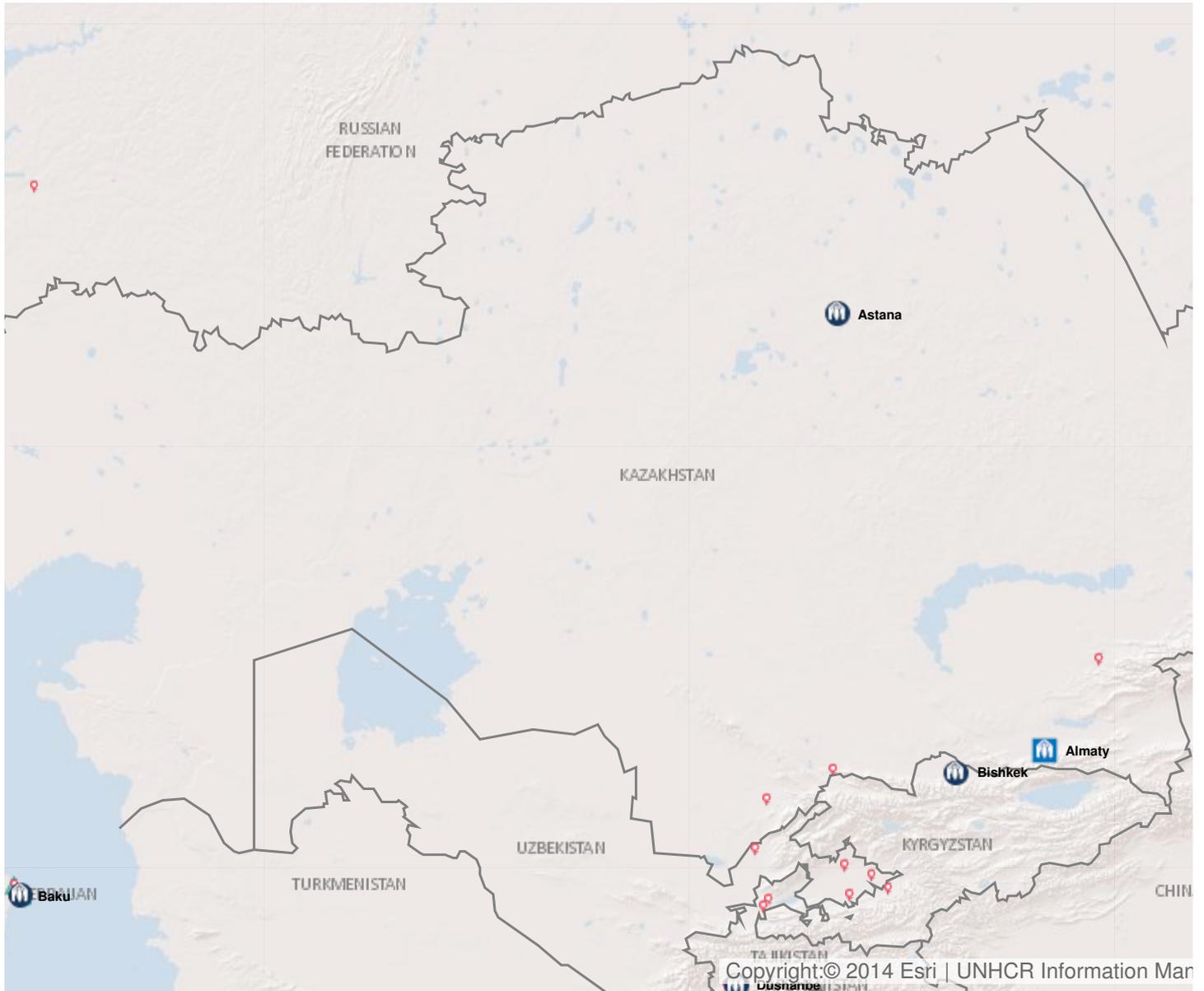


Operation: Kazakhstan Regional Office

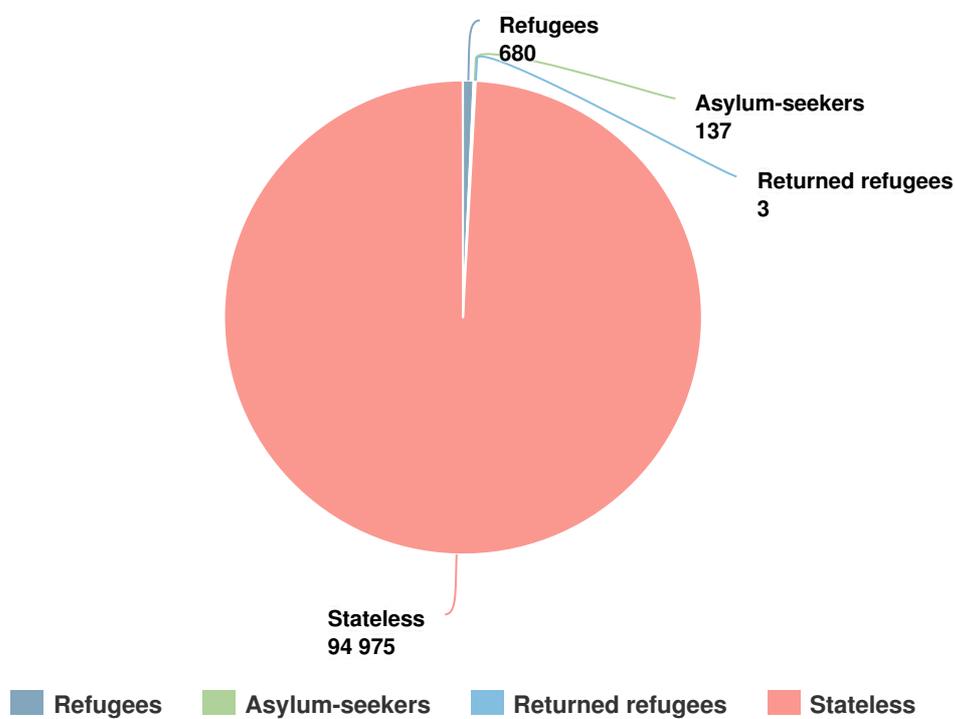


Latest update of camps and office locations **21 Nov 2016.**

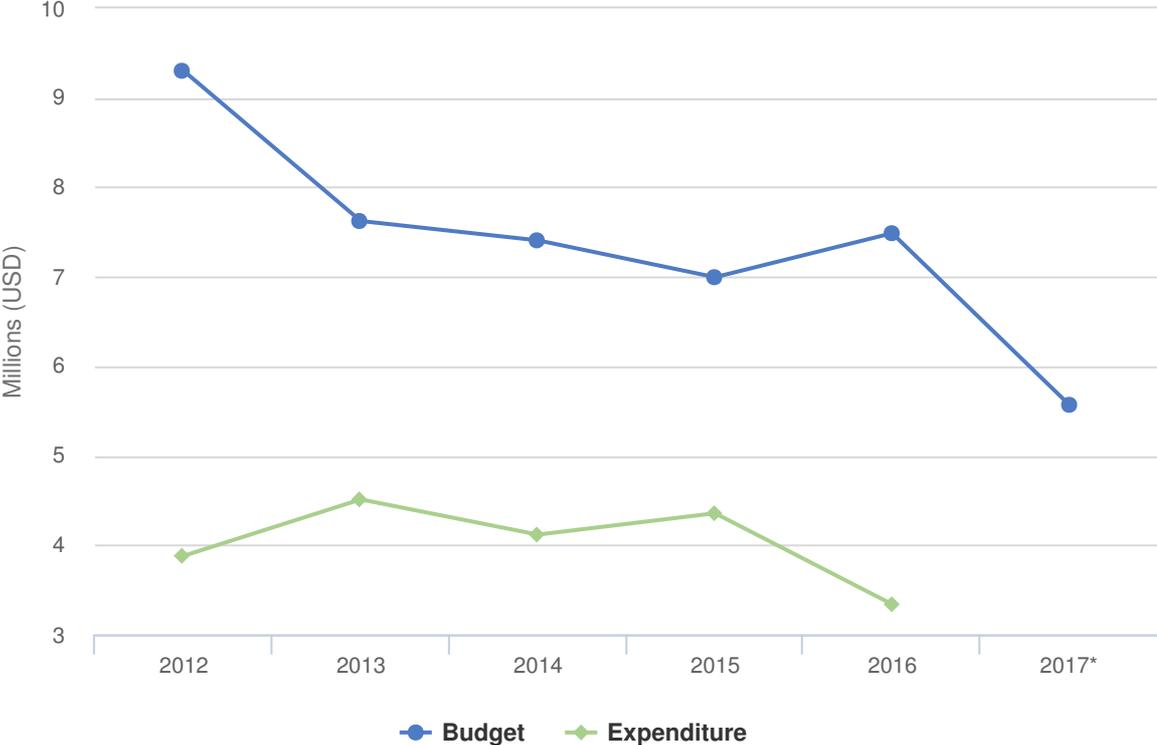
People of Concern

INCREASE IN
0% **2016**

2016	95,795
2015	95,524
2014	94,592



Budgets and Expenditure for Kazakhstan Regional Office



Working environment

In 2016 the political, security and socio-economic context remained stable. The Parliamentary elections were conducted in line with the legislation. The newly adopted migration-related legislation aimed to strengthen the regulations over internal and external migration. National security concerns continued to have a direct impact on state policy related to asylum, reduction and prevention of statelessness. The United Nations Human Rights Committee called on the Government of Kazakhstan to guarantee effective access to refugee status determination procedures at all border points, ensure proper referral procedures, and enforce the prohibition of *refoulement*.

Population trends

- As of 31 December 2016, 653 refugees and 137 asylum-seekers were registered in Kazakhstan.
- The number of new asylum-seekers dropped by 45 per cent compared to the previous year with the largest number being from Afghanistan with only a few new arrivals from neighbouring CIS countries.
- Close to 8,500 stateless people resided in Kazakhstan, of which 6,706 are officially recognized by the Government and 1,745 are only registered by UNHCR's legal partner as undetermined nationality.

Achievements and impact

- UNHCR and partners conducted a refugee profiling exercise leading to the identification of lack of permanent resident status as the main barrier to integration and self-reliance. As a result, people of concern actively searched for alternative solutions to stay in the country, such as permanent residency.
- UNHCR conducted visits to 5 border points at Chinese, Kyrgyz and Uzbek borders to monitor admission practice and raise awareness on asylum procedures.
- Ten Government officials were enrolled in a distance learning programme aimed at fostering a common understanding of refugee status determination (RSD) and promoting RSD standards.
- As a result of UNHCR advocacy, a module on Refugee Law was included in the Master's degree curriculum of International Law studies at Kazakh National University.
- UNHCR's partners assisted 13 refugees to get citizenship of Kazakhstan, and an additional 34 refugees received permanent residency.
- Close to 1,800 people received legal counselling and some 260 stateless people of concern residing in Kazakhstan acquired citizenship of either Kazakhstan or of third countries.
- Training sessions on statelessness were organized for close to 100 government officials and NGO representatives.

Unmet needs

- Additional funding is required for UNHCR's prioritized protection activities aimed at improved access to territory, enhanced asylum procedure and increased capacity of UNHCR partners.
 - As a part of local integration strategy, there is a need to provide higher education scholarships for refugee students.
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