

# Germany

February 2024

Germany is among the largest **refugee hosting countries globally** as well as the second-largest **humanitarian donor**. In 2023, Germany was UNHCR's second largest and most flexible donor.

Germany is an important partner in refugee protection globally and in the EU, and strongly supports the implementation of the **Global Compact on Refugees**.

Germany admits significant numbers of refugees through **resettlement** and admission programmes, including the community sponsorship programme NesT and an unallocated quota pilot.

## UNHCR POPULATION STATISTICS (as of mid-2023)\*

Refugees	<b>2,509,506</b>
Asylum-seekers	<b>349,034</b>
Stateless people	<b>29,562</b>

### Top three countries of origin\*

Refugees		Asylum-seekers	
Ukraine	1,038,504	Syrian Arab Republic	66,556
Syrian Arab Republic	692,734	Afghanistan	59,018
Afghanistan	239,583	Türkiye	43,101

\*UNHCR 2023 Mid-Year Trends and UNHCR data finder

## Refugee Inclusion in Germany: Volunteers play a vital role

In addition to the professional structures for reception and inclusion, the bridge to the host society is provided by volunteers who dedicate time to support refugees upon arrival, and during, the inclusion process.

### German Foundation provides support for volunteer networks

The German Foundation for Civil Engagement and Volunteers has assisted volunteer engagement for the over one million refugees from Ukraine. In addition to a specific programme for volunteer initiatives, the Foundation also supported the creation of a volunteer support network within the "Alliance4Ukraine" platform, which subsequently expanded its scope to become the "WelcomeAlliance", reaching beyond the Ukraine context. This platform facilitates meaningful interaction between civil society, government, and business stakeholders, fostering the inclusion and active participation of refugees and asylum seekers.

The Foundation presented its work as an example of **good practice** at the Global Refugee Forum.

## HIGHLIGHTS

### Germany as a country of asylum

As of late December 2023, over one million refugees from Ukraine had registered for temporary protection in Germany. Additionally, throughout 2023, 351,915 asylum claims were filed, including 329,120 first-time applications. Of decisions on merits, the overall protection rate in 2023 (refugee status, subsidiary or humanitarian protection) was 68.6 per cent.

### Germany as a resettlement country

Germany envisaged to admit 6,500 refugees through resettlement and humanitarian admission programmes in 2023 and plans to continue with a target of 6,540 places in 2024. UNHCR advises and supports authorities on these initiatives.

### Germany as a global donor

Germany remained one of UNHCR's largest donors in 2023, with a contribution of USD 436 million. These funds enabled effective responses to the needs in new and protracted displacement situations. The majority of Germany's funding was flexible and softly earmarked at situation level, enabling UNHCR to respond effectively to emerging needs.



© Butynski / Dokumentationszentrum Flucht, Vertreibung, Versöhnung

### Photo Exhibition 'Traces of Memory'

In collaboration with the Documentation Centre for Displacement, Expulsion, Reconciliation, UNHCR opened a **gallery exhibition** featuring the work of the photographer Mustafah Abdulaziz, who portrayed refugees in Berlin alongside one of their most precious mementos.

## Key Priorities

- Strengthen respect for the 1951 Refugee Convention:** UNHCR works with counterparts to ensure policies in aligned with the 1951 Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees, and that eligibility criteria for protection continues to be determined through fair and efficient procedures. Accordingly, promoting understanding of refugees' protection needs in political discourse is crucial to reinforce the values and principles of the 1951 Convention in Germany. UNHCR has regular exchanges with the Federal Office for Migration and Refugees, including on quality of procedures and engages with judges on questions of eligibility.
  - Resettlement and complementary pathways:** UNHCR supports the federal, as well as some state governments, in the implementation of resettlement and humanitarian admission programmes, including efforts to enhance flexibility of procedures and the implementation of an 'unallocated quota', which enables submissions from countries without a regular resettlement programme to Germany. Moreover, UNHCR cooperates with various stakeholders in the German community sponsorship programme 'Neustart im Team (NesT)'.
  - Family Reunification:** UNHCR and partners advocate for strengthening current legal frameworks, procedures and practices of family reunification. In addition, UNHCR coordinates closely with partners engaged in counselling services.
  - Promote support for the Global Compact on Refugees:** UNHCR encourages Germany to further advance its positive role in international refugee protection and responsibility-sharing, while drawing attention to the importance of maintaining substantial humanitarian assistance in support of refugees and internally displaced people. UNHCR supports the government's efforts to support large refugee hosting countries through targeted bilateral and development cooperation.
- Education:** A highlight in Germany's support to refugees worldwide is the DAFI scholarship programme (Deutsche Akademische Flüchtlingsinitiative Albert

Einstein). In 2022, the programme was implemented in 56 countries globally.

## Working with Partners

- UNHCR maintains strong partnerships with state actors involved in refugee protection, including the Ministry of the Interior and the Federal Office for Migration and Refugees, Members of Parliament, the administrative courts and civil society actors.
- UNHCR liaises with the Federal Foreign Office, the Ministry in charge of humanitarian assistance, as well as the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development on UNHCR's global operations and evolving needs.
- UNHCR cooperates with its national private sector fundraising partner UNO Flüchtlingshilfe.

## Statelessness

- Germany has acceded to both the 1954 and 1961 UN Conventions on Statelessness. In light of the different administrative procedures for determining statelessness and nationality in Germany, UNHCR advocates for the adoption of uniform standards for existing mechanisms. Additionally, UNHCR recommends the introduction of dedicated residence permit for stateless people, in line with the object and purpose of the 1954 Convention.

## UNHCR Presence in Germany

### Staff:

11 National Staff  
 4 International Staff

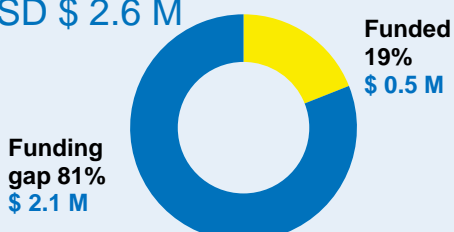
### Offices:

1 Country Office in Berlin  
 1 Liaison Office in Nuremberg

## Financial information (31 January 2024)

### Financial requirements for 2024

USD \$ 2.6 M



UNHCR is grateful for the support from our top government donors:

**Australia | Belgium | Canada | Denmark | France | Germany | Ireland | Japan | Netherlands | Norway | Sweden | Switzerland | United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland | United States of America**

UNHCR is also grateful for the generous contributions from the private sector and individuals.