

Germany | Q4 2017

13 November 2017

Key figures¹

139,635

New arrivals so far from January to September 2017. 213,000 came in the same period 2016.

168,306

Persons have lodged an asylum claim from January to September 2017, compared to 657,855 in the same period 2016.

695,733

Asylum cases were decided so far in 2017 (Jan-Sept).

669,482

Refugees² lived in Germany by the end of 2016.

43,500

Syrians admitted under resettlement and humanitarian admission programmes (since 2013).

25.1%

Refugee recognition rate from January to September 2017 (48.8% for the same period in 2016). The overall protection rate stood at 52.2% (72.7% for same period 2016).

60,000

Visas for family reunification were issued in the first half of 2017.

302,212,385

USD contributions to UNHCR by Germany so far in 2017 (Jan-Sept). That compares to 360 million USD in all of 2016.

Asylum and protection - Germany as a host country

During 2015 and 2016, Germany admitted more than one million persons seeking protection. The refugee situation had become a dominating subject in the overall political debate and in German media, in its domestic, European and international dimension, in particular the Syria situation. From admission to integration, Germany's efforts as one of the most important host countries in Europe for persons originating mostly from Syria, Iraq and Afghanistan are remarkable. Government measures were significantly complemented by NGOs, grass-roots initiatives as well as the general public, with ongoing voluntary engagement at all levels of society. Refugee policy remains a top priority on the government's agenda, with integration challenges as one focus. A new set of laws was introduced in May 2016 streamlining efforts in that field. UNHCR focuses on supporting the participation of refugees in advocating for community-based approaches.

¹ Sources: Federal Office for Migration and Refugees (BAMF), Federal Ministry of the Interior and UNHCR.

² Persons recognized as refugees under the 1951 Geneva Refugee Convention/1967 Protocol, beneficiaries of subsidiary protection as provided for in Art. 15 of the EU-Qualification Directive, and persons granted a complementary national form of protection.

With less than 100,000 asylum claims pending by the end of September 2017 at the Federal Office for Migration and Refugees (BAMF) the challenge of clearing the backlog of pending asylum-applications has been resolved to a large extent. UNHCR Germany is closely cooperating with the BAMF with view to improving the quality of the asylum procedures. In this regard, UNHCR advocates for the establishment of a comprehensive quality management system and further investment in the qualification of asylum case workers.

Germany has established a regular resettlement programme with an annual quota of 500 persons (1,600 persons in 2016/2017). In 2017 mainly Syrian refugees from Turkey were admitted. In addition to resettlement, through humanitarian admission as well as private sponsorship, more than 43,500 visas for Syrian refugees were issued since 2013. While most of these programmes ended in 2015, some German states have prolonged their ongoing programmes until 2017 and beyond. In the first half of 2017, an overall of some 60,000 visas for all types of family reunification were issued. Of those, 32,000 visas were issued for the family reunification of Syrian and Iraqi refugees. UNHCR Germany advocates for increasing the number of places for resettlement and other forms of admission to Germany, as well as further support to enable family reunification procedures.

After Chancellor Merkel's Christian Democratic Union (CDU) gained the majority of votes in the national elections in September, a new government is not in place yet. A potential coalition between the CDU, the Green Party and the Free Democrats is being sounded out but with diverging views on family reunification for persons with subsidiary protection, mechanisms limiting admission to Germany being discussed and a far-right-wing party in Federal Parliament for the first time, the future course of action in terms of refugee policy remains unclear. On the occasion of the establishment of the new Parliament on 24 October, UNHCR published [key recommendations](#) addressed to the newly-elected members of Parliament.

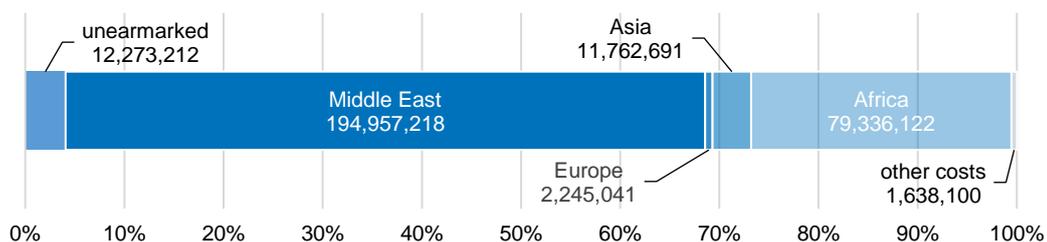
Germany as an important partner in global refugee protection

Germany was one of the first states ratifying the 1951 Geneva Refugee Convention. It also has been a member of UNHCR's governing body, the Executive Committee (ExCom), since its establishment in 1958.

In addition to being an important host country, **Germany has significantly expanded its engagement in refugee protection globally**, including by increasing funding to respond to situations of forced displacement. With contributions of 360 million USD in 2016,

Germany was UNHCR's third largest overall and second largest bilateral donor. This represents an increase by 152% compared to the previous year's funding.

Figure 1. German contributions to UNHCR by regional programmes - Total Recorded by the end of September 2017 in USD



A large share of the German contributions to UNHCR went to the humanitarian response in the Syria situation, followed by the South Sudan situation.

Figure 2. Main humanitarian situations funded by Germany through UNHCR by the end of September 2017

Situation	Amount (USD)
Syria Situation	162,368,498 USD
South Sudan Situation	29,032,556 USD
Somalia Situation	23,624,331 USD
Yemen Situation	15,871,440 USD
Iraq Situation	12,843,614 USD

For 2017, so far the total recorded German contributions amount to 302.2 million USD.

For 25 years, the Cultural Department of the Federal Foreign Office funds the UNHCR scholarship programme for refugees through the Albert Einstein German Academic Refugee Initiative (DAFI). In 2016, the DAFI programme was funded with USD 10 million. [The DAFI programme](#) enables young refugees to continue post-secondary education and motivates refugee children to stay in school and succeed academically.

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