



Reporting Period: 01 January to 30 June 2020

# BURUNDI

## Humanitarian Situation Report No. 2 2020

for every child

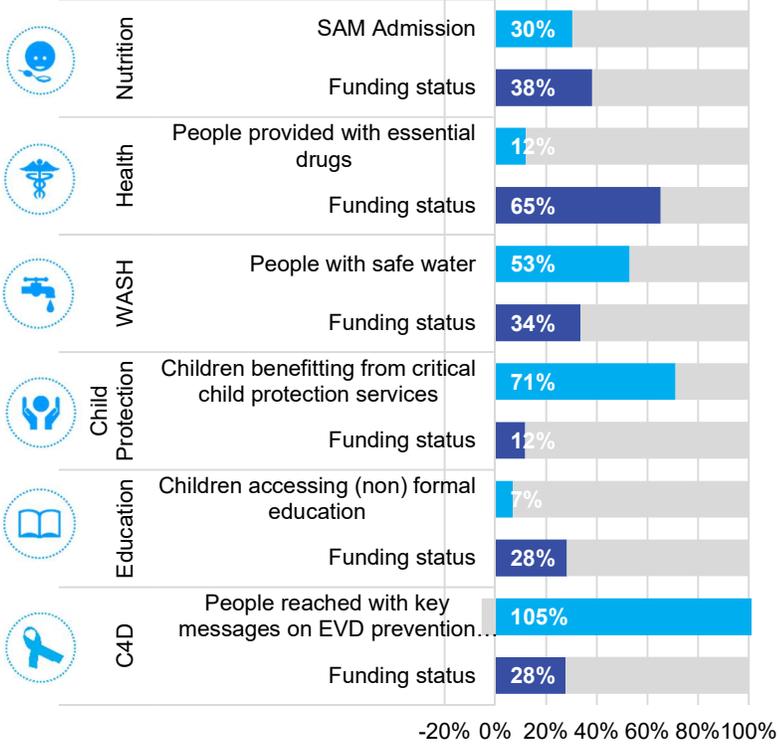
### Highlights

- In addition to the epidemiological situation in the country (epidemics of cholera, malaria, COVID-19), Burundi has been severely affected since the beginning of the year by floods causing displacement and damage.
- Between mid-April and early May, in the Gatumba area alone, more than 45,000 people were affected by flooding caused by heavy rains, including 18,000 people displaced and resettled on dedicated sites.
- UNICEF and its partners have continued to make significant efforts to meet the multidimensional needs of people affected by natural disasters, displacement and those affected and at risk of epidemics. More than 50,000 people were supported with WASH services including access to safe water, sanitation, hygiene items and key messages to address their most urgent needs.
- On June 30<sup>th</sup>, Burundi reported 170 cases of COVID-19 (including 1 death) while efforts to prevent and control the virus have considerably been deployed by the Ministry of Health and its partners.
- As of the first quarter of 2020, UNICEF has mobilized 33 per cent of the 2020 Humanitarian Action for Children (HAC) funding to respond to the most essential needs of children and women in Burundi.

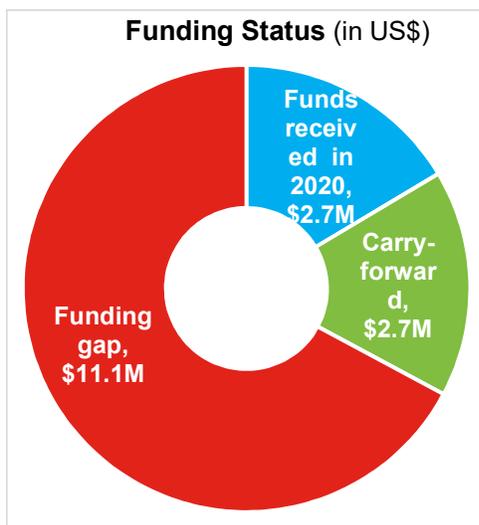
### Situation in Numbers

- 976,170** children in need of humanitarian assistance
- 1,74 million** people in need (HNO 2020)
- 135,058** Internally displaced people in 18 provinces (IOM DTM April 2020)
- 86,147** people repatriated from Tanzania, including 8,502 in 2020 (UNHCR June 2020)

### UNICEF's Response and Funding Status



### UNICEF Appeal 2020 US\$ 16.5 million



## Funding Overview and Partnerships

UNICEF's appeal for Burundi stands at US\$ 16.5 million to sustain the provision of life-saving services for women and children affected by a humanitarian crisis, for which 33% has been mobilised as of 30 June.

Through the support provided by the Governments of Japan and of the United Kingdom (DFID), WASH and health teams have been able to deploy emergency response - which will last until the second half of this year - to the cholera and malaria epidemics. The US and the German National committees for UNICEF have responded to the urgent appeal for assistance in January for those affected by the heavy rains and floods in Bujumbura and other provinces. The US Agency for International Development (USAID) continued its support for the fight against child malnutrition and together with DFID extended assistance to prepare for the Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) epidemic in the format of a consortium with other UN sister agencies with UNICEF designated as the lead agency. The Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA), one of UNICEF's key humanitarian partners in Burundi, has reiterated its support in 2020 to respond to urgent crises affecting children and their families by enabling multidisciplinary assistance. ECHO is supporting the birth registration campaign as well for undocumented children (including those displaced and returning) in provinces registering high number of returnees. UNICEF expresses its sincere gratitude to all public and private donors for the contributions received this year as well as in 2019 and carried forward in 2020.

While much effort is now being put into responding to the COVID-19 pandemic in the country (which is reported separately in this sitrep), other humanitarian needs are now becoming relatively invisible and under-funded in Burundi. Response to other epidemics, such as cholera, floods, refugees, returnees and internally displaced persons remain priorities for UNICEF and its partners.

Additional resources are urgently needed today so that essential interventions can be carried out to ensure the survival and well-being of children and their families in Burundi.

## Situation Overview & Humanitarian Needs

During the first half of 2020, incidents related to natural disasters have multiplied in Burundi affecting more than 55,000 people who have seen their houses destroyed and/or severely damaged, their access to basic services limited and have lost all or part of their sources of income. While a steady decline was noted in 2019, the number of displaced persons in the country has increased again in 2020 reaching the number of 135,058 in April 2020. Meeting the immediate needs of those affected remains a major challenge for the humanitarian community in Burundi because of limited resources and weak contingency capacities.

The response to epidemics is still under way to prevent and control cholera, malaria, COVID-19 and Ebola preparedness and prevention actions have continued mainly during the first quarter. UNICEF and its partners have and continue to work in a multidisciplinary manner to ensure a holistic response to the most vulnerable and those at risk.

The election campaigns that started in March and the elections held in May 2020 took place in a relatively calm context. On March 31<sup>st</sup>, Burundi reported its first two cases of COVID-19. As of 30 June, 170 cases have been confirmed as well as 1 death. The Ministry of Health and its partners, including UNICEF, have developed a response plan and have taken over the existing coordination forums set up in the framework of the Ebola preparedness.

## Summary Analysis of Programme Response

### Nutrition

UNICEF supported the national Nutrition programme to maintain continuity of nutrition services in all 583 therapeutic centres (531 outpatient therapeutic programmes and 52 in-patient facilities). During quarter 2, 12,000 cartons of RUTF were provided to health districts for treatment of severe acute malnourished children (SAM). From January to April 2020, 13,678 (7,249 girls and 6,429 boys) children with SAM were admitted and treated in the 12 HRP/HAC targeted provinces. Trends in admissions are similar to the same period in 2019. Community-based management of acute malnutrition performance indicators are within standards with 90.3 per cent cured. The floods recorded at the beginning of the year, led in the displacement of over 10,000 households in Bujumbura. UNICEF in support to the national Nutrition program and local Health District carried out a rapid assessment of the nutritional situation of children under 5 years. A total of 2,862 children were screened with Mid-Upper Arm Circumference tapes. The prevalence of moderate acute malnutrition is 6% (176 children) and wasting prevalence is at 1% (32 children). All 208 detected as malnourished (MAM & SAM) were referred to health facilities for treatment.

## Health

Since the second week of 2020, Burundi continued to experience cholera outbreaks in four provinces. Cholera treatment kits for 60,000 people were purchased by UNICEF to support the response. From January to June 2020, a total of 106 cholera cases and one death (case fatality rate - CFR of <1%) were reported in six districts out of 46 the provinces of Bujumbura Mairie (87 cases), Cibitoke (6 cases), Bujumbura Rural (4 cases) and Makamba (09 cases). At the same period in 2019 (January to June) 158 cases of cholera were notified in the country, implying a slight decrease in the number of cases.

The country had also noted an increased number of suspected measles cases since the beginning of the year. MoH surveillance data reports 1,148 suspected cases notified between January and June 2020 with 130 cases in June only in one prison (Ngozi). In addition to the 30,000 doses of measles and rubella vaccines provided in 2019, UNICEF purchased 130,000 doses of vaccines as well as supply inter-agency emergency health kits for the management of cases through Doctors without Borders (MSF). In total, 142,189 children aged 9 months to 14 years have been vaccinated in April of which 43,347 (30%) were less than five years.

Following the 2019 historic surge in the number of malaria episodes, the country continues to observe a decreasing trend weekly. According to the MoH surveillance data, the cumulative number of malaria cases reported from January to June had decrease by half between 2019 and 2020; from 5,020,429 cases in 2019 to 2,473,015 cases. With 1,458 deaths from January to June 2020 compared to 1,857 in 2019, the case fatality rate is higher in 2020 (CFR=0,005) than in 2019 (CFR=0,003) which calls for the acceleration of the switch of the first line treatment for malaria.

## WASH

During the first semester, UNICEF and its partners, including the NGO Gruppo di Volontariato Civile (GVC), the Civil Protection and the Burundian Red Cross, provided WASH services to people affected by floods and those affected or at risk of cholera outbreak in the provinces of Bujumbura Mairie, Bujumbura rural (Gatumba) and Cibitoke. As of June, 53,085 persons (15,161 girls, 14,567 boys, 11912 women and 11,445 men) were provided with safe drinking water through water trucking and household water treatment and 10,200 persons (2,913 girls, 2,799 boys, 2,289 women and 2,199 men) with emergency sanitation facilities. 53,790 persons (15,362 girls, 14,760 boys, 12,071 women and 11,597 men) have also been reached with hygiene kits and keys hygiene messages including handwashing.

As part of the EVD preparedness UNICEF and the Ministry of Health in collaboration with WHO have continued efforts to provide WASH services including mobile toilet, chlorine, soap and handwashing devices to 24 entry points. UNICEF support has also contributed to improving infection prevention and control in 14 health structures (5 health centres and 9 hospitals) in priority 1 health districts. All 14 health structures have benefited from a WASH kit and additional WASH services such as construction of sustainable water points including installation of water tanks to ensure permanent water availability, latrine-shower blocks and incinerators which have benefited to an average of 22,119 patients per month. UNICEF intervention both at community level and in health facilities has actively contributed to control and limit the wide spread of the cholera outbreak and will have positive impact on the prevention of other epidemics, such as the current epidemic of COVID.

## Education

During the first half of 2020, UNICEF (through the NGO Hundreds of Original Projects for Employment - HOPE'87) and "Association pour la Rehabilitation des Sinistres" (ARS) provided catch-up programmes to facilitate school readiness and reintegration. A total of 4,396 children (including 2,242 girls) returnees and internally displaced were reached in the provinces of Cankuzo, Kirundo, Makamba, Ngozi, Rumonge and Muramvya.

In line with the Ebola preparedness actions initiated in 2019, UNICEF continues to work jointly with the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Health to raise understanding and capacity for Ebola prevention of 1,672 teachers (853 women) reaching 142,126 students (72,484 girls) with key messages in Cankuzo, Kayanza, Kirundo, Muramvya, Muyinga, Rumonge, Rutana and Ruyigi provinces.

In order to ensure that children in emergency situations pursue their schooling, UNICEF and its partners (War Child Holland, Fondation Terre des Hommes, Right to Play, Human Health Aid Burundi) provided school materials for 7,672 students (including 3,913 girls) in Bujumbura province, affected by floods and other natural disasters during the rainy season and 68 teachers (35 women) benefited from classroom kits to ensure the continuity of schooling. In total, 1,814 teachers (925 women) received training on children's rights and on the prevention and mitigation of gender-based violence (GBV) in the sector of education in emergency with the support of "Association Communautaire pour la Promotion et Protection des Droits de l'Homme" (ACDPH) and War Child Holland NGOs.

## Child Protection

During the first semester of 2020, interventions supported by UNICEF have contributed to improve access to critical child protection services for 103,689 children (50,312 girls) including 62,245 unregistered children including displaced and repatriated children who received their birth certificates in Ruyigi Province.

In addition to 145 community led child friendly spaces in Rumonge, Bubanza, Cibitoke and 3 Drop-in Centres in Bujumbura, UNICEF has expanded the support to Gatumba area in Bujumbura Rural Province where 34 905 individuals (about 56% children) were affected by floods. The joint intervention of 7 UNICEF implementing partners<sup>1</sup> has reached 40,140 children (18,545 girls) with psychosocial support activities while an additional 2,537 have been covered by other members of the Child Protection Sub sector. Children documented and referred by social workers from child friendly spaces, drop in centres and listening points included 1,113 (620 girls) who received support for socioeconomic reintegration and Education, while 362 separated children (148 girls) benefited from tracing and family reunification or were placed in alternative care through 35 Foster Families among UNICEF supported Solidarity Groups. A total of 457 children victims of violations including 214 children (27 girls) released from detention were provided psychosocial and medical assistance. Child protection awareness activities were conducted at community level to support prevention and community led response reaching a total of 18,206 persons (9,975 female).

## Communications for Development (C4D), Community Engagement & Accountability

Since January 2020, UNICEF, as co-lead of the pillar Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE), has continued its interventions alongside the Ministry of Health and with the NGOs CONCERN Worldwide, CRB, Caritas Burundi and Population Center Media of Burundi. Interventions have reached 9,035,246 people, strengthening their knowledge of EVD prevention measures and on other services (including vaccination, treatment, safe burial, psychosocial support, etc.). Validated key messages were made available for all relevant stakeholders to deliver those messages using their platforms and expertise. A number of materials including 55,000 posters, video, and 14 radio jingles were designed and widely distributed to partners. A total of 4,141 community leaders and relays have been trained to set up and manage feedback mechanisms available to community members. The intensification of RCCE interventions has allowed to reach 1,791,526 persons by awareness campaigns through interpersonal communication, public service announcements, mobile cinema, religious leaders and outreach caravans that included theatrical performances and quiz contests.

In total, 30,244 adolescents (15,873 girls and 14,370 boys) were empowered and became community agents of change with competencies that enhance a greater sense of social cohesion and peace, as well as developing self-reliance.

## COVID-19 response

On March 31st, Burundi declared its first cases of COVID-19 and until June 30<sup>th</sup> 170 cases were reported (1 death) and 2,615 people were tested so far.

UNICEF Burundi has aligned its response to the Ministry of Health's Contingency Plan and has been particularly involved in the pillar for RCCE as a co-lead and the IPC Wash sub-Commission.

On the RCCE side, UNICEF has contributed in designing the Communication Plan for COVID together with the MoH and other partners. More than 9,000 people have been reached by various messages and trainings have been conducted not only to engage communities but also to operate the existing hotlines. A rapid assessment has also been done through U-Report to adjust communications activities. Mass communication campaigns have been organized throughout the country through radio and TV spots reaching approximately 9 million people.

On the IPC side, efforts have been put in reducing the price of soap through a public-private partnership with the biggest soap producer in the country, training of health workers and putting in place SOPs for triage of suspected COVID-19 patients in health facilities. Social policy has been supporting the private sector partnership and is also engaging on advocacy to protection budgets, increasing spending for key sectors (or subsidies/tax reductions) as well as strengthening shock responsive social protection.

Finally, as lead of sectoral groups for Education, Nutrition, WASH and Child Protection (sub-group), UNICEF has participated in the development of the sectoral plans for COVID-19 for an integrated response in collaboration with the line ministries and partners.

## Humanitarian Leadership, Coordination and Strategy

UNICEF actively participates in the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) and intersectoral meetings that lead the strategic and cross-sectoral coordination of the humanitarian response. UNICEF currently leads with its governmental counterparts the water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), nutrition and education sectors, leads the child protection sub-cluster and co-leads the health sector. UNICEF also participates in the in-country interagency gender-based violence

---

<sup>1</sup> Giriyuja, Association des Femmes Juristes du Burundi, War Child Hollande, Plateforme des intervenants en santé mentale et soutien psychosocial, Foi en Action, Fondation Stamm, FVS/ AMDE

(GBV) sub-group and to the Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) Task Force. Sectors under the coordination of OCHA have also coordinated with the National Platform for Risk Prevention and Disaster Management to respond to natural disasters regularly affecting the country.

UNICEF continues to provide technical support as a member of the National Ebola Taskforce and the sub-committee for WASH/infection prevention and control, led by the MoH with support from the World Health Organization (WHO) and as co-lead of the sub-committee for Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE). These coordination forums have been readapted to the context of the COVID pandemic and UNICEF maintains a central role in these sectors.

## Human Interest Stories and External Media

During the first semester of 2020, the external communications team put a focus on social media and digital communication, with the launch of the [Twitter account](#) and of the new [website](#) for UNICEF Burundi.

Earlier this year, severe floods hit rural Bujumbura and were documented through [this call to support](#). Another episode of floods occurred in April in the Gatumba zone and its surroundings. It was covered through a [photo essay](#) and a fundraising video, followed by a call to action that was sent to UNICEF National Committees.

The communication team produced material in support for the advocacy in the fight against Ebola and COVID-19. Together with the C4D programme, [a story on the role of interpersonal communication and community engagement in the fight against Ebola](#) was covered in a human-interest story. Another story focuses on the vital importance of WASH infrastructures in protecting communities from Ebola and other infectious diseases.

Concerning COVID-19, the produced content ranged from videos, posters to photos. A prevention [video](#) in Kirundi was produced with our national champion for children, Francine Niyonsaba, a Burundian athlete and Olympic champion on basic hygiene and social distancing. The video reached more than 106,612 users, has been viewed 51,721 + times and shared 205 times on Facebook. On [Twitter](#), totalling 967 views and reaching more than 7,08 people. Another [video](#) in Kirundi depicts the soap and pepper experiment engaged more than 13,200 and reached more than 49,956 users on Facebook with total views of 13,812, and it reached 677 people on [Twitter](#).

The first [#NoPataPata challenge dance from Burundi](#) scored + 30,3K views, reached 80,890 people and was shared 61 times. It also made it on [Angelique Kidjo's official video clip](#) for UNICEF that skyrocketed to 24+ million views.

UNICEF through its local partner, Jimbere Magazine, supported a communication campaign on its digital platforms to respond to the emergency posed by the COVID-19 pandemic in Burundi.

Nearly 35,000 interactions (likes, comments, shares) have been generated [on their Facebook page](#) since March 15, 2020, with peaks of reading on events such as the announcement of the 1st case of COVID19 in the country with 53,527 interactions. On Twitter, more than 21,000 interactions were generated.

The communication campaign on the [Tippy-Tap "Honyorukarabe"](#), which is a simple and a cheap way to maintain hygiene by frequent handwashing made popular by UNICEF in schools across Burundi, reached more than 55,000 users, both on Facebook and Twitter while the communication campaign on the importance of using U-Report as a reliable educational channel on COVID-19 reached more than 23,000 users.

In addition, Jimbere Magazine has published [a special edition on handwashing and good hygiene practices](#) in response to advocacy and information needs around COVID-19. It was distributed with UNICEF support in all 119 communal education directorates across the country and reached [more than 600,000 schoolchildren](#).

Ongoing [radio programs](#) are broadcasted on 4 radio stations (2 with national coverage) by UNICEF through its partner, Jimbere Magazine with Radio Izere for the South-east of the country, Radio Humuriza for coverage of Burundi's center, Radio Buntu for the North and School Radio Nderagakura (national coverage).

Finally, UNICEF in Burundi assisted a Swiss reporter to a [story](#) on nutrition and the "mamans lumière" project.

## Next SitRep: 30 September 2020

UNICEF Burundi website: <https://www.unicef.org/burundi>

UNICEF Burundi Humanitarian Action for Children Appeal: <https://www.unicef.org/appeals/burundi.html>

Who to contact for further information: Jeremy Hopkins  
Representative  
UNICEF Burundi  
Tel: +257 22202010  
Email: [jhopkins@unicef.org](mailto:jhopkins@unicef.org)

Marjan Montazemi  
Deputy Representative  
UNICEF Burundi  
Tel: +257 22202020  
Email: [mmontazemi@unicef.org](mailto:mmontazemi@unicef.org)

Audrey Lecomte  
Emergency Specialist  
UNICEF Burundi  
Tel: +257 22202013  
Email: [alecomte@unicef.org](mailto:alecomte@unicef.org)

## Summary of Programme Results

Sector	Cluster/Sector Response			UNICEF and IPs		
	2020 target	Total results*	Change since last report ▲▼	2020 target	Total results*	Change since last report ▲▼
<b>Nutrition</b>						
Number of children aged 6 to 59 months affected by SAM admitted for treatment	45,000	13,678	5,040	45,000	13,678	5,040
Number of children assessed for acute malnutrition through mass screening				550,000	447,263	447,263
<b>Health</b>						
Number of children vaccinated against measles				50,000	43,347	43,347
Number of people, at least half of them children, provided with essential drugs				250,000	30,000	0
<b>WASH</b>						
Number of people accessing a sufficient quantity of safe water for drinking, cooking and personal hygiene	490,025	88,396	13,329	100,000	53,085	13,329
Number of people in cholera and Ebola high-risk areas reached with key messages on hygiene practices	422,794	54,690	14,970	320,000	53,790	14,970
<b>Child Protection</b>						
Number of children accessing critical child protection services, including mental health and psychosocial support	200,000	106,226	20,144	160,000	103,689	17,607
Number of children and women accessing gender-based violence risk mitigation, prevention or response interventions				80,000	40,140	39,437
<b>Education</b>						
Number of school-aged girls, boys and adolescents accessing formal and non-formal	65,000	4,396	143	60,000	4,110	0

education opportunities						
Number of education duty bearers trained on education in emergencies and risk reduction	9,000	1,814	474	6,500	1,554	414
Number of school-aged girls and boys reached with Ebola preparedness messages				500,000	142,126	50,926
<b>C4D/AECR</b>						
Number of people reached with key life-saving/ behaviour change messages on Ebola prevention and control				1,700,000	1,791,526	1,546,259
Number of people reached with information on access to basic services in emergency situations				165,000	30,244	17,670

## Annex B

### Funding Status\*

Sector	Requirements (US\$)	Funds available (US\$)		Funding gap	
		Received Current Year	Carry-Over	US\$	%
Nutrition	3,700,000	0	1,413,952	2,286,048	62%
Health	1,600,000	846,238	198,186	555,576	35%
WASH	4,000,000	1,073,662	260,476	2,165,863	62%
Child Protection	3,500,000	118,007	295,394	3,086,599	88%
Education	1,500,000	93,905	330,258	1,575,837	79%
C4D	1,700,000	334,153	137,829	1,228,018	72%
Cluster Coordination	500,000	243,000	73,000	184,000	37%
<b>Total</b>	<b>16,500,000</b>	<b>2,708,965</b>	<b>2,709,096</b>	<b>11,081,939</b>	<b>67%</b>

\* As defined in Humanitarian Appeal of 01/01/2020 for a period of 12 months