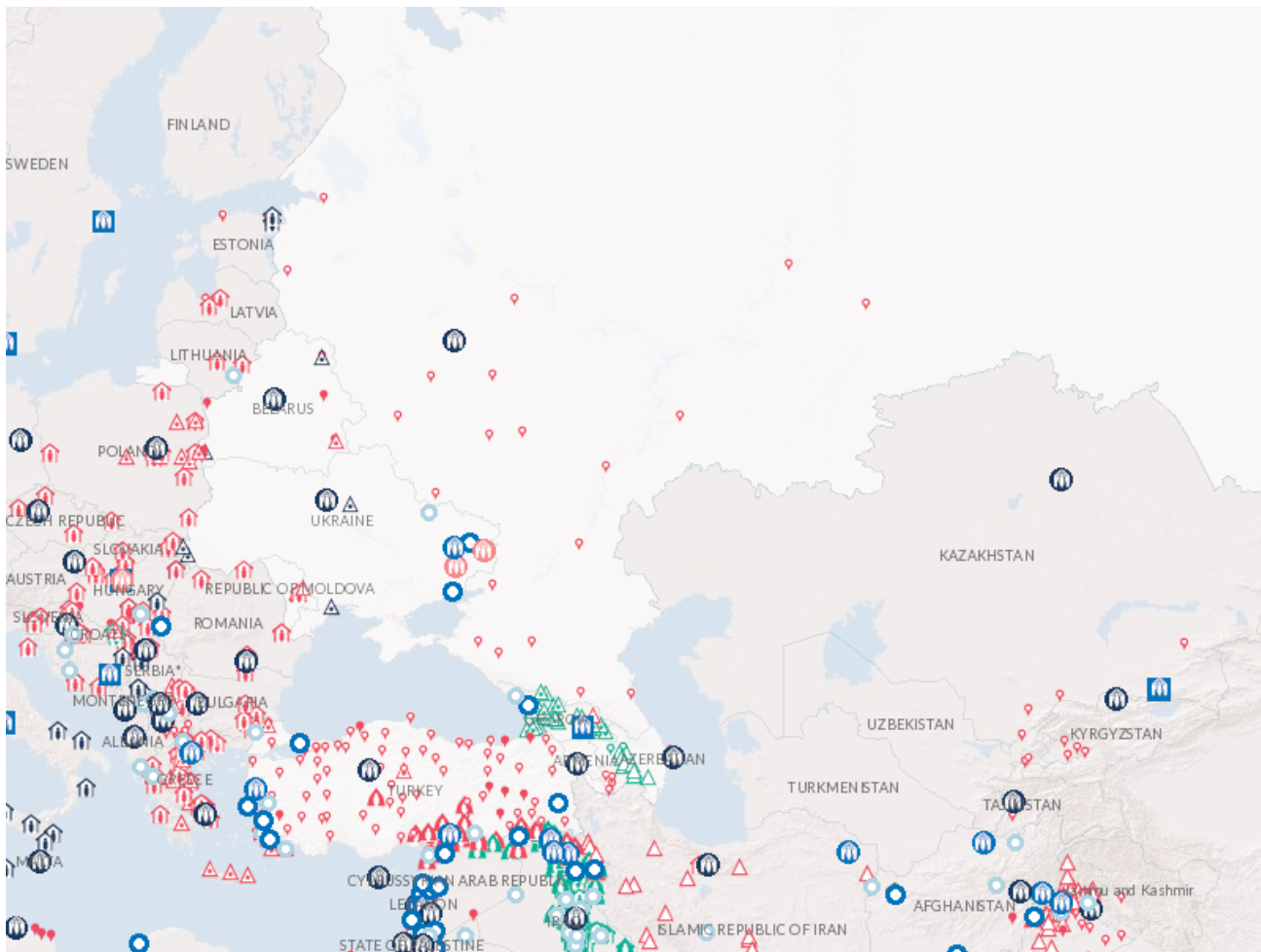
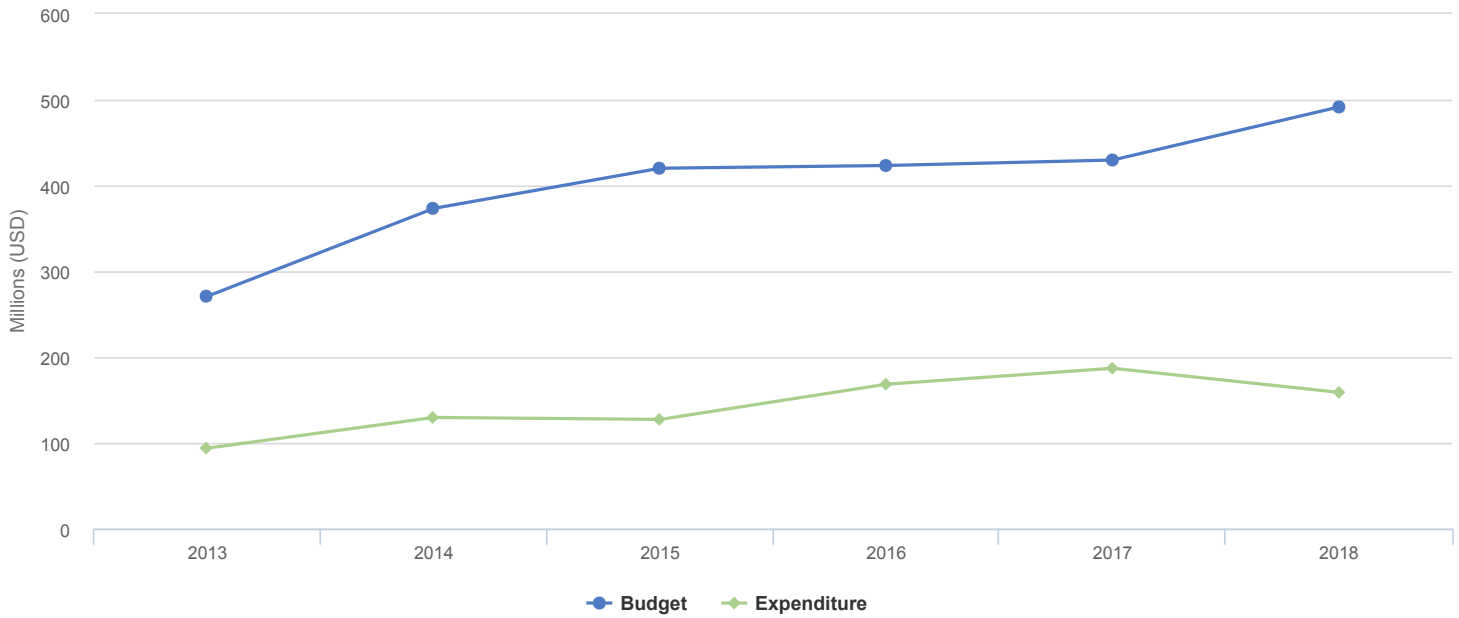


Subregion: Eastern Europe

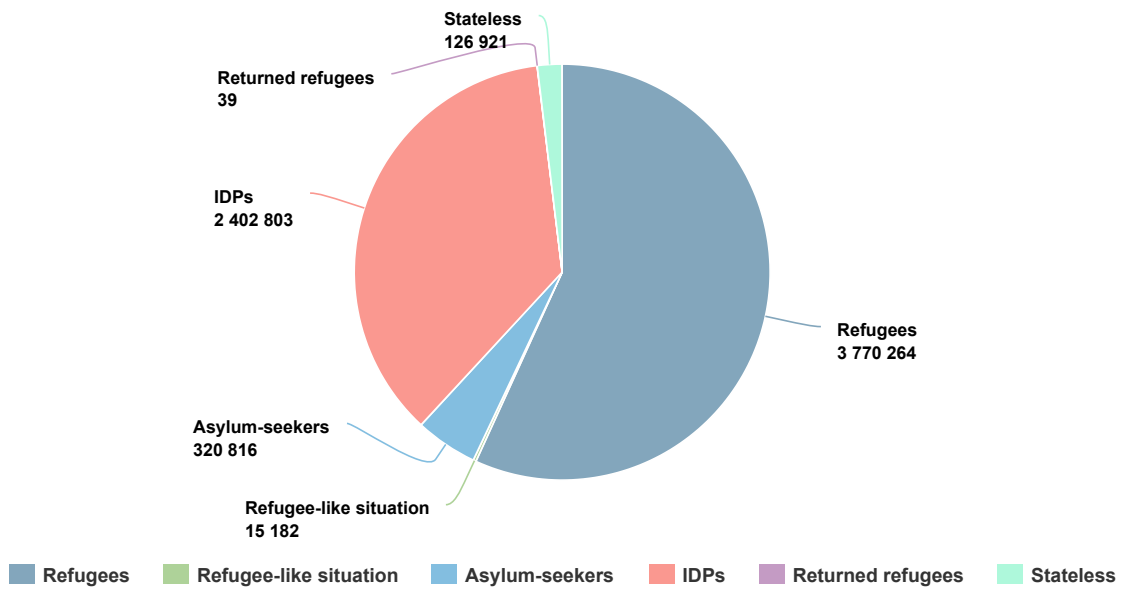
| Armenia | Azerbaijan | Belarus | Georgia | Republic of Moldova | Russian Federation | Turkey | Ukraine |



Budgets and Expenditure in Subregion Eastern Europe



People of Concern - 2018



Response in 2018

Issues related to the unresolved conflicts in the region continue to permeate all dimensions of foreign and local policy-making, including migration and asylum policies. In 2018, UNHCR advocated for access to territory and to asylum procedures across the sub-region. UNHCR continued to support the eradication of statelessness and advocated for accession to relevant international instruments.

Daily ceasefire violations in the Nagorno-Karabakh and Eastern Ukraine continued to be reported throughout the year and resulted in casualties. Nevertheless, the status-quo was maintained and limited number of new internal displacement occurred.

In the region, UNHCR continued to support peace processes under the leadership of the OSCE, the European Union and the United Nations.

While continuing to support the governments of Eastern European states in enhancing the quality of their asylum systems through the Asylum Systems Quality Initiative in Eastern Europe and the Southern Caucasus (QIEE), UNHCR has undertaken a thorough assessment of progress made within the project implementation and the remaining shortcomings in order to identify, together with the participating governments, the priority areas and better align the QIEE with the objectives of the Global Compact on Refugees and the state pledges of the upcoming Global Refugee Forum.

In 2018, Turkey hosted over 3.6 million Syrians. The Government granted temporary protection to, and assumed completely the registration and referral of, asylum-seekers of all nationalities in the country. UNHCR worked with the Government to effectively implement a decentralized refugee status determination and registration process consistent with international standards as regulated in the Turkish Law on Foreigners and International Protection.

By year-end, the total number of people of concern reached just over 4 million in Turkey, and a further 2.7 in the other countries in Eastern Europe. This comprises 3.8 million refugees (including 3.7 million primarily Syrian refugees in Turkey and 77,000 Ukrainians in Russia); around 320,000 asylum-seekers (some 311,000 in Turkey); over 2.5 million IDPs (some 1.6 million in Ukraine, 620,000 in Azerbaijan and 282,000 in Georgia); more than 122,000 stateless persons (76,000 in Russia, 36,000 in Ukraine, 6,000 in Belarus, and 3,600 in Azerbaijan).

UNHCR operations in Eastern Europe in 2018

Operations in the Russian Federation, Turkey and Ukraine are presented in separate country chapters.

In **Armenia**, progress was made in building capacity for refugee protection for administrative judges – through the development of an online course – and for border guards – through the set-up of a training centre with state-funded trainers. UNHCR's monitoring and coaching of first instance decisions makers resulted in preserving a relatively high refugee recognition rate. Government agreed to develop an integration strategy covering Syrian-Armenians, migrants, recognized refugees and asylum-seekers with action plans specific to each groups. Gradual improvement in access to employment for people originating from Syria and for other people of concern was observed through economic integration projects and awareness raising of the rights of people of concern among service providers, however some gaps remain. Continuous development and updating of standard operating procedures and case management training resulted in improved collaboration between partners and streamlining of the assistance provided to people of concern.

In **Azerbaijan**, priority was given to advocacy at the policy level for the adoption of the law on complementary protection and access of refugees to rights and services, notably for UNHCR mandate refugees, who constitute 93% of all refugees in Azerbaijan. UNHCR continued its interventions at the individual level by providing direct assistance to people of concern. UNHCR engaged with the authorities to address statelessness by presenting a gaps analysis, recommending an identification/nationality campaign and contributing to the preparations of the 2019 population census. UNHCR continued to provide legal assistance to identified stateless persons, as well as to those at risk of statelessness. With regard to IDPs, UNHCR focused its involvement on legal assistance and support for SGBV prevention and response as significant support and assistance is provided by the Government.

In **Belarus**, UNHCR in cooperation with the Government and the CIS Executive Committee held an International Statelessness Conference that included delegations from the CIS member states, international and regional organizations, civil society, diplomatic missions, academia and experts from the EU. The conclusions of the Conference will represent the basis for further statelessness related activities, most importantly, aiming at Belarus' accession to the UN Statelessness Conventions. In 2018, through the QIEE, UNHCR supported the capacity-building of the Government partners to improve asylum procedures in the country. In 2018, UNHCR strengthened its local integration activities, including accredited Russian language training programme and facilitated access to the labour market for 36 people of concern, of whom 12 are employed.

In **Georgia**, the Government undertook an internal restructuring and as a result the responsibilities of the Ministry of Internally Displaced Persons from the Occupied Territories, Accommodation and Refugees were divided among the Minister of Interior and the Minister of Labour, Health and Social Affairs. The change delayed some of the planned activities and also postponed the long awaited IDPs Social Assistance reform. The Government continued with its durable housing programme for IDPs. In 2018, National Security Concerns continued to be an important consideration for the Government in reviewing individual international protection needs. In Abkhazia, UNHCR sustained its protection monitoring

of some 50,000 returnees and worked with partners to address issues related to documentation which impacted freedom of movement, education opportunities and livelihood. UNHCR maintained its livelihood interventions in response to the increased isolation and economic deprivation of the IDPs returnee population in Abkhazia, resulting from the closure of the crossing points and the widespread pest infestation which damaged crops and threatened the livelihoods of vulnerable farmers.

2018 Voluntary Contributions to Eastern Europe | USD

Earmarking / Donor	Pillar 1 Refugee programme	Pillar 4 IDP projects	All pillars	Total
Belarus				
Germany	47,670	0	0	47,670
International Organization for Migration	43,295	0	0	43,295
Belarus subtotal	90,965	0	0	90,965
Regional Office in the South Caucasus				
Armenia	0	0	98,000	98,000
Azerbaijan	7,200	0	0	7,200
Private donors in Japan	0	182,484	0	182,484
UNDP	0	0	192,071	192,071
Regional Office in the South Caucasus subtotal	7,200	182,484	290,071	479,755
Turkey				
Canada	1,886,792	0	0	1,886,792
European Union	70,405,654	0	0	70,405,654
France	929,152	0	0	929,152
Germany	3,409,091	0	0	3,409,091
Japan	2,100,000	0	0	2,100,000
Norway	1,020,278	0	0	1,020,278
Private donors in Germany	0	0	29,481	29,481
Republic of Korea	1,000,000	0	0	1,000,000
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	1,126,420	0	0	1,126,420
United States of America	41,200,000	0	12,700,000	53,900,000
Turkey subtotal	123,077,387	0	12,729,481	135,806,868
Ukraine				
Canada	0	0	589,159	589,159
Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF)	0	849,099	0	849,099
Denmark	0	0	2,286,934	2,286,934
Estonia	0	235,849	0	235,849
European Union	0	2,675,388	0	2,675,388
Germany	0	1,136,364	0	1,136,364
Japan	0	700,000	0	700,000
Luxembourg	0	455,063	444,313	899,375
Norway	0	595,451	0	595,451
Private donors in Spain	0	1,292	0	1,292

Earmarking / Donor	Pillar 1 Refugee programme	Pillar 4 IDP projects	All pillars	Total
Private donors in Switzerland	0	0	18	18
Russian Federation	0	250,000	0	250,000
Sweden	0	1,269,036	0	1,269,036
United States of America	0	0	5,900,000	5,900,000
<i>Ukraine subtotal</i>	0	8,167,540	9,220,425	17,387,965
Total	123,175,552	8,350,024	22,239,977	153,765,553

Note: