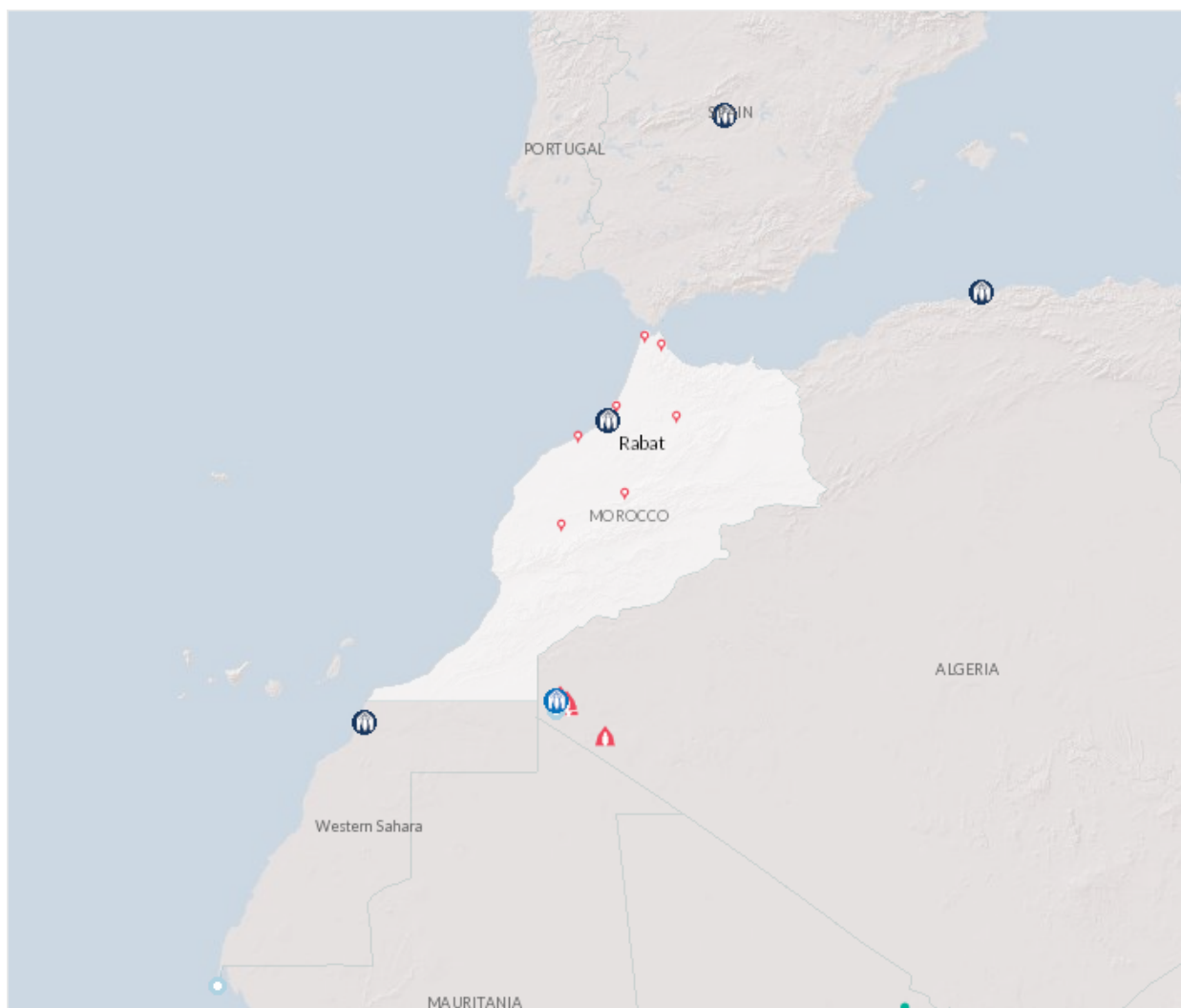


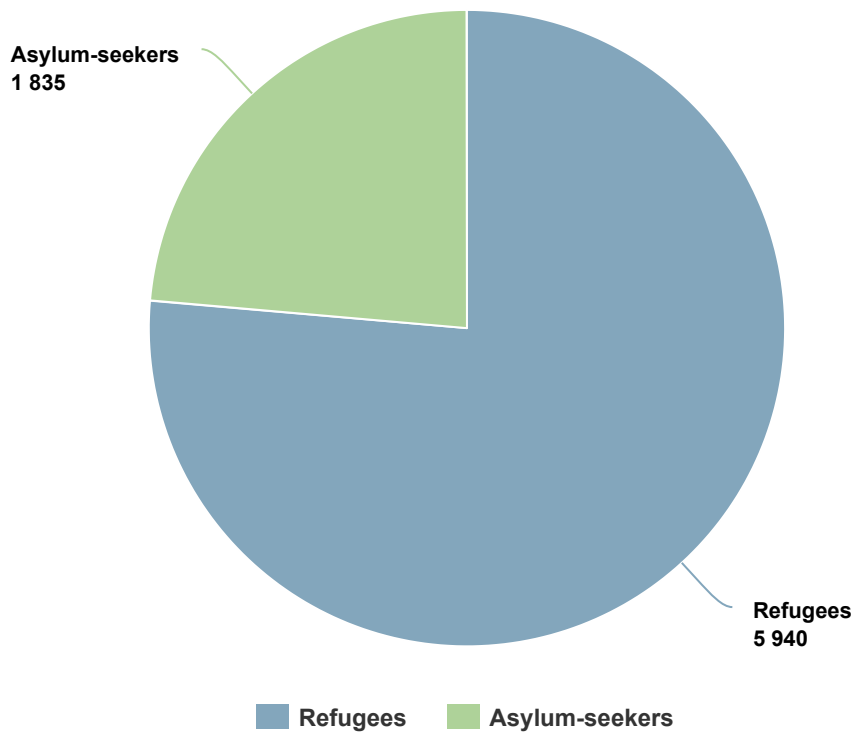
Operation: Morocco



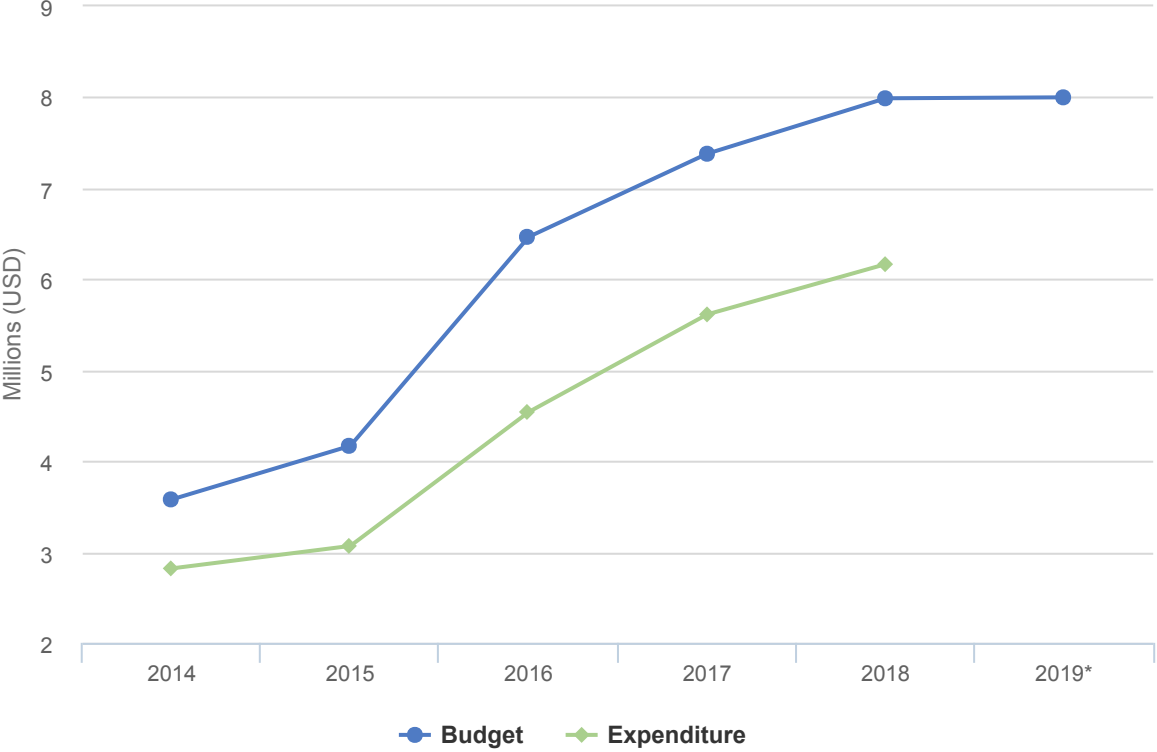
People of Concern

15% INCREASE IN
2018

2018	7,775
2017	6,779
2016	6,733



Budgets and Expenditure for Morocco



Operational environment

Although still a transit country, Morocco also became a final destination for many refugees and asylum-seekers in 2018. In the absence of a political solution in Syria, the flow of Syrian refugees towards Morocco continued in 2018, as did people travelling in mixed movements from sub-Saharan Africa to Europe.

Access to people of concern was challenged by the refugee population being spread throughout the country. Protection gaps continued in 2018. For example, there were considerable delays in extending access for refugees to national medical care. Within a national context riddled by high unemployment, the socio-economic integration of refugees was difficult. However some refugees managed to establish micro-projects to support self-sufficiency.

The passing of a draft asylum law was delayed repeatedly throughout the year, which was pending before the Parliament at the year's end. In the absence of legislation, UNHCR remained responsible for the registration and refugee status determination of asylum-seekers, conducted jointly with the Moroccan authorities.

Population trends

Nearly 7,800 people from 44 countries registered with UNHCR in 2018, including more than 5,900 refugees and 1,800 asylum-seekers. The refugee population increased by 23% from 2017.

Refugees were spread across some 52 municipalities throughout the country, originating primarily from the Syrian Arab Republic (60%), sub-Saharan Africa (25% - the Central African Republic, Cote d'Ivoire, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo) and other Middle-Eastern countries (15% - Iraq, Palestine and Yemen).

Key achievements

- 33% of all new applications were referred to UNHCR by NGO partners in northern/border areas, thereby offering a safe alternative to dangerous onward movement.
- To facilitate local integration of refugees in Morocco, UNHCR and the Ministry of Migration signed a Framework Partnership Agreement with the General Confederation of Moroccan Enterprises (CGEM).
- UNHCR's child protection strategy was reinforced in 2018 with a new mechanism introduced to identify vulnerable children. Child protection training was also carried out for Government employees in Casablanca.
- UNHCR continued to provide assistance and support to survivors of SGBV in line with its multi-year SGBV strategy. With 370 cases of SGBV reported to UNHCR in 2018, case referral and the provision of assistance were improved. Urgent cases were provided with specific services including psychological support, financial assistance, safe accommodation, livelihood opportunities, as well as medical attention. In addition, SGBV-specific training was provided to local partners, volunteers, and civil society actors.

Unmet needs

- Resources to cover life-saving and emergency interventions were relatively limited. Refugees and asylum-seekers suffering from chronic disease increased by 86%, while the health budget rose by only 9%.
- Due to financial constraints, cash-based interventions covered only a small part of refugees' basic needs, reaching only 20% of the registered population. Moreover, with the costs of living increasing nationwide, monthly financial assistance provided to refugees with specific needs no longer matched the cost of living in urban locations in Morocco.
- Limited employment opportunities for people with relatively high educational backgrounds (due to the lack of residence permits) resulted in increasing levels of frustration and disenfranchisement, particularly among youth.

