

## Burundi

---

### Executive summary

Since April 2015, a security and political crisis linked to the electoral process, has plunged Burundi into civil unrest, growing insecurity, indiscriminate violence and sharp economic deterioration. The situation has pushed thousands of civilians to flee their homes and has affected overall programme implementation. In spite of this challenging environment, which includes the temporary evacuation of non-critical staff and the retreat of major donors, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) Burundi continued to implement its regular programmes for children and women in 2015 while strengthening its emergency preparedness and response activities.

The most important achievements of 2015 include:

- UNICEF supported the finalization of the curriculum reform for Grades 7-9, the approval of a sector analysis and planning roadmap for 2017-2020, and the continuation of the Education Management Information System (EMIS) reform.
- To ensure quality and adapt the supply of education services to an increasing population, UNICEF Burundi supported the training of 2,178 teachers and the construction of 162 classrooms.
- Despite the continued deterioration of the security/political situation in Burundi, UNICEF continued to support the annual Back-to-School Campaign, enabling more than 250,000 vulnerable children to pursue their schooling.
- UNICEF supported the Government of Burundi to contain a cholera outbreak in May 2015. During the two-month epidemic in Southern Burundi, only 181 cases of cholera and five deaths were reported.
- UNICEF remains the only provider of vaccines and regular therapeutic feeding products in Burundi. Between January and September 2015, 21,439 children under 5 were enrolled for the management of severe acute malnutrition. As a result of the crisis, UNICEF has taken the lead on national drug supply, and supplies have been provided for the last two months of 2015.
- Despite a tense security situation, UNICEF organized two rounds of the Mother and Child Health Week (MCHW) and supported the introduction of the inactivated poliovirus vaccine, targeting all children under 5.
- Nationwide, community management of acute malnutrition was ensured and UNICEF promoted fortification with micronutrient powders in two provinces, reaching about 65 per cent of children aged 6 to 23 months.
- During all cholera and flood emergencies, 38,400 people had access to water, 4,285 people had access to adequate temporary sanitation facilities and 18,220 people, including 9,000 children, received hygiene kits.
- Through Community-Led Total Sanitation (CLTS), 59,230 people gained access to household sanitation. In schools, 10,810 children (5,480 girls and 5,330 boys) benefited from water access and 17,350 children benefited from gender-segregated toilets and handwashing facilities.

- Ninety-six children arrested for demonstrations were released, 53 children sentenced for “participation in armed groups” were reintegrated and child-friendly spaces established in Bujumbura’s hotspots following outbreaks of violence reached 4,700 children.
- Two re-education centres for children in conflict with the law were erected to take incarcerated children away from adult prisons and provide them with basic services, education and reintegration.
- As Burundi plunged further into crisis, UNICEF became a leading voice for children by ensuring coverage of children's issues in top-tier media and showcasing children's experiences of the crisis via global and regional UNICEF channels to reach key target audiences, including media, donors and key decision makers.
- At the onset of the 2015 security/political crisis, UNICEF led the analysis of the socio-economic consequences of the crisis for children, including a detailed budget analysis, culminating in the elaboration of key policy briefs on social budgets for children. The analysis served as a key basis for discussion with donors about the reorientation of their funding and support to Burundi.
- UNICEF promoted key family practices through combined Communication for Development (C4D) approaches and strengthened youth competencies through life skills activities, benefiting 43,933 youth.
- UNICEF further supported the Government in the areas of data management, quality research and statistics used to monitor key national strategies, including the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), Burundi Vision 2025, Poverty Reduction Strategic Plan II, etc.

#### Most significant challenges for 2015:

- The escalation of violence challenged the smooth implementation of programmes. The subsequent humanitarian crisis will slow down development interventions in an already very poor country with dire socio-economic indicators.
- Burundi met only one of the MDGs in 2015 – MDG 2 (ensuring universal primary education). However, this success does not adequately address the country’s low quality of education.
- Accountability for children in political, economic and social processes is still widely neglected, including lack of monitoring, knowledge management and evidence-based planning.

#### The important collaborative relationships that UNICEF is currently involved in are:

- Key partners active in Burundi, including the World Bank, the African Development Bank, the International Monetary Fund, the European Union, sister United Nations agencies and key donor countries, continued to be essential. However, the withdrawal of aid flows coupled with rapid economic decline put social services at risk. UNICEF Burundi is therefore focusing on additional fundraising or rechannelling of funds.
- Partnerships with academic and private sector entities became increasingly important for strengthening the knowledge base regarding children.

### Humanitarian assistance

Since April 2015, following the incumbent President’s decision to run for a third term in office, Burundi has faced civil unrest, escalating violence and sharp economic decline, all of which have resulted in a major increase in humanitarian needs. Some 230,000 people, many of them children, have sought refuge in neighbouring countries and thousands more have been forced to relocate internally for their safety, putting further strain on existing coping mechanisms. The

2015 revised post-election Inter-agency Contingency Plan estimated that some 400,000 people, half of them children suffering disproportionately from the swell in violence, would be in need of humanitarian assistance in Burundi between June and December 2015.

Given the current context and in order to support the already fragile and poor Burundian population, UNICEF worked in close partnership with national and international actors to align its interventions within the framework of its preparedness and response strategy with existing conflict-sensitive programmes. These include ensuring access to peace education based on the reformed Burundian curriculum for crisis-affected and displaced children and managing cholera and severe acute malnutrition at community and facility levels. At the same time, UNICEF Burundi successfully updated the Early Warning Early Action system, which complied with UNICEF's corporate preparedness benchmarks. To ensure effective and timely cholera response, UNICEF supported the Government with the distribution of water bladders for safe water provision, cholera prevention and treatment kits and a cholera-prevention campaign that reached 57,500 people. In addition, more than 20,000 children under five suffering from severe acute malnutrition were admitted into therapeutic feeding programmes in 2015. To ensure that regular programmes continue properly while emergency response and preparedness efforts are increased, UNICEF Burundi increased its human capacities, particularly for emergency coordination and the monitoring of child rights violations.

Successful fundraising efforts through the UNICEF Burundi Humanitarian Action for Children appeal allowed for considerable achievements. UNICEF's response and preparedness activities included the promotion of child well-being through the establishment of a network of 28 child-friendly spaces to address the psychosocial support needs of children in Bujumbura. At the same time, UNICEF worked throughout 2015 to strengthen monitoring and reporting on grave violations of children's rights in Burundi and support efforts to provide access to safe water and sanitation, promote peacebuilding, provide psychosocial support to children, and ensure access to education, especially for displaced children. UNICEF reached more than 57,000 people with education and information pertaining to safe hygienic practices and supported the Ministry of Health (MoH) to mitigate the risk of stock-outs of essential drugs by placing a first order of supplies. In coordination with the Ministry of Education (MoE), teachers were trained to ensure the rollout of child-friendly schooling that integrates peacebuilding. The previous mainstreaming of peacebuilding and conflict sensitivity across sectoral programmes and planning processes was proven successful by an external evaluation and included in UNICEF Burundi's emergency response and preparedness efforts, such as mandatory conflict-sensitivity analyses throughout stand-by partnership development.

While UNICEF Burundi has worked closely with partners on the ground to ensure appropriate response and preparedness measures, it also strongly engaged in supporting collaborative efforts to ensure coordinated emergency response and resilience-building at sector and inter-agency levels. UNICEF Burundi acted as co-lead alongside government counterparts of four emergency sectors – health, nutrition, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), and education – as well as the child protection sub-sector.

In addition to the current volatile situation requiring targeted and immediate response and high preparedness efforts, Burundi is highly aid-dependent at a rate of 49.5 per cent. Therefore, withdrawal and/or suspension of aid flows were coupled with rapid economic decline that has left thousands of children to endure the worst of the crisis, as access to basic social services, including quality education, health care, adequate nutrition, and WASH are directly impacted. To avoid the collapse of social service systems, UNICEF Burundi is not only continuously supporting national programmes for health care (most notably by ensuring the availability of

essential drugs), nutrition, education and WASH, but also continues to actively advocate for the protection of children at all times and guarantees access to social services. UNICEF closely monitors resource allocation to social sectors and pleads for a continuation of assistance to Burundi's most vulnerable children and families, ensuring the sustained promotion of the protection and well-being of children throughout the country.

## Summary notes and acronyms

AIDS	acquired immune deficiency syndrome
AMP	annual management plan
C4D	Communication for Development
CFS	child-friendly spaces
CLTS	Community-Led Total Sanitation
CMT	Country Management Team
CRVS	civil registration and vital statistics
CSO	civil society organization
DFID	Department for International Development
EBF	Education Basket Fund
EMIS	Education Management Information System
EPF	Emergency Programme Fund
ESARO	East and Southern African Regional Office
FAO	Food and Agricultural Organisation
GPE	Global Partnership for Education
HACT	harmonized approach to cash transfers
HIV	human immunodeficiency virus
ICT	information and communication technologies
IMEP	Integrated Research, Monitoring and Evaluation Plan
ISTEEBU	Institut de Statistiques et d'Etudes Economiques du Burundi
MCHW	Mother and Child Health Week
MDG	Millennium Development Goal
MoE	Ministry of Education
MoH	Ministry of Health
MORSS	Minimum Operational Residential Security Standards
MOSS	Minimum Operating Security Standard
NGO	non-governmental organization
PBEA	peacebuilding, education and advocacy
PCA	programme cooperation agreement
PEAB	Anglican Church of Burundi
PFP	Private Fundraising and Partnerships Division
PMTCT	prevention of mother-to-child transmission
RET	Refugee Education Trust
RWP	rolling work plan
SMS	short message service
SMPP	short message peer-to-peer
SOP	standard operating procedure
SSFA	small scale funding agreement
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNDSS	United Nations Department for Safety and Security
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UN Women	United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women

USAID	United States Agency for International Development
VPN	virtual private network
WASH	water, sanitation and hygiene
WFP	World Food Programme
WHO	World Health Organization

## Capacity development

Given Burundi's recurrent cycles of violence and the negative impacts on sustainable systems development, capacity building remains a priority programme area. In 2015, UNICEF supported the capacity building of government and non-governmental organization (NGO) partners in key areas of education, health and nutrition, child protection and juvenile justice, emergencies, innovations, planning, monitoring and evaluation, and social policy. UNICEF Burundi's interventions included institutional reinforcement, support for the development of guidelines and training tools, coordination, support for planning and implementation monitoring and other key areas.

As education sector co-lead, UNICEF Burundi increased its sector counterparts' capacity in planning, monitoring and evaluation, including planning and monitoring through the Global Partnership for Education (GPE), and the ability to face conflict and support disaster risk reduction and management.

Trained community health workers promoted the six key family practices and reached more than 55,000 community members in three provinces through awareness campaigns and social mobilization. UNICEF reached out to more than 29,000 households to raise awareness on cholera risks and prevention in the Nyanza-lac area. Using the positive deviance/health approach, 2,052 'light mothers' were empowered to share knowledge and behaviour change in the Ngozi Province.

To reach children within their communities and to complement the formal provision of basic services, UNICEF continued efforts to empower communities. In 2015, more than 1,500 child protection committees and community leaders were trained on mediation and reparation techniques to prevent and deal with children that commit minor crimes in the Gitega and Ngozi provinces.

UNICEF is supporting the Government to implement the Community Approaches to Total Sanitation programme at the national level through the development of strategic documents and technical tools. In addition, the implementation of the CLTS approach to accelerate community access to sanitation in rural areas remains crucial.

UNICEF Burundi further deepened its cooperation with the national statistics organization, Institut de Statistiques et d'Etudes Economiques du Burundi (ISTEEBU) and line ministries in the areas of data management, research and statistics, and social protection.

## Evidence generation, policy dialogue and advocacy

At the onset of the 2015 security/political crisis in Burundi, UNICEF Burundi led the analysis of the socio-economic consequences of the 2015 crisis for children, an exercise that culminated in the elaboration of key policy briefs on social budgets for children. The document was widely distributed and served as a key basis for discussion with donors on the reorientation of their funding and support to Burundi. These policy briefs contributed to fundraising in Rwanda with the Governments of Japan and Germany.

Results of analysis on multidimensional vulnerability and poverty showed that poverty is more widespread among children in Burundi. To strengthen knowledge on access to basic social services, UNICEF undertook studies on the: 1) indigence certificate delivering process; 2) impact of microfinance on living conditions and poverty reduction; 3) birth registration system; and 4) parental care. These study results will inform the 2016 work plans.

UNICEF Burundi signed a memorandum on the respect for children's rights with the Ombudsman and teacher syndicates, parent associations, faith-based organizations and the MoE, which led to the creation of a national commission on children's rights related to protection and education.

The participation of three key ministries in AfricaSan 2015 resulted in Burundi signing the declaration of Ngor to achieve universal access to WASH services by 2030 and allocating 0.5 per cent of the gross domestic product to the hygiene and sanitation sub-sector by 2020.

UNICEF was the first agency to raise awareness on the risk of nationwide drug stock-outs and launched a plea within the health partners' group and among key donors. UNICEF Burundi became the lead in the procurement of an emergency six-month provision of essential drugs.

UNICEF Burundi pursued an approach to peacebuilding research that combined a set of representative studies on social cohesion and resilience with a monitoring feedback loop of quarterly conflict scans. Analysis was welcomed by development partners, notably United Nations sister agencies and the United Nations Department of Political Affairs.

## Partnerships

Despite the difficult security situation, UNICEF Burundi continued to strengthen its established partnerships with the Government, academic institutions, including the University of Brussels, the University of Amsterdam, Harvard University, the University of Burundi, civil society organizations (CSOs), the media, Parliament and United Nations agencies. Meanwhile, UNICEF maintained partnerships, using the innovation-driven approach, with the emerging private sector and social enterprise.

To ensure appropriate preparedness and response in case of increased humanitarian needs, UNICEF Burundi worked in strong collaboration with sectoral partners to assess needs and coordinate prepositioning and preparedness activities. UNICEF Burundi co-led the WASH, education, nutrition, health and child protection emergency sector groups alongside the Government and supported coordination and intervention based on mutual partnerships with actors in the respective sectors.

As a lead and coordinating agency for the GPE, UNICEF Burundi facilitated the dialogue between the MoE and International Institute for Education Planning in Dakar, leading to the signature of a partnership agreement to support the revision of the sector plan and the development of an action plan for the last phase of implementation in 2017-2020. UNICEF Burundi also supported the integration of a chapter on conflict, risk and vulnerability in the sector analysis, leading to the integration of peacebuilding concepts into the new basic education curriculum and teaching materials.

As part of its partnership with other United Nations agencies (the World Health Organization (WHO), the Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO), and the World Food Programme (WFP)), UNICEF Burundi coordinated the United Nations project in Ngozi tackling chronic malnutrition.

UNICEF Burundi also continued with its nutrition leadership role in Burundi by working closely with the REACH initiative and the Scaling-Up Nutrition Secretariat.

C4D encouraged a partnership between faith-based and non-faith-based organizations, which included the Scout Movement, Association pour la Promotion de la Femme Burundaise, Communauté en Action pour le Développement Intégré, the Anglican Church of Burundi (PEAB), etc., to support the implementation of life skills and peacebuilding activities at the community level, strengthen youth participation and gender mainstreaming, and develop community-based approaches to prevent epidemic outbreaks.

In 2015, UNICEF Burundi established 20 programme cooperation agreements (PCAs) and 16 small-scale funding agreement (SSFAs) totalling US\$4,916,784.

### **External communication and public advocacy**

In 2015, as one of the first adopters of the Global Communication and Public Advocacy Strategy, UNICEF Burundi's communications work plan was aligned to global key performance indicators and an even stronger focus was placed on digital outreach and influencers, despite a severely hampered media and communications landscape.

UNICEF redoubled child-led advocacy efforts through online platforms, and UNICEF Burundi took the lead on running a regional tweet-a-thon with children from the Great Lakes region named #tweet4hope. Burundi also launched its version of the song, Imagine, garnering more than 10,000 YouTube views. #IMAGINE was a UNICEF initiative launched in November 2014 uniting millions of people to raise awareness of child rights.

As a risk mitigation measure, several in-country activities involving children were cancelled and new advocacy opportunities were explored and secured outside of the country. Five child-produced films were successfully placed at the renowned Zanzibar International Film Festival and screened in front of 400 people.

Reputation management and delivering on brand promise was a critical priority, and messaging was immediately reoriented towards protecting children from violence. Through close collaboration with the media, Private Fundraising and Partnerships (PFP) and the East and Southern African Regional Office (ESARO), UNICEF Burundi achieved coverage on Burundian children's issues in top-tier media such as Reuters, Al Jazeera, Voice of America, Radio France International, the Guardian, and the British Broadcasting Corporation.

Leveraging newfound international interest in Burundi, a steady stream of content was rapidly produced highlighting the impact of violence on children and the plight of displaced and separated children. Eleven web stories were published, blogs written by field staff garnered hundreds of views, and one child portrait generated more than 800 shares on Facebook. Meanwhile, traffic to the UNICEF Burundi Facebook page spiked, with the number of followers doubling over the previous year.

### **South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation**

Despite the ongoing security/political crisis, UNICEF Burundi continued to support South-South cooperation in 2015. To conduct the assessment and planning of the Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (CRVS) system in Burundi, UNICEF Burundi benefited from the technical guidance of an expert from the Africa Programme on Accelerated Improvement of CRVS, an experienced

official who has been leading civil registration processes in Burkina Faso for many years. The support helped the Government to develop an action plan to reinforce its CRVS system.

UNICEF Burundi supported the participation of four key education planning staff of the MoE in an exchange of experience mission with Madagascar and Comoros in relation to the GPE process. Participants shared the experience of the Local Group for Education (Groupe Sectoriel Education) in Burundi and liaised with national teams in charge of the elaboration of the second request to GPE.

UNICEF Burundi facilitated the participation of two representatives of the National Commission for Social Protection in a mission to Niger to enable exchanges on best social policy practices in countries with similar development contexts.

A study tour was organized in Malawi to reinforce MoH capacities to design and implement the “Kiramama project”, which introduced the use of mobile phone technology (RapidPro) to improve the management of obstetrical emergencies. The restitution of this mission was presented to the Minister of Health.

In response to the outbreak of cholera due to poor WASH conditions at border crossing areas with Tanzania, UNICEF Burundi enabled the timely provision of hygiene kits and communication materials for 1,500 people and a cholera treatment kit and nutritious food for children at transition sites and refugee camps in Tanzania. Given the forced displacements within the region, due to violence in Burundi, C4D staff worked closely with their counterparts in affected neighbouring countries to share communications materials covering WASH, education and child protection.

## Identification and promotion of innovation

In 2015, UNICEF Burundi continued to leverage key innovations such as new and/or improved technologies, products, partnerships and processes. UNICEF Burundi’s innovation activities included: 1) enhancing products and services either developed or first piloted in the previous period; 2) scaling up products and services successfully piloted in the previous period; 3) identifying new technologies, approaches and services to support the attainment of country programme objectives.

Under the first category, activities included the development of real-time data analytics to enhance further data utilization collected via RapidPro-based systems for cholera surveillance, supply tracking and reporting during MCHWs, and the sale of solar products for Project Lumiere. During the November MCHW, the online dashboard supported more than 520 partners from all levels of the MoH to monitor closely the week-long campaign.

Under the second category, activities included the full integration of U-Report within the C4D Section. In 2015, U-Report was scaled up from 14,000 to 44,000 users through media, training and mobilization activities across eight provinces. Following the cholera outbreak in May, more than 41,300 people were reached with key hygiene messages on the importance and proper practice of handwashing. Digital Drums to support informal learning were installed in a child re-education centre, providing children with activities with educational value.

Under the third category, activities included the ongoing design of a renewable energy pilot for schools to support the integration of information and communication technologies (ICT) in education as one strategy for improving educational outcomes. Efforts are underway to digitize



school curricula in collaboration with the MoE, and the French textbooks for Grades 5 and 6 were already completed.

Last year, UNICEF added a cash transfer component to the ongoing prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV (PMTCT) project implemented with a local NGO. This component aims to encompass the medical and social aspects of the PMTCT approach.

### **Support to integration and cross-sectoral linkages**

Following the 2015 Yamoussoukro Conference on Birth Registration, the Burundian Ministry of Interior and the MoH issued a joint decree to enforce the utilization of the Mother and Child Health Booklet distributed by UNICEF nationwide. This new booklet integrates protection, health, nutrition, communication and early child development. Given that more than 70 per cent of births in Burundi take place in health facilities, the inclusion of birth registration in the Mother and Child Health Booklet will boost the birth registration rate.

The WASH, health and nutrition, and C4D sections continued to collaborate to support the organization of the MCHW. In November, the WASH section offered soap for distribution to pregnant women. This new activity contributed to improving the attendance of pregnant women in MCHW, reaching 250,000 pregnant women in 2015.

UNICEF Burundi played a key role in supporting the Government to fight a cholera outbreak that spread from Tanzania in May 2015 after the return of some Burundian refugees. To contain the outbreak, a cross-sectoral collaboration between UNICEF (health, nutrition and C4D sections) and partners was established to manage both the curative and the preventive/promotional aspects of the response. This led to a rapid end of the epidemic in July 2015. The lessons learned from this collaboration were documented to maintain preparedness and ensure the same level of collaboration in case of an outbreak on the border with the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

In support of the Back-to-School Campaign led by the MoE, UNICEF provided soap to 430 primary schools in the seven target provinces (covering more than 247,000 children) to encourage hygiene promotion and handwashing at schools.

### **Service delivery**

In 2015, UNICEF Burundi continued to support the Government in the provision of much needed health supplies and potable water, the rehabilitation of health infrastructure, the establishment of a protective environment for children, and the promotion of skills building for behaviour change.

UNICEF completed the rehabilitation of Rukaramu Disease Isolation Centre and transferred it to the MoH. In addition, preliminary arrangements were made for a full rehabilitation of the Gitega Hospital's paediatric wards and the construction of an early child development centre. These investments are essential to reinforcing the quality of health services. UNICEF Burundi is still the only provider of traditional routine vaccines and therapeutic feeding products with some in-kind donation from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and World Vision in the country. UNICEF Burundi ensured PMTCT services in 90 health centres in 2015.

UNICEF Burundi continued to support access to basic services for more than 27,340 vulnerable boys and girls in intervention provinces. Some 4,700 children benefited from psychosocial support through safe spaces established to respond to ongoing insecurity in the capital.

WASH interventions resulted in access to drinking water for 38,400 people last year and a water-point management committee was established for each newly built water point to ensure sustainable access to clean water. Through the CLTS approach, 59,230 people gained access to household sanitation. Despite improvements in the overall access of Burundi's population to safe drinking water and sanitation, WASH indicators remain challenging, especially in rural areas where statistics on the use of latrines and handwashing practices are well below the targeted 60 per cent.

UNICEF Burundi strengthened the use of a wide range of key tools, such as interactive and narrative theatre, community dialogue, listening groups, capacity building, social mobilization and mass media to foster dialogue on health, nutrition, hygiene, protection and education topics, including peacebuilding among youth and adolescents.

### **Human rights-based approach to cooperation**

In 2015, UNICEF Burundi continued to build on evidence generated through the Peacebuilding, Education and Advocacy (PBEA) programme to engage in high-level advocacy highlighting inequity and persistent and unsanctioned violence against women. The representatives of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), UNICEF and the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women) conducted a series of high-level meetings with the Minister of Justice, the Minister of National Solidarity, Human Rights and Gender and the Minister of Health to raise their common concerns on gender-based violence.

Based on PBEA outputs, UNICEF Burundi integrated a peacebuilding and conflict sensitivity approach into the country office's sector programming to address conflict drivers through individual and structural transformative change. The research influenced the MoE, the Ministry of Justice and other partners to understand the conflict drivers and address them through reforms of systems and policies such as conflict-sensitive education curriculum and improvement of juvenile justice structures. In addition, UNICEF Burundi supported civil society movements (Platform of Children's Rights NGOs) to prepare an alternate report on the Contract Review Committee.

The rapid closure of Burundi's four main independent radio stations following the security/political crisis required immediate reorientation of UNICEF Burundi's external communications approach, including the mitigation of security risks linked to the involvement of children in media efforts.

In 2014-2015, given limited resources, UNICEF Burundi reviewed its target population based on vulnerability criteria to reach the most disadvantaged children in 7 provinces and 10 communes with access to school kits that would allow these children to pursue their educations. In 2015, more than 250,000 children benefited from this action. UNICEF Burundi supported 600 long-term displaced children living in extreme poverty through the provision of school materials and financial and psychosocial support.

### **Gender mainstreaming and equality**

Many school children experience violence more regularly in their early school years in Burundi, than in later years at school. Data on reasons for dropping out in primary schools for the 2012-2013 school year suggested that school-based violence – mainly against girls – is one of the main reasons for dropout and can result in early marriage and pregnancy. To address gender-based violence, UNICEF Burundi collaborated with the MoE to increase awareness on the

importance of ending sexual and gender-based violence in schools and communities. In partnership with the Forum for African Women Educationalists since 2014, UNICEF Burundi has supported the implementation of 306 clubs of aunts and parents in 153 schools as reference structures for child victims of violence and for the prevention of violence in schools to improve the retention of girls. In 2015, some 130 girls who were victims of violence were supported to continue their education through a joint United Nations Sexual and Gender-Based Violence Working Group Cash Transfer Programme project. The child protection section continued to scale up village savings and loans associations as a new approach, targeting mainly women and aimed at ensuring their empowerment and economic independence with a focus on behavioural change in communities. The child protection section also implemented a project to support access to basic services for 1,000 vulnerable and at-risk girls while working with their communities of origin to avoid girls dropping out of school and facing exploitation as domestic workers.

To meet the needs and respect the dignity of women in emergencies, UNICEF Burundi initiated the pre-positioning of reusable menstrual hygiene kits for 10,000 women and girls. The knowledge and behaviour around menstrual hygiene management was analysed during the WASH sectoral rapid situation assessment. At schools, toilets were constructed separately for girls and boys. In emergency settings, such as displacement sites and cholera treatment centres, gender-segregated toilets and shower spaces were provided.

### Environmental sustainability

In partnership with the MoE, Conseil Pour l'Education et le Développement and the local community, UNICEF Burundi designed an environmentally friendly school construction model. The model includes the use of compressed and stabilized earth blocks, tree planting, solar power, and community capacity building and involvement. This will limit deforestation and empower communities through brick manufacturing, classroom building, and sensitization on disaster adaptation/mitigation. The project has already shown early indications of improved community awareness on climate change and fuelled discussion with the Government on sustainable construction standards.

The health and nutrition programme included El Niño risk (flooding) and the deterioration of food security due to climate change in its advocacy efforts and the Post-Election Interagency Contingency Plan.

In 2015, UNICEF Burundi continued to implement the social enterprise model known as Project Lumiere to deliver affordable, off-grid household energy and developed an integrated, decentralized rural electrification strategy. Despite significant delays caused by the security situation, the project was scaled up from 14 pilot groups in four provinces to an additional 40 groups, reaching approximately 26,000 children by the end of the year.

A 2014 study revealed that 46 per cent of UNICEF Burundi's carbon emissions came from business flying, 26 per cent came from office consumption of electricity, 16 per cent came from the use of vehicles, and 6 per cent from onsite oil use. In the course of the ongoing office move, UNICEF Burundi has taken steps to reduce its carbon emissions due to electricity by using solar panels and mechanical ventilation instead of air conditioners. In addition, UNICEF Burundi is gradually replacing those vehicles that have high carbon dioxide emissions and UNICEF is encouraging online training and the use of Skype and webinars for business meetings to reduce flying and driving.

## Effective leadership

UNICEF Burundi office objectives and priorities were discussed and compiled in the Annual Management Plan (AMP) that was approved by the Country Management Team (CMT) during the first quarter of the year, shared with the Regional Office and reviewed twice during 2015 (at mid-year and at the end of the year). An audit was conducted in December 2015, allowing the office to further strengthen its key performance indicator monitoring systems.

UNICEF and the Government developed the Rolling Work Plan (RWP) on time and the Government signed during the first quarter of 2015. The management performance indicators, the review of which was a standing CMT item on a quarterly basis, helped to track office progress on key benchmarks related to programme management, budget, supply, operations and staff well-being. The CMT held eight meetings in 2015 and endorsed the AMP 2015, the RWP 2015-2016, the Integrated Research, Monitoring and Evaluation Plan (IMEP) 2015, the key performance management indicators, the Learning and Development Plan for 2015, as well as the findings and recommendations of programme and operations meetings and of the mid-year and annual reviews.

UNICEF Burundi's terms of reference of statutory and non-statutory office committees are consistent with UNICEF organizational policies and procedures. In 2015, they were the CMT, the Joint Consultative Committee, Contract Review Committee, Programme Cooperation Agreement Review Committee, Local Central Review Board, Selection and Advisory Panel, Learning and Staff Development Committee, Property Survey Board, Internal Control Team, Staff Association Executive Committee, Caring For Us Team, the Harmonized Approach to Cash Transfers (HACT) Task Force, Emergency Task Force, Innovations Task Force and VISION Task Force.

## Financial resources management

The total funds allocation for UNICEF Burundi in 2015 was US\$43,258,672 with 100 per cent utilization of regular resources funds (US\$14,090,697), 99 per cent utilization of other resources funds (US\$12,837,042), and 97 per cent utilization of other resources' emergency funds (US\$4,442,489).

UNICEF Burundi performs periodic monitoring on the compliance and sustainability of audit and peer review recommendations. The office has had a good record of maintaining a minimum bank balance as per permissible limits. Sections systematically provide the finance unit with their monthly estimate, which is consolidated and posted in the net for replenishment. The minimum benchmark of US\$300,000 was exceeded only once (in June) as a result of programme delays related to the security/political crisis.

UNICEF Burundi did not have long outstanding items on bank reconciliation. Open items were consistently matched and cleared the following month and deadlines from the UNICEF Division of Financial and Administrative Management were respected throughout the year. Concerning the financial controls, the office strengthened the implementation of standard operating procedures (SOPs) and checklists for each type of payment.

For direct cash transfer liquidation, UNICEF Burundi maintained a good record of accomplishment despite the difficult security/political situation that led to delays in programme implementation with a figure of 0.8 per cent direct cash transfer balance greater than nine months. The office monitored the direct cash transfer status regularly and shared reports in programme, operations and CMT meetings.

UNICEF Burundi complied with HACT regulations and applied the Insight HACT online portal for monitoring purposes. The HACT Task Force developed a HACT assurance plan for endorsement by the CMT. The HACT assurance plan for 2015 was implemented through programme visits, spot-checks and audits. The assurance plan was reviewed during periodic HACT and CMT meetings. Fourteen HACT micro-assessments were completed in 2015 out of 14 scheduled. HACT capacity-building trainings were delivered to all key partners over the course of the year.

## Fundraising and donor relations

Due to the security/political crisis in 2015, UNICEF Burundi could not fully implement its Engagement Strategy 2015-2017 on resource mobilization, partnerships and leveraging, as planned. Humanitarian emergency response and preparedness needs were added to the persisting funding gaps for the regular programme, which exacerbated the office's resource scarcity.

In 2015, however, UNICEF Burundi slightly increased its income compared with 2014 (excluding increased regular resource allocations and internal loans obtained from the Emergency Programme Fund (EPF)). The positive result was due to nurtured relationships with key donors in both public (Canada, Netherlands, United States) and private (German, Spanish and French National Committees) sectors. The UNICEF Burundi analysis correlates the steep fundraising curve of other resource emergency in recent years with visits to donor headquarters. Successful visits were conducted in Germany and the United Kingdom in 2015, and ties both with existing and past donors as part of the fundraising and partnership efforts were consolidated with regard to the ongoing security and political crisis.

Another factor explaining donor fidelity to UNICEF Burundi is its commitment to quality and timely reporting with zero delays in donor reporting and positive donor feedbacks throughout 2015, which was reinforced by the ESARO quality review and confirmed by the reestablishment of a reports officer position.

In 2015, UNICEF Burundi was unable to host field visits from National Committees due to security risks. Nonetheless, relations with National Committees were strengthened through compelling human interest content production and high quality humanitarian situation reports. New support was received from National Committees without existing ties to UNICEF Burundi. Through its corporate partnerships, the Swiss National Committee supported the delivery of a 70 metric tonnes of cargo relief flight of essential drugs for women and children, and the United Kingdom National Committee provided policy and advocacy support through features on UNICEF Burundi's micro energy initiatives.

## Evaluation

UNICEF Burundi continued to rationalize the IMEP through its rolling planning. The IMEP 2015-2016 was elaborated in close collaboration with programme sections and the Government of Burundi and shared with key partners to avoid duplication and for knowledge management purposes. UNICEF Burundi maintained efforts to ensure high quality of research, studies and evaluation with a focus on end-user needs.

In 2015, the planning and monitoring and social policy sections consistently provided technical support to UNICEF Burundi programme sections for the development and management of the IMEP. This included review of and assistance to the development of terms of reference, design

and methodology, data collection tools, data analysis as well as review of draft reports. However, due to the security/political situation, about 50 per cent of IMEP activities were constrained or delayed and therefore postponed. Only 7 out of 11 research and studies planned for 2015 were actually initiated; of these, four were completed and four are currently in process.

As 1 of 14 countries participating in the PBEA programme, a four-year (2012-2016) global UNICEF programme that aimed to strengthen social cohesion, resilience and human security through education, Burundi participated in the PBEA global outcome evaluation conducted by Avenir Analytics for Headquarters. The evaluation, conducted with partners in Kenya given the security/political crisis, found Burundi among the countries with the most admirable set of results and connected this programmatic success to UNICEF Burundi's strong mainstreaming of conflict sensitivity and peacebuilding (see lessons learned section for additional information).

As UNICEF Burundi is planning to develop a new country programme cycle, the situation analysis will be used to inform the upcoming country programme document.

### **Efficiency gains and cost savings**

Savings linked to the streamlining of SOPs in 2015 were evaluated at 14,400 minutes working time (34 person days), representing a US\$44,818 cost reduction. Despite the unstable security situation in Burundi in 2015, the highest improvement was observed in local travel work processes, with savings of 25 workdays representing US\$32,954 cost reduction by 31 December 2015. The SOPs were reviewed and streamlined to suppress bottlenecks and to improve the efficiency of the workflow. The savings were derived from the implementation of the streamlined SOPs compared with the ones in place through 31 December 2014.

Signed long-term agreements by UNICEF alone or through the Operations Management Team helped the office save time to procure goods and services at competitive costs. Other United Nations agencies also used UNICEF's long-term agreements.

### **Supply management**

The total procurement plan for 2015 amounted to US\$17.7 million, of which 50 per cent (US\$8.8 million) has been funded. Out of the US\$8.8 million, 81 per cent (US\$ 7.1 million) funded the procurement of goods and 19 per cent (US\$1.6 million) funded services. The construction works represented 29 per cent (US\$ 485,000) of service procurement.

The health and nutrition section was the biggest contributor with 59 per cent of the total share, followed by education with 18 per cent, WASH with 9 per cent, and protection with 1.4 per cent. The remaining 13 per cent was shared among the C4D, communications, Social Policy, Advocacy and Evaluation, operations and innovations sections. The share between local and offshore procurement is respectively 41 and 59 per cent.

Overall, 93 per cent of goods were delivered directly to partners, avoiding the need to store items in the UNICEF warehouse. The average value of supplies managed in the controlled warehouse was US\$500,000. The stock level on 7 January 2016 was US\$1,005,000, of which 30 per cent represented contingency stock and 50 per cent represented emergency medicines ordered in the last quarter of 2015. The contingency stock increase is linked to the contribution of EPF I, EPF II and the United Kingdom's Department for International Development (DFID) funding.

The delivery of therapeutic spread (a therapeutic food commodity) was further improved through additional warehouse space at Centrale d'Achat des Médicaments Essentiels du Burundi. This helped the direct delivery of nutrition products to the central store without transit through UNICEF's warehouse. Procurement of health and nutrition supplies reached the amount of US\$4.4 million in 2015 in response to stock shortfalls in the national health supply chain.

For One United Nations-related activities, several long-term agreements were created or maintained jointly with other United Nations agencies to reduce transaction costs.

In addition to the supply plan, a value of US\$53 million was procured in 2015 through the procurement services mechanism, of which US\$48.5 million was funded by the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunizations.

### Security for staff and premises

The mandate of the United Nations Electoral Mission in Burundi ended in November 2015, and the premise currently used by several United Nations agencies, including UNICEF, will be returned to the owner in spring 2016. As a result, UNICEF Burundi will be moving into a stand-alone compound compliant with the Minimum Operating Security Standard (MOSS) with hosting arrangements for UNFPA and the UN Women.

Burundi has been facing civil unrest and violence since April 2015 following the President's decision to run for a third term in the office and culminating in an attempted political coup in May. The subsequent political crisis and escalating insecurity paved the way to an acute protection crisis and a hostile environment, especially in the capital city Bujumbura, which has since been declared a non-family duty station. As a business continuity measure, UNICEF Burundi appointed a dedicated field security adviser to accompany the country office management staff and programme delivery security issues.

In 2015, UNICEF Burundi conducted two exercises on the business continuity plan that helped to further enhance its telephone tree and reinforce its ICT responsiveness and readiness to ensure continuing programme delivery. A new programme criticality exercise is planned in 2016 to reflect the current situation as outlined in the September 2015 security risk assessment.

To ensure compliance with the Minimum Operating Residential Security Standard (MORSS), the United Nations Department for Safety and Security (UNDSS) performed inspections of staff residences and UNICEF Burundi premises. UNDSS also installed very high frequency and high frequency radios in all vehicles; on a weekly basis, radio checks for all staff were conducted; security briefings were provided to all staff, consultants, volunteers, interns and UNICEF Burundi's visitors; and HIM proof-of-life forms were issued to all staff to complete. In addition, periodic reminders on the security situation and the MOSS (radio checks, Travel Request Information Process, etc.) were sent to staff to maintain an acceptable degree of situational awareness.

Weekly security and political updates were provided to heads of programmes during the management meeting by the field security advisor.

### Human resources

The current staffing structure comprises 73 staff members (47 per cent females and 53 per cent males), including 25 international professionals (12 from donor countries and 13 from programme countries), 15 national officers, 30 general staff, one international general staff, one

United Nations volunteer and one junior professional officer. In 2015, the office recruited nine international professionals (including the Deputy Representative upgraded from professional level 4 to professional level 5), two national officers, two general staff, and 12 temporary assignments, all completed within 20 days. There are currently seven vacant positions due to lack of funding. At all stages of the selection process, efforts were made to maintain gender and geographic balances

As a result of the current security/political situation, UNICEF Burundi has faced several human resource challenges, including partial functional disruption due to temporary evacuation of non-critical staff, cancellation of consultant and expert missions, high staff turnover and the urgent need to replace staff who transferred. The office put an expert roster into place to address upcoming needs, and the office structure will be reviewed and a Programme and Budget Review submission will be prepared within the first quarter of 2016.

Overall, 99 per cent of Performance Appraisal System and electronic Performance Appraisal System inputs were completed in a timely fashion, and training was provided to staff and supervisors in line with the needs. UNICEF Burundi implemented an ambitious learning and training plan that resulted in 100 per cent completion of the mandatory ethics and security trainings. Several special afternoon learning sessions were organized to inform staff on other key subjects.

The recommendations of the 2014 global staff survey were translated into an action plan and a task force and the CMT followed up on its implementation.

UNICEF Burundi has an emergency task force that shares information on emergency risk management. The office recently hired a stress counsellor, who supports staff during challenging times. UNICEF Burundi closely works with the Staff Association to address issues related to staff well-being.

### **Effective use of information and communication technology**

Given the prevailing security/political situation, ICT participated in the revision of UNICEF Burundi's Business Continuity Plan to enhance its responsiveness and readiness. In 2015, all Business Continuity Plan sites were audited to ensure that the required services and equipment were available and in good working condition. Individual and group trainings for staff on using available tools to support remote access to office resources and services were also conducted. In addition, to maintain productivity during this tumultuous period, UNICEF Burundi provided pre-paid USB data modems to all staff to facilitate telecommuting given the constant lockdowns of areas in Bujumbura.

Throughout the year, ICT also worked closely with the Innovation Lab to add two additional mobile network operators (Smart and Lumitel) to UNICEF Burundi's short message peer-to-peer (SMPP) virtual private network (VPN) network, which is used for all RapidPro based applications such as U-Report, CMHW, cholera surveillance, water point monitoring and Project Lumiere. By developing a simple guide that details the process of establishing a secure VPN connection for SMPP between the Innovation Lab servers and an external mobile network operator, ICT contributed to developing capacity and sustainability for the Innovations Lab and other UNICEF country offices that could refer to this document.

ICT also engaged the mobile network operators on a regular basis to ensure enhanced uptime (a measure of the time a machine, typically a computer, has been working and available) of all



VPN links, ensuring the success of various short message service (SMS)-based campaigns carried out by the sections. This year, the SMPP links enabled the exchange of more than 800,000 incoming and 4 million outgoing SMS between UNICEF Burundi, partners and communities, enhancing UNICEF Burundi's visibility nationwide and improving real-time project monitoring.

As UNICEF Burundi is planning to relocate, ICT was involved in the planning, design and supervision of all ICT and telecommunication aspects required in the new premise, including engaging various service providers (very-small-aperture terminal, local internet service providers, Fibre connectivity, telecommunication service, etc.) to ascertain specifications and enable the timely provision of requested services.

## Programme components from Results Assessment Module

### ANALYSIS BY OUTCOME AND OUTPUT RESULTS

**OUTCOME 1** School and preschool-aged children (4-12 years) have access to quality education and achieve universal primary education, and adolescents in and out of school have strengthened skills in the area of HIV/AIDS prevention, reproductive health and peacebuilding by 2016.

#### **Analytical statement of progress:**

The political and security crisis affecting Burundi since April 2015 has led to a drastic slow-down of the sector dynamic, notably due to the withdrawal of Belgium from its role as supervising entity for Burundi's Education Basket Fund (EBF). The EBF supports the Education Sector Strategic Plan, especially in terms of investments, as more than 80 per cent of the State's sector budget goes to staff remuneration. In addition, two other donors, Norway and France, cancelled their contributions of approximately US\$6 million to the EBF for 2016. In 2015, insecurity affected mainly the capital city of Bujumbura, affecting access to schools for children living in the hotspot suburbs of the city and for thousands of those who have sought refuge in neighbouring countries.

Despite a non-conducive environment that led to the evacuation of some staff in May, UNICEF Burundi was able to implement most of its planned activities. Reappointed as sector lead/coordinating agency for the third consecutive year, UNICEF Burundi played a key role in promoting a dynamic sector dialogue. The education sector framework continued to be based on effective consultation mechanisms and an efficient financial instrument in the EBF despite the short-term uncertainty.

Under the overall leadership of the MoE and building on last year's results in terms of sector coordination and policy dialogue, UNICEF ascertained the education sector coordination and policy dialogue by ensuring the coordination of partners and facilitating information exchange. In addition, UNICEF provided technical support to government partners, including the operational planning of the last phase of the National Education Sector Plan 2017-2020 and the preparation of the application for GPE fund grants (second request).

In 2015, the curriculum reform (launched in 2013) continued during the first semester and a new curricula policy document for basic education was developed from April to May that provides an overarching framework for nine years of basic education with specific attention to peacebuilding and conflict sensitivity. Expertise was also provided for the consolidation of the EMIS to ensure

the efficiency of the sector, relevance of the education system and implementation of the 2012-2020 Education Sector Plan.

The programme enhanced the supply-side quality of basic education by focusing on major strategic interventions such as the Back-to-School Campaign and the Child-Friendly Spaces (CFS) Programme. UNICEF Burundi supported the improvement of access to and the quality of education through the construction of school infrastructure (a model school for basic education, seven classrooms through a community-led approach and the ongoing construction of 162 classrooms funded by the EBF) and the training of teachers and curriculum designers to integrate peacebuilding and child-friendly school principles into school programmes.

Furthermore, throughout 2015, pre-learning interventions were implemented with faith-based and non-governmental organizations in coordination with government partners. Through these interventions, UNICEF plans to enhance school preparation for the four-to-six age group, including through the production of pedagogical materials to improve the quality of learning in preschools. UNICEF also addressed the issues of girls' retention in school and gender-based violence.

However, the challenge will be to maintain these results next year given the persistent socio-political crisis and the uncertainty related to the supervision of the EBF, at least during the first semester of the 2016.

**OUTPUT 1** By the end of 2016, the National Education Sector Plan is implemented and significant progress is made on major reforms, sector coordination is strengthened and planning of the last phase of the Education Sector Plan is in progress in order to improve quality and efficiency by better governance of the sector and reduced repetition and dropout rates.

**Analytical statement of progress:**

With UNICEF's support, the sector policy dialogue was active during the first quarter of 2015. The Local Education Group approved a roadmap for the analysis and planning of the last phase of the National Education Sector Plan (2017-2020); the curriculum reform was finalized for Grades 7-9; and the reform of the EMIS was underway. Between April and May 2015, UNICEF Burundi, in collaboration with the International Centre for Pedagogical Studies and the MoE, supported the review and finalization of the new curricula policy document for basic education, providing an overarching framework for the nine years of basic education with specific focus on peacebuilding and conflict sensitivity education. As the sector-lead and in order to facilitate the education sector analysis, UNICEF Burundi signed an agreement with the International Institute of Educational Planning in Dakar to integrate a chapter on risks and vulnerability into the global diagnosis for the elaboration of the sector plan with the national team. However, due to insecurity, the Institute was not able to come to Burundi, and UNICEF Burundi supported the MoE in finding alternatives to meet the deadline.

As a contributor to the EBF with Norway, the French Development Agency, Belgium and the GPE, UNICEF Burundi participated actively in the decision-making process related to the implementation and follow-up of activities funded by the European Baptist Federation (EBF) and ensured consistency with other UNICEF-funded activities.

**OUTPUT 2** By the end of 2016, access, quality and equity of fundamental school is improved through classroom construction and equipment, dissemination of teaching and learning materials, integration of conflict sensitive concepts and CFS in the curriculum, with emphasis on vulnerable children.

**Analytical statement of progress:**

In 2015, UNICEF Burundi, in collaboration with Le Conseil pour l'Education et le Développement (a national NGO), supported the MoE in the construction of a pilot fundamental school in Rumonge as part of the peacebuilding programme that included a community participation component. In addition, UNICEF Burundi provided support to two communities to finalize the construction of and equip seven classrooms they had started building in 2013. Given UNICEF's expertise in building school infrastructure by including among its staff a team of international and national engineers, the Government mandated UNICEF Burundi to manage the construction of approximately 162 classrooms funded by the EBF. These structures followed an official plan of construction developed by the MoE, which remains very involved in the project through its Infrastructure Office, and are in line with the norms and standards of CFS, especially for sanitation.

To strengthen the quality of teaching and learning, UNICEF trained curriculum developers to support the revision of the basic education curriculum by integrating peacebuilding and CFS principles. More than 2,000 teachers were trained during summer holidays on the revised curriculum. The annual Back-to-School Campaign allowed the provision of school kits to more than 250,000 vulnerable and excluded children to pursue their schooling in the provinces of Cankuzo, Kirundo, Muyinga, Rumonge, Rutana and Ruyigi. The Back-to-School Campaign's school kits complemented the distribution of kits by the MoE as an incentive to motivate children to return to school after a difficult school year affected by the security/political crisis. A set of 10 pedagogical posters was produced in Kirundi and in French to improve the quality of education for schools, and a guidebook for the use of these posters was also developed and will be printed in early 2016. The distribution of the guidebook and the subsequent training are planned for February 2016.

**OUTPUT 3** By the end of 2016, access and quality of preschool is improved through classroom construction and equipment, dissemination of teaching and learning material as well as capacity building of actors.

**Analytical statement of progress:**

In 2015, UNICEF supported activities aimed to increase both access to and quality of preschools. The partnership with ODEDIM, a faith-based organization, continued and a PCA was signed to construct 10 preschool centres in the provinces of Kirundo and Muyinga. The module "learning by playing" was translated into Kirundi to provide a useful tool to educators. A consultant was recruited to analyse preschool functioning. At least 76 heads of schools in Kayanza and 450 educators were trained to enhance their capacities in the management of preschools and the "learning by playing" module. Pedagogical material and posters were produced to improve the quality of learning in preschools.

**OUTPUT 4** By the end of 2016, the education sector can face emergency situations.

**Analytical statement of progress:**

Since 2014, the PBEA programme has been an integral part of the UNICEF Burundi education programme, focusing on further strengthening systems, communities and individuals for peace promotion and stability. The collaboration with NGOs (Right To Play, Refugee Education Trust (RET) and Sports sans Frontières) is ongoing for the development of life skills, with a focus on peaceful co-existence and self-esteem among youth and adolescents. In 2015, the focus was on sector analysis, curriculum review and development of the CFS module, integrating peacebuilding principles. Approximately 2,000 teachers were trained on the revised module,

and 2,244 schoolchildren in emergency situations were given support in pursuing their education.

By pushing thousands of people, including children, to flee internally and to neighbouring countries, the ongoing socio-political crisis undermined the capacity of the MoE to handle the continuity of schools in some parts of the country and to organize proper final exams in June 2015. UNICEF contributed significantly to the continuity of education services throughout the crisis by advocating for a safe learning environment.

**OUTCOME 2** By 2016, populations in provinces with low access to potable water and basic sanitation have an improved access to these services and adopt appropriate hygiene practices.

**Analytical statement of progress:**

The percentage of the population using improved drinking water sources in Burundi has steadily increased in recent years. During the first semester of 2015, the UNICEF Burundi WASH programme further engaged in providing access to safe drinking water to 38,400 people through the construction of 111 new water points in the communes of Kibago, Mabanda and Makamba. For each water point, a committee of five trained members was put into place to ensure the maintenance and management of the water supply system. In addition, 3,500 children in 12 schools, as well as a health centre receiving on average 1,800 patients per month, were provided with safe drinking water.

UNICEF interventions in schools further promoted the CFS approach by providing access to safe drinking water to 10,800 children in 24 primary schools and safe and hygienic sanitation facilities to 17,350 children through the construction of latrines in 18 primary schools. In addition, UNICEF Burundi supported health care centres through connection to the water supply network and access to separate hygienic sanitation facilities for women and men.

To accelerate access to hygienic sanitation in rural communities and end open defecation, the WASH programme continued to promote CLTS. With UNICEF support, 59,250 people gained access to latrines at the household level, and key family practices on hygiene were promoted in communities where CLTS was implemented.

With UNICEF support, government officials attended WASH-related workshops and trainings for policy and strategy dialogue, as well as for capacity development. As a result, the Government of Burundi officially adhered to the Ngor Declaration on Sanitation and Hygiene with a focus on universal access to sustainable WASH services, ending open defecation by 2030 and increasing budget allocation to sanitation to reach a 0.5 per cent gross national product share by 2020.

The celebration of Global Handwashing Day and World Toilet Day were opportunities to address the Government's and key WASH partners' priorities in policymaking, programming, and advocacy. A total of 11,400 people were reached during a handwashing campaign organized in the Province of Rutana in October 2015.

The reporting period was marked by months of political crisis that erupted in April 2015. The subsequent insecurity plunged the country into a challenging humanitarian situation with over 200,000 people having fled their homes to neighbouring countries (the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Rwanda and Tanzania). This situation posed challenges for the WASH section in terms of both ensuring the continuity of planned activities and dealing with the crisis as sector lead.

Cholera outbreaks are endemic and recurring in Burundi especially in the northeast (Cibitoke, Bubanza), the southwest (Rumonge, Bururi, Makamba), the southeast (Rutana) and in Bujumbura (Bujumbura Mairie and Bujumbura Rural). The displacement that has stemmed from the current political crisis has increased the risk of cholera. A cholera outbreak in Tanzania in May 2015 led to more than 4,000 reported cases. Some refugees returned from Tanzania to Burundi, spreading the outbreak in the south of Burundi (district of Nyanza Lac). The cholera outbreak was successfully addressed in collaboration with the Government and all partners.

With UNICEF Burundi's support, 38,400 people gained access to sufficient quantity of safe drinking water and 4,285 people gained temporary access to gender-segregated toilets and showers with handwashing facilities. In addition, 18,220 people received hygiene kits, particularly soap for handwashing, including 9,000 children through CFS.

**OUTPUT 1** By 2016, 10 per cent and 30 per cent of primary schools without access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation, respectively, have a source of drinking water and gender separated sanitation facilities for their pupils who adopt adequate hygiene practices including hand washing with soap.

**Analytical statement of progress:**

In 2015, WASH interventions in schools concentrated on activities aimed at improving the well-being of schoolchildren, with particular focus on gender and inclusion. As a result of UNICEF Burundi's interventions, 10,800 additional school pupils attending 24 primary schools gained access to potable water. In addition, 17,350 school pupils from 18 primary schools (52 per cent are girls and 48 per cent boys) gained access to hygiene and sanitation through the construction of 216 gender-segregated toilets equipped with handwashing facilities.

With UNICEF support, three health care centres gained access to potable water. To enhance the capacity of health care centre personnel in the area of hygiene promotion, including handwashing with soap, the WASH programme supported the training of key health personnel on WASH standards and norms. In addition, 11,400 persons were exposed to handwashing sensitization campaigns organized in Rutana Province.

In support of the Back-to-School Campaign led by the MoE, UNICEF Burundi provided soap to 430 primary schools in the seven target provinces (covering over 247,000 children) to encourage hygiene promotion and handwashing at school.

The WASH, health and nutrition sections collaborated to integrate handwashing messages during the May and November MCHWs. Tippy-tap, posters and handwashing demonstrations were organized at all MCHW sites. In addition, during the November round, all of the targeted 250,000 pregnant women received soap when they came for deworming. This led to an increase in the attendance of pregnant women to the MCHW.

**OUTPUT 2** By 2016, 10 per cent of the population without access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation at the national level, has a sustainable access and adopt good hygiene practices, including handwashing soap, treatment and safe storage of household water.

**Analytical statement of progress:**

In 2015, the UNICEF Burundi WASH programme contributed to providing access to safe drinking water to 38,400 people through the construction of 111 water points. In cooperation with local authorities, UNICEF Burundi trained water point committee members to ensure the maintenance and management of the water supply system.

By scaling up the CLTS approach in the commune of Kibago in Makamba Province, UNICEF Burundi provided 11,850 households with the opportunity to construct their own latrines, and as a result, 50 sub-hills were declared open-defecation free. WASH interventions, including handwashing with soap, are commonly perceived as essential to mitigating the effects of malnutrition on children and improving health. Moreover, the UNICEF-supported CLTS approach promoted good hygiene practices within households.

However, due to the ongoing security/political crisis, the scaling up of CLTS implementation in four new communes was delayed, as was the decentralization process through the reinforcement of water service delegation in communes that has been postponed to 2016.

**OUTPUT 3** The legal, institutional and technical capacities of the government structures at the central, provincial and municipal levels are enhanced and they contribute to the promotion of WASH activities and the sustainable management of WASH facilities.

**Analytical statement of progress:**

Key representatives of the Government attended a water, sanitation and hygiene bottleneck analysis tool training where their capacities were strengthened to facilitate national dialogue on WASH bottleneck analysis in order to better inform planning and budgeting processes. UNICEF Burundi supported the Government's participation in regional events such as AfricaSan 4 where the Government of Burundi officially adhered to the Ngor Declaration with a focus on universal access to sustainable WASH services, ending open defecation by 2030 and increasing budget allocation to sanitation to reach 0.5 per cent of gross national product by 2020. UNICEF has been ensuring close follow up with the Government to monitor and advocate for the fulfilment of their commitment. However, the current security/political crisis has put key achievements on hold, specifically as the majority of donors and partners have drastically reduced their support to the Government as a result of the crisis.

The UNICEF Burundi WASH section attended the regional nutrition and WASH network meeting, resulting in increased knowledge on programmatic and inter-sectoral linkages to reduce malnutrition in ESARO countries, contributions to the Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Network and the preparation of the next global WASH strategy with a focus on programme design linkages to nutrition.

Although key national stakeholders validated the CLTS Implementation Strategy, the documentation on CLTS lessons learned and good practises was delayed due to the ongoing security/political situation. Moreover, the rollout of real-time data collection through RapidSMS / RapidPRO in WASH to strengthen management and monitoring of water supply infrastructures had to be postponed.

**OUTPUT 4** By 2016, at least 35,000 people, in particular women and children affected by emergencies, have adequate access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation and adopt good hygiene practices.

**Analytical statement of progress:**

In 2015, UNICEF Burundi's WASH programme provided continuous support to people affected by emergencies, especially women and children, to enable adequate access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation and support the adoption of good hygiene practices. The interventions were focused on children and their families affected by the floods, cholera and socio-political situations.

UNICEF Burundi supported at least 36,620 people affected by humanitarian situations with sustainable access to safe water through the rehabilitation of water supply networks, water treatment through chlorination, and water provision in remote areas through trucking. Following the displacement of Burundian populations on the shore of the Tanganyika Lake and the subsequent cholera outbreaks due to poor WASH conditions at border-crossing areas, temporary toilets with handwashing facilities segregated by gender were constructed in Mabanda and Nyanza Lac (Kabonga) to serve the affected people. UNICEF Burundi supported UNICEF Tanzania to provide hygiene kits and communications materials to 1,500 people in Kirundi as well as a cholera treatment kit and nutritious food for children at the transition site and in refugee camps in Tanzania.

More than 3,320 households (5,360 people) living in Nyanza Lac (cholera outbreaks) and Bujumbura (floods) were sensitized on good hygiene practices. In addition, 25 educators were trained on hygiene promotion and cholera prevention in six CFS in Bujumbura. Some 9,000 children learned good hygiene practices, particularly handwashing.

Cholera outbreak prevention interventions were also provided in the northern province of Bubanza for 5,750 people due to the risk of cholera spread from the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

**OUTCOME 3** 2010-2016: Communities adopt practices that are conducive to health, nutrition, education and the protection of women and children against abuse, exploitation and violence by 2016.

**Analytical statement of progress:**

In 2015, the UNICEF Burundi communication and participation section continued to support programme sectors in their responses, particularly before the mid-year upsurge of violence. The section contributed to the promotion of healthy behaviours in the areas of health, nutrition and WASH, as well as increased knowledge and good practices in protection and education through combined communication approaches such as capacity building, formative follow-up, interactive and narrative theatre, community dialogue, interpersonal communication, listening groups and mass media.

The closing of main radio channels due to the ongoing security/political crisis has been one of the major challenges in regards to reaching out to large parts of the population. As revealed by a clinical study organized by Population Media Centre, almost one person out of four (22 per cent) that attends a health facility in Burundi is motivated by a broadcast radio programme. Despite this challenge, however, the UNICEF communication and participation programme engaged in new partnership with and increased the frequency of message dissemination through new radio stations covering six provinces to promote the six key family practices through radio shows addressing the following: maternal and child health, knowledge about vaccination and basic childhood disease prevention, correct treatment of diseases such as malaria and pneumonia, information about nutrition and infant and young-child feeding practices. Gender-based violence, the status of women, prevention of sexually transmitted diseases (including HIV/AIDS) also continued to be addressed using broadcasted radio programmes. Through the establishment of 75 active community listening groups, discussion around radio shows was facilitated, ensuring the quick uptake of the knowledge and its practice. Community agents were equipped to teach and foster discussion about good family practices in their local communities.

In terms of youth, adolescents and peacebuilding, activities were conducted in partnership with international and national NGOs at the community level. To ensure the sustainability of peacebuilding activities, community associations were supported and communities of different ethnic and social backgrounds were connected so they could work together on specific development projects. In coordination with UNFPA, UNICEF Burundi developed life skills modules to provide youth and adolescents with opportunities for participating and engaging in the development of their communities. Following nationwide focus groups with adolescents and UNICEF partners, an adolescent strategy was completed and guided the 2015 youth programming in collaboration with local and international NGOs, including Scout Movement, RET, Child Forum, Child Journalists, the Anglican Church of Burundi (PEAB) and Norwegian Church Aid.

In order to expand the reach of its interventions, the C4D section deepened its partnership with local grassroots NGOs and strengthened its work with faith-based organizations. This not only reinforced the knowledge of religious communities, social mobilizers and community workers on child rights and survival but also enlarged the audience able to benefit from information about key family practices. The collaboration was informed by two complementary qualitative studies that assessed the influence of faith and the current capacity of faith-based communities to incorporate the six key family practices in their programme. The programme acknowledged the necessity of analysing attitudes and practices from a social perspective to complement other data sources on behaviour and knowledge of WASH, hygiene practices and child protection.

UNICEF Burundi paid particular attention to the integration of family health and nutrition key practices into activities of religious leaders' partners, listening groups and community agents.

**OUTPUT 1** At least 60 per cent of children in provinces of geographical focus areas are fed according to the guidelines on infant and young children feeding practices, 60 per cent of children under 5 sleep under long-lasting insecticidal nets, 60 per cent of parents are able to recognize signs of danger and adopt key practices on the treatment of diarrhoea with oral rehydration solution and zinc and 60 per cent of pregnant women use the PMTCT services in health structures by 2016.

**Analytical statement of progress:**

At the community level, UNICEF Burundi continued to promote key family practices through community dialogues and interpersonal communication. In the provinces of Kayanza, Kirundo and Muyinga, trained staff from the Ministry of Communication and the Ministry of Communal Development reported that local communities have good knowledge of the importance of exclusive breastfeeding until six months, the use of long-lasting insecticide-impregnated bed nets, washing hands with soap and water during key moments, recognizing danger signs and complementary feeding after six months. However, community workers noted two key challenges: lack of access to water and soap for handwashing during key moments and access to diverse food for complementary feeding after six months.

In order to maintain healthy behaviour and strengthen awareness at the community level, the Ministry of Communal Development developed 38 new action plans. In the provinces of Bururi, Makamba and Rutana provinces, 75 community listening groups continued to meet regularly to listen to a radio show on health, hygiene and nutrition practices and conducted at least 200 community information sessions. However, in those six provinces field reports showed that good practices were specifically observed in communities where parents served as role models for others, having adopted healthy behaviours and shared information on key family practices in



health and nutrition, especially for exclusive breastfeeding until six months, sleeping under long-lasting, insecticide-impregnated bed nets, and referring children with danger signs to the nearest health centre. In 2015, 55,202 households were reached by social mobilization activities and awareness campaigns on the promotion of key family practices in 13 communes in the provinces of Kirundo, Makamba, and Muyinga.

In addition, religious organizations in the provinces of Bururi, Gitega, Makamba, Ngozi and Rutana conducted awareness sessions on health, hygiene and nutrition information through advocacy and/or social mobilization in their respective communities, including in mosques, churches, religious schools, women's groups, youth groups and health centres.

UNICEF provided an introduction to communication (which included the benefits of using radio programmes linked to malnutrition) to selected trainers of trainers from five Government entities: health, agriculture, communication, communal development, and water and sanitation.

**OUTPUT 2** At least 60 per cent of schoolchildren in targeted primary schools wash their hands at key moments, and at least 60 per cent of parents in intervention areas with low access to drinking water and basic sanitation improve good hygiene practices (latrine use, handwashing, treatment) by 2016.

**Analytical statement of progress:**

In response to the cholera outbreak that occurred in Makamba in the first semester of 2015 due to the security/political crisis, UNICEF Burundi launched an awareness-raising campaign on the prevention of cholera through the adoption of healthy behaviour and good hygiene and sanitation practices, including washing hands with soap at critical moments. The UNICEF Burundi participation and communication section continued to support programme sectors in their response, including through the promotion of healthy behaviour. Information, education and communications tools for WASH and child protection were shared with UNICEF Tanzania and UNICEF Rwanda to ensure that Burundian refugees who fled into neighbouring countries had access to relevant messages in Kirundi. This was particularly useful for responding to the cholera outbreak that spread into Tanzania following the displacement of the Burundian population along Tanganyika Lake.

U-report was used to identify high-risk practices that have implications for behaviour change communication as well as opportunities for developing community-based response mechanisms. First results of the U-report poll on handwashing indicated that lack of availability and the high prices of soap were main barriers to handwashing with soap as a preventive measure in the context of a cholera outbreak.

Some 95 community leaders and administrative authorities from three communes were trained and improved their general knowledge on cholera prevention and medical referrals for cases of diarrhoea within health structures. In conjunction, to diversify the strategy, radio spots were launched in collaboration with a local radio station.

C4D activities related to cholera prevention in the Nyanza-Lac commune and its neighbourhood reached more than 29,280 households, or approximately 162,250 community members, through peer-to-peer activities, door-to-door outreach, interactive theatre, games and competitions around cholera prevention. Community leaders, including heads of hills (villages), demonstrated a high level of engagement, facilitated the introduction of the programme team within the communities, supported the identification of vulnerable households, raised awareness, and sustained cholera prevention efforts in their follow-up activities. Overall, 16,250 people were

exposed to messages on cholera prevention and good hygiene promotion through radio broadcasts. Some 116 communal committees, composed of local administrators, community health workers, health district stakeholders and listening group members, were established to ensure monitoring and the sustainability of activities.

**OUTPUT 3** Protection networks, community leaders, local administration, religious groups, and partner NGOs are involved in activities of prevention, protection from violence, sexual exploitation, child labour and in the promotion of systematic and retrospective birth registration by the end of 2016.

**Analytical statement of progress:**

As part of the partnership with religious leaders aimed at integrating child protection into their activities at the grassroots level, 471 senior church leaders in the provinces of Bururi, Gitega, Kayanza, Kirundo, Makamba, Muyinga, Ngozi and Rutana were trained on child protection. As a result of this training, these leaders pledged to fight against discrimination and stigmatization of children infected or affected by HIV/AIDS and children with disabilities as well as all forms of exploitation and abuse of children in local communities. In addition, a radio broadcast was produced to support the training of child protection committee members on the importance of the family role.

In collaboration with the child protection section and Search for Common Ground NGO section, 17 journalists and communicators from the Director General of Communication, Information Education and Population received training on child protection themes (i.e. the importance of the role of the family, family reunification, child protection modules and how to address child protection issues on a radio broadcast on conflict sensitivity).

To strengthen the fight against gender-based violence, the theatre troupe, Tubyage, developed the capacity of 20 members of a local women's organization (Dukeburane Twarasizwe) on how to use and integrate interactive theatre in the fight against gender-based violence. Tubyage also strengthened the capacities of 84 young actors in the communes of Giheta, Tangara Gasorwe on how to use interactive theatre to animate debates and raise awareness on child rights. In collaboration with the Ministry of Solidarity and the Ministry of Communication, the C4D section contributed to the 16-day campaign on gender-based violence. Nearly 3,000 parents and 5,515 children were reached through puppet shows to raise awareness for the prevention of violence against children. The puppet show facilitated in-depth exchanges regarding various forms of violence and helped parents explore alternative ways to protect and discipline their children.

**OUTPUT 4** At least 70 per cent of parents in the areas of intervention are aware of the importance of preschool and participate in the promotion of education for all, and at least 40 per cent of adolescents out of school in targeted areas have access to life skills activities including HIV/AIDS prevention and peacebuilding by the end of 2016.

**Analytical statement of progress:**

The C4D Section supported the development of pedagogical tools for preschools and primary schools to strengthen the quality of education and contributed to the development of a CFS module. During the Back-to-School Campaign, the C4D Section produced a radio broadcast to raise awareness on girls' education and the importance of education for all.

To strengthen resilience to violence and political manipulation and to promote social cohesion and peacebuilding skills among adolescents, UNICEF Burundi continued to strengthen

partnerships with local organizations by promoting life skills through capacity building in entrepreneurship and core peacebuilding competencies in 10 provinces.

In partnership with Centre Ubuntu, UNICEF Burundi trained 60 youth on peacebuilding issues. The partnership with Centre Ubuntu contributed to community cohesion through the promotion of the values of Ubuntu, which means 'humanity to others'. Refugees Education Trust activities aimed to improve the technical and organizational capacities of community-based organizations to ensure their sustainability and autonomy.

Search For the Common Ground helps young people and UNICEF Burundi's partners by strengthening their capacities related to the peaceful resolution of conflicts. During the reporting period, Search for Common Ground held 31 training sessions and workshops on leadership for young mentors, peaceful conflict resolution for trainings of trainers, sensitivity to conflicts and conflict assessment.

The Norwegian Church Aid approach to the prevention of conflict among adolescents and young people involved the creation of spaces for youth participation with a focus on capacity building for entrepreneurship while empowering youth to participate in creating community cohesion. Norwegian Church Aid conducted 15 trainings of trainers on project management, and those trained have transferred their knowledge to 500 young peers in the five municipalities of intervention.

Regarding community mobilization, 311 youth worked together to communicate on conflicts that affected their daily lives. The actions contributed to behaviour change and reduced conflicts among youth and other community members, such as returnees and their host communities, by 65 per cent, on average, in target communities.

The partnership with the Provincial Anglican Church of Burundi and Protection Through Education resulted in 8,773 youths and adolescents having participated in life-skills activities. Commission Episcopale Pour l' Apostolat Des Laics (The Catholic Commission for Laity) trained 20,333 youth on civic values and democracy and reached more than 42,426 youth during the diocesan peacebuilding forum. To complement peacebuilding activities, mass media was used with partners, including RET, Centre Ubuntu and the Commission Episcopale Pour l' Apostolat Des Laics (The Catholic Commission for Laity).

**OUTCOME 4:** National monitoring and evaluation structures provide reliable data for monitoring MDGs and other national goals and advocacy for children and women by the end of 2016.

**Analytical statement of progress:**

Knowledge management and statistically sound and internationally comparable data are essential to developing evidence-based policies and programmes and for monitoring progress toward goals and global commitments. Burundi is still in the early stages of the process of building sustainable statistical systems in line with international standards, however, and numerous issues must still be addressed. The persistent absence of updated demographic and socio-economic data presents an enormous challenge for all development actors and planners.

To improve public accountability for achieving measurable results for children and women, the UNICEF Burundi planning and monitoring section continued to assist key institutions to build the monitoring, reporting, data management and research capacities of key technical staff and government officials. The improvements made in these skills have allowed institutions to respond more effectively to developmental challenges relevant to children and women.

UNICEF Burundi's long-term commitment to increasing accountability for children has started to show tangible results, however. Emphasis was placed on influencing key processes contributing to the realization of child rights and advocating for support from key local and international actors for the most vulnerable children.

UNICEF's collaboration with key institutions resulted in increased monitoring, reporting, data management and research capacities of key technical staff and government officials, including child and human rights officials of the Second Vice President's Office, the national statistical organization, ISTEERU, line ministries and others. These selected institutions have been positioned to substantively contribute to increased child rights monitoring and advocacy, with a focus on equity and understanding the situation of the most vulnerable children and women in Burundi.

UNICEF Burundi's child-rights monitoring efforts served to increase the accountability of key government institutions through a specific focus on monitoring the situations of the most marginalized. The planning and monitoring section continued to: 1) support institutions to build functioning monitoring and evaluation frameworks as well as statistical systems; 2) assist implementing partners in monitoring programmes for children and women; 3) conduct quality research; 4) collect reliable information with which to monitor and advocate for the situations of children and women.

UNICEF Burundi has fully embraced the renewed equity focus. With the planning and monitoring section supporting the further customization of equity planning and monitoring for the programme during 2014 and 2015, sectorial programme theory workshops were launched during 2014 and will be continued. As a result of the security/political crisis, further update of the determinant analysis for selected sectors, in cooperation with partners, has been postponed until 2016. Allowing for testing and verifying UNICEF Burundi's programme theory against equity principles identified during the planning and implementation of the Country Programme Action Plan 2010-2016, the analysis of programme theories, including theories of change and theories of action, will be finalized and verified with partnering institutions and the Government in 2016. In addition, the existing UNICEF Burundi monitoring and reporting framework will be updated with a focus on results for the most vulnerable children and women.

The implementation of the IMEP and the UNICEF Burundi Knowledge Management Strategy was also hampered as a result of the current crisis. However, data and knowledge management have been widely used to improve public accountability and advocate for the situation of children and women in Burundi and beyond. UNICEF Burundi's emphasis has been placed on cross-sectorial collaboration, research and methodology, training, learning and programmatic knowledge sharing and dissemination, and innovations.

The quality of research and evaluation received increased attention. The results of and management response to a 2015 global evaluation of the PBEA programme were considered at key programme planning stages. UNICEF collaborated with key academia and research institutions to benefit from their knowledge in key areas. To increase knowledge on areas affecting children and facilitate evidence-based advocacy for the realization of children's rights, UNICEF partnered with a range of organizations to carry out research and evaluation, including local and external institutions such as the University of Brussels, the University of Amsterdam, Harvard University and the University of Burundi, among others. Thanks to these collaborative efforts, which covered a number of socio-economic issues through qualitative and quantitative

research, the quality of research and evaluation improved, and the use and dissemination of data and knowledge contributed to a better understanding of child rights.

Although progress was made on the implementation of the country's National Social Protection Policy, the sector was severely hampered in 2015 due to the security/political crisis. However, as sector lead in the domain of social protection, UNICEF Burundi is engaged in a permanent dialogue with its technical and financial partners in the sector, aiming to assist the development of an efficient social protection sector in the country. In October 2015, regular meetings of technical and financial partners were re-established and two trainings on social transfers, one with UNICEF leadership, were organized. Several challenges remain that could slow down the adequate development of the social protection agenda in Burundi, including the current security/political crisis, significant weaknesses in national capacities and limited financial resources

**OUTPUT 1** National structures producing statistics are capable of providing reliable and disaggregated data to monitor the situation of women and children at central and decentralized levels by 2016.

**Analytical statement of progress:**

In 2015, the planning and monitoring section continued to deepen its cooperation with ISTEERU in key areas of data management, quality research and statistics. The Sectoral Group on Statistics aimed to enhance the coordination of required information and data for monitoring the progress made towards the MDGs, the Burundi Vision 2025, the Poverty Reduction Strategic Plan II and other key national strategies. The Joint Statistical Programme, which was signed by ISTEERU and the United Nations Resident Coordinator to this effect, has served as basis for ISTEERU's further commitment to enhancing equity data collection for development in the areas of health, education, child protection, juvenile justice, social protection and child well-being, as well as key demographic and macro-economic data.

UNICEF Burundi continued to support the national Technical Committee on Statistical Information (Comité Technique de l'Information Statistique), which is comprised of ISTEERU and all line ministries, in the planning of key quality research and statistics and the preparation of the 2015-2016 work-plan. Key staff members received technical support to promote social and population statistics. In line with Technical Committee on Statistical Information planning priorities, UNICEF Burundi further supported ISTEERU to collaborate with sectoral management information systems (mainly with the education and health sectors) in the areas of methodological discussion and data exchange and to feed information into national databases.

Considering that research is one the key pillars in influencing qualitative, equitable and socially responsible planning and decision-making for key institutions in all child-related research areas over the long-term, UNICEF Burundi has continued to support the launch of a demographic and health survey, led by ISTEERU in cooperation with ICF Macro. The last demographic and health survey was conducted in 2010, and a follow-up was planned for early 2015 to inform the 2015 MDG final evaluation. However, the activity had to be postponed to 2016 because of the current security/political crisis. The proposed elements of the 2016 survey and indicators will be key to measuring the programme achievements of key sectors such as health, nutrition, education and child protection and in the long-term will help to monitor progress for children and women.

Since April 2015, all interventions have been challenged by the ongoing security/political crisis. The planned mapping of statistics producers and users (mapping of decentralized monitoring

structures) was postponed and will be integrated into the Organisational and Institutional Diagnosis of the Statistics System in Burundi in cooperation with UNDP and ISTEERU.

**OUTPUT 2** Tools and support for planning, implementation and monitoring and evaluation of the Country Programme Action Plan are made available annually to different programmes and national counterparts by 2016.

**Analytical statement of progress:**

To ensure high quality results-based planning and monitoring, the planning and monitoring section supported programme sections to develop the 2015-2016 RWP and monitor its implementation. Early in 2015, the section revised the results assessment module/RWP planning and monitoring templates, and organized internal trainings on planning tools.

Following the outbreak of violence in April 2015, the planning and monitoring section played a leading role in conducting the programme reorientation exercise, replacing the standard mid-year and annual review processes. The planning and monitoring section supported management and sectoral programmes to track progress, identify hampered activities and reorient the RWP. Due to insecurity, joint field monitoring, usually conducted in the course of the mid-year review with national counterparts, was cancelled. However, the joint field monitoring missions were successfully conducted in November.

The planning and monitoring team was instrumental in the sound financial monitoring and quality assurance of donor reports, which resulted in high-quality reports and no reporting delays. Moreover, the PM team consistently contributed to ensuring the quality assurance of PCAs against the new guidelines. The team played a leading role in HACT quality assurance and monitoring. The planning and monitoring section led the development of the AMP, the regular update of key performance management indicators presented quarterly in CMTs, and the dissemination of up-to-date data from recent research and surveys and sectoral management information systems by developing a periodic fact sheet called 'Burundi at a Glance'.

In line with a one-year United Nations Development Assistance Framework extension, the planning and monitoring section started preparing another UNICEF Burundi application for extension of the current programme cycle by one year, through the end of 2017. The planning and monitoring team adjusted the country programme document planning timelines, resulting in the partial postponement of the review of the current UNICEF Burundi programme theory, including sectorial theories of change and action. Moreover, the planning and monitoring section contributed substantially to the completion of the December audit.

The planning and monitoring section contributed to key United Nations system coordination activities through the United Nations coordination team's 'Group for Results', United Nations Development Assistance Framework Thematic Groups and the Programme Management Team. The most important of these was UNICEF Burundi's contribution to the national report on the MDGs and the United Nations Programme Criticality Assessment led by the United Nations Coordination Office.

**OUTPUT 3** By end of 2016, monitoring and delivery of basic social services for children is strengthened through the integration of efficient and inclusive innovative technologies and approaches.

**Analytical statement of progress:**

The year 2015 saw progress towards the implementation of innovative technologies and approaches across three main areas: 1) mobile-based data collection and reporting; 2) new models for youth and community engagement; and 3) innovation for environmental sustainability.

In the area of mobile-based data collection, two applications were developed using the open-source RapidPro system – the first for tracking supplies and providing real-time reporting data during MCHW and the second for monitoring incidences of cholera. Both applications were piloted with initially positive results, and efforts are underway to scale them up further. Planning has also begun for a third application called Kira-Mama, which uses a mother reminder system to reduce high rates of child and maternal mortality. The project is being implemented in close collaboration with the MoH, with continued efforts to reinforce and develop the capacities of government counterparts. This included a study mission to Malawi in June 2015 to learn from a similar project and see its implementation first-hand.

As part of youth engagement, the U-Report programme was officially launched in March 2015 in Bujumbura and across seven provinces. The network has more than 44,000 users who are engaged in regular reporting within their communities. In the current context of socio-political unrest and displacement, U-Report was used to understand the fluid situation better on the ground as well as to share critical information with communities and promote positive behaviour practices.

Regarding environmental sustainability, a principal need is developing robust off-grid energy solutions in a context where only 3 per cent of the population has access to the national grid. UNICEF Burundi has been incorporating several modern technologies, including solar fridges, solar multi-media kiosks, pedal-powered generators and LED lights, into programmes for improved service delivery. A leading initiative in this area is Project Lumiere, a microenterprise model that provides off-grid energy supply to rural households through pedal-powered generators and rechargeable LED lights. The project is currently being scaled from the original 14 groups to an additional 40. To date, 26,000 children have been reached.

Despite progress across these three innovation areas, significant challenges persist that are further exacerbated by the rapidly deteriorating political, security and economic situation in Burundi.