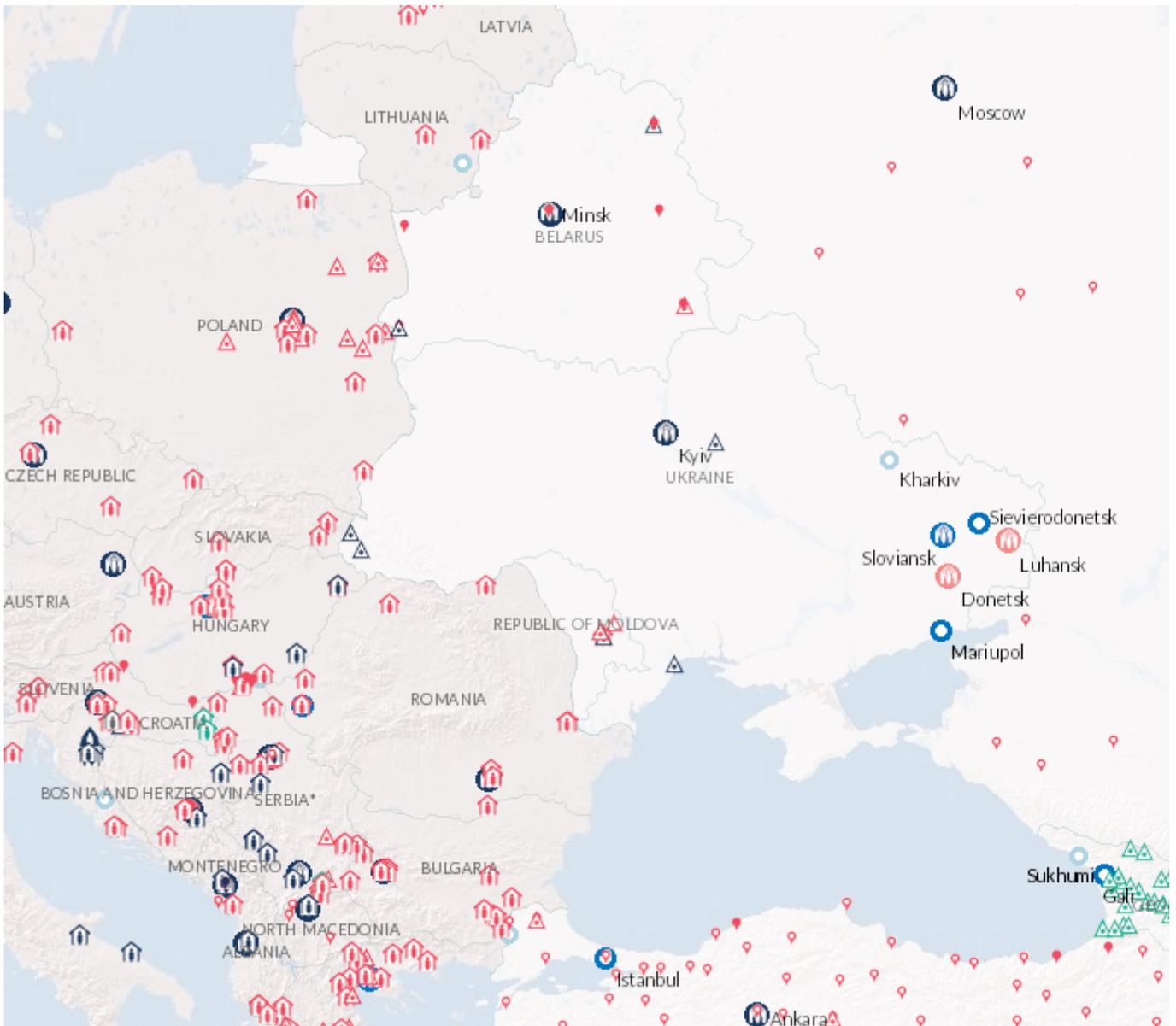


# 2021 Planning summary

24/1/2021

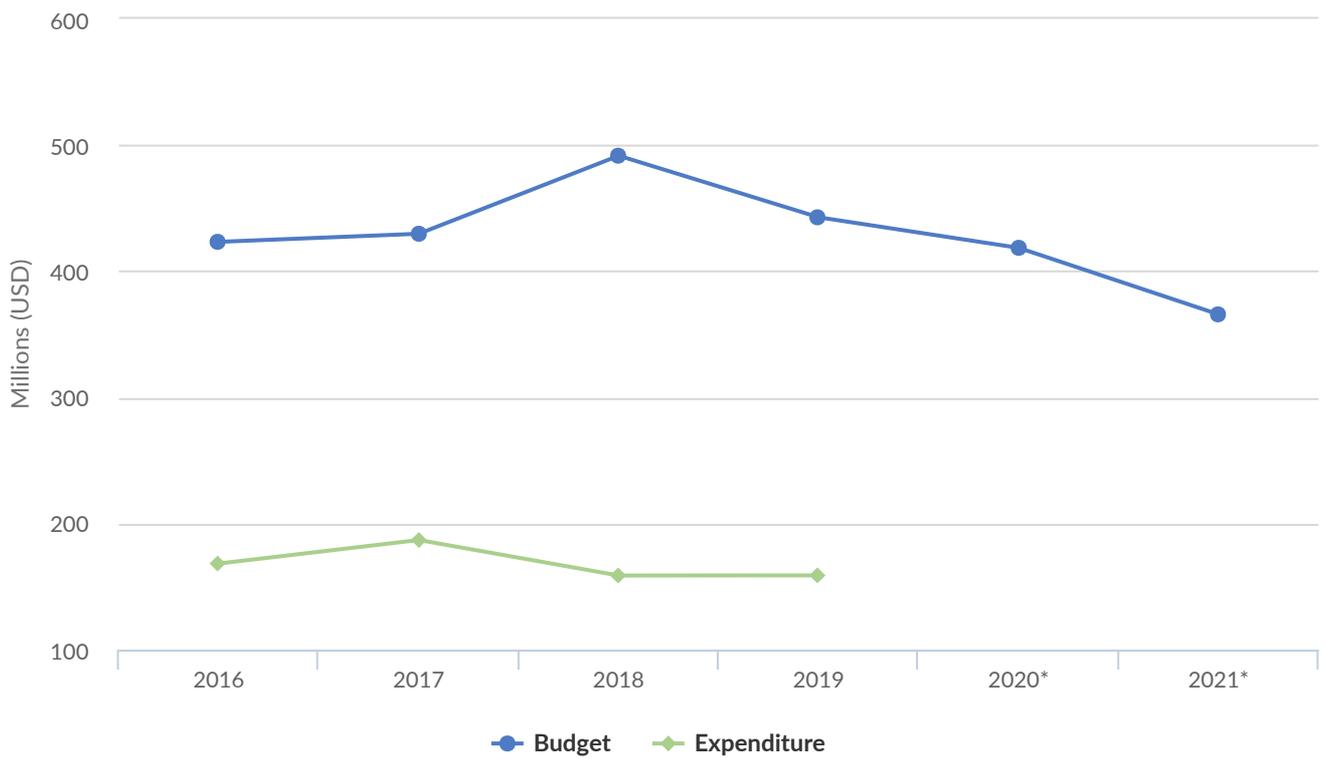
## Subregion: Eastern Europe

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

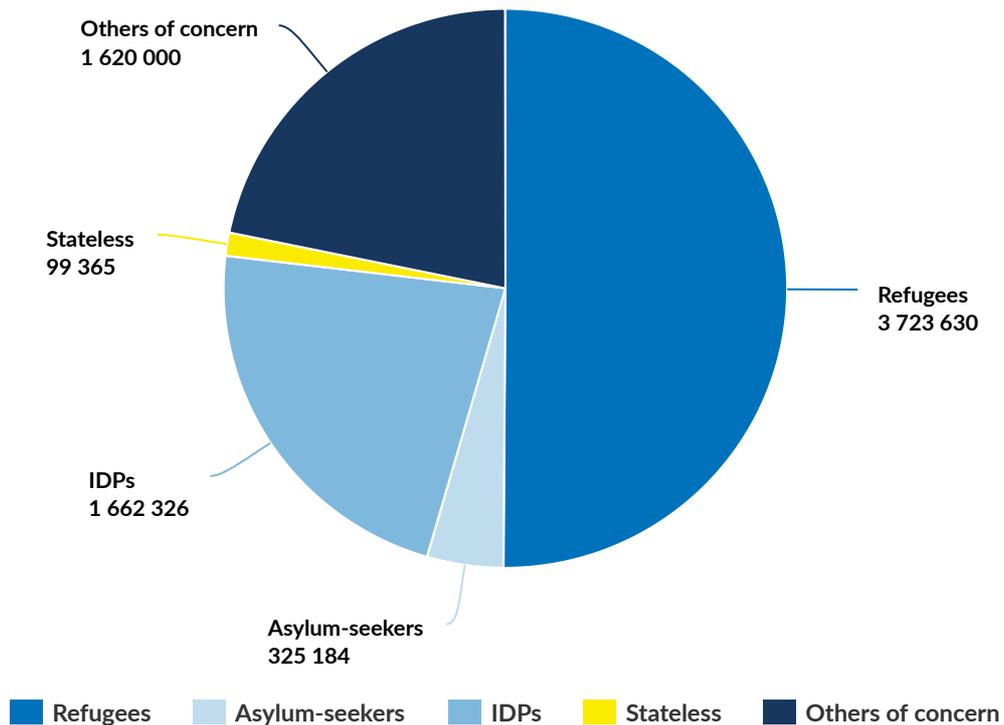


*The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.*

## Budgets and Expenditure in Subregion Eastern Europe



## People of Concern - 2021 [projected]



## Operational environment

The situation in Eastern Europe remains affected by the displacement of persons in need of international protection. States' capacities to respond to the needs of people of concern, including refugees, IDPs, people in refugee-like situations and stateless persons, are further strained by the devastating impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on national economies, as well as on social and public services across the sub-region.

UNHCR supports the sub-region's States to ensure all people of concern receive protection, live harmoniously alongside host communities, and recover their ability to become self-reliant.

UNHCR will seek to reinforce asylum systems to ensure its efforts are sustainable and will support governments to strengthen local integration programmes, including access to employment and livelihoods. It will continue to advocate the mainstreaming of refugees within the framework of the Sustainable Development Goals, as well as in national sectoral development strategies.

Compared to 2019, the number of people of concern in the sub-region remained stable. Most asylum-seekers still originated from Afghanistan, Ukraine, the Syrian Arab Republic, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Iraq and Somalia. However, renewed conflict in September 2020 in Nagorno-Karabakh saw many civilians flee to Armenia or become temporarily displaced within Azerbaijan. UNHCR has been closely monitoring the situation in these two countries and supporting the authorities in providing an initial humanitarian response. UNHCR is also maintaining its attention in Ukraine, where protection and humanitarian needs remain high.

The resolution of displacement challenges in the region will depend on a proper resolution of the conflicts that have affected countries in Eastern Europe. UNHCR will continue to support relevant processes under the leadership of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, EU and UN. While the basic needs of the displaced are gradually being met, many people of concern are still in need of durable solutions.

## Key priorities

In 2021, UNHCR's work in Eastern Europe will focus on:

- Strengthening the quality of national asylum systems, including refugee status determination (RSD), to ensure people of concern to UNHCR have access to protection.
- Supporting access to durable solutions for people of concern, primarily through opportunities for local integration and self-reliance, as well as voluntary return to the place of origin.
- Assisting people of concern with specific needs, while working to facilitate access to public services and livelihoods for all people of concern and their inclusion in COVID-19 pandemic response plans. This includes cash assistance targeting the most vulnerable to cover acute shelter, medical, child protection, GBV response and other specific needs. Legal aid, as well as some ad-hoc health care interventions will also be provided.
- Regular monitoring of conditions in reception and temporary accommodation centres, at borders and in detention facilities;
- Strengthening national legislation and procedures to prevent and reduce statelessness, and advocating accession to the two statelessness conventions.
- Supporting government actions for, and accountabilities to, all people of concern to UNHCR, including IDPs.
- Working closely with relevant stakeholders on contingency planning, as required.
- Supporting peacebuilding processes with efforts to improve conditions for durable solutions and prevent further displacement.

UNHCR will pursue its strategic objective of gradually phasing out direct assistance when appropriate to focus on advocating that States better protect people of concern to UNHCR, ensure access to government social

programmes, and foster their pledges and collaboration within the parameters of the Global Compact on Refugees.

## Strategy: Response and implementation

As of 1 July 2020, Armenia hosted some 14,700 Syrian nationals of Armenian origin, as well as some 2,700 refugees from various countries. Following displacement caused by the renewed conflict in Nagorno-Karabakh, and as part of an inter-agency response closely coordinated with the Government, UNHCR will scale up provision of humanitarian and protection assistance to people living in a refugee-like situation. The main objective will be to ensure the basic needs of the most vulnerable are met and their protection concerns addressed. UNHCR will also continue working to strengthen the asylum procedure and improve the reception conditions in Armenia. For this, UNHCR will engage with State agencies to balance their security concerns with protection needs, and reduce detention of asylum-seekers while maintaining coordination with partners to maximize resources and strengthen advocacy. In addition, UNHCR will support the Government's commitments on effective and efficient prevention of statelessness and the reduction and protection of stateless persons.

As of 1 July 2020, Azerbaijan hosted 1,139 refugees (of whom only 76 were recognized through the Government's RSD procedures), 820 asylum-seekers, 3,585 stateless persons and more than 652,326 IDPs. In addition to its regular programme, UNHCR will support the Government address the needs of temporarily displaced people from the areas affected by the renewed Nagorno-Karabakh conflict within the inter-agency framework. It will also support the Government in improving the quality of its asylum procedures and in working towards a fairer and more efficient asylum system. This builds on UNHCR's successful disengagement from mandate RSD for individuals applying for asylum in Azerbaijan after 1 July 2020. The Office will continue to use a multipronged advocacy strategy with the authorities, with the primary focus being advocacy for a secure legal status for refugees recognized under UNHCR's mandate. UNHCR will also continue assisting extremely vulnerable people of concern with specific needs, including through cash, legal, medical, educational and other types of assistance to cover their acute protection needs. UNHCR's engagement with IDPs through continuous provision of legal assistance to IDP communities will also be maintained.

In Belarus, in 2021, UNHCR will support the Government as it builds an efficient and effective national asylum system and will promote local integration and self-reliance as the most viable durable solutions for refugees in the country. The accession to the UN statelessness conventions, planned for 2020, was postponed and is now expected to take place in 2021. In partnership with IOM and other UN agencies, UNHCR will continue supporting Belarus in developing and implementing a protection-sensitive migration management policy.

As of 1 July 2020 Georgia hosted 1,957 refugees and people in refugee-like situations, 1,344 asylum-seekers, 541 stateless persons and some 287,141 IDPs. In 2021, UNHCR will support efforts to protect and improve conditions for the integration of refugees and other displaced populations. It will seek to ensure people of concern are informed of their rights, improve their access to State services, and expand ongoing socioeconomic support based on a combination of self-reliance and employment opportunities, and support for the most vulnerable people with cash assistance. UNHCR will monitor refugees' access to territory, to asylum procedures, and reception conditions. The Office will further strengthen the quality of national asylum procedures by advocating the full and inclusive application of international refugee law principles. In Abkhazia, UNHCR will continue advocating and supporting freedom of movement, documentation and full access to all rights for the IDP returnee population, as well as for people in refugee-like situations, while also supporting the provision of sustainable livelihood opportunities to these populations and supporting the most vulnerable with cash assistance.

## 2021 Budget for Eastern Europe | USD

| Operation             | Pillar 1<br>Refugee<br>programme | Pillar 2<br>Stateless<br>programme | Pillar 3<br>Reintegration<br>projects | Pillar 4<br>IDP projects | Total              |
|-----------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------|
| Armenia               | 3,510,799                        | 123,443                            | 0                                     | 0                        | 3,634,242          |
| Azerbaijan            | 2,616,940                        | 95,715                             | 0                                     | 970,321                  | 3,682,976          |
| Belarus               | 1,895,000                        | 45,000                             | 0                                     | 0                        | 1,940,000          |
| Georgia               | 3,149,572                        | 371,413                            | 0                                     | 2,611,250                | 6,132,234          |
| Russian<br>Federation | 5,364,223                        | 817,907                            | 0                                     | 0                        | 6,182,130          |
| Turkey                | 315,821,143                      | 5,000                              | 0                                     | 0                        | 315,826,143        |
| Ukraine               | 5,162,710                        | 908,838                            | 0                                     | 22,293,624               | 28,365,173         |
| <b>Total</b>          | <b>337,520,387</b>               | <b>2,367,316</b>                   | <b>0</b>                              | <b>25,875,195</b>        | <b>365,762,898</b> |

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