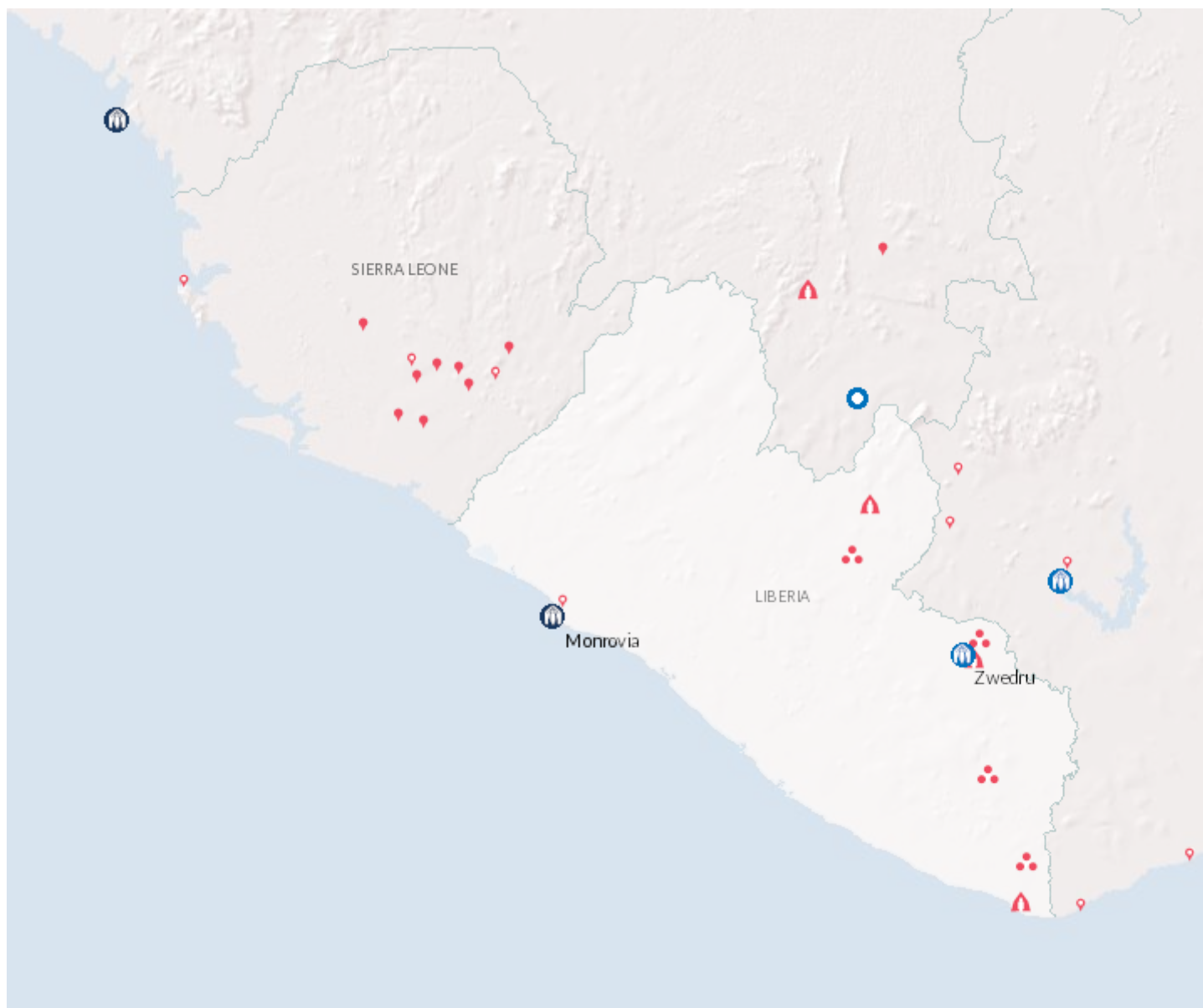


## Operation: Liberia



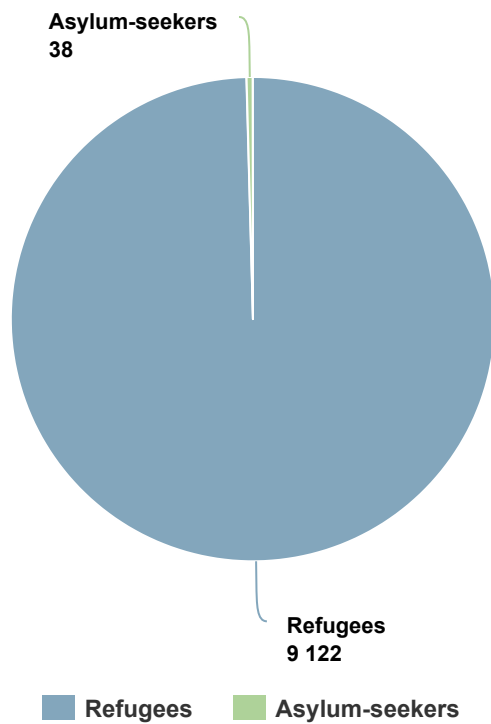
# People of Concern

DECREASE IN  
**21%** 2018

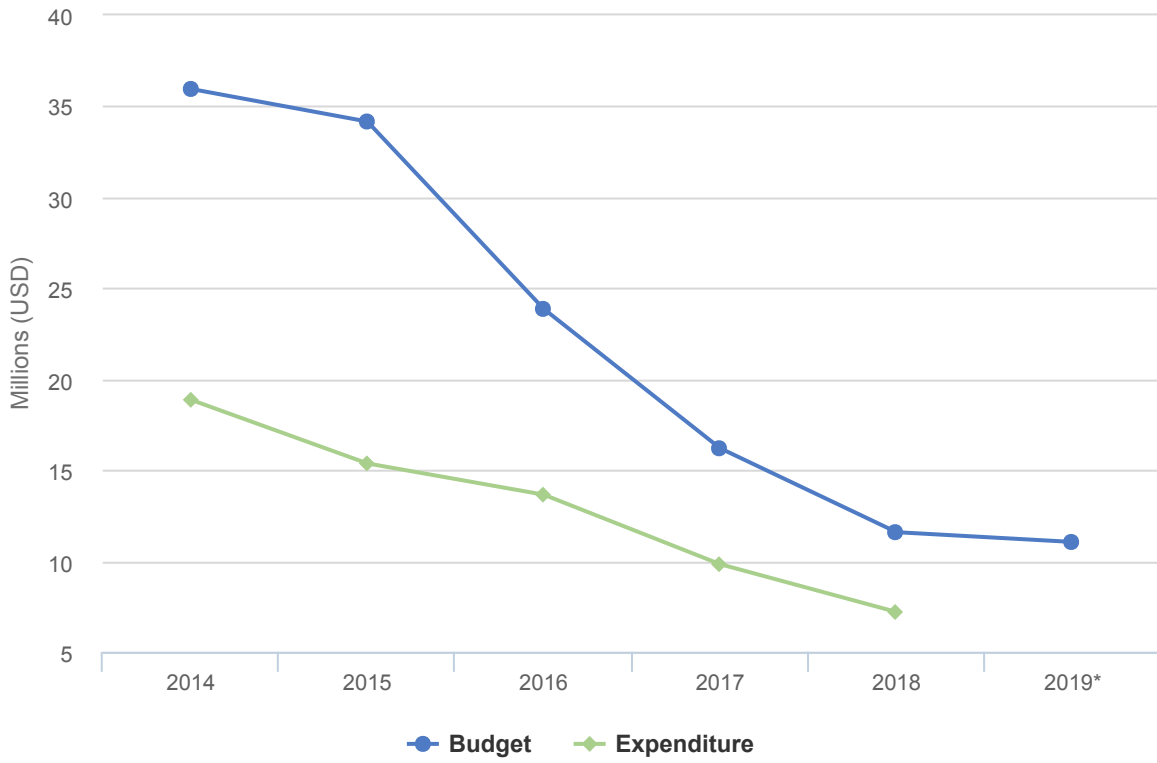
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<b>2018</b>	9,160
<b>2017</b>	11,533
<b>2016</b>	20,486

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# Budgets and Expenditure for Liberia



## Operational environment

The year 2018 was marked with the transition of the newly elected Government in Liberia. The new Government announced the Pro-Poor Agenda aiming at sustainable economic growth, addressing corruption and investing in infrastructure, among other issues.

Liberia achieved a major milestone in the consolidation of peace with the withdrawal of United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) in March 2018. The security situation in the country remained generally calm, however vulnerability of the country to potential outbreaks of conflict remains.

Following UNHCR's agreement in 2017 to join other agencies in the One UN House in Monrovia, the Office completed its final move to the PAP building in Monrovia with all other UN agencies in Liberia.

The asylum space and protection environment remained conducive for people of concern to UNHCR. On solutions side, those who are not opting for voluntary return have the option of local integration in Liberia

## Population trends

At the beginning of the year, the population of concern in Liberia stood at 11,160, of which 99% were from Côte d'Ivoire. 65% of the people of concern reside in Grand Gedeh county. At the end of 2018, Liberia was hosting 9,160 people of concern. The overall population reduced by some 2,000 people, mainly due to the voluntary and spontaneous return of some 950 Ivorian refugees.

## Key achievements

To improve the data available, in the first quarter of the year, UNHCR prioritised a verification and profiling exercise of refugees in camps. Continuous registration ensured the recording of 214 new births of which 90% were issued with birth certificates.

The local integration process was solidified with a local integration strategy developed jointly by the Government, UN Agencies and other stakeholders. The strategy was drafted to align with the Government policy on Pro-Poor Agenda and the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework. The vision of the local integration strategy estimated 45% (some 3,000 people) of Ivorian refugees could locally integrate by 2023.

In line with the mainstreaming of refugee services into the national framework and improving peaceful co-existence, UNHCR supported and financed the deployment of four social workers from the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection to three refugee camps. Main protection risks centred on lack of economic sustenance and SGBV issues. 82 SGBV cases were identified, reported and assisted across the three camps.

To address the needs of the Sierra Leonean caseload remaining in Liberia, a total of 300 naturalization certificates were issued, 80 families received cash grants, six work permits were issued, and five naturalization requests of refugees of mixed nationalities were processed.

Sexual exploitation and abuse training and awareness-raising activities were conducted for all UNHCR staff members, including partner staff, in four locations: Grand Gedeh, Maryland, Monrovia and Nimba.

Using a community-based approach and refugee participation, support for people with specific needs (PSNs) continued throughout the year. Young refugee adults helped repair shelters for PSNs, while community workers monitored chronic patients and provided support for the elderly and people with disabilities.

At the beginning of 2018, some 850 students were enrolled in primary schools and 430 in early childhood care and development. During the year, 19 students (10 male and nine female) were supported through the DAFI Programme for refugees' access to higher education.

On policy and advocacy, the draft of the amended 1973 Aliens and Nationality law was adopted and shared with the Ministry of Justice for endorsement. This amendment would remove gender discriminatory provisions in the current law that could lead to statelessness. Similarly, substantive work was achieved on the domestication of the Kampala Convention to ensure protection and assistance of IDPs.

## **Unmet needs**

The Liberia Repatriation and Resettlement Commission's Asylum and Appeals Committees have no office nor office equipment. There are some 38 asylum cases (83%) still pending RSD. The eight cases completed in 2018 amount to some 17% of the total number of cases.

Throughout the year, UNHCR provided multi-purpose cash grants to 143 PSNs out of the estimated 500 PSNs in the three camps.

Refugees could not access convention travel documents (CTDs) because the CTD's are not machine-readable. The Government has one machine to print national passports and requires a separate one for CTDs which the government does not have funds to procure. Therefore, the renewal of CTDs expired since 2016 could not be achieved. UNHCR has not had enough resources to support the government in this respect.

The closure of two UNHCR offices (Harper and Saclepea) because of lack of resources, and switching to remote management - while still having significant refugee caseload in these locations - compromised the timely access to refugees and quality of the response.

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