South Sudan

November 2019

POPULATIONS OF CONCERN

297,947

Number of **refugees in South Sudan**. 92% come from Sudan, 6% from the Democratic Republic of the Congo, 1% from Ethiopia, and 1% from the Central African Republic.

1.46 million

Number of **internally displaced persons (IDPs)** in South Sudan, 13% of which are staying inside six UNMISS Protection of Civilians sites.

228,160

Number of **South Sudanese refugees who have returned** in a self-organized manner (November 2017– 2019) **2.2 million remain in neighboring countries.**

FUNDING

$152.2 million

requested for the 2019 operation

32% unfunded
$48.7 M

68% funded
$103.5 M

A young Sudanese refugee poses for a photo at the International Volunteer Day commemoration at the Women and Girls Wellness Centre in Ajoung Thok, Unity, Ruweng State. © UNHCR/Hathaimat Purnananda

In this issue

- UNHCR and partners **continued to provide emergency assistance** to 150,000 refugees and 50,000 host community members **affected by flooding** in Maban County, Upper Nile. (Page 3-4)
- Refugees in camps and settlements across the country **engaged in 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence** beginning on 25 November. (Page 7)
- **43,730 refugees were reached with health education messages**, such as Ebola and cholera prevention in November. (Page 9)
- **IDPs who humanitarians assisted to return home** from displacement sites in Melut in May **are thriving in Baliet County**, Upper Nile, according to a periodic protection assessment UNHCR and partners conducted on 13-14 November. (Page 10)

Operational Context

IDPs settle in after returning to Baliet from a displacement site in Melut, Upper Nile. © UNHCR/Serhii Chumakov

Armed conflict in South Sudan has declined since the parties to the civil war signed a peace agreement in September 2018; however, implementation of the deal is lagging and the political situation remains fragile. Meanwhile, poor rule of law and easy access to arms has resulted in an increase in inter- and intra-communal violence that continues to displace people. Still, the South Sudanese are hopeful and, despite UNHCR's non-return advisory for refugees, many displaced persons are showing interest in heading home.

At the same time, insecurity in neighboring countries has pushed nearly 300,000 refugees into South Sudan. UNHCR South Sudan supports refugees in 21 camps and settlements across the country, and is heavily involved in aiding IDPs through the country's protection and camp management clusters.

UNHCR is also working with South Sudan's Relief and Rehabilitation Commission and other partners to monitor spontaneously returning refugees' protection needs, and advocate for the vulnerable among them to be included in existing aid mechanisms.

Key Updates

- The parties to the peace deal agreed to again delay the formation of a unified transitional government in November. Delaying the government's formation — temporarily at least — will extend the period of relative stability the country has enjoyed since a ceasefire was declared in 2018.
- A Joint Border Commission met in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia on 23 November to discuss disputed border areas between Sudan and South Sudan. Settling the issue could potentially clear the way for demilitarization along the border

Refugee Response

November Highlights

UNHCR coordinates flood response

UNHCR and partners in Maban, Upper Nile, in November continued to provide emergency support to 150,000 refugees and 50,000 host community members impacted by heavy flooding in October. Initial Rapid Needs Assessments and targeted sectoral assessments, including shelter and water and sanitation, were completed. Meanwhile, efforts to rebuild damaged infrastructure and re-establish services that were interrupted by the flooding progressed.

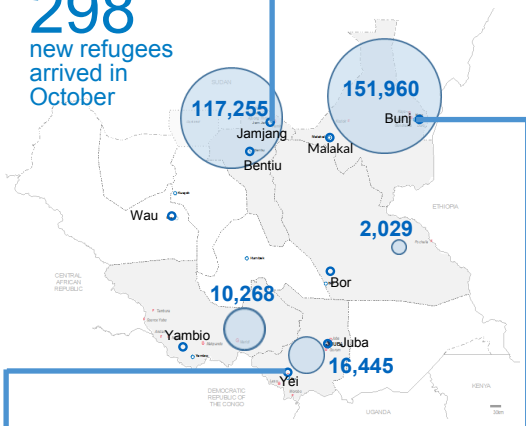
- **Food security and nutrition.** In coordination with the World Food Programme, emergency food support was delivered to 150,125 refugees and 68,320 host community members. WFP launched the second phase of distributions targeting 150,137 refugees and 68,320 host community members on 27 November.
- **Emergency supplies**. Core-relief items, such as plastic tarps, blanket, sleeping mat, mosquito nets, and cooking sets, were distributed to 64,543 refugees in Gendrassa and Yusuf Batil refugee camps, and 22,270 affected host community members.
- **Infrastructure repair.** Repairs continued on the roads connecting the airstrip to Kaya refugee camp to facilitate the delivery of supplies. UNHCR, WFP and partner Action Africa Help International also assessed the damage to the only overland road

KEY CHALLENGES

Maintaining the civilian character of asylum

When refugees first fled conflict in Sudan's South Kordofan State in 2011, they settled in Yida. Because of Yida's proximity to the border — just 20 km from Sudan — and the associated protection risks, South Sudan's government has been encouraging refugees to relocate to Ajuong Thok and Pamir camps since 2016. In November, UNHCR assisted 167 individuals in making the move, bringing th total number relocated in 2019 to 8,888. Still, 46,195 refugees remained in Yida.

298
new refugees arrived in October



Armed conflict

Ongoing fighting between government forces and armed opposition groups that didn't sign the 2018 peace agreement limits access to refugee settlements in Central Equatoria.

Cantonment

Soldiers are gathering nearby Maban refugee camps in Liang, Upper Nile. UNHCR is monitoring for protection

Flooding

Beginning in August, flooding in Maban has displaced thousands and hobbled humanitarian service delivery. Response is currently ongoing.

UNHCR staff distribute food to persons with specific needs in Doro Refugee Camp in Maban, Upper Nile. © UNHCR/Mary-Sanyu Osire

connecting Maban to Renk. Since the flood, the area has only been able to receive supplies via air, which has hobbled livelihood activities and exacerbated food insecurity.

- **Shelter.** Over the reporting period, UNHCR, in partnership with Danish Refugee Council assessed 5,626 transitional shelters in the areas most affected by flooding across the four camps. Of those, 1,482 transitional shelters were destroyed and in need of urgent reconstruction. Preparations are underway to build new shelters for 71 persons with specific needs in the four refugee camps.
- **Water.** Approximately 95% of water points in all four refugee camps are operating normally and safe water access was restored or maintained to 19 litres per person per day, according to a detailed WASH assessment conducted in November. Within the host community in Bunj town, 27 of the 35 previously drilled boreholes are functioning. Eight are in need of rehabilitation. Shock chlorination was conducted in three wells in collaboration with ACTED, UNICEF and the local authorities, and two non-functioning hand pump wells were refurbished.
- **Sanitation.** An estimated 43% of household latrines across the four refugee camps and 53% of latrines at schools and health facilities have collapsed due to flooding. This has resulted in poor sanitation and hygiene conditions observed across the four refugee camps, including open defecation practices in the worst affected parts of the camps. The construction of 210 shared household latrines started; where more than 60 pits excavation have been completed.
- **Health.** While all health and nutrition facilities are operational and accessible

to both refugees and host community members, an assessment found one cold chain fridge has been damaged, and most laboratory reagents are out of stock. Community sensitization campaigns are ongoing to raise awareness on the risks of drowning and water borne diseases in stagnant flood waters.

- **Education.** UNHCR, in collaboration with the Maban County Education Department, partner Lutheran World Federation, Save the Children International and Jesuit Refugee Services resumed educational programming at all levels, including early childhood development and accelerated learning services, for both refugees and host communities.

Measles outbreak confirmed in Maban

A measles outbreak has been confirmed in Maban County, Upper Nile, just 15 km away from Doro refugee camp. UNHCR has engaged measles emergency preparedness activities, including active case finding, hygiene promotion and community sensitization. UNHCR is also stepping up defaulter tracing and routine immunization activities. Meanwhile, the World Food Programme confirmed plans to launch a reactive campaign by 5 December targeting the three affected locations in the first phase and, possibly, a second phase targeting Doro refugee camp.

New Makpandu aggregation centre will increase profits for refugee farmers

Star Trust Organization, a major WFP supplier in Yambio, Western Equatoria, opened an aggregation centre near Makpandu refugee settlement in November 2019. The aggregation centre will bring refugee and host community farmers together to sell their maize in bulk, enabling them to reach new market players and negotiate better prices for their crops. The model has been shown to increase productivity and income for smallholder farmers. The aggregation centre was opened following UNHCR advocacy with government authorities and

KEY PROTECTION ACHIEVEMENTS

SGBV PREVENTION

28 sexual– and gender-based violence cases identified and supported

14,253 refugees reached through advocacy activities to improve knowledge of SGBV prevention and response

232 extremely vulnerable refugees, including women and girls at risk for SGBV, supported with food and non-food items

ACCESS TO JUSTICE

30 detention monitoring visits conducted

8 traditional court sessions monitored

356 refugees reached through educational campaign on housing, land and property rights

CHILD PROTECTION

71 at-risk children provided food or material assistance, such as clothing, blankets and mosquito nets

95 people reached through training or awareness campaigns on child rights and protection principles

6,574 children participated in recreational activities in child friendly spaces

other stakeholders.

Mixed bench court to support peaceful coexistence in Yida

The Jau County Commissioner established a mixed traditional bench court in Yida, Unity, on 14 November that includes representatives from both the refugee and host communities. The new court, which will adjudicate civil and low-level criminal cases, includes two women. Previously, the bench court in Yida was overseen exclusively by refugee men. The South Sudan's Commission for Refugee Affairs together with UNHCR and partner Humanitarian Development Consortium advocated for the change to strengthen dispute resolution mechanisms and promote social cohesion between communities.

UNHCR and partner Humanitarian Development Consortium arranged for judges from South Sudan's High Court and County Court to orient the new court members, as well as Traditional Bench Court members from nearby Pamir refugee camp, on their jurisdiction in accordance with South Sudan's 2009 Local Administration Act. About 35 people attended the orientation.

The new traditional bench court ruled on 12 cases in November 2019. To increase efficiency and reduce the backlog of cases, the new court increased hearing sessions from three to four days a week. Considering the financial capacity of refugees and local community, the court decided to reduce the fees, compensations and fines: court fees were reduced from SSP 1,200 to SSP 800; fines for crimes of adultery were reduced from SSP 70,000 to SSP 50,000; and compensation to women and girls impregnated outside of marriage were reduced from SSP 35,000 to SSP 30,000.

Host community makes plans to allocate farm land to refugees in 2020

The Agricultural Production Committee reviewed its 2020 plans to allocate additional farmland to refugees in Pamir refugee Camp, Unity, during its monthly meeting in November. In 2019 so far, the committee has allocated additional farmland to 1,552 refugee farmers. The Agricultural Production Committee's work has steadily improved relations between the refugee and host communities since it was established in 2016 following the death of a refugee over a land dispute. UNHCR, the Commission for Refugee Affairs and partner International Rescue Committee established the committee; however, now it runs independently. The Agricultural Production Committee has not yet determined how many feddans will be distributed to refugees in 2020.

Thousands of refugee students sit for final examinations

In coordination with the National Ministry of General Education and Instruction, UNHCR and partners facilitated final examinations for primary schools in refugee camps and settlements across the country. In Ajuong Thok and Pamir refugee camps in Unity, 2,189 students sat for the exams, which will determine whether or not they can progress to secondary school. In the four camps in Maban County, Upper Nile, 1,095 students (975 refugees/120 host community members) sat – an 18% increase from 2018. In Yei town, Central Equatoria, 29 refugee children took the exam, including one who was transported from Lasu refugee settlement 36 km away.

Refugee business women share tips and inspiration at Yambio workshop

Three refugee women from the Anika Women's Association in Makpandu Refugee settlement, Western Equatoria, traveled 45 km to Yambio town to present a workshop on women's empowerment and entrepreneurship for refugee women in the settlement. The Anika Women's Association has built a successful business selling honey locally, as well as in South Sudan's capital city. The group, utilizing skills gained through UNHCR supported livelihood trainings, also makes and sells lotion, bed sheets and clothing.

Refugees in camps and settlements across the country engaged in 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence beginning on 25 November. This year's theme for the annual campaign was "Join Hands: Stand Against Rape". In Ajuong Thok refugee camp, Unity, more than 5,000 people, including host community members, turned out for a launch event.

UNHCR partner Danish Refugee Council continued work on 257 shelters for persons with specific needs in Ajoung Thok and Pamir refugee camps in Unity. So far in 2019, 143 shelters have been completed out of a target of 400.

Action Africa Help International (AAH-I) continued road work in November as part of plans to expand Pamir refugee camp to accommodate refugees relocating from Yida. So far, 4.8 km out of 8 km have been completed.

To strengthen security in Ajoung Thok and Pamir refugee camps, in Unity, UNHCR, Commission for Refugee Affairs and partner Danish Refugee Council distributed torches, raincoats and gumboots to 470 Community Watch Group members. The Community Watch Groups are responsible for assisting the police patrolling the camps and reporting security incidents to the authorities to ensure camps are safe.

On 14 November 2019, UNHCR handed over two steel ovens to women's centres in Doro and Yusif Batil refugee camps in Maban County, Upper Nile. The ovens will help 30 women undergoing bakery training to launch businesses. The training classes are implemented by UNHCR partner Danish Refugee Council.

UNHCR, UMCOR and UNMISS Force protection conducted a protection monitoring mission to Lasu refugee settlement, Eastern Equatoria, about 36 km from Yei town. The security situation in the settlement remains calm despite ongoing clashes between government forces and the National Salvation Front, which did not sign the 2018 peace agreement. However, ambushes on the road between Yei and Lasu remains a risk. The community's main concern is access to medical care as UMCOR's mobile clinic is unable to move to Lasu every day.

Ensuring Access to Basic Services

Enabling refugees to meet their basic needs is an integral part of protection as it decreases the risk for negative coping mechanisms. As such, UNHCR employs a multi-sector response, working with government and partners to ensure refugees are sheltered and fed, and have access to education, health care, and adequate water and sanitation services. Key sectoral highlights are listed below. (UNHCR strives to strengthen inter-communal bonds, numbers include both refugees and host community members unless specified.)

Sudanese refugee students at Werak Primary School in Yusuf Batil refugee camp in Maban, Upper Nile. © UNHCR/Mary-Sanyu Osire

ACCESS TO ENERGY

646 fuel efficient stoves produced by refugees

15,602 tree seedlings distributed for planting

4,912 tree seedlings raised and sold in refugee-run nurseries

EDUCATION

27,894 children enrolled in early childhood development programmes (20% are from the host community)

73,250 students enrolled in UNHCR-supported primary schools (30% are from the host community)

24,418 students enrolled in UNHCR-supported secondary (30% are from the host community)

60 percent of all enrolled students attended classes in November (Attendance rates are lower than usual owing to flooding)

76 percent of enrolled students attended school in October

458 refugee teachers benefitted from in-service training in November

FOOD SECURITY & NUTRITION

70,420 refugees received food or cash for food during World Food Programme in Jamjang camps

1,266 people received counseling on best practices in infant and young child feeding

6,620 children aged 6 -23 months benefitted from programming to prevent or treat malnutrition

1,353 pregnant and breastfeeding women benefitted from programming to prevent or treat malnutrition

9,279 children aged 6-59 months screened for malnutrition

HEALTH

54,891 people consulted with healthcare professionals at UNHCR-supported facilities (20% were from the host community)

1,065 new patients were admitted for inpatient care (30% were from the host community)

591 babies were delivered at UNHCR-supported obstetric and newborn care facilities

201 pregnant women received treatment to prevent the transmission of HIV/AIDs from mother to child

471 patients living with HIV/AIDs received anti-retroviral treatment

153 patients received treatment for Tuberculosis

43,730 refugees were reached through health education initiatives

SHELTER & NON-FOOD ITEMS

111,149 people received core relief items, such as plastic sheet, blankets, sleeping mats, soap, buckets, mosquito nets, and kitchen sets

506 refugees families received tents or shelter materials, such as tents, plastic sheeting, corrugated metal roofing or other materials

7,474 women and girls recieved feminine hygiene materials

1,051 people received soap, buckets or jerry cans

WATER & SANITATION

335 household and community latrines were constructed

19 average liters of safe water were provided per refugee per day in November

11,053 people were reached through hygiene promotion campaigns

IDP Response

November Highlights

Protection monitoring

- IDPs who have returned home to Baliet County, Upper Nile are happy to be reunited with family, and enjoying safety and freedom of movement, according to a periodic protection assessment conducted on 13-14 November. UNHCR led the mission, which included representatives from the Protection, WASH, Health, and Food Security and Livelihood Clusters, to follow up, in particular, with a group of IDPs who humanitarians helped to return home from displacement sites in Melut in May 2019. In addition, to conducting semi-structured key informant interviews and observational safety audits, the team conducted six focus group discussions in Adong and Baliet towns with a total of 111 participants. No major security incidents or housing, land or property issues were reported. Returnees said conditions were conducive for livelihood activities.

- During a protection monitoring mission on 27-28 November, UNHCR established the presence of 500 IDP families in Lirangu Payam, 24 km west of Yambio in Western Equatoria. The IDPs, who fled to Lirangu at the height of the conflict in 2016 and 2017, have integrated peacefully into the host community.

Return support

UNHCR remains engaged in interagency efforts to support IDPs to make informed and voluntary decisions in the pursuit of durable solutions to displacement. Since April 2016, protection partners have assisted 12,774 individuals to return home or relocate within South Sudan. Assistance is provided at IDPs request, following a comprehensive process of interviews, counselling and protection assessments to ensure returns are safe and dignified throughout the journey, as well as in intended destinations. Highlights from UNHCR's solutions activities in November included:

- In November 2019, nineteen IDP families (63 individuals) approached the UNHCR protection desks at different IDP sites and UNMISS Protection of Civilians sites in Juba, Central Equatoria to request assistance relocating or returning home. To date, 991 households comprising of 3,270 individuals have registered intentions to return/relocate to different areas across South Sudan. This information will feed into the activity of the Central Equatoria Solutions Working Group, which is co-led by UNHCR and UNDP.

- The Central Equatoria Solutions Working Group supported 15 individuals who returned to Malakal County from the Juba PoC sites in November. Each IDP was transported to their respective residences, and provided cash

KEY PROTECTION ACHIEVEMENTS

1,208 IDPs were reached through advocacy activities to improve knowledge of SGBV prevention and response

508 extremely vulnerable IDPs, including women and girls at risk for SGBV, were provided food or material support

50 people reached through training or awareness campaigns on child rights and protection principles

119 IDPs provided with information on services for persons with specific needs

243 IDP households provided shelter materials, such as family tents or plastic sheeting

966 IDPs were provided non-food items, such as blankets, buckets, kitchen sets, mosquito nets, sleeping mats, solar lamps and soap

assistance and supplies to help them settle in.

- UNHCR's protection desk verified the voluntary nature of return assistance requests for seven IDP families at the UNMISS Protection of Civilians site in Bor, Jonglei as part of a prerequisite comprehensive protection assessment. The Bor Solutions Working Group is currently following up.

- UNHCR assessed seven potential return locations in Rubkona County to inform IDP for them to make well-informed decision.

- UNHCR, from 11-21 November, interviewed 190 IDP households sheltering in and around the Episcopal Church compound in Mundri town, Western Equatoria. Nintey-three percent of those interviewed expressed a desire to return to their areas of origin, 4% said they wanted to remain in Mundri because their children are attending secondary school in town, and 3% said they were undecided. The IDPs come from the Kediba and Wandi.

Statelessness Prevention

UNHCR conducted a two-day capacity building training on statelessness prevention for the Department of Nationality, Passport and Immigration (DNPI) and other government officials in Bor, Jonglei. Thirty officials participated.

Meanwhile, UNHCR, in coordination with the State Ministry of Health, assisted 406 IDPs living in the refugees to apply for an age assessment. The DNPI requires an age assessment to process a nationality identity card. This included assisting the IDPs in obtained passport-sized photos.

Refugee Return Monitoring

November Highlights

- UNHCR, partner CARE International and the South Sudan's Relief and Rehabilitation Commission traveled to Nabiapai and Gangura, Western Equatoria, to assess the living conditions of recently returned refugees. Issues of concern raised included access to health care and education, and inadequate clean water and sanitation facilities. The team relayed concerns to UNICEF and other partners for further assessment.

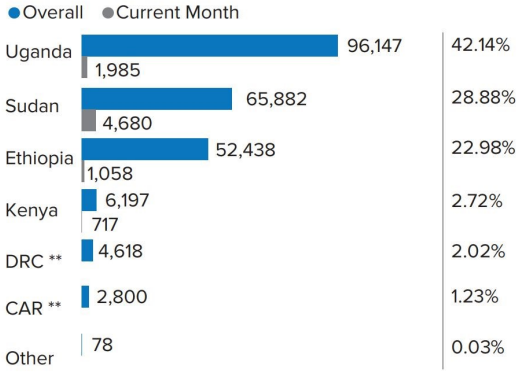
- UNHCR and partner CARE International launched refugee return monitoring activities at the border in James Diko, Gangura and Sakure in Western Equatoria.

- In Akobo East County, Jonglei, UNHCR trained two Relief Organization of South Sudan officials on spontaneous refugee return monitoring and eight payam enumerators on data collection and reporting.

8,440

refugees returned to South Sudan in a self-organized manner in November 2019

Spontaneous refugee returnees by Country of Asylum



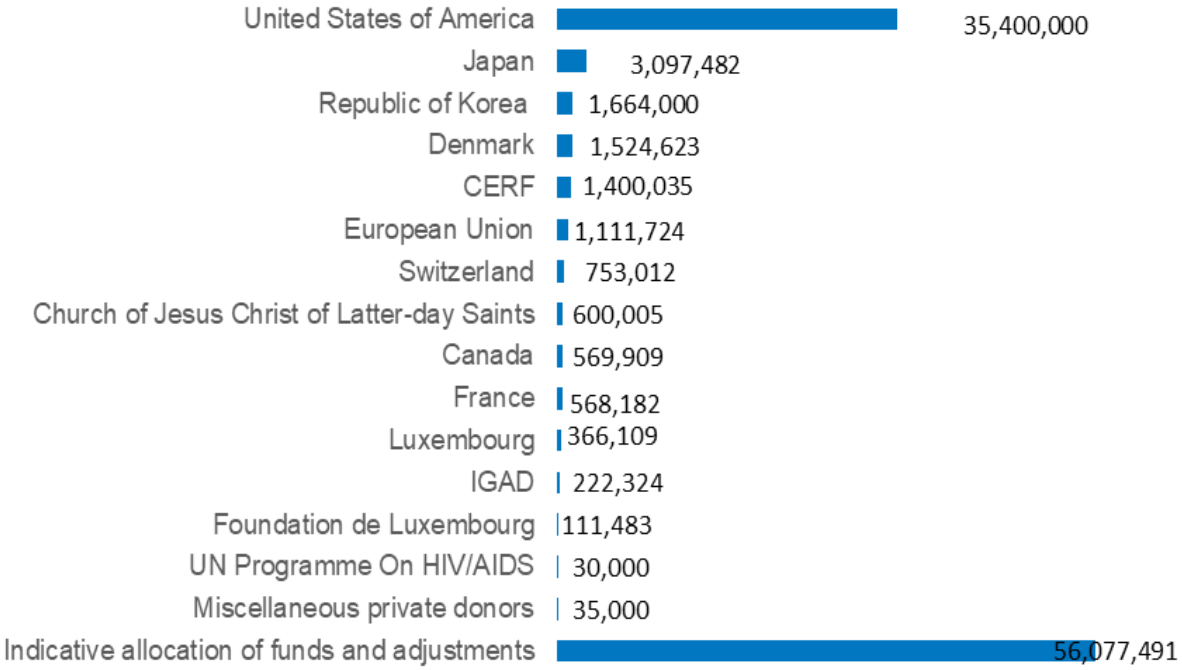
** CAR: Central African Republic; DRC: Democratic Republic of Congo

Refugee returnee harvests ground nuts in Yambio, Western Equatoria
© UNHCR/Eujin Byun

Financial Update

2019 funding received for South Sudan Operation in USD

Total recorded contributions for the operation amount to US $103.5 million, for the financial year 2019 as of 30 November 2019. UNHCR is grateful for the critical support provided by donors who have contributed to this operation as well as those who have contributed to UNHCR programmes with un-earmarked and broadly earmarked funds.



Contributions earmarked for the South Sudan Situation (including neighboring countries hosting refugees): United States of America 27.8 million | Private donors Australia 12.5 million | Germany 9.1 million | Canada 6.8 million | Private donors Germany 3.1 million | Sweden 3.1 million | Private donors Republic of Korea 2.4 million | Norway | Private donors

Unearmarked contributions to UNHCR's global operation: Sweden 99.8 million | Private donors Spain 67.8 million | United Kingdom 44.6 million | Norway 44.5 million | Netherlands 43.1 million | Private donors Republic of Korea 34.4 million | Germany 26.7 million | Denmark 24.4 million | Private donors Japan 20.4 million | Private donors Italy 15.8 million | Switzerland 15.1 million | France 14 million | Private donors Sweden 12.3 million | Private donors USA 11.7 million | Ireland 10.2 million | Italy 10 million

Algeria | Argentina | Australia | Austria | Azerbaijan | Belgium | Bulgaria | Canada | Costa Rica | Estonia | Finland | Iceland | Indonesia | Islamic Republic of Pakistan | Kuwait | Liechtenstein | Luxembourg | Malta | Monaco | Montenegro | New Zealand | Peru | Philippines | Portugal | Qatar | Republic of Korea | Russian Federation | Saudi Arabia | Serbia | Singapore | Slovakia | Sri Lanka | Thailand | Turkey | United Arab Emirates | Uruguay | Private donors

Further information

Eujin Byun, Public Information/Communications, byun@unhcr.org, +211 92 240 5683

Elizabeth Stuart, External Relations/Reporting, stuarte@unhcr.org, +211 92 000 1107

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