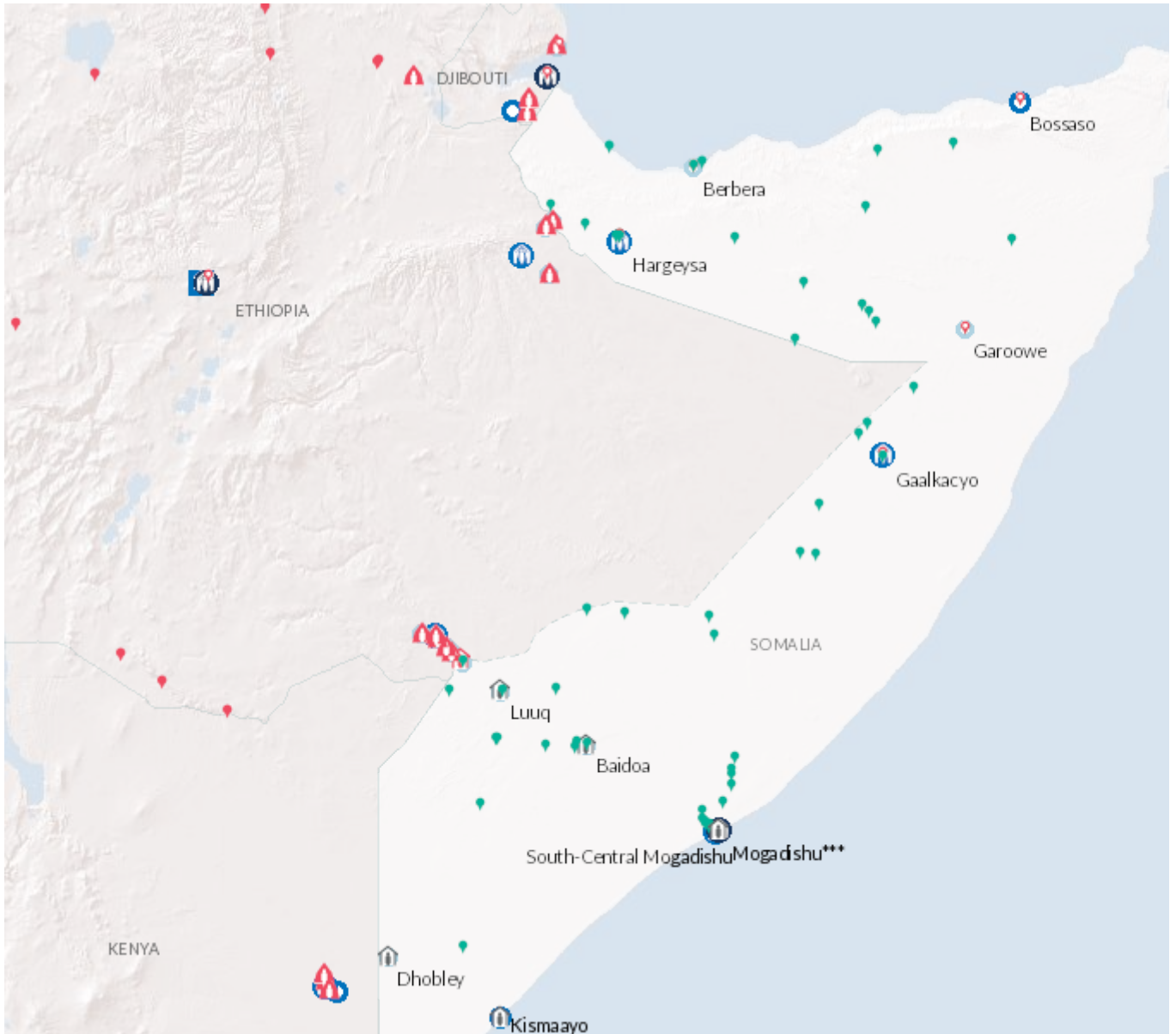


Operation: Somalia

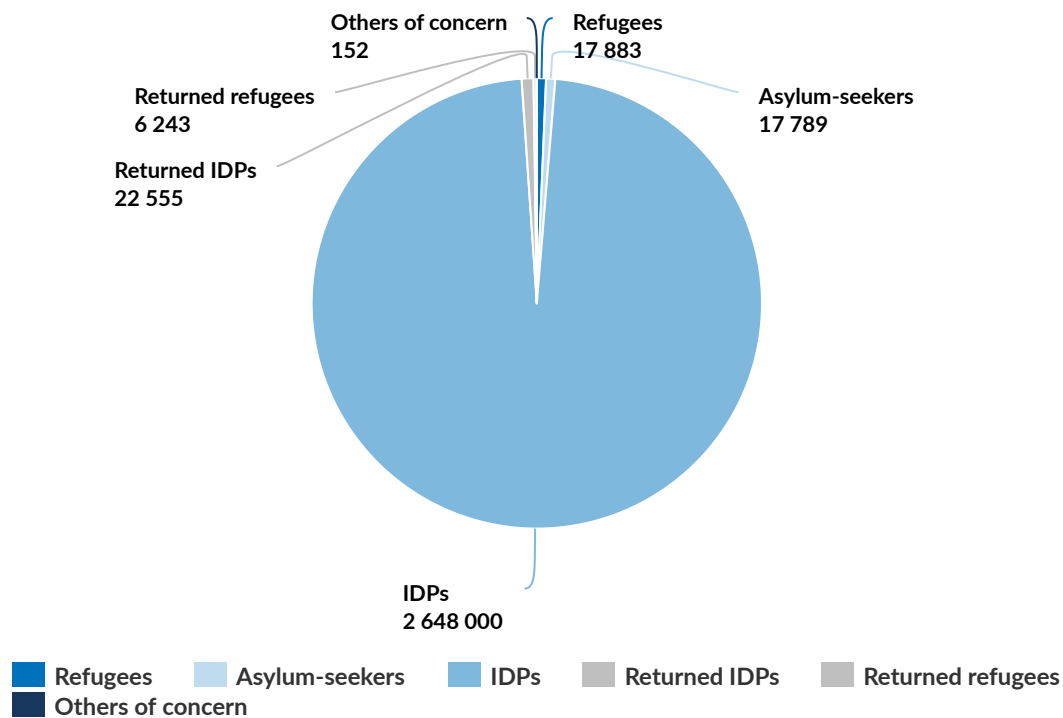


The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

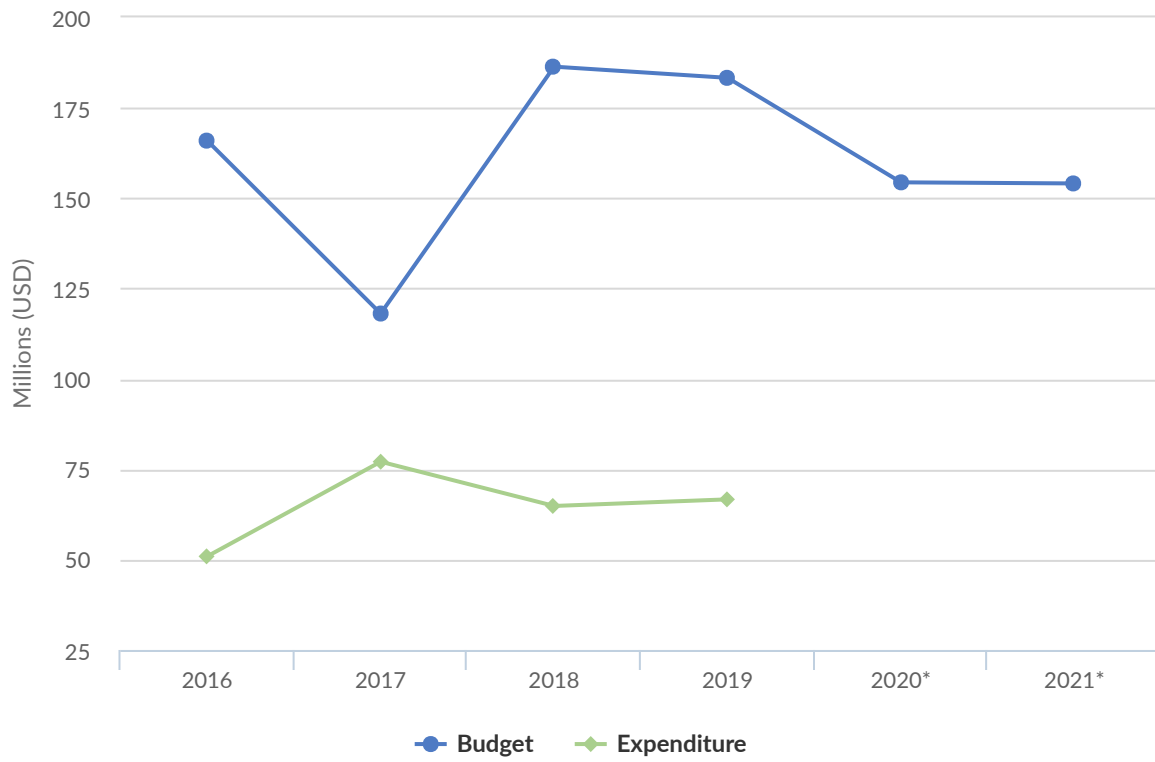
People of Concern

DECREASE IN
2% 2019

2019	2,712,622
2018	2,769,028
2017	2,187,585



Budgets and Expenditure for Somalia



Operational environment

The overall protection environment in Somalia remains challenging. Refugees and asylum-seekers face a range of protection issues, including xenophobia, risk of refoulement, arbitrary arrest and detention, sexual violence, exploitation and abuse, discrimination regarding access to justice and already-limited basic services and livelihood opportunities. The COVID-19 pandemic has put additional pressure on an already strained situation for refugees and asylum-seekers, characterized by increasing unemployment and potential risks of eviction.

Children at risk of statelessness is a concern due to the gaps under the 1962 Citizenship Law, and with Somalia not a signatory to the 1954 and 1961 Statelessness Conventions.

In Puntland the parliament passed a Refugee Protection Act in 2017 with UNHCR's support, however there is no comprehensive and up-to-date legal framework for refugees at the federal level (a draft of Refugee Act is currently pending endorsement by the Somalia Parliament). Likewise in Somaliland, a draft of Refugee Act is currently being developed with the support of UNHCR. A federal-level law and policy, aimed at developing a number of important instruments in 2021 including a federal IDP law and a migrant returnee and re-admission policy are also underway, and UNHCR will continue to support these efforts.

Security remains a big challenge in Somalia with Al-Shabaab insurgents fighting the Somalia National Army, backed by the African Union Mission in Somalia. There are also clan-based militias fights exacerbating the security situation. With presidential elections planned in 2021, this could impact the political and security environment.

UNHCR in Somalia has excellent working relations with the authorities and participates in the coordination mechanisms established by the Federal Government of Somalia on the implementation of Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework, durable solutions and the ninth National Development Plan (NDP-9). UNHCR will continue to engage development actors to strengthen self-reliance and livelihoods programming for people of concern. Engagement with the private sector is not yet well established in Somalia, though efforts are being made in this regard.

Key priorities

In 2021 UNHCR will focus on:

- **Improving reception conditions and refugee status determination (RSD)** through greater access to registration and awareness raising on available services; implementing UNHCR's 2020 RSD strategy with a focus on strengthening RSD systems and capacity; reducing RSD backlog; reviewing the strategic use of RSD in Somalia; and increasing the capacity of key authorities in relation to refugee protection and RSD.
- **Establishing functional protection referral mechanisms**, including identification and outreach to refugee communities, aligned to UNHCR's multi-year multi-partner protection and solutions strategy and other various sub-strategies and standard operating procedures.
- **Strengthening accountability and response capacity to recurring and newly-arising emergencies**, particularly in the context of internal displacement, including by ensuring people of concern have sufficient access to basic and domestic items through the provision of shelter and dignity kits and core relief items (either in kind or through cash assistance); ensuring access to services for persons at heightened risk; and ensuring dignity kits, solar lights, core relief items and referral services are in place for survivors of gender-based violence.
- **Strengthening UNHCR's response capacity to IDP situations** linked to insecurity and disasters, such as floods, droughts and cyclones, etc.
- **Supporting the Government in developing legal frameworks for all population planning groups** (refugees and asylum-seekers, returnees and IDPs).

- **Strengthening sustainable returns**, and in particular, pursuing voluntary return for refugees and asylum-seekers in collaboration with relevant stakeholders in countries of origin, and for Somali returnees through the provision of return assistance and community-based protection activities.
 - **Advocating to increase resettlement quotas** for refugees in Somalia, especially non-Ethiopians and expanding admission through complimentary pathways.
 - **Supporting access to livelihoods and education** by increasing enrolment in primary school education and continuing to shift towards public education in line with the CRRF approach; advocating and building partnerships to cover the gaps in secondary and university education; ensuring access to primary health care for all refugees and asylum-seekers and supporting secondary health care through referrals where needed; and scaling up livelihoods initiatives, vocational skills training and self-reliance programmes.
 - **Supporting the most vulnerable households with assistance to mitigate the effects of COVID-19** and advocating for refugee and asylum-seeker inclusion for the COVID-19 vaccination programme, when available in Somalia.
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