

Germany

11 March 2021

Germany is the **fifth largest host country** of refugees in the world and the second largest humanitarian donor globally. In 2020, UNHCR was the **third largest donor to UNHCR**.

Over the past years, Germany has **significantly expanded its engagement in refugee protection globally and in the EU**. Germany is a strong supporter of the Global Compact for Refugees.

UNHCR monitors the implementation of the **Geneva Convention on Refugees** in Germany and advocates for improvements in the asylum system in Germany.

POPULATION OF CONCERN

Refugees	1,14 million
Asylum-seekers	295,205
Stateless people	15,320

TOP THREE COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN

Refugees		Asylum-seekers	
Syria	562.168	Afghanistan	42.487
Afghanistan	133.370	Syria	38.124
Iraq	131.935	Iraq	32.890

Data source: *UNHCR 2020 Mid-Year Statistical report and UNHCR data finder platform*

COVID-19 PREVENTION AND RESPONSE

Advocacy: UNHCR published **recommendations** on how to respond to challenges posed by COVID-19 – at the border, in reception centres, and in the asylum procedure.

Inclusion of persons of concern: Asylum-seekers and refugees are included in Germany's COVID-19 response measures, including its vaccination plan.

Communication with Communities: UNHCR has compiled information in relevant languages for asylum-seekers and refugees on COVID-19 prevention and response measures on UNHCR Germany's **help site**.

HIGHLIGHTS

Refugee Protection

122,170 persons have lodged an asylum claim in 2020, compared to 165,938 in 2019. **35%** Refugee recognition rate in 2020. The overall protection rate stood at 57%.

Admission to Germany

In 2020, Germany took the lead with the EU **relocation and admission** exercises from Greece, which included several hundred asylum-seekers, unaccompanied children as well as refugees.

3,253 refugees were admitted under resettlement and humanitarian admission programmes in 2020.

Global donor and partner

With USD 447 million, including USD 62,7 million funding for UNHCR's COVID-19 response, Germany continued to rank as UNHCR's **third largest donor** in 2020.



Considerations ahead of the Federal Elections 2021 in Germany

UNHCR identified **four key areas** of concern for Germany's role in global refugee protection in this election year.

Key Priorities

- **Suggest protection-friendly policies:** UNHCR develops positions and recommendations on all refugee-related matters in order to influence processes early on. UNHCR advocates for a Common European Asylum System (CEAS) that provides for access to asylum procedures in the EU with appropriate guarantees for persons seeking asylum anywhere in the EU including at its borders; a system that creates the conditions for fair and efficient procedures in all EU Member States; and which avails of reliable mechanisms for responsibility sharing.
- **Advise on fair and efficient asylum procedures in Germany:** UNHCR observes developments in the concepts of the asylum procedure and in the decision practice of the asylum authorities and courts and provides advice on standards for fair and efficient procedures and on assessment of the need for international protection.
- **Promote social cohesion and integration:** UNHCR promotes conditions for successful integration of persons granted protection in Germany, in particular aimed at improving the opportunities for refugees to take their life in their own hands and enhance their participation.
- **Promote resettlement and support implementation:** In cooperation with government counterparts and UNHCR in host countries, UNHCR supports the implementation of German resettlement and humanitarian admission programmes. UNHCR advocates for a substantial increase, including through the currently piloted German private sponsorship programme.
- **Suggest improvements in family reunification:** UNHCR observes the practice of family reunification and makes practical proposals to accelerate the administrative procedures. UNHCR advocates for the same rights to family reunification for subsidiary protection beneficiaries as for refugees. UNHCR proposes legislative changes guaranteeing the family reunification of minor siblings with unaccompanied minor refugees in Germany.
- **External Relations:** UNHCR raises public awareness and understanding for refugee protection as well as UNHCR's global efforts to protect and assist refugees and support countries hosting them, in the spirit of the Global Compact on Refugees.

Working with Partners

- UNHCR maintains strong and reliable partnerships with the most relevant actors involved in refugee protection in Germany, including at national and state levels, the Federal Office for Migration and Refugees

as well as with relevant Members of Parliament and civil society.

- UNHCR liaises 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), on UNHCR's global operations and developments and on evolving needs.
- UNHCR supports its national private sector fundraising partner UNO-Flüchtlingshilfe e.V. with information for its communication with private donors.

Statelessness

- UNHCR raises awareness for the situation of stateless persons and international standards on their treatment. UNHCR further advocates for a withdrawal of reservations on part of the German government declared upon ratification of the statelessness conventions.

UNHCR Presence in Germany

Staff:

12 National Staff
4 International Staff

Offices:

1 Country Office in Berlin
1 Liaison Office in Nuremberg