

Germany's humanitarian and development responsibility

The future of humanitarian aid and development cooperation faces great challenges worldwide. Millions of people in need are affected. The Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) works in some of the world's most challenging crises to assist people forced to flee. We work according to the humanitarian principles of humanity, neutrality, independence and impartiality. Our work is driven by the needs of people in crisis, and we ensure that our aid reaches those people rapidly and effectively.

We are, therefore, deeply concerned about the impact of the US funding cuts on the ability of organisations to provide life-saving humanitarian assistance to people affected by devastating crises in countries such as Sudan, Syria, Ukraine, the Democratic Republic of Congo, and countless others. We are concerned that Germany, and many other donor governments, are discussing drastic cuts and changes to humanitarian aid within the framework of the new government.

Our key asks are addressed to all concerned:

ASKS TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

- 1. Germany is and will remain a reliable humanitarian and development partner and lives up to its global responsibility.**

Since 2020, the number of people in need of humanitarian aid has drastically increased by more than 80 percent, from 168 million to 305 million people. As needs continue to increase, and global resources and funding continue to shrink, we call on the German government to maintain its position as a leading donor and maintain humanitarian funding at the level of 2024 (2.23 billion euros). In addition, Germany must consistently pursue the goal of providing 0.7 percent of its gross national income (GNI) for official development assistance (ODA) in the medium term.

2. Germany is committed to quality funding mechanisms.

When implementing projects, German government partners often need to fulfil complicated contract requirements not in line with humanitarian reality. Funds should also be made available for local actors, whereas the flexibility in funding conditions should be cascaded to frontline responders. As a Grand Bargain signatory and a member of the Good Humanitarian Donorship Group, we welcome Germany's efforts to increase multi-year and non-earmarked funding, and we encourage this to expand. This type of funding is essential to allow us to effectively plan and implement programmes especially as resources become more restricted.

3. Germany engages in humanitarian diplomacy and remains committed to international humanitarian law.

Germany should use its diplomatic leverage to publicly safeguard humanitarian space at the global, regional and local levels. We call on Germany to remain a strong advocate for upholding the humanitarian principles and support humanitarian organisations to address humanitarian access challenges to ensure aid is delivered in a timely and effective manner.

4. Germany remains committed to a rules-based international order.

Germany remains committed to playing an active role in shaping the global order and strengthening multilateral organisations, with a particular focus on the international judiciary and the United Nations, along with its partners.

5. Germany strengthens responses that address people's immediate needs and foster longer term solutions

The new German government should support actors working in line with the principles of the Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus, with the aim of providing assistance to address people's immediate needs while working towards longer-term solutions for communities. As resources for humanitarian responses decrease, it is essential that humanitarian and development organisations are supported to work together to strengthen the resilience of people affected by crises over the long term and reduce reliance on emergency assistance. As recommended by the OECD's Development Assistance Committee (DAC), to which Germany is a member, this approach should be reflected in the German government's funding and support for humanitarian, development and peacebuilding organisations.

6. Germany continues to support initiatives that improve humanitarian organisations' access to financial services.

Many humanitarian organisations struggle to access financial services and transfer funds within the international banking system due to risk adverse practices by financial institutions referred to as bank derisking. We welcome the German government's efforts to support humanitarian organisation to address these challenges by establishing a tri-sector working group in Germany to bring together representatives from German banks, government ministries and the humanitarian community to discuss solutions. We encourage the new German government to remain invested in this group and working to find solutions to allow humanitarian organisations to reliably transfer funds and access financial services.