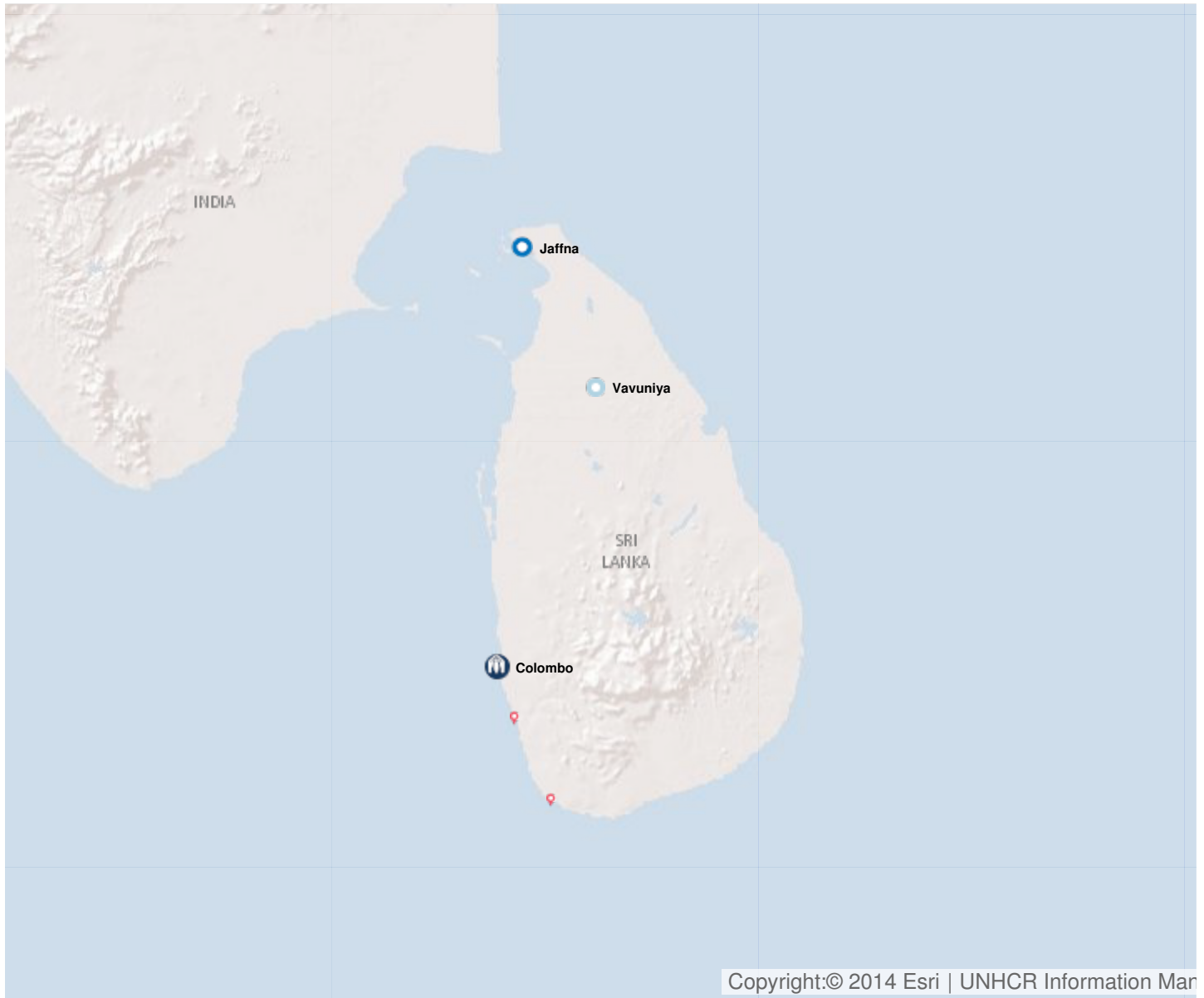


Operation: Sri Lanka

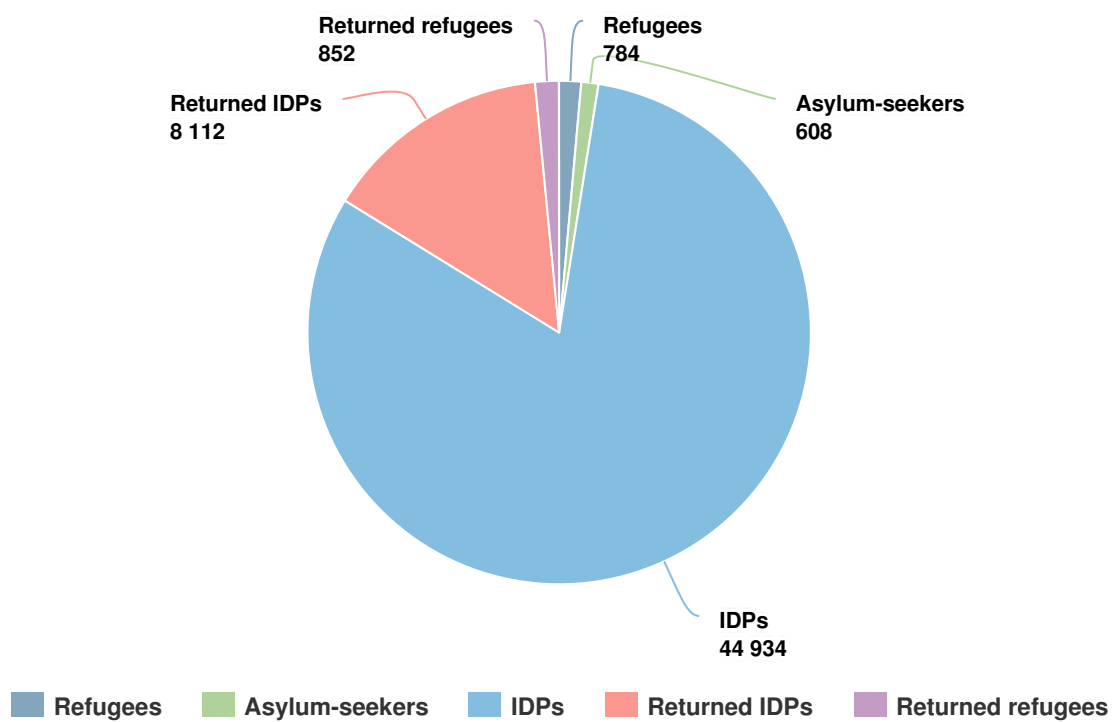


Latest update of camps and office locations **21 Nov 2016**.

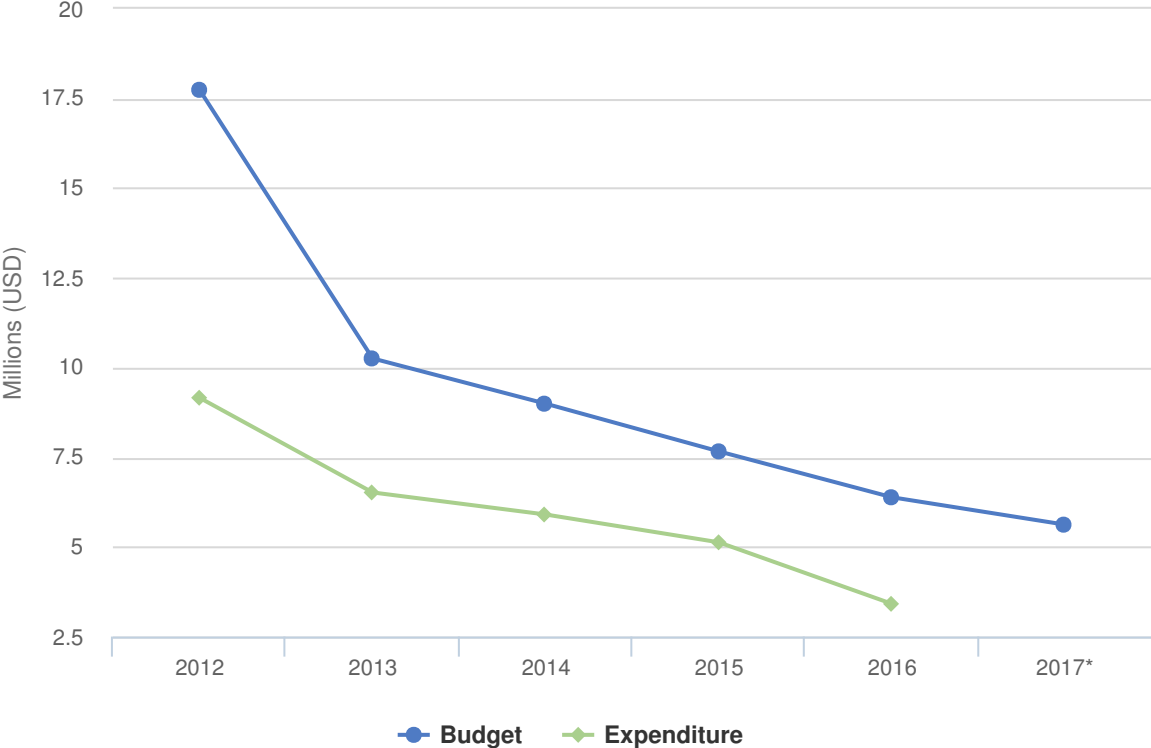
People of Concern

INCREASE IN
67% **2015**

2015	55,290
2014	33,170
2013	85,554



Budgets and Expenditure for Sri Lanka



Working environment

Throughout 2016, the overall protection environment remained stable with asylum-seekers and refugees enjoying basic protection and access to health services.

General improvements were observed in the return environment, including continued land release, availability of certain forms of the government assistance and more welcoming messaging from the Government resulting in larger number of voluntary repatriation of Sri Lankan refugees.

The Government made a major achievement in adopting the National Policy on Durable Solution for Conflict-Affected Displacement, with support by UNHCR through the UNCT. With this milestone, UNHCR concluded its work on internally displaced people (IDPs) following decades of engagement.

Population trends

- 604 refugees were registered with UNHCR by the end of 2016, dropped from 784 refugees at the beginning of the year. The number of asylum-seekers also decreased to 576 individuals.
- UNHCR registered some 280 people of concern in 2016. The majority of asylum-seekers (70 per cent) originated from Pakistan.

Achievements and impact

- Some 337 resettlement cases were submitted and some 459 individuals departed for third countries – mainly to Canada, the Netherlands, Sweden and the United States of America.
- Approximately 98 refugee children benefitted from support to access primary education.
- UNHCR facilitated the voluntary repatriation of some 852 Sri Lankan refugees from India.
- UNHCR focused on the work related to Housing, Land and Property, and through its partner followed up on 103 community level land cases, affecting more than 27,060 families, in coordination with relevant government departments.
- 7,400 beneficiaries benefitted from legal counselling sessions on land issues.
- UNHCR supported capacity building in the area of the prevention and response to sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV), through conducting 10 SGBV awareness sessions benefiting about 484 government officials to strengthen the quality of their service delivery.

Unmet needs

- Asylum-seekers and refugees are not allowed to work in Sri Lanka. Asylum-seekers do not receive any systematic support, and the small amount of subsistence allowance extended to refugees is not sufficient to meet their basic needs.
 - Lack of access to public (primary and secondary) education for asylum seekers' and refugee children continued to be a serious concern.
 - Challenges remained for sustaining the return of Sri Lankan refugees, including securing sources of livelihood, accessing basic services, establishing housing land and property rights and regularizing civil documentation.
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