

# GERMANY

DONOR PROFILE 2023

**UNITED  
FOR  
GLOBAL  
MENTAL  
HEALTH**

# GERMANY

## Key Facts:

% GNI/ODA 2022	2022 ODA	2021 DAMH
0.83%	US\$35 billion	US \$ 760k

- Germany is the second largest Development Assistance Committee (DAC) donor in net terms. It spent \$35 billion on official development assistance (ODA) in 2022, representing 0.83% of its gross national income (GNI).
- Germany's [Global Health Strategy](#) reaffirms the fundamental human right to the highest individually attainable standard of mental health, and makes specific points around the inclusion of mental health services in universal health coverage and mental health in humanitarian response.
- The five focus areas of the strategy are:
  1. Promoting good health, preventing diseases and developing adequate responses;
  2. Holistic approaches to the environment, climate change and public health;
  3. Strengthening health systems;
  4. Protecting health- addressing cross-border health threats;
  5. Advancing research and innovation for global health
- Germany has a specific focus on the Middle East and North Africa.
- In June 2020 Germany presented its new development cooperation strategy [BMZ 2030](#). This strategy's primary aim is to overcome hunger and poverty, and help achieve the 17 Sustainable Development Goals. Its main focus is peacebuilding, food security, training and sustainable growth, climate and energy, the environment and natural resources. Another important area is human and animal health, and it has set up a dedicated Global Health/One Health unit.

## GLOBAL MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT

According to [IHME](#) data, Germany is a top bilateral donor to mental health. Examples of the projects it funds include:

- promoting mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) in Syria and Jordan
- Enhancing MHPSS support for Syrian refugees in Turkey
- providing psychosocial support training to UNRWA employees for Palestinian refugees



- scaling up health services in Pakistan.

Germany's development agency, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), also [best-practice guide](#) for MHPSS in refugee contexts. To build on this, in May 2021, it released the guide [Psychosocial Support Interventions in the Context of Forced Displacements](#).

Germany is also a member of the MHPSS donor group.

From 2022 to 2025, Germany are funding [Sport for Development](#) in Africa to promote gender equality by empowering women and girls and promoting positive masculinity in men.

Germany does not have a global mental health strategy. However, Germany's development policy, Development Policy as Future-Oriented Peace Policy does mention providing mental health services to refugees and displaced people. Mental health is also referenced in the Global Health Strategy published in October 2020, with regards to universal health coverage and humanitarian response.

## DOMESTIC MENTAL HEALTH

Germany is the first country to have created a [Formal Sub Committee for Global Health](#). It has no national mental health plans, but there are various state-level mental health plans and legislations.

As a response to the increase in demand for mental health services among German young people during the Covid-19 pandemic, the government has strengthened research systems on mental illness and youth mental health. On 10 March 2021, [Federal Minister of Education and Research \(BMBF\)](#) Anja Karlicscek announced the creation of two networks to study these topics: the German Center for Mental Health, which will research methods for the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of mental illness; and the German Center for Adolescent Health, which focus on health of children and young people. The BMBF will provide a grant of €500,000 for each centre's research project.

## KEY STAKEHOLDERS

The Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development ([BMZ](#)) sets development priorities and is the largest source of ODA. Within BMZ, the division on Health and Population Policy is responsible for policy development. BMZ also leads on humanitarian assistance and crisis prevention. Germany's Federal Ministry of Health



(BMG) represents Germany at the WHO and works closely with BMZ on development cooperation. The BMG leads on the government-wide global health strategy.

State development agencies are [GIZ](#) and [KfW](#).

## KEY DECISION MAKERS

Chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany: Olaf Scholz

Minister of Economic Cooperation and Development: Svenja Schulze

Minister of Health: Karl Lauterbach

Chair of the first Global Health Sub-Committee in the German Bundestag: [Heike Baehrens](#).

Minister of Finance: [Christian Lindner](#)

Minister of Foreign Affairs: [Annalena Baerbock](#)

## FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

According to data from [IHME](#), Germany contributed US\$5.2 million in development assistance to mental health (DAMH) in 2020. This figure is only representative of government resources.

## GLOBAL HEALTH OVERVIEW

Germany provides the majority of its ODA bilaterally; in 2020, 80% of Germany's ODA was bilateral. Germany spent US\$1.6 billion of bilateral ODA on health in 2021 according to [IHME](#).

<b>Funds supported by Germany:</b>	
<a href="#">UNDP</a>	UN lead agency on international development. Germany's recent work with UNDP has been focused on supporting Ukraine rebuild vital services and infrastructure.
<a href="#">Global Fund</a>	The Global Fund invests US\$4 billion a year to defeat HIV, TB and malaria. The Global Fund strategy includes a significant commitment to mental health as a comorbidity and key point of intersectionality with the 3 diseases. You can apply for funding on their website.
<a href="#">GAVI</a>	Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, is focused on increasing the sustainable and equitable use of vaccines worldwide. The current strategy ( <a href="#">2021-2025</a> ) is narrowly defined with no reference to mental health.



<a href="#">Global Environment Facility</a>	The Global Environment Facility (GEF) is a multilateral fund dedicated to confronting biodiversity loss, climate change, pollution, and strains on land and ocean health. They fund government projects.
<a href="#">Green Climate Fund</a>	The GCF is the world's largest climate fund, mandated to support developing countries raise and realize their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) ambitions towards low-emissions, climate-resilient pathways. Like the GEF, the GCF is also driven by government-identified national priorities.
<a href="#">World Food Programme</a>	The World Food Programme is the world's largest humanitarian organization saving lives in emergencies and using food assistance to build a pathway to peace, stability and prosperity, for people recovering from conflict, disasters and the impact of climate change. In 2022 Germany announced an additional <a href="#">\$3 million</a> for the WFP to support the most vulnerable Palestinians in Gaza with food assistance.
<a href="#">WHO</a>	Germany has traditionally been one of the top donors to the WHO. In January 2023, Germany announced €130 million for the WHO to support priority areas including antimicrobial resistance, health emergencies, health systems strengthening and WHO reforms.
<a href="#">UNHCR</a>	The UN refugee agency. Germany is the <a href="#">biggest host country</a> for refugees in Europe and the second biggest donor to the UNHCR behind the US.
<a href="#">OCHA</a>	OCHA coordinates the global emergency response to save lives and protect people in humanitarian crises.
<a href="#">UNICEF</a>	The United Nations Children's Fund. One of UNICEF's top donors, Germany's <a href="#">collaboration</a> with UNICEF focuses on water, sanitation and hygiene and social protection. Geographically Germany's work with UNICEF focuses on the Middle East, West Africa, and East and Southern Africa.
<a href="#">UNRWA</a>	The UN organisation providing assistance and protection to Palestinian refugees. Germany's <a href="#">support</a> of UNRWA focuses on infrastructure measures, employment programmes and support for education and healthcare.
<a href="#">Central Emergency Response Fund</a>	CERF enables humanitarian action by helping to kickstart relief efforts in a coordinated way when a new crisis emerges.
<a href="#">IOM</a>	The International Organization for Migration is the leading inter-governmental organization promoting humane and orderly migration for the benefit of all

## KEY RESOURCES

- [Development Policy as Future-Oriented Peace Policy](#). The German Government's 15th Development Policy Report.
- Germany's [Global Health Strategy](#)
- Development cooperation strategy (June 2020) [BMZ 2030 Reform Strategy](#)
- WHO Mental Health Atlas 2020 [Country Profile](#)
- WHO [MiNDbank](#)