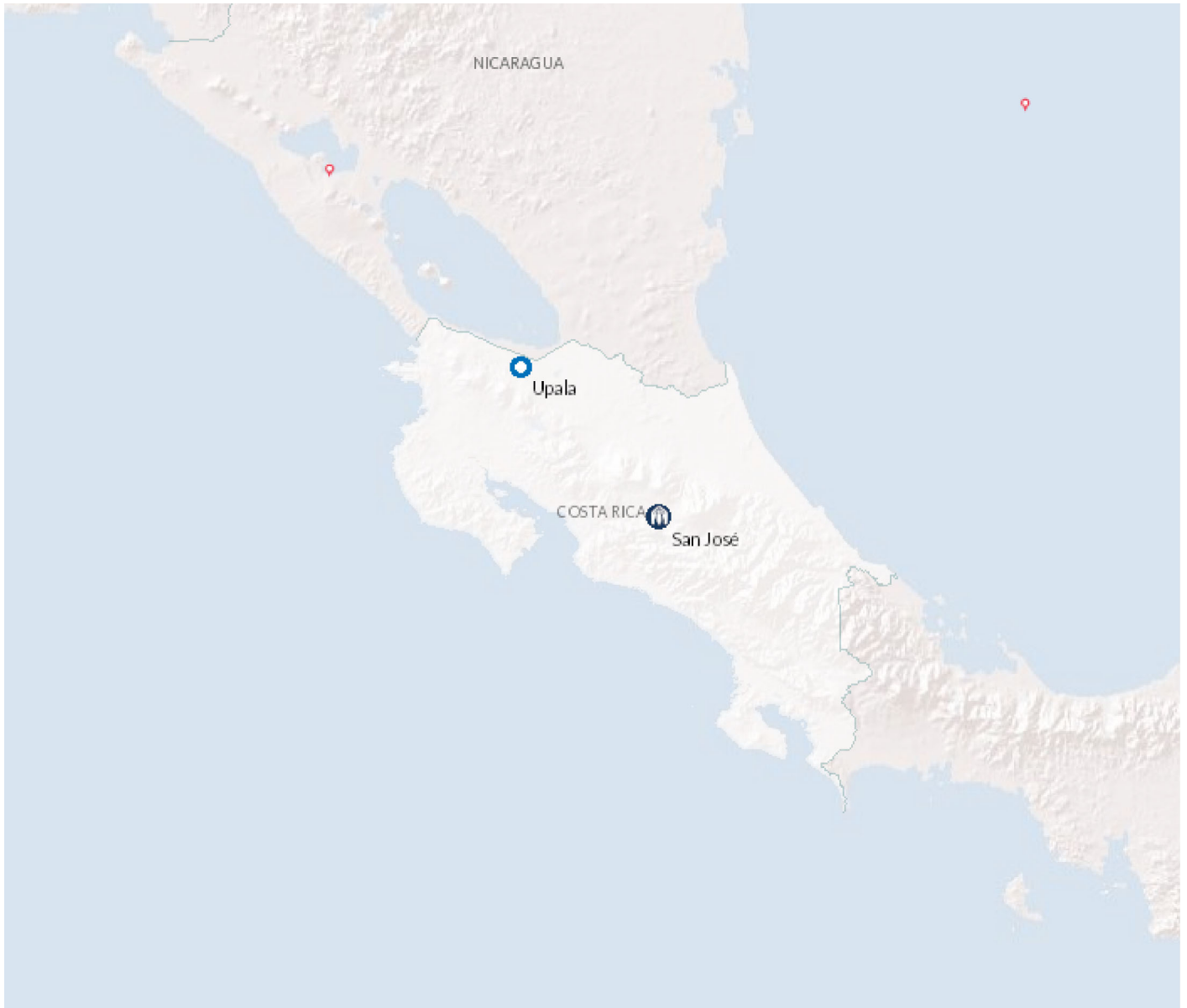




## Operation: Costa Rica



(<http://reporting.unhcr.org/admin/structure/block/manage/block/29/configure>)

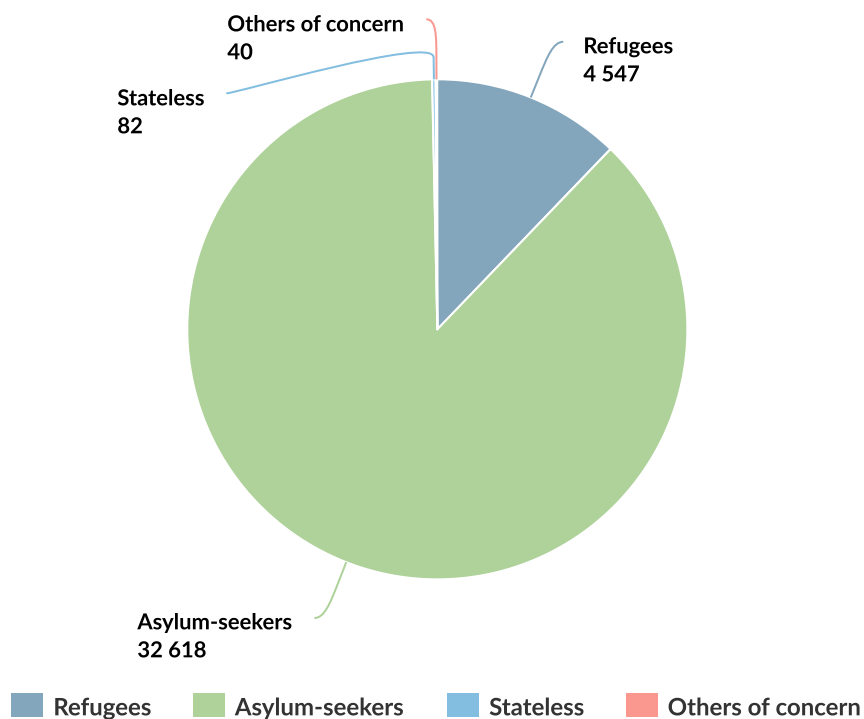
# People of Concern

INCREASE IN  
**210% 2018**

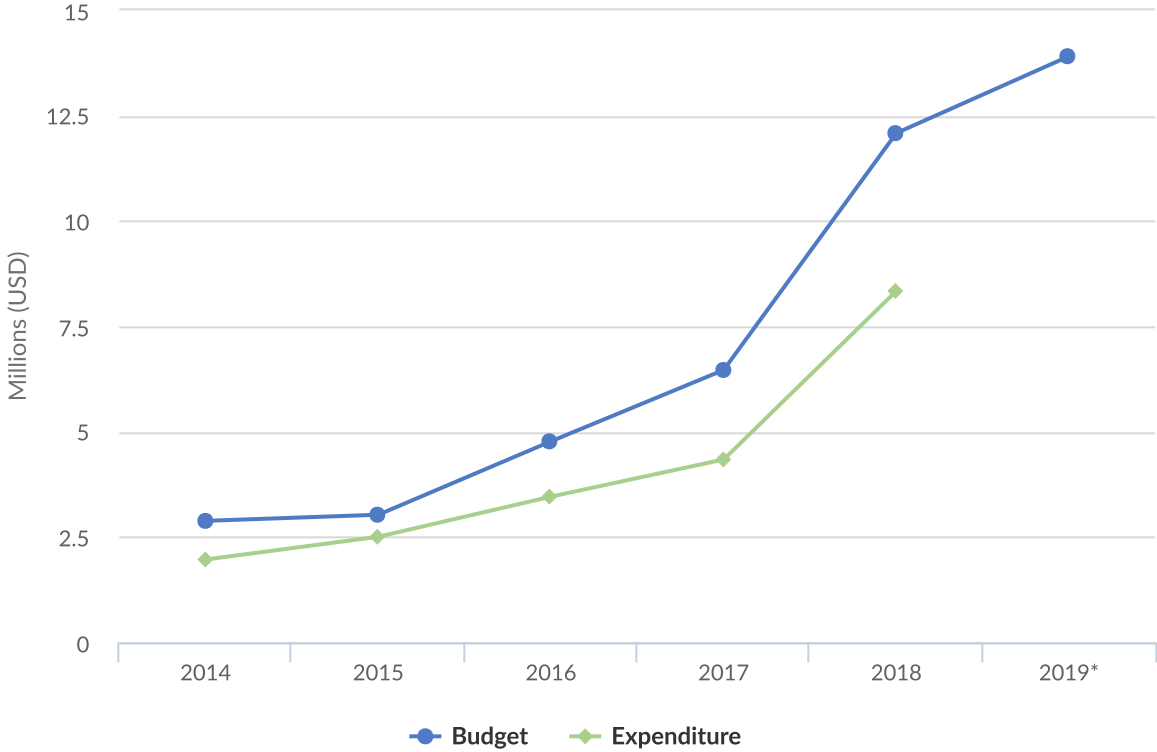
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<b>2018</b>	37,287
<b>2017</b>	12,015
<b>2016</b>	7,953

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# Budgets and Expenditure for Costa Rica



## Operational context

Presidential elections held in April 2018 led to the current ruling Party remaining in office, resulting in an opportunity to maintain the State's engagement on MINARE. UNHCR focused on ensuring that key national stakeholders remain committed and take positive action on refugee protection, as well as extended financial and technical support to improve the capacity to protect and assist people of concern.

As a result of unrest in Nicaragua, in April 2018, Costa Rica saw an exponential increase in the number of asylum applications from Nicaraguans. A significant shift in the operational strategy was required toward the end of the year to meet the actual needs.

UNHCR's response in Costa Rica was part of a regional response plan for the Nicaragua situation focused on strengthening reception capacities in Costa Rica, El Salvador and Honduras. In Costa Rica, where the majority of Nicaraguan asylum claims were filed, UNHCR supported admission to territory, enhancing reception conditions as well as RSD processing and cash-based interventions.

On combatting statelessness, Costa Rica became the first country in the region to grant citizenship to a stateless person in 2018.

## Population trends

The number of people of concern in Costa Rica reached close to 37,290 people - a significant increase from the 12,020 people of concern at the end of 2017.

A majority, 87%, of the population of concern are asylum-seekers, of which 85% applied during 2018. Of these new applicants, 23,140 were Nicaraguans (83%); 2,880 were Venezuelans (10%); 1,260 were from the North of Central America countries (4.5%); 533 were Colombians (2%); and 178 of other nationalities (0.5%).

## Key achievements

To respond to the unforeseen influx of Nicaraguan asylum-seekers, UNHCR submitted emergency preparedness and contingency plans, reallocated funds, reviewed existing programmes, strengthened its border presence and monitoring, reviewed staffing needs and strengthened the Migration Authority's capacity to carry out asylum claim processing. The sudden increase in asylum-seekers in the country also led to the need to combat negative public attitudes and misinformation, both at national and local levels.

UNHCR continued to aim for the consolidation of a State-led response that ensures the effectiveness of the national asylum systems and includes people of concern in national protection and integration programmes. UNHCR undertook temporary gap-filling activities to support the Government in assisting the most vulnerable populations and to adapt its refugee response to face the influx.

In addition, free legal assistance was further reinforced in association with La Salle University's Legal Clinic, University of Costa Rica Legal Clinic, and the Bar Association.

UNHCR successfully advocated for temporary IDs for asylum-seekers to be issued on the date of lodging their application. The Government made amendments to ensure that temporary IDs were effective for accessing health, banking services, government-run poverty reduction programmes and social welfare.

UNHCR and UNCT advocacy also resulted in the approval of Executive Decree 41337 which enabled trans-gender asylum-seekers, refugees and migrants to have names of choice (in line with their gender identity) included in their ID instead of their original civil registry names.

## Unmet needs

As a result of sudden increase in the number of asylum-seekers, the new Government put on hold a series of activities that had been discussed and agreed on, including complementary pathways of admission to bring Syrian refugees to Costa Rica under existing protection mechanisms that had already been implemented in the country.

The roll out UNHCR proGres v4 registration tool was also put on hold. However, starting April in 2018, UNHCR piloted proGres v4 for internal use of the operation and partners aimed at the early identification of people facing protection risks, address specific protection needs and provide humanitarian assistance where necessary.

Socio-political unrest in Nicaragua has put a strain on relations between the Governments of Costa Rica and Nicaragua, which hampered bi-national initiatives to address barriers to late-birth registration and issuance of nationality documentation to those Nicaraguans who are entitled to it. This has negatively affected the efforts to reduce or eradicate the risk of statelessness among transnational workers of Nicaraguan origin.

(<http://reporting.unhcr.org/node/24174/edit>)



# 2018 Expenditure for Costa Rica | 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
<b>Final Budget</b>	<b>12,085,994</b>	<b>12,085,994</b>
Income from contributions*	4,602,451	4,602,451
Other funds available / transfers	4,626,100	4,626,100
<b>Total funds available</b>	<b>9,228,551</b>	<b>9,228,551</b>

<b>Expenditure by Objective</b>		
<b>Favourable Protection Environment</b>		
Legal remedies and legal assistance	582,924	582,924
Access to territory	480,468	480,468
Public attitudes towards persons of concern	302,874	302,874
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>1,366,266</b>	<b>1,366,266</b>
<b>Fair Protection Processes and Documentation</b>		
Reception conditions	263,616	263,616
Registration and profiling	72,492	72,492
Status determination	1,213,897	1,213,897
Individual documentation	55,595	55,595
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>1,605,600</b>	<b>1,605,600</b>
<b>Security from Violence and Exploitation</b>		
SGBV prevention and response	500,622	500,622
Child protection	100,745	100,745
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>601,367</b>	<b>601,367</b>
<b>Basic Needs and Essential Services</b>		
Health	100,907	100,907
Shelter and infrastructure	75,922	75,922
Services for persons with specific needs	2,089,063	2,089,063
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>2,265,893</b>	<b>2,265,893</b>
<b>Community Empowerment and Self Reliance</b>		
Co-existence with local communities	402,375	402,375
Self-reliance and livelihoods	1,079,368	1,079,368
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>1,481,744</b>	<b>1,481,744</b>
<b>Durable Solutions</b>		
Integration	143,006	143,006
Resettlement	50,835	50,835

	Pillar 1 Refugee programme	Total
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>193,841</b>	<b>193,841</b>
<b>Leadership, Coordination and Partnerships</b>		
Coordination and partnerships	37,036	37,036
Donor relations	44,075	44,075
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>81,111</b>	<b>81,111</b>
<b>Logistics and Operations Support</b>		
Operations management, coordination and support	743,117	743,117
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>743,117</b>	<b>743,117</b>
<b>2018 Expenditure Total</b>	<b>8,338,937</b>	<b>8,338,937</b>

*\*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.*