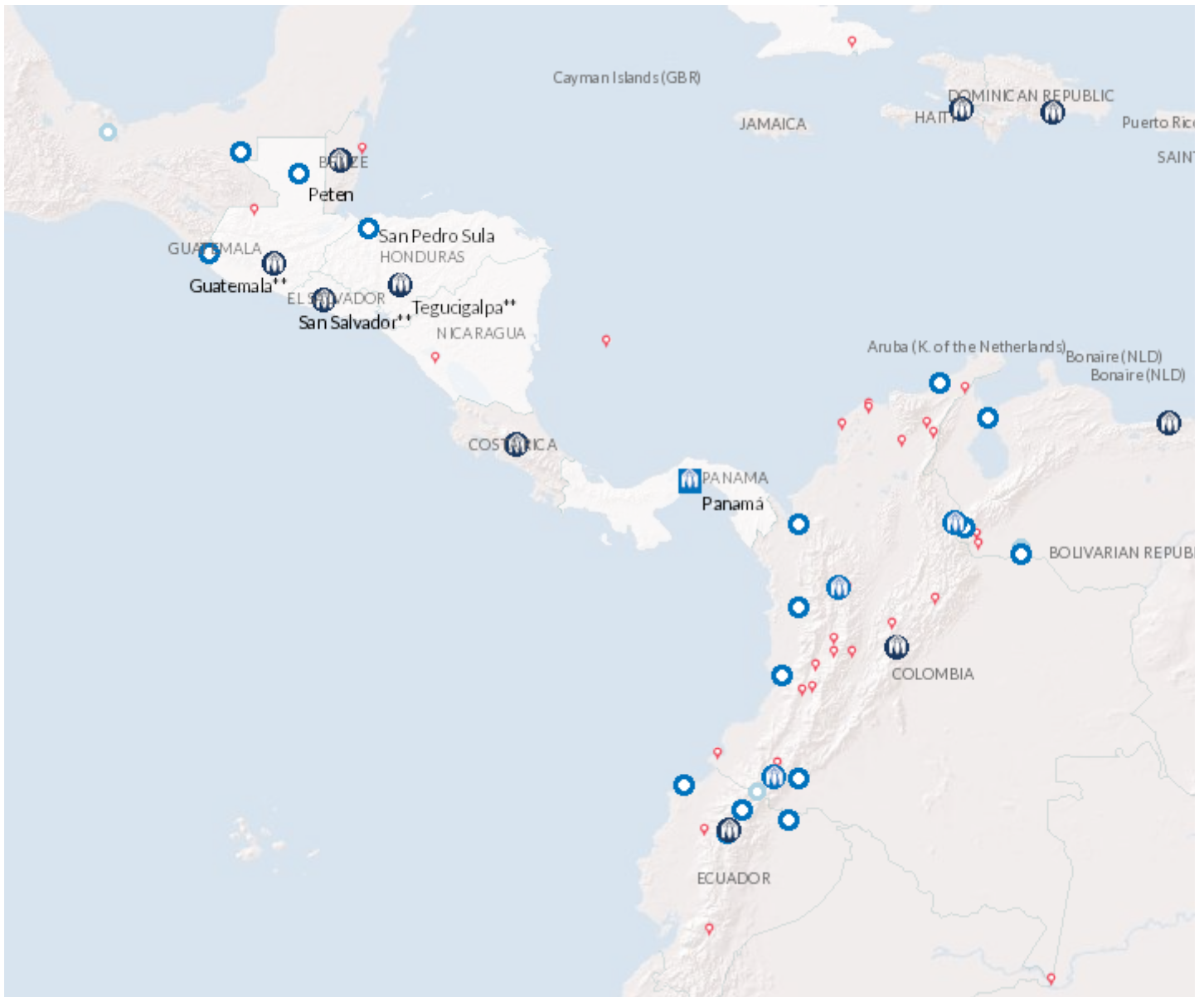


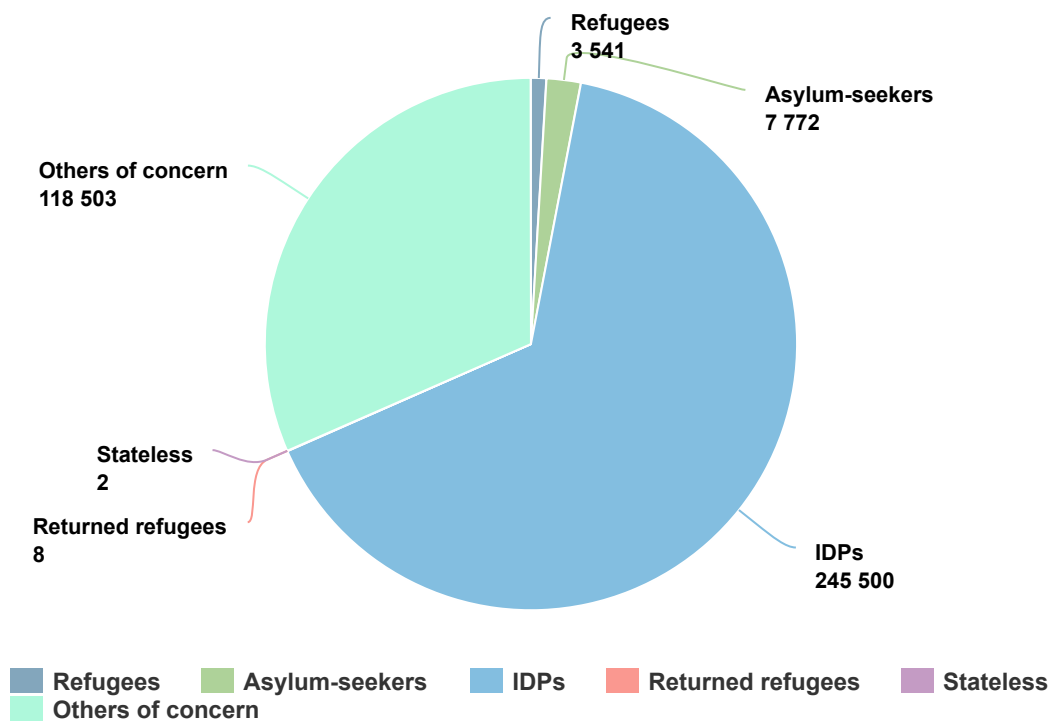
Operation: Panama Regional Office



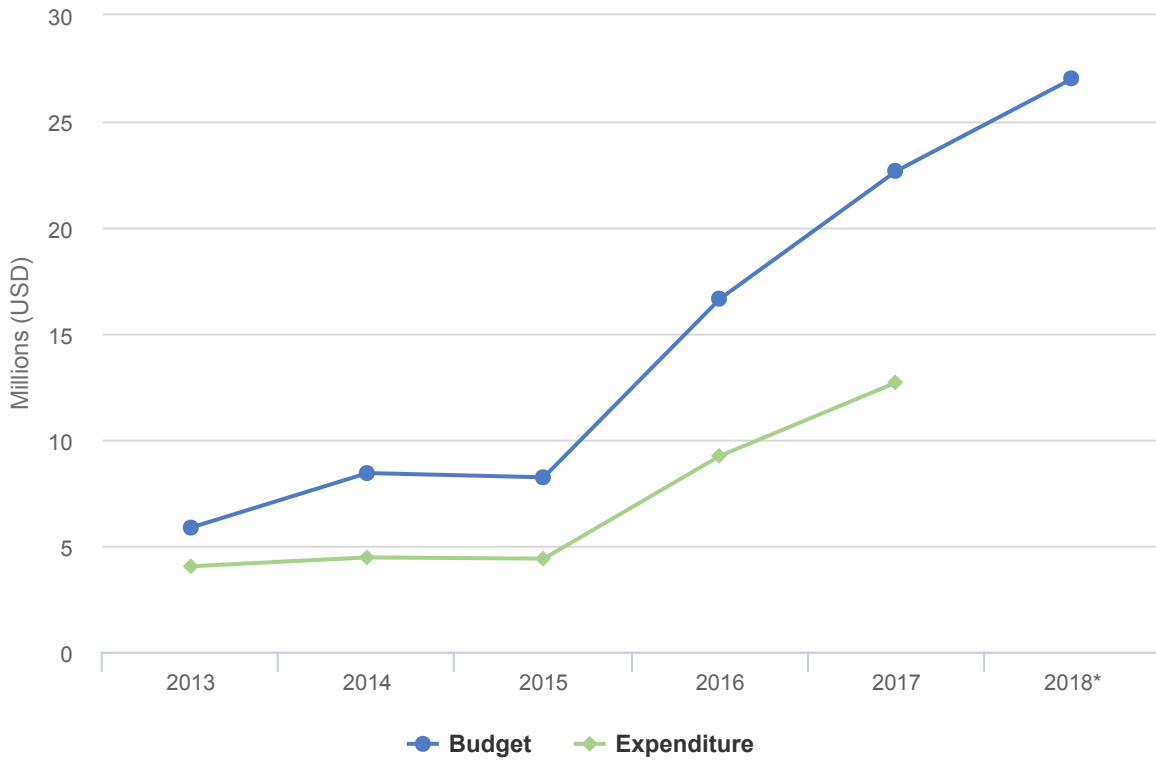
People of Concern

INCREASE IN
59% 2017

| | |
|-------------|---------|
| 2017 | 375,326 |
| 2016 | 235,707 |
| 2015 | 214,190 |



Budgets and Expenditure for Panama Regional Office



Operational context

Ongoing displacement in the North of Central America (NCA) has multiple causes, including violence and insecurity. NCA citizens have traditionally sought international protection in Canada and the United States of America. However, in the past two years, the number of asylum-seekers from the NCA in Belize, Costa Rica, Mexico, Nicaragua, and Panama has increased significantly.

The Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF) for Central America and Mexico (known by its Spanish acronym MIRPS) was agreed in October 2017 during a high-level regional conference in Honduras, through the San Pedro Sula Declaration. The States participating in the MIRPS are Belize, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico and Panama. The MIRPS triennial plans of action for each country, as well as for regional actors, put forward concrete initiatives to strengthen protection and solutions for asylum-seekers, IDPs and refugees in the North and Central America through:

- the improvement of admission and reception conditions;
- strengthening asylum systems;
- creating opportunities for self-reliance and local integration of forcibly displaced persons; and
- supporting the resilience of host communities and communities at risk.

The MIRPS process ensured consultation sessions at regional and national levels with multiple stakeholders (including people of concern). A total of 62 consultations meetings were held and more than 1,000 people were formally consulted. This resulted in the development of six national plans and 15 action plans with regional, national and international actors on the different pillars, and more than 180 new commitments. Furthermore, the MIRPS includes ten other States and entities which want to actively support the process, and who have identified specific areas that they will support through financial assistance and technical cooperation.

Population trends

The rising trend in asylum claims observed in the last few years continued unabated in 2017. More than 125,000 new asylum applications were made by NCA nationals in the region, 33 per cent higher than in 2016. The total number of NCA refugees and asylum-seekers almost reached 300,000 by the end of 2017.

With the exception of Honduras (estimation of 174,000 IDPs as per 2014 study), data on internal displacement due to violence in the NCA remains fragmented.

Approximately 141,000 NCA citizens were deported in 2017 (mainly from the United States and Mexico), including many with international protection needs.

As a country of transit, an increasing number of people have travelled through Guatemala towards north and south. Mexican authorities estimate that, in 2017, some 500,000 people entered Mexico from Guatemala. UNHCR has identified and assisted some 23,000 people in transit with international protection needs.

Key achievements

- In line with the regional MIRPS process, commitments to further strengthen protection and solutions in the region were made. Through national consultations, the development of triennial operational plans for each participating country is ongoing.
- The success of UNHCR's capacity-building efforts are evidenced in the increasing recognition rates, which reached an average of 49 per cent in 2017, compared to 28 per cent in 2012.
- Prevention and response to sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) was prioritized, with Guatemala being a pilot country for the regional SGBV safe spaces network. Protection mechanisms for victims of violence continued to be strengthened also in El Salvador and Honduras.

- For high-risk cases, the Protection Transfer Arrangement (PTA) programme was consolidated and expanded to all three NCA countries and further complemented by a variety of measures including internal relocation.
- The network of safe spaces for humanitarian assistance, that ensures a safer and more dignified transit for people of concern on the move, was expanded in Guatemala, assisting a total of 23,000 people in 2017.

Unmet needs

- Humanitarian assistance through cash-based interventions had to be prioritized to the most vulnerable people of concern only. This has had a negative impact on UNHCR's people of concern, as they were not able to meet their basic needs during their forced displacement and the refugee status determination (RSD) process.
- Protection networks and safety nets could have been further enhanced if additional funding had been made available. Specific programmes targeting prevention of SGBV and people with specific protection needs (e.g. LGBTI) require further strengthening.
- The lack of funding negatively impacted community-based interventions, limiting the work on infrastructure as well as protection by field missions to high-risk areas in all countries.
- In terms of RSD, although UNHCR continued to support the strengthening of the asylum systems, additional funding was required to better support the Governments of Guatemala and Panama in particular.

2017 Expenditure for Panama Regional Office | USD

The following table presents the final budget and funds available by pillar and the final expenditure at the objective-level, as reported at year-end.

| | Pillar 1 Refugee programme | Total |
|--|-------------------------------|-------------------|
| Final Budget | 22,672,194 | 22,672,194 |
| Income from contributions* | 1,846,020 | 1,846,020 |
| Other funds available / transfers | 10,854,564 | 10,854,564 |
| Total funds available | 12,700,584 | 12,700,584 |
| Expenditure by Objective | | |
| Favourable Protection Environment | | |
| International and regional instruments | 563,414 | 563,414 |
| Law and policy | 805,213 | 805,213 |
| Legal remedies and legal assistance | 207,335 | 207,335 |
| Access to territory | 623,627 | 623,627 |
| Public attitudes towards persons of concern | 256,218 | 256,218 |
| Subtotal | 2,455,806 | 2,455,806 |
| Fair Protection Processes and Documentation | | |
| Reception conditions | 1,030,686 | 1,030,686 |
| Registration and profiling | 124,301 | 124,301 |
| Status determination | 1,483,363 | 1,483,363 |
| Subtotal | 2,638,350 | 2,638,350 |
| Security from Violence and Exploitation | | |
| SGBV prevention and response | 271,109 | 271,109 |
| Child protection | 553,450 | 553,450 |
| Subtotal | 824,559 | 824,559 |
| Basic Needs and Essential Services | | |
| Basic and domestic and hygiene items | 1,415,203 | 1,415,203 |
| Subtotal | 1,415,203 | 1,415,203 |
| Community Empowerment and Self Reliance | | |
| Community mobilization | 488,163 | 488,163 |
| Subtotal | 488,163 | 488,163 |
| Durable Solutions | | |
| Voluntary return | 1,126,828 | 1,126,828 |
| Reintegration | 309,727 | 309,727 |
| Integration | 154,098 | 154,098 |

| | Pillar 1 Refugee programme | Total |
|--|-------------------------------|-------------------|
| Resettlement | 1,141,941 | 1,141,941 |
| Subtotal | 2,732,594 | 2,732,594 |
| Leadership, Coordination and Partnerships | | |
| Coordination and partnerships | 100,997 | 100,997 |
| Subtotal | 100,997 | 100,997 |
| Logistics and Operations Support | | |
| Operations management, coordination and support | 2,044,915 | 2,044,915 |
| Subtotal | 2,044,915 | 2,044,915 |
| 2017 Expenditure Total | 12,700,587 | 12,700,587 |

**Income from contributions includes indirect support costs that are recovered from contributions to Pillars 3 and 4, supplementary budgets and the "New or additional activities – mandate-related" (NAM) Reserve. Contributions towards all pillars are included under Pillar 1.*