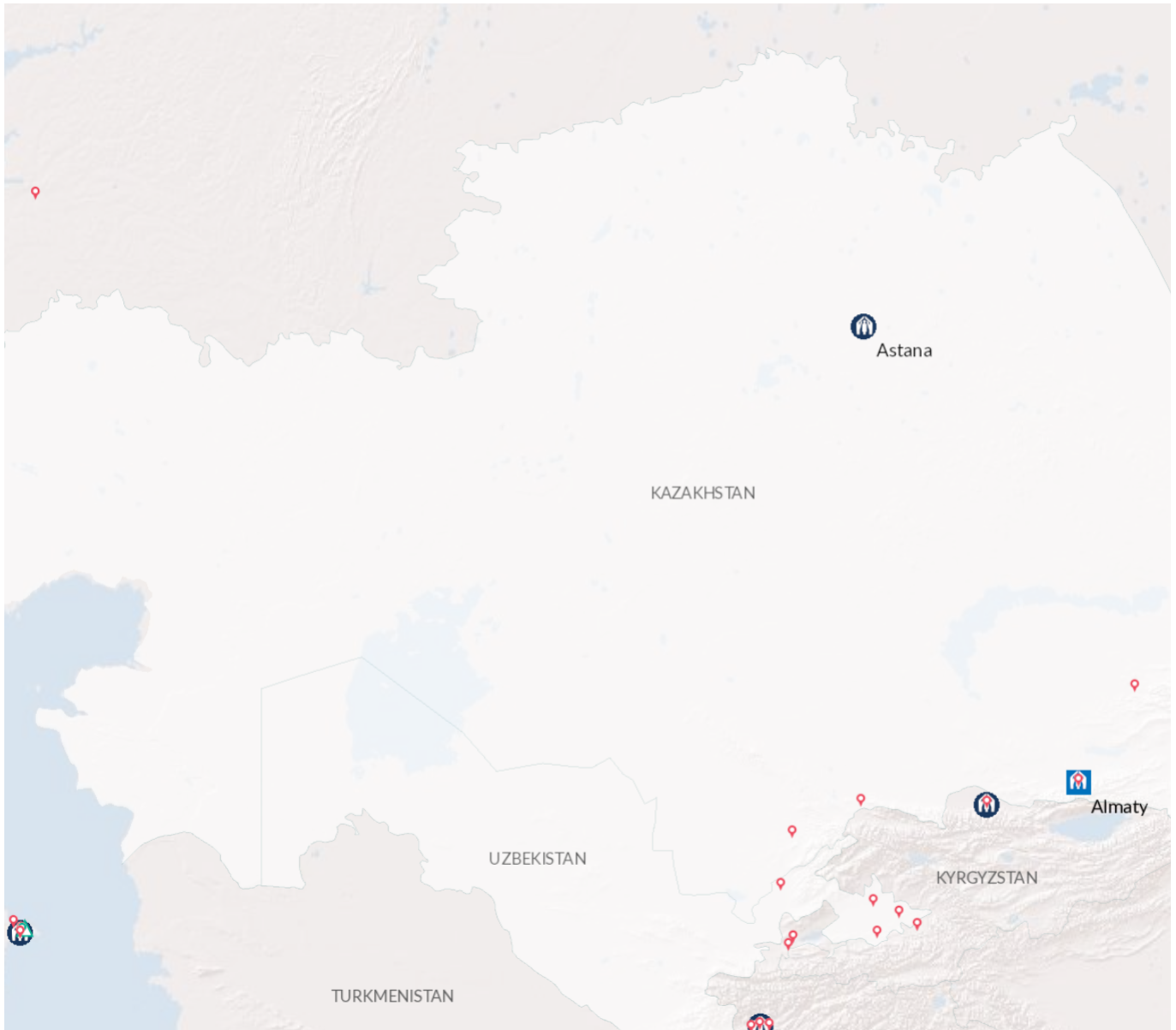


Operation: Kazakhstan Multi-Country Office

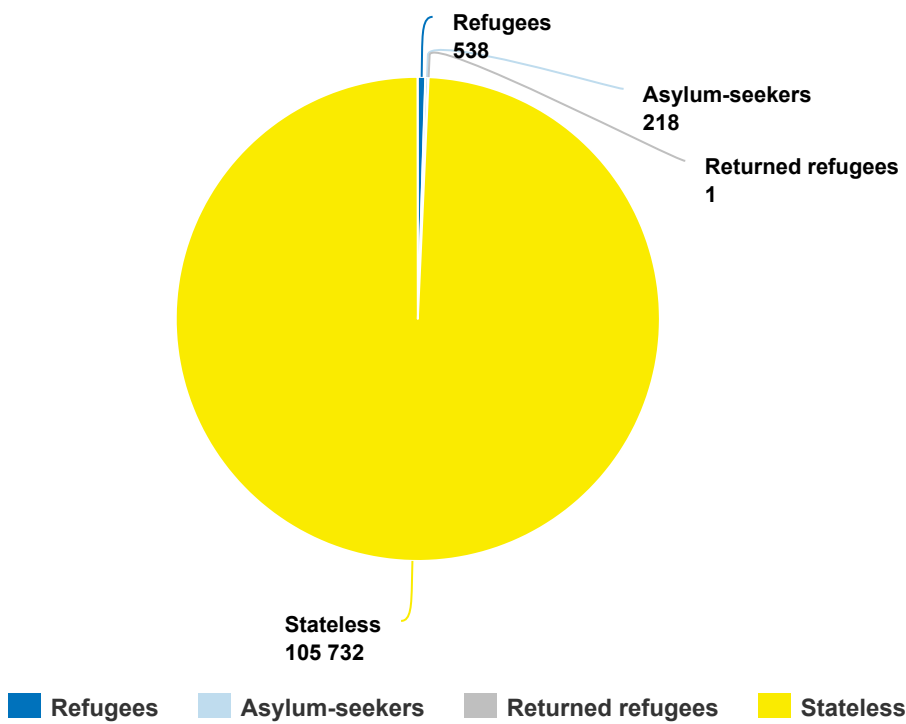


The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

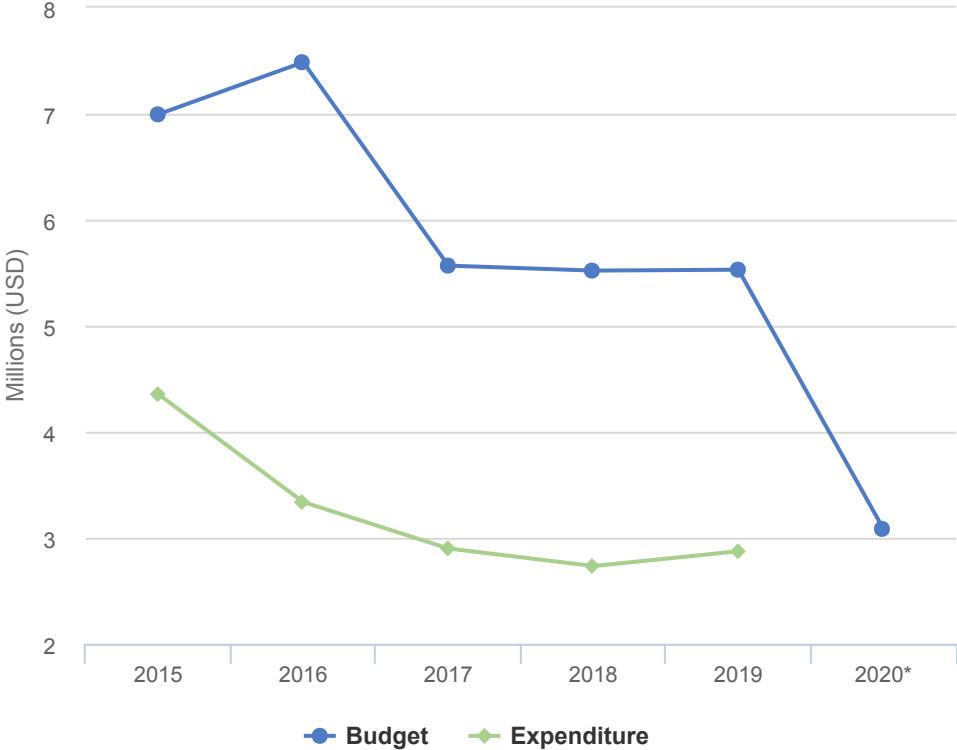
People of Concern

20% INCREASE IN 2019

2019	106,489
2018	88,419
2017	94,532



Budgets and Expenditure for Kazakhstan Multi-Country Office



Operational context

UNHCR worked with government and non-governmental partners in the region, with a view to strengthening legislative and administrative frameworks in the areas of refugee protection and statelessness. All Central Asian Governments made concerted efforts to resolve and prevent statelessness in 2019.

Population trends

Kazakhstan hosted some 500 refugees and 200 asylum-seekers in 2019. The number of new asylum-seekers (mostly from Afghanistan) increased by 37% compared to 2018. Three refugees chose to return to their countries of origin. More than 7,400 people were registered as stateless according to the Government, and a further 1,000 people registered with UNHCR's legal partners as having undetermined nationality.

Turkmenistan was host to just over 20 refugees, and no new asylum claims were recorded in 2019. According to UNHCR's partners, over 2,000 people were stateless, and some 1,600 people were of undetermined nationality.

Uzbekistan hosted 14 mandate refugees. The Government reported that there were over 97,300 stateless persons with permanent residence in the country as of December 2019. In 2019, some 6,300 stateless persons were granted citizenship.

Achievements

Kazakhstan:

- Following UNHCR's advocacy, the Government waived existing legal restrictions to facilitate refugees' access to permanent residency, an important step towards naturalization.
- The Government amended national legislation to ensure birth registration for all children born in the country, regardless of their parents' legal status.
- UNHCR partners assisted two refugees to obtain citizenship and nearly 40 refugees to obtain permanent residency.
- The Kazakh National University included a refugee law course in the curriculum of the masters' degree in international law.

Turkmenistan:

- The President of Turkmenistan issued a decree granting nationality to nearly 900 people and formally endorsed the national action plan to end statelessness (2019-2024).
- Government officials participated in a workshop on emergency preparedness and response for refugee influx organized by UNHCR in Ashgabat.

Uzbekistan:

A first technical meeting on statelessness was held with key line ministries, leading to updated statistical information on statelessness and the drafting of a progressive new law citizenship law that will recognize some 50,000 stateless persons as citizens of Uzbekistan and streamline citizenship acquisition for other groups.

Unmet needs

The Office was unable to maintain, update and enhance protection advocacy due to insufficient funding and capacity.

Funding opportunities for regular protection activities were also limited. To bridge the gap, UNHCR worked closely with its NGO partners to build their fundraising potential and organizational capacity; and through expanded partnerships with government and United Nations agencies to advocate that refugees be included in national and local social and humanitarian assistance programmes.
