

Germany

15 February 2019

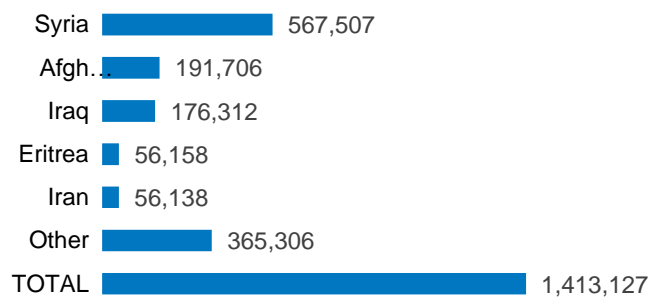
During 2015 and 2016, Germany admitted more than **one million persons seeking protection** making it a significant host country for refugees.

Over the last years, Germany has significantly expanded its engagement in refugee protection globally. In 2018, Germany was **UNHCR's third-largest donor**.

Average arrivals to Germany over the year 2018 stood at around **13,000 first asylum applications** lodged with the authorities on a monthly basis.

POPULATION OF CONCERN

Countries of Origin



* Total includes refugees, asylum-seekers and stateless people

** All figures taken from UNHCR Global Trends 2017

KEY FIGURES

Admission to Germany

185,853

Persons have lodged a formal asylum claim in 2018, compared to 222,683 in 2017.

3,217

refugees admitted under resettlement and humanitarian admission programmes in 2018

32,962

Visas for family reunification were issued in 2018.*

27.3%

Refugee recognition rate in 2018. The overall protection rate stood at 50.2%.

* Figure for the seven main refugee-producing countries.

UNHCR PRESENCE

Staff:

12 National Staff

3 International Staff

Offices:

1 Branch Office in Berlin

1 Sub Office in Nuremberg



Three years after Numeir fled Syria, he was reunited with his family in Germany. © UNHCR/Chris Melzer

Working with Partners and Public Institutions

UNHCR monitors the implementation of the Geneva Convention on Refugees in Germany and advocates for improvements in the protection of asylum-seekers and recognised refugees in Germany. We raise awareness and support from Germany for UNHCR's global efforts in protecting and assisting refugees.

UNHCR helps protecting its people of concern by working with counterparts in government as well as regional and local authorities, parliament, the judiciary, practicing lawyers and non-governmental organisations. UNHCR promotes policies, laws, guidelines, regulations and practices that are designed and applied in line with international standards of refugee protection or relating to stateless persons. We use advocacy to address decision-makers in the relevant institutions with the goal that they adopt concepts and practices that ensure the protection of our people of concern.

UNHCR is in close dialogue with German government counterparts to garner support for its global operations and to bolster Germany's engagement in humanitarian crises around the world. UNHCR Germany briefs government counterparts on current displacement situations and lends its expertise in humanitarian assistance and refugee protection. We reach out to Members of Parliament, interlocutors in government and the public at large. We do this by raising awareness of refugees' protection and assistance needs world wide, to generate a better understanding, openness and support for refugee protection in Germany and beyond.

Main Activities

Protection

- Observe developments in the concepts of the asylum procedure and in decision practice of the asylum authorities. Advocate for comprehensive quality management. Promote a system that guarantees the assessment of the need for international protection in a fair and efficient procedures.
- Advocate with government counterparts and politicians for a Common European Asylum System (CEAS) that provides, in particular, for access to asylum procedures in the EU for persons arriving at its borders. A system that creates the conditions for fair and efficient procedures in all EU Member States and which avails of mechanisms for responsibility sharing.

- Visit reception centres to identify challenges in reception conditions. Suggest improvements, where necessary. Promote a systematic review of special needs of asylum seekers which are particularly vulnerable. The implementation of the so-called AnkER concepts as proposed by the Federal Government and taken up by some Laender is put under particular scrutiny.
- In cooperation with government counterparts and UNHCR offices in first countries of asylum, support the implementation of German resettlement and humanitarian admission programmes. Advocate with government counterparts for improvements in the system of resettlement and humanitarian admission. Advise government counterparts in the drafting of a concept for a private sponsorship programme.
- Observe the implementation of the quota of 1,000 visas for family members of subsidiary protection beneficiaries. Advocate for legislative changes facilitating the family reunification of minor siblings with unaccompanied minors. Improve the implementation of family reunification with recognised refugees.
- Identify challenges in integration efforts by meeting refugees in various places all over Germany. Promote practical improvements in the access to the labour market for persons granted international protection. Advocate for increased efforts to empower refugees to take their life in their own hands.
- Raise awareness for the situation of stateless persons and international standards on their treatment. Advocate for a withdrawal of reservations on part of the German government declared upon ratification of the statelessness conventions.

External Relations

- Represent UNHCR in public by answering press inquiries and giving interviews to German and international media. Organize public events with stakeholders, inter alia, from politics, NGOs, foundations and broader society.
- Create public awareness and understanding for refugee protection as well as UNHCR's global efforts to assist its persons of concern. Contribute to a favourable public atmosphere that preserves protection space in Germany.
- Liaise with the Federal Foreign Office as the German ministry in charge of humanitarian assistance as well as the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), keeping them updated on UNHCR's global operations and needs.
- Raise awareness among members of parliament about global displacement situations, protection and assistance needs of UNHCR's persons of concern, UNHCR's response and especially its protection mandate. Advocate with decision-makers for a strong focus on refugee protection in Germany's foreign policy and humanitarian engagement. Engage in discussions on humanitarian

issues and on specific displacement situations with the humanitarian community in Germany.

- Provide information and mobilise support from relevant stakeholders in Germany for the implementation of the Global Compact on Refugees.

CONTACTS

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LINKS

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