



UNHCR
The UN Refugee Agency

KEY FIGURES

INSIDE SOUTH SUDAN

261,280

Refugees in South Sudan

1,61 M

IDPs in South Sudan, including
195,494 people in UNMISS
Protection of Civilians site

275,668,213 USD

Funding requested for
comprehensive needs in 2016

131,249,542 USD

Funding requested for priority
needs in 2016

OUTSIDE SOUTH SUDAN

Over 975,000

South Sudanese refugees in
neighboring countries (before
and after December 2013)

125,873

South Sudanese arrivals in
neighboring countries after 8 July
2016 including:

- Uganda: 99,248 (31 Aug)
- Sudan: 12,641 (28 Aug)
- DRC: 11,645 (28 Aug)
- Kenya: 2,127 (28 Aug)
- Ethiopia: 88 (28 Aug)
- CAR: 124 (28 Aug)

UNHCR OPERATIONAL UPDATE 16/2016

15-31 August 2016

HIGHLIGHTS

- **Insecurity continues to affect humanitarian operations in Lasu refugee settlement** - Due to insecurity on the Yei-Lasu road, UNHCR partner ACROSS was able to deliver only a limited quantity of essential drugs to the health centre in Lasu settlement, home to over 10,000 refugees. The bulk of drugs needed to cater for the medical needs of Lasu refugee population are on hold in Yei until conditions allow for their safe passage to the settlement. Referral of urgent cases to Yei Hospital resumed with minor impediments. Insecurity has also affected the general food distribution, with refugees having had no access to their monthly food rations since late June 2016. A malnutrition assessment of children under 5 years, carried out through Mid-Upper Arm Circumference test, showed that August's global malnutrition rate in Lasu was 1.7 per cent - four times higher compared to January 2016, but below the emergency threshold of 10 per cent. In the absence of food distribution, the malnutrition levels are likely to worsen, especially among children in foster care, people with chronic illnesses and the elderly. Some refugee families have reportedly returned to the Democratic Republic of the Congo due to insecurity and hunger. UNHCR continued to advocate with local authorities and key stakeholders on the ground for safe access of humanitarian workers and goods to the settlement.
- **Pamir camp ready to accommodate up to 20,000 refugees** - At Pamir camp, UNHCR and partners have so far demarcated 5,000 family plots, built a primary school and a health care centre. Drinking water is available through a sun-powered water pumping system and teachers are on site to start classes as soon as the school term resumes. The new camp, to be officially open in September, is ready to accommodate up to 20,000 people, including new arrivals from Sudan's South Kordofan and refugees relocating from Yida.
- **UNHCR provides protection support for the relocation of IDPs to UN House in Juba** - UNHCR continued to monitor the relocation of IDPs from UNMISS Topping to UN House in Juba to ensure centrality of protection, avoid family separations and provide counselling and assistance to persons with specific needs, including through the establishment of a Protection Desk, operational since 29 August. During the reporting period, 1,331 IDPs were relocated to UN House, bringing the total number to 2,057. Another 2,100 IDPs remain in the Topping site.
- **UNHCR and partners fight malaria in refugee camps** - As part of the activities to reduce the incidence of malaria, UNHCR partner Mentor Initiative completed indoor residual spraying and larviciding activities in Doro and Yusuf Batil camps, reaching more than 31,600 households. Preparations are underway to start similar interventions in Gendrassa and Kaya camps, with a target of 10,100 households. The incidence of malaria in the camps is higher compared to previous years but in line with the trends observed in the whole country.

OPERATIONAL CONTEXT

- **Yei town witnesses brutalities** – According to media reports, dozens of civilians were reportedly killed in Yei in the last week of August in a wave of targeted killings and atrocities that local residents described as retaliation against the civilian population for recent opposition attacks on government forces in rural areas around Yei, Lainya, Morobo and Mundri. Killings as well as arbitrary arrests, rapes and gang rapes reportedly took place in residential areas of Kanjaro, Lomuku, Gabat, Lupapa, Logobero, Lomuku and Midile villages. According to local media Sudan People’s Liberation Army in Opposition (SPLA-IO) accused government troops of ethnically targeting civilians, including those who had sought shelter inside a church in Lanya, but Sudan People’s Liberation Army (SPLA) denied the accusations.
- **JMEC announces its readiness to work with South Sudan’s new First Vice President** - In an interview with The Associated Press on 28 August, the Chairman of Joint Monitoring and Evaluation Commission (JMEC), former Botswana President Festus Mogae, said that he and other diplomats will work with recently appointed South Sudan’s First Vice President Taban Deng Gai in order to implement the peace agreement signed in August 2015, as they “don’t have an option.”
- **UN Secretary-General appoints retired general to lead investigation into Juba violence** - UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon announced on 23 August the appointment of Major General Patrick Cammaert of the Netherlands to lead an independent special investigation into the Juba violence in July 2016, and the response of the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS). This followed allegations that UNMISS did not respond appropriately to prevent the attack on humanitarian workers at the Terrain Hotel in Juba on 11 July and other grave cases of sexual violence committed in South Sudan. On 16 August, President Salva Kiir issued republican order no. 20/2016 for the creation of a committee to investigate into the “alleged incidents of murder, rape and looting of property at Terrain Hotel Complex.”
- **Riek Machar arrives in Khartoum for medical treatment, says Sudanese official** - Sudanese government announced on 22 August that the former First Vice-President of South Sudan, Riek Machar, had been received in Khartoum on humanitarian grounds. This followed an earlier statement by the Office of the UN Secretary-General on 18 August confirming that the UN Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MINUSCO) had become aware of the presence of Riek Machar in an area close to the border with South Sudan and facilitated his extraction to a safer location inside Congo on humanitarian grounds.
- **UNHCR calls for local government in Yambio to ensure staff safety** - A high-level delegation consisting of UNHCR, WFP and South Sudan’s Commission for Refugee Affairs (CRA) travelled to Yambio from Juba on 22 August to meet with authorities and humanitarian actors and review operational arrangements and relationship with authorities. In a meeting with the Deputy Governor and Cabinet members, UNHCR assured the authorities of its continued commitment to assist the local government and its people in extending protection and assistance to refugees, asylum-seekers and IDPs in greater Western Equatoria and called for local authorities to ensure staff safety and operational independence on the ground.
- **Hundreds of children recruited by armed groups in South Sudan, says UNICEF** - In a press release issued on 19 August, UNICEF said that more than 650 children have been recruited into armed groups in South Sudan since the beginning of this year, calling for an immediate end to recruitment and the unconditional release of all children by armed actors. According to UNICEF, armed groups and armed forces have recruited an estimated 16,000 children in the last three years. The statement also highlighted increased grave violations against children during the recent crisis, including gender-based violence.
- **South Sudan’s cabinet proposes tripling its spending next year** - South Sudan’s cabinet approved a budget proposal for the 2016/17 fiscal year that caps government spending at SSP 29.6 billion (USD 520 million), a 187 per cent rise over the fiscal year that ended on 30 June.
- **United States announces nearly USD 138 million in additional humanitarian assistance for South Sudan** - US Secretary of State John Kerry announced on 22 August nearly USD 138 million in additional humanitarian assistance for South Sudan, bringing the total US humanitarian contribution to more than USD 1.7 billion since the conflict began in December 2013. The new funding, which be provided through UN agencies and non-governmental organizations, includes the provision of food aid, nutrition products,

emergency health and nutrition services, safe drinking water, hygiene supplies, and cholera prevention and treatment, and medical and trauma support services for survivors of gender-based violence. Kerry stressed that the United States would not automatically continue to provide humanitarian support for the country unless its leaders commit to peace.

- **China pledges USD 10 million in humanitarian assistance for South Sudan** - Chinese Ambassador to South Sudan Ma Qiang announced on 20 August that China will provide USD 10 million to South Sudan to purchase food and non-food items, including rice, shelters and medical drugs for maternal diseases and cholera, as well as other medical equipment.
- **Costs of food skyrockets in South Sudan** - According to July's WFP food market survey, the Consumer Price Index (CPI) increased by 661 per cent in a year and food by 778 per cent, the highest in the world and ever recorded in history. The price of cereals went up sharply in many areas compared to June 2016, rising by 53-55 per cent in Torit and Aweil; by 135-144 per cent in Kapoeta and Juba; and by 488 per cent in Yida.

REFUGEE RESPONSE



Achievements and impact

Central Equatoria

- In Juba, CRA in consultation with UNHCR extended the validity of refugee ID cards from two to three years, as distribution of ID cards is ongoing. So far, more than 23,400 refugees in South Sudan have received an ID card, which carries the seal of both the Government of South Sudan and UNHCR.
- In Juba, UNHCR registered 70 asylum-seekers from Burundi and Eritrea and 25 refugees from Sudan, bringing the total number of persons of concern in Juba to 3,503.
- In Gorom settlement, UNHCR contractor Reliance Company began installation of 14 solar streetlights to improve security of refugees at night.

Unity

- In Yida settlement, UNHCR registered and assisted 172 new arrivals from Sudan's South Kordofan State in the last two weeks of August, bringing the number of new arrivals since 1 January 2016 to 9,291. Due to the ongoing rainy season, the number of new arrivals has significantly dropped compared to previous weeks, with renewed influxes expected to start again as the rainy season comes to an end in November. During the reporting period, UNHCR relocated 247 refugees to Ajuong Thok camp, including 153 new arrivals and 94 refugees who had previously registered in Yida, bringing the total number of Sudanese refugees relocated to Ajuong Thok since 1 January 2016 to 13,585, including 4,403 refugees who had previously registered in Yida.
- In Ajuong Thok camp, UNHCR in partnership with International Rescue Committee (IRC) held 64 advocacy sessions with refugees on Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV) prevention and response. The sessions focused on the consequences of physical assault, denial of educations for girls, forced marriage, denial of resources and opportunities for women and girls and the referral pathway. A total of 357 advocacy sessions have been conducted so far this year. Furthermore, 30 frontline staff and teachers received a training on SGBV concepts and guiding principles, bringing the number of SGBV training so far this year to four.
- In Ajuong Thok camp, UNHCR partner IRC provided psychosocial counselling to 10 SGBV survivors during the reporting period, bringing the total number of SGBV survivors assisted so far this year to nearly 100. As part of the efforts to prevent SGBV, IRC enrolled 36 vulnerable women in skill development training, bringing the total number of vulnerable women enrolled in these activities since the beginning of 2016 to 211.
- In Ajuong Thok camp, UNHCR partner IRC provided material assistance to 72 vulnerable women and girls, giving a cumulative number of 455 vulnerable women and girls assisted so far this year.

Upper Nile

- In Kaya camp, UNHCR received and assisted 48 Sudanese new arrivals from Blue Nile State, bringing the total number of new arrivals in Maban so far this year to 472. This group of new arrivals came from Sudanese villages of Bulang, Mufu, Mayak, and Soda and told UNHCR staff on the ground that they fled their homes due to aerial bombardments, intimidation and harassment by armed groups, arbitrary arrest and detention of young men and women as well as lack of food, education and health care facilities in their villages.
- In Yusuf Batil camp, UNHCR and partner Danish Refugee Council (DRC) conducted a training for sector-based camp committees, targeting 42 refugees and host community members, with a focus on human rights as well as the terms of reference of the Protection Network Group and the Community Night Watch Group.

Western Equatoria

- In Makpandu settlement, UNHCR received and registered 57 new arrivals (11 families) from the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and Sudan, bringing the total number of refugees in the settlement to 3,847, in addition to 102 asylum seekers. Furthermore, 52 refugees approached UNHCR seeking assistance to repatriate to DRC. UNHCR is currently exploring the feasibility of this operation.

Identified needs and remaining gaps

Central Equatoria

- Due to insecurity along the Yei-Lasu road, UNHCR continued to monitor the situation in Lasu settlement through partner organizations' field missions, daily phone contact with refugee leaders and face-to-face meetings with representatives of Lasu refugees in Yei town. The refugees continued to raise security concerns and an urgent need for food and medicines. They also reported that several families have relocated their children out of the settlement, including into DRC, due to fear of increasing insecurity within Lasu payam and hunger.
- In Gorom settlement, refugees reported that the security situation has improved in the last two weeks of August, although government soldiers continue to pass through the settlement as a short cut to their barrack, causing fear among the population. UNHCR and CRA continued to liaise with the authorities to ensure that the armed forces respect the civilian character of asylum and refugee camps.

Education

Achievements and impact

Unity

- In Pariang, UNHCR partner Lutheran World Federation (LWF) met with the State Director General of Education to facilitate joint mock examination for 244 refugees from Napata and Merowe primary schools in Ajuong Thok camp.
- In Ajuong Thok camp, UNHCR and partners continued providing recreational and educational services to some 3,043 children in 13 child-friendly spaces, including 1,699 boys and 1,344 girls.

Upper Nile

- In Maban camps, UNHCR partner LWF met with Maban County Education Office to submit a list of 427 refugees eligible to sit for 2016-2017 primary 8 national exams.

Western Equatoria

- In Makpandu settlement, UNHCR partner World Vision International (WVI) in collaboration with the State Ministry of Education, Gender and Social Welfare organized an 8-day intensive English course for secondary school students.

- In Makpandu settlement, UNHCR partner WVI distributed a three-month stock of sanitary kits to 93 primary and secondary school girls of reproductive age, with the aim to retain girls in school.

Food Security and Nutrition

Achievements and impact

Central Equatoria

- In Gorom settlement, WFP and UNHCR with the support of CRA carried out August's GFD, reaching some 2,000 refugees with food rations at 70 per cent.

Unity

- In Yida settlement and Ajuong Thok camp, WFP in coordination with UNHCR and partners carried out August's General Food Distribution (GFD), reaching some 99,000 refugees with food rations at 70 per cent as from August 2015.

Upper Nile

- In Maban, WFP in coordination with UNHCR and partners carried out August's GFD reaching some 135,000 refugees with only two food commodities, sorghum and vegetable oil.

Western Equatoria

- In Makpandu settlement, WFP and UNHCR completed August's GFD, reaching more than 3,000 refugees. Some 792 individuals did not attend the distribution. UNHCR and WFP have so far prepositioned 175 out of 262 tons of food needed to cater for Makpandu refugees until the end of 2016, including cereals, pulses and vegetable oil.

Identified needs and remaining gaps

Central Equatoria

- Insecurity on the Yei-Lasu road continued to affect the general food distribution, with refugees having had no access to their monthly food rations since late June 2016. A malnutrition assessment of children under 5 years, carried out through Mid-Upper Arm Circumference (MUAC) test, showed that August's global malnutrition rate in Lasu was 1.7 per cent - four times higher compared to January 2016, but below the emergency threshold of 10 per cent. In the absence of food distribution, the malnutrition levels are likely to worsen, especially among children in foster care, people with chronic illnesses and the elderly. Some refugee families have reportedly returned to DRC due to hunger. UNHCR continued to advocate with local authorities and key stakeholders on the ground for safe access of humanitarian workers and goods to the settlement.

Health

Achievements and impact

Central Equatoria

- In Lasu settlement, UNHCR partner ACROSS was able to deliver only a limited quantity of essential drugs to the health centre due to insecurity along the Yei-Lasu road, including medicines for HIV/AIDS patients, and carry out referral of urgent cases to Yei Hospital.

Upper Nile

- In Doro and Yusuf Batil camps, UNCHR partner Mentor Initiative completed Indoor Residual Spraying (IRS) and larviciding activities, reaching more than 31,600 households. Preparations are underway to start similar interventions in Gendrassa and Kaya camps, with a target of 10,100 households. These activities aim at reducing the incidence of malaria in the camps, which is higher compared to previous years but in line with the trends observed in the whole country. In addition to providing curative services, UNHCR and partners

have been deploying preventive measures over the past months, including distribution of mosquito nets to nearly 3,000 families in Yusuf Batil camp in June. Despite the upsurge in malaria cases, there were no major malaria deaths during the reporting period and mortality rates among the refugee population in Maban remained within normal limits.

- In Maban, UNHCR in collaboration with Medair conducted a two-day training on Prevention of Mother-To-Child Transmission (PMTCT) of HIV/AIDS for 15 health staff to facilitate smooth launch of PMTCT activities in the camps.

Identified needs and remaining gaps

Central Equatoria

- The bulk of drugs necessary to cater for the medical needs of Lasu refugee population are on hold in Yei until conditions allow for their safe passage to the settlement. UNHCR continued to advocate with local authorities and key stakeholders on the ground for safe access of humanitarian workers and goods to the settlement.

Water and Sanitation

Achievements and impact

Unity

- In Ajuong Thok camp, the average water coverage stood at 20.8 litres per person per day (l/p/d) – above UNHCR standards of 20 l/p/d. UNHCR partner Samaritan's Pursue built 37 latrines (27 family latrines and 10 communal latrines) during the reporting period, bringing the total number of latrines to 4,452 (3,751 family toilets and 701 communal toilets). The refugee-to-latrines ratio in Ajuong Thok was 1:10 by the end of August, above UNHCR standards of a maximum of 20 latrines per person.

Upper Nile

- In Maban camps, the average water supply stood at 19 l/p/d during the reporting period.

Shelter and NFIs

Achievements and impact

Upper Nile

- In Doro camp, UNHCR partner DRC and ACTED distributed 3,923 sun-powered radios to help disseminate information among the refugees through Radio Salaam, including on health education, malaria prevention and hygiene.

Western Equatoria

- In Makpandu settlement, UNHCR distributed second-hand clothes to 1,620 refugees.

Camp Coordination and Camp Management

Achievements and impact

Unity

- At Pamir camp, UNHCR and partners have so far demarcated 5,000 family plots, built a primary school and a health care centre. Drinking water is available through a sun-powered water pumping system and teachers are on site to start classes as soon as the school term resumes. The new camp, to be officially open in

September, is ready to accommodate up to 20,000 people, including new arrivals from Sudan's South Kordofan and refugees relocating from Yida.

Community Empowerment and Self-Reliance

Achievements and impact

Central Equatoria

- In Gorom settlement, UNHCR and partners completed the installation of a 4,000 meter live fence with the help of refugees. More than 12,300 seedlings have been utilized for the fence.

Unity

- In Ajuong Thok camp, UNHCR carried out a quick assessment of the land provided to refugees for agricultural production. Initial results show that 65 per cent of 1,000 hectares of agricultural land has been cultivated and refugees have begun harvesting okra and tomatoes. It is hoped that access to farm land will help refugees improve their food security and diversify their diet.

Upper Nile

- In Yusuf Batil, UNHCR partner Relief International trained 75 refugee entrepreneurs on business management skills.

Western Equatoria

- In Makpandu settlement, UNHCR and partners provided agricultural tools to 346 families in an effort to help them become more self-reliant, including 146 refugee families and 200 host community families.

IDP RESPONSE

Protection

Achievements and impact

OPERATIONS

Central Equatoria

- In Juba, UNHCR continued to monitor the relocation of IDPs from UNMISS Topping to UN House (POC 3) to ensure centrality of protection, avoid family separations and provide counselling and assistance to persons with specific needs, including through the establishment of a Protection Desk, operational since 29 August. During the reporting period, 1,331 IDPs were relocated to UN House, bringing the total number to 2,057. Another 2,100 IDPs remain in the Topping site. The Protection Desk has so far received 37 IDPs, including 29 who have opted to relocate to UN House and eight who have decided to return home or relocate within Juba. They told UNHCR that their main concern about leaving the POC sites was looting of property in town. Furthermore, UNHCR and partners Handicap International (HI), Humanitarian Development Consortium (HDC) and Nonviolent Peace Force (NP) begun a household-based intention survey among IDPs in the Topping site to gather information on preferred solutions and factors affecting their decision-making. So far, 145 households have been interviewed.
- In Juba, UNHCR joined WFP's registration of IDPs in POC 1 and 3 on 18-23 August to provide support for vulnerable cases, including the fast-tracking of more than 500 persons with specific needs, mostly single mothers and elderly people.
- In Juba, UNHCR and partners HDC and HI conducted a protection assessment of IDPs at the Way Station, Don Bosco compound and Mahad collective site. Preliminary results show that some 109 individuals were currently living at the Way Station by the end of August, mainly women and children, compared to 500 at the peak of the emergency in July. They are in dire need of shelter, food and non-food items and medical

services and have received no humanitarian assistance since they were displaced in July. UNHCR is in discussion with humanitarian agencies to respond to the needs of this population. By the end of August, Don Bosco compound was sheltering some 1,000 newly arrived IDPs, in addition to 1,018 others who had been displaced before July 8 clashes. Most of the IDPs living there, mainly from Central and Eastern Equatoria with smaller numbers from Upper Nile, reported that their properties had been looted and that they did not feel secure to return to their homes in Juba. At Mahad collective site, lack of food for some 600 newly arrived IDPs remains an issue of major concern and is due to lack of registration. The old residents of Mahad have been sharing their food rations with the new arrivals since 8 July. UNHCR is in discussion with WFP on the need to register the newly arrived population for the purpose of providing assistance.

Jonglei

- In Bor town, UNHCR and partner HDC provided 30 shelters to persons with specific needs, while another 12 are currently under construction in Langbar, Achingdiir, Malou, Lekyak, Marol, Payuiny and Hai Panjak.
- At the Bor POC, UNHCR organized a one-day training on protection concepts and human rights for 12 Protection Desk volunteers and IDPs.

Lakes

- In Mingkaman, UNHCR distributed NFIs to 109 vulnerable IDPs, including water cans, plastic sheeting and blankets.

Unity

- In Bentiu, UNHCR identified two SGBV survivors aged 17 who had been reportedly raped outside the Protection of Civilians (POC) site. They were referred to relevant partners for medical attention and psychosocial counselling.
- In Rubkona County, UNHCR provided NFIs to 1,931 host-community and returnee families in Bentiu town and Dingding village, including plastic sheeting, blankets, sleeping mats, mosquitoes nets, buckets, water cans and kitchen sets.
- In Bentiu, UNHCR conducted a training for 30 community representatives in Nhialdiu Payam on community mobilization and participation.

Upper Nile

- In Maban, UNHCR partner HDC distributed NFIs to 385 IDP families who had been displaced from Liang following clashes between government and opposition forces on 3 August.

Western Bahr al Ghazal

- In Wau, UNHCR and other humanitarian partners conducted an inter-agency rapid needs assessment on 23 August to verify reports by South Sudan's Relief and Rehabilitation Commission (RRC) of some 38,500 returnees within Wau town. While RRC's numbers need to be further verified, the team visited 11 return areas and found that among the returnees were mostly civilians who had fled to the bush, while those sheltering in collective centres continued to pay go-and-see visits during daytime and return to displacement sites at night. Insecurity remains the issue of major concern for the displaced, who reported about the presence of uniformed men in town, ongoing incidents of robbery, theft and house breaks-in. Women reported that it is very unsafe to walk distances to collect firewood. The Protection Cluster met with the local government on the need to deploy police and conduct policing patrols during daytime and at night.
- In Wau, UNHCR identified 132 persons with specific needs at the UNMISS Protected site 2 and provided them with NFIs, including underwear, second-hand clothes, sanitary pads, soaps, plastic sheeting, kitchen sets, buckets, solar lamps and sleeping mats.

Identified needs and remaining gaps

Jonglei

- In Bor, UNHCR received reports of some 7,200 people recently displaced within Duk County due to renewed fighting between government and opposition forces in Pajut, in which more than 250 soldiers were

killed according to local media. Insecurity and poor road conditions have prevented humanitarian partners from accessing the displaced during the reporting period.

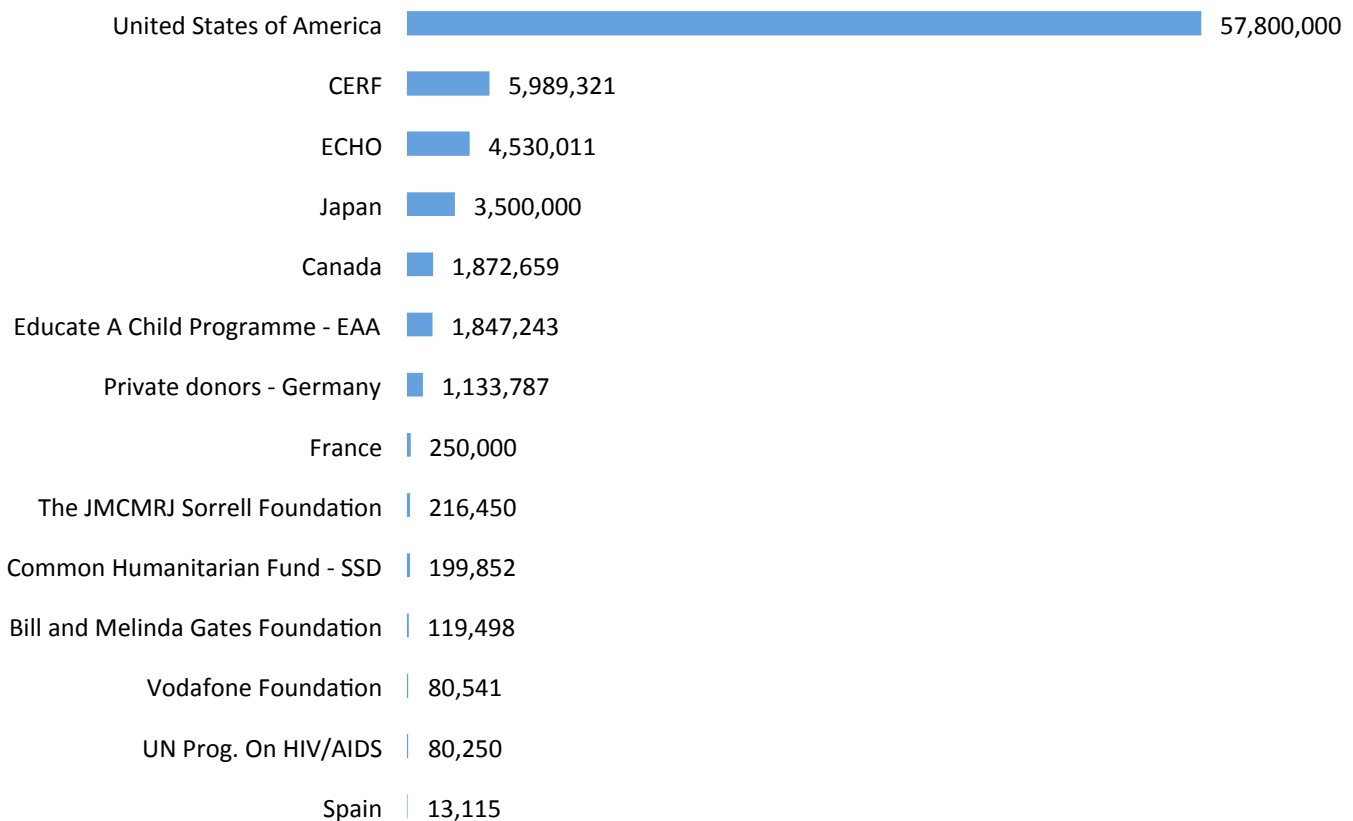
Shelter and NFIs

Jonglei

- In the Bor POC site, UNHCR joined ACTED and IOM in assessing and verifying 85 families severely affected by recent floods. It was decided to move the families to a higher ground and help them reconstruct their shelters, with ACTED and IOM providing poles and bamboos and UNHCR providing plastic sheeting.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Total recorded contributions for the operation amount to USD 80,986,503 as of 31 August 2016. 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 earmarked and broadly earmarked funds.



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