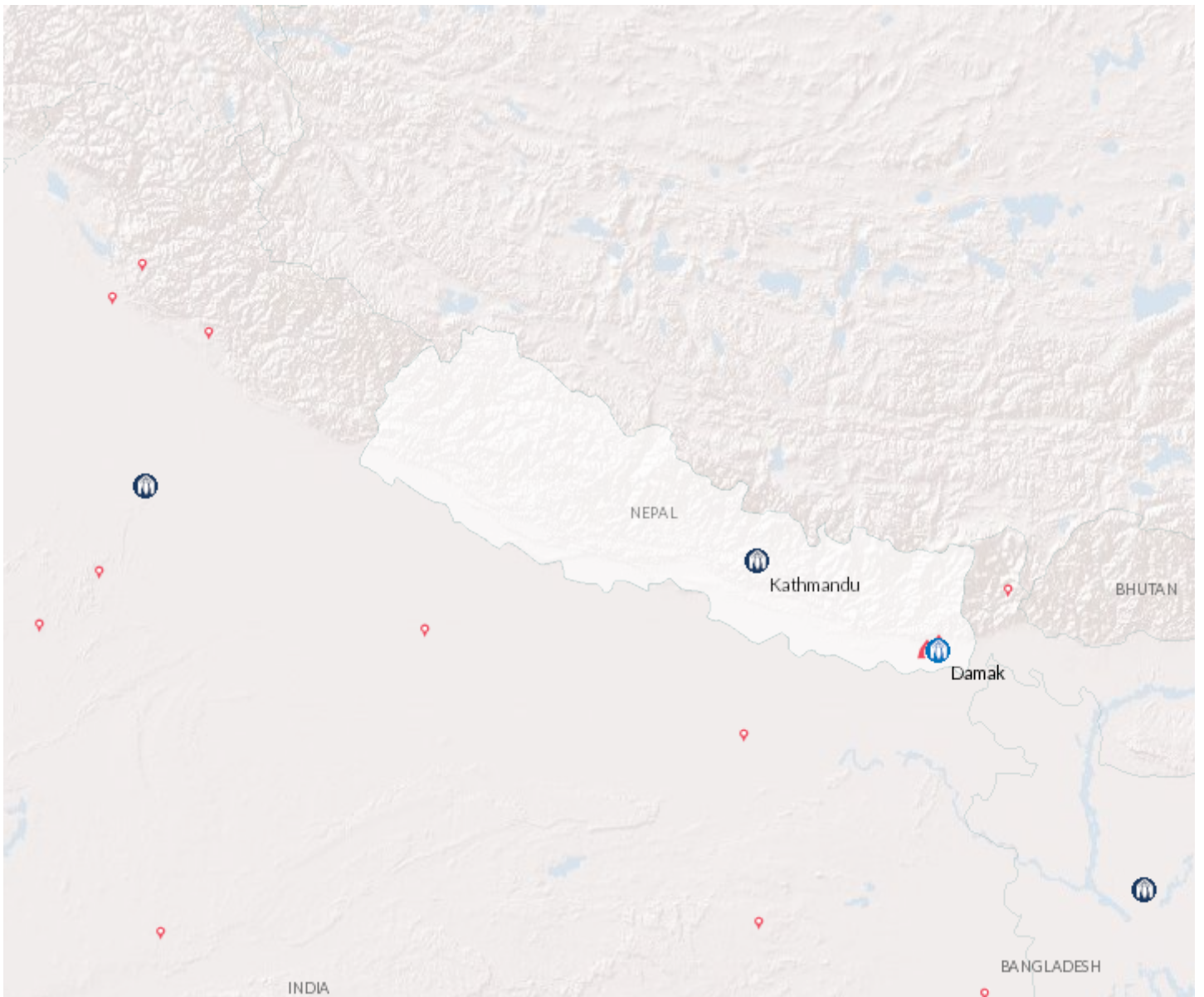


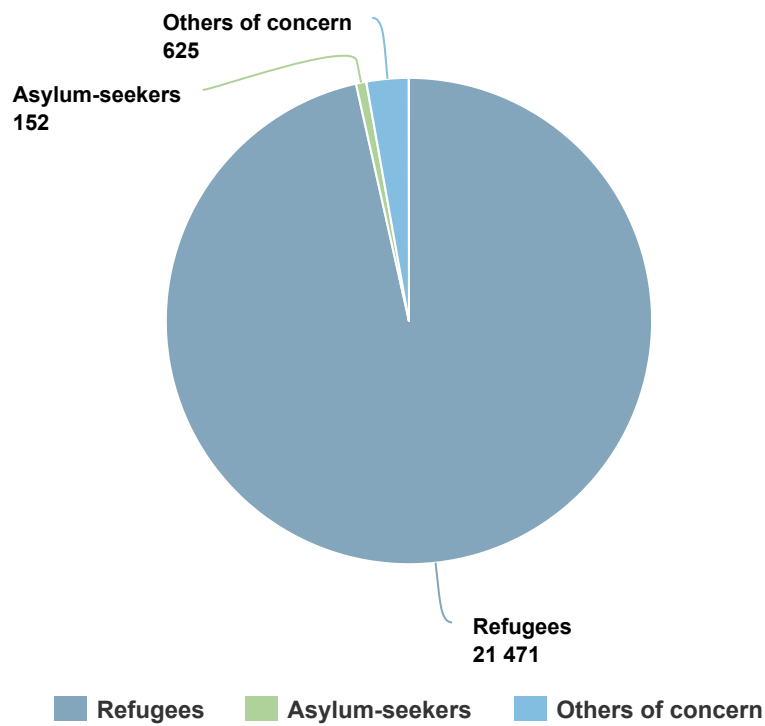
Operation: Nepal



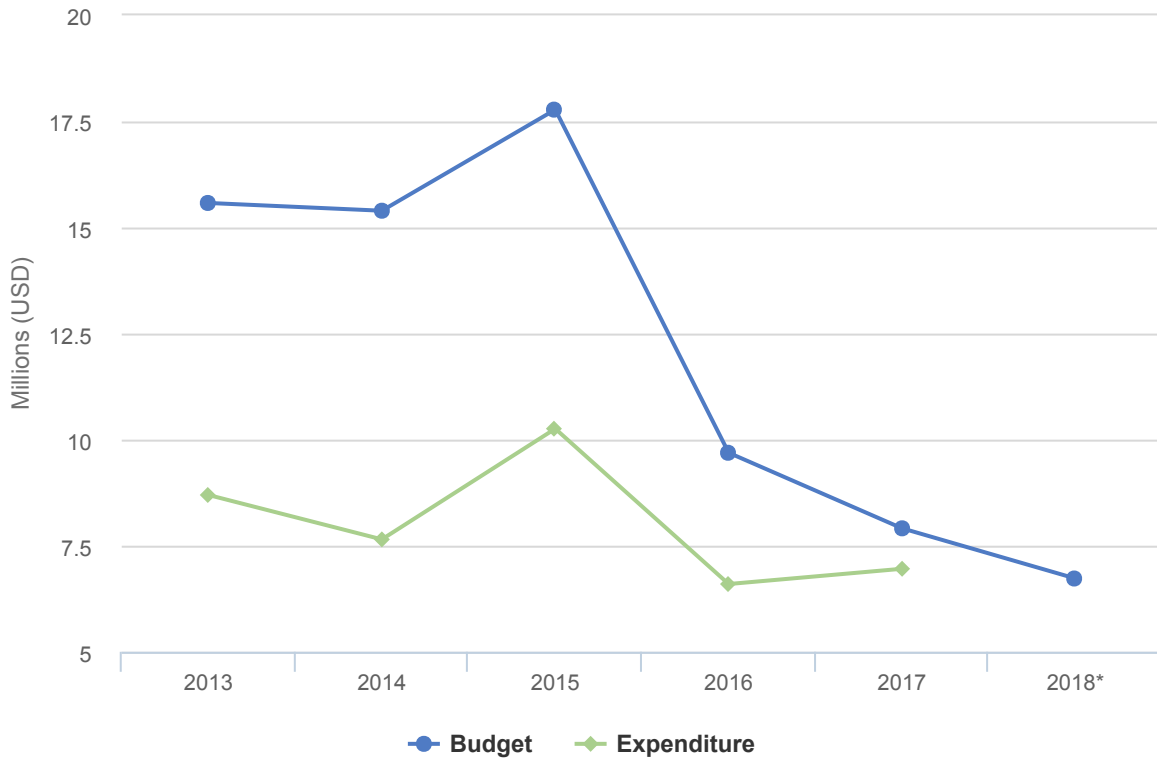
People of Concern

DECREASE IN
15 % 2017

2017	22,248
2016	26,170
2015	33,068



Budgets and Expenditure for Nepal



Operational context

While Nepal has not acceded to the 1951 Refugee Convention or its 1967 Protocol, and has no domestic asylum legislation, it has a long tradition of providing asylum to refugees and has generously hosted refugees for decades. The landmark parliamentary elections held in December 2017 led to the establishment of a new government and federal structures, as well as a process of localization which offers opportunities to strengthen strategic partnerships with development actors on the principle of leaving no one behind.

Population trends

The overall number of people of concern to UNHCR decreased due to the resettlement departure of Bhutanese refugees. With the conclusion of the large-scale resettlement programme, over 112,000 refugees from Bhutan were resettled while the remaining camp-based population was approximately 7,400 by the end of 2017.

UNHCR provided protection and assistance for approximately 690 urban refugees and asylum-seekers from nine countries.

Key achievements

The success of the Bhutanese resettlement programme opened avenues to pursue alternative solutions. UNHCR increasingly focused on enhancing self-reliance, strengthening a community-based approach, increasing refugees' access to local services, and building synergies with local communities in the areas of education, health, livelihoods and social protection. Sectoral taskforces, consisting of local government offices, refugees, partners, civil society, and other stakeholders, were established in Damak, and strategic partnerships were expanded both in Kathmandu and Damak. Key achievements pertaining to livelihoods included the formation of self-help groups aimed at improving savings and loan practices; linking vocational skill development to market needs; and enhancing entrepreneurship skills.

Unmet needs

The unmet needs of Bhutanese refugees were mostly linked with host community support projects in health, education, and livelihood activities. Due to limited resources, infrastructure support to local institutions aimed at building capacity to receive refugees was only partially implemented.
