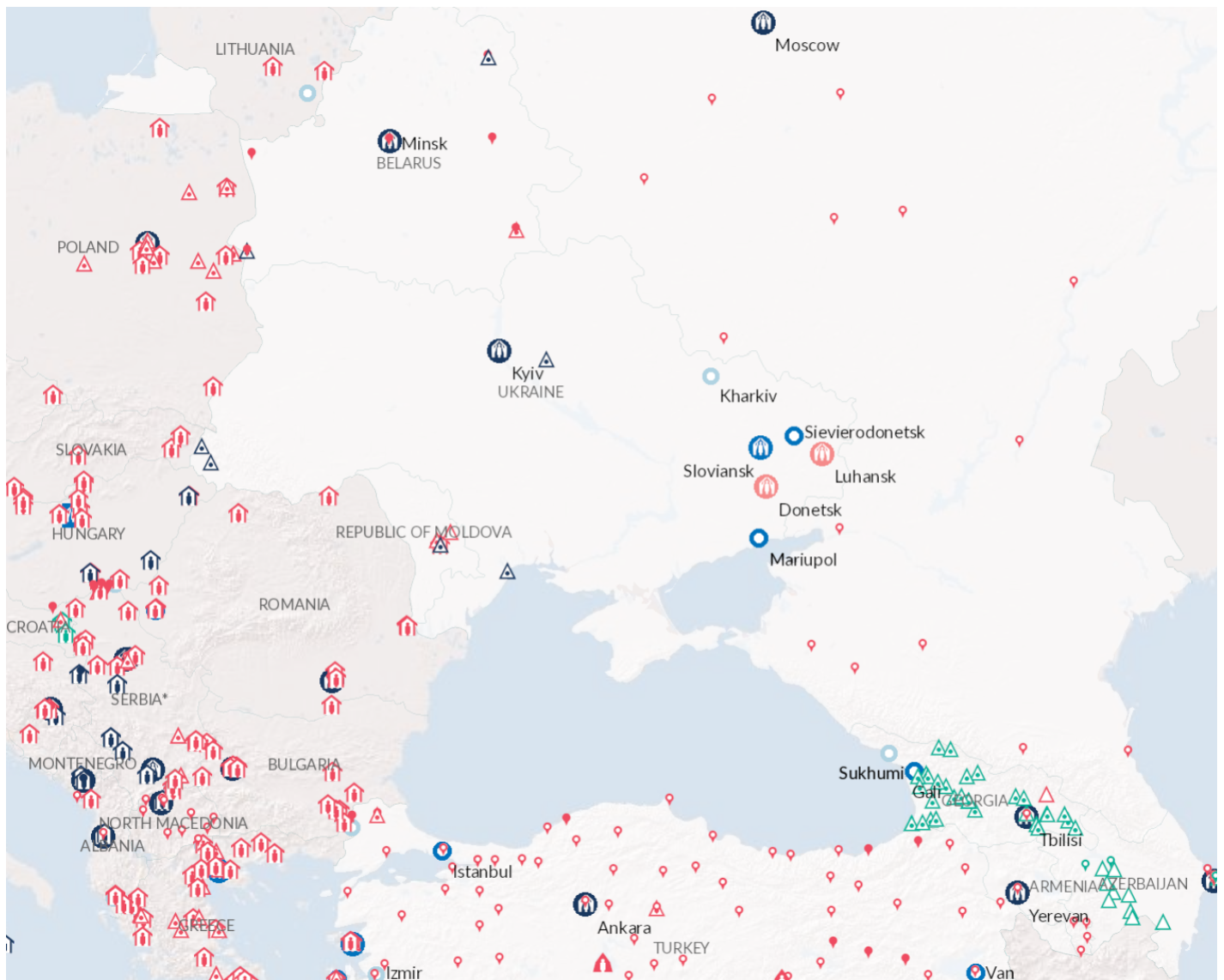


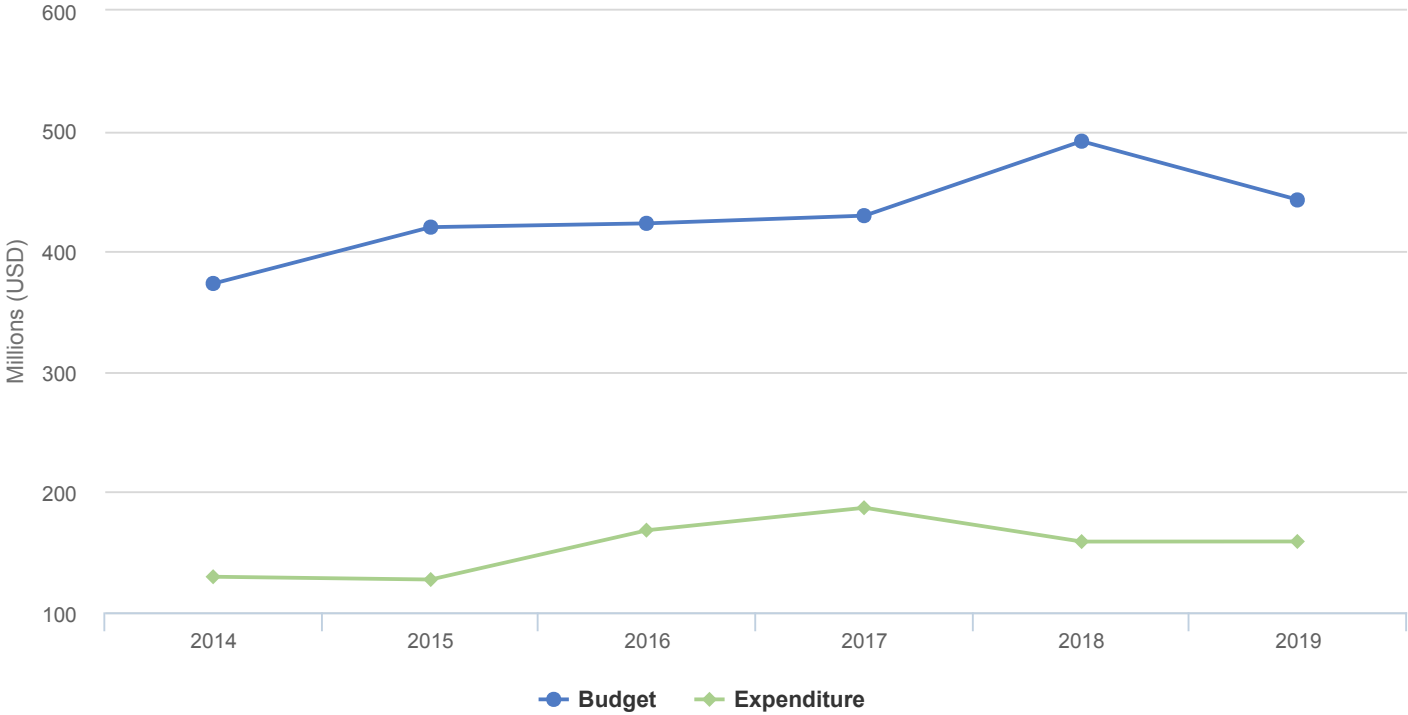
## Subregion: Eastern Europe

| Armenia | Azerbaijan | Belarus | Georgia | Republic of Moldova | Russian Federation | Turkey | Ukraine |

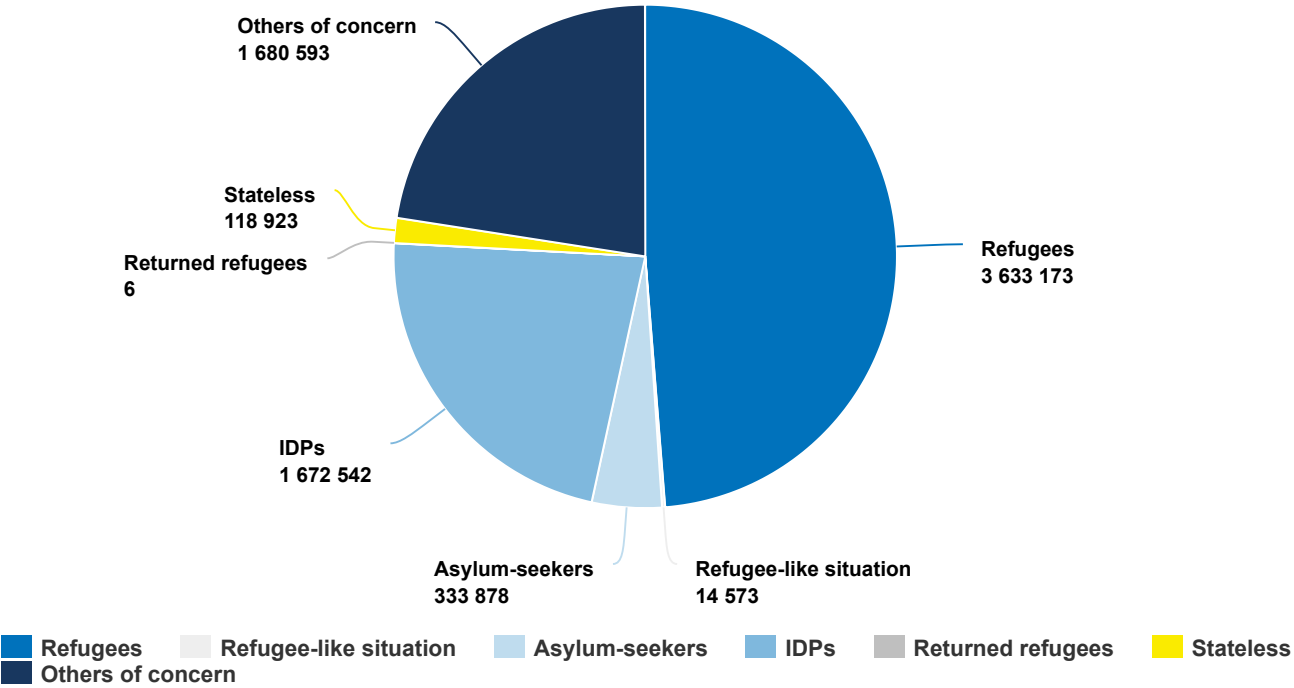


*The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.*

# Budgets and Expenditure in Subregion Eastern Europe



# People of Concern - 2019



## Response in 2019

Despite numerous initiatives in recent years aimed at peacefully resolving the conflicts in the disputed territories of Abkhazia, Nagorno-Karabakh, South Ossetia and Transnistria, little progress was made in achieving lasting solutions in Eastern Europe in 2019. Ongoing small-scale military clashes continued in many locations, alongside attempts to initiate basic confidence and peace-building measures. UNHCR continued to support peace and/or peacebuilding initiatives in the sub-region under the leadership of the OSCE, the European Union and the United Nations.

UNHCR's key strategic objectives in the sub-region remained promoting unhindered access to territory, strengthening of national asylum procedures, and working with States to prevent and eradicate statelessness. Prospects for local integration remained limited for conflict-affected populations, some of whom have been displaced for many years. Against this backdrop, the region continued to host a considerable number of people of concern.

**Armenia** continued to host some 18,000 refugees or people in a refugee-like situation - including some 14,600 Syrians seeking temporary protection in Armenia. The number of stateless persons continued to grow, with an increase of 13% (to 960) compared to 2018, as legislation to reduce the risk of statelessness remained pending.

In **Azerbaijan**, the number of refugees and asylum-seekers increased to almost 1,300 individuals. The estimated number of stateless persons remained close to 3,600, pending the publication of a national census undertaken during the year. By the end of 2019, some 652,300 people were internally displaced.

**Belarus** recorded a significant drop in the number of asylum-seekers, from almost 900 in 2018, to some 650 in 2019, with the vast majority of new arrivals from Ukraine.

In 2019, **Georgia** hosted some 289,850 people of concern, the vast majority (286,200) being IDPs. During the year, more than 1,200 people applied for asylum in Georgia.

According to Government reports, the **Russian Federation** hosted some 112,100 people of concern, of whom 38% were refugees, 37% held temporary asylum (TA) status and 0.4% had Convention refugee status. In addition to refugees, the Russian Federation hosted 1,500 asylum-seekers and 68,200 stateless persons.

In 2019, **Ukraine** hosted 4,600 refugees and asylum-seekers, with Afghans representing 22% and Syrians 14% of the total population of concern. The United Nations in Ukraine estimated that some 734,000 people were displaced from non-government-controlled areas (NGCA), with smaller numbers coming from the Autonomous Republic of Crimea. There was also an estimated 35,700 (5,600 registered) stateless persons in Ukraine, with migrants and ethnic minorities such as the Roma at heightened risk of statelessness, as well as some 50,000 babies born in NGCA lacking Ukraine-issued birth certificates. A further 1.7 million people were affected by the conflict in Ukraine.

## Operations in Eastern Europe in 2019

### Armenia

In collaboration with the UN country team and national authorities, UNHCR continued to advocate for the inclusion of people of concern in the national action plan for the Sustainable Development Goals. The Office also developed an action plan for socio-economic integration based on regional frameworks and previous government commitments. Advocacy papers were drafted for government working groups and line ministries, emphasizing partnerships under the Global Compact on Refugees, however the absence of a government long-term vision and harmonization of strategies remained a challenge.

### Azerbaijan

UNHCR intensified its advocacy at various levels, with a focus on complementary protection, legal status for mandate refugees, access to legal employment and quality refugee status determination (RSD) - using the Global Refugee Forum (GRF) as a tool to achieve these objectives. A significant achievement was the change

in the registration and documentation of new asylum-seekers, with the State Migration Service taking responsibility for the entire national asylum procedure. The Government committed to a health insurance package from January 2020, which will provide people of concern with coverage on an equal basis to vulnerable nationals.

Despite this progress, a number of protection gaps remained. The lack of access to legal employment for mandate refugees remained a key obstacle, likely to lead to further delays in implementing the national protection and solutions strategy. In the absence of the right to work and a secure legal status in Azerbaijan, UNHCR focused on providing direct lifesaving assistance and legal interventions. However, UNHCR was only partially able to cover the needs of the most vulnerable refugees with a cash-based subsistence allowance.

Cooperation with relevant ministries in the area of statelessness, resulted in a pledge to grant citizenship to all documented stateless persons in Azerbaijan at the High-Level Segment on Statelessness.

### **Belarus**

The continued implementation of the Quality Initiative (QIEE) project - focusing on building the capacity of State authorities, the judiciary and legal aid providers on asylum procedures - resulted in improved interviewing techniques, enhanced quality of decisions, and more frequent use of UNHCR guidance to substantiate decisions on asylum claims. Asylum authorities also increasingly relied on Article 1D of the 1951 Refugee Convention to grant refugee status. UNHCR welcomed the Government of Belarus' pledge to accede to the statelessness conventions in 2020, pending completion of internal procedures.

### **Georgia**

The ongoing reorganization of the ministry responsible for IDPs and local integration challenged implementation of planned activities in the areas of integration, community mobilization and social protection (including sustainable livelihoods for refugees, asylum-seekers and stateless persons). UNHCR established a range of new partnerships with NGOs as part of the ongoing effort to include people of concern in government-led services and to provide complementary services to promote protection and solutions. The Government's pledges at the High-Level Segment on Statelessness have the potential, if implemented, to substantially address statelessness-related issues in Georgia.

In Abkhazia, IDP returnees continued to be in need of assistance. The Office partnered with local and international agencies to link protection interventions, including cash assistance, to livelihood opportunities in order to promote self-reliance. This was especially important in light of possible further restrictions on freedom of movement and documentation, as well as a continued lack of clarity regarding political and property rights.

## 2019 Voluntary Contributions to Eastern Europe | USD

Earmarking / Donor	Pillar 1 Refugee programme	Pillar 4 IDP projects	All pillars	Total
<b>Belarus</b>				
International Organization for Migration	87,739	0	0	87,739
United States of America	0	0	200,000	200,000
<b>Belarus subtotal</b>	<b>87,739</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>200,000</b>	<b>287,739</b>
<b>Regional Office in the South Caucasus</b>				
Armenia	0	0	98,000	98,000
Azerbaijan	7,200	0	0	7,200
Private donors in Japan	0	165,366	0	165,366
United States of America	0	0	4,700,000	4,700,000
<b>Regional Office in the South Caucasus subtotal</b>	<b>7,200</b>	<b>165,366</b>	<b>4,798,000</b>	<b>4,970,566</b>
<b>Turkey</b>				
European Union	45,935,714	0	0	45,935,714
France	568,182	0	0	568,182
Germany	6,038,015	0	0	6,038,015
Japan	2,678,571	0	0	2,678,571
Norway	939,518	0	0	939,518
Private donors in Germany	0	0	33,525	33,525
Private donors in Sweden	0	0	100,807	100,807
Republic of Korea	700,000	0	0	700,000
Switzerland	15,015	0	0	15,015
United States of America	49,900,000	0	12,000,000	61,900,000
<b>Turkey subtotal</b>	<b>106,775,015</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>12,134,331</b>	<b>118,909,347</b>
<b>Ukraine</b>				
Canada	0	0	569,909	569,909
Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF)	0	928,181	0	928,181
Estonia	0	225,479	0	225,479
European Union	0	2,131,673	0	2,131,673
Germany	0	0	1,118,568	1,118,568

Earmarking / Donor	Pillar 1 Refugee programme	Pillar 4 IDP projects	All pillars	Total
Japan	0	839,286	0	839,286
Latvia	0	27,503	0	27,503
Lithuania	0	0	34,130	34,130
Norway	344,986	0	0	344,986
Private donors in Austria	0	0	16,593	16,593
Private donors in Germany	0	34,443	0	34,443
Russian Federation	0	250,000	0	250,000
Sweden	0	549,995	0	549,995
United States of America	0	0	6,700,000	6,700,000
<b><i>Ukraine subtotal</i></b>	<b>344,986</b>	<b>4,986,559</b>	<b>8,439,200</b>	<b>13,770,745</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>107,214,941</b>	<b>5,151,925</b>	<b>25,571,531</b>	<b>137,938,397</b>

Note: