

# Voluntary return

Englisch/English  
Information for asylum-seekers

## What happens if your asylum application is rejected?

The notice rejecting your asylum application will also state by when you must leave the country. This period is normally 30 days. The deadline for leaving the country - if the asylum application is rejected as “obviously unfounded” - is one week. If you do not leave the country voluntarily, you can be forcibly returned to your country of origin (removal). You must pay the costs for your removal yourself and will have no possibility of entering Germany or another country of the EU legally for many years (entry ban). Remaining here without residence papers is no solution: you must expect to be arrested by the police at any time and to be removed to your country of origin.

## Opt for a voluntary return with the support of the German authorities

If you have no money to finance leaving the country yourself, you can receive support from the return programme REAG/GARP. REAG/GARP stands for “Reintegration and Emigration Program for Asylum-Seekers in Germany / Government Assisted Repatriation Program.” The support enables you to leave the country independently and to prepare your departure carefully. Your departure will be organised and the travel costs assumed; moreover you will receive additional financial support in the form of travel assistance or start-up assistance. For those returning to particular countries of origin additional assistance services are available to facilitate a new start in the country of origin, e.g. assistance in finding work and accommodation. The various possibilities can be discussed as part of personal return counselling.

## Make use of the free return counselling here!



If you are interested in a voluntary return to your country of origin, you can contact the local return counselling centre here in confidence with any questions you may have. The return counselling provides assistance for preparing your departure, submitting the REAG/GARP support application and if necessary an application for additional assistance for voluntary returnees. If you have no valid travel documents, you will also receive assistance in procuring a passport substitute document. During counselling the use of an interpreter is intended to ensure that you understand everything. You are also free to bring someone with you to the return counselling centre to interpret for you.

You can already attend the return counselling during the ongoing asylum proceedings without this affecting the outcome of the proceedings.

Voluntary return is also possible if the asylum proceedings have not yet ended. In this case you should withdraw the asylum application before you leave the country. After withdrawing the asylum application, your travel documents will be sent to the responsible Aliens Office (the authority from which you received your temporary residence permit) by the Federal Office for Migration and Refugees and can be collected from there.

**You can find a nearby return counselling at the following address:**

If you have Internet access, you can obtain additional information on voluntary return via the following websites:  
<http://zirf.bamf.de> or <http://germany.iom.int/en>

## REAG/GARP Program 2017

### Reintegration and Emigration Program for Asylum-Seekers in Germany (REAG) Government Assisted Repatriation Program (GARP)

#### Project “Nationwide Financial Assistance to Voluntary Returnees”

#### Fact sheet

##### A. General Information

The return assistance and start-up program is a humanitarian assistance program. It supports voluntary return and third country migration, offers start-ups and is a steering instrument for migration movements.

The program is administered by IOM on behalf of the Federal Government and the Federal States. It is implemented in cooperation with local and regional authorities, voluntary welfare organizations, specialized NGOs and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

The program supports the orderly preparation and implementation of voluntary return and third country migration. Prerequisite is that neither the departing person him/herself nor any other person or agency responsible for his/her support can provide the necessary financial support. Any costs incurred during preparation for the departure (e.g. fees for passports or visas, trips to the airport or to consular interviews) must be borne by the responsible social welfare office or any other responsible authority or NGO. In the event of a third country migration, the corresponding visas have to be present.

##### B. Assistance

The following types of assistance are granted:

- payment of transportation costs (by plane, train or bus)
- petrol allowance: € 250 per car
- travel assistance: € 200 per adult/youth and € 100 per child under 12 years of age

Nationals of EU member states cannot participate in the REAG/GARP program.

**No travel assistance** is granted to nationals of European third countries, who are permitted to enter the German federal territory without a visa (e.g. FYR of Macedonia, Montenegro, Republic of Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Republic of Albania, Republic of Moldova, Kosovo (Resolution 1244/99 of the UN Security Council), Georgia (if entry after March 27, 2017) as well as Ukraine (if entry after June 10, 2017). Here, only travel costs will be granted.

Victims of trafficking and/or forced prostitution are exempted from these regulations of exclusion.

- Start-up cash

**Start-up cash Group 1** € 500 per adult/youth and € 250 per child under the age of 12 for nationals of the following countries:

Afghanistan, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gambia, Ghana, Iran, Iraq, Nigeria, Pakistan

**Start-up cash Group 2** € 300 per adult/youth and € 150 per child under the age of 12 for nationals of the following countries:

Algeria, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, China, Ivory Coast, DR Congo, Egypt, Georgia (only if entry into Germany before March 28, 2017), Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, India, Kenya, Lebanon, Libya, Mali, Morocco, Mongolia, Niger, Palestinian territories, Russian Federation, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Syria, Tajikistan, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukraine (only if entry into Germany before June 11, 2017), Vietnam.

#### IOM – Vertretung für Deutschland:

Taubenstraße 20-22 • D-10117 Berlin • Deutschland • Fax: +49.30.278 778 99

#### IOM Zweigstelle in Nürnberg:

Neumeyerstraße 22-26 • D-90411 Nürnberg • Deutschland • Fax: +49.911.4300 260

Telefonzentrale IOM Deutschland: +49.911.43000

E-Mail: [IOM-Germany@iom.int](mailto:IOM-Germany@iom.int) • Internet: <http://germany.iom.int>

Georgian and Ukrainian citizens do not get any start-up cash, if they entered German federal territory after the visa liberalization.

For group 1, a maximum amount of € 1.500 can be granted to families holding an incontestable decision according to §29 Abs. 1 Nr. 1 AsylG (German asylum procedure act), a so called "Dublin case" at the time of applying for REAG/GARP assistance. For Group 2, the maximum amount is € 900 accordingly.

### C. Applications

Applications can only be submitted through one of the local or regional authorities (e.g. social welfare offices, aliens' affairs offices), voluntary welfare agencies, specialized NGOs or the UNHCR.

### D. Eligibility and Prerequisites

The following target groups are eligible to receive assistance:

- persons that are eligible under § 1 of the "Asylbewerberleistungsgesetz" act (the German asylum seekers' benefit act);
- recognized refugees;
- other foreigners who have been granted a right to sojourn for humanitarian or political reasons, or on grounds of public international law;
- victims of trafficking and/or forced prostitution.

**In case of a so-called "Dublin procedure" (transfer to another EU member state), there is no entitlement to receive REAG/GARP assistance.**

Upon departure, all returnees/third country migrants must at least be in possession of a border crossing certificate as well as valid travel documents. For certain countries of destination, an EU-Laissez-Passer can be issued.

By signing the application, the applying persons confirm that they intend to return voluntarily to their home country or migrate to a third country. They have to waive their right to appeal or remedy and also abandon their sojourn status if required. There should be no indications for a permanent return to the Federal Republic of Germany. There is no legal claim for assistance.

### E. Visas for migration to third countries

In order to obtain information on the existing possibilities, foreigners who seek admission to and permanent residence in a third country, should first consult an information or counselling centre for emigrants and people working abroad (e.g. Raphaelswerk, Diakonisches Werk, DRK). Directories of these counselling centres can be found here:

[http://www.bva.bund.de/DE/Organisation/Abteilungen/Abteilung\\_ZMV/Bundesstelle\\_f%C3%BCr\\_Auswanderer\\_und\\_Auslandstaetige/Beratungsstellen/beratungsstellen\\_node](http://www.bva.bund.de/DE/Organisation/Abteilungen/Abteilung_ZMV/Bundesstelle_f%C3%BCr_Auswanderer_und_Auslandstaetige/Beratungsstellen/beratungsstellen_node)

**Applications for subsidized travel to third countries can only be processed by IOM, if the foreigner is in possession of a visa for permanent residence in the respective country.**

### F. Further Information

Further information on the program may be obtained from all social welfare or aliens' affairs offices in any German city or district, from voluntary welfare organizations, specialized NGOs or directly from IOM Nuremberg (in German or English).

### G. Special Migrants Assistance Program (SMAP) (only outgoing flight)

For persons not eligible under the program, IOM can arrange flights and offer special fares within SMAP (special migrants assistance program). This especially applies to emigrants to the U.S., Canada or Australia. Flight costs have to be covered either by the migrants themselves prior to the departure or they have to be provided by another entity (e.g. a welfare office or NGO).

# StarthilfePlus (Start-up cash Plus): Additional financial support for voluntary return

Englisch  
Informationen zu StarthilfePlus

## Who can receive additional financial support with StarthilfePlus?

- If you decide to voluntarily return to your country of origin during the asylum procedure or at the latest within the period set for your departure, you can receive the following additional financial support with StarthilfePlus:
  - > 1,200 Euro per person if you apply for an assisted voluntary return before the asylum procedure is completed (stage 1), or
  - > 800 Euro per person if your asylum application has been rejected and you apply for assisted voluntary return within the period set for your departure (stage 2).

Children under the age of 12 receive half of the amount.

This applies to nationals from the countries of origin: Afghanistan, Algeria, Bangladesh, Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroun, China, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of Congo, Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, India, Iran, Iraq, Kenya, Lebanon, Libya, Mali, Morocco, Mongolia, Niger, Nigeria, Pakistan, Palestinian Territories, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Syria, Tajikistan, Togo, Tunisia and Vietnam.

- If your removal has been suspended (tolerated stay "Duldung") or you are are obligated to leave Germany and this is enforceable, or if you have filed a subsequent or second asylum application and were registered in Germany before 1 February 2017, you can receive additional financial assistance of 800 Euro per person (stage Ü). You will need to apply for return assistance before 31 July 2017. This transitional stage applies to nationals of the countries of origin listed above, as well as Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Russian Federation, Turkey and Ukraine. Children under the age of 12 receive half of the amount. A family assistance of 500 Euro per family is additionally provided if more than four family members jointly file an application for StarthilfePlus.

There is no legal claim for assistance with StarthilfePlus.

## How can you apply for StarthilfePlus?

You need to apply for assisted voluntary return under the REAG/GARP programme, for instance at the competent local aliens authority, at the social welfare office, a specialized counselling centre, a central return counselling centre or via the UNHCR. In addition to the REAG/GARP assistance, you can apply for StarthilfePlus. In order to do so, you need to sign a declaration of the Federal Office for Migration and Refugees to withdraw your asylum application and the legal remedies applied and refrain from any further appeals.

## When is StarthilfePlus paid out?

If your StarthilfePlus application has been approved, it is paid out in two instalments. You will receive the first half together with the regular GARP payment in Germany prior to departure. The second half will be paid to you six to eight months after your arrival in your country of origin.

## Where can you find additional information?

Contact a return counselling centre nearby or obtain information via the following websites  
<http://www.bamf.de/return> or <http://germany.iom.int/starthilfeplus>

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