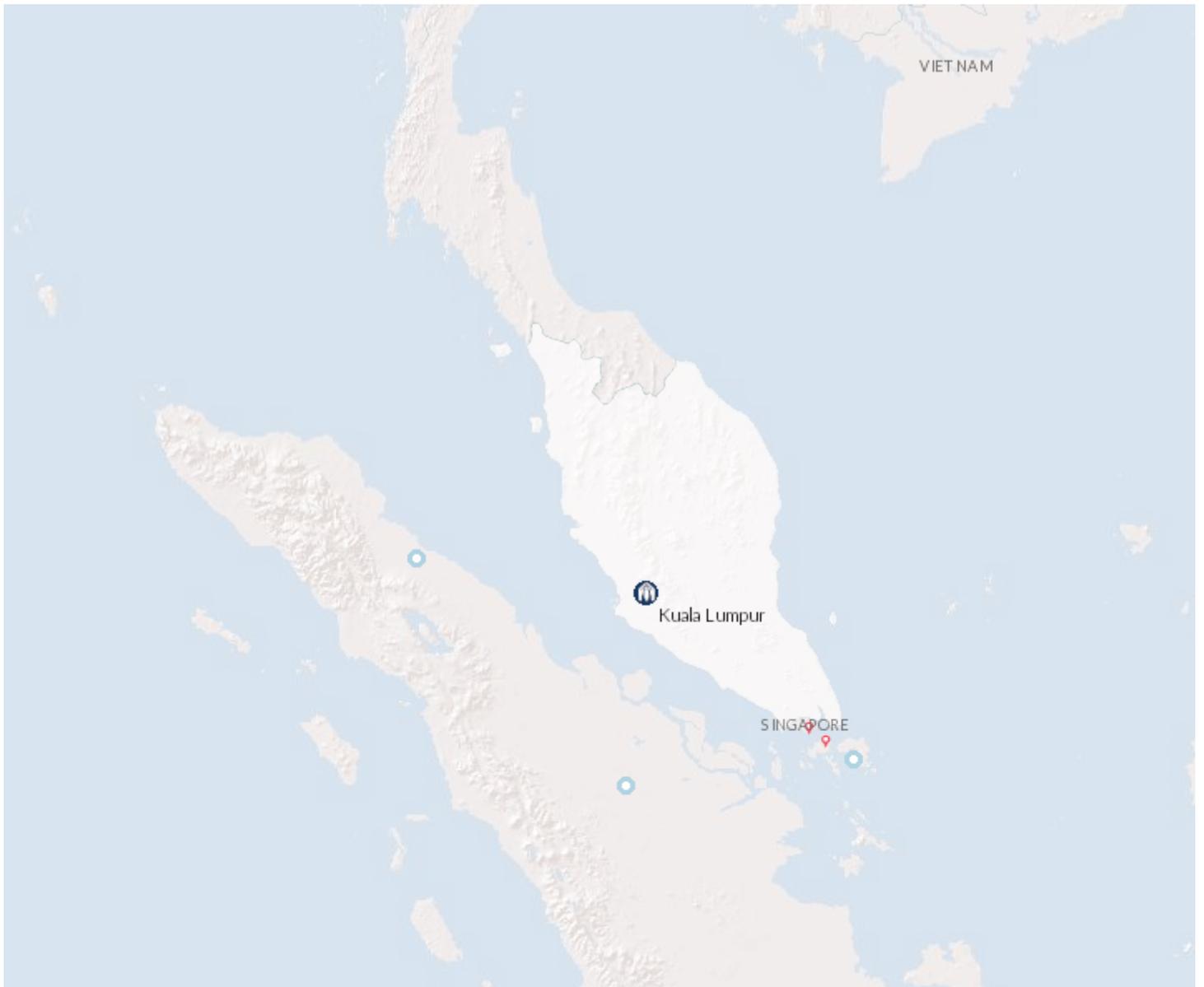


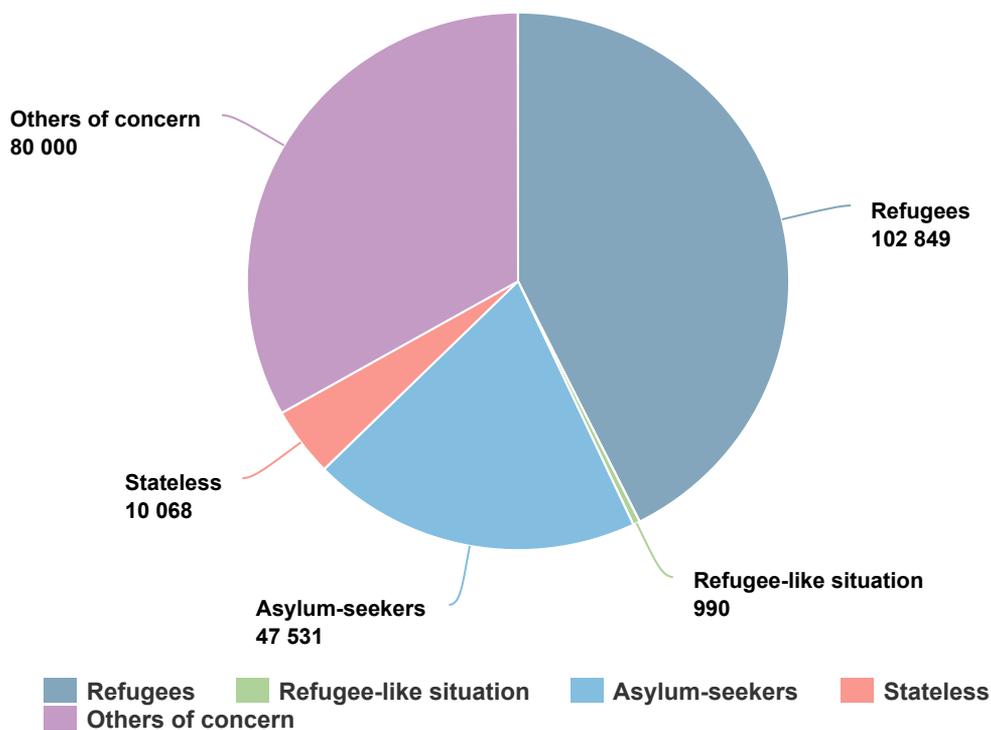
Operation: Malaysia



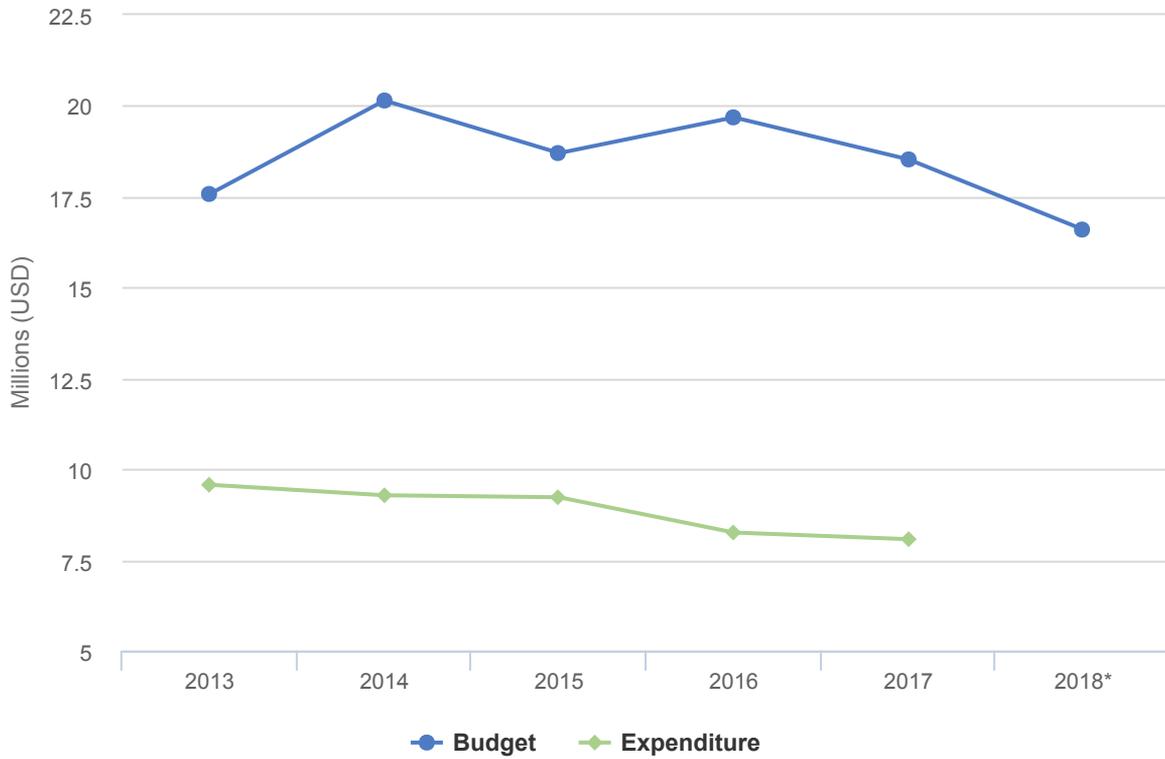
People of Concern

INCREASE IN
1% 2017

2017	241,438
2016	239,505
2015	246,270



Budgets and Expenditure for Malaysia



Operational context

UNHCR continued to face a challenging operational and political environment in Malaysia due to the absence of a formal legal and policy framework for refugees. The Office initiated its five-year strategy (2017-2021) to expand protection space and accelerate realization of durable solutions for refugees and other people of concern. The establishment of a Joint Task Force with the Government covering protection and program areas including health, education, labour migration, registration and refugee status determination (RSD) in 2016, resulted in increased quality and frequency of discussions with key government ministries and departments in 2017. The innovative biometrical data collection and enhanced identity card issuance launched in June 2016 was rolled-out with a nation-wide dialogue and training with the police, immigration and public prosecution's office. This roll-out resulted in fewer arrests and criminal prosecutions of people of concern and a higher level of confidence by the Government in UNHCR's processing arrangements and documentation.

Population trends

At the end of 2017, the total number of people of concern was some 152,300; with 87 per cent from Myanmar, of which 43 per cent were Rohingya. An estimated 30,000 people of concern were unregistered, including 25,000 Rohingyas in Peninsular Malaysia.

Out of the close to 12,400 registered stateless persons, some 2,300 acquired nationality. In east Malaysia, the number of Filipino Muslim refugees and their offspring is estimated at 80,000. There is little information readily available on who may be of concern to UNHCR.

Key achievements

- In terms of healthcare, access to HIV treatment was maintained for 100 per cent of individuals in need of treatment. Furthermore, 93 per cent of people of concern had access to primary health care services and more than 39,600 medical consultations were provided at UNHCR partner clinics. The REMEDI Health Insurance Scheme continued to be promoted and as of year-end, some 30,850 refugees were enrolled.
- The innovative bio-metrics data collection and enhanced identity card issuance launched in June 2016 was rolled-out with a nation-wide dialogue and training with the police, immigration and public prosecution's office, generating dividends with considerably fewer arrests and criminal prosecutions and a higher level of confidence by the Government in UNHCR's processing arrangements and documentation. Analysis of UNHCR's and partners' reports, as well as key findings of participatory assessments indicate good progress in protection and assistance.

Unmet needs

Without formal government engagement and access to work rights, public programmes and recognition of status, gaps in the protection needs of the population and available resources remained. Gaps included: a high level of unemployment amongst household members with a baseline study disclosing 92 per cent of people of concern having no savings with a 54 per cent incidence of high debt; primary education at a 52 per cent enrolment rate; in addition to health, security and livelihood challenges especially impacting women and the unregistered population.