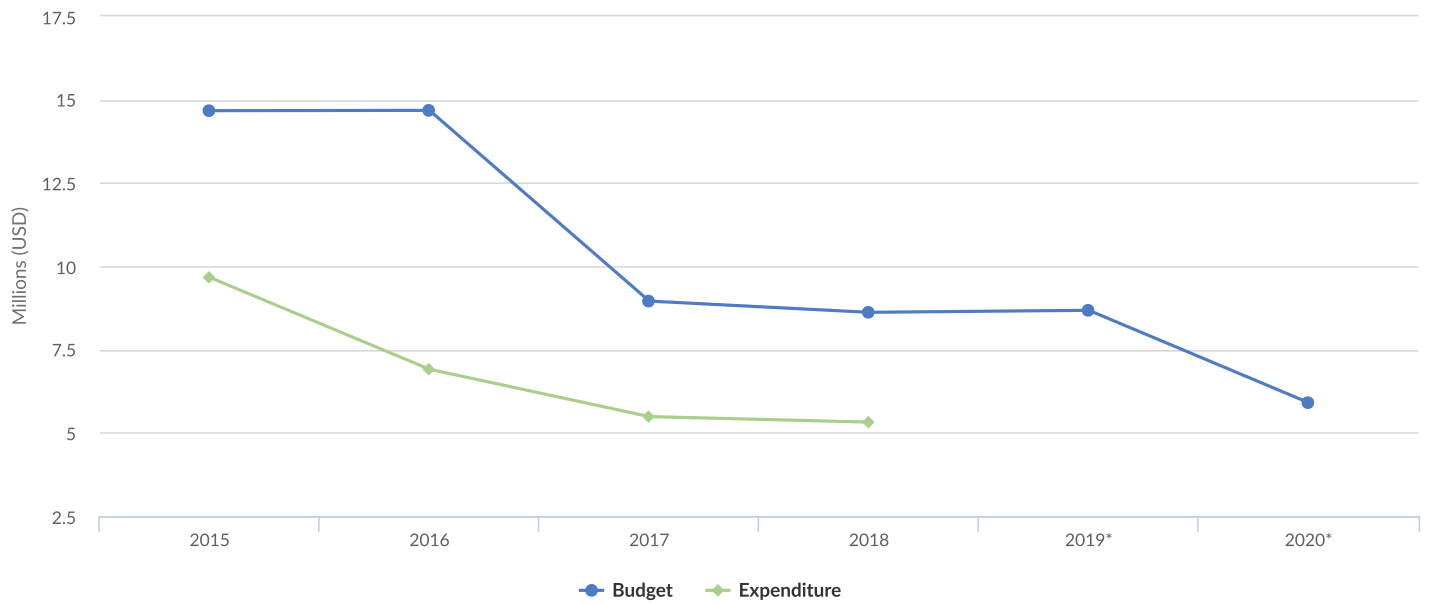


Subregion: Central Asia

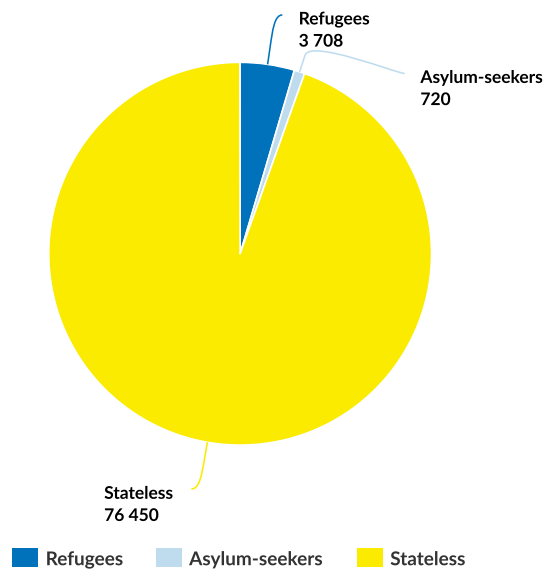
| Kazakhstan | Kyrgyzstan | Tajikistan | Turkmenistan | Uzbekistan |



Budgets and Expenditure in Subregion Central Asia



People of Concern - 2020 [projected]



Working environment

The operational, including political, security, social and economic, environment in Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan will largely remain unchanged in 2020. Internal policies of these states will continue to focus on socio-economic development, improving investment climate and limiting immigration. Reforms in Uzbekistan will further advance the regional cooperation in border, social, economic, security, and energy sectors. Relations with the neighbouring countries such as China and the Russian Federation will continue to heavily influence the geopolitical context in the sub-region. National security imperatives will dominate internal and foreign policies considering proximity with Afghanistan and concerns over the spread of terrorism. Therefore, the countries will most likely continue to strengthen the consolidation of political powers and authority. Such policies may negatively affect the human rights situation and contribute to further restrictions on the freedom of expression, association and religion. The latter, compounded by the lack of political will to address the plight of refugees and asylum-seekers, will remain a pivotal challenge for preserving the fragile protection space. In this regard, the Almaty Process will continue to play an important role in ensuring that the states pay due attention to the asylum and mixed migration issues. No major legislative or policy changes are expected on the asylum and refugee front in 2020. Access to the asylum in Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan will remain practically unavailable due to the states' closed border policies.

UNHCR expects that the countries in Central Asia will continue cooperation on the reduction and prevention of statelessness as part of the global #iBelong campaign to end statelessness. In Turkmenistan, the 2019-2024 National Action-Plan endorsed in January 2019 may accelerate the reduction efforts. In Uzbekistan, country-wide population documentation, birth registration, and civil registry reforms in 2019 may contribute to the prevention but it may also identify more stateless people in the country. Legislative reform continues to be a major field of UNHCR's activities to ensure that due safeguards are in place in the national legislations to prevent statelessness.

Starting from January 2020, UNHCR multi-country office in Almaty will also cover Mongolia. The 2020 operations plan is based on the UNHCR's Strategic Orientations in 2019-2021 for Central Asia and it focuses on three priorities: the eradication of statelessness; establishment of sustainable and quality asylum systems; and collaboration on emergency preparedness.

Response

Currently there are 22 Mandate Refugees (and one of "other concern") in Turkmenistan and 14 in Uzbekistan. Most of the Mandate refugees are originally from Afghanistan. There are no state recognized refugees in these three countries. UNHCR doesn't expect new asylum applications or any of these state granting refugee status in 2020 or in 2021 given their restrictive border policies.

The largest number of reported stateless persons in Central Asia is in Uzbekistan, with approximately 78,000 stateless, although the numbers may be lower pending the formal confirmation from the Uzbek authorities. Turkmenistan doesn't officially report on the statelessness numbers in the country, but NGOs operate a figure of about 4,300 persons. However, implementation of recently adopted National Action-Plan may offer some insights into the extent of statelessness in Turkmenistan. UNHCR expects resolution of more cases in Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan mostly through confirmation of citizenship and presidential decrees granting citizenship, as it was the case with both countries in the past.

By 2020, the Office expects a significant reduction of statelessness will have been taken place. Subsequently the focus will shift more towards the prevention efforts, such as advocacy and expert advice for legislative amendments to improve birth registration, citizenship and nationality laws and to ensure adequate safeguards to preclude statelessness in the future.

Under the asylum component, solutions for mandate refugees, including but not limited to naturalization and alternative stay arrangements, will be the focus of the operations along with advocacy with the authorities for unhindered access to the territory and admission into the asylum procedures. UNHCR will offer expert advice and capacity building opportunities to the judiciary, migration and border officials. At the sub-regional level, UNHCR will continue its support to the Almaty Process, an intergovernmental consultative platform in Central Asia, to harmonize asylum systems in Central Asia. More specifically, in 2020, UNHCR through Almaty Process, will advocate for the harmonization of the statistics and data sharing on the asylum applications and implementation of the border referral mechanism.

Towards 2021, UNHCR plans to emphasize the need for greater government ownership, marking the 30th independence anniversaries of the five central Asian countries.

2020 Budget for Central Asia | USD

Operation	Pillar 1 Refugee programme	Pillar 2 Stateless programme	Pillar 3 Reintegration projects	Pillar 4 IDP projects	Total
Kazakhstan Multi-Country Office	2,260,530	910,765	0	0	3,171,295
Kyrgyzstan	608,450	104,300	0	0	712,750
Tajikistan	1,191,247	828,753	0	0	2,020,000
Total	4,060,227	1,843,818	0	0	5,904,045
