

Operation: Costa Rica

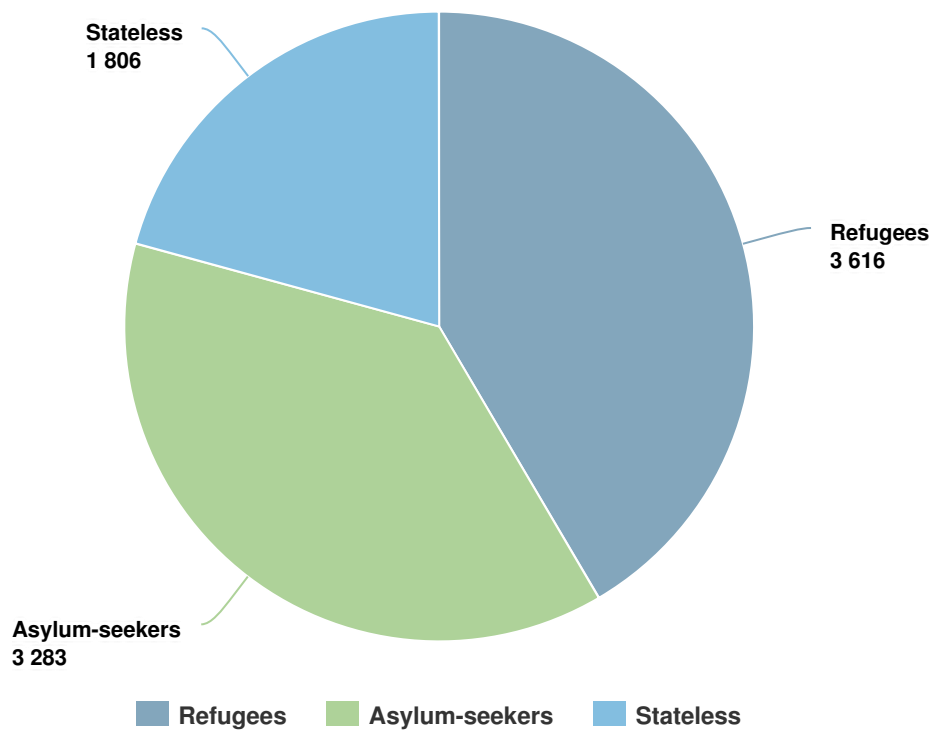


Latest update of camps and office locations **21 Nov 2016.**

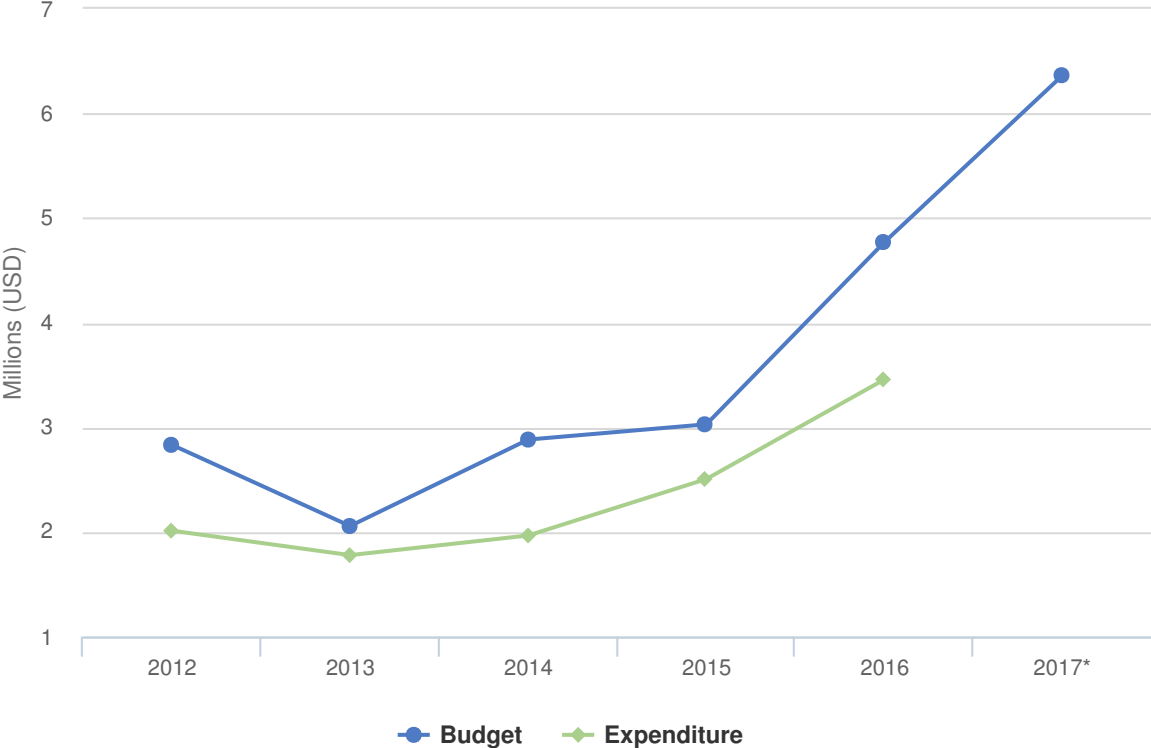
People of Concern

DECREASE IN
63% **2015**

2015	8,705
2014	23,718
2013	21,185



Budgets and Expenditure for Costa Rica



Working environment

Costa Rica received increasing numbers of asylum-seekers from the Northern Triangle of Central America countries (El Salvador, Honduras and Guatemala), as well as Colombia, Cuba, Haiti, Nicaragua and Venezuela. The country also served as place of transit for Cubans, Haitians and other Caribbean nationals, Africans and Asians.

The limited capacity of the Government of Costa Rica to carry out refugee status determination (RSD) and an increasing number of applications have created a backlog and curtailed timely decision-making.

Population trends

- Asylum claimants in 2016 reached a total of 4,470, a 103 per cent increase from 2015. The number of nationals from the Northern Triangle of Central America and Venezuela has risen exponentially during the last two years.
- Costa Rica hosts a considerable number of people born in the country to foreign parents with barriers to access nationality documentation.

Achievements and impact

- The waiting time for first-instance RSD was reduced from 10 to 4 months. This was done through the provision of necessary human resources appointed temporarily and requested by the National Council on Migration through their contingency plan to eradicate excessive backlogs and waiting times.
- The Protection Transfer Arrangement (PTA) project was made operational. Through PTA heightened-risk cases from NTCA countries are provided with accommodation and basic services upon arrival in Costa Rica, which served as a transit country while the resettlement process is pending.
- Through mobile brigades the “Chiriticos” project verified the nationality of some 5,000 people of concern who lived and worked in remote locations and were not able to prove their nationality in the absence of a birth certificate.

Unmet needs

- As part of the implementation of the Protection Transfer Arrangement, UNHCR planned to meet the financial needs of 400 individuals but only 1 case was referred to Costa Rica from countries of origin.
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