



FAMILY ASSISTANCE PROGRAMME

The IOM Family Assistance Programme (FAP) is funded by the German Federal Foreign Office to facilitate the family reunification of vulnerable migrants who are compelled to leave their country, with a person with protection status in Germany. The programme started in 2016 with the operation of five service centres in Iraq, Lebanon and Türkiye, where Syrian and Iraqi nationals could apply for family reunification visas. After successfully enhancing and managing this regular migration pathway to Germany from 2016 to 2018, the programme was expanded in 2018, and most recently in 2023, to support beneficiaries from various nationalities through a network of service centres across eleven countries, namely Afghanistan, Ethiopia, Germany, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Kenya, Lebanon, Pakistan, Sudan and Türkiye.

The Family Assistance Programme offers a regular migration pathway for migrants in vulnerable situations and embodies Objective 3 of the IOM Strategic Plan (2024 - 2028), whereby IOM works to unleash the potential of migration by assisting States to establish, expand and enhance regular migration pathways, while reducing irregular migration.

PROTECT

Dissuading families in vulnerable situations from seeking unsafe, irregular and life-threatening journeys to reach Germany.

Protecting beneficiaries from misinformation and exploitation by unscrupulous visa brokers and smugglers.

REUNITE

Upholding the basic right of family unity and processing visa requests within reasonable timeframes, thereby reuniting families sooner.

PREPARE

Empowering families with information and visa-related services in their native language including Arabic, Kurdish, Tigrinya, Amharic, Somali, Dari and Pashto, as well as in German, English and French.

477,979+

Beneficiaries received by centers

1,011,319+

E-mails exchanged with beneficiaries

205,974+

Beneficiaries received remotely

73,682+

Followers on Facebook updated with programme information and answers to their questions

SDG - Goal 10.7

“Facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through the implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies.”

IOM Strategic Plan (2024-2028)

Objective 3

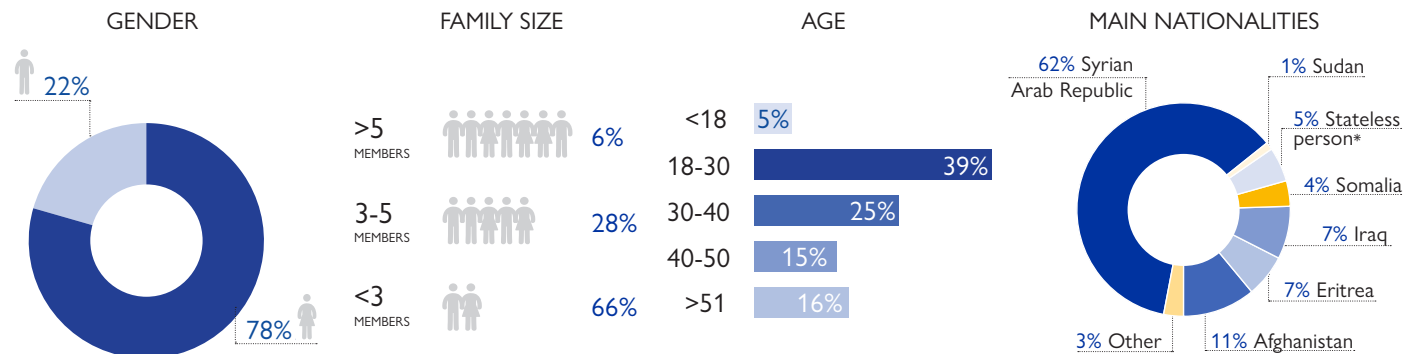
“Facilitating pathways for regular migration”

Global Compact for Migration Objective 5

“Enhance availability and flexibility of pathways for regular migration”

5 REGULAR PATHWAYS

PROFILE OF BENEFICIARIES



Principal Applicant

In addition to the sponsor in Germany

Principal Applicant

* acc. to 1954 convention

HOW FAP ASSISTS VULNERABLE MIGRANTS

FAP provides both in-person and remote assistance to a high volume of vulnerable families in a safe, empowering and migrant-friendly environment by informing them about the visa requirements, checking their documents for completeness and collecting their visa applications on behalf of designated German visa sections.

FAP CENTRES

- Conduct completeness checks, provide information, assist in preparing visa applications and facilitate visa appointment scheduling.
- Conveniently located and accessible for beneficiaries with physical disabilities, as well as offering child-friendly facilities.
- Staffed with native speakers trained to attend to the specific needs of beneficiaries, whether they are elderly, women or girls at risk, unaccompanied or separated children, LGBTIQ+.
- Collect visa applications on behalf of German Consulates including biometrics capture, visa fees collection, and visa decisions return.
- Conduct vulnerability screening and referrals to protection actors for the most vulnerable cases, fast-tracking of urgent cases.
- Remote support for cases located where there is no FAP centre, including facilitating videoconferencing with beneficiaries for interviews and online document completeness checks.
- Empowering families by providing them with information and visa-related support in their native language including Arabic, Kurdish, Tigrinya, Amharic, Somali, Dari and Pashto.

683,953+ Beneficiaries assisted since June 2016

WHERE WE OPERATE

