

## Operation: Mexico



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

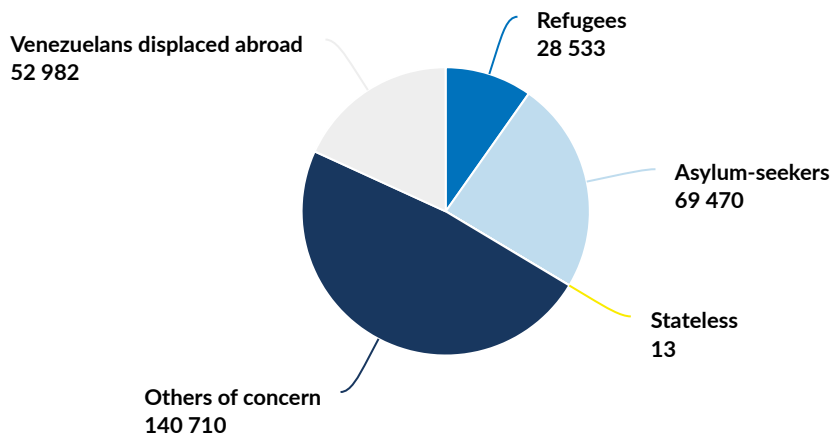
# People of Concern

INCREASE IN  
**76%** 2019

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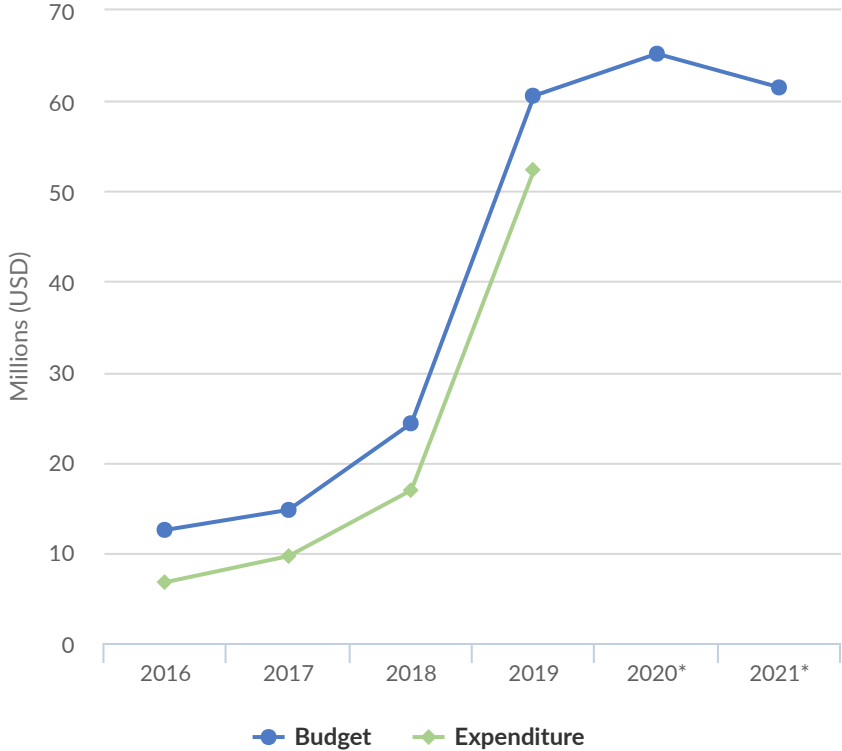
2019	291,708
2018	165,506
2017	19,398

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Refugees    Asylum-seekers    Stateless  
Others of concern    Venezuelans displaced abroad

# Budgets and Expenditure for Mexico



## Operational environment

Mexico is likely to receive greater number of asylum-seekers, with some 70,000 new asylum applications expected in 2021, more than 50% higher than the projection for 2020, and on par with the record number received in 2019. People from El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and from the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela will arrive in search of protection, local integration and ultimately possibilities for a future in Mexico. Mixed movements transiting through the country are also expected to continue, and possibly increase, as Mexico represents the main gateway to the United State of America.

During 2020, countries in the north of Central America have experienced severe socioeconomic decline due to the COVID-19 pandemic, leading to bleak livelihood prospects. While authorities struggled to provide protection to their citizens, various criminal actors managed to consolidate their power during this period. As these countries will continue to lack the capacity to address the root causes of forced displacement and to mitigate their effects, additional movements across borders are expected in 2021.

As American economic activity continues to recover, many people fleeing from violence in Central America will view the United States of America as the preferred destination and attempt to move northward. Mexico will remain another key destination for refugees and others on the move due to the expanded capacity of the asylum system, along with prospects for local integration as the Mexican economy grows and greater employment opportunities arise (in industrial cities in particular) - It is expected that 2021 may offer an opportunity to Mexico to consolidate its capacity to respond to continuing high levels of new refugee arrivals in line with Comprehensive Regional Protection and Solutions Framework (MIRPS) and the Mexico-Central America Comprehensive Development Plan. UNHCR will provide Mexico with technical advice on increasing its processing capacity and enhancing the quality of asylum decisions.

The Government has recognised the extent of internal displacement in Mexico, and the drafting of a new law regulating the State responsibilities for the response to internal displacement is underway. In this context, and in response to Government institutions request for UNHCR expansion of the existing protection and solutions programmes to IDPs, a pilot programme will may be agreed in 2021.

## Key priorities

In 2021, UNHCR in Mexico will focus on:

- Addressing the needs of increasing numbers of asylum-seekers arriving in mixed movements in Mexico by improving reception conditions, the delivery of humanitarian assistance, and reinforcing the shelter network to respond to urgent needs.
  - Ensuring that refugees have access to territory, asylum procedures and the full range of rights. This will involve capacity-building targeting Government agencies involved in refugee status determination and child protection, providing information to people of concern, and seeking full implementation of the recommendations of the quality assurance mechanism, with a special focus on registration.
  - Consolidating local integration programmes, including though relocation; advocating for and providing technical and operational support for the inclusion of refugees in the national economy and public programmes and services, and in mobilizing development interventions to support these efforts.
  - Implementing community-based projects to increase positive interaction between refugees, asylum-seekers and host communities, to prevent and reduce social tensions.
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