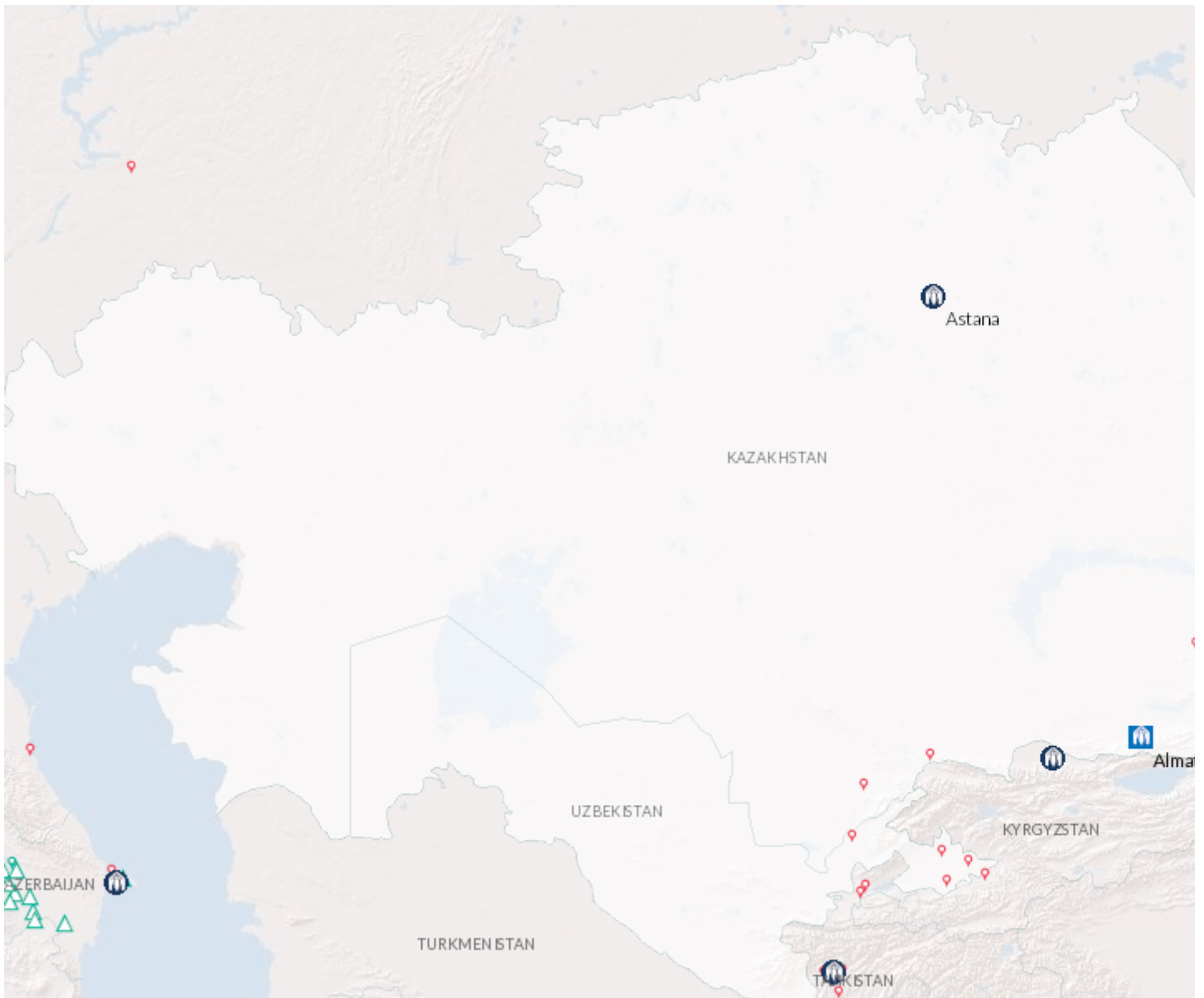


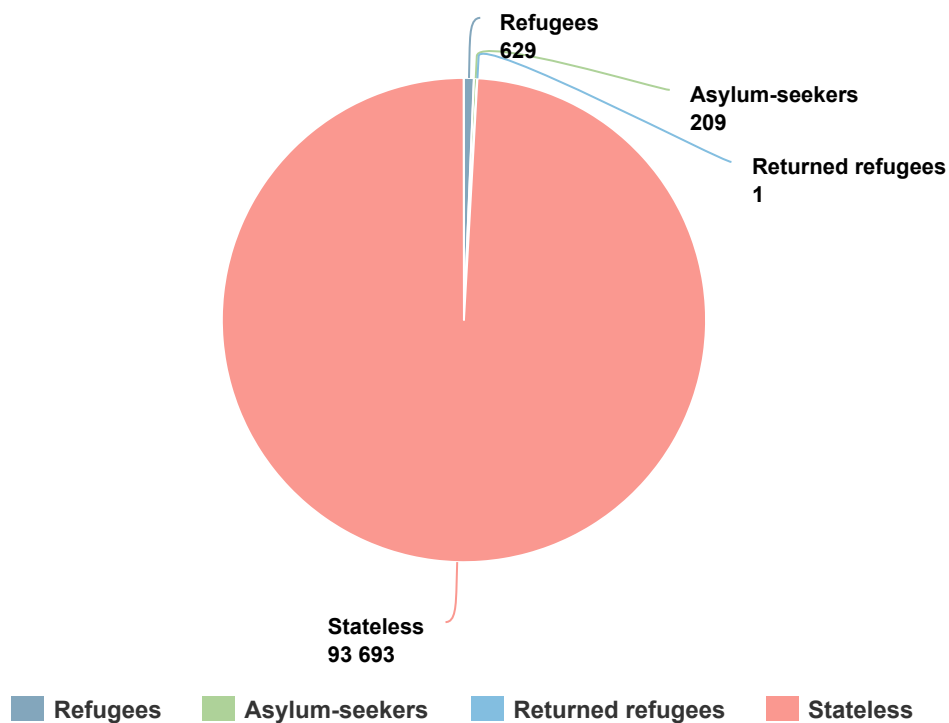
Operation: Kazakhstan Regional Office



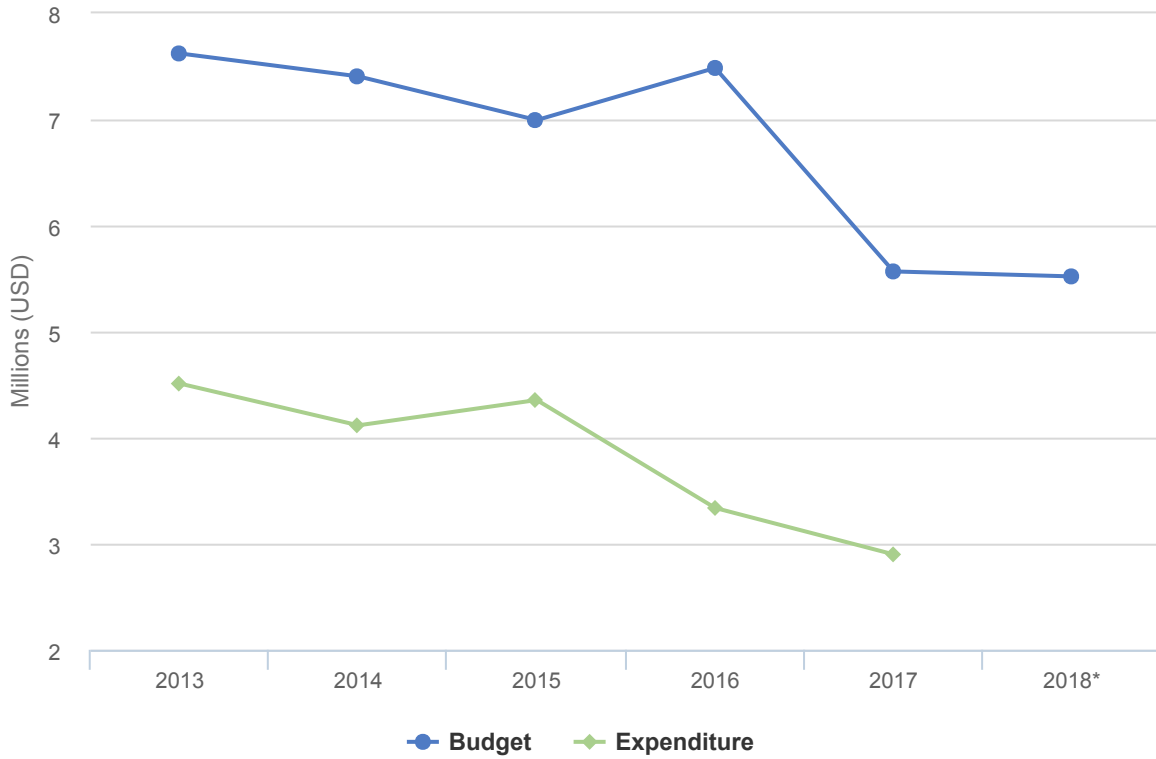
People of Concern

DECREASE IN
1% 2017

2017	94,532
2016	95,795
2015	95,524



Budgets and Expenditure for Kazakhstan Regional Office



Operational context

In 2017, Kazakhstan hosted high-profile international events, including Expo 2017 and several rounds of Syria peace talks. It also became a member of the UN Security Council for 2017/2018. As a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council for 2017-2018, Kazakhstan aims to draw due attention to conflict prevention in particular, and other issues facing the region, including Afghanistan as an integral part of Central Asia.

The country adopted in 2017 amendments to the constitution aimed at transferring part of president's functions to the government and parliament. The new constitution also fixed the norm on deprivation of citizenship for the commission of terrorist crimes.

Population trends

At the end of 2017, Kazakhstan hosted some 600 refugees and 200 asylum-seekers. The number of new asylum-seekers increased slightly, by 7 per cent, from the end of 2016. The largest number of asylum-seekers continued to be from Afghanistan, while no new arrivals came from the neighbouring Commonwealth of Independent States countries. In 2017, eight refugees were naturalized and 29 refugees received permanent residence.

As of 31 December 2017, there were some 6,830 stateless persons registered by the Government of Kazakhstan and close to 1,310 persons with undetermined nationality registered by UNHCR's legal partners.

According to the authorities, all people who sought asylum at the international airports had access to asylum procedures, while no asylum applications were lodged at the land borders.

Key achievements

- In 2017, 8 refugees were naturalized and 29 refugees received permanent residence. This was partly the result of the new legislation which eased the requirements for refugees to obtain permanent residence;
- Close to 1,380 stateless persons were naturalized in Kazakhstan.

Unmet needs

Although the people of concern to UNHCR registered with the government have access to national healthcare system, the volume of available healthcare services is limited and does not include specialized life-saving surgeries and medication.

Refugees recognized under UNHCR mandate do not have access to national services, and are therefore fully dependent on UNHCR's assistance.