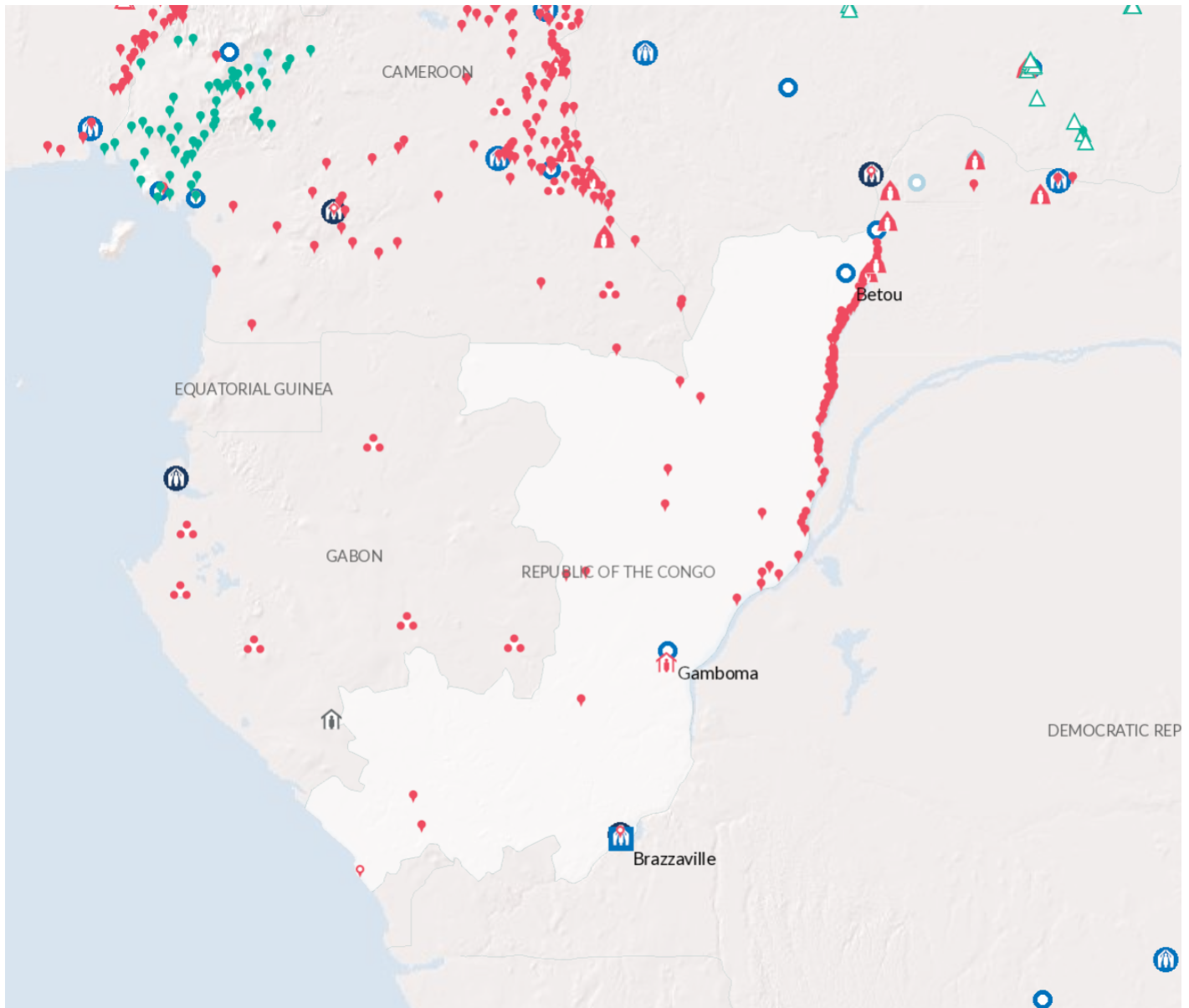


## Operation: Congo



*The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.*

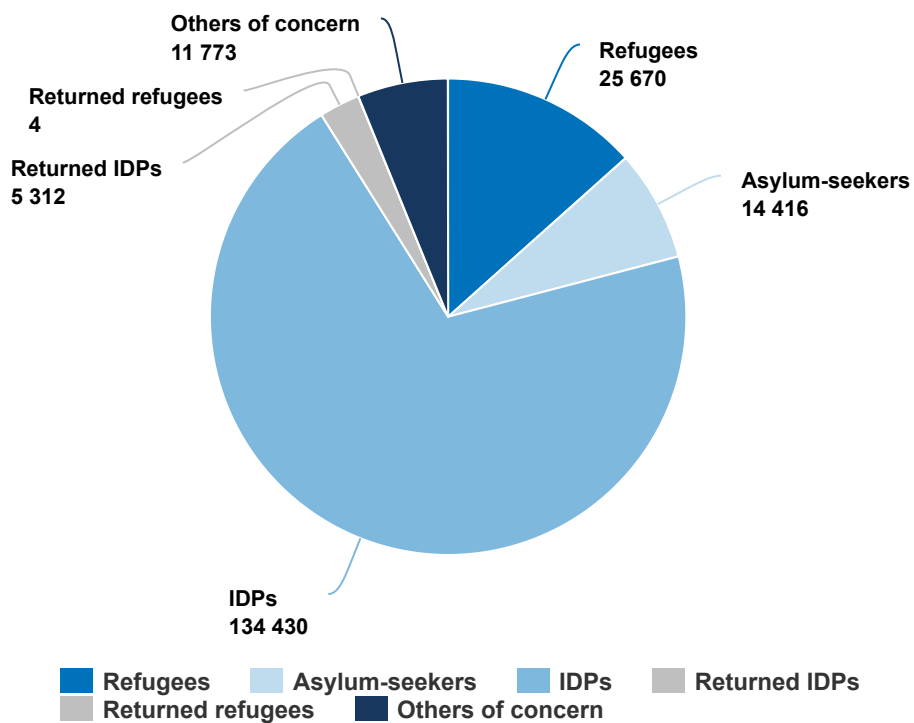
# People of Concern

DECREASE IN  
**3%** 2019

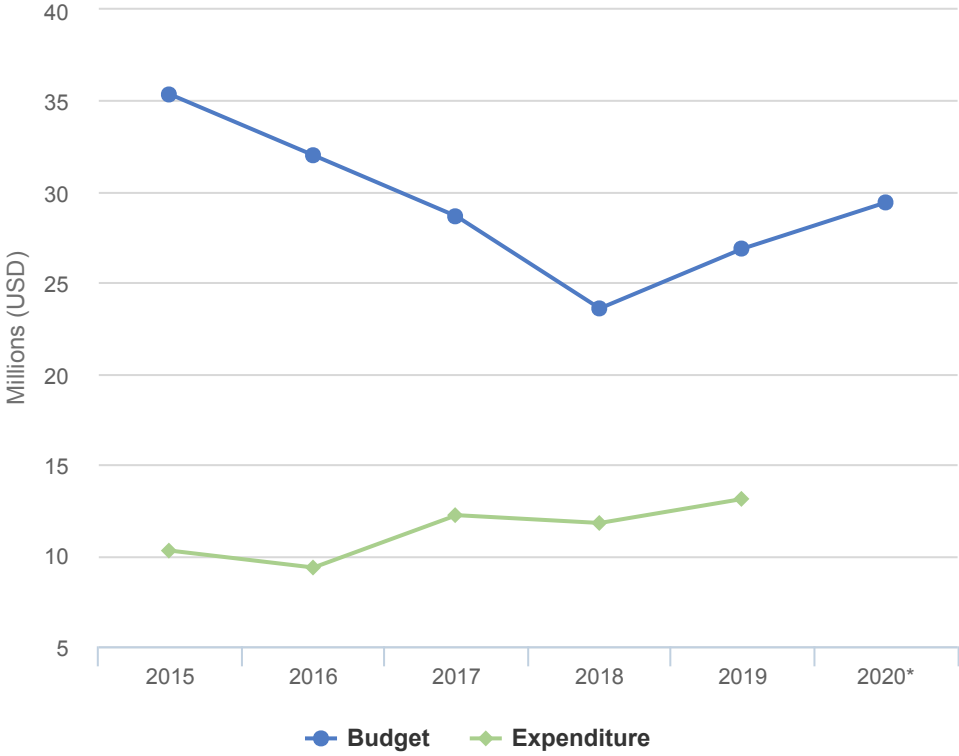
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<b>2019</b>	191,605
<b>2018</b>	197,095
<b>2017</b>	167,303

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# Budgets and Expenditure for Congo



## Operational context

Although the security situation remained calm, access to essential services, such as health care and education, remained a considerable challenge due to their lack of resources, staff and capacity.

Following a civil registration census in 2019, it was identified that over 118,000 people born in the Republic of the Congo (Congo) were without birth certificates. The number of people at risk of statelessness was increasing.

The IDP situation in the Pool was stabilizing, with returns taking place in the department since 2018. Through its involvement in the Peacebuilding Fund project, UNHCR provided shelter and livelihood kits to returnees and former combatants. UNHCR also distributed core relief items to IDPs and returnees. Conversely, a second IDPs situation began in the last quarter of 2019, with flooding affecting Likouala, Plateau and Cuvette regions. An estimated 170,000 people were affected. UNHCR mobilized core relief items to support 150 households in Likouala.

## Population trends

At the end of 2019, the Congo was host to some 25,700 refugees and 14,400 asylum-seekers. More than 6,200 refugees, mainly from the Central African Republic (CAR) chose to return to their country of origin. A tripartite agreement to facilitate the voluntary repatriation of Central African refugees was signed between UNHCR, the Congo, and the CAR in August 2019. Some 9,700 asylum-seekers were registered in 2019 (including 8,800 who arrived from the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) in December 2018).

Over 300,000 people were internally displaced in the Congo, including some 170,000 people who were displaced as a result of flooding in October. There were still some 134,400 IDPs in the south-east as a result of previous conflict, with returns ongoing.

## Achievements

- Refugees were included in World Bank programmes alongside host communities to support their access to social protection, agricultural projects and health and education services.
- The Government adopted a national action plan on statelessness.
- A tripartite agreement was signed between UNHCR, the Congo and the CAR in August 2019 to facilitate the voluntary repatriation of refugees from the CAR.

## Unmet needs

- The voluntary repatriation operation for DRC refugees was critically underfunded. Indeed, the office was able to prioritize only 1% of the overall needs. With this funding shortage the Office was not able to support voluntary repatriation for 5,000 refugees and asylum-seekers who had expressed their willingness to return to the DRC.
  - Livelihood opportunities were required for 30,000 refugees and asylum-seekers who were dependent on food assistance.
  - A lack of funding inhibited essential protection monitoring and response needed to assist people displaced as a result of flooding in late 2019.
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