Situation in Germany – Bielefeld University Research Consortium on Refugee Health (FlüGe)

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Development of asylum applications in Germany, 2014-2018*

*only data for January and February available (BAMF, 2017)
Asylum applications in Germany by country of origin, 2018

- Syria, Arab. Republic 27%
- Others 26%
- Russia Federation
- Unknown 3%
- Somalia 3%
- Eritrea 4%
- Afghanistan 6%
- Turkey 6%
- Nigeria 6%
- Iraq 10%
- Iran 7%
- Somalia 3%

(BAMF, 2019)
Legal framework for health care of refugees in Germany

**Reception center**

- Screening upon arrival
  - § 62 AsylG

**Community accommodation**

- Basic individual medical care
  - §§ 2, 4, 6 AsylbLG (SGB XII)

Screening for contagious diseases like pulmonary TB, chickenpox, measles, scabies

Treatment of acute illnesses and pain, and of chronic diseases to prevent deterioration. Not covered: surgery that can be delayed, prothetic dental care, physiotherapy (exceptions upon request)

Public Health Medicine (Vaccinations)
Health care challenges of refugees in Germany

• Health system not fully prepared for disease burdens (e.g. traumatisation, injuries)
• Capacity limitations in pediatrics, psychotherapy and psychiatry, and emergency rooms (overuse)
• Access barriers to medical care (restricting vouchers; reservation of some health care personnel)
• Language and cultural barriers from both sides
• Rejection of psychotherapy in spite of severe need from some refugees
• Under- and overuse of health services
Research needs for refugee health

- Few representative studies for disease burdens
- No longitudinal studies published
- Research needs exist in the following fields:
  - Health care needs
  - Health care processes
  - Health care outcomes
  - Interdisciplinary research (beyond health sciences)
  - Transdisciplinary research (practice)
NRW FORTSCHRITTSKOLLEG

Herausforderungen und Chancen globaler Flüchtlingsmigration für die Gesundheitsversorgung in Deutschland

FlüGe
Research Center

FlüGe - Opportunities and challenges that global refugee migration poses for health care in Germany

- Based at Bielefeld University
- Funded by the Ministry of Culture and Science of the German State North Rhine-Westphalia
- Duration: 4.5 years: 08/2016 – 12/2020
- Inter- and transdisciplinary orientation
- Multi-method approach
12 PhD students and 12 professors from 5 faculties at Bielefeld University

- Faculty of Health Science
- Faculty of Biology
- Faculty of Psychology and Sports Science
- Faculty of Law
- Faculty of History, Philosophy and Theology

Practice Partners in the region
FlüGe: Scientific objectives

**Topic 1:**
Health status of refugees, identification of barriers to health care and development of interventions

**Topic 2:**
Socio-economic and health policy aspects of health care for refugees

**Topic 3:**
Human rights and ethics, health equity in the context of flight and asylum

**Gender and diversity**
Mixed methods
Inter- and transdisciplinary
Figure: Kiemann, Stöxen, Agbih, Özisik, Nowak, Mohwinkel, Boettcher (2019)
Thank you very much for your attention!

www.uni-bielefeld.de/fluege

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funded by:

Ministerium für Innovation, Wissenschaft und Forschung des Landes Nordrhein-Westfalen