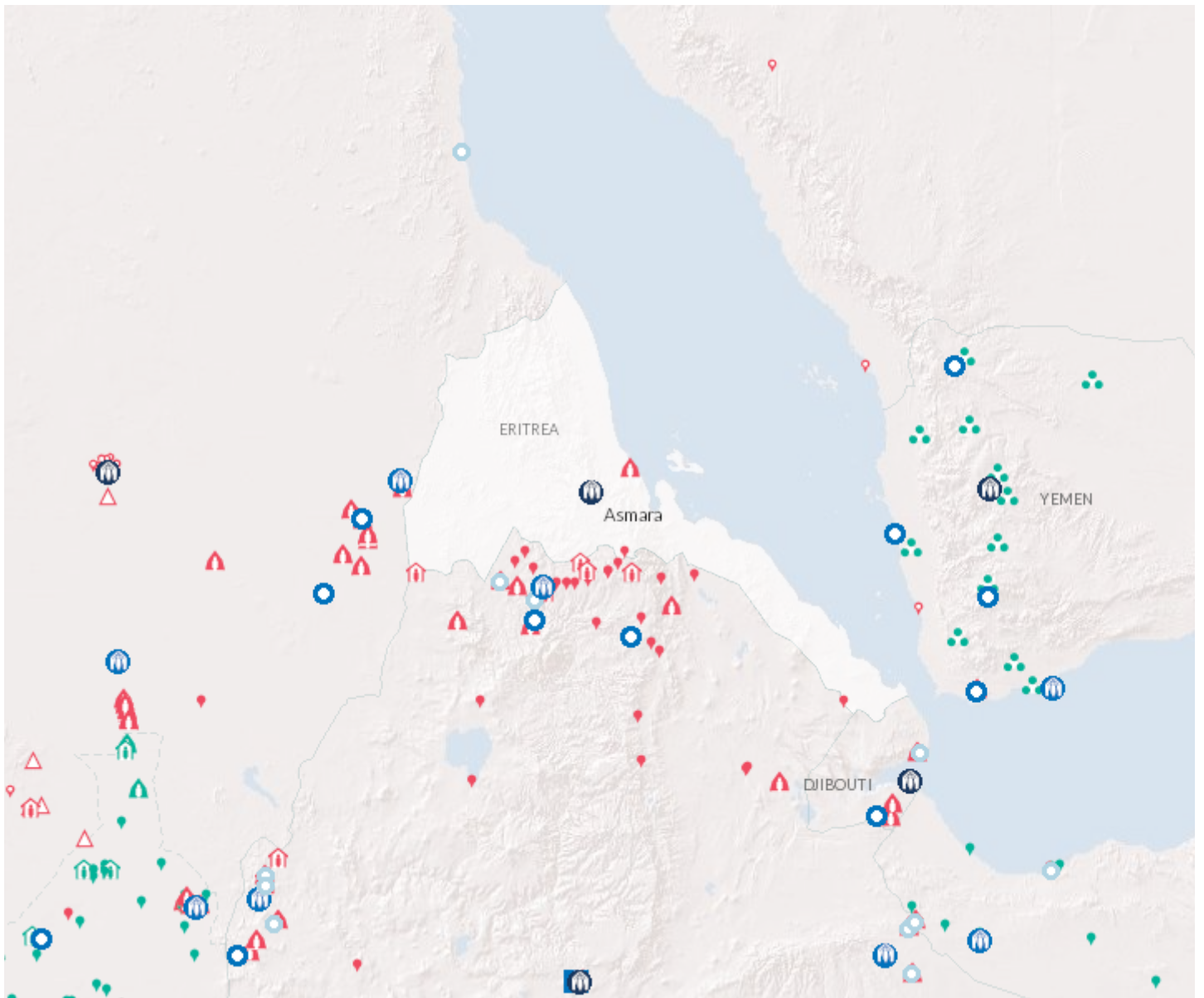


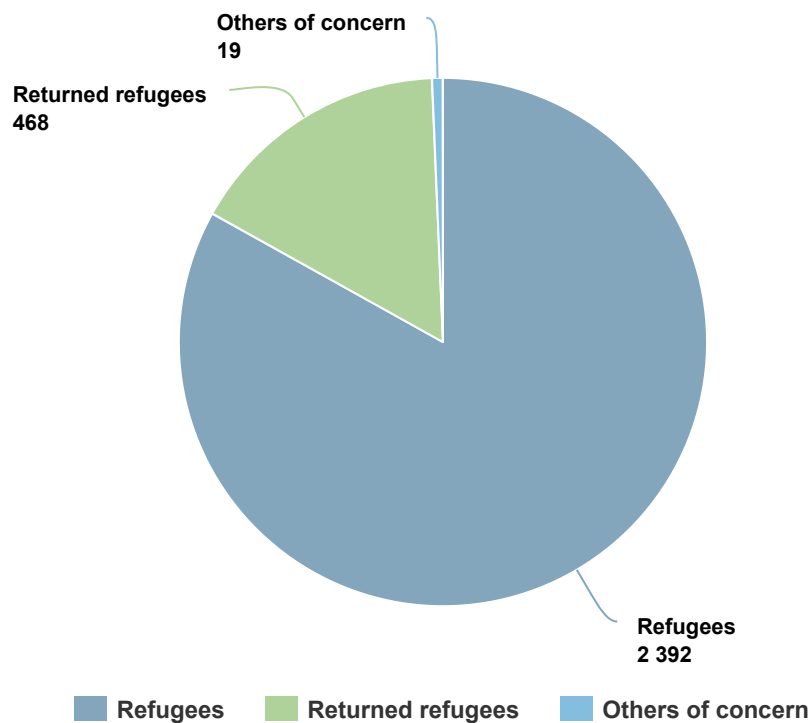
Operation: Eritrea



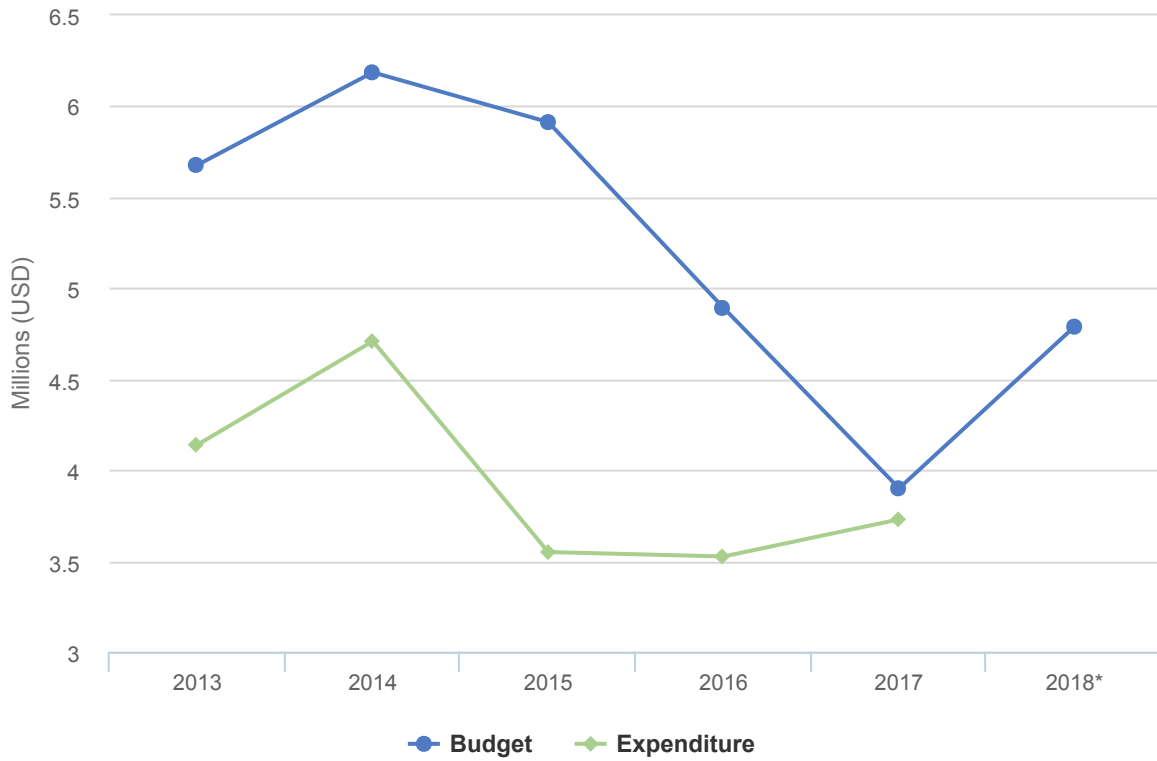
People of Concern

22 % INCREASE IN
2017

2017	2,879
2016	2,367
2015	2,557



Budgets and Expenditure for Eritrea



Operational context

The political and social situation in Eritrea remained unchanged in 2017. No major deterioration of security was experienced and the situation at the border with Ethiopia was relatively stable. While the implementation of the joint UN and Government's development program is in progress, some restrictions to the operational environment for the UN agencies remained. The economy remained unstable, despite Government attempts to regulate the market. Constant fluctuation in prices had a negative influence in UNHCR's operational costs.

UNHCR continued its operation through the agreement with the governmental partner, the Office of Refugee Affairs (ORA), in coordination with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and other line ministries and UN agencies. As there is no national legislation supporting integration of refugees, resettlement and voluntary repatriation remained the only options. However, the ban on exit visas hampered significantly the prospects of durable solutions for refugees in Eritrea.

Maintaining community cohesion is particularly challenging within the camp-based Somali population, due to pre-existing clan divisions.

Population trends

- At the end of the year, there were close to 2,400 people of concern, representing a slight growth when compared to figures from the end of 2016, due to births.
- Some 35 people of concern departed spontaneously, while one person left under voluntary repatriation.

Key achievements

In 2017, UNHCR:

- Improved the water supply system to refugees;
- Conducted a cash-based interventions (CBIs) assessment and a nutrition survey;
- Government contribution to the refugee health service improved.
- Continued the distribution of food and the provision of basic social services;
- Increased the number of people who benefitted from livelihoods activities.

Unmet needs

Due to funding constraints, UNHCR was not able to:

- Increase CBIs, regardless the recommendations following the CBI assessment in May 2017.
 - Provide non-food items as required.
 - Support the construction of household latrines;
 - Carry out livelihoods assistance, including vocational training for those who finished or dropped out of school.
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