



SOUTH SUDAN - CRISIS

FACT SHEET #7, FISCAL YEAR (FY) 2020

MAY 15, 2020

NUMBERS AT A GLANCE

7.5 million

Estimated People in South Sudan Requiring Humanitarian Assistance
UN – November 2019

6.5 million

Estimated People in Need of Food Assistance in South Sudan
IPC – February 2020

1.7 million

Estimated Number of IDPs in South Sudan
UN – January 2020

189,000

Estimated Individuals Seeking Refuge at UNMISS Bases
UNMISS – May 2020

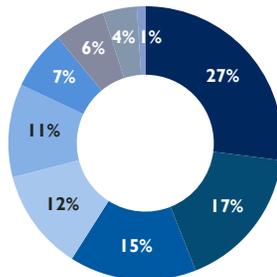
2.3 million

Estimated Refugees and Asylum Seekers from South Sudan in Neighboring Countries
UNHCR – April 2020

300,000

Estimated Refugees from Neighboring Countries in South Sudan
UNHCR – March 2020

USAID/OFDA¹ FUNDING BY SECTOR IN FYs 2019-2020



- Logistics Support & Relief Commodities (27%)
- Water, Sanitation & Hygiene (17%)
- Health (15%)
- Nutrition (12%)
- Protection (11%)
- Agriculture & Food Security (7%)
- Humanitarian Coordination & Information Management (6%)
- Shelter & Settlements (4%)
- Other (1%)

USAID/FFP² FUNDING BY MODALITY IN FYs 2019-2020



- Local, Regional, and International Procurement (67%)
- U.S. In-Kind Food Aid (27%)
- Complementary Services (5%)
- Cash Transfers for Food, Food Vouchers (1%)

HIGHLIGHTS

- COVID-19 mitigation measures delay measles vaccination campaign
- COVID-19 economic impacts, desert locusts threaten food security
- Intercommunal violence drives displacement, constrains humanitarian access

HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE SOUTH SUDAN RESPONSE IN FYs 2019-2020

USAID/OFDA	\$169,137,031
USAID/FFP	\$620,046,143
State/PRM ³	\$90,198,945

\$879,382,119⁴

TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE SOUTH SUDAN RESPONSE IN FYs 2019-2020

\$4,910,245,683

TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE SOUTH SUDAN RESPONSE IN FYs 2014-2020, INCLUDING FUNDING FOR SOUTH SUDANESE REFUGEES IN NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- The number of confirmed coronavirus disease (COVID-19) cases in South Sudan quadrupled in early May, as additional testing revealed significant community transmission. Despite the increase, the Government of the Republic of South Sudan (GoRSS) began relaxing COVID-19 mitigation measures on May 7. USAID partners continue adapting existing programs to incorporate COVID-19 preparedness and response activities.
- Between January and March, intercommunal violence intensified across South Sudan, particularly in parts of Central Equatoria, Jonglei, Lakes, Unity, Upper Nile, and Warrap states, exacerbating humanitarian conditions, hampering humanitarian access, and prompting mass displacement, according to the UN. Recent clashes related to cattle-rustling resulted in the displacement of approximately 50,000 people in Warrap in recent weeks, and fighting in Central Equatoria prompted the displacement of approximately 6,400 people in early May.

¹ USAID's Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (USAID/OFDA)

² USAID's Office of Food for Peace (USAID/FFP)

³ U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (State/PRM)

⁴ This total does not include approximately \$274.8 million in FYs 2019-2020 U.S. Government (USG) funding for South Sudanese refugees in neighboring countries, which increases total USG emergency funding for the South Sudan crisis in FYs 2019-2020 to more than \$1.2 billion.

COVID-19 IMPACT AND RESPONSE

- The GoRSS Ministry of Health had reported 231 confirmed COVID-19 cases in South Sudan as of May 14; since the first confirmed case on April 5, three patients have recovered, and one patient has died of the disease. Confirmed cases more than quadrupled during the first two weeks of May, with more testing revealing widespread community transmission in South Sudan's capital city of Juba. In addition, several recent cases originated in Central Equatoria's Yei County, as well as Eastern Equatoria State, demonstrating that community transmission is underway outside of Juba. Furthermore, three recently confirmed cases originated in UN Mission in the Republic of South Sudan (UNMISS) protection of civilians (PoC) sites in Juba and Unity's Bentiu town, indicating that COVID-19 may have begun spreading among internally displaced persons (IDPs) without adequate access to health and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) services. Despite increased positive COVID-19 cases, the GoRSS began loosening COVID-19-related restrictions on May 7, reducing curfew hours, permitting limited public transportation, and allowing bars, restaurants, and shops to reopen with physical distancing measures in place. Furthermore, the GoRSS reopened all airports to domestic and international flights on May 12. On May 8, the South Sudan Doctor's Union issued a statement protesting the relaxation of COVID-19 mitigation measures, recommending that restrictions remain in place until new positive COVID-19 cases begin to decline.
- USAID partner the UN Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS) had resumed passenger flights for mission-critical movements in South Sudan as of May 12. UNHAS had previously halted passenger flights in late April following GoRSS requirements that all relief actors undergo COVID-19 testing prior to interstate travel, which delayed flight clearances due to limited COVID-19 testing capacity in Juba. In accordance with new GoRSS guidelines, UNHAS will institute new physical distancing measures, resulting in fewer passengers per flight, and relief actors are encouraged to minimize travel to mitigate the spread of the virus.
- In response to the COVID-19 outbreak, USAID/OFDA partner World Relief International (WRI) adjusted existing programming to provide increased health, nutrition, and WASH assistance in the Bentiu PoC site, Jonglei's New Fangak town, and Unity's Koch County during April. WRI trained nearly 40 Bentiu PoC site health workers on infection prevention and control and the proper use of personal protective equipment (PPE), in addition to recruiting and training six casual workers to enforce physical distancing at health and nutrition centers. WRI health promoters and community nutrition volunteers had reached nearly 5,700 individuals in the Bentiu PoC site with COVID-19 preparedness messages as of April 27. In addition, WRI activated 14 hygiene committees in Koch and New Fangak; according to the non-governmental organization (NGO), approximately 70 hygiene committee members had reached more than 15,200 people with COVID-19 awareness messages as of April 27. The NGO also established additional hand washing stations at two WRI-supported nutrition centers in April.
- State/PRM partner the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) continued incorporating COVID-19 preparedness and response activities into its ongoing support for IDPs and refugees in South Sudan in April. As of early May, the UN agency had distributed two-month rations of supplementary food for children and pregnant and lactating women in four refugee camps across the country. In addition, UNHCR distributed WASH supplies and provided COVID-19 risk communication to approximately 880 households in the PoC site in Upper Nile's Malakal town.

HUMANITARIAN ACCESS, INSECURITY, AND POPULATION MOVEMENT

- Despite the formation of the Revitalized Transitional Government of National Unity in February, continued armed clashes and a wave of intercommunal violence generated mass displacement, exacerbated humanitarian conditions, and adversely affected humanitarian access in South Sudan during the first quarter of 2020, the UN reports. Relief actors recorded 170 humanitarian access incidents—including ambushes, looting, and bureaucratic impediments—between January and March, representing a nearly 20 percent increase from the 144 incidents reported in the same period of 2019. The surge in violence was due in part to increased availability of weapons among rival groups, as well as limited interventions by local and national security forces.
- Intercommunal violence related to cattle-rustling continues to displace civilians and generate humanitarian needs in Warrap. Clashes between rival communities in Warrap's Tonj East, Tonj South, and Twic counties had displaced

approximately 50,000 people as of early May, relief actors report. The newly displaced IDPs are in urgent need of humanitarian assistance; however, relief agencies had not provided assistance as of May 5, and many IDPs remained in need of adequate shelter, the UN reports. Although local authorities have requested the provision of humanitarian assistance before seasonal rains render roads impassable, current COVID-19-related travel restrictions and mitigation measures have delayed response operations. In addition, continued fighting between South Sudan People's Defense Forces (SSPDF) and National Salvation Front (NAS) elements in Central Equatoria's Lainya County have resulted in four civilian deaths, the illegal detention of non-combatants, and the displacement of more than 6,000 people in recent weeks, USAID/OFDA partners report.

- Since the confirmation of the first positive COVID-19 cases in Uganda and South Sudan in late March and early April, respectively, approximately 4,200 IDPs and refugees had returned to Central Equatoria's Juba County from Uganda and other areas of South Sudan as of April 29, the South Sudan Relief and Rehabilitation Commission reports. The returnees, who are residing with host community members due to the destruction of their original houses, have placed increased strain on host communities and require emergency food and shelter assistance. Due to persistent COVID-19-related movement restrictions, humanitarian organizations are unable to verify the number of returnees and assess their priority needs.

PUBLIC HEALTH

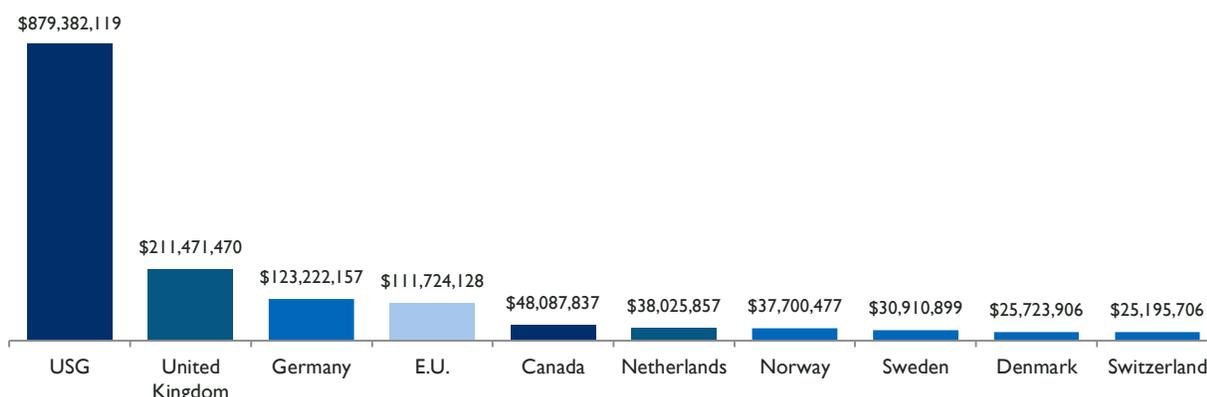
- The COVID-19 outbreak has disrupted scheduled vaccination campaigns throughout South Sudan in recent weeks, the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) acknowledged in a late April statement. In particular, approximately 787,000 children ages five years and younger will miss the second phase of a nationwide measles vaccination campaign due to COVID-19 mitigation measures, according to UNICEF. The ongoing measles outbreak, which began in South Sudan in January 2019, had resulted in more than 4,700 positive cases and 26 deaths as of April 29. In response, health agencies launched the first phase of the nationwide vaccination campaign, which aims to inoculate 2.5 million children against measles, in February; the campaign had achieved 70 percent coverage among all counties in South Sudan as of early May. Currently, about 40 percent of children in South Sudan are vaccinated against measles.
- With support from USAID/OFDA, the International Medical Corps (IMC) continued to provide life-saving health services to IDPs in South Sudan during March. IMC staff performed nearly 14,300 outpatient consultations at the UNMISS PoC sites in Juba and Malakal, addressing acute respiratory tract infections, non-communicable diseases, and mental health. The NGO also reached 2,200 people in the Malakal PoC site with nutrition promotion messaging and admitted nearly 260 individuals for the treatment of severe and moderate acute malnutrition at the PoC site during the month. IMC also prepared health and nutrition contingency plans for the Juba and Malakal PoC sites in response to the COVID-19 outbreak.
- Following demands for increased incentives and wages, health volunteers contracted by USAID/OFDA partner the International Organization for Migration (IOM) temporarily closed three health facilities at the Bentiu PoC site on April 21. Due to funding constraints, health agencies were unable to accommodate the requests of approximately 370 IOM-contracted health volunteers for increased incentives and wages commensurate with other health staff working outside the PoC site. The health facility closures affected an estimated 60 percent—approximately 71,000 individuals—of the total PoC site population. In response to the health center closures, PoC site representatives, humanitarian personnel, local authorities, and UNMISS representatives met to address the impasse over incentives and salaries, underscoring that prolonged health service disruptions would significantly endanger the lives of thousands of IDPs at the PoC site. Although the health volunteers resumed services on April 27 following negotiations between health volunteers and community members on April 26, demands for increased compensation continued to result in disrupted services as of May 5.

FOOD SECURITY AND LIVELIHOODS

- Approximately 6.5 million people—more than half of South Sudan’s population—were expected to experience severe food insecurity during the May-to-July lean season, according to a January IPC report.⁵ However, reduced household purchasing power and deteriorating macroeconomic conditions associated with the COVID-19 pandemic, along with anticipated crop losses due to the ongoing desert locust infestation in the country, are likely to increase the number of people experiencing acute food insecurity, the Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET) reports. COVID-19-related movement restrictions have resulted in delayed food commodity imports and increased transport costs in recent weeks; coupled with COVID-19-related panic-buying, these effects are contributing to an increase in food prices across South Sudan.
- As of May 12, the price of staple commodities had increased between 200 and 300 percent above the five-year average, with sorghum and maize flour prices in Juba increasing by 20 percent between the third week of March and the fourth week of April. As a result of price increases, as well as COVID-19-related disruptions to daily livelihood activities, many households are resorting to food security coping mechanisms, including switching to cheaper, less nutritious foods, reducing consumption, and going for days without food. The UN World Food Program (WFP) cautions that communities in densely populated urban areas will be most impacted due to their reliance on markets for the purchase of staple foods. The Food Security and Livelihoods (FSL) Cluster—the coordinating body for humanitarian food security and livelihood activities, comprising UN agencies, NGOs, and other stakeholders—anticipates up to 2 million additional people across urban and rural locations may require food assistance due to emerging needs and vulnerabilities associated with COVID-19. As a result, the FSL Cluster plans to target approximately 8 million people with increased food assistance to mitigate the impacts of COVID-19 on vulnerable households.
- The desert locust infestation in Eastern Equatoria had damaged an estimated 4,900 acres of recently planted crops as of late April and continues to present a significant threat to food security in the coming months, according to USAID/FFP partner the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). FAO and the GoRSS Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security have procured control equipment and chemicals, including four vehicles, 6,100 liters of pesticide, 500 handheld sprayers, and 1,200 pieces of PPE. However, aerial and ground spraying operations had not commenced as of early May.
- With support from USAID/FFP, WFP continues to provide food assistance to affected populations in compliance with COVID-19 risk mitigation protocols, including enforcing hand washing and PPE use by WFP staff, and physical distancing at food distribution points. To further mitigate the risk of coronavirus transmission, the UN agency had provided double food distributions for April and May to approximately 2.6 million people—including IDPs and refugees at all UNMISS PoC sites and refugee camps in South Sudan—and double cash transfers to approximately 498,000 beneficiaries as of May 5; the agency continued to issue double distributions in Jonglei’s Akobo West, Ayod, Nyirol, and Uror counties as of late April. Countrywide, as of May 10, WFP had pre-positioned more than 140,000 metric tons (MT) of food commodities, equivalent to 74 percent of the total 190,530 MT planned for pre-positioning in hard-to-reach areas during the rainy season. Recent insecurity has resulted in food shipment delays at the South Sudan–Sudan border, slowing the pre-positioning exercise, WFP reports.
- As of early May, USAID/FFP partner FAO had procured more than 6,000 MT of assorted crop and vegetable seeds—including more than 2,500 MT of seeds procured locally in South Sudan—for distribution to farmers ahead of the planting season. In total, the UN agency plans to procure and provide more than 9,700 MT of seeds ahead of the planting season. The UN agency had reached nearly 90,000 people with seeds in Central Equatoria, Eastern Equatoria, Western Bahr el-Ghazal, and Western Equatoria states as of April 30.

⁵ The Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) is a standardized tool that aims to classify the severity and magnitude of acute food insecurity. The IPC scale, which is comparable across countries, ranges from Minimal—IPC 1—to Famine—IPC 5.

2019–2020 TOTAL HUMANITARIAN FUNDING* PER DONOR



*Funding figures are as May 15, 2020. All international figures are according to the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)'s Financial Tracking Service and based on international commitments to date in 2020, while USG figures are according to the USG and reflect publicly announced USG funding for FYs 2019–2020. The \$879 million in FYs 2019–2020 USG humanitarian funding for the South Sudan response does not include support for South Sudanese refugees in neighboring countries.

CONTEXT

- The January 2005 signing of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement between the Government of Sudan and the southern-based Sudan People's Liberation Army officially ended more than two decades of north–south conflict during which famine, fighting, and disease killed an estimated 2 million people and displaced at least 4.5 million others within Sudan. In July 2011, South Sudan became an independent state following a referendum earlier in the year.
- On December 15, 2013, clashes erupted between factions within the GoRSS in Juba and quickly spread into a protracted national conflict, prompting displacement and humanitarian needs. On December 20, 2013, USAID activated a Disaster Assistance Response Team (DART) to lead the USG response to the crisis in South Sudan and stood up a Washington, D.C.-based Response Management Team to support the DART.
- On October 3, 2019, U.S. Ambassador Thomas J. Hushek redeclared a disaster in South Sudan for FY 2020 due to ongoing conflict, population displacement, restricted humanitarian access, and disruption of cultivation activities, markets, and trade, all of which have significantly exacerbated food insecurity and humanitarian needs.

USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE COUNTRY RESPONSE IN FYs 2019-2020¹ USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE COUNTRY RESPONSE IN FY 2020

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	ACTIVITY	LOCATION	AMOUNT
USAID/OFDA			
IOM	Agriculture and Food Security, Health, Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management (HCIM), Logistics Support, Nutrition, Protection, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Countrywide	\$2,500,000
UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)	HCIM	Countrywide	\$2,000,000
UNICEF	Nutrition, Protection, WASH	Countrywide	\$3,500,000
WFP	Logistics Support	Countrywide	\$21,720,246
UN World Health Organization (WHO)	Health	Countrywide	\$500,000

WRI	Agriculture and Food Security, Health, Nutrition, WASH	Jonglei, Unity	\$2,529,311
	Program Support		\$158,751
TOTAL USAID/OFDA FUNDING IN FY 2020			\$32,908,308
USAID/FFP²			
UNICEF	Local, Regional, and International Food Procurement (LRIP)	Countrywide	\$25,225,000
WFP	U.S. In-Kind Food Aid and LRIP	Countrywide	\$219,991,198
TOTAL USAID/FFP FUNDING IN FY 2020			\$245,216,198
STATE/PRM ASSISTANCE IN SOUTH SUDAN			
UNHCR	Multi-Sector Assistance	Countrywide	\$7,100,000
TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING IN FY 2020			\$7,100,000
TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE COUNTRY RESPONSE IN FY 2020			\$285,224,506

USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE COUNTRY RESPONSE IN FY 2019

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	ACTIVITY	LOCATION	AMOUNT
USAID/OFDA			
Action Against Hunger/USA (AAH/USA)	Agriculture and Food Security, HCIM, Health, Nutrition, Protection, WASH	Countrywide	\$4,800,000
Agency for Technical Cooperation and Development (ACTED)	HCIM, Shelter and Settlements	Countrywide	\$3,500,000
ALIMA	Health, Nutrition, WASH	Western Bahr el Ghazal	\$1,700,000
American Refugee Committee (ARC)	Protection, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Central Equatoria, Eastern Equatoria, Upper Nile	\$3,460,487
CARE	Health, Nutrition, Protection	Eastern Equatoria	\$1,999,995
Concern	Agriculture and Food Security, Health, Multipurpose Cash Assistance, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Central Equatoria, Northern Bahr el Ghazal, Unity	\$6,300,000
Danish Refugee Council (DRC)	HCIM, Protection, Shelter and Settlements	Jonglei, Unity, Upper Nile	\$2,814,353
FAO	Agriculture and Food Security	Countrywide	\$2,500,000
Food for the Hungry	Agriculture and Food Security, WASH	Jonglei, Upper Nile	\$1,500,000
IMC	Health, Nutrition, Protection	Central Equatoria, Upper Nile	\$5,735,000
iMMAP	HCIM	Countrywide	\$150,000
IMA World Health	Health, Nutrition	Jonglei, Upper Nile	\$3,871,017
IOM	HCIM, Health, Protection, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Countrywide	\$16,889,882
International Rescue Committee (IRC)	Economic Recovery and Market Systems (ERMS), Health, Nutrition, Protection	Central Equatoria, Unity	\$4,083,501
Medair	Health, Nutrition, Protection, WASH	Northern Bahr El Ghazal, Unity, Upper Nile	\$7,000,000
Mercy Corps	WASH	Unity, Western Equatoria	\$3,104,459
Nonviolent Peaceforce	Protection	Central Equatoria, Jonglei, Unity	\$3,600,000
Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC)	HCIM, Protection	Countrywide	\$1,499,904
OCHA	HCIM	Countrywide	\$3,975,282

Relief International (RI)	Agriculture and Food Security, Health, Nutrition, WASH	Upper Nile	\$4,700,000
Samaritan's Purse	Agriculture and Food Security, Health, Nutrition, WASH	Central Equatoria, Northern Bahr El Ghazal, Unity, Western Equatoria	\$4,198,988
Save the Children Federation (SCF)	HCIM, Health, Nutrition, Protection, WASH	Countrywide	\$4,340,788
Tearfund	Agriculture and Food Security, ERMS, Health, Nutrition, WASH	Jonglei	\$2,260,000
UNICEF	Nutrition, Protection, WASH	Countrywide	\$9,500,000
Veterinaires Sans Frontiers/Germany (VSF/G)	Agriculture and Food Security	Jonglei, Unity, Upper Nile	\$1,700,000
WFP	Logistics Support	Countrywide	\$24,000,000
WRI	Agriculture and Food Security, Health, Nutrition, WASH	Jonglei, Unity	\$2,187,032
World Vision	Agriculture and Food Security, ERMS, HCIM, Protection, WASH	Countrywide	\$3,500,000
	Program Support		\$1,358,035
TOTAL USAID/OFDA FUNDING IN FY 2019			\$136,228,723
USAID/FFP			
Catholic Relief Services (CRS)	7,520 MT of U.S. In-Kind Food Aid	Jonglei	\$26,101,313
FAO	Complementary Services; Food Vouchers	Countrywide	\$25,000,000
	1,250 MT of U.S. In-Kind Food Aid	Countrywide	\$22,187,276
UNICEF	625 MT of LRIP; Complementary Services	Countrywide	\$16,367,233
	129,599 MT of LRIP	Countrywide	\$211,721,855
WFP	29,378 MT of U.S. In-Kind Food Aid	Countrywide	\$64,479,418
	Cash Transfers for Food	Central Equatoria, Jonglei, Lakes, Unity, Upper Nile, Western Equatoria	\$6,972,850
	Complementary Services	Countrywide	\$2,000,000
TOTAL USAID/FFP FUNDING IN FY 2019			\$374,829,945
STATE/PRM ASSISTANCE IN SOUTH SUDAN			
Africa Humanitarian Action (AHA)	Primary Health Care, Reproductive Health, and Psychosocial Support	Unity	\$1,499,402
International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)	Multi-Sector Assistance	Countrywide	\$33,300,000
IMC	Health, Psychosocial and Maternal Health	Upper Nile	\$1,500,000
IRC	Protection, Gender-Based Violence, Reproductive and Primary Health Care	Unity	\$1,500,000
Internews Network	Protection, Communication	Unity	\$1,499,950
Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS)	Protection, Education, and Psychosocial Support	Upper Nile	\$1,500,000
Lutheran World Federation (LWF)	Child Protection, Education, and Capacity Building	Upper Nile	\$1,499,968
The MENTOR Initiative	Health and Protection	Upper Nile	\$1,499,625
RI	Primary Health Care	Upper Nile	\$1,500,000
SCF	Child Protection, Education, and Capacity Building	Upper Nile	\$1,200,000
UNHAS	Logistics Support and Relief Commodities	Countrywide	\$1,200,000
UNHCR	Multi-Sector Assistance	Countrywide	\$35,400,000

TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING IN 2019	\$83,098,945
TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE COUNTRY RESPONSE IN FY 2019	\$594,157,613
USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE COUNTRY RESPONSE IN FYS 2019–2020	
TOTAL USAID/OFDA FUNDING FOR THE COUNTRY RESPONSE IN FYS 2019–2020	\$169,137,031
TOTAL USAID/FFP FUNDING FOR THE COUNTRY RESPONSE IN FYS 2019–2020	\$620,046,143
TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING FOR THE COUNTRY RESPONSE IN FYS 2019–2020	\$90,198,945
TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE COUNTRY RESPONSE IN FYS 2019–2020	\$879,382,119³

¹ Year of funding indicates the date of commitment or obligation, not appropriation, of funds. Funding figures reflect publicly announced funding as of March 27, 2020.

² Estimated value of food assistance and transportation costs at time of procurement; subject to change.

³ This total does not include approximately \$274.8 million in FYS 2019–2020 USG funding for South Sudanese refugees in neighboring countries, which increases total USG emergency funding for the South Sudan crisis in FYS 2019–2020 to nearly \$1.2 billion.

PUBLIC DONATION INFORMATION

- The most effective way people can assist relief efforts is by making cash contributions to humanitarian organizations that are conducting relief operations. A list of humanitarian organizations that are accepting cash donations for disaster responses around the world can be found at www.interaction.org.
- USAID encourages cash donations because they allow aid professionals to procure the exact items needed (often in the affected region); reduce the burden on scarce resources (such as transportation routes, staff time, and warehouse space); can be transferred very quickly and without transportation costs; support the economy of the disaster-stricken region; and ensure culturally, dietary, and environmentally appropriate assistance.
- More information can be found at:
 - USAID Center for International Disaster Information: www.cidi.org.
 - Information on relief activities of the humanitarian community can be found at www.reliefweb.int.