

# South Sudan

December 2019

## POPULATIONS OF CONCERN

**298,313**

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.

**1.47 million**

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

**235,802**

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

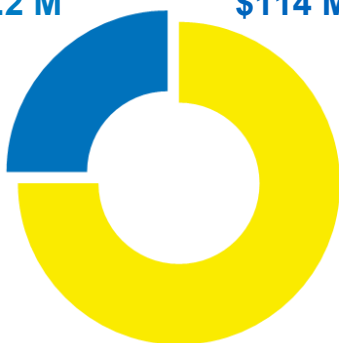
## FUNDING

**\$152.2 million**

requested for the operation

25% unfunded  
**\$38.2 M**

75% funded  
**\$114 M**



*Sudanese refugee women dance outside a women's centre in Pamir refugee camp, Jamjang, Unity.  
© UNHCR/Elizabeth Stuart*

## In this issue

- Road, shelter, and water and sanitation **infrastructure repairs move forward in flood-damaged Maban County**, Upper Nile, where UNHCR and partners are assisting 150,000 refugees and 50,000 host community members. (Page 3)
- UNHCR and partners **respond to increasing criminality** in the wake of flooding in Maban. (Page 4)
- In Jamjang, Unity, nearly 800 refugee and host community **students graduate from vocational training** courses. (Page 6)
- UNHCR's IDP Protection Unit provides **emergency assistance to families stranded by insecurity along the Nile River route** from Bor, Jonglei, to Malakal, Upper Nile. (Page 9)
- **625 babies are born** in UNHCR-supported obstetric and newborn care facilities. (Page 9)

## Operational Context



*In Maban, UNHCR and partners provide water, sanitation and hygiene services to more than 150,000 refugees and their host communities. © UNHCR/Mary-Sanyu Osire*

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 and IDP returnees 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 humanitarian aid mechanisms.

# Refugee Response

## December Highlights

### Repairs move forward on shelters, infrastructure damaged by floods

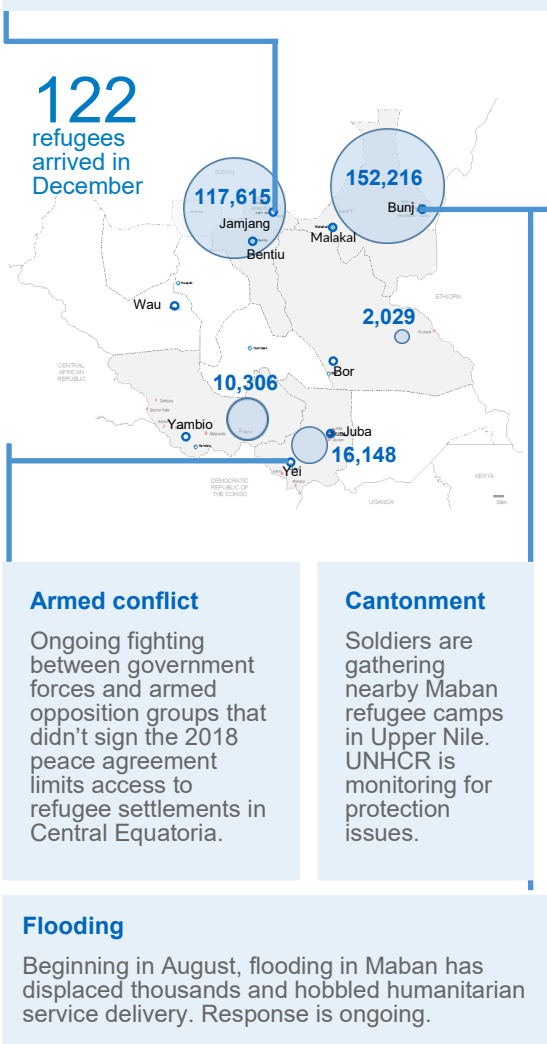
Needs assessments and the distribution of emergency supplies to refugees and host community members affected by heavy flooding in Maban, Upper Nile, were completed in December, allowing UNHCR and partners to start on rebuilding. Key activities included:

- **Shelter.** UNHCR and partner Danish Refugee Council completed the construction of 71 shelters for particularly vulnerable refugees. Repairs on 20 classrooms is ongoing.
- **Food security & livelihoods.** UNHCR partner Relief International distributed emergency crop kits and fishing kits to 3,800 refugees (1,420 men/2,380 women) to assist communities in recovering after swaths of food were destroyed by flooding.
- **Water.** Leaking pipelines were repaired in all four refugee camps and storage tanks and solar panels at boreholes in Yusuf Batil refugee camp were cleaned. Twenty-two borehole generators were serviced in Doro, Kaya, and Yusuf Batil, refugee camps and one solar system was reconnected to a borehole in Doro. Planning is underway to rehabilitate 40 wells in the host community.
- **Sanitation.** Eighty-eight latrines that were damaged by the flooding were decommissioned. Meanwhile, partners built 62 shared household latrines, 102 household latrines, and 30 institutional latrines across Maban's four refugee camps and in the host community. Construction is ongoing on 32 additional

## KEY CHALLENGES

### Maintaining the civilian character of asylum

When refugees first fled conflict in Sudan's South Kordofan State in 2011, they spontaneously 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 215 individuals in making the move, bringing the total number relocated in 2019 to 9,166. Still, about 46,036 refugees remained in Yida.



### 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 Upper Nile. UNHCR is monitoring for protection issues.

### Flooding

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



*A scholastic material distribution at Yusuf Batil refugee Camp, Maban, Upper Nile, in 2019. © UNHCR/Mary-Sanyu Osire*

institutional latrines and 210 household latrines.

- **Infrastructure repair.** UNHCR and partner Action Africa Help International continued with spot repairs along the Airstrip-Kaya road, which was damaged during the flooding. UNHCR and WFP completed an assessment of the road to Banketa to inform ongoing planning with stakeholders to make it passable.

### Criminality targeting INGOs increases in Maban County

Criminality targeting international NGOs working in Maban County refugee camps sharply increased in December with the onset of the festive season, including a violent attack on an INGO compound 1 December, during which two humanitarians were assaulted. UNHCR advocated with the Minister of Interior for a swift investigation into the incident, and the Deputy Commissioner for Refugee Affairs was

dispatched to Maban to coordinate. Twelve suspects have been arrested and transported to Renk for prosecution.

UNHCR and UNDSS conducted a security risk assessment and, in collaboration with NGOs, identified a plan of action to increase security for humanitarians working in Maban. Strengthening compounds by hiring well-trained security guards and building up infrastructure will be key. If funding can be secured, humanitarians plan to build a complex of compounds in proximity to UNMISS's base to enable NGOs to pool resources for security and facilitate a faster response time from peacekeepers. The government has agreed to allocate land to support the endeavor.

### Students sit for secondary education certificate in Maban refugee camps

UNHCR and education partners, Lutheran World Federation and Jesuit Refugee Services, collaborated with the Maban

County Education Office to administer tests for the Certificate of Secondary Education from 16-24 December. Two-hundred-and-twenty-seven students registered to take the test in 2019, which was an increase from 167 in 2018. Ninety-eight percent of registered candidates successfully sat for the exams.

### UNHCR, partners prepare for vaccination campaign amid Maban measles outbreak

UNHCR is supporting partners in developing an emergency vaccination campaign as a measles outbreak spreads in the community hosting four refugee camps in Maban County. So far, Médecins Sans Frontières has reported 16 cases of measles among the host community, and two suspected cases in Doro refugee camp. Surveillance, community mobilization and routine immunization is ongoing.

### More than 400 youth participate in sports tournaments & recreational activities

Save the Children International, in coordination with UNHCR, facilitated sports tournaments for 180 youth (112 male/68 female). Two-hundred and fifty-six youth participated in recreational activities made possible by funding from the U.S. Bureau of Population, Migration and Refugees

### Vocational training, ICT and intensive English courses wrap up in Jamjang

About 800 students graduated from various educational courses in Jamjang refugee camps in December.

In Ajoung Thok and Pamir refugee camps, 162 students completed vocational trainings in metal work and fabrication, building and construction, garment making, furniture making, tailoring and bakery. During the training, students also attended entrepreneurship and management classes. The graduation ceremony took place on 13 December at the Vocational Training Centre in Pamir, and was attended by the Jamjang County Commissioner, the



## KEY PROTECTION ACHIEVEMENTS

### SGBV PREVENTION

**22** new sexual- and gender-based violence cases identified and supported

**8,078** refugees reached through advocacy activities to improve knowledge of SGBV prevention and response

**166** extremely vulnerable persons, including women and girls at risk for SGBV, supported with food and non-food items

### ACCESS TO JUSTICE

**60** detention monitoring visits conducted

**29** traditional court sessions monitored

**9** refugees provided legal counseling

### CHILD PROTECTION

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

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

**1,064** children participated in recreational activities in child friendly spaces

State Minister of Education, UNHCR, the Commission for Refugee Affairs, the International Rescue Committee, Internews, and refugee leaders. On the 27 and 18 December, 153 of the graduates received start-up kits to assist them in launching their businesses.

UNHCR partner Lutheran World Federation also conducted a graduation ceremony for 287 students (90 girls/197 boys) who completed an Intensive English Course. In this group of students, 63 (20 girls/43 boys) came from the host community.

In both camps, 299 students (67 girls/232 boys) graduated from ICT courses.

### [Pamir refugee camp to be expanded to accommodate relocating refugees](#)

UNHCR and partner Action African Help International completed construction on 600 meters of road in December as part of a long-term plan to expand Pamir refugee camp to accommodate refugees relocating from the Yida refugee settlement. Embankment fill has been placed on an additional 2.1 km.

In December, UNHCR and partners Danish Refugee Council and Samaritan's Purse assisted 72 households (199 refugees) in voluntarily relocating from Yida to Ajuong Thok and Pamir camps, and provided them with core relief items, shelter kits, and food supplies. The International Rescue Committee screened children from malnutrition.

As the refugees wrap up their harvest in Yida, UNHCR expects to see an increase in relocations.

The government closed the site in 2016 because its proximity to the border increased protection concerns related to militarization and forced recruitment. From 2016 to 2019, UNHCR and partners serving the refugees gradually moved services to Ajuong Thok and Pamir camps to entice refugees to relocate voluntarily.

### [UNHCR completes verification exercise in Gorom refugee camp](#)

The number of refugees receiving assistance in Gorom refugee settlement has decreased 14% since 2017, according to a population verification exercise completed in December. The settlement, which is located just outside of Juba in Central Equatoria, has a refugee population of 2,008 individuals in 637 households. Among that, UNHCR identified 439 individuals with special needs. During the last exercise, conducted in 2017, 2,355 refugees were verified.

UNHCR conducts a verification exercise every two years to reestablish accurate population figures. The exercise is combined with biometric registration, which strengthens UNHCR's protection programming.

## 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, so numbers include both refugees and host community members unless specified.)



An IDP poses with a community garden in Malakal, Upper Nile. © UNHCR

### ACCESS TO ENERGY

**442** fuel efficient stoves distributed

**276** tree seedlings distributed for planting

**3,190** trees marked for protection

### 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)

**86** percent of all enrolled students attended classes in December

**98** percent of enrolled students attended school in December

**458** refugee teachers benefitted from in-service training in December

 **FOOD SECURITY & NUTRITION**

**217,378** refugees received food or cash for food during World Food Programme general distributions

**3,053** people received counseling on best practices in infant and young child feeding

**3,829** children aged 6-23 months benefitted from programming to prevent or treat malnutrition

**2,905** pregnant and breastfeeding women benefitted from programming to prevent or treat malnutrition

**5,982** received care through the Community-based Management of Acute Malnutrition programme

 **HEALTH**

**45,380** people consulted with healthcare professionals at UNHCR-supported facilities (31% were from the host community)

**825** new patients were admitted for inpatient care (22% were from the host community)

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

**107** pregnant women received treatment to prevent the transmission of HIV/AIDS from mother to child

**597** patients living with HIV/AIDS received anti-retroviral treatment

**261** patients received treatment for Tuberculosis

**24,318** refugees were reached through health education initiatives

 **SHELTER & NON-FOOD ITEMS**

**45** families received tents or shelter materials, such as tents, plastic sheeting, corrugated metal roofing or other materials

**2,358** women and girls received feminine hygiene materials

**213,132** people received soap, buckets, or jerry cans

**114** people received core relief items, such as blankets, sleeping mats, soap, buckets, mosquito nets, and kitchen sets

 **WATER & SANITATION**

**347** household and community latrines were constructed, bringing the number of persons per latrine to 12

**21** average liters of safe water were provided per refugee per day in October

**69,397** people were reached through hygiene promotion and safe-water chain campaigns



# IDP Response

## December Highlights

### UNHCR assists families stranded by insecurity along Nile river

UNHCR in December provided support to 19 families (18 female-headed/1 male headed households) who have been stranded at the Bor dock due to insecurity along the Nile River route to Malakal. The families, which include IDPs, were traveling from Juba to Upper Nile, Unity and northern Jonglei when intercommunal violence erupted between the Twic East and Chiech communities at Chuetakuwet Island.

The 19 families, among 25 who are stuck at the dock, have been sleeping in open-air conditions. UNHCR conducted a situation assessment to identify the most vulnerable families, and distributed mosquito nets, blankets, sleeping mats, soap, buckets and sanitary materials.

Families have continued to arrive as authorities seek to negotiate safe passage on the Nile route.

### Statelessness prevention efforts progress in Bor POC site

During the reporting period, UNHCR in collaboration with Jonglei State Ministry of Health processed age assessments for 406 residents of the UNMISS Bor Protection of Civilians site as part a statelessness reduction effort. An age assessment is required to obtain a South Sudan nationality certificate. Next, UNHCR will support the IDPs to acquire the nationality certificate from the Directorate of Nationality, Passport and Immigration.

### Women engaged in GBV-prevention programming in Bor

UNHCR partner INTERSOS trained women on the Engaging Men Through Accountable Progress (EMAP) curriculum in Bor in December, which is designed to transform attitudes and behaviors to reduce gender-based violence. Key action areas highlighted in the training included:

- Engaging men through accountable practices to help change attitudes and behaviors that contribute to gender-based violence.
- Involving men in household tasks typically undertaken by women.
- Integrating women's voices into men's programming.

A survey of 120 refugees who completed the same program in Jamjang, Unity, in December showed significant improvement of men's attitudes towards women, especially their wives and daughters. (In Jamjang, UNHCR partner International Rescue Committee implemented the program.)

### IDPs progress with vocational training

Seventy IDP and host community members graduated from vocational skills training courses in Malakal on 31 December. The three-month trainings, conducted by UNHCR partner Danish Refugee Council, included carpentry, phone repair and maintenance, bedsheet embroidery, and bead design. Following a ceremony to mark their achievement, which was attended by

the South Sudan Relief and Rehabilitation Commission, graduates were awarded business start-up kits that included – depending on the IDPs specialization – fabric and beads, or wood-working materials.

Meanwhile, at the Mingkamen IDP site in Lakes, 70 women graduated from a six-months skills course delivered by UNHCR partner Humanitarian Development Consortium to help them generate income. In Akobo, UNHCR partner Nile Hope enrolled 25 IDPs in hairdressing and tailoring classes.

### Protection assessments conducted to inform flood, returnee support

In December, UNHCR and its partners conducted five field missions to various locations to assess protection needs.

In Jonglei, UNHCR conducted a protection assessment in Akobo town to identify the needs of those impacted by flooding and provide information on available services. The assessment included three focus-group discussions and two key informant interviews. Fifteen host community members, 12 IDPs, and 5 returnees participated in the focus group discussions. The main concerns of the participants were food and livelihoods, water and sanitation, health, shelter and non-food items.

In Unity, UNHCR and partner Danish Refugee Council traveled to Manga, Nhialdu and Guit Counties to assess the areas as potential areas for IDP return and identify protection risks. A similar assessment in Mir-Mir, Koch County, identified gaps in protection, water and sanitation, food security and livelihoods and health services.

### 19 IDP families come home to Malakal

Between 20 and 23 December, UNHCR, in partnership with UNMISS RRP, supported the return of three IDP households (19 individuals) from the Juba UNMISS POC site, Central Equatoria, to Malakal town, Upper Nile. The IDPs were cordially received by the South Sudan Relief and Rehabilitation Commission and their relatives at Malakal airport. The IDP returnees were issued sleeping mats, mosquito nets, jerry cans, buckets, plastic sheets and soap.

“We are happy to return to Malakal since it is our home town and our relatives stay here,” said Lucia, one of the IDP returnees. “It is extremely important that we have reunified before Christmas and New Year, so we spend this time together with the family in joy and peace. This gives me inspiration to move forward and start new, better life”.

UNHCR conducted orientation session and provided protection counselling to IDP returnees, so they are aware of available services, their location and partners on the ground. Moving forward, the returnees will be absorbed into existing programming to avoid creating tensions with host communities and other returnees, as well as to minimize dependency on humanitarian aid. The Upper Nile Solutions Working Group, of which UNHCR is a part, has devised a plan for post-return monitoring.

To inform planning for future IDPs returns, UNHCR, the Humanitarian Development Consortium and the Camp Coordination and Camp Management Cluster travelled to three IDP settlements in Melut (Khoradar, and Dingtoma 1 and 2) to assess intentions to return to areas of origin in Atar, Baliet and Khorfulus. The team conducted 12 focus group discussions that included 216 individuals and 8 key informant interviews. The assessment results were shared with the Upper Nile Solutions Working Group.

# Refugee Return Monitoring

## December Highlights

### Movement trends

In December, spontaneous refugee returns remained relatively low despite improved road conditions with the onset of the dry season. At the same time, return monitors witnessed an increased exit from South Sudan mainly to Ethiopia, Sudan and Uganda. This coincides with continued conflict between armed groups in Upper Nile's Maiwut and Nasir areas during the period. More than 11,000 persons from Maiwut, Khormachar, Nyoplew, Tuaregany, Tuel and Nyalonglong villages have been internally displaced, while up to 6,000 other are estimated to have crossed into Ethiopia. Departures to Uganda were mainly from Greater Yei in Central Equatoria, due to family re-union and for festive season.

The Sudan and Uganda corridors remained the most active corridors for returns with 4,495 coming from Sudan and 1,349 coming from the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Pendular movements increased during the last quarter of 2019, with 1,419 returnees turning back to countries of asylum. A majority of departures were linked to inadequate services in return locations in South Sudan, with some returnees citing housing, land and property issues. Furthermore, some of the locations that were hosting spontaneous returns witnessed natural shocks such floods, resulting in food insecurity and limited livelihood opportunities.

### Protection monitoring missions

- **Dingimo, Western Equatoria:** A protection monitoring mission to Dingimo, where more than 4,000 IDP and refugee returnees are temporarily settled, found a majority have paused



# 7,642

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

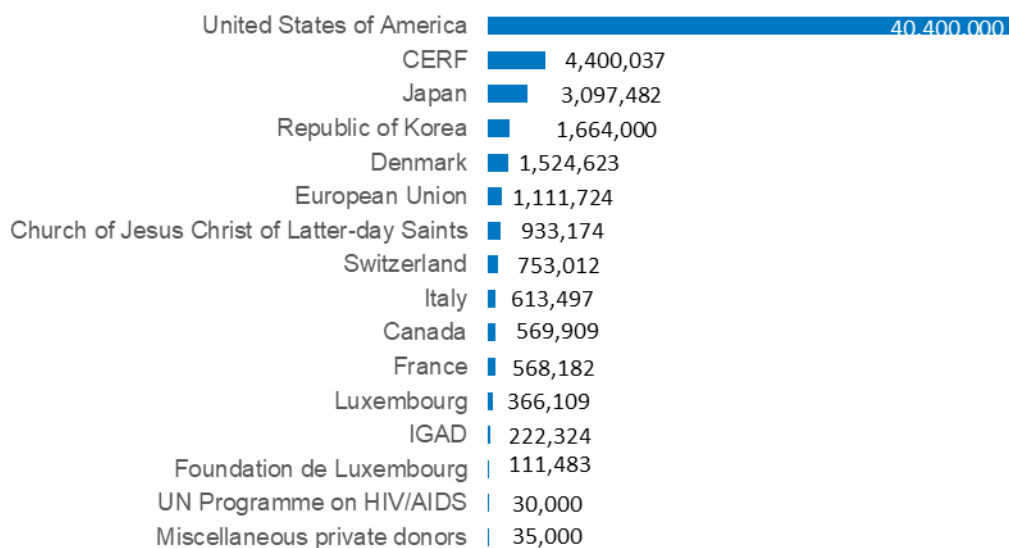
their journey to their intended areas of return due to the presence of armed elements, inadequate services, or poor road access. UNHCR conducted the monitoring in partnership with CARE and the South Sudan RRC.

- **Kajo Keji, Central Equatoria:** A protection monitoring mission by UNHCR, UMCOR and RRC found more than 50,000 refugee returnees from Uganda. The returnees were commuting between villages along the Uganda/South Sudan Border in Pure, Liwolo, Kerwa, Logo, Abaya, Litoba, Serajale, and Logo villages. They had set up temporary shelters to avoid harassment from armed elements.

# Financial Update

## 2019 funding received for South Sudan Operation in USD

Total recorded contributions for the operation amount to US \$114 million, for the financial year 2019 as of 7 January 2020, including \$57.6 million for the South Sudan Situation. 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 13.7 million | Germany 13.6 million | Canada 6.8 million | Private donors Germany 3.7 million | Sweden 3.1 million | Private donors Republic of Korea 2.8 million | Norway 2.8 million | Finland 2.2 million

**Unearmarked contributions to UNHCR's global operation:** Sweden 99.8 million | Private donors Spain 73.8 million | United Kingdom 44.6 million | Norway 44.5 million | Netherlands 43.1 million | Private donors Republic of Korea 41.8 million | Germany 28.9 million | Japan 25.7 million | Denmark 24.4 million | Private donors Japan 23.4 million | Private donors Italy 17.5 million | Switzerland 15.1 million | Private donors USA 15 million | France 14 million | Private donors Sweden 13.6 million | Ireland 10.2 million | Italy 10 million

Algeria | Argentina | Australia | Austria | Azerbaijan | Belgium | Bulgaria | Canada | Costa Rica | Cyprus | Estonia | Finland | Iceland | Indonesia | Islamic Republic of Pakistan | Kuwait | Latvia | Liechtenstein | Luxembourg | Malta | Mexico | 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

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