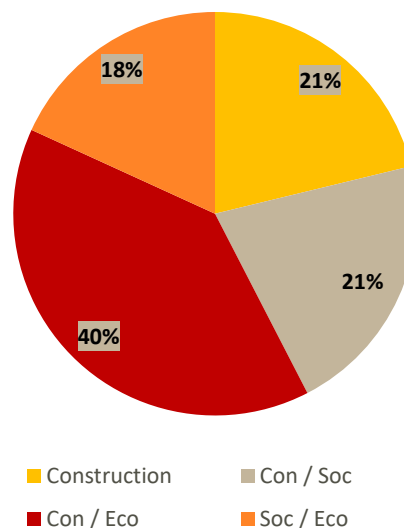
NUMBER OF VOLUNTEERS (INDIVIDUALS / GROUPS)



3.2 VOLUNTEER CHARACTERISTICS

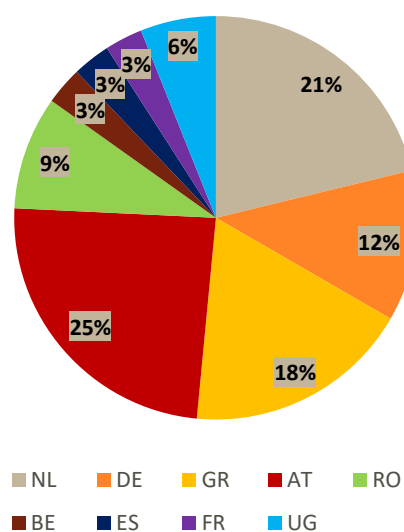
Most individual volunteers chose to join a project with a combination of construction and ecological work, followed by a combination of construction and social activities or solely construction activities. The others joined a project with a combination of social and ecological activities. Last year we have witnessed a similar preference pattern.

TYPE OF PROJECT



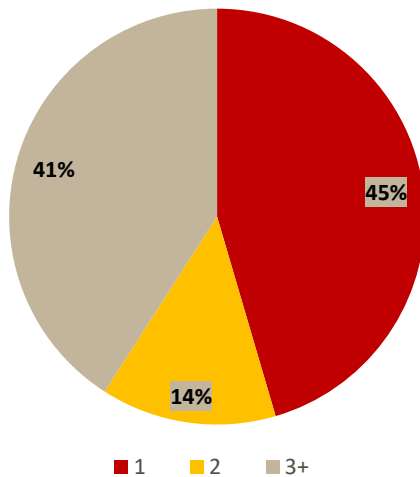
Our offered projects (51 total) were organised in 19 different countries all over the world. The 33 volunteers went to a range of different countries, 9 in total. Most volunteers went to European countries. 2 volunteers went to Africa. This is in line with our focus on European projects and follows the same trend as last year.

PROJECT COUNTRIES

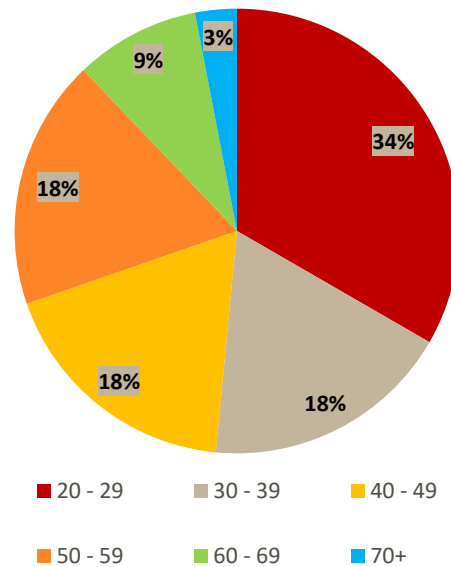


Volunteers from different age groups participated in our projects, with the largest group being 20 to 29 years old. This is in line with our current focus on promoting our projects amongst young adults, although everyone 18+ is welcome to join. People in their thirties, forties and fifties are equally represented this year. The youngest participant was 21 years old, the oldest 70. We are delighted to see a large part of our volunteers joined an IBO project for the third time or more. An equally large group joined a project for the first time. We hope to receive more volunteers who choose to join again next year.

NUMBER OF PROJECTS JOINED

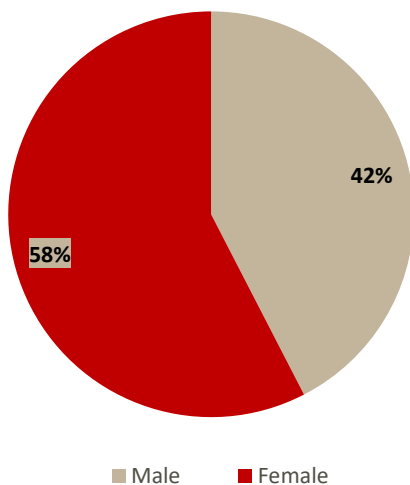


AGE OF THE VOLUNTEERS

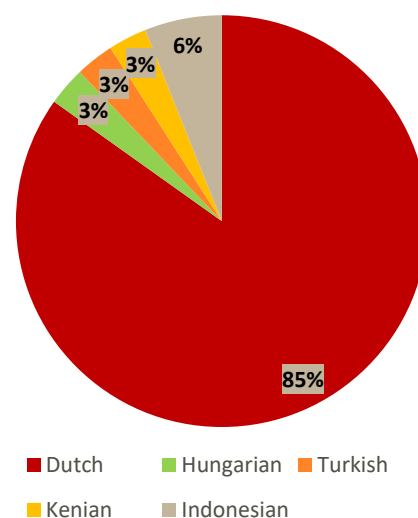


Most volunteers identified as a female and have a Dutch passport. 5 international volunteers from Africa and Asia joined projects through our network outside of IBO (e.g. through organisations that are part of the Alliance network) and participated in projects in the Netherlands and Greece.

GENDER VOLUNTEERS

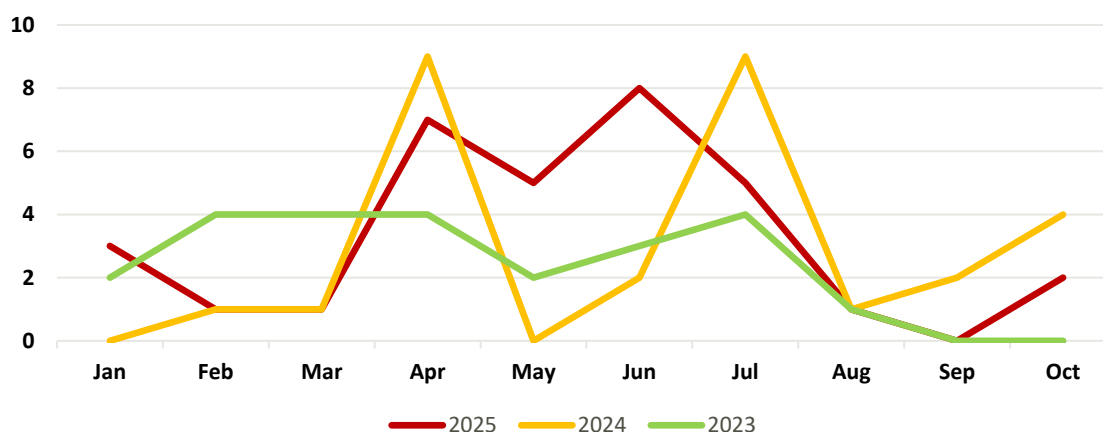


NATIONALITY VOLUNTEERS



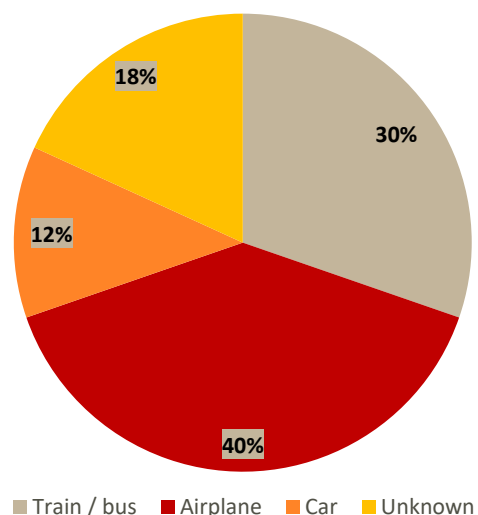
Volunteers registered for a project mostly in April, May and June. The lines in the graph below show that April seems to have been a popular month to register for a project. Although the previous years July was the other peak, this year June was another popular month. This year there were some registrations in October, because 2 volunteers want to go on a tailor-made project in December. The graph only includes volunteers who went on a project, not those who cancelled their participation later on.

MOMENT OF REGISTRATION



We actively encouraged volunteers to travel in the most sustainable way possible, while also introducing our carbon compensation program in collaboration with our partner organisation in Uganda. Most volunteers (of which we know the mode of transportation) have chosen to travel by airplane, followed by a large group of volunteers who chose to travel with public transport (bus/train). For some destinations a plane is inevitable. Within Europe we encourage people to use public transport, but it is always up to the volunteers themselves to travel sustainably and/or compensate the CO2 emissions.

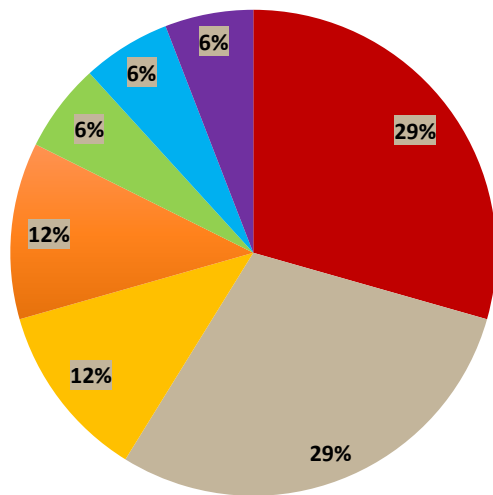
MODE OF TRANSPORT



3.3 FINDING AND CHOOSING IBO

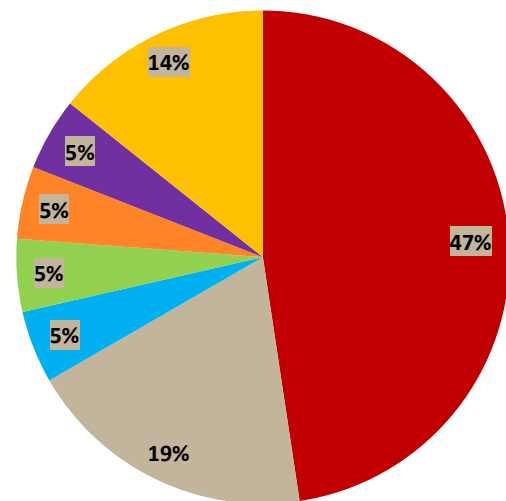
In the evaluations we ask volunteers how they found our organisation and projects and why they chose to join a project with IBO-NL. 22 volunteers (67%) filled in their evaluation form and answered these questions, resulting in the insights below. Most volunteers find us through the internet and through friends and family. Some have already known our organisation for many years. The main reason people choose to volunteer with IBO-NL is because of the projects offered which match their interests, followed by positive past experiences in other projects, resulting in returning volunteers.

HOW VOLUNTEERS FOUND IBO



- Google/internet
- Friends/family
- Volunteer center
- Vacancy site
- Political party
- Passing by
- Unknown

REASONS TO CHOOSE IBO



- Good projects offered
- Good past experiences
- Learning construction skills
- Educational, fun, meaningful
- Trustworthy organisation
- Enthusiastic employees and volunteers
- Unknown

4. OFFICE UPDATES IN A NUTSHELL

4.1 COMMUNICATION

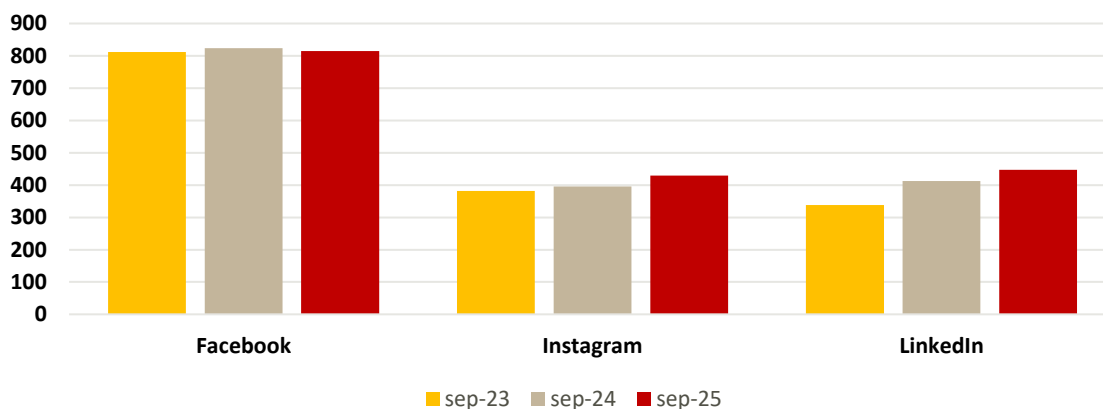
4.1.1 ONLINE NEWSLETTER & 'BUILDING MESSAGES'

The online newsletter (focused on potential volunteers) is sent about 6x a year and has around 1530 recipients as of September 2025. This number has been slowly been increasing over time. Around 40% of the recipients opens the newsletters and the click rate (using the links offered) differs around 6%. *Bouwberichten* ('Building messages'), our physical newsletter (focused on donors, former volunteers and other interested parties), was previously sent 3x a year to around 2000 addresses. This year we decided to send it 2x a year to about 1000 addresses. The rest receives the digital version. This year we truly implemented the digitalisation of our newsletter (which started in 2023). This means all members of whom we have an e-mail address receive the newsletter digitally. Donors can still ask for the paper version. All the recipients receive a debit card, to encourage donations. This is both a cost-saving measure as well as a sustainability consideration, decreasing our use of paper.

4.1.2 SOCIAL MEDIA & WEBSITE

In 2022, we harmonised the looks and content of all social media channels and implemented the IBO 'house style' that was only used on the website and print before. We reviewed the target groups and related tone of voice and content for the channels, resulting in focusing LinkedIn on (potential) donors, Instagram for younger volunteers and Facebook for older volunteers. In general, we have been updating our social media channels more frequently, which has resulted in a higher engagement and more followers on Instagram and LinkedIn. On Facebook the number has slightly decreased and remains practically stable. Especially on Instagram we are looking for ways to reach new crowds, since our main target group (young adults 18-30) is mostly found on this platform. In the coming year we intend to reorganise our website and provide more 'to the point' information.

SOCIAL MEDIA FOLLOWERS



4.2 STAFF

Over the past years there have been major changes both in staff and board members of IBO-Nederland. In January 2024 two new employees started at the office with a short transition stage, which partly explains why the past seasons it has been a challenge to find volunteers. However, after two volunteering seasons of growing and learning, the office team is more skilled and highly motivated to continue the upward trend in the years to come.

5. ONLINE SURVEY FOR VOLUNTEERS

In order to evaluate the projects, all volunteers receive an evaluation form with questions about the feasibility of the project, accommodation and meals, group size and atmosphere and contact with the local population. These questions could be answered with marks from 1 – 5, accompanied by a field for further explanation. 22 volunteers filled out a form in 2025, which is similar to the years before.

Marks

- 5 = very positive/ totally agree
- 4 = positive / agree
- 3 = blank / no opinion
- 2 = negative / disagree
- 1 = very negative/ totally disagree

Average marks (1 – 5)	2021 (19 forms)	2022 (26 forms)	2023 (17 forms)	2024 (16 forms)	2025 (22 forms)
Goal	4.76	4.64	4.65	4.50	4.50
Project is useful	3.88	4.52	3.88	4.19	4.23
Project is necessary	4.06	4.00	3.94	3.94	4.05
Contact with target group	3.41	4.36	3.31	4.13	3.64
Enough work to do	3.65	4.52	4.00	4.44	4.55
Enough materials	3.88	4.60	4.12	4.13	4.50
Technical guidance	3.53	4.16	3.82	3.94	3.68
Safety at work	4.12	4.28	4.12	4.38	4.45
Work was feasible	4.35	4.48	4.29	4.50	4.55
Hospitality	4.18	4.96	4.65	4.81	4.36
Accommodation	4.06	4.24	4.47	4.25	4.14
Info local situation	4.00	4.44	3.88	4.19	3.82
Meals	4.24	4.52	4.76	4.81	4.36
Contact local population	3.76	4.52	3.88	3.75	3.45
Atmosphere in the group	4.59	4.56	4.47	4.69	4.36
Number of volunteers	4.06	4.52	4.41	4.38	4.00
IBO-information	4.29	4.40	4.12	4.50	3.86
Expectation versus reality	3.88	4.48	4.00	4.19	3.82
Mean of all the questions above (1-5)	4.04	4.45	4.15	4.32	4.13
Mean of all the questions above (1-10)	8.08	8.90	8.30	8.64	8.26
Volunteers rate project with a (1-10)	8.30	8.54	8.06	8.06	7.64

The highest marks in 2025 (score above 4.5) were given to the goal of the project, enough work to do, enough materials to work with and the feasibility of the work. This means that most projects were balanced in terms of practicality of the work. The lowest marks (score below 3.8) show that improvements can be made in terms of the contact with the target group, the technical guidance and the contact with the local population. The data reflects a wish from the volunteers to connect more deeply to the local community during their project. Therefore, the social components of the projects need attention when it comes to making future arrangements with our project partners.

This year, we have updated our evaluation form with 12 questions covering the impact on the volunteer itself, relating to personal development and the Inner Development Goals. As we have no data to compare with yet, we present the mean grades given to these statements in 2025. Starting from next year, it will be possible to identify patterns in the marks given.

Average marks (1 – 5)	2025 (22 forms)
Improved sense of autonomy	2.68
Improved communication skills	3.27
Improved proactive attitude / taking initiative	3.10
Improved understanding of strength, weaknesses and areas for growth	3.10
Improved working in a team / integration into a group	3.14
New practical skills (language, working with hands, tools)	3.50
Awareness of differences in origin of people (relating to chances and discrimination)	3.59
Awareness impact of daily actions on environment, culture and community	3.14
Improved motivation to meet people with different background	3.68
Improved motivation to be actively involved in society (volunteering, sustainability)	3.64
Participation is relevant for my future perspective (education, career)	2.73
Satisfied with my personal contribution to the project	4.10
Mean of all the questions above (1-5)	3.01
Mean of all the questions above (1-10)	6.02

As shown in the table above, volunteers were most of all (score above 3.6) satisfied with their personal contribution to the project. Furthermore, the volunteers improved their motivation to meet people with different backgrounds and improved their motivation to be more actively involved in society. Areas in which the volunteers felt the least improvement (score below 3.0) were their sense of autonomy and whether participation was relevant for their future perspective. The average grade of the contribution to personal development was more than sufficient. The grades given were widely dispersed. This could partly be explained by the age and life experience of people responding (most likely, a pensioner will experience less impact than a young adult). In the future, we aim to explore how to make this data more insightful.

