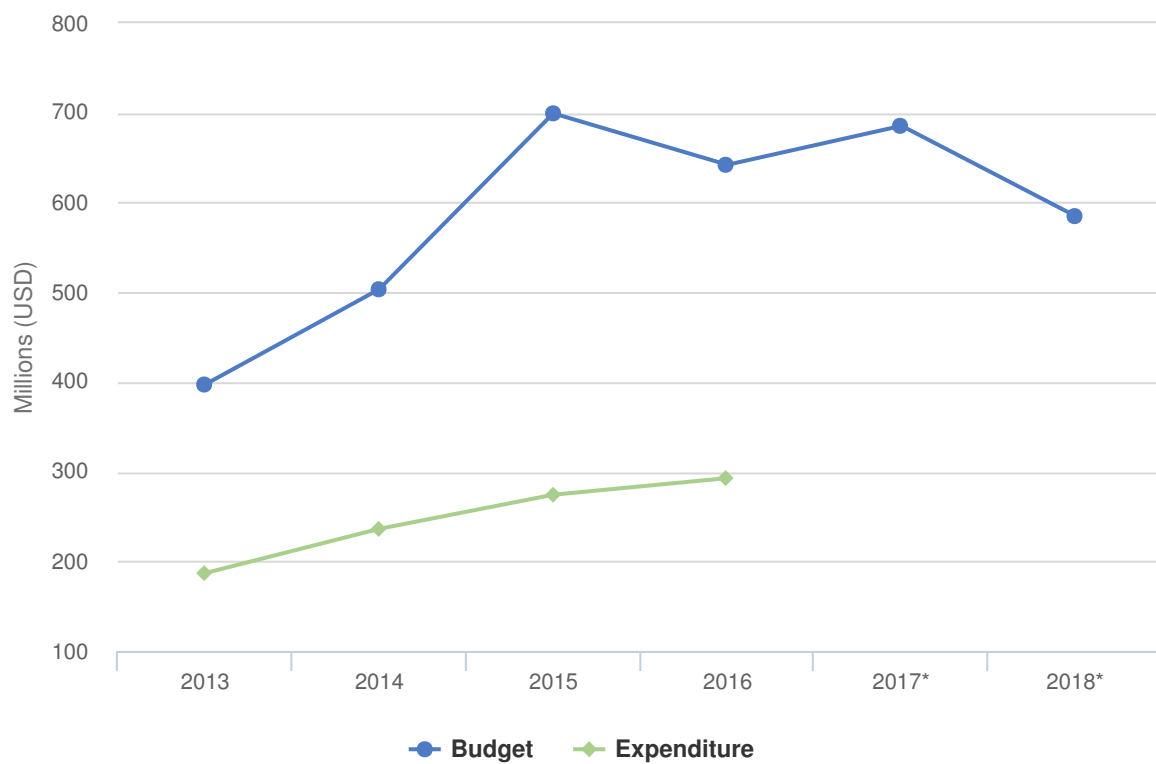
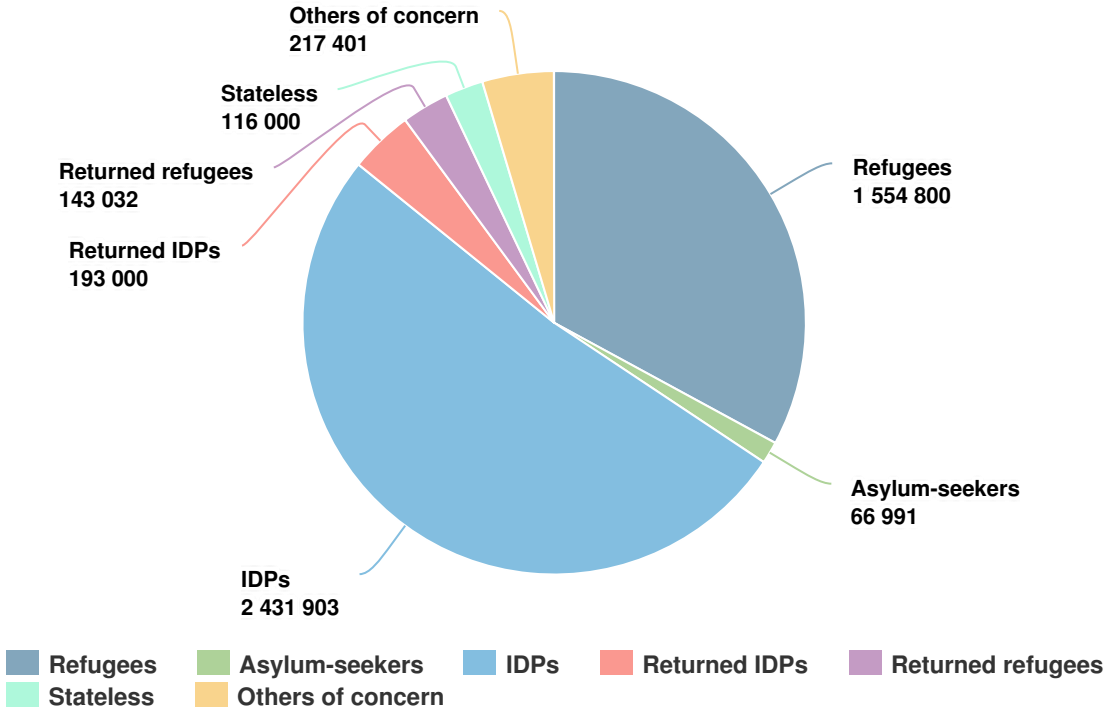


Budgets and Expenditure in Subregion Central Africa and the Great Lakes



People of Concern - 2018 [projected]



Operational environment

The operational environment in the Central Africa and the Great Lakes subregion will continue to be heavily affected by a high concentration of multiple, complex and often inter-connected displacement situations. Displacement, both internal and external, has been on the rise in 2017 and the subregion now hosts 6.6 million people of concern. The continuing instability in Burundi, significant deterioration of the security situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) as well as the Central African Republic (CAR), have been major sources of internal displacement and refugee outflows and will continue to require dedicated coordinated responses.

The continued political instability in Burundi has led to the outflow of more than 419,000 Burundian refugees to neighbouring countries and beyond since April 2015. In 2017, refugees have continued to flee their country, however at a lower level than in previous years, with close to 60,000 new refugee arrivals in the region. In 2018, unless the political situation is sustainably resolved, the refugee outflows are expected to continue in the region, albeit at a lower scale than in 2017. UNHCR, under the Burundi Regional Response, will advocate for maintenance of protection and asylums pace in the region, while supporting host countries to provide protection and humanitarian assistance to refugees, prioritizing livelihoods and self-reliance in a whole-of-society approach. Concurrently, small-scale spontaneous returns of Burundian refugees, predominantly from the United Republic of Tanzania have been reported during the course of 2017. While UNHCR is not comprehensively promoting Burundian refugee returns, it has begun assisting small groups of refugees from Tanzania wishing to voluntarily return, which, will be continued in 2018 on a voluntary basis and will require coordinated reintegration support.

In 2017, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), has seen a significant deterioration in the security situation. The number of IDPs now stands at 3.8 million, with more than 1.7 million displaced in 2017 alone, predominantly due to the Kasai crisis. Close to 100,000 Congolese refugees have fled to countries in the region, including large numbers in Angola, Uganda and Zambia. With recent improvements in the security situation in the Kasai region, some 700,000 are estimated to have returned and are now confronted by the challenge of reintegration. However, inter-communal conflicts and violence persist. A system-wide Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) Level-3 emergency has been recently declared for the Kasais, South Kivu and Tanganyika – regions hosting some of the largest numbers of IDPs. With presidential elections announced for late 2018, and persisting inter-communal violence, UNHCR will continue to monitor the volatile situation in the country as well as in its neighbouring countries. Regionally coordinated responses may need to be activated. Inside the DRC, UNHCR will seek to implement a comprehensive approach to protection and solutions for refugees that promotes self-reliance, while upscaling IDP protection and assistance focused on the L.3 provinces.

Internal political uncertainty in the Republic of the Congo, following the April 2016 presidential elections severely impacted the civilian population, leading to the displacement of entire villages within the Pool Department. The number has increased six-fold in less than a year, from close to 13,000 in June 2016 to 81,000 in May 2017. Several villages in the Pool and Bouenza regions in the country's south remain seriously affected by displacement and will continue to require humanitarian assistance in 2018.

The humanitarian situation in the Central African Republic (CAR) is expected to remain fragile in 2018, following the resurgence of fighting between armed groups leading to displacement within the country and across borders. The conflict has spread to new areas in the north-west and south-east, as well as to areas previously unaffected by violence, such as Bria, in the centre of the country, and Kaga Bandoro, in the north. There are more than 514,000 CAR refugees in the region, with largest numbers in Cameroon. UNHCR will continue to monitor and support CAR refugees in the region in tandem with increased assistance to growing numbers of IDPs and refugees hosted in the country.

In 2018, UNHCR's refugee responses in the region will be increasingly embedded in a comprehensive protection and solutions refugee response. During 2017, the United Republic of Tanzania has initiated the roll-out of the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF), which aims to support the Government in meeting its

commitments and recent pledges for enhanced protection and inclusion of refugees. Rwanda, which continues to receive thousands of Rwandan returnees every year, and is hosting an increasing number of Burundian and Congolese refugees, is applying a CRRF-like approach in their refugee response, seeking to promote refugee inclusion in key sectors while supporting host communities.

The pursuit of solutions for refugees has also seen headway in 2017. The Office will continue to work with the Government of Tanzania to facilitate solutions for the verification and naturalization of the remaining Burundian refugees who arrived in 1972. As the deadline for the cessation of refugee status for Rwandan refugees draws closer, the number of Rwandan returnees arriving mostly from the DRC more than doubled in 2017 as compared to 2016. UNHCR will continue to support the pursuit of solutions for Rwandan refugees, advocating for assisted voluntary repatriation and alternative legal status for those wishing to remain in host countries. UNHCR is expecting to see a reduction in the number of Central African refugees repatriating, though it is anticipated that some 25,000 people will return in 2018.

Response and implementation

*Operations in **Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Congo (Republic of the), the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Rwanda and the United Republic of Tanzania** are presented in separate chapters. For other countries where UNHCR operates in the subregion, please see below.*

As of August 2017, **Gabon** is hosting more than 1,000 refugees and asylum-seekers mostly from Chad, but also from CAR, the DRC, and other countries. Refugees and asylum-seekers are predominantly residing in urban areas and their displacement is mostly protracted, 25 years on average. Refugees are unable to integrate professionally, especially in light of the worsening economic situation following the collapse of the price of oil in 2015. While most refugees indicate a preference for integration and naturalization in Gabon, ongoing concerns over the costs and length of the process continue to hamper the realization of durable solutions. In 2018, UNHCR will maintain discussions with refugees to bring solutions to their situation, and will facilitate and support local integration of the refugees who expressed a need to stay through advocacy with the local authorities.

2018 Budget for Central Africa and the Great Lakes | USD

Operation	Pillar 1 Refugee programme	Pillar 2 Stateless programme	Pillar 3 Reintegration projects	Pillar 4 IDP projects	Total
Burundi	28,466,983	0	0	2,457,613	30,924,595
Cameroon	81,169,771	530,533	0	5,027,502	86,727,806
Central African Republic	9,355,282	0	20,659,162	11,254,976	41,269,421
Democratic Republic of the Congo Regional Office	102,914,438	1,285,780	18,143,850	58,752,675	181,096,744
Republic of the Congo	21,104,168	0	0	2,370,000	23,474,168
Rwanda	95,475,730	0	0	0	95,475,730
United Republic of Tanzania	122,709,283	0	3,219,937	0	125,929,220
Total	461,195,655	1,816,313	42,022,950	79,862,767	584,897,684