



BURUNDI

Humanitarian Situation Report No. 3 2020

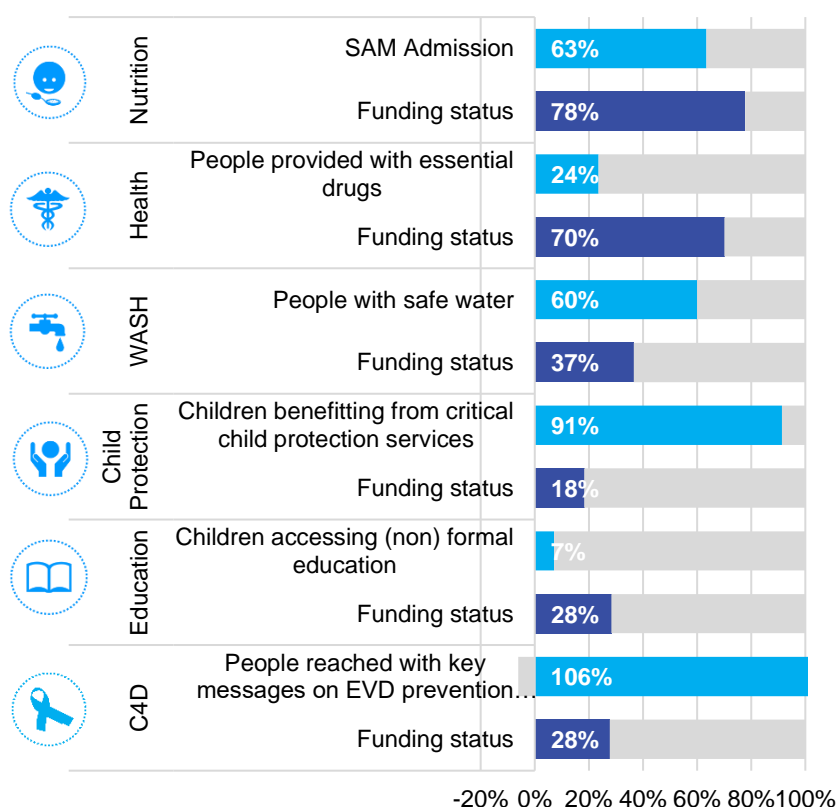
unicef 
for every child

Reporting Period: 01 January to 30 September 2020

Highlights

- The **epidemiological situation** in Burundi remains a focus in 2020 with episodes of cholera, a relatively high incidence of malaria, measles cases and the COVID-19 pandemic. On September 29th, Burundi reported 508 cases of COVID-19 (including 1 death).
- The **consequences of the floods** in the first half of the year continue to be felt by those displaced who have lost their home and their livelihoods.
- UNICEF and its partners are providing a **multidisciplinary response** to the 25,000 people in temporary displacement sites and are supporting the Ministry of Health (MOH) in responding to health emergencies.
- More than 28,500 children received treatment for severe acute malnutrition, 60,000 people had improved access to clean water, 114,000 benefited from hygiene awareness and supplies, and more than 146,000 children were provided with critical protection services.
- As of the first quarter of 2020, UNICEF has **mobilized 44 per cent** of the 2020 Humanitarian Action for Children (HAC) funding to address the most essential needs of children and women in Burundi. US\$ 9 million is still needed to respond adequately to the situation of displaced persons, disaster victims, returnees and those affected and at risk of epidemics.

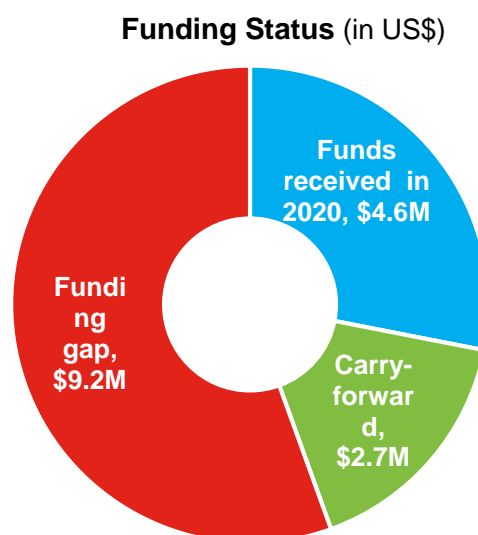
UNICEF's Response and Funding Status



Situation in Numbers



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 humanitarian crises, for which 44% has been mobilised as of 30 September 2020.

Through the support provided by the Governments of Japan and of the United Kingdom, WASH and health teams have been able to deploy emergency response 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 contribution of the German Government during the third quarter complemented these efforts with respect to displaced persons at risk of COVID-19. The US Agency for International Development (USAID) renewed its support for the fight against child malnutrition (through Food For Peace) and together with the UK 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. Thanks to the financial contribution of the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA), one of UNICEF's key humanitarian partners in Burundi, UNICEF has been able to provide multidisciplinary assistance in response to urgent crises affecting children and their families. ECHO supported the birth registration campaign for undocumented children 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 from this sitrep), it has become critical to provide visibility to under-funded areas of humanitarian programming. Response to floods, protection and WASH needs of returnees and internally displaced persons remain priorities for UNICEF and its partners.

Situation Overview & Humanitarian Needs

The year 2020 began with **episodes of heavy rain and wind** that were repeated throughout the first half of the year and caused considerable material and human damage. UNICEF and its partners were present from the first days to respond to the most urgent needs to approximately 100,000 people affected. However, efforts are still needed today to be able to provide the necessary services to the affected families and enable them to recover and live in dignity.

While **cholera and malaria** diseases persisted in the country, efforts were deployed to prevent the risk of **Ebola** spill-over from the Democratic Republic of Congo before the epidemic was declared over. The **COVID-19 pandemic** hit Burundi on March 31, 2020. A mass testing campaign began in July and reported 508 cases out of 36,452 people tested and one death as of September 29th. A response plan was developed by the MoH, together with partners in March. The public health emergency operation centre was made operational in September making it possible to strengthen the coordination of response services.

Finally, since the May 2020 elections, a gradual **return of Burundians**, including those who had found refuge in Tanzania and Rwanda, is expected. A tripartite agreement was also signed in August between Burundi, Rwanda and UNHCR to organize the process of voluntary repatriation. Since that date, more than a thousand Burundians have already been able to return from Rwanda.

Summary Analysis of Programme Response

Nutrition

In 100% of district hospitals and 73% (531 out of 725) of health facilities, **therapeutic nutrition care** is available for children under five with severe acute malnutrition (SAM). From January to August 2020, 28,571 SAM children (15,143 girls and 13,428 boys) were admitted and treated in the 12 most vulnerable provinces hosting IDPs and returnees targeted in the Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP)/Humanitarian Action for Children (HAC) appeal. The trend in SAM admissions in 2020 is similar to the two previous years (2019 and 2018). However, there is need for close monitoring and assessment of death rate in inpatients therapeutics centres (7.4%) and defaulters' rate in outpatient therapeutic (OTP) centres. Despite the peak observed in death and defaulter rate in August, the community-based management of acute malnutrition (CMAM) programme performance indicators are within targets and acceptable standards with 89.7 per cent cured. In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, UNICEF supported training of 5330 Community Health Workers 889 Health providers. **Hygiene and PPE kits have been provided to 100% of nutrition centres**. An acute IPC analysis conducted in August indicates a comfortable situation but predicted a worsen food security situation by December 2020 with 11% of the population in Phase 3 (crisis) compared to 6% in August. The factors at the base of this deterioration highlighted by the analysis are mainly the **coming lean season, the socioeconomic impact of COVID-19, the pressure of the flow of returnees**. Vitamin A supplementation campaign was successfully organized in July 2020 using community-based distribution mechanism reaching 99.5% of the targeted under five children. Taking in account the context of COVID-19, sensitization was focused on Hand washing and infections prevention and control during the

campaign. Data collection for SMART Nutrition survey has been completed and preliminary results are expected by mid November.

Health

As of September 12th, a total of **1,225 cases of measles** were reported in 33 out of 47 health districts of the country. Children below 5 years old account for 54% of those affected. UNICEF supported a reactive immunization mass campaign against measles in April 2020. It targeted 6 districts affected and those most at-risk. The number of new infections has reduced significantly from week 18 (last week of April) to week 28 (first week of July). However new infections have emerged in other districts and the number of cases increased to 31 in week 34 (16-28 August). UNICEF and partners are supporting the Government in submitting a proposal to Outbreak Response Fund (ORF) which is managed by the measles and rubella initiative (M&RI) to conduct another measles mass campaign before the end of 2020.

The **situation for cholera** has improved compared to last year with 122 cases as of week 37. The country did not report new cases of cholera during the dry season (lasting from Mid-June to September). This is an improvement compared to last year same period. However, the country has recently entered the alert phase as the rain is back and three suspected cholera cases were notified in the province of Cibitoke by the end of September. UNICEF continues to support the MOH's efforts to strengthen the decentralized surveillance system. IEHK/AWD kits have also been pre-positioned at the central drug store.

On **Malaria**, the epidemiological curve is showing a steady decline, as compared to 2019. Since June 2020 (week 24), the weekly number of malaria cases remains below 70,000, while for the same period in 2019, the average of weekly notifications was at 150,000. So far this year, 3,189,965 Malaria cases, with 2,004 deaths (CFR 0.063%) have been reported which is much lower than the figures for the same period in 2019 (6,580,849 cases and 2,470 deaths - CFR 0.038%). Although there are fewer cases in 2020, the fatality rate is of concern and needs to be closely monitored. In Mid-September, outbreaks were declared in seven health districts. Using funding from the UK and Japan Governments, UNICEF is currently procuring malaria drugs, in line with the new protocol on first line treatment, drugs for intermittent preventive treatment for pregnant women, bed nets, as well as supporting capacity building and supervision activities on the new guidelines for treatment.

WASH

Since the beginning of the year, UNICEF and its partners – the INGO 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 and Cibitoke. During the past three months UNICEF has increased its water capacity supply to provide 7,5 litres per person per day to people affected by floods in Gatumba. In total 60,018 people (16,529 girls, 15,881 boys 14,080 women and 13,528) have been reached since January. Hygiene promotion and hygiene kit distribution have been extended to host communities to reach in total 114,426 people (31,513 girls, 30,277 boys, 26,844 women and 25,792 men). Emergency sanitation facilities have been provided to 10,200 persons (2,913 girls, 2,799 boys, 2,289 women and 2,199 men).

In support to the MoH and in collaboration with the World Health Organization (WHO) for Ebola preparedness, UNICEF supported the construction of additional 20 latrines, 20 showers, incinerators in three health facilities and supported the training of 47 hygienists. In total 126 health workers were trained on IPC WASH this year. UNICEF has also provided WASH services to 24 entry points and contributed to improving IPC in 14 health structures since January, which has benefited an average of 22,119 patients per month.

Furthermore, UNICEF has started the drilling of two boreholes to extend water supply network in Gatumba to ensure sustained availability of water to IDPs and host communities.

Education

During the reporting period, UNICEF has collaborated with the NGOs Association pour la Rehabilitation des Sinistrés and Hundreds of Original Projects for Employment (HOPE 87) to assist with catch-up programmes for **4,253 displaced, returnee and refugee children** (including 2,242 girls) in the provinces of Cankuzo, Kirundo, Makamba, Rutana, Rumonge and Muramvya, allowing them to continue their schooling despite being on the move.

In the context of **Ebola preparedness**, UNICEF with the Ministry of Education and the MOH have trained 1,672 teachers (including 853 women) to disseminate awareness raising on prevention and protection behaviors, finally reaching 104,146 pupils (including 72,484 girls) children in the provinces of Cankuzo, Kayanza, Kirundo, Muramvya, Muyinga, Rumonge, Rutana and Ruyigi.

UNICEF and its partners (including Fondation Terre des Hommes, War Child, Right to Play, Human Health Aid Burundi) have provided learning materials to 10,930 children (including 5,405 girls) **affected by the floods** in the provinces of Bujumbura Mairie, Bujumbura Rural, Cibitoke and Bubanza in order to facilitate their return to school.

School kits for affected classrooms have been granted to 68 teachers and 1,000 desks were provided for 2,000 students (1,020 girls) affected by the floods in Gatumba.

UNICEF in partnership with the Jesuit Refugee Service, Association Communautaire pour la Promotion et Protection des Droits de l'Homme and War Child Holland has trained 1,954 teachers (including 1,299 women) on education in emergencies in the provinces of Muyinga, Ruyigi, Kirundo, Rumonge, Cankuzo, Makamba and Rutana in order to build capacities on **disaster risk reduction** which also included a specific module on the prevention of gender-based violence in a crisis context.

Child Protection

Since the beginning of the year, UNICEF and its partners^[1] have continued to deliver critical protection services to children in Burundi reaching 146,238 children (including 69,159 girls).

Out of these, 50,661 children (24,742 girls) including 10,926 **children displaced in Gatumba due to flooding**, were supported through 145 community-led child friendly spaces in Rumonge, Bubanza, Cibitoke, three drop-in centres in Bujumbura and child friendly spaces in Gatumba's provisional sites. They were able to access psychosocial support and recreational activities with support from UNICEF's Spanish National Committee. Children regularly attending child friendly spaces were also referred to other services, such as school reintegration (6,236 children / 1,954 girls) including through the contribution of solidarity groups (community self-help initiatives); while 756 separated children (281 girls) benefited from family tracing, reunification and alternative care.

Child Protection partners facilitated, with EU Humanitarian Aid, the birth registration of 95,172 children (44,157 girls) in Ruyigi province which hosts the highest number of **returnees from Tanzania**; and an additional 25,707 children (13,839 girls) were registered in Makamba, Rutana, Rumonge, Cibitoke, Bubanza with support from 426 Child Protection Committees who had a multiplier effect on the awareness raising initiatives on birth registration.

A total of 386 children (including 269 girls) who were **victims of violence** including GBV were provided psychosocial and medical assistance while 538 children including 63 girls were released from detention and assisted by protection partners.

^[1] Fondation Stamm, Giriyoja, War Child, UCBUM, AFJB, FVS-Amade, Sojpa, TDH and PPSM.

Communication for Development (C4D), Community Engagement & Accountability

In 2020, UNICEF implemented various behaviour change interventions in response to the Ebola Virus Disease (EVD), COVID-19, cholera, malaria epidemics and flooding affecting the population in various provinces. With its partners (The MOH, CONCERN Worldwide, Red Cross of Burundi, World Vision, Caritas Burundi, and Population Center Media of Burundi), UNICEF's interventions reached 3,963,096 people. Their knowledge was strengthened on **lifesaving behaviours and referral to essential services** (including but not limited to immunization, severe acute malnutrition, measles treatment, etc.) through 20 local radio and TV and interpersonal communication. Key messages validated by the MOH were delivered in Kirundi, French and Swahili.

Furthermore, as part of the **prevention and response to COVID-19**, UNICEF re-dynamized 178 committees in 165 hills and villages of 8 districts to reinforce communities' participation and ownership in relaying preventive measures and best practices. A total of 4,141 community leaders and influencers have been trained to set up and manage feedback mechanisms available to community members.

The 12 most affected health districts were targeted for the communication on the **new protocol for malaria treatment**. These messages reached 394,830 persons and their family as well as 100 community leaders were trained on signs and symptoms of malaria / cholera and other related topics to further spread key messages in their villages.

UNICEF is engaging pupils, through tailored campaigns in 100 schools, as agents of change. To date, 35,075 adolescents (15,873 girls and 14,370 boys) at school and out of school were empowered and became community agents of change with skills that enhance a greater sense of **social cohesion and peace**, as well as developing self-reliance.

COVID-19 response

In line with the MOH's Contingency Plan and as the co-lead of the Risk Communication and Community Engagement pillar, UNICEF supported mass communication campaigns through radio and TV spots, reaching more than 9 million people across the country, including 773,293 people reached through community engagement activities. In addition, 5,340 schools were provided with information/education/information materials, reaching 2.2 million children and teachers with **COVID-19 awareness messages**.

As part of infection prevention and control interventions (IPC), a private-public partnership **reducing the price of soap** benefited 2 million people whilst behaviour change efforts towards regular use of soap are maintained. A total of 12,938 healthcare facilities staff and community health workers were provided with personal protective equipment of which

12,283 were trained to better implement IPC procedures. UNICEF is currently supporting the establishment of **triage units in 400 health centres**.

To reduce the negative impact of the pandemic on the Burundian population, UNICEF, as lead of sectoral groups for Education, Nutrition, WASH and Child Protection (sub-group), supported **sectoral contingency planning** to facilitate the continuity of essential services. For instance, 34,938 children from 6-59 months were treated for severe acute malnutrition (SAM), 872,707 people accessed essential healthcare services and 1,517 children and parents received psychosocial support through mobile teams of psychologists. Finally, the social policy team continues to monitor the socio-economic impact and been advocating is engaging to 'protect' social sector budgets, at minimum, at the same level in addition to expanding the coverage of social protection.

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 in Burundi. 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 actively participates in the in-country interagency gender-based violence (GBV) sub-group and the Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) Task Force. Sectors under the coordination of OCHA also work 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 key stakeholder of the COVID-19 response, participates in the sub-committee for WASH/infection prevention and control, led by the MoH with support from WHO and co-leads the sub-committee for Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE).

Human Interest Stories and External Media

In July, [the Blue Soap initiative](#) was jointly launched by UNICEF and the Government of Burundi, making soap affordable and available to all Burundians across the country. A communication campaign was led to cover this initiative. [The Blue Soap initiative: Access to affordable soap for the population in Burundi](#), an article depicting this unprecedented initiative for UNICEF in Burundi and globally, was published on the ICON platform. [Another published piece in collaboration with UNICEF USA on Forbes](#) explains how this initiative came to meet a critical need and how this is keeping vulnerable families safe from COVID-19 and other infectious diseases, as equally shown in [this video](#). [Related social media publications](#) reached more than 5,000 people and engaged more than 380 users.

During the month of September, the external communication team worked jointly with programmes to develop COVID-19 visibility items for use and dissemination on social media platforms, and a few blog posts for the Burundi website. The focus was put on [the Back to School \(BTS\) 2020 campaign](#) and the Cartedo Challenge. Thanks to the support of the World Bank and the Global Partnership for Education (GPE), schoolchildren in Burundi's 6 most vulnerable provinces received school kits and were sensitized on COVID-19 protection measures. On Facebook, people reached with BTS 2020 and COVID-19 related key messages and communication products totalized 32,946 people with post engagement of 3973 interactions (likes, shares, comments). The BTS 2020 video was produced in [French](#) and [English](#), and was viewed on IGTV more than 200 times. On Twitter, related posts reached more than 6876 users.

Concerning [the Cartedo Challenge](#) on COVID-19, the communication team collaborated closely with the Regional Office (RO) to develop a social media pack around the UNICEF-Cartedo Challenge that included participations from Burundi, Tanzania, Malawi and Nigeria. Final products were shared across Burundi Country Office and RO channels. Five young Burundians won the UNICEF seed fund of US \$1,000 to implement their [winning project ideas](#) to help prevent COVID-19 in their respective communities. Social media interactions and conversations on this challenge ranged between engagement on Facebook with 7,934 reached users with key messages from both BCO and RO, and the engagement of 4,831 users on Twitter.

As part of the ongoing activities on sensitization on handwashing, a radio spot on COVID-19 has been broadcasted in September on 20 radio stations (radio stations with national coverage and all community radio stations) who are part of the child-friendly media network in Burundi, a UNICEF partner.

Next SitRep: 31 December 2020

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

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

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Summary of Programme Results

	Cluster/Sector Response			UNICEF and IPs		
Sector	2020 target	Total results*	Change since last report ▲▼	2020 target	Total results*	Change since last report ▲▼
Nutrition						
Number of children aged 6 to 59 months affected by SAM admitted for treatment	45,000	28,571	14,893	45,000	28,571	14,893
Number of children assessed for acute malnutrition through mass screening				550,000	447,263	0
Health						
Number of children vaccinated against measles				50,000	51,290	7,943
Number of people, at least half of them children, provided with essential drugs				250,000	58,942	28,942
WASH						
Number of people accessing sufficient quantity of safe water for drinking, cooking and personal hygiene	490,025	95,329	6,933	100,000	60,018	6,933
Number of people in cholera and Ebola high-risk areas reached with key messages on hygiene practices	422,794	115,326	60,636	320,000	114,426	60,636
Child Protection						
Number of children accessing critical child protection services, including mental health and psychosocial support	200,000	151,195	44,969	160,000	146,238	42,549
Number of children and women accessing gender-based violence risk mitigation, prevention or response interventions				80,000	56,269	16,129
Education						
Number of school-aged girls, boys and adolescents accessing formal and non-formal education opportunities	65,000	4,396	0	60,000	4,253	143
Number of education duty bearers trained on	9,000	2,250	436	6,500	1,954	400

education in emergencies and risk reduction						
Number of school-aged girls and boys reached with Ebola preparedness messages				500,000	140,046	0
C4D/AECR						
Number of people reached with key lifesaving/ behaviour change messages on Ebola prevention and control				1,700,000	1,804,707	13,181
Number of people reached with information on access to basic services in emergency situations				165,000	30,244	0 ¹

Annex B

Funding Status*

Sector	Requirements (US\$)	Funds available (US\$)		Funding gap	
		Received Current Year	Carry-Over	US\$	%
Nutrition	3,700,000	1,463,657	1,413,952	822,391	22%
Health	1,600,000	923,738	198,186	478,076	30%
WASH	4,000,000	1,204,162	260,476	2,035,362	58%
Child Protection	3,500,000	345,007 ²	295,394	2,859,599	82%
Education	1,500,000	93,905	330,258	1,075,837	72%
C4D	1,700,000	334,153	137,829	1,228,018	72%
Cluster Coordination	500,000	267,000	73,000	160,000	32%
Total	16,500,000	4,631,622	2,709,095	9,159,283	56%

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

¹ The same pool of people is regularly informed and questioned through Ureport.

² The fund received includes the support through solidarity groups managed by the social protection section.