

Country: Germany

Done by Eulamie Esclamada, Austrian Red Cross

No. Asylum seekers 2007	No. of persons granted protection	No. of Ngos'/ GOs' offering mental health services	No. of NGOs'/ GOs' working with persons with broken family links	No. of NGOs'/ GOs' working with survivors of torture	No. of NGOs'/ GOs' working with the elderly and frail
19.164 (first application)	304 (1.1%) have been granted asylum; 6.893 (24.1%) subsidiary protection, 673(2.4%) non-refoulement	22 NGO 3 GO	3 NGO's primarily German Red Cross	11 NGO's	2 NGO's

Access to health system: According to the law (§ 4 AsylbLG), National Health Service to asylum-seekers/refugees is only granted in cases of acute diseases, pains or pregnancy. In all other cases, health service is only provided if indispensable for the health of the applicant (§ 6 AsylbLG). After 4 years, asylum-seekers and refugees will be granted the same health-services than German welfare recipients.

Legal Access to mental health care: Mental health service is provided only in acute cases of a crisis or in cases of danger of an essential worsening of the health situation of the asylum-seeker/refugee. Besides, vulnerable people with particular needs (like unaccompanied minors, victims of torture, violation or other physical, psychological or sexual violence with a temporary status of protection according to directive 2001/55/EC have a legal right to health care – including mental health care.

Systematic assessment of mental health needs: No. There is no systematic assessment to mental health services in Germany. Basically the needs are identified by social workers, lawyers or other contact persons at initial reception centres, accommodation-centres or providers of counselling for refugees as provided from German RC and many other NGOs.

Main stakeholders in the asylum system: The main stakeholders are the competent external branch of the Federal Office for Migration and Refugees, the immigration authority that is responsible for treatment under the law on foreigners, residence and passport measures as well as for deciding on deportations and their implementation and the initial receptions centre as well as other accommodation-centres for asylum-seekers., various NGOs

Country specific features: What drew my attention? The number of persons who have been granted asylum is very low.

Difficulties: The residence permit for asylum seekers is limited to the district of their reception centre. The access to health services, which is limited to emergency cases, can be seen as another difficulty.