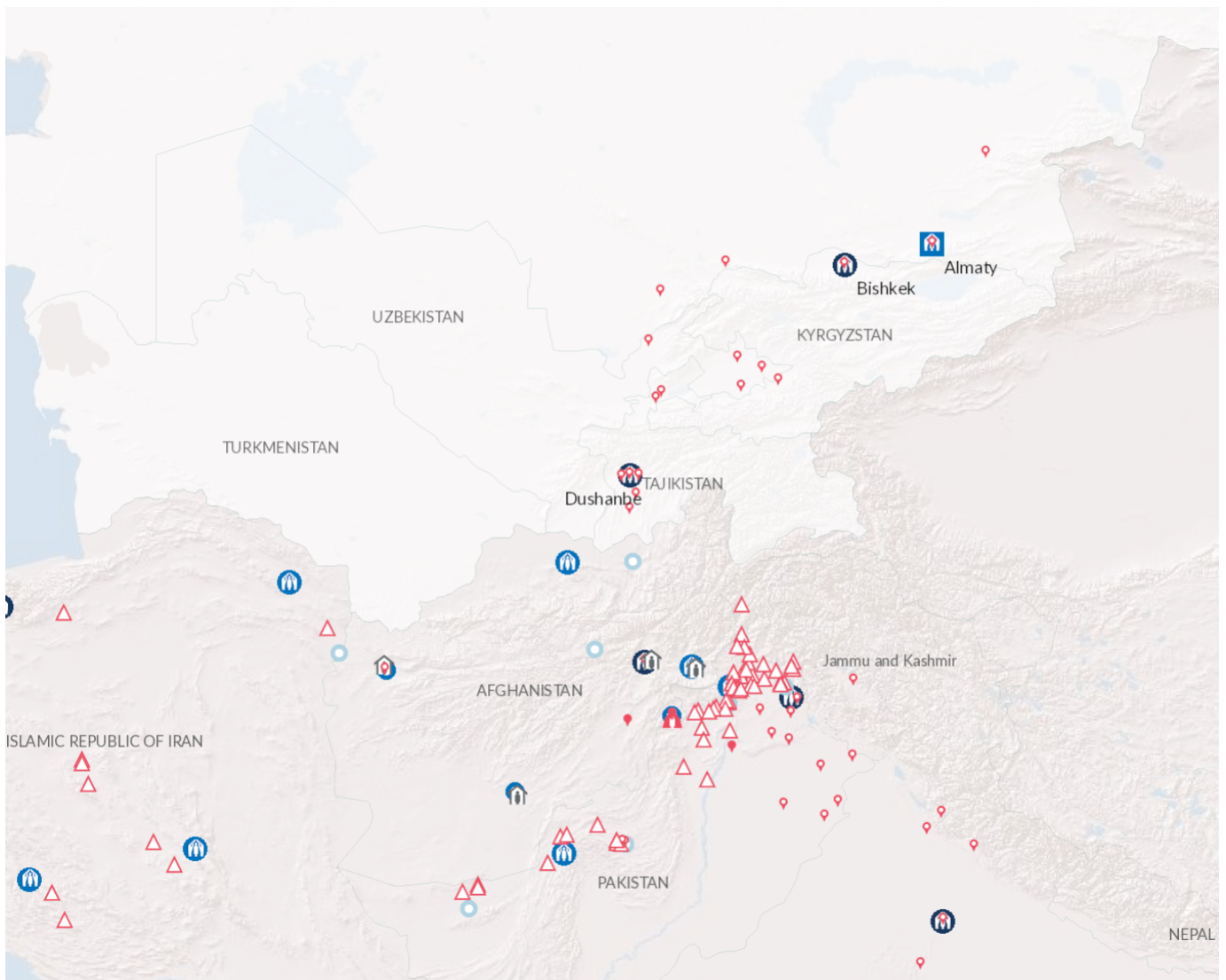


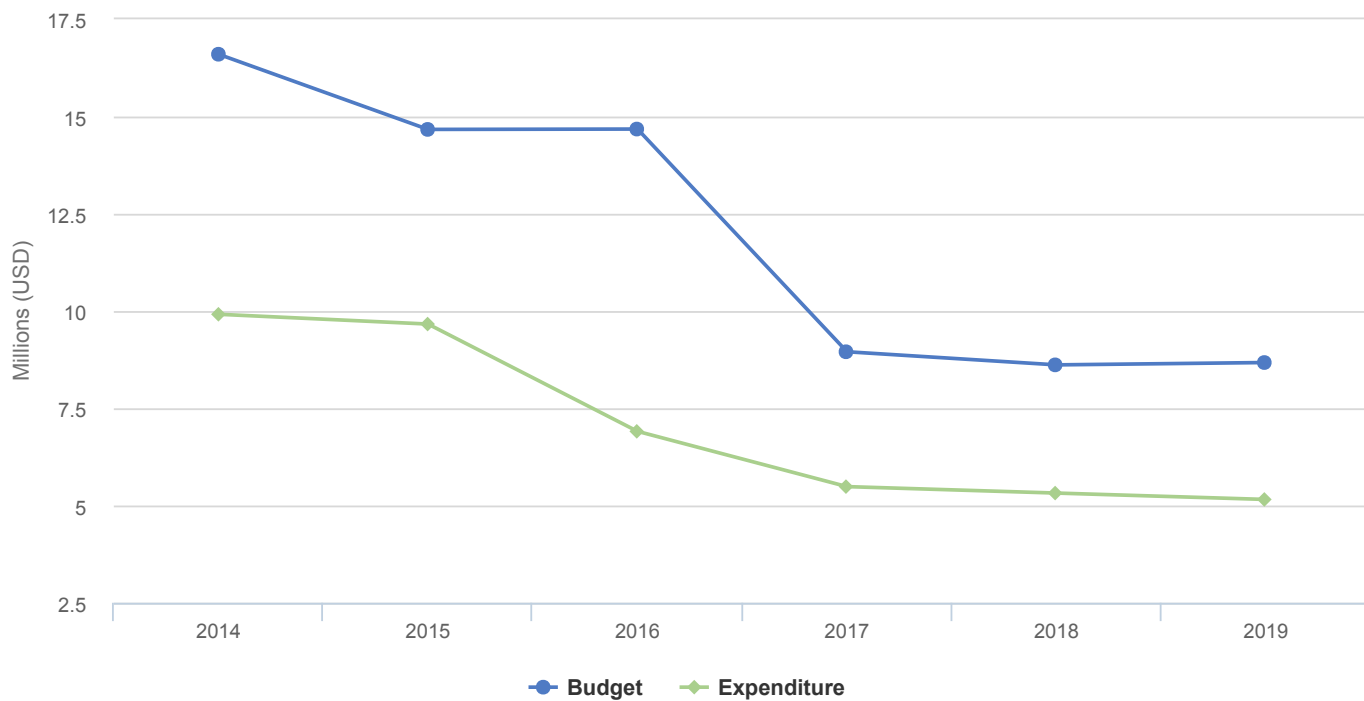
Subregion: Central Asia

| Kazakhstan | Kyrgyzstan | Tajikistan | Turkmenistan | Uzbekistan |

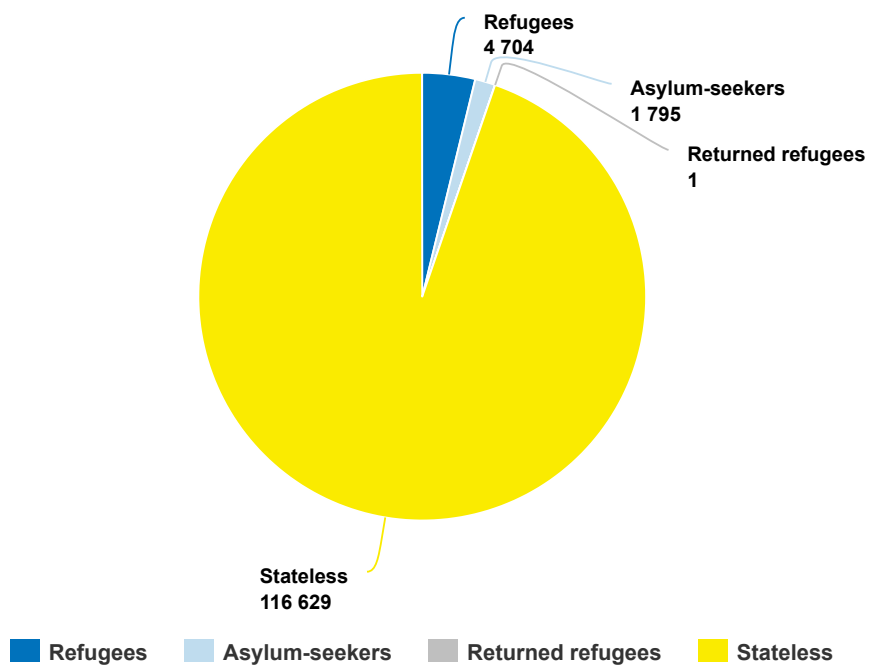


The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

Budgets and Expenditure in Subregion Central Asia



People of Concern - 2019



2019 Response

Central Asia was home to some 117,000 stateless persons and 6,500 refugees and asylum-seekers, mostly from Afghanistan. UNHCR's response in 2019 focused on supporting governments in the region to eradicate and prevent statelessness, enhancing national asylum systems (including through partnerships), and advancing emergency preparedness. Inter-agency collaboration on birth registration and childhood statelessness, civil documentation and vital statistics was a core component of this work.

Collectively, Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan submitted 12 pledges at the High-Level Segment on Statelessness in October 2019.

The region made significant progress towards eradicating statelessness. The Kyrgyz Republic became the first country in the world to end statelessness on its territory by granting or confirming citizenship to all stateless persons previously identified through a country-wide campaign. National legislation in Kazakhstan now ensures birth registration for all children born in the country, regardless of their parents' legal status, and existing restrictions were waived to facilitate refugees' access to permanent residency.

Tajikistan passed an amnesty law that addresses the most complex cases by allowing stateless persons and foreign nationals residing in the country without legal status to regularize their status without penalty. In Turkmenistan, a presidential decree granted nationality to nearly 900 people and the President also formally endorsed a national action plan to end statelessness. Uzbekistan passed new citizenship legislation that should benefit some 50,000 stateless persons.

UNHCR worked with governments to address remaining gaps in citizenship laws and establish mechanisms to expedite the identification and resolution of statelessness. Over the course of the year, statelessness in Central Asia was further reduced by some 15,700 people, bringing the number of resolved cases since the launch of the #IBelong campaign to 79,000.

Governments continued to proactively engage in the Almaty Process - a regional inter-governmental platform for dialogue on refugee protection and international migration to, from and within Central Asia. Having phased out of mandate refugee status determination in all Central Asian countries, UNHCR focused on advocacy and capacity-building in support of national asylum systems. UNHCR also worked with local authorities and private sector partners to explore innovative and sustainable livelihood opportunities for refugees, with a view to promoting self-reliance and inclusion while alleviating the pressure on national and local systems. A small number of refugees (one in Turkmenistan, two in Kazakhstan and two in the Kyrgyz Republic) were naturalized in 2019.

A UNHCR three-year protection strategy for Central Asia (2019-2021) was established in consultation with government ministries and other partners. The strategic goals are:

1. to support governments to eradicate and prevent statelessness;
2. to strengthen partnerships for sustainable asylum systems; and
3. to support States and local authorities to ensure preparedness for emergency response

2019 Voluntary Contributions to Central Asia | USD

Earmarking / Donor	All pillars	Total
Central Asia overall		
United States of America	1,900,000	1,900,000
<i>Central Asia overall subtotal</i>	1,900,000	1,900,000
Kazakhstan Regional Office		
Kazakhstan	150,931	150,931
<i>Kazakhstan Regional Office subtotal</i>	150,931	150,931
Kyrgyzstan		
Kyrgyzstan	47,520	47,520
<i>Kyrgyzstan subtotal</i>	47,520	47,520
Total	2,098,451	2,098,451

Note: