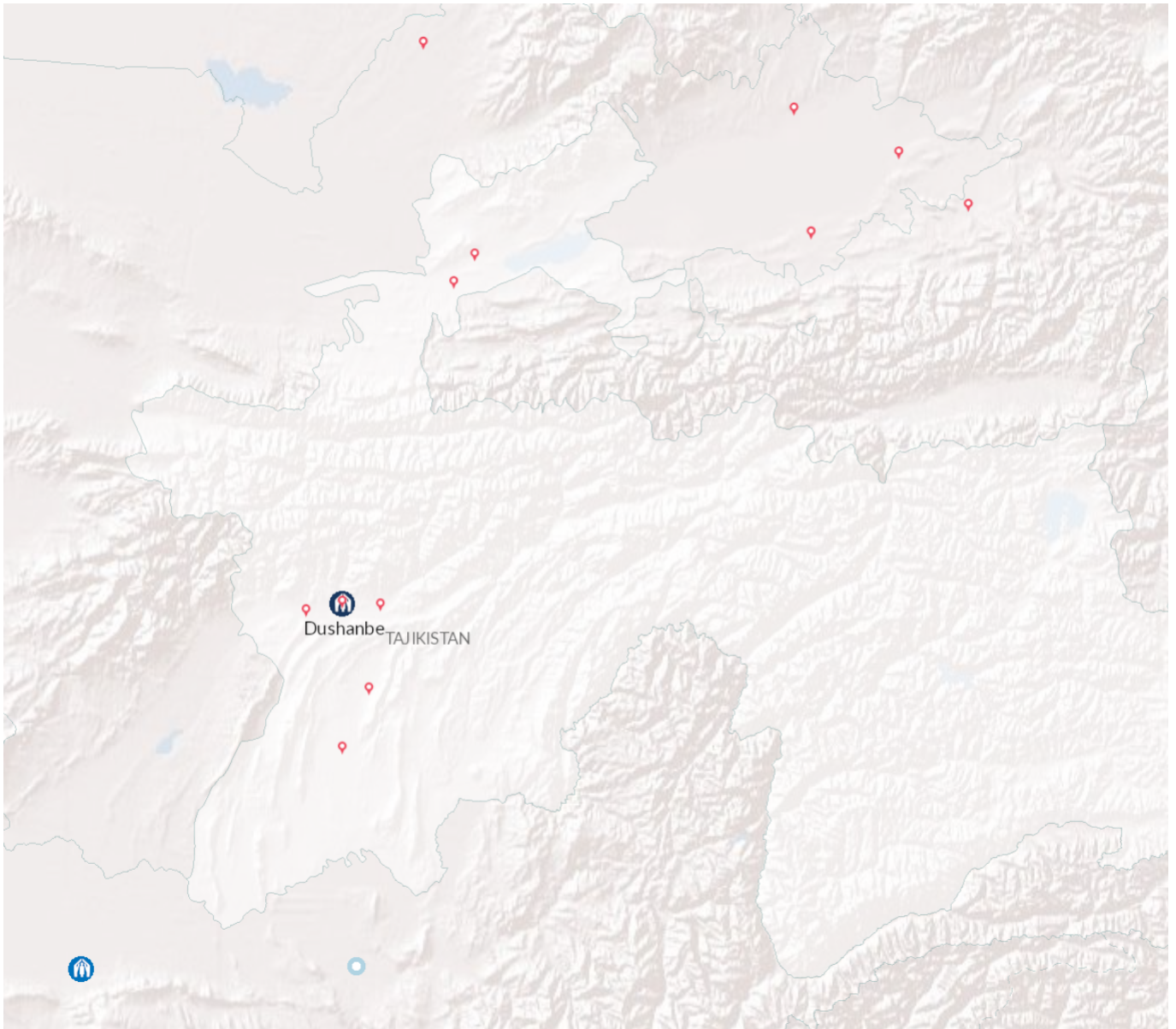




## Operation: Tajikistan



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

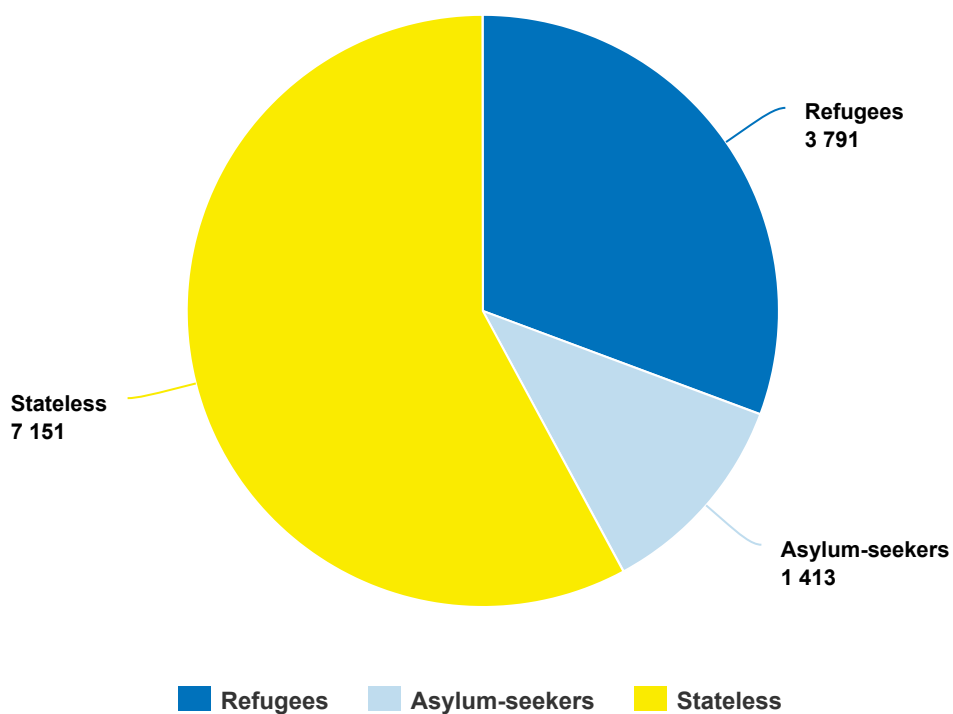
# People of Concern

**63% INCREASE IN 2019**

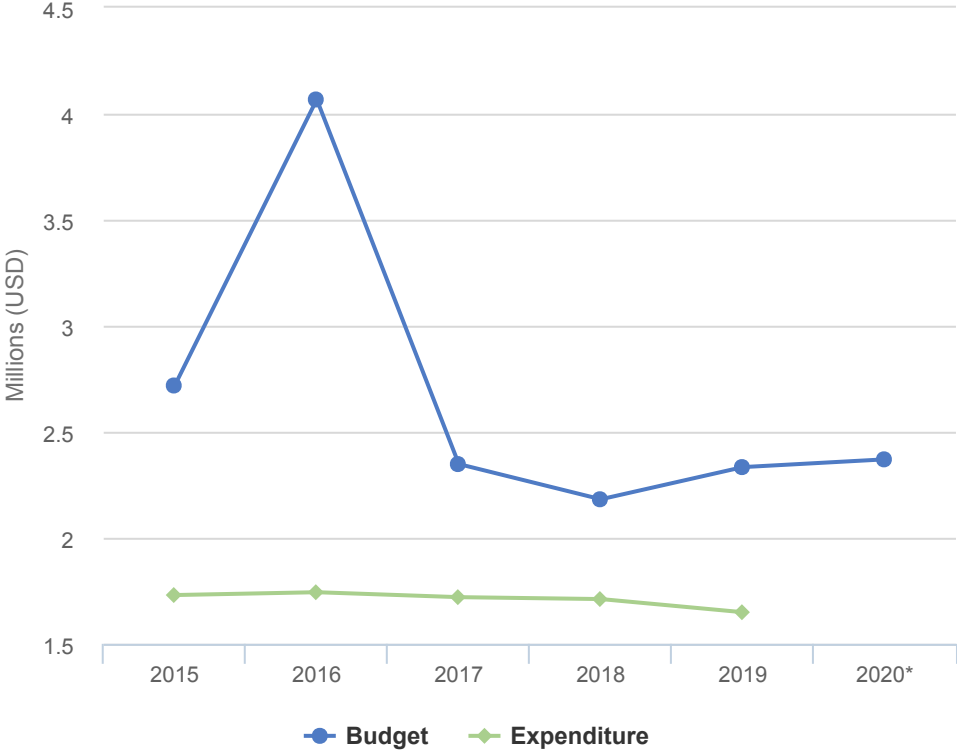
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<b>2019</b>	12,355
<b>2018</b>	7,588
<b>2017</b>	13,465

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# Budgets and Expenditure for Tajikistan



## Operational context

In 2019, UNHCR focused on the eradication of statelessness; partnerships for a sustainable asylum system, including solutions for refugees with an emphasis on local integration; and emergency preparedness.

Since the launch of the #IBelong campaign in 2014, Tajikistan has made significant progress resolving statelessness through legislative and policy changes, as well as confirming nationality for a large number of identified cases. At the High-Level Segment on Statelessness in October 2019, the Government announced four important pledges:

- to adopt an amnesty law to provide legal status to stateless persons;
- to finalize the reform of the civil registration system and ensure universal birth registration for every child born in Tajikistan;
- to explore the extent of statelessness in the country through the 2020 national population census; and
- to consider accession to the two statelessness conventions.

Tajikistan was the first country in Central Asia to accede to the 1951 Refugee Convention and its 1967 Protocol and to enact national refugee legislation, amended in 2014 to largely conform to international standards. UNHCR continued to advocate with the Government to address remaining gaps in the legal framework. The operation also worked with the Government and private sector to support livelihood opportunities for vulnerable youth from both refugee and host communities.

## Population trend

At the end of 2019 Tajikistan was host to nearly 3,800 refugees (compared to less than 2,700 in 2018), and more than 7,100 stateless persons and people with undetermined nationality. The Government reported some 3,200 new arrivals during the year, and almost 650 families applied for asylum – a significant increase from 2018. Almost all asylum-seekers were of Afghan nationality.

Nearly 300 cases, representing over 700 refugees, were processed for admission to Canada under the private sponsorship programme in 2019, while more than 70 people chose to return to Afghanistan with the support of UNHCR.

NGO partners identified and registered an additional 12,100 people with undetermined nationality, over 70% female. During the year, nearly 9,700 people with undetermined nationality had their citizenship confirmed.

## Achievements

- UNHCR's advocacy and technical support contributed to the adoption of the amnesty law, which allows stateless persons and foreign nationals residing in Tajikistan without legal status to legalize their stay without penalty.
- Following UNHCR's advocacy, the Government committed to ensuring universal birth registration and identification of the population at risk of statelessness by the end of 2024.
- UNHCR established new private sector partnerships with the Auchan supermarket chain and the Serena and Hyatt Hotels, creating livelihood opportunities for people of concern.
- A country-wide profiling exercise was carried out, and an increased outreach strengthened referrals and understanding of the living conditions of people of concern.
- Contingency planning, capacity-building and emergency preparedness with local authorities, the United Nations system and NGO partners continued, including through an annual work plan with the Committee on Emergency Situation (CoES) and a simulation exercise in July 2019 targeting 120 participants from government, international organizations and NGOs.

## Unmet needs

The operation was only funded 13% by the end of 2019. UNHCR was unable to provide emergency cash and medical assistance to all people with specific needs and had to prioritize the most vulnerable. Funding to cover school needs, support for peaceful co-existence projects and other programmes was significantly reduced.

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