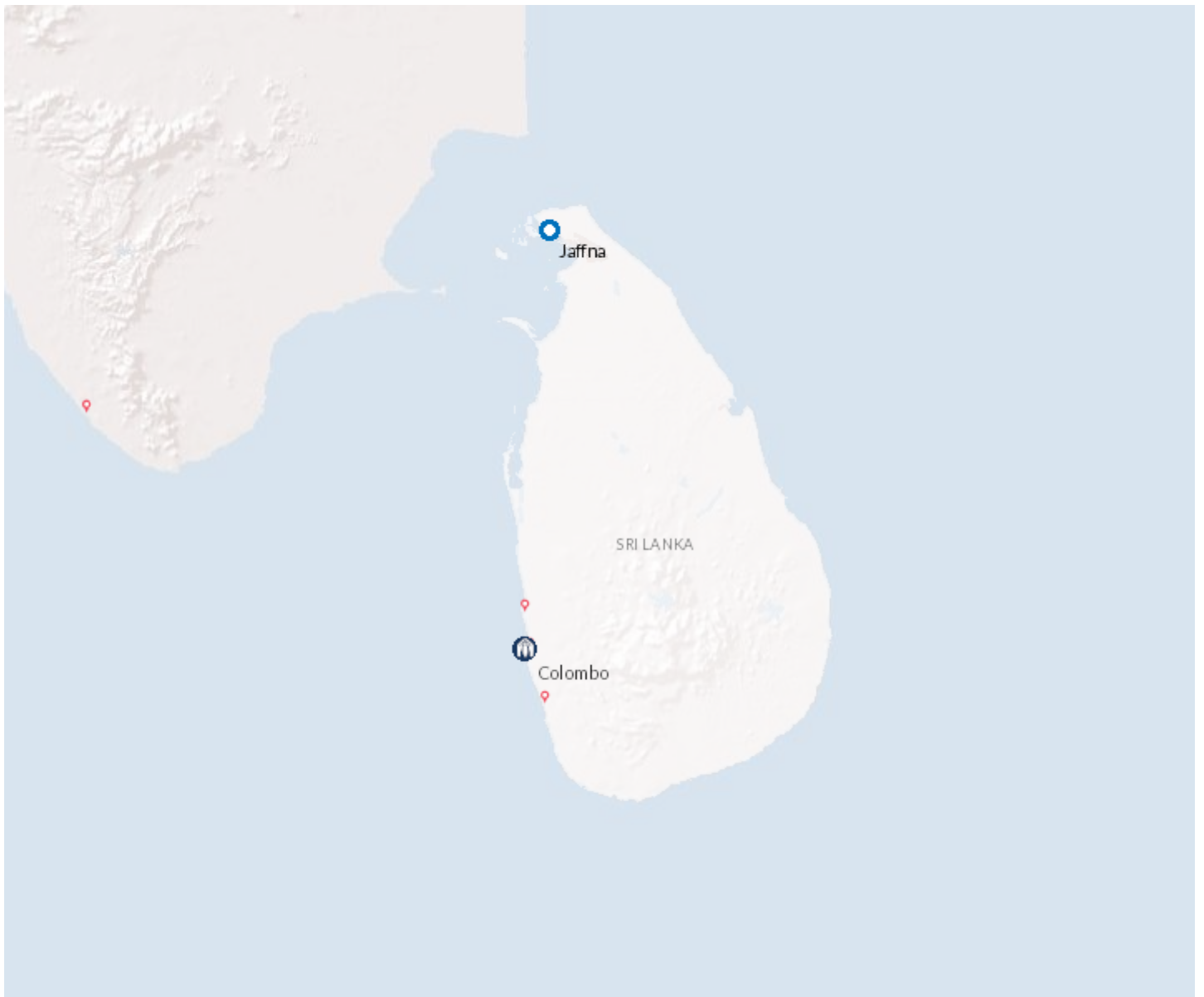


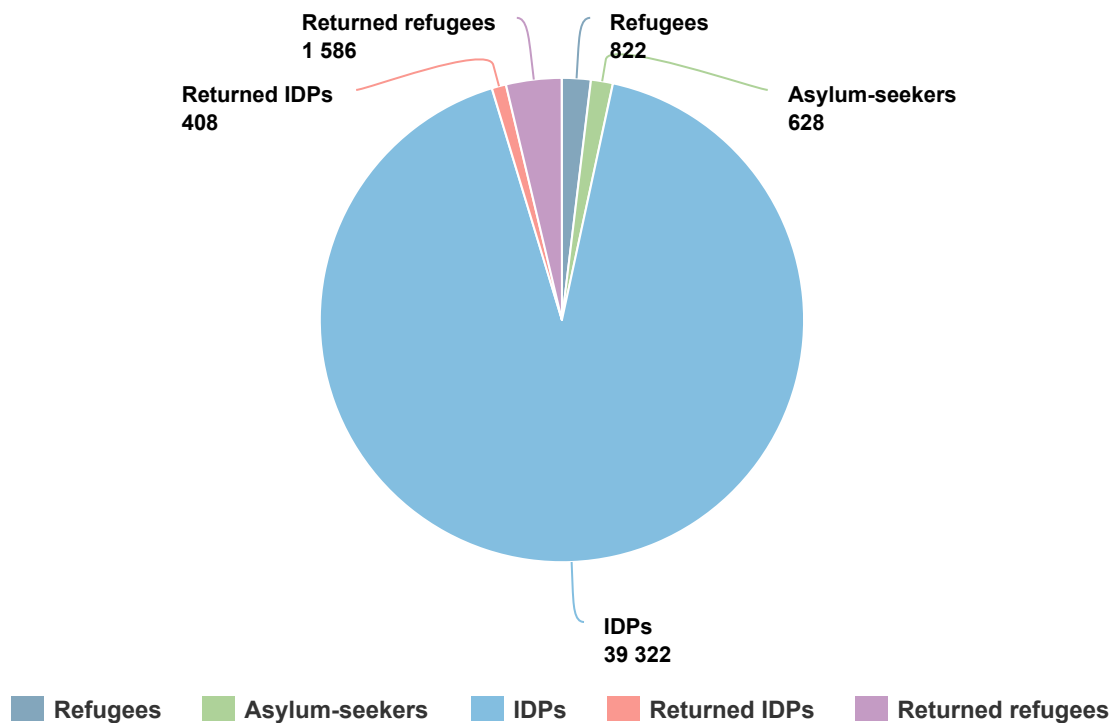
Operation: Sri Lanka



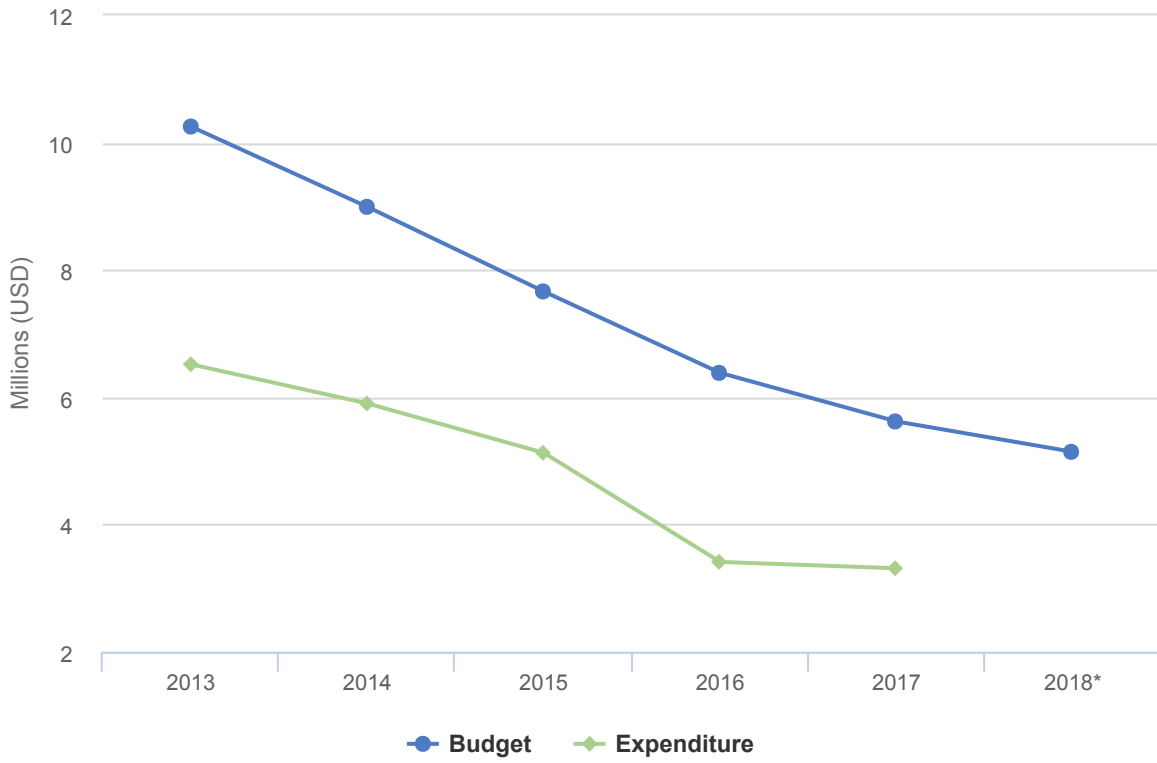
People of Concern

DECREASE IN
21% 2017

| | |
|-------------|--------|
| 2017 | 42,766 |
| 2016 | 54,409 |
| 2015 | 55,290 |



Budgets and Expenditure for Sri Lanka



Operational context

Throughout 2017, the Sri Lankan Government effectively engaged with UNHCR, other UN agencies, development partners, and donors to find solutions for internally displaced people (IDPs) and Sri Lankan refugee returnees. UNHCR continued to build the capacity of government stakeholders on international refugee protection, translating into a significantly higher number of Sri Lankan refugees voluntarily repatriating with UNHCR's assistance, and gradual improvement of the asylum and protection space in a non-signatory country without any legal or policy framework for asylum-seekers or refugees in place.

Population trends

The number of arriving asylum-seekers remained relatively steady throughout the year, averaging 40 people per month. This resulted in a 65 percent increase in the number of new asylum-seekers compared to the previous year, making it the largest number of new arrivals in a single year since 2013. The largest number of people came from Pakistan, followed by smaller numbers from Afghanistan, Myanmar and Yemen. The increasing trend of repatriation from India continued.

Key achievements

By December 2017, a total of 1,520, individuals (617 families), who returned through the facilitated voluntary repatriation programme, received a transportation allowance, reintegration grant, and NFI (non-food items) cash grant. Post return monitoring continued to identify protection and assistance needs at the point of return. A consolidated report is being compiled and will be widely circulated among government entities, donor agencies, and other international and national non-governmental organizations.

Unmet needs

As a result of resource constraints, only refugees were provided with financial assistance, which was also limited. The situation of asylum-seekers continues to be difficult as they face relatively long waiting periods of wait for refugee status determination, in an environment where they have no right to work and are in desperate need of support. The monthly subsistence allowance for refugees was not enough to cover the increased cost of living. While UNHCR attempted to provide assistance to vulnerable individuals in both the asylum-seeker and refugee communities, this assistance was limited. Despite advocacy for access of refugee and asylum-seeker children to education, this is yet to be achieved.
