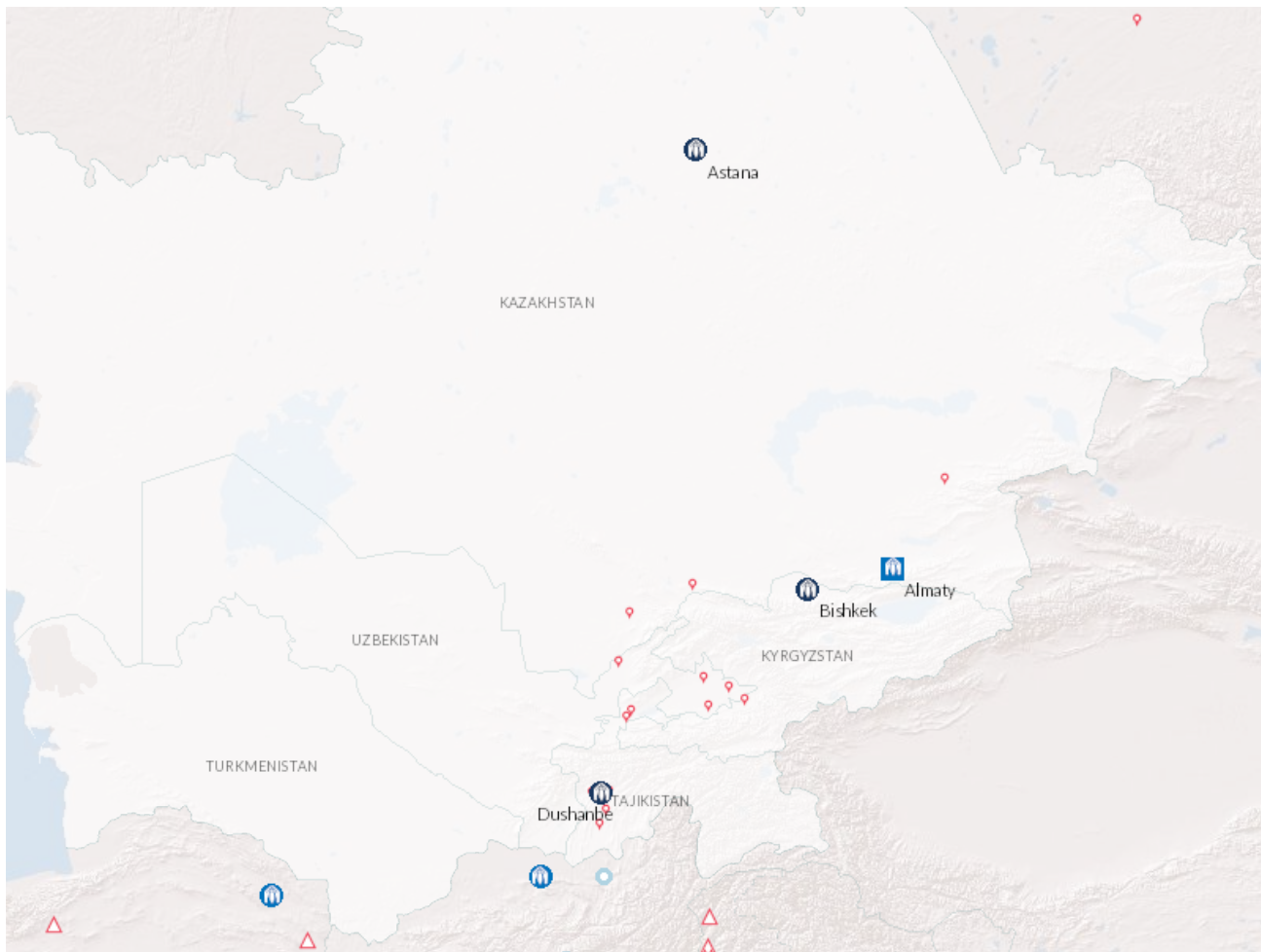
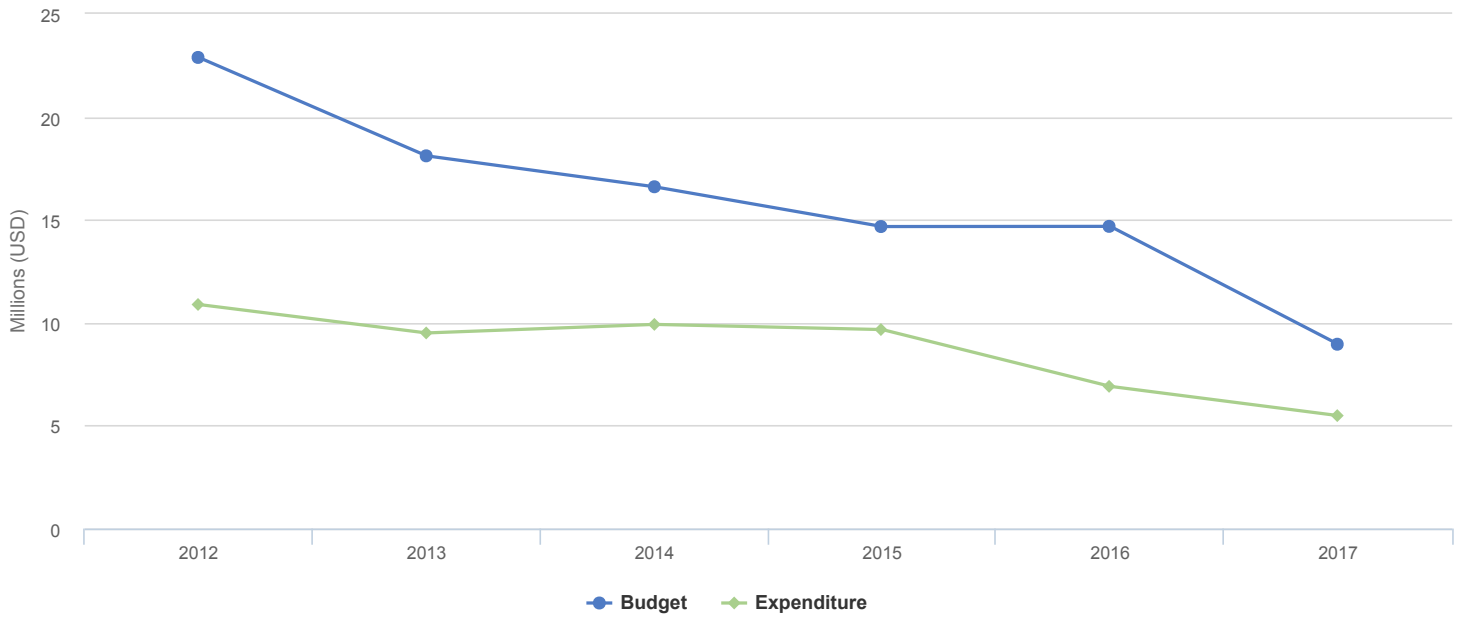


Subregion: Central Asia

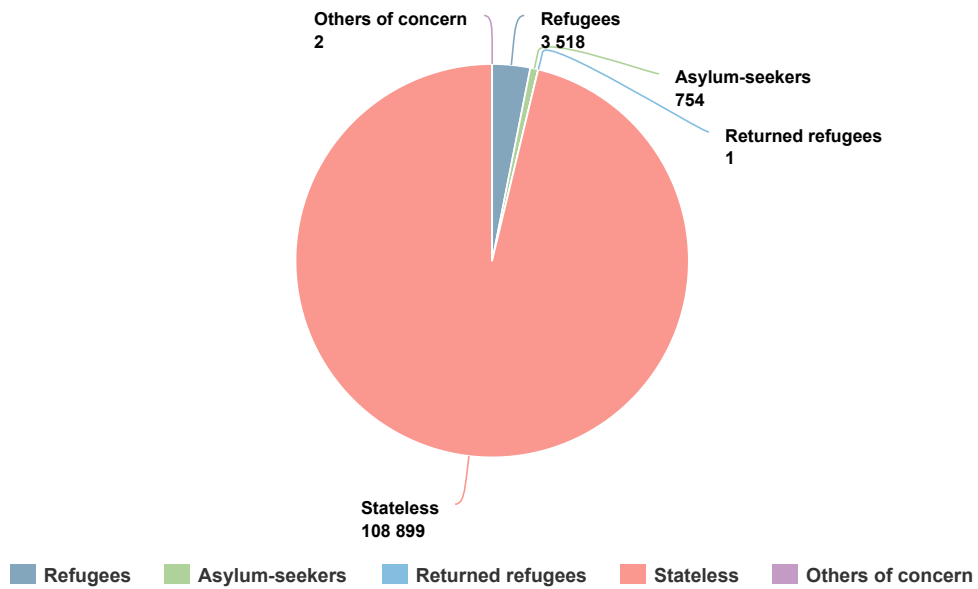
| Kazakhstan | Kyrgyzstan | Tajikistan | Turkmenistan | Uzbekistan |



Budgets and Expenditure in Subregion Central Asia



People of Concern - 2017



Response in 2017

In 2017, the population in Central Asia reached 70 million with a youth bulge as a leading challenge. Foreign investment and remittances from abroad decreased in most of the countries, impacting their economic growth. In this economic climate, outward labour migration continued. In the past few years, there has been steady improvement of relations among the Central Asian countries with the prospect of closer cooperation in the areas of security, trade and water-sharing. The evolving conflicts in Afghanistan, Iraq and the Syrian Arab Republic (Syria) continued to be perceived as a source of risk of terrorism and radicalisation, leading the governments to take tightened security measures.

At the end of 2017, Central Asia hosted some 3,500 refugees out of which 12 per cent (433 people) were recognized under UNHCR's mandate. Some 500 new asylum applications were received across the sub-region, with the majority of asylum applications continuing to originate from Afghanistan.

The stateless population in the region stood at 108,900 persons. In 2017, some 17,400 stateless persons had their situations resolved, exceeding UNHCR's set target. The largest number of resolved cases was in Tajikistan (11,750 people), followed by Turkmenistan (1,690), Kazakhstan (1,690), and Uzbekistan (750).

Access to the territories of Central Asian states by asylum-seekers remained an issue of concern to UNHCR due to the prevailing security-focused measures taken by the governments. UNHCR's work focuses on advocacy and advising on how effective asylum-systems can also address the security concerns. The framework of the Almaty Process continued to be the main platform for UNHCR to engage authorities on asylum and refugee issues. Solutions for mandate refugees proved difficult to achieve due to gaps in legislation in the different countries.

The introduction of citizenship deprivation in the legislation of Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan raised concerns of increased statelessness in Central Asia and abroad.

Operations

Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan did not register or adjudicate asylum applications in 2017. **In Turkmenistan**, a verification of the mandate caseload was completed. UNHCR stepped up its efforts to identify an alternative stay arrangements in collaboration with the authorities on behalf of 23 people mandate refugees. A new law on refugees, one of the most progressive in the region, was adopted in Turkmenistan in June 2017.

UNHCR delivered multipurpose cash grants to the most vulnerable refugees in both Turkmenistan and **Uzbekistan**. In 2017, Uzbekistan naturalized some 750 stateless persons. In June 2017, Uzbekistan issued a decree outlining procedures for granting political asylum.

2017 Voluntary Contributions to Central Asia | USD

Earmarking / Donor	All pillars	Total
Central Asia overall		
United States of America	1,500,000	1,500,000
Central Asia overall subtotal	1,500,000	1,500,000
Kazakhstan Regional Office		
Kazakhstan	111,963	111,963
Kazakhstan Regional Office subtotal	111,963	111,963
Kyrgyzstan		
Kyrgyzstan	60,256	60,256
Kyrgyzstan subtotal	60,256	60,256
Total	1,672,219	1,672,219

Note: