

Germany | Q1 2018

14 March 2018

Key figures¹

186,644

New arrivals in 2017. 280,000 came in 2016.

222,683

Persons have lodged a formal asylum claim in 2017, compared to 657,855 in the same period 2016.

603,428

Asylum cases were decided in 2017.

970,365

Refugees² lived in Germany by the end of 2017.

47,606

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

25.1%

Refugee recognition rate in 2017 (42.1% for 2016). The overall protection rate stood at 53% (71.4% in 2016).

54,307

Visas for family reunification were issued in 2017 for the six main refugee-producing countries

476,9 million

USD contributions to UNHCR by Germany in 2017 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. 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 some 68,000 asylum claims pending by the end of 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. The bi-annual quota of 1,600 persons in 2016/2017 was fulfilled with the admission of 107 refugees resettled from Egypt. In addition to resettlement, in 2017 2,455 Syrian refugees from Turkey were admitted through a humanitarian admission scheme. All admission schemes, via resettlement, humanitarian admission as well as private sponsorship, more than 47,600 visas for Syrian refugees were issued since 2013. 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 facilitated family reunification procedures for relatives of beneficiaries of international protection.

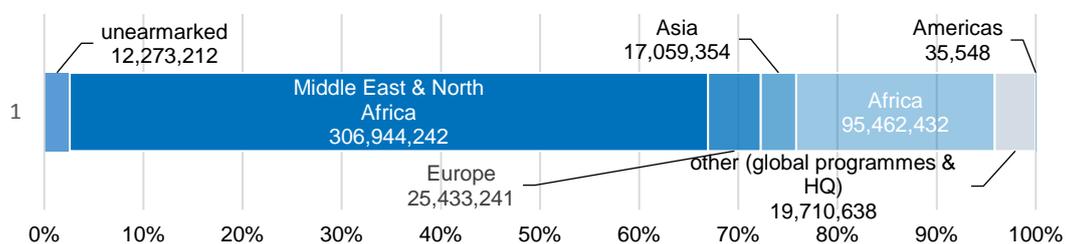
After pre-coalition talks between Chancellor Angela Merkel's election-winning Christian Democratic Union (CDU), the Free Democrats (FDP) and the Green Party had failed, the CDU and the Social Democrats reached an agreement for a renewed 'grand' coalition. The new government was sworn in on 14 March. The coalition agreement commits to international and national refugee protection but limits the possibility for family reunification for people under subsidiary protection to 1,000 cases per month plus hardship cases. UNHCR had advocated to reinstate the procedure for this group of people after it had been suspended in March 2016. Other details of the agreement in the field of integration and asylum remain unclear. On the occasion of the establishment of the new Parliament on 24 October, UNHCR had already 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 almost 477 million USD in 2017, for the first time Germany is UNHCR's second largest donor. This represents an increase by 32% compared to the previous year's funding.

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



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

Figure 2. Main humanitarian situations funded by Germany through UNHCR in 2017

Situation	Contribution (USD)
Syria Situation	233,5 M USD
Iraq Situation	52,9 M USD
Somalia Situation	35,6 M USD
South Sudan Situation	29,1 6USD
Libya Situation	26,5 M USD
Yemen Situation	15,9 M USD

For 2017, the total recorded German contributions amount to 476,9 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 2017, the DAFI programme was funded with USD 17,5 million. It enables young refugees to continue post-secondary education and motivates refugee children to stay in school and succeed academically.

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