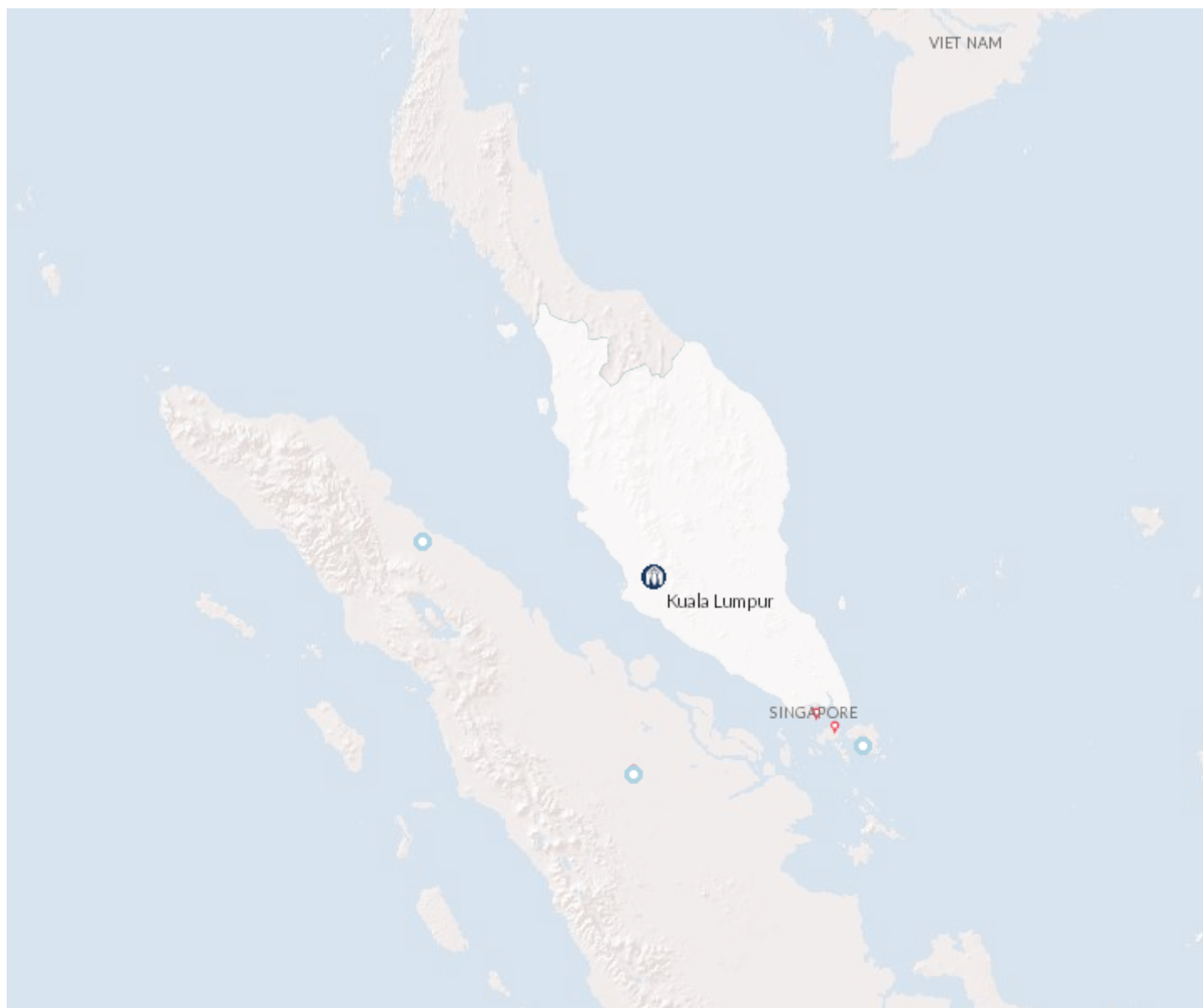


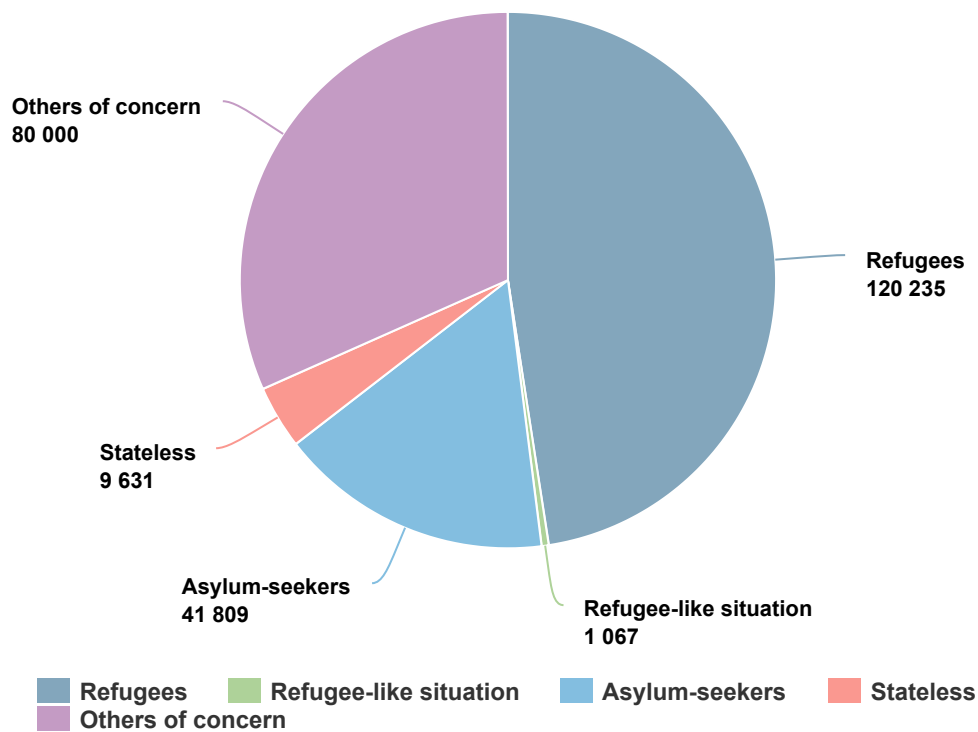
Operation: Malaysia



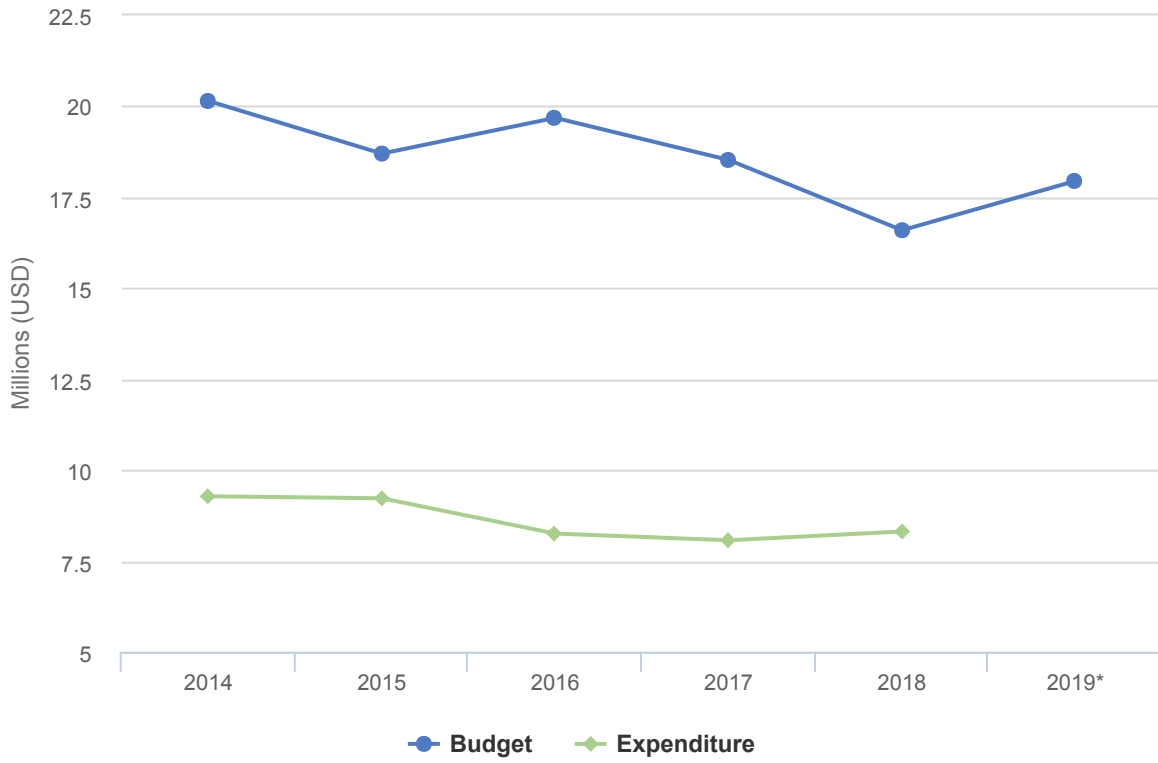
People of Concern

INCREASE IN
5% 2018

2018	252,742
2017	241,438
2016	239,505



Budgets and Expenditure for Malaysia



Operational environment

A new Government was elected in 2018 on a platform which included the promise to regularise the status of UNHCR card holders, granting asylum seekers and refugees work rights on par with Malaysian nationals. While the absence of a refugee policy continued to restrict the protection space for refugees and asylum-seekers, limiting their capacity for self-reliance, there are signs of a deeper engagement on a refugee policy involving a range of Government agencies, civil society, UNHCR and other stakeholders.

UNHCR continued to strengthen and expand partner and refugee community networks as the primary source of assistance and protection. A strengthened engagement with government authorities resulted in higher levels of confidence in UNHCR's processes and documentation and therefore fewer arrests and detention of refugees and asylum-seekers.

Population trends

Some 163,100 refugees and asylum-seekers were registered with UNHCR at the end of 2018. Of these, 87% are from Myanmar, with Rohingya refugees making up more than half the total registered population (82,900). More than 9,600 people are registered as stateless in Malaysia, but the total number of stateless persons in Malaysia remains unknown. The Government estimates that more than 59,200 Filipino refugees remain in East Malaysia.

Key achievements

- 60 refugee youths enrolled in university programmes, with three refugees graduating.
- 130 community learning centres supported.
- 1,000 people received protection counselling.
- 2,400 people received livelihood assistance.
- 3,700 people were released from immigration detention.
- 12,900 children enrolled in learning centres.
- 31,500 health consultations provided through an expanded network of private primary care clinics offering discounted services.

Unmet needs

In the absence of a refugee policy and with limited resources available, gaps remained in meeting the needs of the population. The ability of refugees to become self-reliant, access and afford basic services as well as to become meaningful contributors in society is impeded, and results in UNHCR and its partners remaining important providers of support. Refugees, especially women, in Malaysia struggle with unemployment; high debts; access to health and education; and security.

Certified and accredited education for refugee children at the primary and secondary levels represents a large need, with youth, particularly girls, receiving inadequate attention due to lack of resources and opportunities in secondary education, vocational and life-skills training.

Participation of refugee women in community leadership remains a challenge in the absence of support structures, gender awareness and opportunities.
