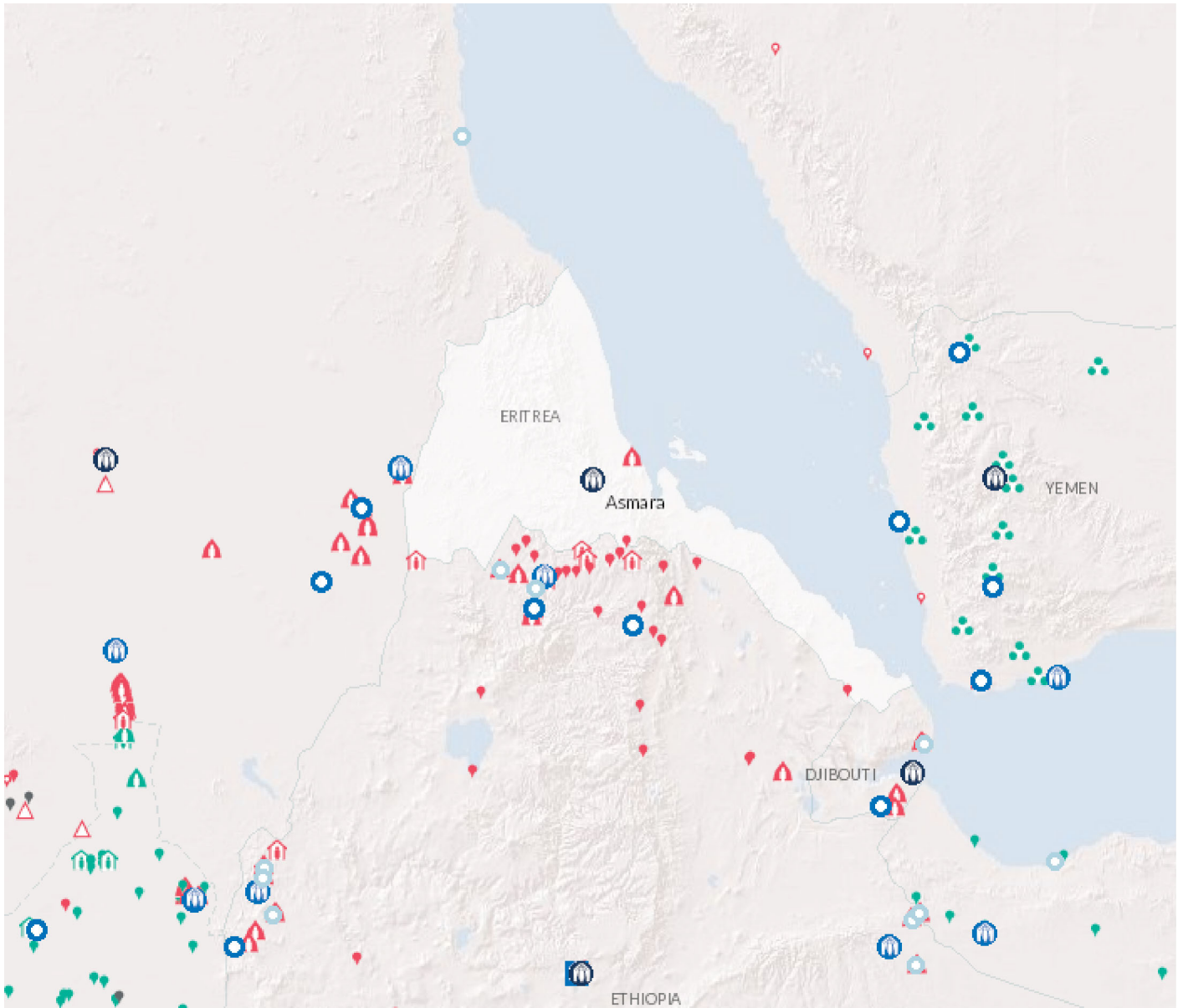


Operation: Eritrea



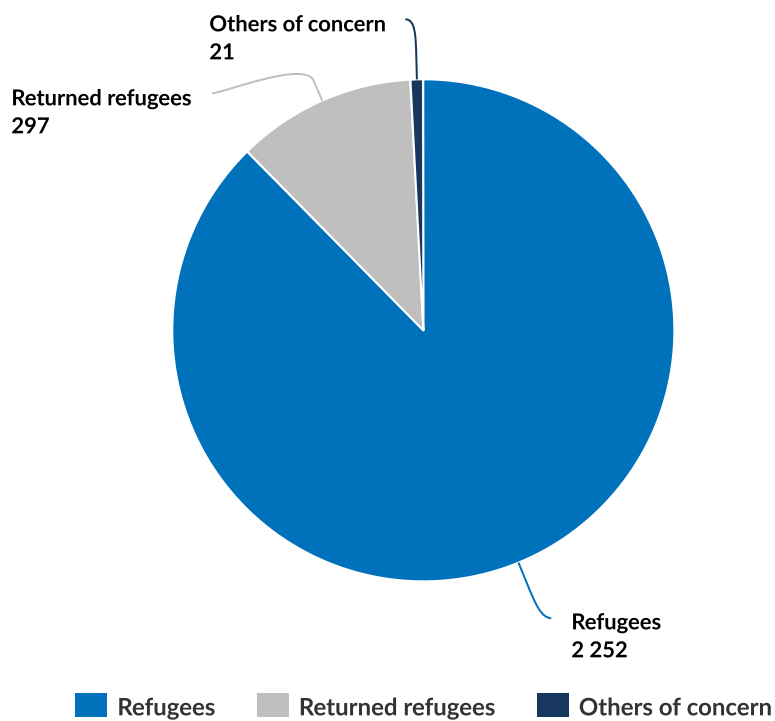
# People of Concern

DECREASE IN  
**11%** 2018

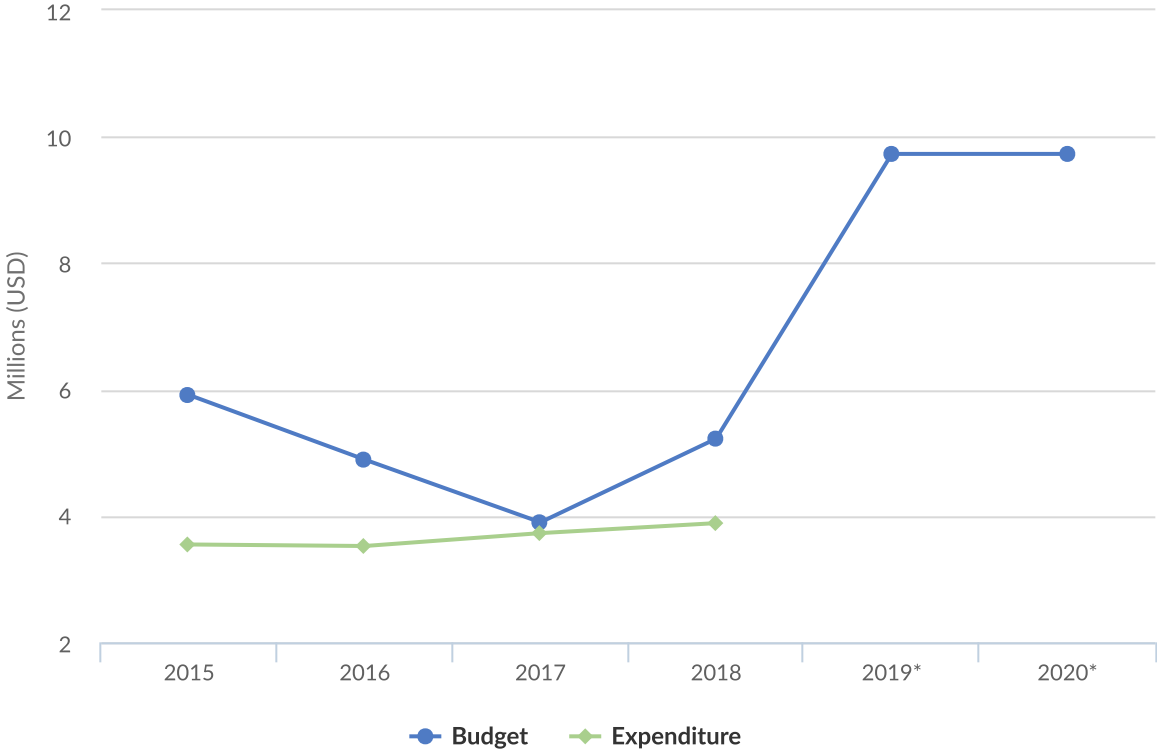
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2018	2,570
2017	2,879
2016	2,367

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# Budgets and Expenditure for Eritrea



## Working environment

The protection environment in Eritrea is challenging. There is no legal framework for refugees and Eritrea not a party to the 1951 Refugee Convention and applicable frameworks. The government has also not yet acceded to either statelessness convention. Furthermore, in 2019, the Government asked UNHCR to cancel the Eligibility Guidelines for Assessing International Protection Needs of Asylum-Seekers from Eritrea. This has affected the operational environment, limiting access to the refugee camp and service provision, including UNHCR support for the voluntary repatriation of Somali refugees and the registration of new arrivals. Access to urban refugees is tolerated, but home visits are not authorized.

UNHCR continues to advocate the Government to grant people of concern access to support and assistance. If UNHCR does not regain full access by 2020, measures to allow interim arrangements will be pursued so that refugees obtain minimal levels of assistance and protection.

UNHCR coordinates its operations with the UN Country Team and within the various inter-agency groups.

## Key priorities

In 2020, UNHCR will:

- Advocate the Government accedes to or ratifies the international refugee convention and adopts national asylum legislation in line with international law to ensure the right to asylum and to uphold its international obligations towards refugees, especially given regional uncertainties.
  - Advocate for adoption and ratification of the statelessness conventions.
  - Provide basic assistance and support to refugees in the camp and urban areas through partners or alternative arrangements, such as cash-based interventions.
  - Advocate the Government reconsiders its position on finding durable solutions and works with UNHCR on voluntary repatriation and resettlement for those who meet the eligibility criteria. Also encourage local integration for those married to Eritreans.
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