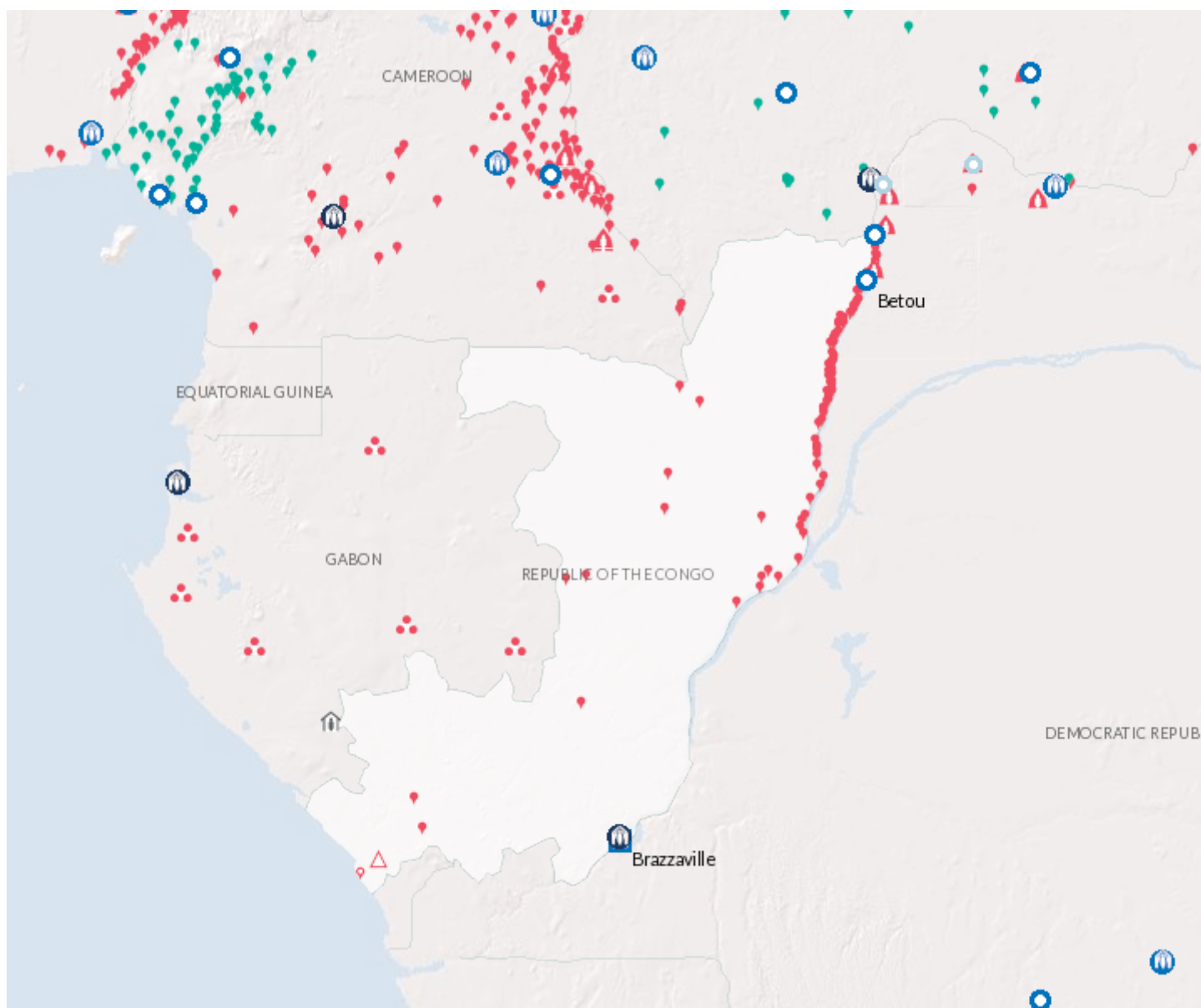


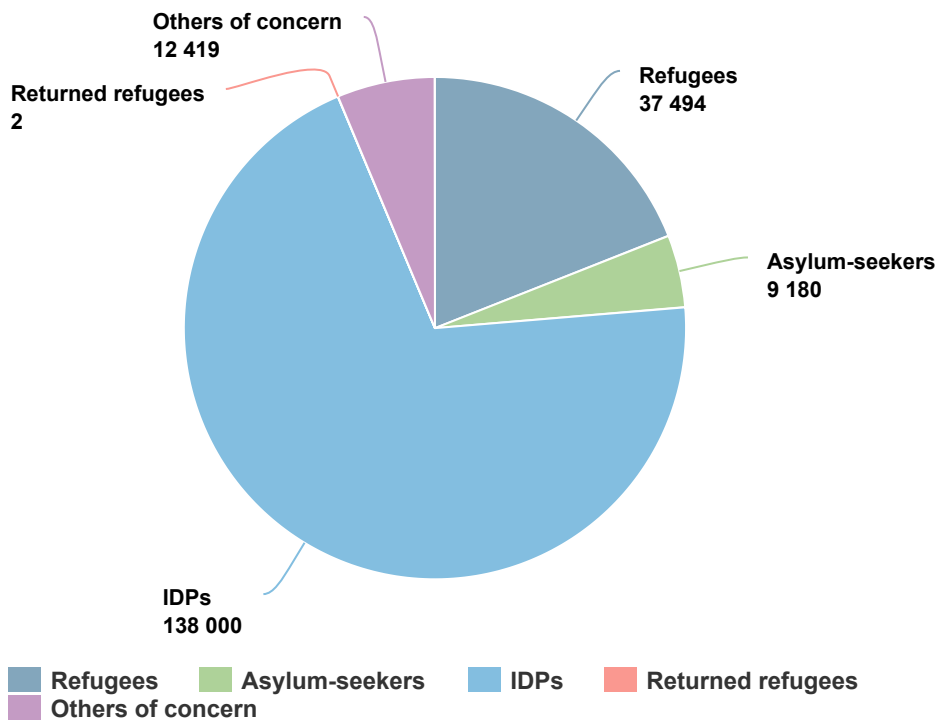
Operation: Congo



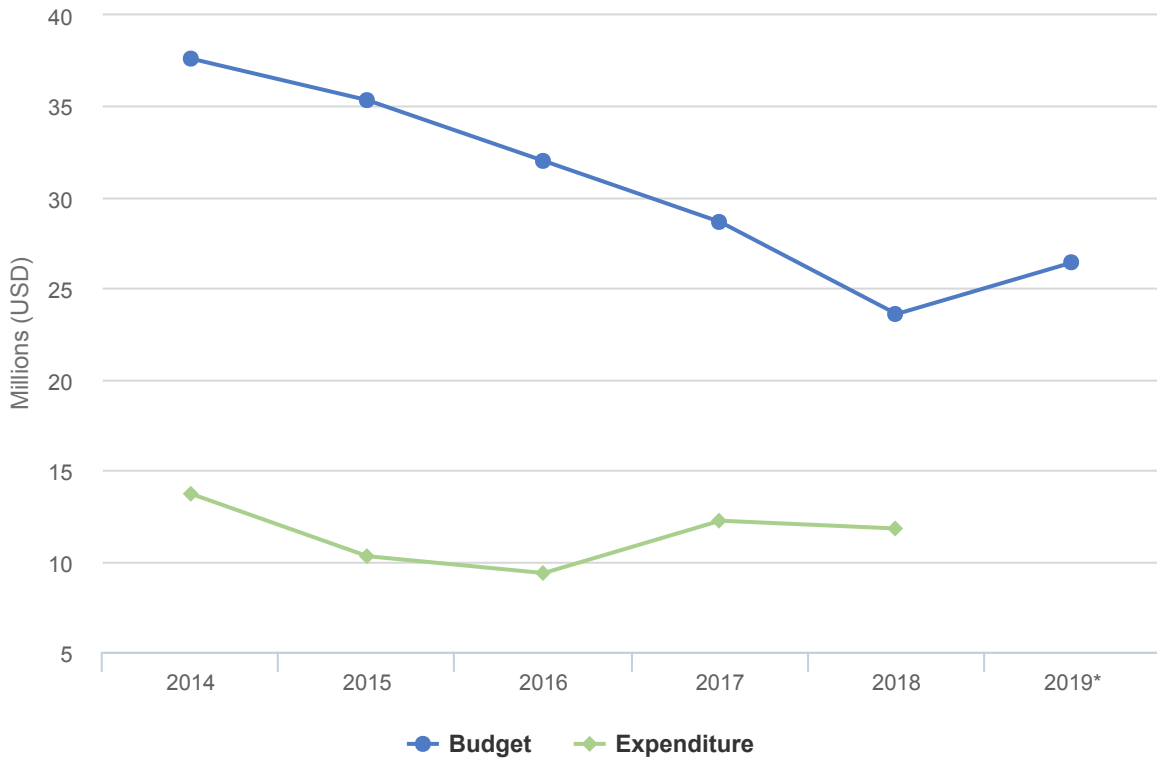
People of Concern

INCREASE IN
18% 2018

2018	197,095
2017	167,303
2016	71,598



Budgets and Expenditure for Congo



Operational environment

The economic situation in the Republic of the Congo was further challenged by the drop in fuel price. This is of concern and has serious impacts on the refugees.

More than 10,000 Rwandans remain in Congo, including the 9,000 without refugee status since 1 January 2018 following the implementation of cessation clause for Rwandan refugees. These former refugees are currently residing on the Congolese territory without an official status. UNHCR continues to support them for repatriation and local integration, but with limited traction amongst the former refugees.

The majority of refugees from the DRC and Rwanda have expressed their willingness to stay in the country.

Therefore, in 2018 UNHCR advocated for the adoption of a local integration strategy for these populations. For the time being, the government has expressed their concerns over such strategy encouraging refugees to stay in the country indefinitely.

Population trends

At the end of 2018 there were some 59,890 refugees, a slight increase from the beginning of the year. At the end of the year, an estimated 16,000 new refugees from DRC crossed to Republic of Congo in less than one week.

The number of IDPs decreased from 114,000 to 76,000 by the end of the year. IDPs returns were reported, though no data is so far available to assess the magnitude of the return process.

The implementation of durable solutions has led to the decrease in the number of refugees. More than 3,500 CAR refugees were repatriated and 8,000 former Rwandan refugees still considered as people of concern to UNHCR.

Key achievements

Thousands of refugees, mainly from CAR, were repatriated and few dozen resettled with UNHCR's support.

UNHCR focused on reducing statelessness through awareness-raising campaigns, conducting carrying out activities on birth registration, and organising a workshop on the civil registration systems in Likouala and Pool department.

UNHCR provided support to the Ministry of Justice in the process of reviewing codes and to the national statistics.

Unmet needs

The adoption of the law on asylum remained pending by the Government. The legal framework aiming at facilitating the implementation of the mechanism is still to be adopted.

Access to basic socio-services such as education and health remains a challenge for refugees because of the inadequacy of the national system. UNHCR provision of services was insufficient to cover the needs.

Due to the insufficient funding of the UNHCR, refugees in Likouala department were not able to receive support regarding NFIs.
