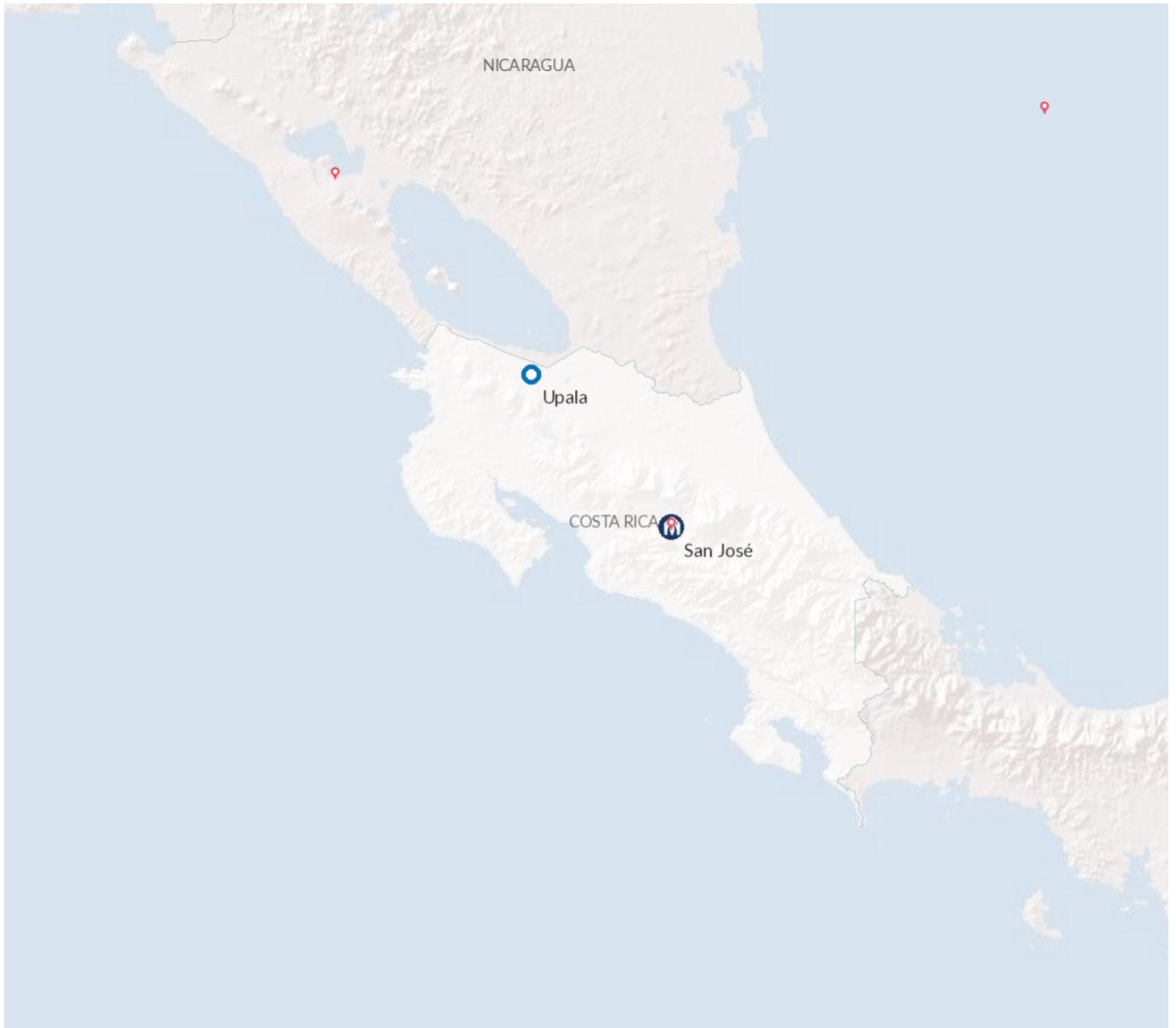




Operation: Costa Rica

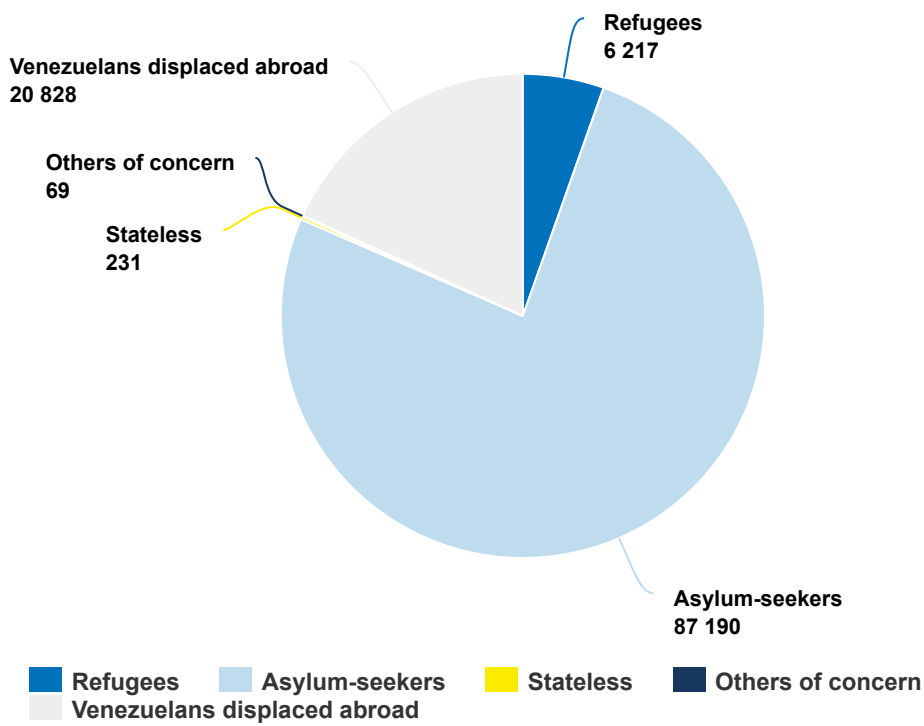


The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

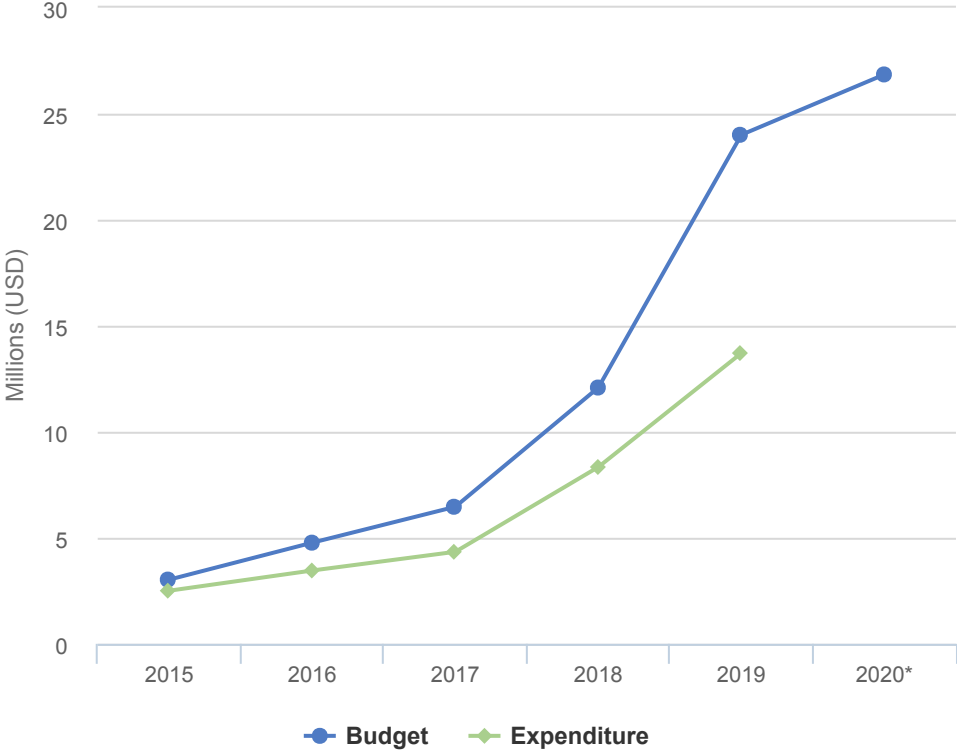
People of Concern

INCREASE IN
207% 2019

2019	114,535
2018	37,287
2017	12,015



Budgets and Expenditure for Costa Rica



Operational context

Costa Rica continued to host displaced people from across the region, with asylum-seekers from Colombia, Nicaragua, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, and countries in the north of Central America. The country also served as a transit location for Cubans and Haitians, as well as people on the move from other continents.

Despite maintaining its open border policy and long-standing commitment to refugees, the significant influx of asylum-seekers from Nicaragua and increased arrivals from the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela during 2019 placed additional strain on national services. Limited capacity within the asylum system resulted in an increasing backlog and heightened vulnerability for those waiting to register an asylum claim. Nicaraguans who had fled without the necessary documentation experienced difficulties in having their essential needs met.

Costa Rica demonstrated its commitment during the Global Refugee Forum 2019, acting as co-convenor and highlighting the country's good practices, while also underscoring the need for additional technical and financial cooperation to ensure a sound response to refugee challenges.

Population trends

The socio-political crisis in Nicaragua in April 2018 resulted in an exponential increase in the number of asylum claims in Costa Rica in 2019, continuing the upward trend in asylum claims since 2015.

By the end of 2019, Costa Rica hosted a total of nearly 6,200 refugees and 87,200 asylum-seekers, 85% of whom (43,400) had arrived from Nicaragua during the year. There are also significant numbers of Venezuelans (7%) and people from countries in the north of Central America (4%).

Costa Rica was also a major destination and transit country for migrants travelling as part of mixed movements.

Achievements

- UNHCR provided technical support to assist the Government in streamlining their refugee status determination procedure, which resulted in an increase of the refugee recognition rate for Nicaraguans from 1% to 24%.
- UNHCR led the interagency rapid response plan to ensure a comprehensive response to the situation of Nicaraguans in Costa Rica, including support to meet basic needs, such as food, shelter and health.
- UNHCR made its cash-based intervention programme more flexible to provide timely assistance through multipurpose cash grants.
- UNHCR enhanced registration using the Biometric Identity Management System (BIMS) and conducted participatory assessments to gather key protection information.
- At the policy level, UNHCR supported Costa Rica's chapter of the comprehensive protection and solutions framework (MIRPS), including the quantification process for public expenditure and total needs for a comprehensive refugee response.
- An agreement was concluded with the national social security entity which will ensure that 6,000 people of concern to UNHCR will have health insurance in 2020.

Unmet needs

Despite increased efforts by UNHCR to provide life-saving support, the operation was funded only at 65% by the end of 2019, resulting in a limited capacity to respond to identified needs.

Additional funding would allow UNHCR to:

- Broaden the network of emergency shelters for asylum-seekers with specific needs, including high-profile political figures, female heads of household and single men. In 2019, over 1,600 heads of household did not have a permanent address (including some 11% who were homeless).
- Continue to provide technical support to streamline the refugee status determination procedure, reducing backlogs and waiting times.
- Increase border monitoring activities at irregular crossing points to ensure the early identification and referral of vulnerable people.
- Promote access to rights for and early inclusion of asylum-seekers and refugees, including through increased recognition of identification documents by government officials, potential employers and the national financial system.
- Consolidate on a long-term basis the full access to health services for people of concern.

2019 Expenditure for Costa Rica | USD

The following table presents the final budget and funds available by pillar and the final expenditure at the objective-level, as reported at year-end.

	Pillar 1 Refugee programme	Total
Final Budget	24,005,906	24,005,906
Income from contributions*	7,561,722	7,561,722
Other funds available / transfers	7,077,229	7,077,229
Total funds available	14,638,950	14,638,950
Expenditure by Objective		
Favourable Protection Environment		
Law and policy	8,866	8,866
Legal remedies and legal assistance	645,593	645,593
Access to territory	542,444	542,444
Public attitudes towards persons of concern	344,741	344,741
Subtotal	1,541,644	1,541,644
Fair Protection Processes and Documentation		
Reception conditions	1,136,781	1,136,781
Registration and profiling	462,151	462,151
Status determination	1,185,641	1,185,641
Individual documentation	75,151	75,151
Subtotal	2,859,724	2,859,724
Security from Violence and Exploitation		
SGBV prevention and response	784,862	784,862
Child protection	251,219	251,219
Subtotal	1,036,081	1,036,081
Basic Needs and Essential Services		
Health	358,682	358,682
Basic and domestic and hygiene items	2,860,518	2,860,518
Services for persons with specific needs	2,397,924	2,397,924
Subtotal	5,617,124	5,617,124
Community Empowerment and Self Reliance		
Co-existence with local communities	267,815	267,815
Self-reliance and livelihoods	1,358,707	1,358,707
Subtotal	1,626,521	1,626,521
Leadership, Coordination and Partnerships		
Coordination and partnerships	102,773	102,773
Subtotal	102,773	102,773
Logistics and Operations Support		

	Pillar 1 Refugee programme	Total
Operations management, coordination and support	927,947	927,947
Subtotal	927,947	927,947
2019 Expenditure Total	13,711,815	13,711,815

**Income from contributions includes indirect support costs that are recovered from contributions to Pillars 3 and 4, supplementary budgets and the “New or additional activities – mandate-related” (NAM) Reserve. Contributions towards all pillars are included under Pillar 1.*
