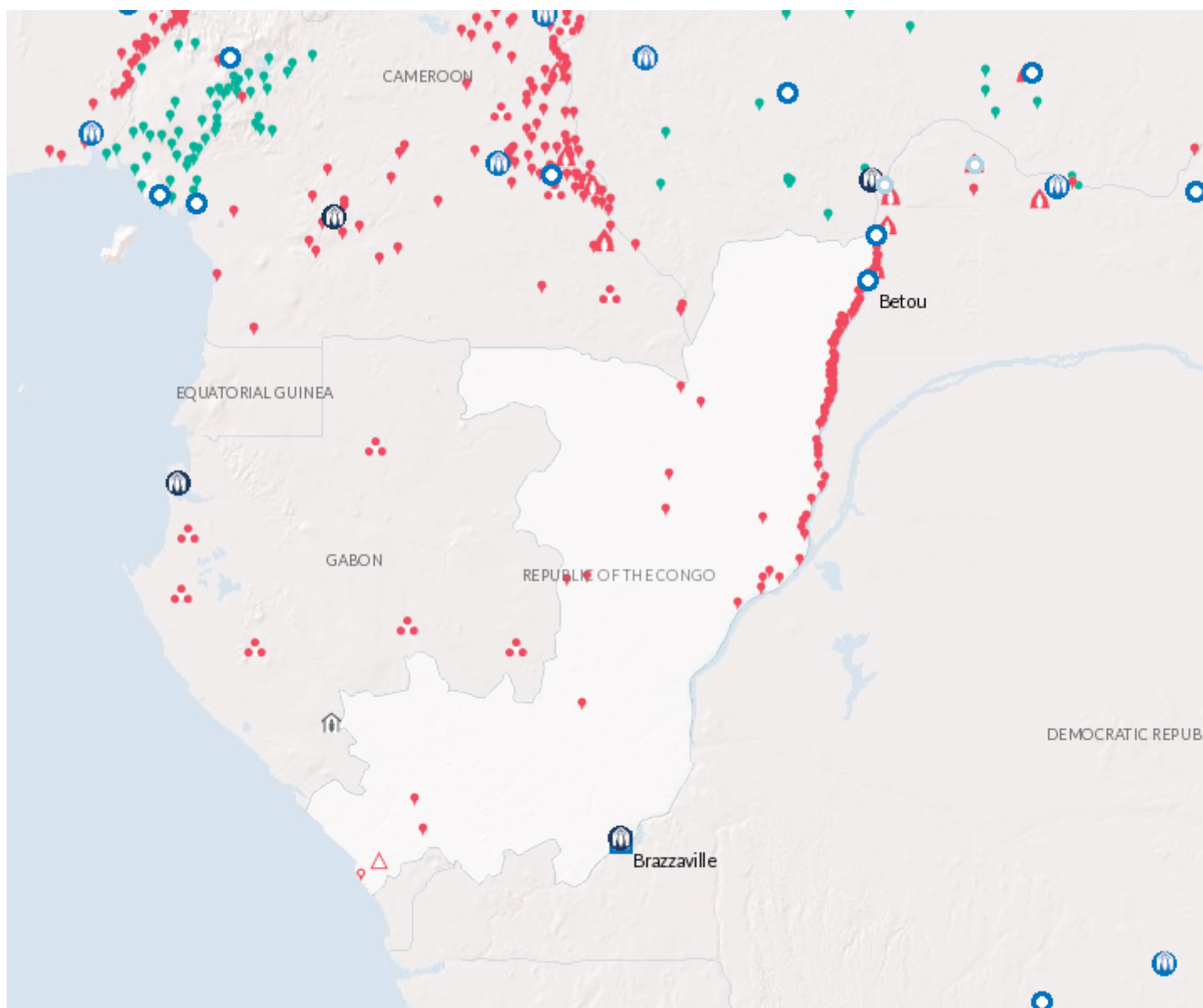


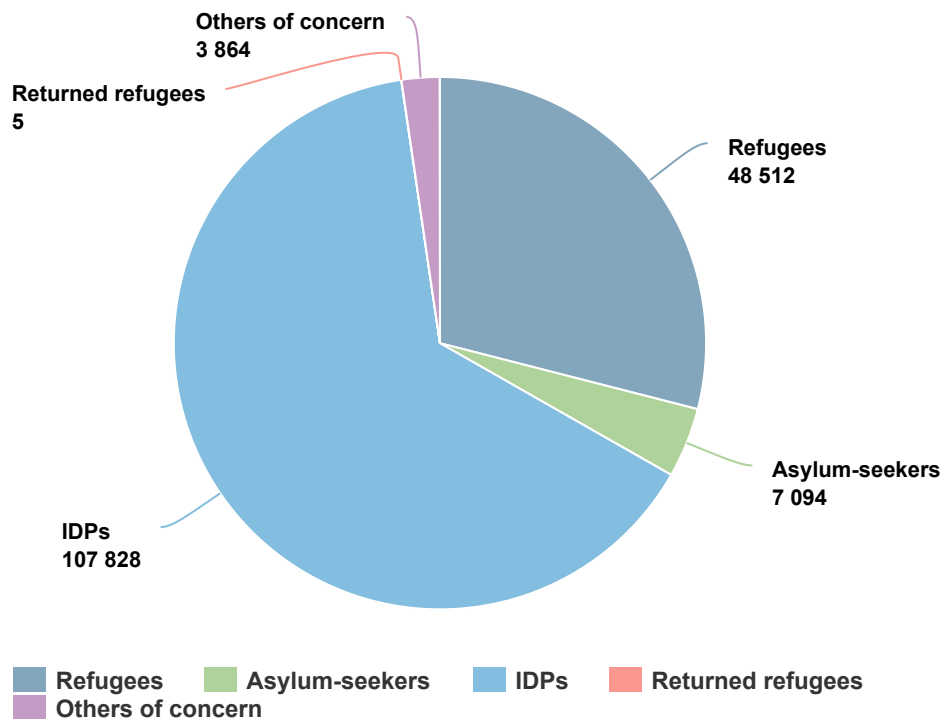
Operation: Congo



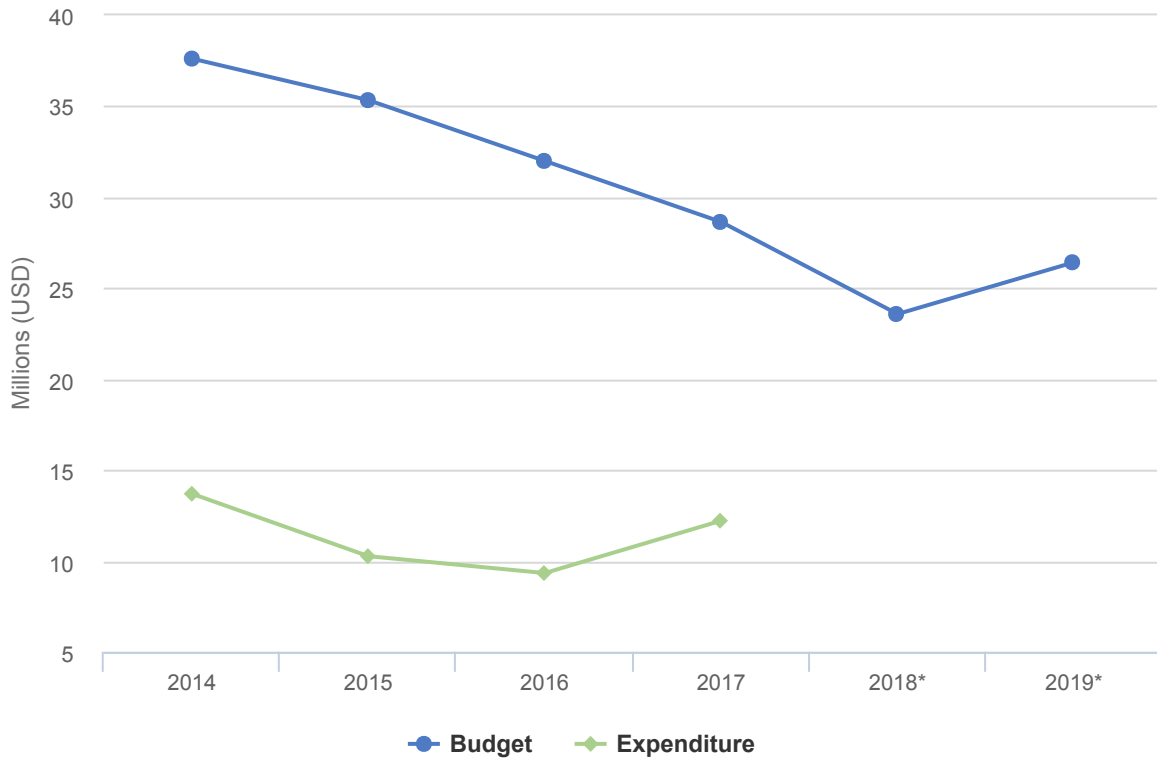
People of Concern

INCREASE IN
134% 2017

2017	167,303
2016	71,598
2015	52,152



Budgets and Expenditure for Congo



Working environment

With no elections scheduled for 2019 and the ceasefire agreement signed in December 2017 between the Government and the armed groups in the Pool region, the political landscape in the Republic of the Congo is expected to remain calm. These developments have given way to the development and roll-out of a disarmament, demobilization and reintegration (DDR) process.

The security context may also remain stable following the implementation of police and army restructuring measures, which began in 2018. This will enable UNHCR to carry out its activities without any hindrance. However, access to the Pool region continues to be restricted for UN staff, requiring approval by the Ministry of Defence. Furthermore, the delivery of humanitarian assistance and inclusion of refugees and others of concern in the social services is hampered by the challenging economy.

The Republic of the Congo reviewed its 2018-2021 National Development Plan last year and UNHCR was involved in the discussions. UNHCR also actively participates in UNDAF thematic groups on social protection and education. UNHCR will also continue to build partnership with UN agencies and other stakeholders as well as advocate for the inclusion of refugees into UNDAF and WB IDA 2018.

The population planning figures for 2019 are close to 93,500 IDPs, some 29,700 refugees from the Central African Republic, 16,500 refugees and asylum-seekers from the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and a further 1,100 refugees and asylum-seekers of various nationalities. Majority of the people of concern reside in urban areas. The change in planning figures is impacted by the cessation clause for Rwandan refugees, which resulted in more than 8,000 Rwandan refugees to lose their refugee status at the end of 2017.

UNHCR will continue its partnership with the Government, which shares the leadership on refugee response. The Republic of the Congo continues to share its natural resources with refugees, and is ensuring protection through access to territory and documentation.

Key priorities

In 2019, UNHCR will focus on:

- Continuing to work closely with the Government and other UN agencies for inclusion of refugees in various projects and programmes.
 - Ensuring that refugees are included in the implementation of the World Bank IDA18.
 - Continuing to be involved in the resource mobilisation and implementation of the Humanitarian Response Plan for people affected by the Pool crisis.
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