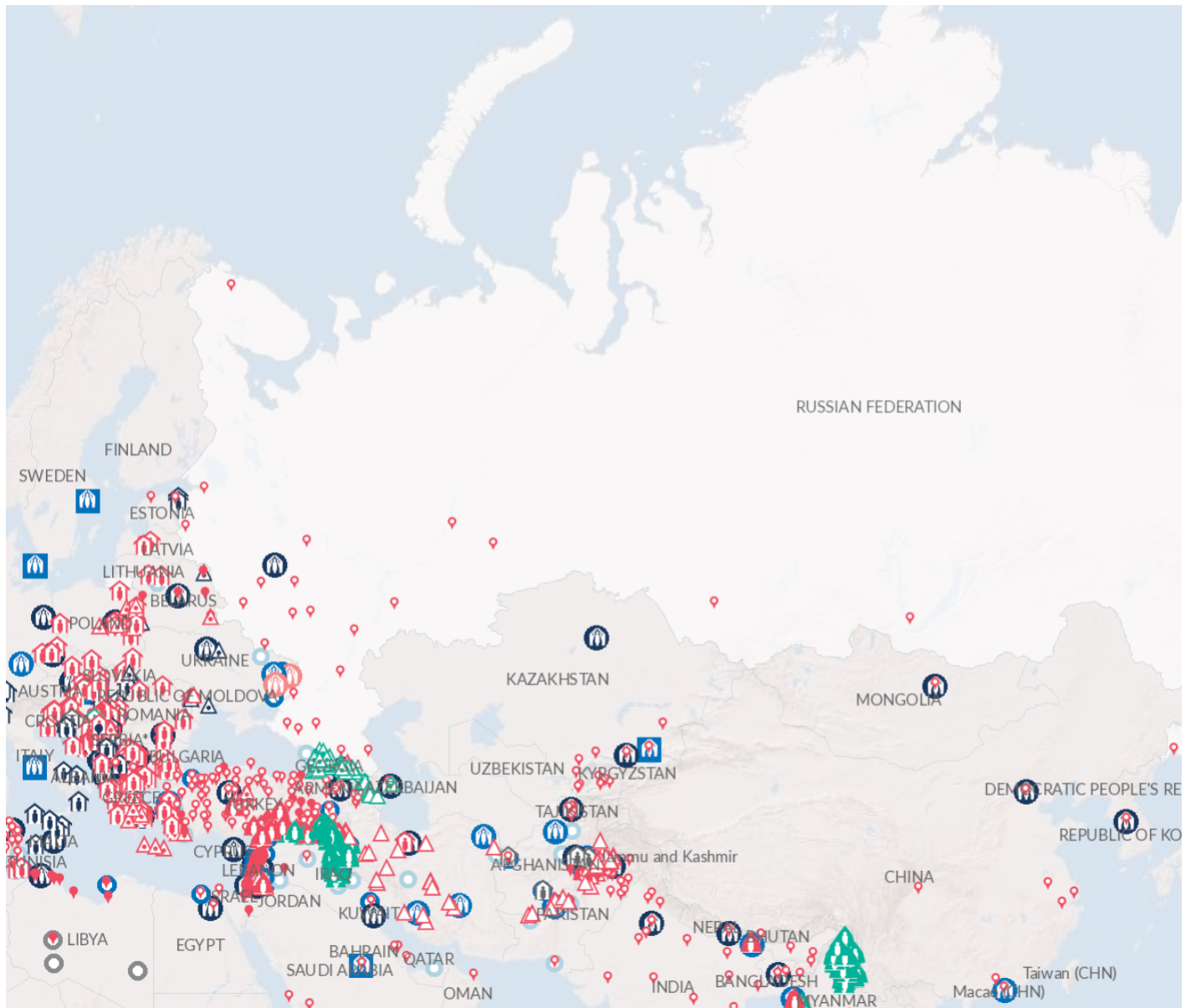


Operation: Russian Federation

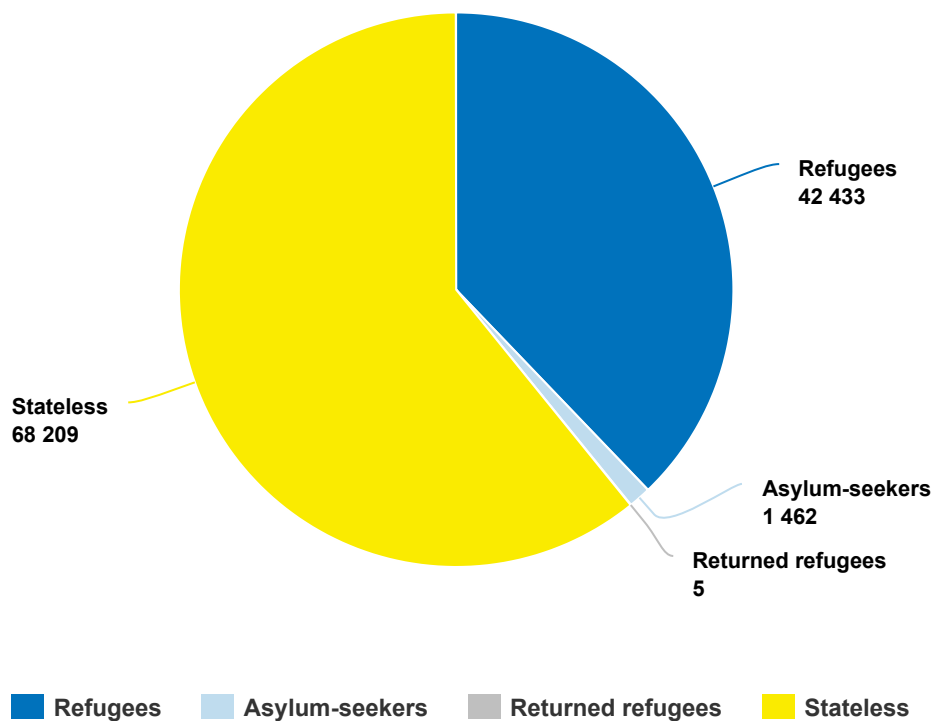


The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

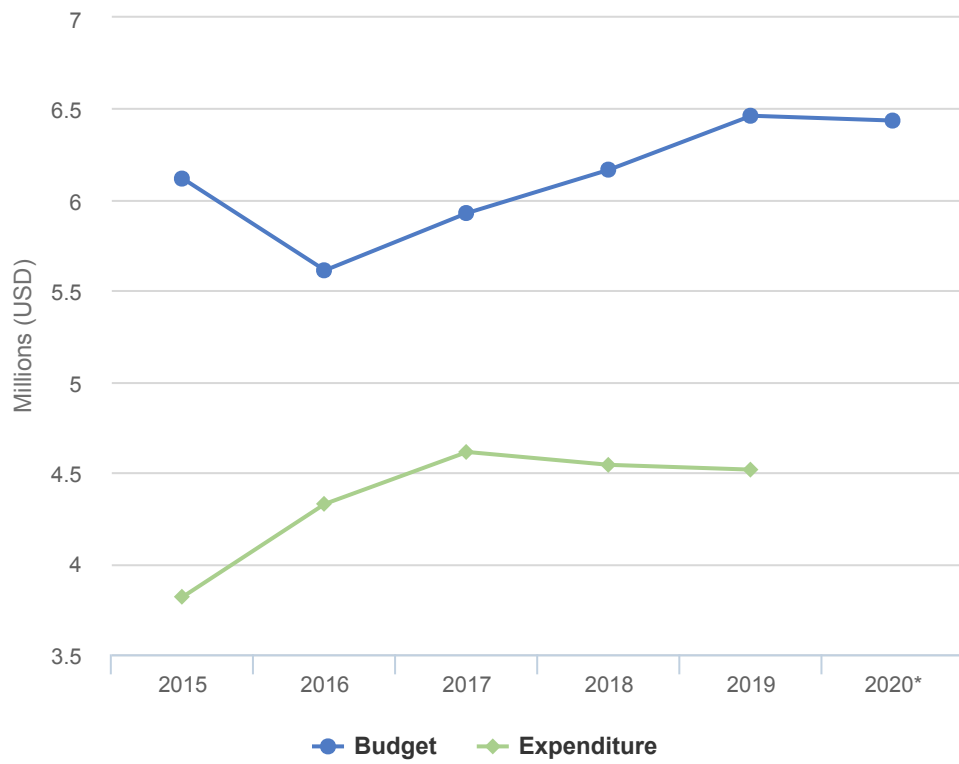
People of Concern

27 % DECREASE IN
2019

2019	112,109
2018	154,489
2017	210,389



Budgets and Expenditure for Russian Federation



Operational context

The Government of the Russian Federation continued to implement the “Concept of the State migration policy” endorsed by the President in October 2018. The objective of the policy was to encourage the immigration of people with a Russian or Soviet background and highly skilled workers to the country. Regulated migration management remained one of the highest priorities of the Government due to the country’s size and the number of States with which it shares its borders.

UNHCR’s good working relations with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) and the Ministry of Interior (Moi) resulted in further progress on the issue of statelessness, such as a steady release of stateless persons from detention, as well as participation in the high-level segment on statelessness in 2019 (albeit without pledges). The Russian Federation was also represented at the first Global Refugee Forum, although no pledges were made. In 2019, the Government allocated substantial resources to meet the international protection and assistance needs of Ukrainian nationals. Positive trends were observed with the local integration of refugees and temporary asylum (TA) status holders through granting of temporary residence permits, residence permits and citizenship. Recognition rates, however, decreased for some nationalities during the year (from 83% to 56% for Yemenis; and from 53% to 44% for Syrians); while they improved by 4% for Afghans and some 23% for Georgian nationals.

Population trends

According to Government reports, the Russian Federation hosted some 112,100 people of concern in 2019, of whom 38% were refugees, 37% held a TA status and 0.4% had Convention refugee status.

A large majority of TA status holders (some 96%) were from Ukraine while the remaining 4% were Syrian, Afghan, Georgian and Yemeni nationals. With regards to refugee status, some 76% were Syrian, Afghan, Georgian, Yemeni and other nationals, while 24% of refugee status holders were Ukrainian nationals.

In addition to some 42,400 refugees, the Russian Federation hosted almost 1,500 asylum-seekers and some 68,200 stateless persons.

Achievements

- UNHCR strengthened its advocacy for the inclusion of children of concern in local schools.
- As part of cooperation with universities and legal clinics, several legal courses on asylum and statelessness were conducted for students and professors from universities across the Russian Federation.
- Protection interventions focused on the provision of quality legal assistance through partners (including litigation) to ensure access to: the asylum procedure; rights and solutions; naturalization procedures for refugees and stateless persons; fair status determination and prevention of refoulement and detention; and resettlement of extremely vulnerable cases. Basic material, social, psychological and medical assistance for very vulnerable people of concern was maintained.
- An inter-agency working group on employment supported people of concern to access employment opportunities and facilitated their access to labor markets through proactive engagement with relevant ministries.
- The operation engaged in dialogue with a range of national, regional and international stakeholders throughout the year. UNHCR participated in the first Russia-Africa Forum and, in the lead-up to the GRF, held a briefing for parliamentarians of the State Duma and the Council of Federations.

Unmet needs

- The Russian Federation is a large country with a complex administrative structure. With the operation funded at 71% by the end of 2019, UNHCR was unable to ensure adequate advocacy and awareness-raising interventions, nor legal and social assistance across all regions.
 - In the absence of a pro bono system, adequate resources would allow UNHCR to support more counselling points in the regions where such assistance is required.
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