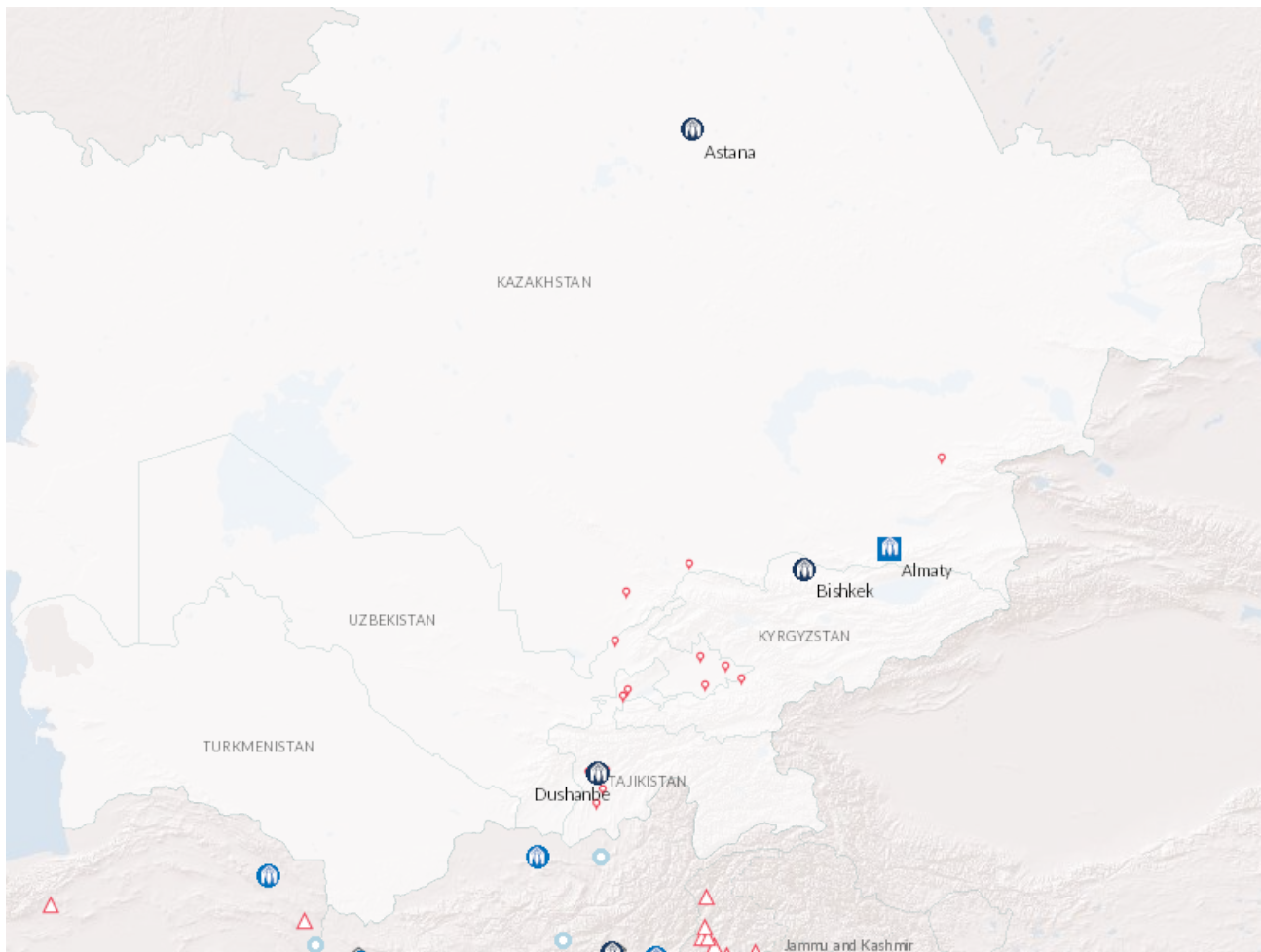
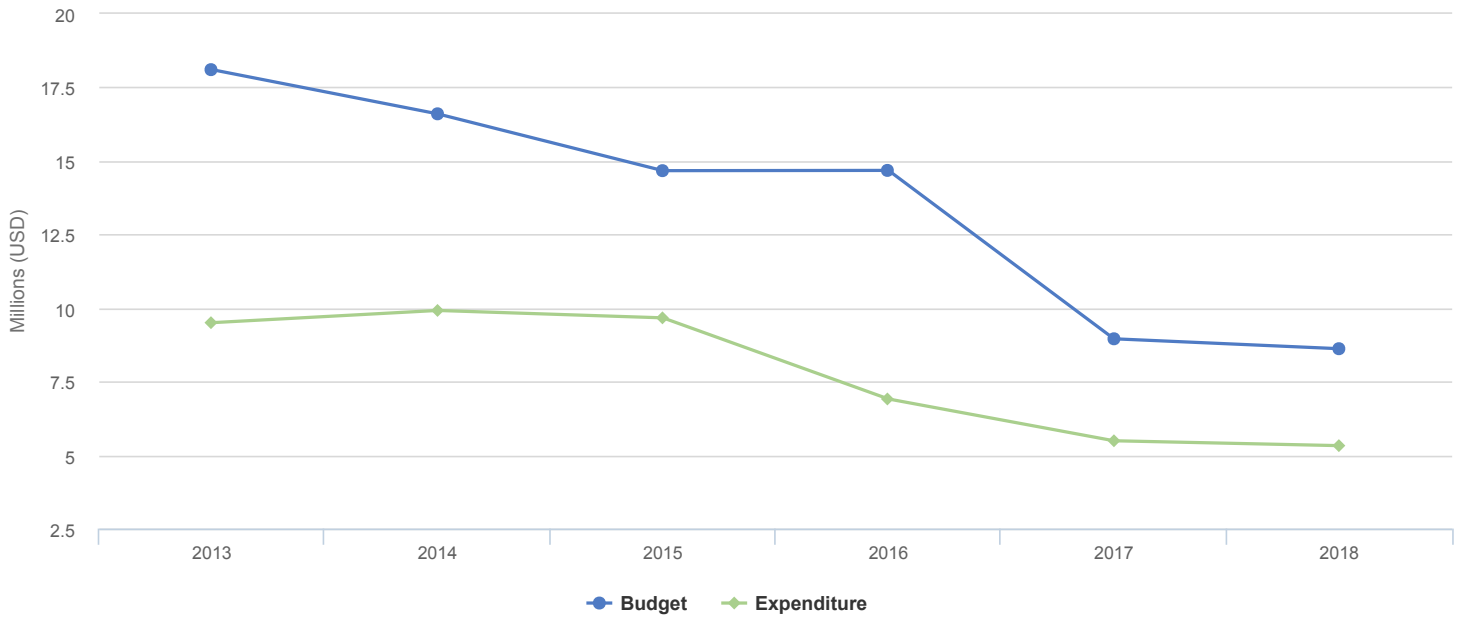


Subregion: Central Asia

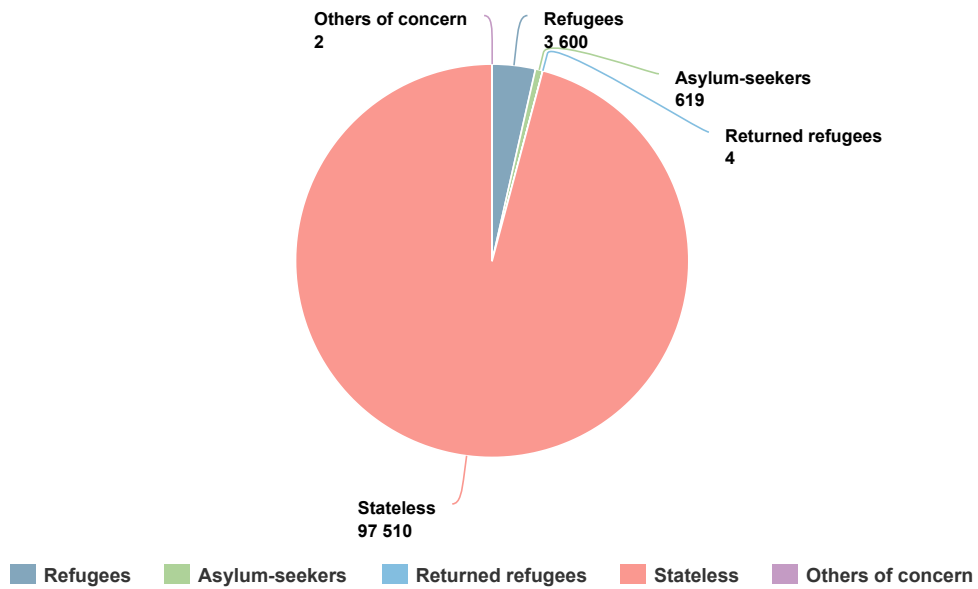
| Kazakhstan | Kyrgyzstan | Tajikistan | Turkmenistan | Uzbekistan |



Budgets and Expenditure in Subregion Central Asia



People of Concern - 2018



Response in 2018

The operational context in Central Asia remained stable and largely unchanged in 2018. There were 3,600 refugees, 619 asylum-seekers and 97,510 stateless persons across the five countries of the sub-region as of the end of 2018.

Security considerations and socio-economic development continued to dominate the countries' political agendas defining their internal and foreign policies, including asylum and statelessness matters. In 2018, there were no major changes in this regard: the countries continued restrictive practices related to access to asylum procedures, local integration and the regularization of the status of a small number of mandate refugees.

The five countries of the sub-region, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan, have made significant progress in reducing statelessness on their territories. Since the start of the #IBelong campaign, five countries have reduced the number of stateless persons in the sub-region by almost 40,000. In 2018, all countries participated in a regional conference in Almaty on the right to legal identity and the prevention of statelessness. The event took stock of the achievements, shared good practices and laid the groundwork for the next steps including advocacy strategy in 2019 ahead of the a global event on statelessness in October 2019.

UNHCR's operations in Central Asia in 2018

The general political and security context in **Turkmenistan** remained stable, though the country's economy continued to deteriorate in 2018. The Government undertook reforms to harmonize legislation with international standards while enhancing cooperation with other countries and international organizations. The new legislation, including the amended Law on Refugees in 2017, however, is not being implemented. Further restrictions on civil liberties were also reported in 2018.

While Turkmenistan is a signatory to the Refugee Convention and has a relevant national legal framework, it has not registered any asylum-seekers since 2005. At the end of 2018, there were 22 mandate refugees in Turkmenistan. Turkmenistan, being the only country in the region to have acceded to the two Statelessness Conventions, continues to demonstrate efforts to resolve statelessness. In 2018, the President issued a decree granting nationality to 735 persons. As of the end of 2018, 2,901 stateless persons and 1,813 persons of undetermined nationality remained, according to UNHCR's partners in the country.

Uzbekistan accepted the recommendations to accede to the Refugee and two Statelessness Conventions at the UN Human Rights Council's Universal Periodic Review session in May 2018.

In Uzbekistan there were 14 mandate refugees as of the end of 2018. The cases of seven people were closed or inactivated in 2018 due to voluntary repatriation, spontaneous departure from Uzbekistan, loss of contact for several years or acquisition of residence permits. Further to the Government's acceptance of the recommendations to accede to the Refugee and Statelessness Conventions in July 2018, the Civil Registration Law was amended to ensure that children born to undocumented parents are registered at birth. The Government initiated a nation-wide campaign to identify and register undocumented births, marriages and deaths, aiming at registering all children without a birth certificate by July 2019, with a view to preventing statelessness.

2018 Voluntary Contributions to Central Asia | USD

Earmarking / Donor	Pillar 1 Refugee programme	All pillars	Total
Central Asia overall			
United States of America	0	1,700,000	1,700,000
Central Asia overall subtotal	0	1,700,000	1,700,000
Kazakhstan Regional Office			
Kazakhstan	0	161,949	161,949
Kazakhstan Regional Office subtotal	0	161,949	161,949
Kyrgyzstan			
Kyrgyzstan	0	60,256	60,256
Kyrgyzstan subtotal	0	60,256	60,256
Tajikistan			
Private donors in Japan	64,613	0	64,613
Tajikistan subtotal	64,613	0	64,613
Total	64,613	1,922,205	1,986,817

Note: