

Interserve Netherlands – Draft Vision 2021-2030
Being witnesses in a new era

Introductory remarks:

This vision document describes in main points how Interserve Netherlands wants to contribute to making Jesus Christ known among people from Asia and the Arab world, taking into account a number of assumptions regarding future developments.

This document was developed after consolidating the input from board members and director on the Vision 2030 document. The most important changes compared to the previous document is a focus on working among people groups that are the least likely to hear the Gospel, and a lesser focus on the habitus terminology. The Vision document is intended to provide direction for the longer term. A 3-year policy document will be developed in order to provide concrete strategic steps based on current trends, a SWOT analysis and other aspects.

1. Internationally agreed principles

Our vision

To see lives and communities transformed through an encounter with Jesus Christ

Our purpose

To make Jesus Christ known through wholistic ministry, in partnership with the global church, amongst the neediest peoples of Asia and the Arab World.

Our core values

Dependence on God

Community

Integrity

Oneness in Christ

Partnership

Servanthood

(W)holistic

Impetus of our strategy:

Discipleship – Growing as disciples and making disciples

(W)holistic – Serving in and through every part of our lives

Most Needy – Removing obstacles that hinder well-being and fullness of life



The Church – Partnering with, serving and supporting followers of Jesus Christ to participate together in God's mission in this world

2. The changing landscape of mission

1. Classical mission terminology is increasingly being replaced by context-sensitive terminology.
2. Christian witnessing is increasingly determined by the Global South¹ due to the relative shift in the number of Christians in the Global South versus the Global North.
3. We expect that the testimony of Christians working in secular paid jobs, as entrepreneurs or self-employed, whether or not based on a motivation of working among peoples where there are few or no faith communities, will play a relatively bigger role, compared to supported missionaries. Witnessing from a secular job in a cross-cultural setting provides specific (contact) opportunities, but also comes with specific challenges such as time pressure, dealing with ethical issues, and lifestyle.
4. Migration, including to Europe, due to war, natural disasters, famine and economic motives will lead to more contact opportunities between Christians and people who are not familiar with the Gospel.
5. Individual Christians and their local faith communities embrace a natural, organic, and unorganised approach to witnessing (habitus).

3. Interserve's answer for the next decade

A. General

Interserve is an international and interdenominational community of professionals who promote being a follower of Jesus Christ in all aspects of daily lives, in their contacts with people from Asia and the Arab world at home and abroad. "Faith works" is the motto.

Interserve primarily focuses on population groups where the Christian witness is most limited and who are most in need (materially). As a result, we often work in the hard places.

B. International

Placement of LTers and OTers: Sending and supporting Long- and On-Trackers will be continued in collaboration with the home churches. Long-Track and On-Track programmes have been combined to serve as a program for sending Christians who are trained in the habitus way of life and form of witnessing. People will increasingly be placed in secular jobs or

¹ The Global South refers to nations of the world that are regarded as having a relatively low level of economic and industrial development, less political influence and are typically located to the south of more industrialized nations.



work as entrepreneurs. As such, processes and services will be adapted to optimize the placement and support of Christian professionals in secular roles and/or as entrepreneurs. In many cases, the sending church, home front committee (or team), and mission organisation will have different roles and different procedures to follow.

International commitment: ISV-NL intentionally works with ISV-International and participates in one or more think tanks / working groups which are involved with the development and placement of Christian professionals and entrepreneurs in the areas where Interserve works.

C. National

Church involvement: Interserve has developed long-term relationships with the sending churches / congregations through the HFCs (Home Front committees) of Partners, and has motivated them to witness and pursue a Biblical lifestyle at work. Additionally, more support is being given to churches and faith communities that want to promote a Biblical lifestyle and witness among people from Asia and the Arab World, both in the Netherlands and in other countries.

Growth of Team Netherlands: Extra attention will be given to expanding Team Netherlands by encouraging returning Partners to become/stay involved with people from Asia and the Arab World (AWA) through training Christians or by witnessing among non-Christians. This will be done in close collaboration with churches and other organisations that work actively in this area. Team NL looks for opportunities to support Christian migrants who return to their home countries through training them in witnessing and the Christian lifestyle.

Networking: Interserve will pro-actively network with Evangelical and traditional churches, Christian faith communities, organisations and partnerships in the Netherlands to promote local, inter-culturally sensitive ways of witnessing and lifestyle.

D. Training and coaching of Christian professionals

The main target group for training and coaching are Christian professionals who did not follow extensive Bible school training. Instead, we will focus on professionals who are already working or want to work in secular paid jobs or as entrepreneurs among people from Asia and the Arab World. The goal of the training is to equip participants to become effective cross-cultural witnesses in every aspect of their lives. In addition to missiological aspects, the training is aimed at strengthening cultural intelligence and involving churches in developing a witnessing lifestyle. Upon request Member Care ² and other relevant support will also be provided.

² Member Care is preparing, equipping and supporting cross-cultural workers to carry out their work and ministry effectively and in a balanced manner.