



Burundi

Humanitarian Situation Report



Highlights

- *The number of malaria cases has doubled compared to the same period last year, in part due to increased flooding. As co-lead of the health sector, UNICEF provides technical and financial support to the Ministry of Health to monitor and assess national and partner response; UNICEF will act as of provider of last resort if there is gap in coverage.*
- *Since April 2015, 249 children have been detained on charges linked to the current crisis, including "participation in demonstrations", "association with armed groups/participation in an insurrectional movement/threatening state security" and other charges. In February, advocacy by UNICEF and partners led to an additional 17 children released.*
- *The Secretary General of the United Nations visited Burundi on 22-23 February and met with the President of Burundi, political parties, civil society, the United Nations Country Team, and other key stakeholders to advocate for inclusive dialogue and a resolution of the crisis.*

Key figures

249

Number of children arbitrarily detained since onset of crisis
(UNICEF, 29 February 2016)

246,305

Refugees seeking asylum in neighboring countries
(UNHCR, 22 February 2016)

1,158,439

Reported malaria cases
(MOH, February 2016)

0.5 %

Case fatality rate
(UNICEF, February 2016)

99% unfunded

UNICEF Burundi
2016 HAC: US\$16.54m

Situation

Overview & Humanitarian Needs

With the visit of the Secretary General of the United Nations on 22-23 February and the visit of five heads of state of the African Union immediately thereafter, the political spotlight has been on Burundi. The UNSG met with the President of Burundi, the UN Country Team, authorities, civil society, media and other key stakeholders to advocate for inclusive dialogue and a quick resolution to the crisis.

The political and security situation on the ground remains volatile, with recurrent attacks taking place in Bujumbura and a general climate of fear in the affected areas. This continues to impact the humanitarian situation and spur on migration. The total number of refugees in neighboring countries has also increased to 246,305, of which 54% are children and 50% are women (UNHCR, 22 Feb 2016). The number of displaced people registered in three of the border provinces, Makamba, Kirundo and Rotana stands at 25,081 (IOM, 29 Jan 2016).

In addition to continued migration, the reduction and suspension of external aid as well as the worsening economic conditions in-country are expected to result in a further deterioration of the main socioeconomic indicators as well as access to essential social services for children and women in Burundi. On 15 February, the

European Union announced that it will continue to apply sanctions against the Burundian Government which relies heavily on foreign donors for its annual budget.

In the area of health, a significant increase in the number of malaria cases was observed from January to mid-February 2016, with 1,158,439 cases and 520 deceased (as compared to the same period in 2015, which recorded 512,664 cases and 241 deceased). The Ministry of Health (MoH) has not declared an epidemic, but 18 out of the 46 health districts are highly affected. As co-lead of the health sector, UNICEF actively supports coordination efforts, including the malaria commodities assessment task force at national level and is supporting MoH field missions in 6 affected health districts to support district teams and health centres as well as document response and supply availability. Although the response is being led by MoH and WHO, UNICEF is ready to provide additional support if needed to address any gap in coverage.

During the reporting period, no new cases of cholera were reported, however UNICEF continues to strengthen cholera prevention in high risks areas and areas prone to floods.

Humanitarian Leadership and Coordination

UNICEF actively participates in the UNCT and inter-sectoral meetings, which lead strategic and cross-sectoral coordination of the humanitarian response.

Analysis of the results from the multisector inter-agency rapid assessment (MIRA) is on-going and will be shared in March. Preliminary results from the Health sector needs assessment (conducted in January in the 13 communes of Bujumbura Mairie) highlighted a decrease in health care access compared to January 2015 for children under-five related to basic childhood diseases (malaria, acute respiratory infections and diarrhea).

Humanitarian Strategy

UNICEF is working with inter-agency partners on a continued and improved analysis of the humanitarian situation and the development of the Humanitarian Response Plan which will be launched on 8 of March 2016 in Nairobi.

In addition, the Under-funded CERF strategy was finalized and prioritized six sectors: Food Security, Protection, Health, Nutrition, WASH and Shelter/NFI. UNICEF submitted funding proposals for the sectors of Protection, WASH, Health and Nutrition for an amount of US\$3.125 million.

Within the framework of UNICEF Burundi's 2016 Humanitarian Action for Children (HAC), UNICEF continues to scale up to provide an integrated response to the most vulnerable women and children of Burundi.

UNICEF's Response with Partners

Health & Nutrition

In response to the essential drug shortage faced by the county as a result of a shrinking government sector budget, UNICEF distributed essential drugs to 46 health districts, who are in turn responsible for dispatching to all sub-district health centres (more than 900 nationwide). This distribution will cover needs in essential drugs for about two months for 1.5 million people. Fundraising to cover future needs is on-going by UNICEF and WHO.

Timely and quality reporting remains a challenge for the nutrition sector. UNICEF is supporting the MoH to complete the national Community-based Management of Acute Malnutrition (CMAM) database for 2015 but no data is available yet for 2016. Mass-screening in the 6 most food insecure provinces to gather information on the



At the Kirundo health district stockroom, ready-to-use therapeutic food is ready for distribution to health centers.

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nutrition situation and provide urgent SAM treatment will start in April 2016 with support from CERF underfunded allocation.

UNICEF completed the distribution of therapeutic food and therapeutic milk supply for the management of severe acute malnutrition to last for a period of about two months covering 46 health districts nationwide to benefit 10,000 children.

The Minister of Health sent a letter to GAVI asking for the revision of the July 2015 GAVI decision to suspend 2016 direct cash transfer to the government. This letter is delaying the signature of the MoU between GAVI and UNICEF which was identified as the alternative channel for GAVI funding. Discussions are also on-going between the Health partners and the Global Fund for the allocation of the next funding.

Child Protection

Following the visit of the UNSG, President Nkurunziza announced the release of some 2,000 prisoners. In follow-up to this decision, UNICEF's Representative met with the Minister of Justice to expedite release of any children that might be amongst this group of prisoners. It was confirmed by the Minister that there are many children amongst those who are being released, and currently files are being compiled in order to determine the background and origin of these children so as to facilitate their release and reintegration.

Meanwhile, children continue to be arbitrarily detained and held alongside adults and securing their release remains difficult. Since April 2015, a total of 249 children have been detained in relation to the crisis, with 106 charged with "participation in demonstrations"; 127 children detained for "association with armed groups/participation in an insurrectional movement/threatening state security" and 16 held for other reasons linked to the crisis.

Following three weeks of advocacy by UNICEF, OHCHR and the independent human rights body (CNIDH), a 13-year-old detained at the secret service (SNR) and later at the central prison was released. The child was held for association with armed groups, and had been forcibly recruited by a local authority then held without respect for penal law. Joint UNICEF and OHCHR advocacy also led to the release of one 12-year-old Rwandan boy charged with threatening state security and held at the SNR. Another child was held and later released because a grenade was found in the home of his father. UNICEF and CNIDH pled for the release of 3 Congolese children accused of using fake documents and held in detention for over one week. The children have been referred to UNICEF DRC (Goma Field Office) for follow up. Following UNICEF advocacy, 9 detained child domestic workers were released and supported with family reunification and follow-up care.

UNICEF and partners continue to support the reintegration of children charged with involvement in armed groups or an insurrectional movement or threatening state security, who were reintegrated with their families or caretakers, now totaling 67. A mission to follow up on children in Kirundo province highlighted the challenges of stigmatization and threats from the community and youth political wing. The protection of reinserted children remains a challenge, as some have been harassed, including one child who was beaten and lost part of his tooth. A UNICEF partner provided legal and medical support to the child and the perpetrator is in custody. Follow up and strong advocacy is ongoing to keep reinserted children safe.

The Child Protection section continues developing and strengthening the monitoring and reporting system. This month, 13 child protection actors benefitted from training and capacity building to strengthen monitoring and response to violations. Four boys were killed in February, three as a result of grenade explosions and one from bullet wounds, bringing the total to 26 children killed since April 2015.

WASH

As the WASH in emergency sector lead, UNICEF continues active coordination amongst sectoral partners and government. To support school retention and address lack of water in school settings, UNICEF and Norwegian Church Aid (NCA) set up a rain water harvesting system at the reeducation centre in Rumonge and is providing drinking water and sanitation facilities at Cashi displacement site for 135 flood affected households (624 women and 417 children under 18).

However, given the continuous arrival of displaced people, the number of people per toilet is not meeting the SPHERE standards for humanitarian response. To address this gap, NCA, in partnership with the Burundian Red Cross, plans to increase the number of toilet facilities. With a longer use of the two temporary sites in Cashi and Gitaza, UNICEF is coordinating with the actors in the non-food item (NFI)/shelter sectorial group for providing NFI/WASH kits to 1,728 displaced people, including 900 women and 310 children under 5.

The replenishment of WASH contingency stock has been completed.

Jerry cans, buckets and soaps are available to benefit 10,000 people for a period of 3 months. For more specific needs of young children and women, reusable sanitary pads and child potties are pre-positioned to assist 5,000 and 2,000 families respectively, of which half of the members are children. However, it is estimated that at least 80,000 people, including over 36,000 children under 18 and 22,400 women will require humanitarian support with water, sanitation and hygiene this year.

There is an urgent need for additional resources alongside sectoral advocacy.



Children at a Child-Friendly Space in Bujumbura that has received WASH support.
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Communication for Development (C4D)

In the cholera prone districts of Makamba and Nyanza lac (South of Burundi), UNICEF continued to strengthen awareness raising campaigns that included radio shows, door-to-door visits, theatre performances, school involvement, church participation and interactive games for children.

141 peer educators nominated by their community have made commitments to make hygiene and sanitation a community priority; to contribute to the improvement of hygiene in markets, bars, restaurants and other public areas, and to serve as role models in promoting lifesaving key family practices. In addition, 102 trained community leaders (health workers, administrators, members of the Red Cross, police station chiefs, school inspectors, the local NGO and other key figures) have helped to facilitate the door-to-door activities and cleared the path for the peer educators in their respective community. To date, 20,460 households have been reached and sensitized by the peer educators.

Through public performances, a local theater group called NI NDE ("Who is there?") reached 11,000 people. Theatre scenes for community performances help communities to accept nutritional practices like breastfeeding and the usage of oral rehydration solution (ORS) in the case of diarrhea. Cholera and diarrhea remain threats to public health, but by making unpleasant topics humorous, lessons are easily learned.

Education

Due to the current crisis and subsequent resignation of Belgium from its role of Global Partnership in Education (GPE) supervisory entity, the Local Group of Education (LGE) discussed on alternative mechanism for the management of the remaining funds. As sector lead agency, UNICEF organized a LGE meeting on 18 February to discuss options and reach consensus among all the partners. At the end of the meeting, UNICEF Burundi was nominated as new Grant Agent (Managing Entity) for the remaining funds which total US\$ 20 million. While these funds form part of UNICEF's regular programme and will mainly be used for school supplies and school rehabilitation/construction, they do contribute towards ensuring that the education system will continue to function during this period.

UNICEF facilitated the Working Group on Education in Emergency (EiE) for Conflicts and Natural Disasters which met on the 11 February with representatives from 13 organizations to discuss results from the education multi sector rapid assessments (MIRA) and the finalized education HNO in preparation of the needs-based HRP.

Social Policy

In its role of Social Protection sector lead, UNICEF organized a meeting with key stakeholders on 18 February 2016 to discuss possible collaboration on reinforcing resilience of emergency-affected families. In this context, UNICEF is aiming to develop a cash transfer project in collaboration with the World Bank to strengthen coping mechanisms of the most vulnerable households, including IDPs.

UNICEF continues to closely monitor resource allocation and advocates for child-sensitive investment from public funds and external aid. UNICEF has elaborated an analysis, focusing on the potential consequences of the reduced 2016 Government sector budget and the recent cuts in the allocation of external and domestic resources to sectors, which are key for the provision of social services.

Media and External Communication

In the context of the media attention on the visit of the UN Secretary General, UNICEF highlighted the impact of the crisis on children and UNICEF's recommendations via social media, with tweets generating over 80 retweets within the first six hours and ranking among top tweets under the #Burundi hashtag during the visit. UNICEF continues to engage and achieve media coverage with top-tier media. The UNICEF Burundi Representative gave his first high-profile international media interview to the Guardian, with the article achieving nearly 400 website shares in the first 3 days.

In addition, following the visit of the Deputy Representative in Brussels, a number of top Belgian media outlets including RTBF, L'Avenir, La Libre and Belga news agency gave generous coverage to UNICEF's programmes and position in Burundi.

Funding

In 2016, UNICEF Burundi is appealing for 16,540,000, for which only US\$ 144 000 have been received to date. With the increase in violence coupled by the effects of El Nino, UNICEF is scaling up its humanitarian response to respond to the increasing needs of women and children in a context of heightened vulnerability, increasing protection violations, recurrent floods, and displacement for which timely and adequate funds are required.

Appeal Sector	2016 UNICEF Humanitarian Requirements	Funds Received Against 2016 HAC (US\$)	Funding Gap Against 2016 HAC (US\$)	
			US\$	per cent
Nutrition	2,400,000	0	2,400,000	100%
Health	5,160,000	0	5,160,000	100%
WASH	3,600,000	0	3,600,000	100%
Child Protection	2,400,000	72 000	2,328,000	97%
Education	2,000,000	72 000	1,928,000	96%
Communication & Participation	600,000	0	600,000	100%
Cluster coordination	380,000	0	380,000	100%
Sub-Total	16,540,000	144,000	16,396,000	99%

Next SitRep: 31/03/2016

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