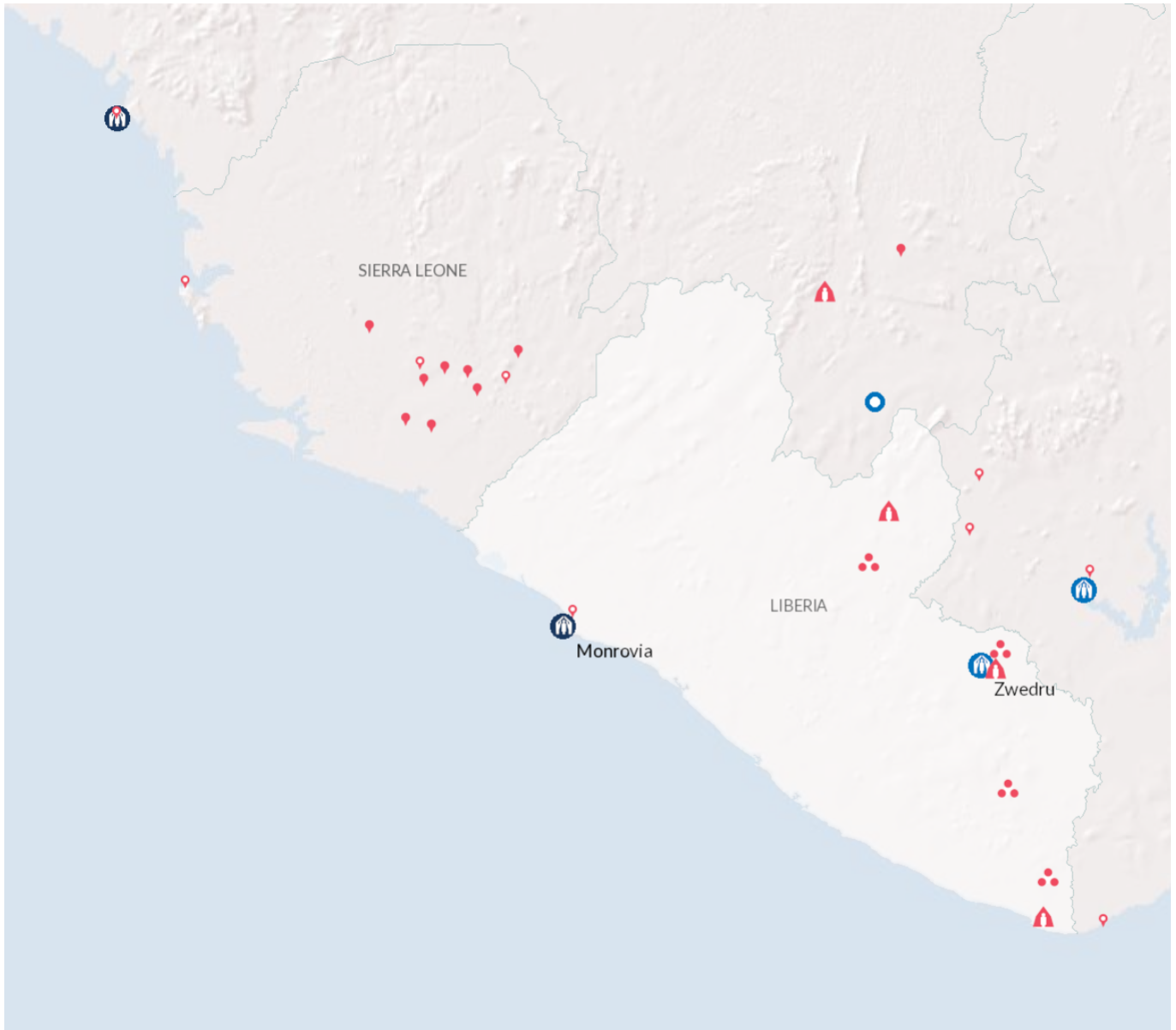


Operation: Liberia

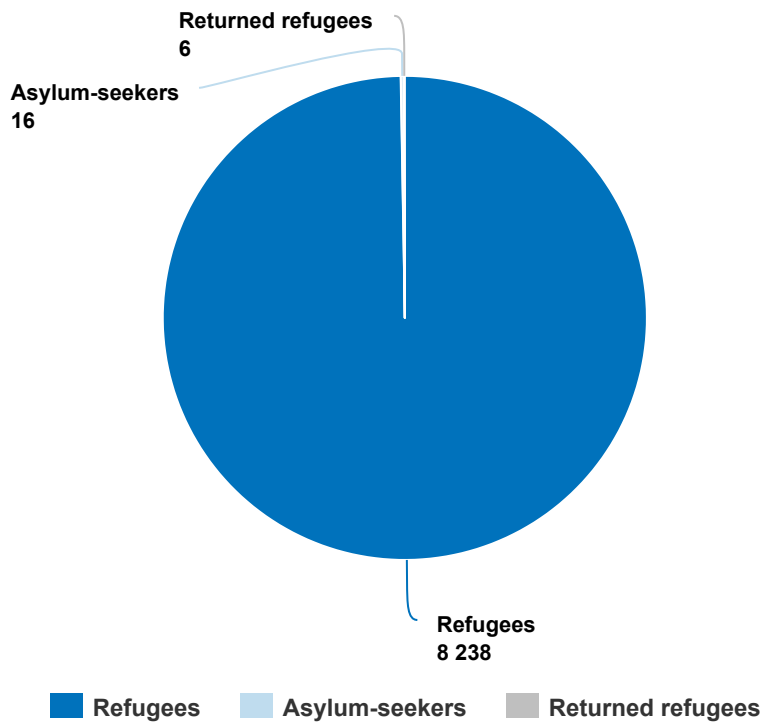


The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

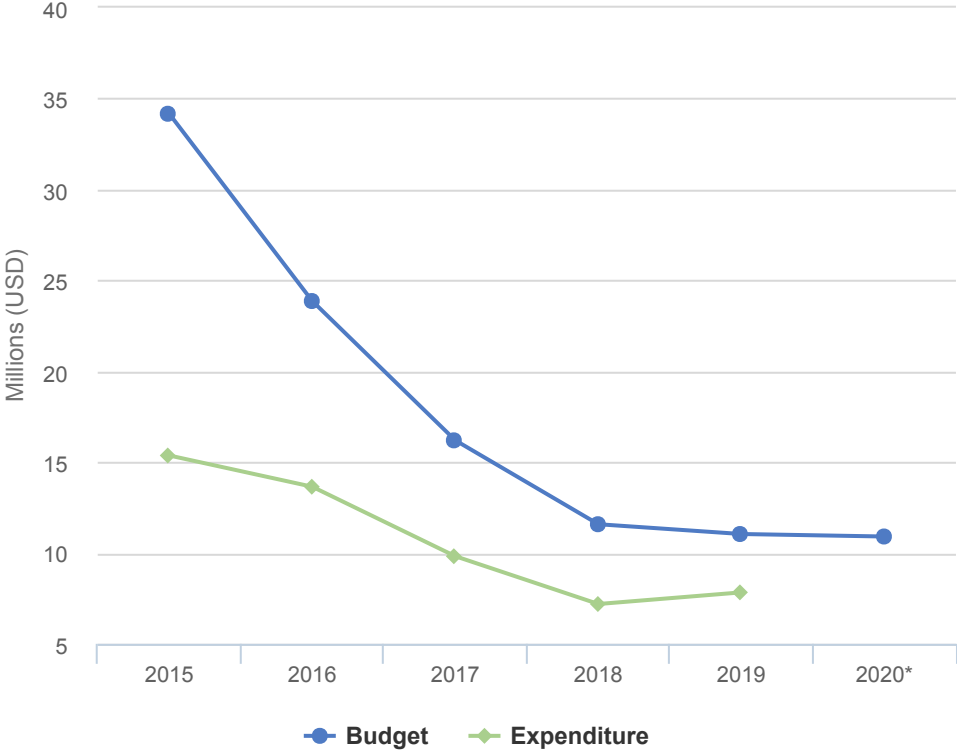
People of Concern

DECREASE IN
10% 2019

2019	8,260
2018	9,160
2017	11,533



Budgets and Expenditure for Liberia



Operational context

The Government experienced some political and financial challenges in 2019. The “Pro-poor agenda for prosperity and development” was launched at the beginning of the year, while during the second half of 2019 there was a sharp depreciation of the Liberian dollar and inflation rose by 19%, reaching 31% by August, affecting the welfare of both Liberians and refugees.

Despite these challenges, the Government strove to ensure a protective environment for refugees and asylum-seekers, with freedom of movement guaranteed, along with access to education, health care and other basic rights. People of concern remain vulnerable due to the poor economic situation in Liberia, which affected the availability of health, education and other services for Liberians and refugees alike.

Liberia remained engaged at the global level, making pledges focused on integration at the Global Refugee Forum in December 2019, committing to provide access to land, livelihoods and education.

Population trends

At the end of 2019, Liberia was host to over 8,200 people of concern (98.8% Ivorian refugees, 1% refugees of various nationalities, and 0.2% asylum-seekers). The vast majority resided in settlements and rural communities, while less than 5% were located in urban areas. The 8,100 Ivorians were the remaining population of the approximately 224,000 Ivorians who had fled generalized violence in Côte d'Ivoire in the wake of the presidential elections in 2010 and 2011. The operation facilitated the return of 1,500 Ivorian refugees in 2019.

Achievements

- A deed of assignment was received for 315 acres of land in Bahn Town for refugees' benefit; a further 715 acres was under consideration for refugees in Grand Gedeh.
- UNHCR's involvement in “One UN” activities such as the “Spotlight Initiative” and joint programming on SGBV, resulted in the allocation of \$250,000 through UNFPA for the construction of 10 out of 25 planned durable housing units for female survivors of violence.
- Prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse refresher sessions were conducted in all refugees hosting areas.

Unmet needs

- UNHCR did not manage to transfer full responsibility for the provision of social and public services to the Government, despite the handover of responsibility for education, health and social protection in 2018, due to insufficient public human and financial resources.
 - Despite continuous advocacy on the part of UNHCR, the Liberia Refugee Act, the revised Alien and Nationality Act and the national action plan on statelessness all remained pending, due to lack of prioritization.
 - Funding to cover the durable shelter project remained a challenge due to the cost per unit, as well as the numbers needed. UNHCR accordingly sought to adjust its shelter strategy for other settlements such as PTP and Little Wlebo by providing shelter kits however this approach had not yet been accepted by the Government.
 - Urban refugees desiring to integrate were not included in shelter support activities, mainly because of land acquisition complexities and higher costs.
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