

Germany

September 2021

Germany is the **fifth largest host country** of refugees in the world and the second largest humanitarian donor globally. In 2021 so far, UNHCR has been the **second largest donor to UNHCR**.

Over the past years, Germany has expanded its engagement in refugee protection globally and in the European Union, including by strongly supporting the Global Compact for Refugees.

UNHCR monitors the implementation of the **1951 Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees** in Germany and advocates for improvements in the asylum system.

POPULATION OF CONCERN*

Refugees	1.2 million
Asylum-seekers	243.157
Stateless persons	26.674

TOP THREE COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN*

Refugees		Asylum-seekers	
Syria	605,338	Syria	37,219
Afghanistan	147,994	Afghanistan	33,103
Iraq	146,009	Iraq	27,400

*Data source: UNHCR 2020 Global Trends Report and UNHCR [data finder platform](#)

COVID-19 PREVENTION AND RESPONSE

Advocacy: UNHCR published [recommendations](#) on how to respond to COVID-19 challenges at the border, in reception centres, and 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](#).

GERMAN FEDERAL ELECTION 2021

Ahead of the federal election in September of 2021, UNHCR identified **four key areas** of concern for Germany's role in global refugee protection in this election year.

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, including subsidiary protection, reached 57%.

Afghanistan situation response

In response to the increased humanitarian needs in Afghanistan and the region, Germany pledged a total of €600 million for humanitarian assistance, including a substantial amount for UNHCR. Funding will be flexible to allow UNHCR to respond to the very fluid emergency.

Global donor and partner

With USD 351.3 million as of September 2021, including USD 30 million funding for UNHCR's COVID-19 response, Germany ranks as UNHCR's **second largest donor** in 2021 so far.

70th Anniversary of the 1951 Geneva Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees



On the occasion of the 70th anniversary of the 1951 Geneva Convention relating to the Status of Refugees, UNHCR portrayed former refugees who found safety in Germany, Austria and Switzerland. The [video series](#) tells their individual stories and highlights the enduring relevance and importance of the Convention.

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 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 a system with mechanisms for responsibility sharing.
- **Advise on fair and efficient asylum procedures in Germany:** UNHCR observes developments related to the asylum procedure and the decision practice of authorities and courts and provides advice on standards for fair and efficient procedures and the assessment of international protection needs.
- **Promote social cohesion and integration:** UNHCR promotes conditions for integration of protection holders, in particular aimed at improving the **opportunities** for refugee empowerment and enhance their participation in society.
- **Promote resettlement and support implementation:** In cooperation with the government, UNHCR supports the implementation of 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 more flexibility with regard to family reunification, including for beneficiaries of subsidiary protection as well as with regard to the family reunification with unaccompanied minor refugees. UNHCR works

closely with partners to support counselling of refugees on family reunification procedures.

- **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 ministry in charge of humanitarian assistance as well as the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), on UNHCR's global operation, developments and evolving needs.
- UNHCR works with its national private sector fundraising partner UNO-Flüchtlingshilfe e.V. to enhance 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
3 International Staff

Offices:

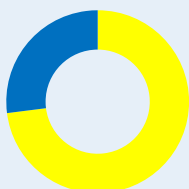
1 Country Office in Berlin
1 Liaison Office in Nuremberg

Financial information (28 September 2021)

Financial requirements

USD 2.2 M

Funding gap
27%
0.6 M



Funded
73%
1.6 M

UNHCR is grateful to the donors of unearmarked and softly earmarked contributions to the 2021 global programmes. Donors of USD 10 million or more are:

Norway | Sweden | Private donors Spain | Netherlands | Denmark | Private donors Korea | United Kingdom | Germany | Private donors Japan | Japan | France | Switzerland | Private donors Italy | Private donors Sweden | Ireland | Belgium | Italy | United States of America

UNHCR Germany is grateful to the donor to its 2021 programme: **Germany**