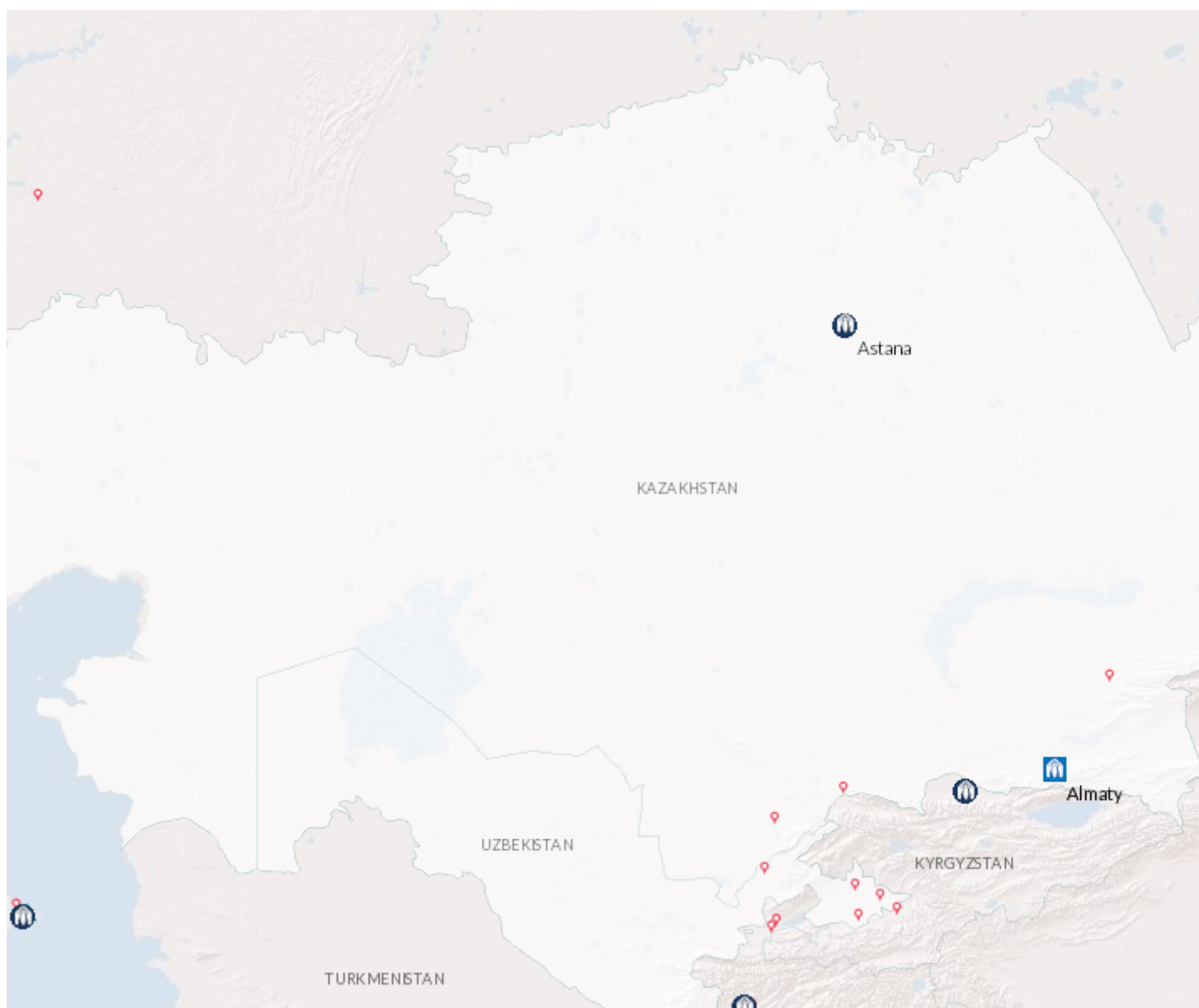


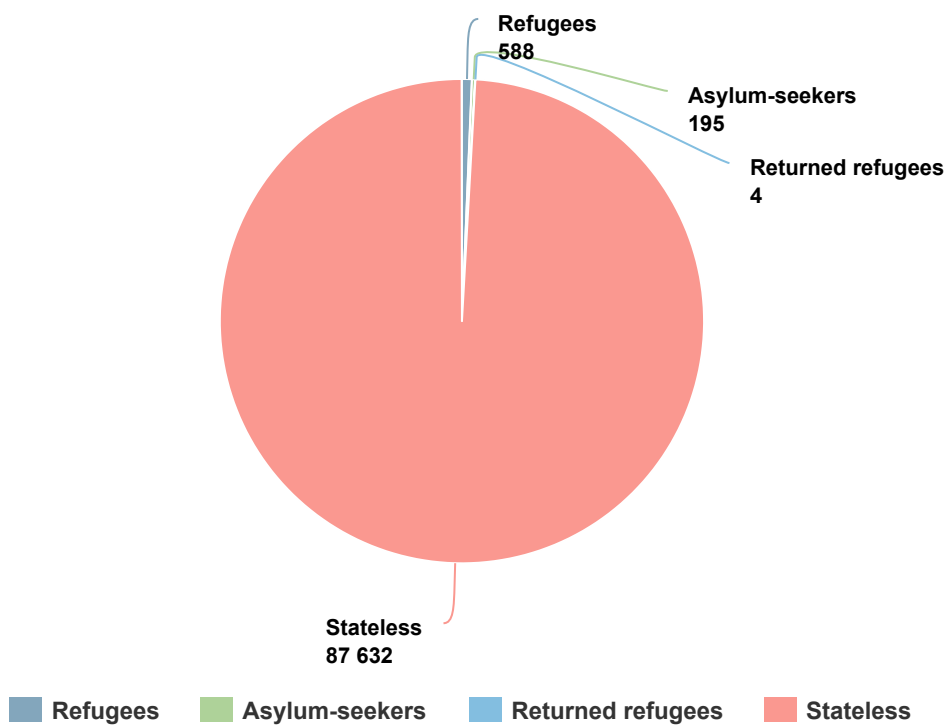
Operation: Kazakhstan Regional Office



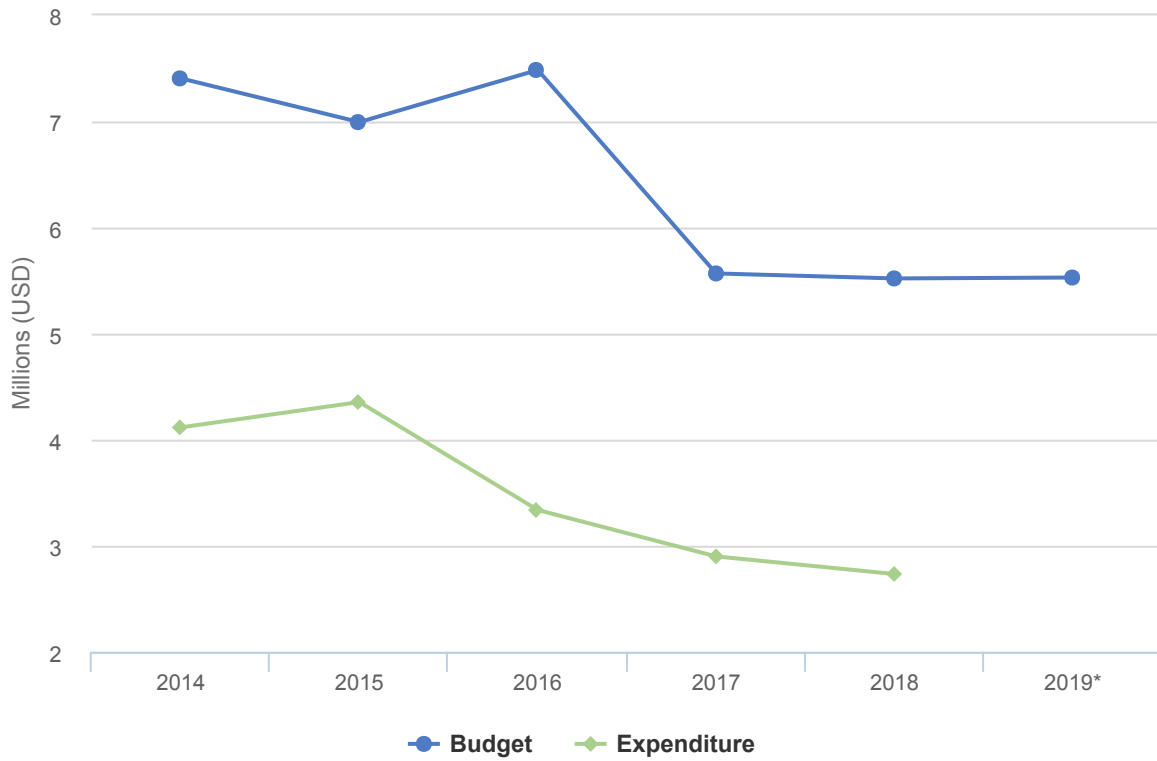
People of Concern

DECREASE IN
6% 2018

2018	88,419
2017	94,532
2016	95,795



Budgets and Expenditure for Kazakhstan Regional Office



Operational environment

In 2018, the political and operational environment in Kazakhstan remained stable. Kazakhstan concluded its two-year tenure as a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council. In 2018, the newly adopted legislation increased controls over freedom of speech, religion and association. Political and national security considerations continued to affect decisions on the asylum cases.

Population trends

At the end of 2018, there were some 570 refugees and close to 200 asylum-seekers in Kazakhstan. The number of new asylum-seekers decreased by 47% compared to 2017. The majority, some 84%, of asylum-seekers were from Afghanistan. There were no unaccompanied children among the asylum-seekers. Four refugees voluntarily returned to their countries of origin in 2018. At year end, there were close to 7,690 stateless persons registered by the Government, as well as 534 persons with undetermined nationality registered by UNHCR's partners.

Key achievements

The Government took measures to facilitate integration through easing the requirements and procedures for acquisition of a permanent resident status. In 2018, 37 refugees obtained permanent residency and 7 refugees acquired Kazakh nationality. There were no reports of the forcible return of registered refugees or asylum-seekers to countries of origin.

In 2018, 940 officially registered stateless persons acquired Kazakh nationality and 490 persons with undetermined nationality confirmed their citizenship in Kazakhstan or third countries with the assistance of UNHCR's partners. UNHCR continues engaging with the Government and UN partners to amend legislation in order to bring it in compliance with international standards.

One of the main achievements of UNHCR in the sub-region was the joint Regional Conference on the Prevention of Statelessness convened in June 2018 together with the Ministry of Justice of Kazakhstan and UNICEF with the participation of ESCAP, which brought all of the five countries in Central Asia together to discuss childhood statelessness.

Unmet needs

Due to limited capacity and resources, external relations and sensitization activities were carried out to a limited extent. Desired exposure to the wider public aiming to generate interest, improved public attitude and raised awareness on asylum issues was not achieved.
