

Country: Belgium

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| No. Asylum seekers 2007 | No. of persons granted protection | No. of Ngos'/ GOs'/ projects offering mental health services | No. of NGOs'/ GOs'/ projects working with persons with broken family links | No. of NGOs'/ GOs'/ projects working with survivors of torture | No. of NGOs'/ GOs'/ projects working with the elderly and frail |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------------|--|--|--|---|
| 11.115 | 2.028 | 16 centers with local branches | 1 Belgian Red Cross with 2 regional departments | of the 16, 5 specialized services | |

Access to health system: Asylum seekers and refugees have access to health system (same as Belgian citizens) – undocumented foreigners can only benefit from urgent medical care. Having health insurance gives access to regular medical care.

Legal Access to mental health care: Yes, it's written in the law on reception that there needs to be a right to access mental care. Thus, the same mental health services as for the Belgian citizens are available to asylum seekers/refugees.

Systematic assessment of mental health needs: Yes, through reception centres, Cfr. Law on reception, within one month an assessment needs to be done in the reception centres. It is done by the social workers and it needs to check if persons have been victim of torture or any other kind of psychological, sexual or physical violence.

Main stakeholders in the asylum system:

- the Aliens' Office
- the Commissioner General for Refugees and Stateless Persons
- the Aliens' Appeal Council
- the Council of State
- Fedasil : reception centers and initiatives

Country specific features: What drew my attention? Health care is the responsibility of the regions/ communities. Thus, there's different structures in the north (Flemish community) and the south (French community) of the country.

Difficulties: All persons are entitled to urgent medical care (including mental health care). But nothing foreseen regarding follow-up or prevention. Modalities in health care depend on residence status of the foreigner.