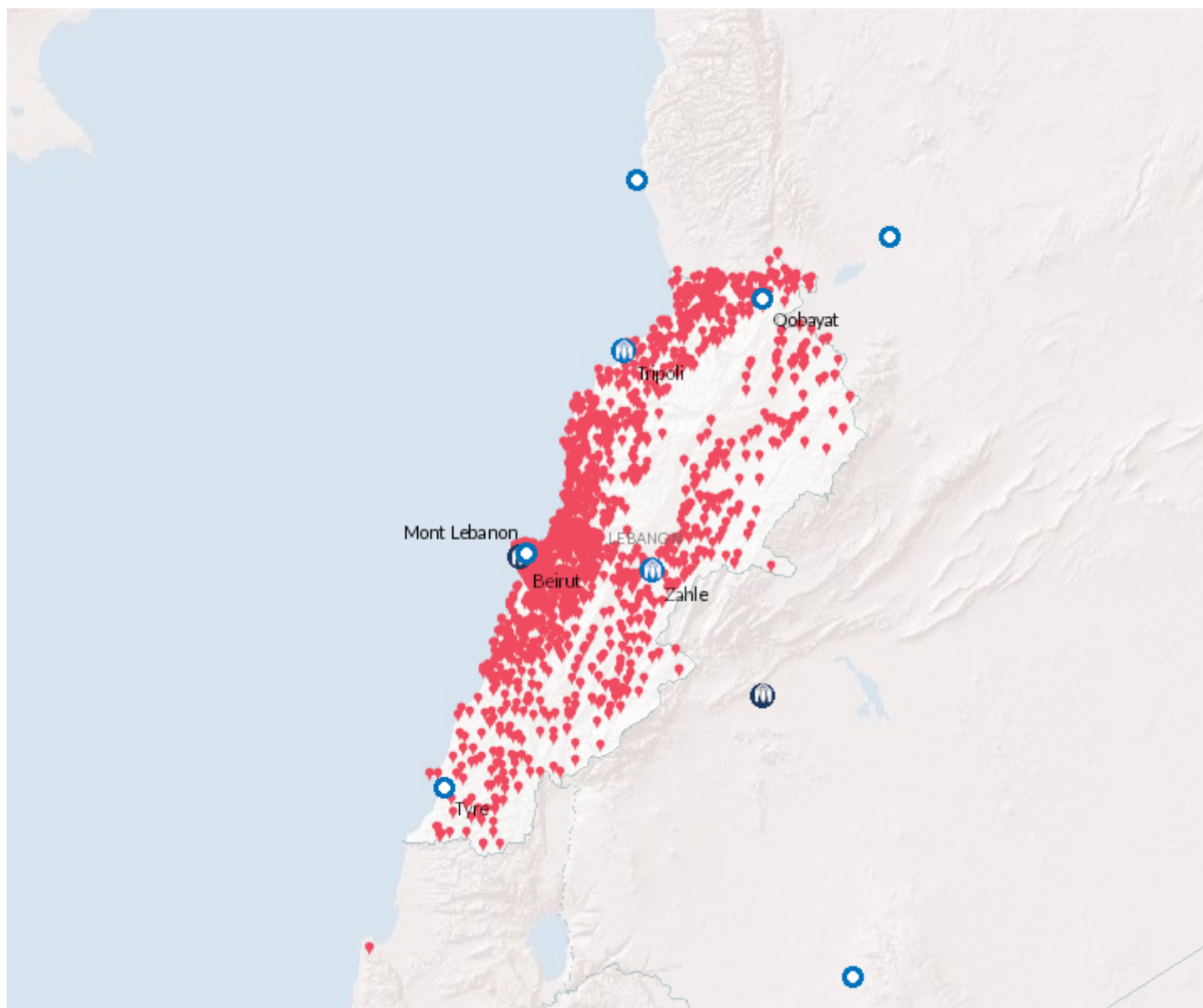


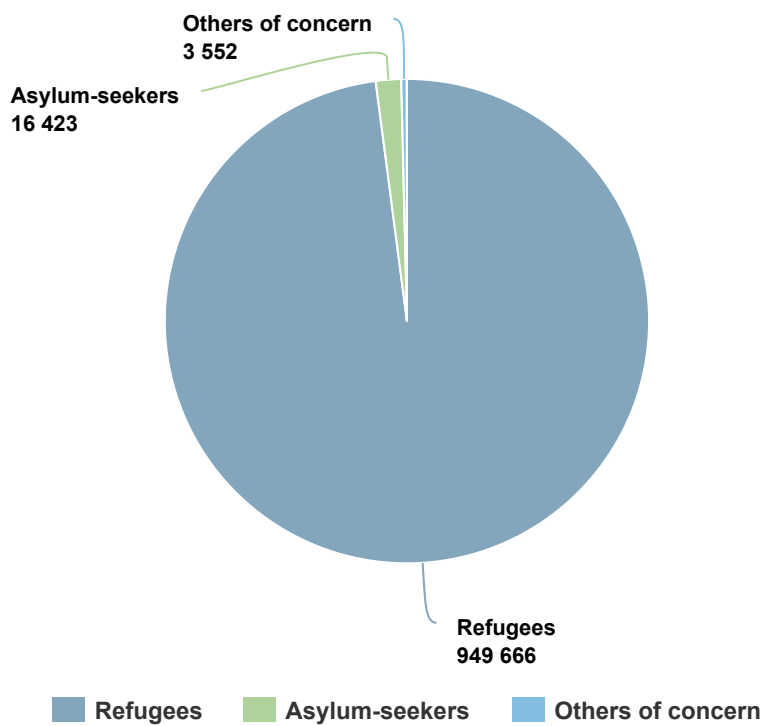
Operation: Lebanon



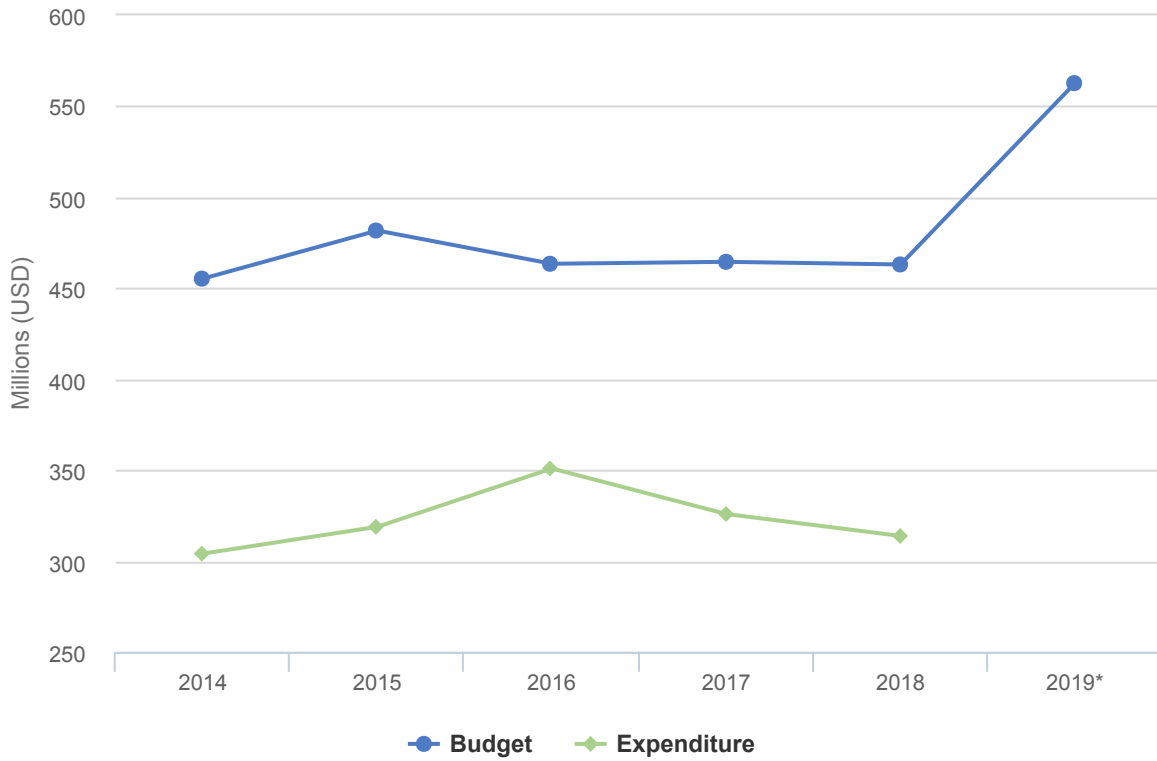
People of Concern

DECREASE IN
5% 2018

2018	969,641
2017	1,018,416
2016	1,031,303



Budgets and Expenditure for Lebanon



Operational context

Elections in May and the government formation that lasted into January 2019 brought many of the challenges Lebanon is facing to the fore. While the protracted presence of an estimated 1.5 million Syrian refugees was largely absent during the campaigning, it resurfaced after the Brussels II Conference. UNHCR reaffirmed its respect for Lebanon's non-integration policy and gave more visibility to the work the Agency has been undertaking since 2017 to identify the factors that will make refugees feel confident to return and contribute towards the removal of key obstacles to large-scale voluntary, safe, dignified and sustainable returns.

During 2018, around 5,600 refugees returned on their own from Lebanon to the Syrian Arab Republic (Syria), while the General Security began facilitating group returns, with approximately 11,100 Syrians returning during the year. In parallel, several political actors launched initiatives to encourage refugee returns to Syria. Against this context, UNHCR promoted respect for international standards and advised stakeholders on the various operational considerations necessary to ensure that returns are safe and dignified, and based on individual free and informed decisions.

The protection environment in 2018 was marked by growing frustrations and a decline in intercommunity interaction – underpinned by increasing anti-refugee discourse. Local authorities imposed measures such as curfews, raids and evictions in reaction to incidents involving Syrians. In such an environment, advocating the secure and dignified temporary stay of refugees – an operational priority – was particularly challenging.

Refugees of other nationalities faced increasing food insecurity and difficulties obtaining legal residency, putting them at risk of refoulement if arrested. With limited prospects of resettlement, UNHCR intervened on several occasions to prevent deportation.

Despite the challenging environment, political leaders reaffirmed their commitment to international standards, including non-refoulement. It is critical that international partners sustain robust support for the refugee response, and invests in infrastructure and job creation to preserve the ability of local communities to continue hosting refugees until larger numbers feel able to return in safety and dignity. It is also critical that third countries increase resettlement and other pathways.

Population trends

At the end of 2018, some 948,800 Syrians were registered with UNHCR – a decrease of 48,700 people from the end of 2017. According to Government estimates, Lebanon currently hosts 1.5 million Syrian refugees. UNHCR continued its advocacy with the Government regarding the importance of resuming registration for Syrian nationals, which was suspended in May 2015.

At the end of 2018, over 18,200 refugees and asylum-seekers from countries other than Syria were registered with UNHCR. Iraqis account for more than three-quarters of this total, followed by Sudanese (10.5%) and Ethiopian nationals (3.6%).

Key achievements

- The capacity of 14 General Security offices to receive and process applications for legal residency in a faster and more secure manner increased significantly as a result of support provided by UNHCR.
- Policy changes were adopted to facilitate late birth registration for children born in Lebanon to Syrian refugee parents and who have turned 1 year old. The level of full birth registration increased from 17% to 21%.
- The records of close to 542,500 people were updated in 2018, allowing for greater refugee legal protection and improving access to basic assistance and services.

- UNHCR continued to meet the basic needs of the most vulnerable refugees through cash-based interventions. The multi-purpose cash assistance programme targeted 34,500 families and winter assistance reached close to 170,000 families. Outcome monitoring shows that families assisted through these programmes consistently rely less on negative coping strategies and debt to pay for their rent, medical expenses and other daily needs, and have better quality diets.

Unmet needs

Due to various reasons including operational challenges as well as resource limitations, some programmes/activities were partially or fully not implemented.

- Protection interventions targeted the most vulnerable people of concern, however critical gaps remained in accessing safe shelters and mobile services for person with specific needs, including SGBV survivors. Also, over 700 refugees assessed to be in need of protection cash assistance to help them cope with, and transition out of, a critical protection incident could not receive this due to lack of funding.
- Only 19% of all Syrian refugee families, or 40% of the severely vulnerable Syrian families, received monthly multi-purpose cash assistance from UNHCR or a partner agency to help cover their basic survival needs. This left the majority of severely vulnerable families in a precarious socio-economic situation and at heightened risk of exploitation. Many resorted to coping strategies such as moving from private accommodation to informal settlements, and/or borrowing money to buy food, cover health expenses and pay rent; poverty and difficulties to cover basic expenses was also the most commonly cited reason for returning to Syria. Among refugees of other nationalities, 50% of refugees are below the poverty line, and have limited access to health care and education and vulnerable refugees did not have access to food assistance.

2018 Expenditure for Lebanon | 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	Pillar 2 Stateless programme	Total
Final Budget	462,444,318	590,906	463,035,224
Income from contributions*	280,480,039	0	280,480,039
Other funds available / transfers	34,023,326	486,822	34,510,148
Total funds available	314,503,365	486,822	314,990,186
Expenditure by Objective			
Favourable Protection Environment			
Law and policy	1,375,180	100,428	1,475,608
Administrative Institutions and Practice	7,336,298	0	7,336,298
Legal remedies and legal assistance	2,140,357	193,887	2,334,243
Access to territory	891,766	0	891,766
Public attitudes towards persons of concern	2,896,733	0	2,896,733
Subtotal	14,640,334	294,315	14,934,648
Fair Protection Processes and Documentation			
Registration and profiling	7,359,417	0	7,359,417
Status determination	1,114,212	0	1,114,212
Civil status documentation	1,428,176	0	1,428,176
Subtotal	9,901,805	0	9,901,805
Security from Violence and Exploitation			
SGBV prevention and response	3,907,731	0	3,907,731
Non-arbitrary detention	4,424,325	0	4,424,325
Child protection	3,822,286	0	3,822,286
Subtotal	12,154,342	0	12,154,342
Basic Needs and Essential Services			
Health	55,751,716	0	55,751,716
Water	4,922,007	0	4,922,007
Sanitation and hygiene	5,687,970	0	5,687,970
Shelter and infrastructure	8,151,445	0	8,151,445
Basic and domestic and hygiene Items	142,111,153	0	142,111,153
Services for persons with specific needs	10,082,795	0	10,082,795
Education	13,977,004	0	13,977,004
Subtotal	240,684,088	0	240,684,088

	Pillar 1 Refugee programme	Pillar 2 Stateless programme	Total
Community Empowerment and Self Reliance			
Community mobilization	9,841,996	0	9,841,996
Co-existence with local communities	1,237,370	0	1,237,370
Self-reliance and livelihoods	1,301,913	0	1,301,913
Subtotal	12,381,279	0	12,381,279
Durable Solutions			
Resettlement	4,963,174	0	4,963,174
Subtotal	4,963,174	0	4,963,174
Leadership, Coordination and Partnerships			
Coordination and partnerships	2,914,995	0	2,914,995
Donor relations	1,570,303	0	1,570,303
Subtotal	4,485,298	0	4,485,298
Logistics and Operations Support			
Supply chain and logistics	1,837,977	0	1,837,977
Operations management, coordination and support	12,192,915	178,966	12,371,881
Subtotal	14,030,892	178,966	14,209,858
2018 Expenditure Total	313,241,213	473,281	313,714,493

**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.*