

HIGHLIGHTS

- 3 people dead, 19 injured, and more than 11,000 displaced as a result of floods in Gatumba, Buterere, Kinama and Bubanza from 28 to 29 January 2020
- Relocation, shelter, and access to water, sanitation, and hygiene (WaSH) are among the most urgent needs
- Response capacity remains fragile in view of the upcoming rainy season (February to mid-May)



SITUATION OVERVIEW

Although it should have been the short dry season (December – January 2019), heavy rainfall combined with other underlying factors caused flooding that cost lives, displaced people internally, and caused extensive damage to shelter, infrastructure (roads, schools and bridges), and crops (especially in swamps). The north-western provinces of Cibitoke, Bubanza, Bujumbura Rural and Mairie have suffered – in varying degrees. The rains of 28-29 January 2020 particularly affected the northern and southern districts of Bujumbura Mairie, the commune of Mubimbuzi (Bujumbura Rural) and the communes of Bubanza province.

- In the commune of Ntahangwa (Bujumbura Mairie), the Burundi Red Cross (BRC) and the local authorities counted 266 destroyed houses, 439 flooded houses and 1,390 internally displaced persons (IDPs).
- In Bubanza, 266 houses were destroyed while 461 were partially destroyed. In addition, 3 people died, 19 were injured, and 1,507 people were displaced and left homeless.
- In Mutimbuzi commune, the banks of the Rusizi River overflowed and flooded several districts of Gatumba, including Kinyinya 1&2, Muyange 1&2, Mushasha 1&2, Gaharawe (Bujumbura Mairie). According to the DTM, the first assessment reported 750 destroyed, 675 partially destroyed, and 942 flooded houses, as well as 9,743 IDPs in extreme need.

The continuous waves of rainfall occurring in the same areas are gradually increasing the damage toll (flooded houses continue to collapse) and growing the number of displaced/affected persons.

NEEDS

- Developing a temporary site (emergency shelters including WaSH amenities) for the 9,743 IDPs in Gatumba remains a top priority. However, these people also have urgent food needs due to the loss of food stocks and flooded fields.
- 500 households, including 238 affected households in Nyempundu Hill (Cibitoke), are awaiting relocation to Gisheke. Although the provincial authorities want these households to be permanently settled on this site, with semi-durable shelters, a gradual installation has been recommended. Thus, the need for temporary shelters and WaSH amenities is crucial.
- IDPs settled in Buyengero, near Winterekwa, are expected to vacate this site by the end of the second week of February 2020, in line with commitments made by the municipality of Bujumbura. Housing support (a monthly rent for a period of 3 months) for the 101 households in Winterekwa and about 744 households in Buterere and Mubone is the best option at present.
- 985 households in the commune of Gihanga (Bubanza) and Rugombo (Cibitoke) affected by the rains of 28 January and 2 February require emergency multisectoral assistance.

- All the cluster sites currently need school kits, health care, and play and recreation areas for children. Flooded areas need to be continuously disinfected to prevent health risks.
- The coordination and management of cluster sites remains a major concern for humanitarian partners. OCHA continues to advocate for the designation of an actor responsible for overall camp coordination and camp management in these sites.

MULTISECTORAL RESPONSES AND GAPS

- **Food assistance:** WFP has started the second food distribution to the affected areas of Buterere, Mubone, Winterekwa and Nyempundu. From 6 to 7 February, 744 households in the Mubone distribution site received a monthly ration of rice, maize, vegetable oil and salt. IDPs in Winterekwa and Nyempundu will be served during the week of 10-15 February 2020.
- **Shelter:** 359 households that had taken temporary shelter in ECOFO classrooms (210 supported by IOM, 149 by Help a Child) in Buterere were temporarily housed for 3 months.
- **WaSH:** Unicef, through its implementing partner, NGO GVC, completed the distribution of non-food items (NFI) and WaSH kits in the three cluster sites in Bujumbura Mairie, complemented by an awareness session on good hygiene practices. On 7 February, 289 households in Mubone received NFI and WaSH kits - those not covered by the first distribution. The other households currently on-site benefited from a distribution carried out by ECOFO Mobile, based on an identification list provided by the Government of Burundi's Civil Protection unit and the BRC. These kits consisted of 3 x 10L cans, 1 x 10L bucket with tap, 1 bucket without tap, 2 x 250ML cups and 1 box of 24 soap bars. In the meantime, the Burundi Civil Protection, funded by Unicef, supplies drinking water to the Buyengero site (Winterekwa); 10,000L are transported daily.
- **Health:** The Ministry of Public Health and the Fight against AIDS is working to provide free health care for people in need following these disasters (in Winterekwa, Buterere, and Nyempundu). However, it has been recommended that granting health assistance cards would be more beneficial.
- **Education:** 836 school kits were distributed in Nyempundu in January 2020. The Education sector has announced that additional school kit will be distributed early next week (starting 17 February 2020).
- **Sustainable solutions:** UNDP is urgently planning to repair the Nyatubindi bridge that links the capital of the Mugina Commune to Nyempundu. In the current state, the 500 households (including the 238 households affected by the landslides) have to commute 19 km (round trip) from the assistance distribution point to Nyempundu hill as the road axis is impassable for trucks. An evaluation of the cost estimations for the repair work was carried out from 2 to 3 February.
- **Coordination:** Joint multisectoral assessments of the National Platform for Risk Prevention and Disaster Management and the humanitarian community were conducted in Gatumba, Buterere, Winterekwa and Mubone. A risk analysis (by the Protection sector) was carried out in Buterere. Intersectoral coordination meetings and working sessions between National Platform members to discuss the disaster situation continue.

CONSTRAINTS

- The capacity of the different sectors to cope with disasters' consequences is extremely limited and with the rainiest months (February to mid-May) approaching, their resources are even more at risk.
- The extent of the damage to crops in these areas and elsewhere in the country is not yet known. An assessment and analysis of the associated risks by agricultural experts is essential.
- The establishment and validation of beneficiary lists are increasingly subject to speculation. Vulnerability and selection criteria must be more extensive, especially in urban environments.