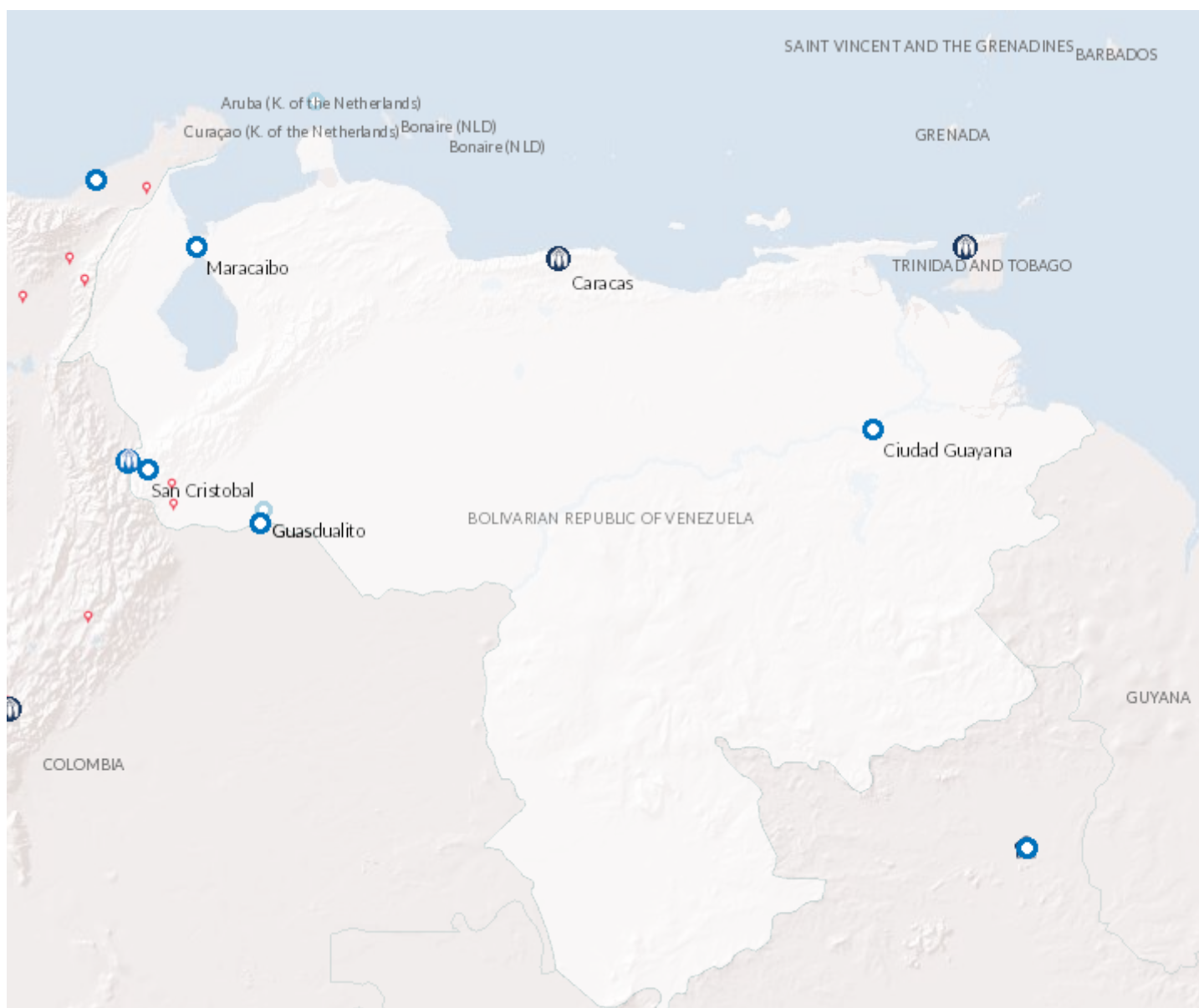


# 2019 Planning summary

14/2/2019

## Operation: Venezuela



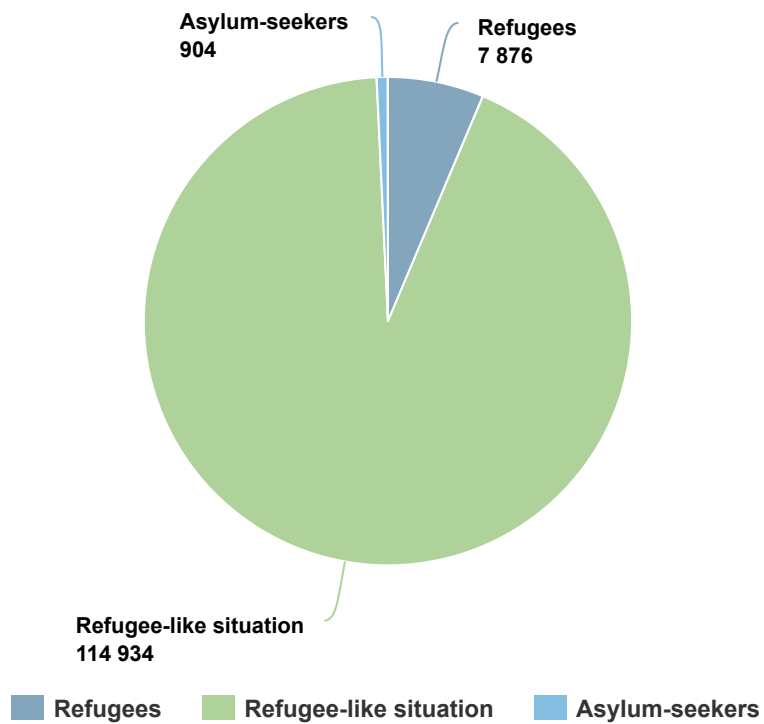
## People of Concern

**28%** **DECREASE IN**  
**2017**

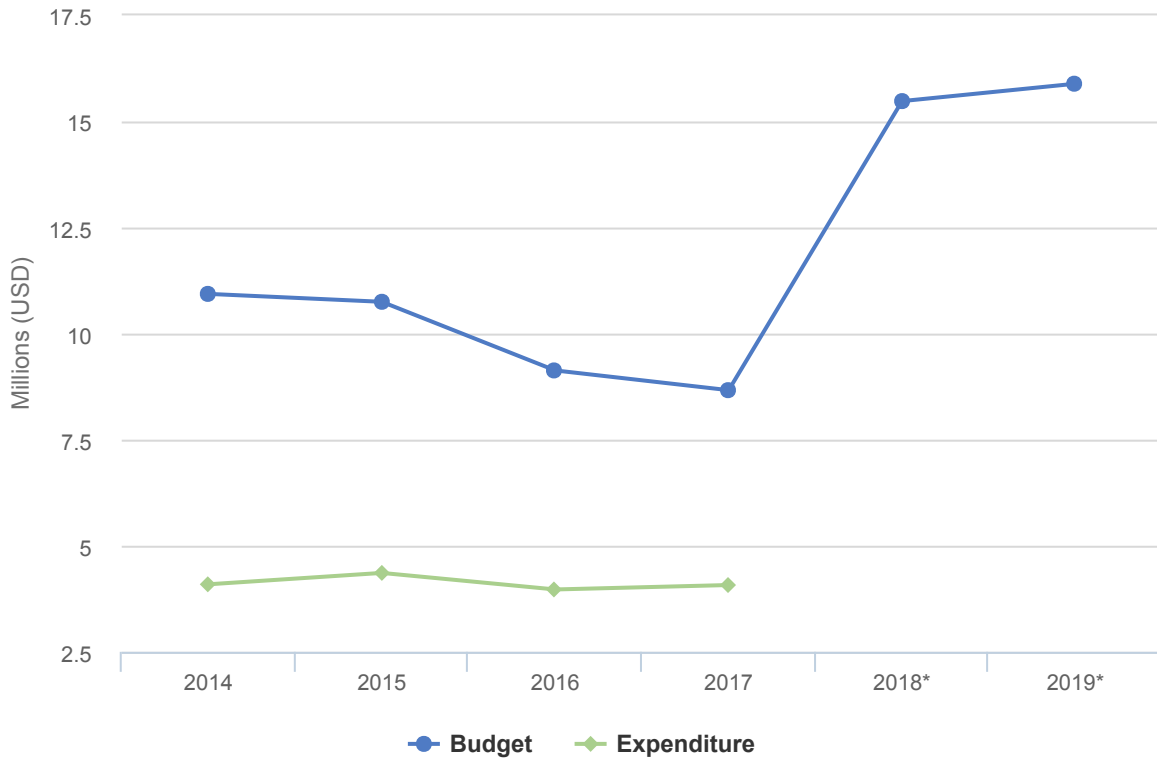
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<b>2017</b>	123,714
<b>2016</b>	172,957
<b>2015</b>	173,989

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## Budgets and Expenditure for Venezuela



## Working environment

As of December 2018, more than 3 million Venezuelans have left for other countries in the region and beyond. Reasons cited for leaving included lack of food, medicine or essential social services, as well as incidents of violence and insecurity. Venezuelans continue to leave at an average of 5,000 a day.

Fluctuating oil prices and a drop in production, increased international pressure and sanctions and continued hyperinflation and disparity between the official and unofficial exchange rates will impact negatively on the economy, resulting in increased hardship and poorer living conditions in Venezuela. The deterioration of infrastructure, public services and security may impact UNHCR's operations in 2019.

Access to basic services also remains challenging. Limited access to formal schools is leaving many Venezuelan children without education. Limited access to health services, including chronic medication and treatment, puts Venezuelans with serious medical conditions at risk. The situation also affects asylum-seekers and refugees in Venezuela who are now returning to their country of origin.

Internal relocation of the population may continue to rise due to the widespread presence of organised and common crime.

Continuing restrictions to travel abroad for Venezuelans due to the serious constraints to obtain travel documents/passports as well as stricter measures in border areas had triggered an increase of exits using unofficial routes, resulting in increased risks.

## Key Priorities

The main components of the UNHCR strategy in Venezuela are community-based protection, border monitoring, improvement of asylum processes and enhancement of solutions to people of concern, prevention of statelessness, as well as prevention and response to gender-based violence and child protection.

In 2019:

- UNHCR will prioritize community-based interventions, protection monitoring, community empowerment and identification and referrals of persons with specific needs in 54 mixed communities in the country and will conduct UNHCR will engage UN agencies and other humanitarian actors in joint programmes to complement UNHCR's community based activities in the spirit of the CRRF.
- UNHCR will consolidate five binational protection networks with organisations providing information, protection and assistance to people in transit. UNHCR will engage the Government of Venezuela to play a much more prominent role in achieving the objectives set out in the protection strategy, especially on asylum and solutions. In addition to the National Commission for Refugees (CONARE), UNHCR will also support the immigration authorities (SAIME) and oversight bodies like the Ombudsperson's Office. Access to documentation for people of concern will be crucial and require close collaboration between UNHCR, CONARE and SAIME.
- Depending on funding availability, UNHCR will cover the documentation needs (civil status documents, passports) of all refugees. Otherwise UNHCR will only prioritise those who opt for facilitated voluntary repatriation.
- UNHCR will promote referral pathways, including transnational referrals of people in transit, and will expand its response through community networks.
- UNHCR will work to strengthen the capacity of border officials, health centers and Municipal Councils for the protection of children and adolescents in order to address the risk of SGBV and violations of children's rights.

- UNHCR will conduct sensitization sessions on birth registration for people in transit and indigenous communities, and will support Civil Registry offices to enhance their response capacity.
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