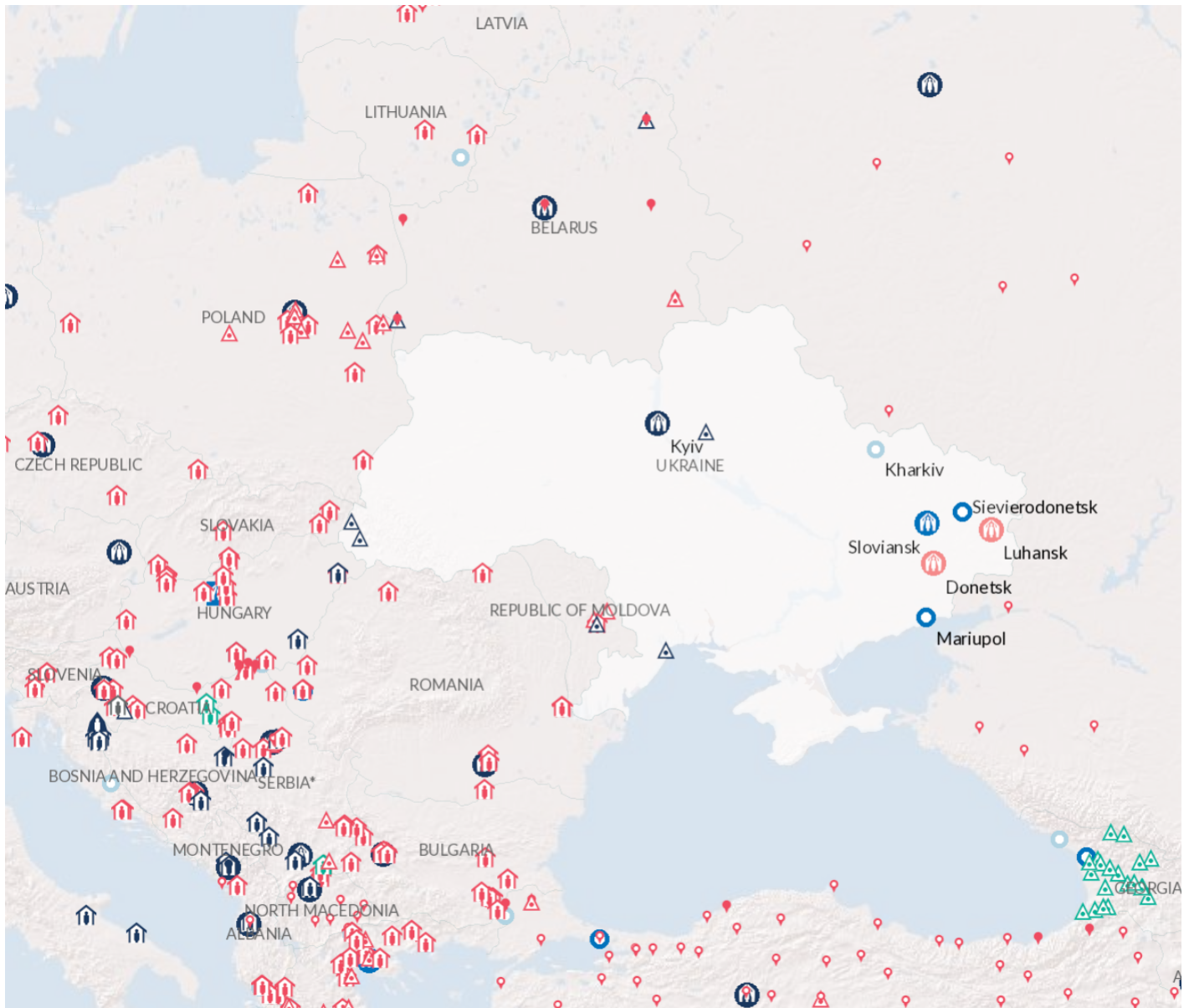


## Operation: Ukraine

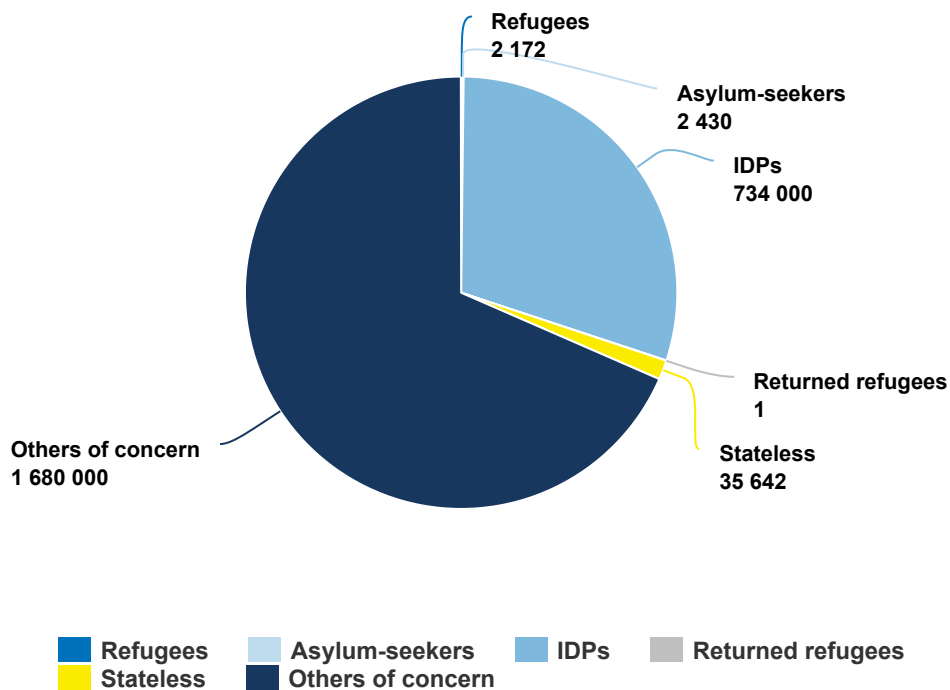


*The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.*

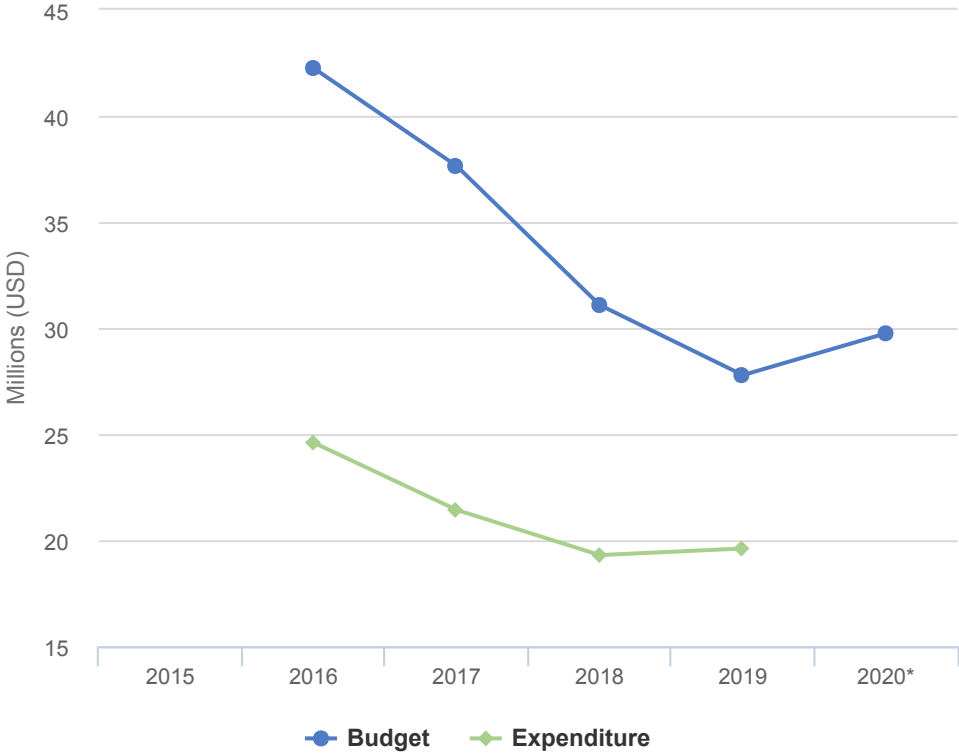
# People of Concern

**59%** INCREASE IN  
**2019**

<b>2019</b>	2,454,245
<b>2018</b>	1,544,684
<b>2017</b>	1,844,785



# Budgets and Expenditure for Ukraine



## Operational context

Following presidential and parliamentary elections in 2019, UNHCR began working with a range of new government counterparts. However, given the new administration's focus on security and reform issues, progress on asylum issues was generally not prioritized. The low recognition rate decreased still further, especially for asylum-seekers from Somalia and the Syrian Arab Republic. However, despite these challenges, UNHCR continued to work with refugee communities, civil society and private sector employers to strengthen prospects for integration.

Low-intensity armed conflict continued along the contact line in eastern Ukraine, further increasing humanitarian needs of vulnerable people facing ongoing armed conflict, restrictions on movement, mine /unexploded ordnance contamination and continued suspension of social benefits including pensions.

Progress was made on two key issues for IDPs - voting rights and housing. In 2019, the parliament amended the electoral code to give IDPs the right to vote in local elections and the Government also increased funds for an affordable housing program (by approximately \$ 19.5 million) thus addressing the needs of some 800 IDP families.

Operational constraints in non-government-controlled areas (NGCA) caused delays in shelter programme implementation. UNHCR continued to adapt by diversifying delivery modalities for shelter interventions. Conversely, in government-controlled areas (GCA), UNHCR's protection and shelter programmes were implemented smoothly, however the transition of shelter/non-food item (NFI) cluster coordination to government counterparts was delayed due to the change in administration.

Despite expectations that legislation to introduce a statelessness determination procedure would be adopted in 2019, parliament considered it in first reading only late in the year. As a result, UNHCR postponed some capacity-building activities with State authorities and conducted joint advocacy with the humanitarian country team (HCT), particularly on the issue of birth registration for children born in NGCA.

## Population trends

In 2019, Ukraine hosted some 4,600 refugees and asylum-seekers (48% refugees, 52% asylum-seekers) with Afghans representing 22% and Syrians 14% of the total population of concern.

It was estimated that some 734,000 people were displaced from NGCA, with smaller numbers coming from the Autonomous Republic of Crimea, mainly Crimean Tatars. In total, some 1.7 million people across the country were affected by the conflict.

There were also an estimated 35,600 (5,600 registered) stateless persons in Ukraine. Migrants and ethnic minorities such as Roma, were at heightened risk of statelessness including some 50,000 babies born in NGCA lacking Ukraine-issued birth certificates.

## Achievements

- UNHCR supported an organizational development mentorship programme for all national NGO partners in line with the multi-year, multi-partner protection and durable solutions strategy (2018-2022). Of ten participating NGOs, seven successfully completed the programme, resulting in improved management capacities.
- Through a community-based approach to integration, nearly 30 joint refugee, IDP and host community groups were supported.

- UNHCR also engaged with the private sector to facilitate access to employment for people of concern, while providing more intensive language classes.
- UNHCR delivered emergency assistance to people affected by armed conflict on both sides of the contact line, including legal assistance, case management and shelter assistance. To responsibly disengage from the provision of legal assistance, training and referrals were provided to free legal aid centers, who assisted 15% more IDPs than in the previous year.
- UNHCR supported local authorities with construction tools in GCAs, in preparation for disengagement from humanitarian shelter activities.
- The Office implemented a pilot programme, voluntarily relocating 14 families who were living in dangerous areas close to the contact line.

## Unmet needs

While UNHCR continued to address the most basic needs of asylum-seekers, additional resources were required for language classes and employment assistance.

Moreover, needs in relation to shelter, psychosocial assistance and home-based care were unmet for older persons in remote and insecure areas along the contact line.

UNHCR was also unable to implement shelter interventions for between 8,000 and 9,000 households estimated to have shelter needs in NGCA due to unpredictable humanitarian access and funding.

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