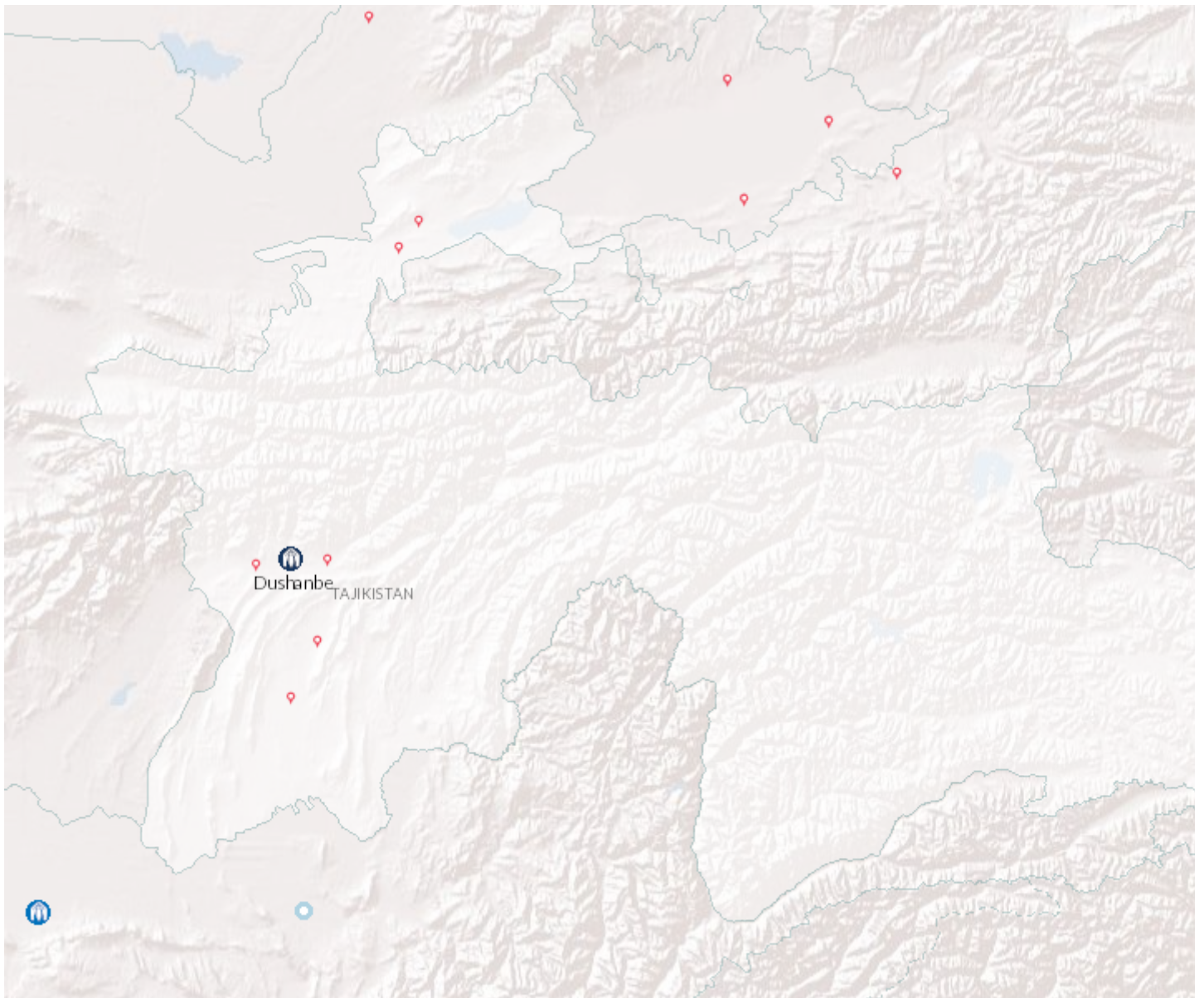


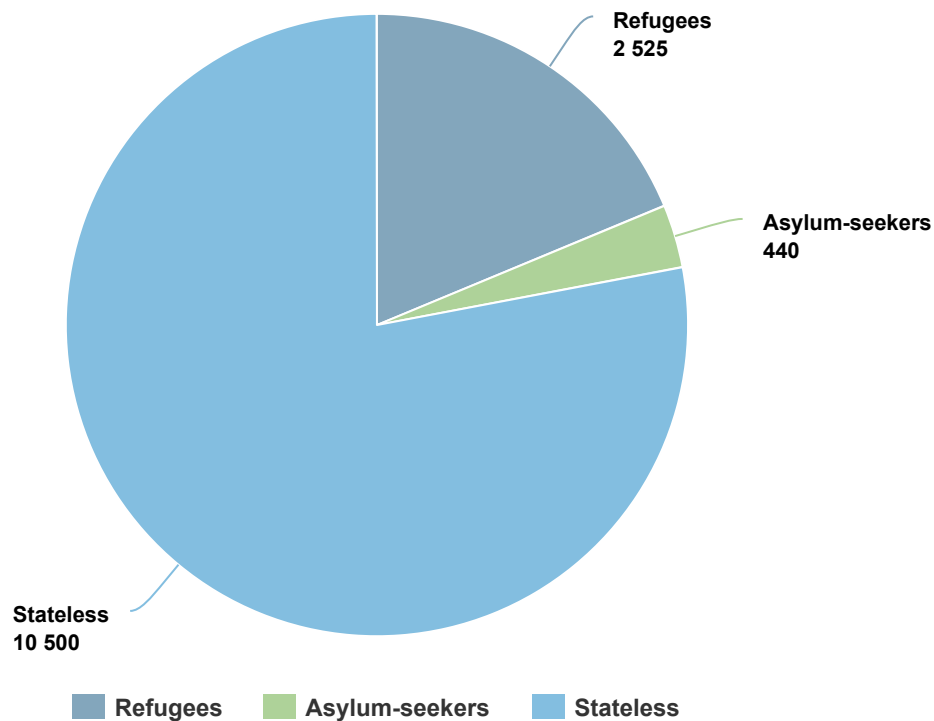
Operation: Tajikistan



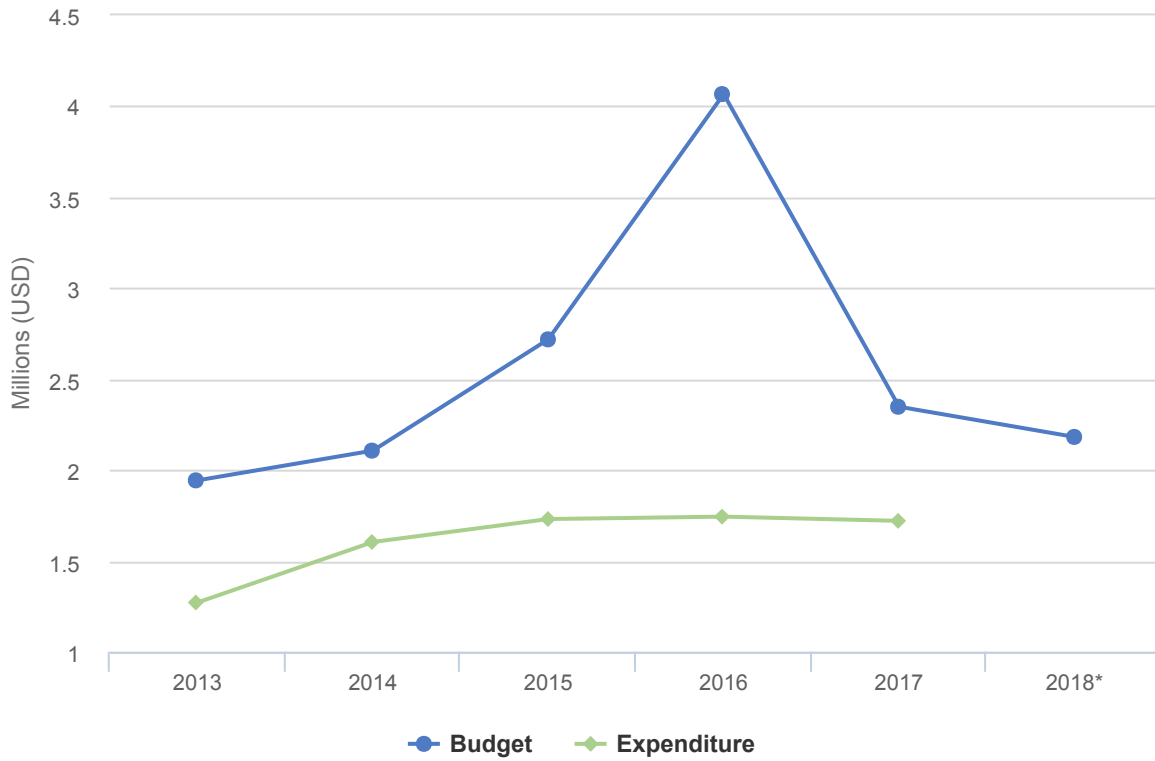
People of Concern

**33% DECREASE IN
2017**

2017	13,465
2016	20,162
2015	21,779



Budgets and Expenditure for Tajikistan



Operational context

There have been a positive atmosphere developing in Tajikistan's relationship with its neighbours. Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan have begun working on strengthening transport and communication links; high level meetings took place between Tajikistan and Uzbekistan, moving towards closer trade relations and communication links.

UNHCR continued focusing on three main areas; strengthening the national asylum system; emergency preparedness for the Afghanistan situation; solutions for refugees and stateless persons. Tajikistan was the first country in Central Asia to ratify the 1951 Refugee Convention, and to adopt a national legislation which generally comports with international standards, UNHCR continues supporting the government in enhancing its capacity for refugee status determination and improving its administrative and legal framework. Tajikistan is yet to accede to the two Statelessness Conventions, although during 2017 the By-Laws were adopted and some positive advancements were made towards the adoption of the long waited Amnesty Law.

In line with existing inter-agency contingency planning figure, the UNHCR's preparedness work contemplated a possible influx of 10,000 Afghan refugees primarily from the North-Eastern Kunduz provinces of Afghanistan. No significant cross-border movements were observed, despite multiple displacement occurred close to the Tajikistan border in 2017.

Significant advancements have been secured on emergency preparedness with a committed involvement of the Committee for Emergency and Civil Defence. An inter-agency simulation exercise was recently conducted to test the preparedness level in country between UN agencies, NGOs and relevant line ministries.

Population trends

At the end of 2017, there were some 2,530 refugees, 440 asylum-seekers and 10,500 stateless persons in Tajikistan. Most of the refugees and asylum-seekers originated from Afghanistan. More than 1,140 asylum-seekers arrived in Tajikistan during 2017, a slight decrease from the 1,460 arrivals in 2016.

Close to 5,250 people with undetermined nationality were identified and registered in 2017. This brings the total number of stateless and persons with undetermined nationality registered between November 2014 and December 2017 to 29,500. The figures indicate that women and girls are most affected by statelessness, with 65 per cent of the registered population being female. This is due, in part, to the fact that women and girls have not been prioritized within families to secure documentation.

Key achievements

- In 2017, UNHCR with Sheraton Hotel launched an innovative initiative aiming to facilitate livelihoods opportunities for youth refugees and local communities through provision of assistance in the area of enhancing their professional knowledge, skills and possible employment opportunities. As a result 10 candidates, five refugees and five Tajik youths, were selected to be trained within the pilot Sheraton apprenticeship programme. The programme runs twice every year, for four months at a time, with spaces made available for refugee as well as vulnerable national youth. The pilot apprenticeship programme was launched in September 2017 and completed in January 2018.
- In 2017, the Government of Tajikistan adopted the by-laws to the 2015 Constitutional Law on Nationality that provide practical guidance on implementation of the Nationality Law. UNHCR provided expert support in drafting the documents. Since the Nationality Law outlines only a general framework on citizenship issues, in practice there was a gap on what procedures need to be followed by applicants and government officials while addressing nationality related matters. The Implementing Regulations are designed to address the gaps and set clear guidance on complete list of documents for submission, mandate and responsibilities of each

government agency accepting and processing these documents, decision-making mechanism and authority on nationality-related issues, etc.

- Since the launch of the stateless campaign in late 2014 and up to the end of December 2017, some 29,530 persons with undetermined nationality and at risk of statelessness have been identified and registered in three pilot regions of Tajikistan, with 11,750 of them assisted with confirmation of nationality in 2017.

Unmet needs

To facilitate the process of documenting people identified in the course of pilot project, UNHCR provides financial support through partners to cover administrative fees and some transportation costs for the vulnerable families. Assessments showed that due to fees associated with citizenship confirmation vulnerable families are reluctant to proceed with their documentation issues. Thus, increased funding will allow smooth and timely support in solving documentation issues of these registered families falling under the project.
