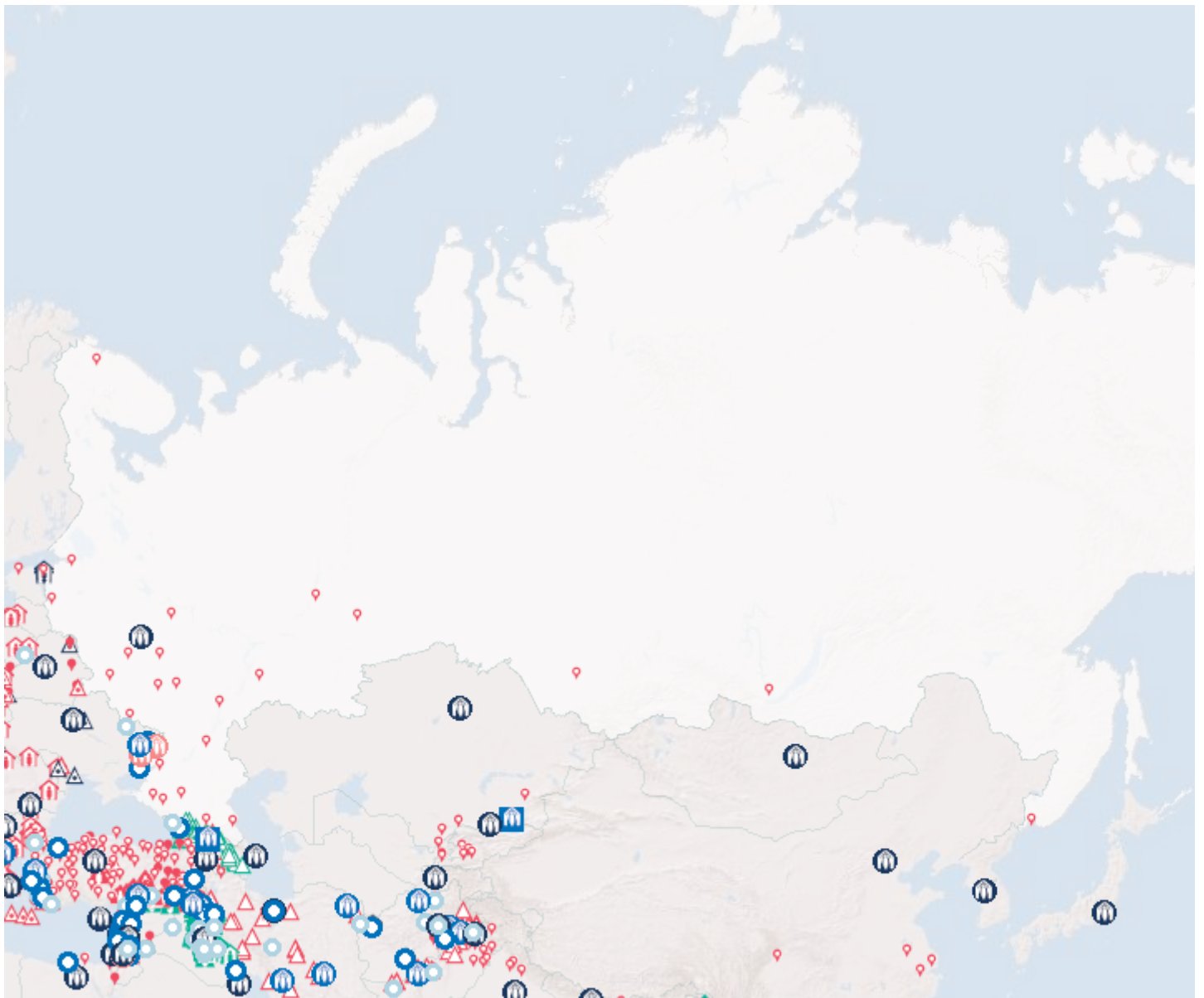


2019 Planning summary

15/2/2019

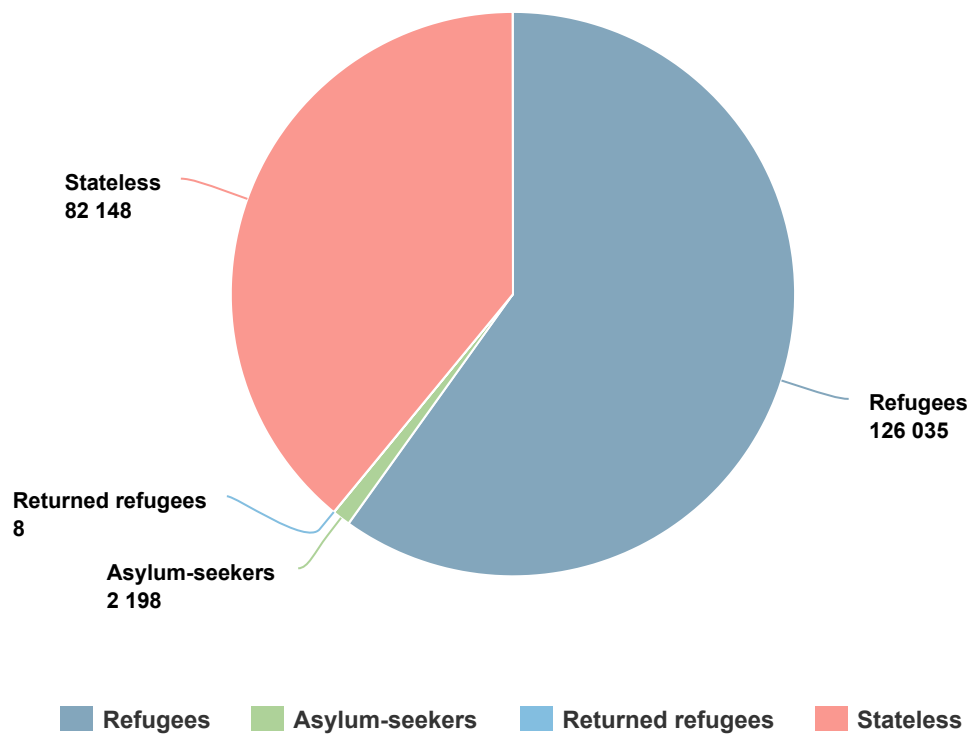
Operation: Russian Federation



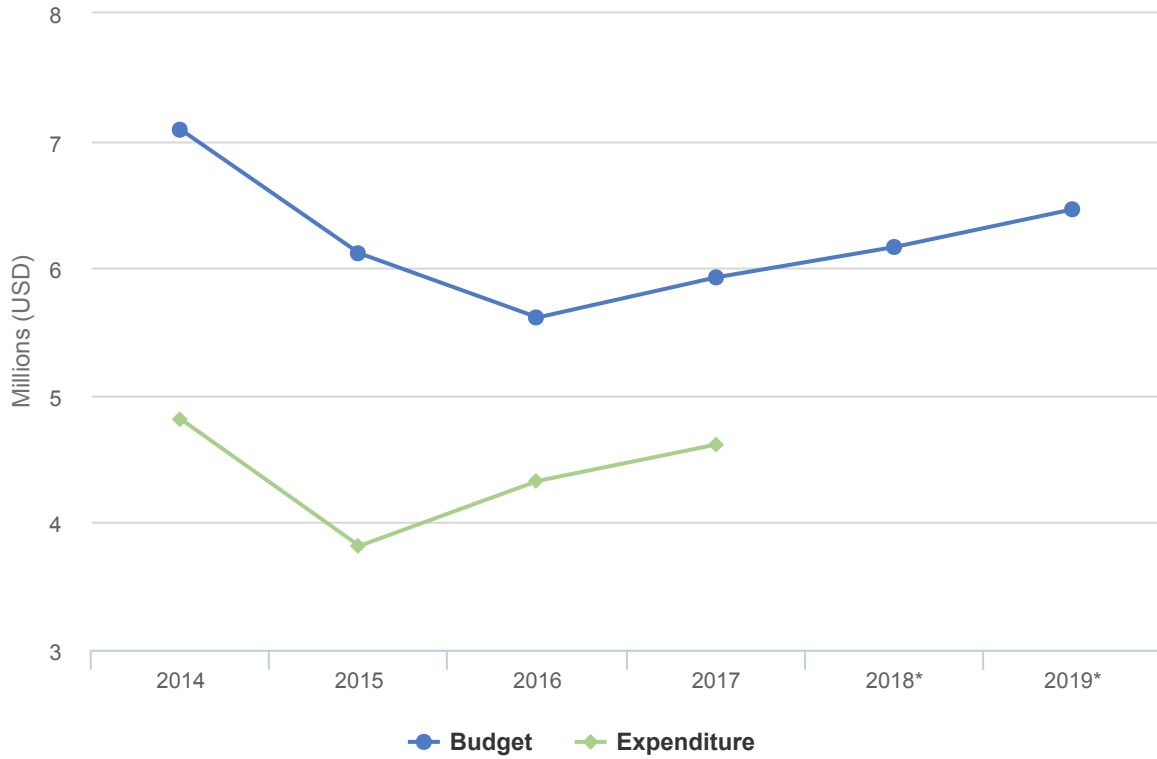
People of Concern

35 % DECREASE IN
2017

2017	210,389
2016	322,856
2015	418,411



Budgets and Expenditure for Russian Federation



Operational Environment

While it is reported that since 2014 over 400,000 Ukrainians came to the Russian Federation, as of 1 July 2018, some 102,000 Ukrainians have refugee status or Temporary Asylum (TA). As of 1 July 2018, there are also some 2,650 refugees and TA holders which are not from Ukraine who are benefiting from international protection in the Russian Federation.

The positive and proactive protection environment for Ukrainians who are provided a legal status and documentation is not equally enjoyed by asylum-seekers from other countries who often face difficulties in accessing asylum procedures. Non-Ukrainians experience longer waiting periods and are exposed to risks associated with the absence of documentation and legal status in the Russian Federation, including detention and deportation. While local integration is possible for Ukrainian refugees, it remains challenging for non-Ukrainian asylum seekers to access refugee status determination procedures, to obtain migration registration, legal employment and integration. Refugees and asylum-seekers are also requested proper documentation to be admitted in public schools and therefore non-Ukrainian refugee children face challenges in accessing education.

In 2019, UNHCR will continue to develop its partnership with the Government to improve access to and quality of the national status determination procedure and promote integration opportunities for recognized refugees and temporary asylum holders. Individual legal assistance and counselling will support individual cases before the national courts and, in selected cases, with the European Court for Human Rights.

While by law refugees and TA holders are entitled to free medical care, several categories of people of concern face difficulties. Therefore, UNHCR continues to provide assistance through its partners to vulnerable people facing difficulties accessing this entitlement or with serious health problems that are not covered by the obligatory insurance.

The number of stateless persons in the country is slowly reducing due to positive legislative changes. The estimated stateless population stands at just over 79,000. UNHCR will continue to provide legal assistance to people of concern seeking to regularize their status, including those in pre-removal detention centres; and engage the Government in regional and global dialogues on the reduction of statelessness.

Key priorities

In 2019, UNHCR will focus on:

- Pursuing efforts to maintain a dialogue with relevant governmental partners in order to ensure support for UNHCR's objectives and activities globally and within the Russian Federation;
- Maintaining protection interventions, counselling and litigation to address gaps in the access to asylum procedures, fair status determination and prevention of *refoulement*. Working with asylum authorities and courts to promote positive asylum policies, continuing to engage with universities and the Ombudsman's Offices to raise awareness on asylum issues.
- Continuing to offer limited social, material and medical assistance to the most vulnerable refugees and asylum-seekers;
- Promoting accession to international instruments, as well as legislative developments to further reduce and prevent statelessness and render legal advice to stateless persons;
- Working with the authorities to facilitate naturalization procedures for refugees and stateless persons and assist them in accessing social services.