Executive Summary

Since April 2015, Burundi has been facing a socio-economic crisis and political insecurity. The reduction of foreign support from 49.5 per cent of the state budget in 2015 to 30.2 per cent in 2016, coupled with a sharp economic decline, resulted in budget cuts in key social sectors while the needs of the poorest households increased due to the socio-economic crisis. The 2016 child deprivation and poverty analysis (Multiple Overlapping Deprivation Analysis 2016) revealed that 78.2 per cent of Burundian children are suffering from at least three deprivations, and 69 per cent live below the national poverty line.

To respond to the growing needs, UNICEF Burundi complemented its regular programmes with strengthened emergency preparedness and response activities to promote the rapid recovery of affected communities while building their resilience.

The most important achievements in 2016 included the following:

UNICEF Burundi organized a nationwide Back-to-School campaign, reaching 2.6 million pupils and 32,000 teachers with school materials. This first-ever campaign aimed to enable the most vulnerable children to remain in school and alleviate the costs of education materials for families, especially the most vulnerable.

With UNICEF support, 907,569 children aged 6-59 months were screened for acute malnutrition in six priority provinces (449,309 in the first round and 458,260 in the second round), showing an important deterioration in the nutrition situation, with the severe acute malnutrition (SAM) rate exceeding the 2 per cent emergency threshold in four out of seven communes in Kirundo Province.

In collaboration with other agencies and the Government of Burundi, UNICEF organized two rounds of mother and child health weeks (MCHWs). In the June MCHW, 1,377,153 children aged 6-59 months received vitamin A supplementation and 1,216,148 children aged 12-59 months were dewormed.

UNICEF supported the Government to contain the cholera outbreak between July and December 2016 along the Lake Tanganyika shore, where 393 cases and two deaths were reported. With UNICEF support, 11,130 people in cholera-affected areas received safe drinking water through water trucking systems; 5,096 people affected by cholera and floods benefited from hygiene kits and promotion; and 150 trained community health workers in Nyanza-Lac District helped to sensitize 100,000 people to cholera prevention.

Following UNICEF advocacy to address justice for children, the Government decreed the systematic transfer of minors in conflict with the law into re-education centres rather than adult prisons. A total of 96 out of 246 minors were received in two re-education centres, and 44 schoolchildren who were arrested and detained for scribbling on pictures of the President in schoolbooks were released.
In collaboration with partners, some 215 children living or working on the streets who had been arrested were released and 169 of these children have already reintegrated with their families.

The most significant shortfalls in 2016:

The unstable political and security environment remains a key barrier to smooth programme planning and implementation. The subsequent humanitarian and socio-economic crises and the reduction of foreign aid are slowing down development interventions in an already very poor country with dire socio-economic indicators.

The reduction of media space and the suspension of some civil society actors are hampering smooth programme implementation by UNICEF, notably regarding addressing child rights violations.

UNICEF Burundi is classified as a non-family duty station. This scheme and the high rotation of staff (36 recruitments in 2016 for a total of 95 staff) have added pressure to the management of human resources.

The important collaborative relationships in 2016 include:

The socio-economic consultation on Burundi, held in Geneva on 7 and 8 November, was hosted by the Government of Switzerland in its capacity as the chair of the Burundi Configuration for UNICEF Headquarters. Participants included the United Nations Country Team (UNCT), international financial institutions (the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, the African Development Bank) and the European Union as an observer. The purpose of the meeting was to exchange information on the socio-economic situation in Burundi and to seek alignment among the multilateral actors. Four social sectors were selected for priority action: education; health and nutrition; agriculture and food security; and displacement, returns and early recovery.

Through both individual and joint United Nations resource mobilization, UNICEF Burundi raised allotments of approximately US$45 million in other resources in 2016, an unprecedented revenue that represents more than a doubling in mobilized resources. In 2016, UNICEF signed two collaborative accords as grant agent for GAVI Alliance for US$3,257,269 and for the Global Partnership for Education (GPE), which allowed averting the suspension of US$20.1 million in GPE funds for Burundi.

Humanitarian Assistance

In Burundi, due to the unstable political and security environment, an estimated 102,258 people were internally displaced and 340,266 (United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) December 2016) more have fled to neighbouring countries for protection and assistance. The Burundi Humanitarian Response Plan, developed at the end of 2016, revised the number of people in need in 2017 to 3 million (tripled compared with 2016), while the target doubled to 1 million, of which more than half are children.

In 2016, UNICEF Burundi was the lead or co-lead agency for five humanitarian sectors, including nutrition, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), education, child protection and health, and worked closely with other organizations and the Government to reinforce emergency preparedness and better coordinate the response to the most urgent needs, including to the cholera epidemic that affected 393 or more people.

To maintain the fragile development gains from the last decade of relative stability, UNICEF Burundi supported the Government to maintain the delivery of basic social services for
children and women while responding to increasing humanitarian needs. UNICEF strategically resupplied the country’s stocks of essential drugs and vaccines to cover the needs of 175,000 children under 5 and pregnant women and provided cholera kits and equipment to respond to outbreaks.

In response to the spread of cholera, the UNICEF communication for development (C4D) programme worked closely with the health and WASH programmes to reinforce the campaign on cholera prevention along the shores of Lake Tanganyika. The WASH humanitarian response addressed current vulnerabilities and linked these efforts to long-term resilience building. In addition, UNICEF Burundi supported the Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) to conduct the real-time monitoring of cholera cases using RapidPro technology. The same technology helped to improve the reporting of malaria cases. In 2016, more than 7.7 million cases of malaria, including 3,643 deaths, were reported, representing a significant increase compared with the 5.3 million cases reported in 2015.

In response to increased protection needs for children, UNICEF Burundi focused its child protection activities on critical and life-saving interventions, delaying or postponing some planned structural interventions. In total, UNICEF Burundi reached 26,625 children and adolescents with critical child protection services. Furthermore, UNICEF Burundi strengthened and developed mechanisms to engage communities, including building constructive dialogue and community mobilization for peacebuilding. Community-based child protection committees (CPCs) were strengthened as a cornerstone of the child protection system at local, communal and provincial levels.

Following the deterioration of the nutrition and food security situation, UNICEF Burundi supported the screening of 907,569 children in six provinces that were most affected by malnutrition. The screening facilitated the identification and treatment of 31,014 malnourished children in 2016.

To ensure continuing education for more than 600 internally displaced children in the District of Muramvya (centre) and for 23,752 students affected by floods in seven provinces, UNICEF Burundi provided school equipment and materials, including tents, sheets, nails and paint boxes for blackboards. In addition, as the lead agency for the education sector, UNICEF Burundi supported the training of 20 members of the Education Emergency Sector Group on the International Network for Education in Emergency’s ‘Minimum Standards for Education’.

**Emerging Areas of Importance**

**Refugees and migrant children.** The ongoing crisis in Burundi has forced more than 340,266 people, a majority children, to seek refuge in neighbouring countries. Tanzania alone hosts approximately 50 per cent of Burundian refugees.

In 2016, UNICEF Burundi and UNICEF Tanzania joined efforts to ensure that Burundian refugee children in Tanzanian camps could sit for exams that would be endorsed in Burundi at the beginning of 2017. The collaboration between the two UNICEF country offices has enabled Burundian children to be evaluated against their national curriculum, as well as the Tanzanian curriculum. This arrangement will enable Burundian refugee children to integrate into the Tanzanian school system if they remain in Tanzania or to continue their education in Burundi in case they return home.

UNICEF Burundi was following cases of Burundian girls allegedly trafficked to Saudi Arabia and Oman. Thanks to a joint initiative by UNICEF, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and the International Organization for Migration
(IOM), a coordinated United Nations advocacy effort engaged the Government to reinforce travelling and border controls to fight human trafficking.

**Urbanization and children.** The issue of children living in the streets in Burundi involves both the questions of migrant children and urbanization. The country has been facing a significant increase in the number of children living in the streets in urban areas, most of whom are coming from rural areas due to insecurity and lack of opportunities. In 2016, UNICEF Burundi supported the activation, within the coordination of the child protection sector, of a working group on this phenomenon. The group helped to address and follow up on important protection issues related to children living in the street, including arbitrary arrests, recruitment into groups and violence against children.

**Greater focus on the second decade of life.** In 2016, UNICEF Burundi and key partners strengthened youth and adolescent participation and engagement in the realization of their rights, ensuring them access to the knowledge and skills required to make informed and healthy choices. UNICEF Burundi and partners supported the development of initiatives to create a space for dialogue, promotion of sexual and reproductive rights among youth, fighting HIV/AIDS and promoting solidarity among young people.

Youth and adolescents from marginalized groups trained in life skills and participating in the activities have developed collaborative projects that encourage savings and loans and social cohesion. The savings and credit groups are maturing, with 15 out of 29 groups (51.7 per cent) having reached the lending phase. Youth provided testimonies on how the community clubs have reduced their vulnerability to peer pressure (in relation to drugs, alcohol, premature pregnancy, etc.) and increased their ability to resolve conflicts in their community. The communities in the areas of intervention have noticed the increase in tolerance, mutual aid and continued dialogue.

**Climate change and children.** In 2016, for the first time, UNICEF Burundi constructed a solar-pumped water supply system in the Kirundo Province (north), benefiting 4,000 people, including four schools with 3,000 children and two health centres. In addition to its cost effectiveness compared with fuel-pumped water stations, this alternative energy source offers a better performance in the longer term given its specific location.

To avoid deforestation, the UNICEF Burundi construction unit is promoting the use of compressed and stabilized bricks while building schools. In 2016, these compressed and stabilized bricks were used in three schools (21 classrooms), including the pilot fundamental school in Busebwa.

### Summary Notes and Acronyms

- **C4D** Communication for Development
- **CAMEBU** Centrale d’Achat des Médicaments Essentiels du Burundi
- **CERF** Central Emergency Response Fund
- **CIEP** Communication, Information, Education and Population Division
- **CLTS** Community-Led Total Sanitation
- **CMT** Country Management Team
- **CPC** child protection committee
- **CPD** Country Programme Document
- **DFID** Department for International Development
- **DHS** Demographic and Health Indicator Survey
- **FAO** Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
- **GFATM** Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria
- **GIZ** Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit
- **GPE** Global Partnership for Education
In 2016, UNICEF Burundi strengthened the capacities of local non-governmental organizations (NGOs), ministries and United Nations agencies in C4D for emergency preparedness and prevention. The focus was on C4D social and behaviour change approaches that address factors influencing individual choices and behaviours in relation to health, disease prevention and demand for health care.

Furthermore, to prevent the aggravation of chronic malnutrition given the persisting crisis, UNICEF reinforced the capacity of more than 500 government staff, including nurses and sub-national health administration staff, on the promotion of key life-saving behaviours.

The education management information system team and relevant Ministry of Education (MoE) staff were trained in sectoral policy and the management of educational services to reinforce the national counterpart role in the upcoming proposal to the GPE. In 2016, UNICEF Burundi supported the training of 1,037 members of school management committees to improve the quality of education and of 450 educators on ‘learning by playing’ to improve the quality of early learning. The MoE emergency focal point participated in the conflict-sensitive education sector training organized by the Eastern and Southern Africa Regional Office.

UNICEF Burundi trained 15 partners in WASH-in-emergencies and supported the participation of government officials in the regional training of trainers on Community-Led Total Sanitation (CLTS) to facilitate its implementation and scale-up in Burundi. As part of local cholera prevention efforts, health worker hygiene promotion capacities were reinforced in the cholera-prone southern region.

Given the ongoing acute protection crisis, UNICEF Burundi trained partners on the systematic monitoring of violations against children to support the documentation of cases,
response and advocacy. In addition to enhancing coordination support for national institutions, UNICEF Burundi trained 200 CPCs on child protection case management and monitoring at the sub-national level.

**Evidence Generation, Policy Dialogue and Advocacy**

In 2016, UNICEF Burundi conducted the child poverty and deprivation analysis (Multiple Overlapping Deprivation Analysis) and analysed budget allocations in sectors of greatest interest for children through budget briefs. Evidence generated through the Multiple Overlapping Deprivation Analysis were used to inform the final assessment of the Poverty Reduction Strategic Paper II to more precisely reflect the level of child deprivation in Burundi. In November, UNICEF’s budget briefs served as background documentation for the UNCT deliberations during the socio-economic consultation on Burundi held in Geneva.

UNICEF Burundi and partners conducted a qualitative end-of-programme assessment using a combination of participatory video and most significant change analysis to explore the successes of the adolescents’ component of the 2012–2016 Peacebuilding Programme in Burundi. The results showed that individual behavioural change and reconciliation were the most frequently reported changes. The results also indicated that UNICEF Burundi peacebuilding activities contributed to reducing violence and increasing peace in communities, and the programmable lessons learned were taken up in joint United Nations programme development, including the definition of the Peacebuilding Fund priorities.

Following UNICEF Burundi’s advocacy, 44 schoolchildren arrested and detained for scribbling on a picture of the President in their textbooks were released based on a Special Presidential Order and resumed school. Furthermore, due to the advocacy related to justice for children, the Government decreed the systematic transfer of minors in conflict with the law into re-education centres for minors instead of prisons for adults.

**Partnerships**

As the overall sector lead, UNICEF played an instrumental leadership role in the coordination of the education sector. Following broad consultation, UNICEF Burundi was designated the new grant agent for GPE funds following the withdrawal of the education sector main donors.

Under the overall umbrella of the Scaling-Up Nutrition framework, UNICEF continued to nurture strategic alliances between United Nations agencies, the MoPH, NGOs, civil society and private sector networks.

Building on UNICEF’s existing child-led advocacy approach, 22 new child journalists from priority peacebuilding provinces were trained in basic journalism, conflict-sensitive reporting, photojournalism and digital communications to bring real-time children’s impressions from the field directly to followers in-country and beyond, while ensuring children are not exposed to security risks. Real-time radio and social media activities were conducted, reaching hundreds of thousands of people. Five new child-directed films were also shot and screened in front of filmmakers from across Africa at Burundi’s national film festival.

Furthermore, UNICEF Burundi continued to focus on bringing grassroots and community-based groups into partnerships for children with government institutions and established civil society organizations. In the field of C4D, local CPCs, social entrepreneurship groups and U-Report communities were strengthened to reach out to populations, including through community theatres, with awareness raising on the role of the family and the community in protecting children against rights violations and exclusion.
In 2016, UNICEF Burundi established 25 programme cooperation agreements and eight small scale funding arrangements totalling US$6,880,486.

**External Communication and Public Advocacy**

In 2016, UNICEF Burundi finalized and approved its communications and public advocacy strategy in line with UNICEF’s global communication and public advocacy strategy.

Reputation management and delivering on brand promise remained a critical priority in 2016, with messaging focused on protecting children from violence and ensuring the right to education in a safe environment. Through close collaboration with media, the UNICEF Private Fund-raising and Partnerships Division and the UNICEF Eastern and Southern Africa Regional Office, UNICEF Burundi achieved coverage on children’s issues in top-tier media that are normally challenging to reach in Burundi, such as *the Economist*, *the Guardian* and *Al Jazeera*.

Leveraging the rise in importance of social media, UNICEF Burundi reinforced its already strong digital presence. UNICEF Burundi’s Facebook page became the sixth most read Facebook page in the country, with the number of followers growing by more than 40 per cent in 2016 and solidifying UNICEF’s position as the leading voice for children in Burundi. UNICEF Burundi also launched an Instagram account to coincide with UNICEF’s 70th anniversary.

As part of the roll-out of #ForEveryChild, an Olympic athlete was engaged as a new influencer and as a ‘champion for children’ to help amplify child protection messages.

**Identification and Promotion of Innovation**

In 2016, UNICEF Burundi continued to apply innovation as a key cross-cutting strategy of its country programme, with focus on three main areas.

To accelerate data collection and reporting, two mobile-based applications for the health and nutrition system were scaled up nationally using the RapidPro platform, including for tracking supplies during MCHWs and reporting on severe cases of malnutrition. A third application for monitoring cholera demonstrated its added value during the emergency response by assisting early notification of case admission to facilitate timely action.

To enable youth and community engagement, U-Report was scaled from 44,204 to 66,216 users. Ten polls were launched on various topics, ranging from access to health services to peacebuilding, handwashing and opportunities for young people. Results were used to assess community attitudes and service delivery as well as to share critical information and positive behaviour messages back with U-Reporters.

To improve service delivery and resilience, UNICEF Burundi started investing in solar systems across different programmes in response to widespread energy poverty. The pilot school in Busebwa (west) was equipped with a solar system for powering 11 classrooms, an administrative block and a computer and laboratory room.

Solar panels were also procured for the next phase of Project Lumiere, a social enterprise model for delivering off-grid energy supply to rural households embedded within child protection. Through the sale and recharge of LED lights, Project Lumiere leads to improved health, education and protection outcomes, while strengthening the resilience of households and increasing support for vulnerable children in the community. Launched in September 2013, Project Lumiere is currently implemented with 54 community groups, reaching more
than 10,000 households, including 30,000 children. In the Ruyigi (east) re-education centre, a third Digital Drum—solar-powered computer kiosk—was installed to provide informal learning opportunities to children in conflict with the law.

**Support to Integration and Cross-Sectoral Linkages**

In 2016, the child protection and education sections worked together closely to reinforce the protection of schoolchildren. The combined action helped to reinforce the respect for schools as zones of peace in Bujumbura, where most of the incidents occurred.

In collaboration with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and the World Food Programme (WFP), UNICEF’s C4D, UNICEF Burundi’s education/peacebuilding and emergency sections supported summer camps for 10,500 students in 20 schools located in hotspot districts of Bujumbura. During the summer camps, recreational activities were organized for young children, while adolescents and young people were capacitated in peacebuilding and life skills.

Based on the 2015 joint decree by the Burundian ministries of interior and health, the child protection and health and nutrition sections continued to collaborate on the use of the mother and child health booklet, which integrates protection, health, nutrition, communication and early child development to boost birth registration.

In response to the cholera outbreak, the C4D section worked with the WASH and health sections on sensitization through interactive theatres, door-to-door community mobilization and peer education sessions, reaching approximately 37,000 households with messages on cholera prevention, basic sanitation and improved hygiene practices. Given persistent vulnerability to cholera, the C4D section expanded its awareness activities to the education system, reaching more than 24,000 students and 407 teachers. Nearly 1,000 handwashing facilities were installed in schools and households, and 260 hygiene clubs were established to ensure the sustainability of peer education activities on hygiene promotion.

Given the ongoing socio-economic and political crisis, reinforcing community resilience has become an important objective of interventions in Burundi. UNICEF resource mobilization efforts in 2016 prioritized both emergency and resilience efforts and grants were secured from the Department for International Development (DFID), the German Development Bank and the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF), enabling the health, nutrition, child protection and WASH sections to work together to address resilience and emergency issues.

**Service Delivery**

In 2016, UNICEF Burundi continued to support the Government in the provision of much needed health supplies and potable water, the rehabilitation of health and education infrastructures, the establishment of a protective environment for children and skills building for behaviour change.

UNICEF Burundi continued to function as the only provider of traditional routine vaccines and therapeutic feeding products with some in-kind donations from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). UNICEF Burundi ensured the prevention of mother-to-child transmission (PMTCT) services in 90 health centres. In addition, UNICEF Burundi supported the MoPH to implement a real-time data monitoring system for three key interventions linked with supply tracking (cholera, SAM and MCHW).

With GPE funds, UNICEF Burundi provided school materials to 2.6 million pupils and their teachers as part of the back-to-school campaign. These supplies helped to alleviate the
burden of education costs on several families, especially the crisis-stricken ones, and their delivery to end-users countrywide was followed up on and monitored.

UNICEF Burundi reinforced the resilience of 28,000 people, 24 schools hosting 18,700 children and five health centres in areas affected by cholera or malnutrition and improved their access to sanitation. CLTS is implemented in eight communes, benefiting 730,000 people.

UNICEF Burundi established and supported 51 child-friendly spaces to prevent violence and abuse against children: 26,625 children had access to services in the capital, Bujumbura, Rumonge (east) and Makamba (southeast), and special services were provided by trained social workers and psychologists, including the management of sexual and physical violence and trauma.

**Human Rights-Based Approach to Cooperation**

In 2016, due to the ongoing security and political crisis in Burundi, the human rights-based approach to programming was at the centre of all of UNICEF’s interventions, including the strong participation of adolescents in determining their own future; addressing issues of accountability with the Government in the areas of education, health, child protection and nutrition; continued focus on equity for the most deprived children; empowerment of women to enhance the situation of children in Burundi; and advocacy to protect children’s rights, capacity building, public awareness and service delivery. UNICEF Burundi also made use of human rights reporting mechanisms to further promote the interests of children.

Through the human rights-based approach to programming, UNICEF Burundi reminded all rights-bearers of their responsibilities, resulting in several advancements for the cause of children.

UNICEF Burundi systematically included young girls and boys from the most vulnerable groups—returnees, ex-combatants, internally displaced persons, orphans and the poorest—into its activities aimed at raising awareness on peace and reconciliation through community dialogue, interactive theatre sessions and psychosocial animations using narrative theatres.

**Gender Equality**

UNICEF Burundi undertook the preparatory stages for the gender review, which will begin in January 2017. This review will look both at programmatic issues relevant to the advancement of the gender perspective in programming, as well as gender issues in the workplace.

**Advancing girls’ secondary education:** UNICEF Burundi provided 125 girl-mothers and victims of violence with school supplies and sanitary pads, and supported some of their education costs to facilitate their reintegration into the school system. The ongoing curriculum reform supported by UNICEF mainstreams gender into the curriculum and into the development of didactic materials, including textbooks.

**Addressing gender-based violence in emergencies:** Given the socio-cultural discrimination against women and the increased risk of gender-based violence, mainstreaming gender is a key area of UNICEF programming. In 2016, UNICEF Burundi recruited a gender-based violence consultant to identify the UNICEF approach to addressing gender-based violence in Burundi, while considering the gender-based violence interventions of UNFPA, the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women) and other partners. The consultant supported the development of UNICEF Burundi’s cross-sectoral gender-based violence plan of action.
Furthermore, UNICEF Burundi continued to reinforce sectoral gender-based violence activities in 2016. UNICEF Burundi helped to establish or reinforce 1,832 child protection committees in 11 out of 18 provinces with at least 50 per cent female members, allowing them to be part of the debate on children and family concerns. UNICEF Burundi supported vocational training and income generation activities to empower 6,260 girl-mothers and girls at risk in Bujumbura (west), Gitega (centre) and Ruyigi (east) provinces. With UNICEF support, women are in a leading position for the 1,095 active solidarity groups (these activities cost US$587,171, of which US$219,248 was for the training of vulnerable women, and US$105,493 was for the promotion of women-led CPC groups).

UNICEF Burundi conducted the first thorough study on knowledge and behaviour regarding menstrual hygiene management at 20 schools in four provinces (this activity cost US$12,500). Separate latrines and shower spaces were also constructed in two flood displacement sites for 2,950 people (this activity cost US$47,160).

With support from UNICEF Burundi, the Tubiyage Theatre Group used interactive theatres in the provinces of Ngozi, Gitega and Muyinga to raise awareness of the fight against sexual and gender-based violence and stigma and discrimination against children affected and infected by HIV/AIDS, as well as Batwa children, albino children and children living with disabilities. In total, 6,627 people (2,219 men, 2,313 women, 1,016 boys and 1,079 girls) participated in 36 interactive theatre sessions.

Gender-based violence was discussed in the provinces of Kirundo, Ruyigi, Bubanza and Bujumbura Mairie to raise the awareness of community members. More than 392 acts of narrative theatre were publically performed, engaging 12,391 people (3,823 men, 3,539 women, 2,667 boys and 2,362 girls) who benefited from thought-provoking and life-changing interactions. Community members learned to recognize six different forms of gender-based violence, including physical violence, psychological abuse, sexual violence, social violence, economic/financial violence and rape. The community members committed to fighting gender-based violence within households and at the community level. Thus, in the second part of the narrative theatre—interaction with the community—392 participants (129 men, 116 women, 76 boys and 71 girls) expressed themselves by proposing solutions and alternative scenarios to gender-based violence issues presented during the performances.

Environmental Sustainability

In Burundi, energy poverty is especially critical, with only 3 per cent of the population having access to the national electricity grid. This continuous energy crisis has led to an unprecedented 40 per cent drop in forest cover over the last 20 years.

To promote environmentally-friendly policies and preserve Burundi from deforestation, as part of its health and education infrastructure construction, UNICEF Burundi has been supporting a switch from cooked bricks that contribute to deforestation to environmentally-friendly compressed and stabilized earth bricks. The technique consists of using a combination of local soil, sand and cement and eliminates the need for cooking the block thereafter. In addition to protecting the environment, the construction of schools with the bricks is faster (50 per cent less time) and provides thermic comfort for children and teachers.

In 2016, UNICEF Burundi finalized the construction of a pilot school in Busebwa (west), comprised of 11 classrooms, an administrative block, a combined library, computer and laboratory block, and four separated latrine blocks for girls, boys, teachers and students with disabilities. The design and philosophy of the school were validated by the MoE and will
inspire the ongoing development of national norms and standards for future school infrastructure, which emphasize child- and environmentally-friendly processes.

In northern Burundi, UNICEF built a solar-powered water supply system to provide water to 4,000 people, four schools with 3,000 pupils and two health centres. In addition to being more cost effective compared with a fuel-powered water pumping station, this alternative energy system is expected to have longer-term performance given its location in a dry and mountainous area. In case of inadequate sun exposure, the system is connected to the existing electricity network to ensure the continuous provision of water to surrounding communities.

In collaboration with the innovation lab, different sections have also started piloting a variety of modern energy technologies—including solar refrigerators, solar multi-media kiosks, pedal-powered generators and LED lights—into their programmes for improved service delivery and environmental outcomes.

**Effective Leadership**

The country management team (CMT) progressed on the closure of the recommendations from the December 2015 audit. In 2016, nine CMT meetings were held, including a special CMT organized during the visit of the Regional Director. The review of key performance indicators aligned to the Regional Compact was among the permanent agenda items. In addition, programme coordination meetings were held prior to CMT meetings to discuss budget implementation and programmatic and cross-sectoral issues.

Weekly head of section and operations team meetings were used as important platforms for ensuring the continuity of operations given the specific political and security contexts in Burundi, including frequent staff travel, as UNICEF Burundi is under the rest and relaxation scheme. Teleworking and staff flexibility to undertake tasks from other sections also contributed to smoothing operations. UNICEF Burundi’s management encouraged section retreats to prepare and review annual workplans and to reinforce team spirit.

UNICEF Burundi developed and tested an operational business continuity plan. Given the persistent risk of security lockdown in Burundi, UNICEF Burundi provided mobile Internet connection devices to all staff to ensure that they can securely work from home. UNICEF Burundi also organized an enterprise risk assessment workshop to adapt the office’s risk management to the changing context. The office’s risk mitigation tasks were distributed across statutory working groups; 152 per cent of programmatic visits, 48 per cent of spot checks and 79 per cent of scheduled audits were completed and internal harmonized approach to cash transfer (HACT) controls were established, including discussions on standard operation procedures and the table of authority. As part of efforts to simplify internal processes and procedures, UNICEF Burundi reduced the number of committees and improved the programme cooperation agreement review process.

In 2016, UNICEF Burundi engaged in strengthening the management skills of its senior staff by undergoing a collective coaching exercise involving management, heads of section, a human resource specialist and a construction manager. Furthermore, individual coaching sessions were provided to discuss the 360 reviews, and another group coaching exercise was held in December.

**Financial Resources Management**

In 2016, UNICEF Burundi pursued its efforts to maintain a high standard for managing its financial and fiduciary resources while operating in a high-risk environment characterized by significant internal and external changes. UNICEF Burundi’s total funds allocation as of 31
December 2016 was US$33,328,163.92 in 2016 (after re-phasing of grants), with 99 per cent utilization of regular resources funds (US$10,980,393.02), 100 per cent utilization of other resources funds (US$14,786,945.62) and 100 per cent utilization of other resources emergency funds (US$7,489,217.65).

The gradual implementation of the 2015 audit recommendations enabled UNICEF Burundi to strengthen practices and knowledge related to direct cash transfers, and the transition to the Global Shared Services Centre (GSSC) has made payments less time-consuming and faster. The monitoring of direct cash transfers was a permanent point for programme coordination meetings with discussions around outstanding direct cash transfers and related specific issues. Throughout the year, the rates of outstanding direct cash transfers were maintained within the acceptable risk level.

Major external changes in 2016 were related to new government banking policies that limited the office’s financial services options due to enforced restrictions on the foreign exchange market and currency transfer services. Previously, the purchase of Burundian currency was freely made through competing authorized financial institutions. Since 2016, any purchase of Burundian currency should be done exclusively through the Central Bank, which is the only authorized institution to receive inward currency transfers.

UNICEF Burundi internal control systems for financial transactions were consistent with two audit recommendations rated ‘medium’. In this regard, UNICEF Burundi is implementing an action plan to address relevant issues.

Throughout 2016, the bank reconciliation was systematically performed with no reported overdue or critical reconciling item.

**Fundraising and Donor Relations**

The ongoing socio-economic crisis resulted in the suspension, withdrawal or rechanneling of bilateral donor resources. Foreign support to the Government’s budget subsequently dropped from 49.5 per cent in 2015 to 30.2 percent in 2016. Facing budget cuts in key social sectors as well as increased needs due to the socio-economic impact of the crisis, UNICEF Burundi reinforced the advocacy with bilateral and multilateral donors to preserve investments for child survival, development and protection, especially in public services. Through both individual and joint United Nations resource mobilization, UNICEF raised allotments of approximately US$45 million in other resources, an unprecedented revenue representing three times the previous year’s mobilization.

The growth in regular other resources was driven by the transfer of administrative duties for the GPE Fund to UNICEF and major allocations from the GAVI Alliance Fund, the United Nations Peacebuilding Fund and the German Development Bank.

UNICEF Burundi outperformed the resource mobilization of sister agencies against the 2016 Humanitarian Response Plan. However, funding gaps persisted for emergencies, with 35 per cent of the Humanitarian Action for Children appeal unfunded at the end of the year. Other resources for emergencies came mostly from responsive UNICEF National Committees (Swiss, French and British) and from bilateral donors: DFID, Japan, the German Development Bank and USAID.

In 2016, UNICEF Burundi was only able to host one National Committee field visit (from the Spanish National Committee) due to security risks, however, relations with National Committees were strengthened through in-person visits and media activities conducted by UNICEF Burundi management to Finland and Belgium, as well as human interest stories
and high quality monthly humanitarian situation reports. Renewed financial and advocacy support was received from the Spanish National Committee.

**Evaluation and Research**

UNICEF Burundi’s rolling plan for research, impact, monitoring and evaluation (PRIME) was updated at the beginning of 2016 and reviewed at mid-year through a consultative process involving programme sections and relevant partners to prioritize key research products for the year. The UNICEF Burundi country management team led the monitoring of progress towards implementing the 2016–2017 plan, which included 10 studies and one evaluation.

The overall implementation of PRIME was hampered by the ongoing political crisis. As a result, only four studies were fully completed, of which three were carried over from the previous year. Two key evaluations are underway: the end-line survey of the nutrition project in the Ngozi Province (north); and the assessment of the CLTS approach. The end-line study of Project Lumiere, though delayed due to the security issues in the field, is scheduled to start early next year.

In 2016, UNICEF supported the Burundi Demographic and Health Indicator Survey (DHS) III, led by Institut de Statistiques et d’Etudes Economiques du Burundi (the National Institute of Statistics or ISTEEBU) in cooperation with ICF Macro. The ongoing DHS III will be critical to measuring the programme achievements of key sectors, including health, nutrition, education and child protection and informing evidence-based planning of UNICEF Burundi’s next programme cycle and the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) 2019–2023. The DHS III will also provide baseline data for the Sustainable Development Goals.

**Efficiency Gains and Cost Savings**

The cost of office premises was one of UNICEF’s biggest operational costs in 2016, at US$46,700 per month. UNICEF Burundi has been participating in the United Nations shared cost common compound and services approach since 2011. However, the running costs of the compound have increased due to the maintenance requirements of prefabricated offices in advanced depreciation conditions and an increase in fuel and energy market prices. In addition, in November 2016, several participating agencies have relocated to new premises. UNICEF Burundi has accelerated its relocation process, planned for the first quarter of 2017. It is expected that this will result in rent (approximately US$10,000) and energy cost savings (up to US$2,100), an improved environmental footprint (through the installation of a mechanical ventilation system) and an improved working environment.

In 2016, UNICEF Burundi continued to participate in United Nations local procurement mechanisms such as the long-term agreements for fuel procurement, vehicles rentals and vehicle maintenance services. A joint evaluation is ongoing to determine costs savings and the efficiency of these arrangements. UNICEF Burundi and other agencies have also started an initiative for saving costs of international travel: discussions are underway with major airline companies servicing Burundi with the objective of obtaining a special fares scheme for United Nations agencies.

Internally, the administration of field missions was more efficient in 2016 due to the effective practice of monthly office travel plans.

In relation of the new joint premises, UNICEF Burundi has played a leadership and steering role in the budget and financial management and technical and contractual monitoring of the works ensuring compliance with agencies’ requirements. UNICEF has also offered to share resources, including information and communication technology (ICT) and site administration...
services (security and cleaning), as well as recreational facilities and external services (banking and travel).

### Table 1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Services</th>
<th>Amount</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Communication and participation (US$)</td>
<td>109,135.19</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cross-sectoral</td>
<td>1,635,018.25</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>8,210,065.73</td>
<td>53%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health and nutrition</td>
<td>4,419,721.44</td>
<td>29%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Programme support</td>
<td>401,546.20</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Protection</td>
<td>56,110.80</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WASH</td>
<td>593,438.30</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>15,425,035.91</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Construction works (procurement) (US$)</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cross-sectoral</td>
<td>883,331.08</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>447,0314.19</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health and nutrition</td>
<td>86,251.45</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total procurement construction</strong></td>
<td>5,439,896.72</td>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Construction works (HACT) (US$)</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>COPED (education programme)</td>
<td>169,100</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BISEM (education programme)</td>
<td>10,160</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total construction HACT</strong></td>
<td>179,260</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Grand total construction</strong></td>
<td>5,619,156.72</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The total procurement plan for 2016 was estimated at US$42 million, of which 37 per cent was implemented and funded. Out of the implemented amount, US$8.2 million (54.8 per cent) was utilized for the procurement of goods and US$6.6 million (45.2 per cent) was used for services. Construction works represented 82 per cent of total services procurement, amounting to US$5.4 million.

The share between local and offshore procurement is 55 per cent and 45 per cent, respectively. In total, 17 per cent of goods were delivered directly to partners, avoiding the storage of items in the UNICEF warehouse. The average value of supplies managed in the controlled warehouse amounted to US$1.8 million. The stock level as of 7 December 2016 was at US$1.8 million, of which 18 per cent represented contingency stock.

The delivery of therapeutic spread was improved through continued integration of essential drugs into the national supply chain via Centrale d’Achat des Médicaments Essentiels du Burundi (the National Drug Store or CAMEBU). The procurement of health and nutrition supplies reached US$3.3 million to support essential drug needs and routine facility and community health and nutrition services.
A joint support mission from the UNICEF Eastern and Southern Africa Regional Office and CPH Supply Division took place in December 2016. The team had the opportunity to meet with the MoPH and CAMEBU to discuss the procurement, storage and distribution of UNICEF drug and medical supplies regarding the health system strategy, including the essential drugs national supply chain.

In addition to the supply plan, US$9.4 million worth of supplies was procured in 2016 through the procurement services mechanism.

**Security for Staff and Premises**

Burundi was declared a non-family duty station in July 2015 and declined from Level C to Level D in July 2016. Although there is no restriction on country-side missions, a curfew is in place from noon to 5 a.m. in Bujumbura Mairie Province, where most security incidents have taken place. Rolling security and political analysis was undertaken throughout the year.

Given the protracted crisis, UNICEF Burundi undertook two business continuity plan exercises and several telephone tree tests, reinforced the warden delegation system and conducted weekly staff radio checks throughout 2016. UNICEF Burundi invested in a radio repeater and frequency that is part of the communication plan for the Business Continuity Plan as a back-up to the United Nations Department of Safety and Security (UNDSS) system-wide communications plan.

The risk matrix of staff residence locations was updated in line with the security situation and the Security Adviser provided political and security briefings and consultations during statutory meetings. To reinforce staff capacities in first aid, the Security Adviser was trained and qualified as a first aid instructor and led training for UNICEF staff.

During the reporting period, UNICEF Burundi faced several incidents involving staff members. Although the incidents did not affect programme implementation, individual staff members were affected by the incidents.

**Human Resources**

UNICEF Burundi continued to face challenges in human resources, including difficulty attracting highly qualified and French-speaking candidates to a Level D non-family duty station. In 2016, UNICEF Burundi recruited 36 staff, including 15 international professionals, 12 national officers and 9 general services staff. All recruitments were completed in a timely manner except for a few national positions. There are currently seven vacant positions due to lack of funding. The fast-track recruitment process and the hiring of temporary positions and consultants contributed to addressing the gaps. Ninety-nine per cent of PERs were completed in a timely manner. Staff and supervisors were trained on Achieve, and 98 per cent of the first phase was completed by the deadline.

In 2016, UNICEF Burundi implemented an ambitious staff development plan that resulted in 100 per cent completion of the group training. Three sessions on ethic’s dialogues were successfully conducted, and 13 afternoon learning sessions allowed staff to be informed or updated on key subjects.

Further to the 2015 Global Staff Survey, in May 2016, UNICEF Burundi organized a three-day staff retreat to discuss various issues, including security and personal empowerment. This proved to be an important undertaking for promoting staff welfare, motivation and team spirit. The implementation of the Global Staff Survey action plan was systematically monitored during country management team and joint consultative committee meetings.
Counselling support was provided to staff for stress management and two peer support volunteers received training. UNICEF Burundi management worked closely with the Staff Association to address issues related to staff well-being given the ongoing crisis.

**Effective Use of Information and Communication Technology**

The ICT section fully participated in the two business continuity plan exercises undertaken in 2016 to ensure responsiveness and readiness. ICT also conducted individual trainings for new staff on using available tools to support remote access to office resources and services. In addition, ICT continued to work closely with the Innovation Lab to support the scale-up of mobile-based applications.

In 2016, UNICEF standard Microsoft Office cloud tools (Office365, Outlook, Skype for Business, and OneDrive) allowed UNICEF Burundi to improve the use of the ICT system. Outlook helped to expand the capacity of mailboxes, avoiding regular mailbox archiving and saving staff time for other tasks. Outlook extra functions such as sending invitations for a meeting and scheduling appointments contributed to reinforcing efficiency in task planning. Encouraging the use of Skype for Business remained one of the ways for UNICEF Burundi to reduce the costs of telephone calls between staff members. Skype for Business also facilitated audio and video conference calls within and outside of the organization.

OneDrive was used by staff members to keep and secure important documents as part of the Disaster Recovery Plan. Documents can be shared using SharePoint or OneDrive with different access permission levels. Office365 increased collaboration facilities in the areas of document sharing, co-editing and group discussion.

In 2016, UNICEF Burundi continued to leverage innovation to improve outcomes across the country programme, with a focus on accelerating data collection and reporting (RapidPro), strengthening youth and community engagement (U-Report) and improving service delivery and resilience (renewable energy solutions). Within the emergency response, emphasis was placed on using RapidPro and U-Report to assess needs on the ground and strengthen accountability to affected populations.

**Programme Components from the 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 2018.

**Analytical statement of progress:**
Since April 2015, Burundi has been facing a political and socio-economic crisis that has its roots in the contested electoral process. This situation led to the withdrawal of key education sector partners and the paralysis of the Education Basket Fund. The Education Basket Fund was the main financial support behind the implementation of the Education Sector Strategic Plan 2012–2020 and was funding more than 80 per cent of the overall sector budget in Burundi. In 2016, the budget allocation for education was 29.8 per cent lower than in 2015, with allocated national resources decreasing by 4 per cent and external resources decreasing by 87 per cent.
Security issues remain an obstacle for education access both for children living in hotspot suburbs of affected cities and for thousands of other children who have sought refuge in neighbouring countries.

Notwithstanding this challenging programming environment, UNICEF Burundi implemented most of its planned activities in 2016, playing an instrumental role in the continuity of the high-level political dialogue between the MoE and its main partners, as the lead agency for the education sector. UNICEF Burundi provided a range of technical support to government partners, including knowledge generation to enhance evidence-based programming with the finalization of the Education Sector Analysis and of the Annual Education Census 2015. UNICEF also played a pivotal role as the new GPE grant agent, replacing the Belgium Technical Cooperation and in drafting and successfully submitting a US$20.1 million proposal to support the implementation of the Education Sector Strategic Plan 2017–2020. Furthermore, UNICEF supported the capacity development of six MoE staff in the area of policy formulation and management who will handle the updates to the Education Sector Strategic Plan and the preparation of the second request, which will be submitted to GPE at the end of 2017.

UNICEF Burundi continued to support the implementation of the new curriculum policy for basic education, providing expertise for the consolidation of the Education Management Information System and the construction of schools and classrooms. In June 2016, UNICEF officially handed over to the MoE an environmentally-friendly pilot school for basic education (the nine-year fundamental school), which was built in the poor neighbourhood of Busebwa (west) in the Rumonge Province.

Thanks to GPE funds, UNICEF Burundi organized the first-ever nationwide Back-to-School campaign, supplying 2.6 million pupils and their 32,000 teachers with basic learning and teaching materials. The aim of the campaign was to enable the most vulnerable children to remain in school and alleviate the cost of education materials for crisis-stricken Burundian families, especially the poorest.

UNICEF Burundi engaged in a cross-border discussion to ensure that Burundian schoolchildren who have sought refuge in Tanzanian camps continue to benefit from their right to education. After several missions to Tanzania and several setbacks, UNICEF Burundi managed to gain agreement from the Government of Burundi to share the national syllabi with the Tanzanian National Examination Authority, allowing a system to be established for refugee children to take exams and further integrate into the Tanzanian schooling system. The first exams are planned for February 2017.

Following increasing school occupations by police forces, UNICEF Burundi undertook further action to facilitate schools as zones of peace in 20 schools located in the capital city Bujumbura and raise awareness among children on issues such as resilience and peacebuilding. UNICEF Burundi also took the opportunity to sensitize children about not writing on the photo of the President printed in their textbooks. UNICEF Burundi also advocated for the successful release of 44 students who had been arrested and detained for writing on the photo of the President in their textbooks.

OUTPUT 1 By the end of 2018, 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 Strategic 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:
Despite the protracted crisis in the country, UNICEF Burundi continued to play an instrumental leadership role in the coordination of the education sector, marked by the withdrawal of key donors, including the governments of Norway, Belgium and France. In March 2016, following broad consultation, UNICEF Burundi was designated the new grant agent for GPE funds, replacing the Belgium Technical Cooperation, the former supervising entity. Under UNICEF leadership and through a participatory process involving key education partners and the MoE, a proposal was successfully developed and submitted to the GPE to secure the remaining US$20.1 million of the first GPE allocation to Burundi.

Anticipating the reception of this grant, UNICEF Burundi discussed with the UNICEF Supply Division in Copenhagen the possibility of benefiting from bridge funding to pre-finance the acquisition of school materials (textbooks, rulers, erasers, pens, pencils, compasses, protractors, chalk, etc.) for approximately 2.6 million pupils and their teachers. These supplies were received on time at the beginning of the 2016/17 school year and distributed throughout the country to alleviate the burden on families, particularly the poorest, of the cost of education.

To enhance evidence-based advocacy and programming, UNICEF Burundi in partnership with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Institute for Statistics supported the MoE to strengthen the Education Management Information System by thoroughly identifying challenges that impeded the system and proposing a budgeted operational strategy. UNICEF Burundi provided new hardware equipment to the MoE data management unit.

Continued support was also provided to the MoE Planning and Statistics Department to finalize the Education Sector Analysis with the technical support of UNESCO Dakar Pole and produce the 2015 Annual Education Census while preparing data collection for 2016. Furthermore, the Education Management Information System team and relevant MoE staff were capacitated in sectoral policy development and management of educational services. The trained national team will play a key role in the preparation of a new grant request to be submitted to the GPE. A UNICEF technical expert was seconded within the MoE to ensure knowledge transfer while providing support in various planning and data generation processes with a special focus on equity, the finalization of the Education Sector Analysis and data generation to prepare a successful GPE proposal.

UNICEF Burundi was also involved in the preparation of various assessments commissioned by donors, including the evaluation of the Education Basket Fund and the audit of decentralized MoE services.

OUTPUT 2 By the end of 2018, 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 child-friendly spaces in the curriculum, with emphasis on vulnerable children.

Analytical statement of progress:
In line with the ‘fundamental school’ concept, UNICEF Burundi supported the construction of a pilot school in Busebwa (Rumonge Province), comprising 11 classrooms, an administrative block, a library block with a combined computer and laboratory room and separate latrine blocks for teachers, students (girls and boys) and students with disabilities (girls and boys).

To promote environmentally-friendly policies and preserve Burundi from deforestation, the school was built with compressed and stabilized earth bricks, is solar powered and has been provided with water tanks to harvest rainwater. In collaboration with the WASH section, the latrines were built separately with a view to reducing gender-based violence at school. Teacher latrines are further separated from student latrines. Finally, the school was built in a
province populated by 70 per cent of returnees from the 2009 crisis to address the needs of the most vulnerable. The design and philosophy of the pilot school were validated by the MoE and will inspire the development of the MoE national norms and standards in the area of construction, while further promoting the concept of child-friendly schools.

In 2016, UNICEF Burundi also initiated the construction of 319 classrooms and supported vulnerable communities to build 11 new classrooms (one in Gakora, six in Bubanza Province (north) and four in Ruyigi (east)).

UNICEF Burundi organized the nationwide Back-to-School campaign in 2016, which resulted in the provision of school materials to 2.6 million pupils and their teachers. The campaign launch ceremony on 30 November 2016 was held in the presence of the President of Burundi. The school kits were thereafter dispatched from UNICEF Burundi warehouses to all provinces and reached the children within two weeks.

Thanks to an efficient supply strategy (public bidding), UNICEF Burundi printed one manual for each child in Grade 8 and Grade 9 instead of one textbook for three children as originally planned. This initiative will enable nationwide coverage of textbooks in the concerned grades. In parallel to this and to enhance the quality of education, UNICEF is leading the training of Grade 4 teachers. The aim is to gradually cover the training of all fundamental school teachers.

To continue to strengthen the quality of education, UNICEF Burundi supported the training of 1,037 members of school management committees. In addition, UNICEF developed a partnership with Play International to implement a project using ‘playdagogy’ (learning through play) in 30 pilot schools in Makamba (south) as well as Rumonge Province and Bujumbura Rural Province. In partnership with Libraries Without Borders, UNICEF Burundi supported the production of digital content (Koombooks) as reference documentation for teachers in four schools in Bujumbura Province and Rumonge Province.

**OUTPUT 3** By the end of 2018, access to 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:**
Due to the current socio-economic crisis, it was difficult to take policy initiatives to their conclusion and programming initiatives to scale. Preschool enrolment rates remain very low with less than 10 per cent of children aged 3-6 having access to pre-learning facilities and services. Many children are prevented from early stimulation and learning due to the lack of appropriate infrastructure. In 2016, UNICEF Burundi, in partnership with faith-based organizations such as Organisation Diocésaine pour l’Entraide et le Développement Intégral de Muyinga and Bureau National de l’Education Catholique focused on supply through the construction, rehabilitation and equipping of 20 classrooms in Muyinga (north), Kirundo (north), Gitega (centre) and Karuzi (north) provinces to contribute to increasing enrolment in pre-learning.

UNICEF Burundi supported a situation analysis on preschool to enhance evidence-based programming. The final report was endorsed by relevant authorities and early child development stakeholders.

Joint visits to preschool sites were conducted by officials from the MoE, Bureau National de l’Education Catholique and UNICEF Burundi. Awareness sessions were organized to sensitize parents and community leaders on the importance of preschool to motivate educators.
In addition, the quality of education in preschools is weak with unmotivated educators recruited by communities without a solid initial training. In 2016, 450 educators were trained on learning by playing to improve the quality of early learning, and 25 preschool centres were equipped in didactic and play materials.

**OUTPUT 4** By the end of 2018, education sector can face emergency situations.

**Analytical statement of progress:**

In 2016, UNICEF Burundi played a key convening role in education-in-emergencies by strengthening the coordination of the Education Emergency Sector Group. Under UNICEF leadership, monthly meetings were held in coordination with the National Platform Against Natural Disasters. UNICEF Burundi supported the training of 20 members of the Education Emergency Sector Group on the Minimum Standards of the Inter-Agency Network for Education in Emergency. The Regional Office trained the MoE emergency focal point and a UNICEF staff member on conflict-sensitive education sector planning.

In partnership with Association pour la Réhabilitation des Sinistrés, UNICEF Burundi supported more than 600 internally displaced Burundian children from Muvamvya District to ensure that they continue to enjoy their right to education. In addition, 23,752 students affected by flood in Bururi, Cibitoke, Rumonge, Makamba, Cankuzo, Ruyigi and Bujumbura provinces received materials, including tents, sheets, nails and paint boxes for the blackboard that allowed them to continue their schooling.

UNICEF Burundi was engaged in a cross-border discussion to ensure that 2,919 Burundian refugee students in Tanzanian camps who were learning through the Burundian education curriculum, will be able to take examinations. Despite promising a preparation process, the activity did not take place due to the political context. However, the MoE ultimately agreed to share the Burundian syllabi with the National Examinations Council of Tanzania with the aim of holding exams for Burundian refugee children. These exams will take place in February 2017, and preparations began in October 2016. Upon completion of the equivalence exams, Burundian refugees will be able to integrate into the Tanzanian schooling system and will also be able to easily reintegrate into the Burundian education system should they decide to return to Burundi.

In cooperation with Handicap International, UNICEF Burundi selected 20 schools to become zones of peace. The schools are in contested areas of Bujumbura. More than 700 children and adolescents were expelled at the end of the 2015/16 school year for writing on a photo of the President in their textbooks, and some missed their end-of-year exams. Some 73 students, including 44 under the age of 18, were detained. Following strong advocacy by UNICEF and partners, all the children were released.

Attacks against schools are now being closely monitored by an internal group between the education and protection sectors, the Education Watch Initiative. Upon the request of the Minister of Education, UNICEF, in collaboration with UNFPA and WFP, supported summer camps for 10,500 students in 20 schools located in hotspot districts within the capital city, Bujumbura. Recreational activities were organized for young children, while adolescents and young people were capacitated in peacebuilding through sport and life skills approaches. This initiative was particularly appreciated by the Government as it engaged children and youth considered to be permanently at risk of manipulation.
OUTCOME 2 By 2018, children and women benefit from prevention of chronic malnutrition through an integrated health and nutrition package, maternal and neonatal health and child survival.

Analytical statement of progress:
The year 2016 was marked by the continuing political and security crisis with the limited presence of donors, resulting in significant bottlenecks to implementing activities. However, emergency preparedness and response benefited from a special focus through the development of the Humanitarian Needs Overview and Humanitarian Response Plan with other United Nations agencies and NGOs. The impact of the crisis and of the deterioration of the socio-economic situation on access to health and nutrition services (i.e. through increased out-of-pocket payment for care and essential drugs) remains unclear as efforts to document the actual situation proved difficult.

In early 2016, UNICEF Burundi distributed essential drugs supplies ordered in 2015 to more than 175,000 women and children to ensure access to free health care. The adequate use of supplies was monitored by UNICEF Burundi through health centre visits supported by partners. However, the joint MoPH-UNICEF supervision mission could not take place. The emergency responses to cholera and malaria and preparedness for yellow fever were also priorities.

UNICEF Burundi and its partners (Concern Worldwide, Pathfinder International and World Relief) conducted a two-round community mass screening for acute malnutrition in six priority provinces, with basic documentation of childhood diseases as an alternative documentation strategy for assessment of primary health care and the nutritional situation. At the end of the reporting period, a total of 907,569 children aged 6-59 months were mass-screened in six priority provinces (449,309 in the first round and 458,260 in the second round). The comparison of round one results to preliminary results from round two showed a significant deterioration in the nutrition situation in some health districts, highlighting provincial, district and communal disparities. The most affected province was Kirundo (north), where the SAM rate exceeds the World Health Organization (WHO) emergency threshold (greater than 2 per cent) in four out of seven communes. As the sector lead agency, UNICEF is spearheading discussions with the MoPH, WFP and other partners to organize a response.

SAM management is offered nationwide through the health system in 214 health centres and 30 hospitals. Some 32,058 SAM cases were admitted in 2016, with the high performance of an 86 per cent cure rate, 2 per cent death rate and 7 per cent defaulter rate. Continued SAM treatment was made possible throughout the year thanks to investment from different donors, including the Government of Japan, CERF, DFID, the Government of the Netherlands, the Swiss National Committee, the USAID Office of Food for Peace, as well as regular funding from UNICEF.

The biannual life-saving MCHWs (vitamin A and deworming for children under 5) were completed in June and December of 2016. A total of 1,377,153 children aged 6-59 months were reached with vitamin A supplementation (81 per cent of coverage), and 1,216,148 children aged 12-59 months were dewormed (83 per cent). The results of the December 2016 campaign are currently being compiled and will be available in 2017.

After the GAVI Alliance decision in July 2015 to suspend direct cash transfers to the Government of Burundi and the long revision process of the annual work-plan, a tripartite Memorandum of Understanding was signed in August 2016 between the MoPH, UNICEF Burundi and GAVI Alliance for the management of the Health System Strengthening and Expanded Programme on Immunization funds by UNICEF. Implementation of activities is ongoing.
The introduction of a fourth dose of diphtheria pertussis tetanus vaccine and the switch from trivalent oral polio vaccine (OPVt) to bivalent vaccine (OPVb) were successfully completed in 2016. The human papilloma virus (HPV) vaccine was introduced in December 2016 in two demonstrative provinces, as recommended by GAVI Alliance and WHO before its national scale-up.

The MoPH and its partners initiated the implementation of the new Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (GFATM) subvention, which was approved for 1) HIV/tuberculosis with the elimination of mother to child transmission component (including diagnosis and treatment of paediatric HIV); and 2) for malaria with the integrated community case management component (including diagnosis and treatment at the community level). However, important challenges remain for UNICEF Burundi to cover the 40 per cent of children at the community level in need of diarrhoea and respiratory infection medications through the integrated community case management approach in GFATM malaria intervention zones. This challenge is exacerbated by the coordination weaknesses noted at the MoPH level, which lead to important supply chain issues vis-a-vis the health facility and the community needs for dedicated essential drugs.

OUTPUT 1 By 2018, at least 60 per cent of sous-collines in eight provinces have their capacity strengthened in chronic malnutrition prevention.

Analytical statement of progress:
About 5,600 children aged 0-59 months and their mothers in nine out of 46 health districts (located in four provinces) benefited from the support of diversified community actors (light mothers (community actors engaged in nutrition), community health agents, extension farmer workers) through individual or group promotion of multisectoral key messages (nutrition, health, hygiene, family planning, etc.). The capacity strengthening of 94 staff at health districts and the communal level and 472 nurses from health centres was completed by a national multisectoral pool of 30 trainers (health, agriculture, social affairs, communal development, environment and communication). A total of 280 community actors were trained with the perspective to train more than 3,000 additional actors in 2017. Implementing partners in Kirundo, Kayanza and Gitega provinces are supporting the MoPH by strengthening the link between health centres and community workers while the interventions are successfully implemented by the Government with the technical support of United Nations agencies (the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), UNICEF, WFP and WHO) in Ngozi Province.

One round of the MCHW was successfully completed but micronutrient powders were not received on time in country. A total of 1,377,153 children aged 6-59 months (81 per cent) received vitamin A supplementation and 1,216,148 children aged 12-59 months (83 per cent) were dewormed. The second round of MCHW was completed in December 2016 with the support of RapidPro real-time monitoring nationwide. The MoPH-validated results will be available in the first quarter of 2017.

As an important step following the feasibility and acceptability phase, the programme design of home fortification with micronutrient powders for children aged 6-23 months is ongoing and will be finalized in 2017 with the perspective of preparing the national scale-up plan.

OUTPUT 2 By 2018, 80 per cent of deliveries take place in a health facility in at least five provinces.

Analytical statement of progress:
The institutional delivery rate is 78.7 per cent (2015 Reproductive Health Report). However, the maternal mortality ratio is still a major concern at 712 per 100,000 live births. Antenatal
Care coverage is about 100 per cent for the first consultation, but only 19.9 per cent of pregnant women benefit from antenatal care during the first quarter of their pregnancy, and only 27.6 per cent achieve four antenatal care visits during their pregnancy (2015 MoPH statistical yearbook). Challenges remain in the management of obstetrical emergencies, due to the lack of basic knowledge in neonatal and obstetrical emergencies and essential neonatal and obstetrical care.

The implementation of the KiraMAMA project aimed at reducing maternal and neonatal mortality with improved access (quality of referral and care) and increased demand via community health workers in the pilot Gitega Province is ongoing. The community health worker tools have been adapted and translated in the local language (Kirundi). UNICEF Burundi is now building on the progress made in 2015 (provision of ambulances and equipment of health centres to upgrade to basic emergency neonatal and obstetric care) to conduct infrastructure rehabilitation. An architecture consulting firm was recruited to design the rehabilitation package of 11 health centres and the paediatric ward of the referral hospital of Gitega and to control the rehabilitation process through construction companies.

In malaria prevention, in 2016, UNICEF Burundi supported the MoPH to provide intermittent preventive treatment of malaria in pregnancy for 29,765 pregnant women in Gitega Province.

The paediatric HIV transmission rate remains high at 21.5 per cent, and in the 90 UNICEF-supported health centres (40 from the MoPH and 50 from CARITAS), 87 per cent of seropositive women received PMTCT services, and 98 per cent of newborns received antiretroviral therapy prophylaxis (data from January 2014 to June 2016, HMIS). UNICEF Burundi continued to pilot its holistic approach toward seropositive mothers by supporting an additional 22 women living with HIV (compared with 14 women in 2015) through literacy lessons, income-generating activities and cash transfer for improved sustainable resilience and integration into their community. These interventions also focus on the adherence to the antiretroviral treatment for PMTCT and early testing of the newborn child.

**OUTPUT 3** By 2018, 60 per cent of health facilities provide an integrated care package for child survival in at least five provinces

**Analytical statement of progress:**

In response to a 2015 request of the MoPH to address essential drug shortages and ensure continued free access to health care (via the Performance-Based Financing Scheme), UNICEF Burundi procured essential drugs for children and women. Procurement was based on the MoPH list and distribution was carried out at the beginning of 2016 directly to the health district level. This was an exceptional support, benefiting approximately 175,000 women and children. Nevertheless, UNICEF remains the sole provider of traditional vaccines and ready-to-use therapeutic food for SAM management in Burundi.

Immunization interventions have been challenged since July 2015 when the GAVI Alliance suspended its direct cash support, including existing in-country funding. Based on the GAVI Alliance’s decision to move its funding through UNICEF, the 2016 plan was jointly revised by the MoPH, GAVI Alliance, WHO and UNICEF to adapt to the actual context. The implementation of this plan began mid-August 2016 after the signature of a tripartite Memorandum of Understanding between the MoPH, GAVI Alliance and UNICEF Burundi. The introduction of a fourth dose of diphtheria pertussis tetanus vaccine and the switch from OPVt to OPVb were successfully completed, but concerns were raised in relation to the availability of inactivated polio vaccine at the global level. The HPV vaccine was introduced.
in December 2016 in two demonstrative provinces, as recommended by the GAVI Alliance and WHO ahead of national scale-up.

UNICEF Burundi provided technical assistance to the Expanded Programme on Immunization (MoPH) with the installation of 70 solar refrigerators, as per the national cold chain improvement plan, including two solar fridges procured by UNICEF in 2015.

Admission for SAM treatment increased more than 1.5 times compared with 2014 and 2015. Through its National Nutrition Programme and the national pool of trainers, the MoPH continued formative supervision and training of newly appointed health centre staff. Through this support, 244 health facilities gained the capacity to provide SAM treatment services (HMIS 2016). The community management of acute malnutrition dashboard for the RapidPro innovative real-time monitoring technology is being used in three out of 18 provinces (covering 10 out of 46 existing health districts), providing active reporting on community management of acute malnutrition beneficiaries and supply stocks.

To GFATM efforts to diagnosis and treat malaria at the community level, UNICEF Burundi continued to support integrated community case management by supporting training and providing medicines for malaria, diarrhoea and pneumonia in three health districts, as well as medicines for diarrhoea and pneumonia in districts supported by GFATM and selected NGOs (IHPB and World Vision).

**OUTPUT 4** By 2016, government structures and leadership and emergency response capacities are strengthened.

**Analytical statement of progress:**
Financial and technical support to the Scaling Up Nutrition Secretariat continued in 2016 through the Renewed Efforts Against Child Hunger national facilitator under UNICEF leadership. Financial tracking of national investment and expenses in nutrition were completed and presented at a Scaling Up Nutrition international workshop.

The National Health Development Plan (2011–2015) was extended to 2018 in line with the extension of the Poverty Reduction Strategic Paper II.

In 2016, special focus was put on the emergency fund appeal through CERF and via the completion and the revision of the sectoral Humanitarian Response Plan. UNICEF Burundi played a key role in both the nutrition and health sectors as lead and co-lead, respectively, to ensure timely quality completion.

The MoPH declared a cholera outbreak in July 2016 and officially closed the epidemic in December 2016. UNICEF Burundi supported the MoPH response through the provision of equipment, material and technical support. A total of 393 cholera cases with two deaths were reported.

The number of malaria cases reported in 2016 surpassed 7.7 million (compared with 5.3 million cases in 2015) and 3,643 deaths were reported. UNICEF Burundi provided long-lasting insecticide-treated bed nets at the beginning of the malaria surge and continued to support the MoPH with real-time monitoring of cholera via the RapidPro technology and by improving malaria reporting database. Given that Burundi is identified as a high-risk country, the yellow fever situation has been closely monitored by the MoPH and health sector partners under WHO leadership.

The emergency food security situation analysis conducted by WFP in April 2016 showed that 50 per cent of households in Burundi are food insecure, affecting 4.6 million people, including 800,000 children under 5. Using CERF, UNICEF Burundi supported the MoPH and
its partners to complete two rounds of door-to-door mass community screening for acute malnutrition in six priority provinces (Bujumbura Mairie, Bujumbura Rural, Cibitoke, Kirundo, Makamba and Rumonge).

First-round results showed a worrying situation for acute malnutrition in five out of six provinces (all except Bujumbura Mairie). Based on preliminary results from the second round, a deterioration in the nutrition situation is noted in Kirundo Province, with the average global acute malnutrition rate increasing from 7.2 to 8.9 per cent, and the SAM rate increasing from 1.8 to 2.3 per cent. Four out of seven communes show SAM prevalence surpassing the WHO emergency threshold of 2 per cent. UNICEF is working with the MoPH and nutrition partners, including WFP and Concern Worldwide, to prepare a coordinated nutrition response for the most-affected communes.

OUTCOME 3 Girls and boys live in a protective environment in accordance to international standards on child rights and protection by the end of 2018.

Analytical statement of progress:
Burundi made notable progress in the child protection sector during the 10 years of relative calm prior to the political/security crisis that began in early 2015, including in developing and adopting new legislation and policies. However, years of conflict, dire poverty and exclusion continue to have a devastating impact on Burundi’s children in terms of access to and ability to benefit from a protective environment. Child labour remains an issue—both domestic and business—and child abandonment is driving children to live in the streets, often ending up in conflict with the law. Sexual violence against women and girls is a major issue as many cases go unreported due to fear of stigma, weakness in enforcing legislation and prevailing impunity among perpetrators.

The ongoing political and security crisis, coupled with indiscriminate violence, has exacerbated underlying protection issues and plunged the country into an acute protection crisis. Hundreds of thousands of people have fled their homes and sought refuge in neighbouring countries; dozens of people, including children, have been killed in crisis-related incidents.

Over the past two years, the establishment of two re-education centres for children in conflict with the law has been particularly useful in the current context, taking incarcerated children away from adult prisons and offering them basic services, including education and reintegration. Following advocacy conducted by UNICEF Burundi and partners, the Minister of Justice decreed in June 2016 that child offenders would be systematically transferred to the re-education centres. In 2016, UNICEF Burundi trained 200 government judges and 250 police officers who are at the entry point of the judiciary system for children. With the support of UNICEF Burundi, 96 out of 246 minors received in two re-education centres were released, as were 44 schoolchildren arrested for writing on a photo of the President in their textbooks.

UNICEF Burundi continued to strengthen the child protection system through support to 1,832 CPCs and training 228 civil registration officers. Given the increasing number of children living on the street due to the deterioration of the socio-economic situation, special efforts have been made to respond to this issue.

UNICEF Burundi support to the Child Helpline represented an important contribution to monitoring and responding to child rights violations and providing information to affected children and communities on available support.

UNICEF Burundi supported 1,095 nave nuze (community solidarity groups) by helping members support vulnerable children identified by communities, including internally
displaced persons, returnees and orphans. Some nawe nuze with more than 70 per cent female membership were led by girl-mothers, girls living with HIV/AIDS or other vulnerable and at-risk girls who benefited from vocational training and support for income generation activities for their self-promotion and autonomy. In total, 6,020 girls were assisted through this project in Bujumbura Mairie, Bujumbura Rural, Gitega (centre) and Ruyigi (east) provinces.

Given the need for continuous advocacy for affected children, UNICEF Burundi coordinated the monitoring of and response to grave violations against children's rights. This system allowed for informed advocacy and response efforts to child protection issues throughout the reporting period.

To keep children away from risks and violence related to the ongoing crisis, UNICEF Burundi supported the implementation and functioning of 51 child-friendly spaces in Bujumbura, Rumonge (west) and Makamba (west) provinces where 26,625 children accessed recreational activities. Those with specific protection needs, including victims and witnesses of violence and abuse, were referred to appropriate psychosocial and medical services.

In 2016, UNICEF Burundi continued to support the Government Department of Child and Family Welfare with the coordination of the child protection sector. UNICEF’s expertise and leadership helped to update the emergency response action plan and other coordination tools and structures, including the mapping of stakeholders and services, the referral systems and thematic working groups. UNICEF Burundi significantly contributed to the preparation and finalization of the child protection needs assessment for the Humanitarian Needs Overview and the Humanitarian Response Plan for 2017.

OUTPUT 1 Justice for children with child-sensitive procedures and approaches for child victims, witnesses and offenders is functional in Burundi by the end of 2018

Analytical statement of progress:
Despite the negative impact of the ongoing security and political crisis on the child justice sector in Burundi, UNICEF and partners maintained their support to the Government by strengthening the justice system for children. To reinforce the system, UNICEF Burundi supported the training of 200 judges and 250 police officers on international child protection standards and child-friendly justice. UNICEF Burundi provided support to improve the management and governance of re-education centres, including the adoption of operating rules and regulations. Two hundred minors were released, reunified with their families and received social reintegration support, vocational training and psychosocial support.

UNICEF Burundi and partners also faced an increasing number of children in detention after the massive arrests of children and adolescents accused of association with armed groups and allegedly writing on a photo of the President in their textbooks. In total, 246 children, including 27 girls, were detained in 2016. UNICEF support resulted in the release of 96 children, including 44 school boys accused of the textbook writing who were able to return to their classes following a special presidential measure.

Throughout the reporting year, children living in the streets were arrested in groups, detained and forcibly returned to their provinces of origin without adequate reintegration support as part of a Government-led campaign to “clean” the streets. UNICEF Burundi continuously advocated for ending the campaign to allow for sufficient planning and preparation of a more protective process that considers the family tracing, rehabilitation and reintegration of these children.

UNICEF Burundi also supported the Government to prepare and submit the report on the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the African Charter on the
Rights and Welfare of the Child. Following these joint efforts, the Minister of Justice issued a decree requesting the immediate transfer of child offenders to the re-education centres without going through prisons.

**OUTPUT 2 Child Protection System with prevention and response services against violence, abuse and exploitation of children strengthened**

**Analytical statement of progress:**
Community-based CPCs have been strengthened and constitute a cornerstone of the child protection system at the local, communal and provincial levels, including in the current humanitarian context.

UNICEF Burundi supported the scaling up of the CPCs, resulting in a total of 1,832 CPCs revitalized and strengthened countrywide. These community-based structures have played a major role in addressing child protection concerns in a context of limited formal protection services, including the identification and prevention of risks, advocacy and referrals. The commitment of the CPCs has contributed significantly to family tracing and reintegration and the identification of sustainable solutions for children deprived of family care. Some 305 children living in institutions and 152 children living and working in the streets were reunified with their families and foster families with the support of child protection actors.

In 2016, the CPC played a significant role in the socio-economic reintegration of 6,206 at-risk girls, including through income generation activities and vocational training in Bujumbura, Gitega and Ruyigi provinces.

Alleged trafficking of hundreds of girls to Middle Eastern countries was reported in April 2016. While fewer cases were reported at the end of the year after intervention by UNICEF and partners, the risks remain high. Building on the public statement by the Minister of Human Rights, Social Affairs and Gender denouncing the trafficking, UNICEF Burundi has continued to strongly advocate for the preventive measures and capacity development of border officials among its priority actions.

UNICEF Burundi provided technical support and equipment to the Child Helpline, which is providing information about appropriate child protection services and referral mechanisms. In 2016, 429 calls were received by the Child Helpline in the two provinces (Bujumbura Mairie and Bujumbura Rural) with 148 cases (34 per cent) referred for follow-up actions.

**OUTPUT 3 Social Protection System developed through initiatives for the reinforcement of the socio-economic capacity of the families and the communities**

**Analytical statement of progress:**
Lack of steady access to public schemes leaves families uncertain during crises. UNICEF Burundi has therefore supported the creation of community-based social protection schemes to mitigate the absence of those services and ensure continuing development for families and communities. *Nawe nuze* saving and loans groups have been organized, through which members of the same village create a group in which the only requirement for participation is to commit to the care and protection of vulnerable children in the community. This initiative contributes to improving the socio-economic situation of vulnerable families. To date, 32,019 caregivers have joined the Nawe Nuze initiative and have saved approximately US$368,739, benefiting 39,652 children.

Women play a key role in the development and protection of children and in regards to social protection schemes that will allow families and communities to prepare for and mitigate risks associated with shocks. However, women face various forms of discrimination based on dominant social norms, including lacking the right to inheritance, which leaves women and
their children largely dependent on their male relatives and husbands. UNICEF Burundi has therefore invested substantially in mothers, considering their long-term impact on their families and communities and given that their role in *nawe nuze* is considered crucial to the initiative’s success. Some of the *nawe nuze* with more than 70 per cent female membership are led by girl-mothers, girls living with HIV/AIDS and other vulnerable and at-risk girls who receive vocational training and support for income generation activities for their self-promotion and autonomy. In total, 6,020 girls benefited from this project in Bujumbura Mairie, Bujumbura Rural, Gitega and Ruyigi provinces.

UNICEF Burundi continued to implement a social enterprise model known as Project Lumiere, delivering affordable, off-grid household energy and developing an integrated, decentralized rural electrification strategy. Despite significant delays caused by the security situation, the project motivated more than 9,830 households to adopt a clean and sustainable lighting system with rechargeable solar lamps.

**OUTPUT 4** Increased national capacity to strengthen birth registration within the civil registration and vital statistics system

**Analytical statement of progress:**
UNICEF Burundi provided substantive support to the Government to establish and run the national civil registration and vital statistic system over the past several years. The process was launched through a comprehensive assessment followed by the adoption of an action plan to enhance the system nationwide. In 2016, the decision of donors to freeze support to Burundi due to the security and political crisis delayed the implementation of the action plan. However, UNICEF Burundi and partners continued to advocate for and explore other opportunities to facilitate birth registration for the maximum number of children, including those who have exceeded the legal registration period.

In this regard, UNICEF Burundi included birth registration in the package of services offered through child-friendly spaces established in Bujumbura and main cities since the onset of the crisis. This allowed 5,600 children to access birth registration services in Bujumbura Mairie and Rumonge provinces.

UNICEF Burundi has also encouraged the Ministry of Interior and the MoPH to work together to build the capacity of birth registration officers and health staff on the use of the mother and child health booklet, which integrates protection, health, nutrition, communication and early child development aspects to boost birth registrations in the Gitega, Kirundo and Muyinga provinces.

**OUTPUT 5** Increased national capacity and delivery of services to ensure child protection from violence, abuse and exploitation in humanitarian situations are sustained and promoted

**Analytical statement of progress:**
The indiscriminate violence related to the ongoing political and security crisis has exacerbated underlying protection issues and plunged the country into an acute protection crisis. Hundreds of thousands of people have fled their homes as grave violations of human rights were reported. UNICEF, along with the Government, is the co-lead of the Child Protection-in-Emergencies Working Group and has developed various strategic partnerships with international NGOs and other civil society organizations that allowed for filling gaps related to limited capacity and the political sensitivity of Government technical structures.

In 2016, UNICEF Burundi ensured weekly coordination meetings that enabled information sharing and response planning in response to challenges related to the political and security crisis in Burundi, as well as to other unpredictable situations affecting children such as floods or displacement.
UNICEF Burundi coordinates the monitoring of and response to grave violations against children’s rights. Strategic and operational partnerships are ensuring appropriate response for referred cases, including services for detained children, support for tracing, reunification or alternative care, and reintegration for unaccompanied and separated children. Children in need of psychosocial support are also now identified in schools, child-friendly spaces and through monitoring, and can receive support through a partnership with a platform of psychosocial actors.

Since the onset of the crisis in 2015, an important number of children came in conflict with the law, with the most common charges being participation in protests or alleged participation in armed groups. Consequentially, the need for child psychosocial support increased sharply. In UNICEF-supported child-friendly spaces in Bujumbura, one in four children reportedly showed signs of psychological trauma. In 2016, UNICEF Burundi supported the implementation and functioning of 51 child-friendly spaces to provide recreation opportunities, documentation and, when necessary, appropriate reference to children affected by the situation in Burundi, including the security and political crisis, floods and displacement. In total in 2016, 26,625 children (one third of them girls) have been received in these child-friendly spaces. UNICEF Burundi also supported training of 200 CPC members and 126 social workers in child protection-in-emergencies. UNICEF also trained partners working on monitoring of grave violations against children in armed conflict.


OUTCOME 4 By 2016, populations in provinces with low access to potable water and basic sanitation have improved access to these services and adopt appropriate hygiene practices.

Analytical statement of progress:
The percentage of the population using improved drinking water sources has steadily increased over the past few years. In 2016, UNICEF Burundi helped 28,000 people (14,215 women and 13,785 men) and five health centres gain access to safe drinking water through the construction of 73 new water points in three cholera-prone provinces with high prevalence of malnutrition. For each water point, a committee of five trained members was put in place to ensure the maintenance and management of the water supply system.

Although access to basic sanitation facilities has improved over the past few years in Burundi, more urgent investments are needed to match the pace of a rapidly growing population and to improve the nutritional status of children under 5 given the high rate of chronic malnutrition (one out of two under-five children is stunted). In 2016, UNICEF Burundi continued to strengthen community ownership and mobilization to improve the sanitation situation in rural areas through CLTS, reaching 731,700 people in eight communes. UNICEF Burundi trained 31 CLTS implementing partners as trainers to scale up the CLTS approach.

WASH-in-schools is critical in Burundi as nearly 55 per cent of schools do not have access to adequate sanitation. In 2016, UNICEF Burundi helped 11,460 children gain access to latrines at school and provided access to safe drinking water to 24 schools. With UNICEF support, 30,700 children learned good hygiene practices through trained school teachers and newly created hygiene clubs in 44 schools.

Burundi’s ongoing political and security crisis, which is linked to the contested presidential electoral process, has plunged the country into a sharp economic decline that is threatening to void previously achieved development gains for women and children. Consequently, UNICEF Burundi’s WASH Workplan for 2016 re-focused on vulnerable provinces, especially those at risk of a cholera outbreak. In 2016, 393 cholera cases were reported, with only two
deaths in four provinces along Lake Tanganyika. UNICEF Burundi supported the Government to contain the outbreak between July and December 2016. During the outbreak, UNICEF trucked safe drinking water to 11,130 people in cholera-affected areas. UNICEF also provided hygiene kits, supported 5,096 people affected by cholera and floods and trained more than 150 community health workers on cholera prevention in Nyanza-Lac District, reaching more than 100,000 people.

The celebration of Global Handwashing Day represented an opportunity for UNICEF to support the Government and partners to raise awareness on the importance of handwashing as an effective prevention measure against cholera and malnutrition in five provinces. More than 23,000 people participated directly in the celebration of Global Handwashing Day in Burundi.

In addition, UNICEF Burundi responded to floods by providing sufficient quantity and quality water to 25,200 displaced people, building adequate sanitation facilities for 3,090 people in displacement sites, and supplying hygiene kits to more than 1,100 households.

The WASH Sector in Burundi is heavily aid dependent and therefore particularly vulnerable in the context of donor pull out. In 2015, 73.8 per cent of the resources allocated to the two WASH ministries came from foreign aid. In 2016, the share of foreign resources within the budgets of the two WASH ministries decreased to 29.4 per cent. As a result, many of the projects funded by donors in 2015 were not renewed in 2016. This may be linked to a general suspension of aid by the main donors, but also delays in the national budget preparation process. UNICEF Burundi engaged more actively in sector coordination following the disengagement of Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), which used to play the role of sector lead. Under the leadership of the Government of Burundi and UNICEF, the monthly WASH-in-emergencies coordination meeting took place and was an important platform for information sharing and stakeholder coordination.

OUTPUT 1 By 2018, 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 handwashing with soap.

Analytical statement of progress:
In 2016, UNICEF Burundi provided access to safe drinking water for an additional 24 primary schools, reaching 18,700 schoolchildren (9,485 girls and 9,215 boys); and 11,460 schoolchildren gained access to gender-segregated latrines with the construction of 22 latrine blocks (132 latrines) equipped with handwashing stands that are connected to rainwater harvesting systems. With UNICEF support, 30,700 children learned good hygiene practices thanks to the training of their school teachers and the creation of hygiene clubs in 44 schools. UNICEF Burundi also started a pilot initiative, School-led Total Sanitation, in three schools to promote behaviour change from schools to communities.

The issue of school girl menstruation remains poorly documented in Burundi. With UNICEF support, a formative study is being conducted to better understand the level of knowledge and management of menstrual hygiene in fundamental schools (up to 15 years old). The results of this study will be available in 2017 and translated into an action plan.

There is no comprehensive data for WASH-in-schools since 2008. In coordination with the Ministry of Education, UNICEF Burundi is conducting a WASH inventory in schools in two provinces. Data is expected in 2017 and will contribute to the ongoing national diagnostic of school infrastructure.
In 2016, UNICEF provided safe drinking water to five health centres, reaching approximately 10,000 patients each month.

**OUTPUT 2** By 2018, 10 per cent of the population without access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation at the national level, has sustainable access to and adopts good hygiene practices including hand washing with soap, treatment and safe storage of household water.

**Analytical statement of progress:**
Universal access to improved drinking water sources and sanitation remains an important challenge, especially in rural areas. In 2016, UNICEF Burundi provided access to safe drinking water for 28,000 people (14,215 women and 13,785 men) through the construction of 73 new water points in three provinces. For each water point, a trained committee of five members was established to ensure the sustainable maintenance and management of the water supply systems.

Scaling up of CLTS continued in eight communes (more than 590 villages with 731,700 people) to ensure the open defecation free status of three provinces.

UNICEF Burundi is currently conducting a rapid participatory assessment of CLTS to evaluate the existing policies, budget, coordination and monitoring and sustainability system at the national and sub-national levels under the leadership of the MoPH. This assessment will guide future implementation and scale-up of CLTS in Burundi.

UNICEF strengthened the promotion of good hygiene practices, including handwashing and safe water transport and storage at the household level through the capacity development of community health workers in cholera- and malnutrition-prone areas, and reached some 100,000 people.

**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:**
Burundí’s legal framework for the WASH sector is largely implemented and the country adopted major global principles, including ‘Sanitation and Water for All’. The Government adheres to the eThekwini Declaration (2008) through the allocation of 0.5 per cent of its gross domestic product for sanitation and hygiene. In 2016, UNICEF Burundi supported representatives from the two line ministries to participate in the Sanitation and Water for All meeting in Addis Ababa.

UNICEF Burundi has been more engaged in the coordination of the WASH sector since the sector lead (GIZ) has had a more limited presence in Burundi (due to the evacuation of their international staff to Kigali in May 2015). Under the leadership of the Government of Burundi and UNICEF, the monthly WASH-in-emergencies coordination meeting has become the platform for information sharing and stakeholder coordination.

UNICEF Burundi supported the participation of three key CLTS partners in the training of trainers in Senegal, which included participants from other sub-Sahara African countries. Back in Burundi, these trainers conducted a national CLTS training for 31 additional national CLTS facilitators to refresh their knowledge and techniques for quality implementation.

The roll-out of real-time data collection through RapidPro was delayed due to the internal restructuring of the lead ministry.
OUTPUT 4  By 2018, 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:
By pushing thousands of people to relocate as internally displaced persons, the current crisis has added further strain to existing water and sanitation infrastructure, both for host communities and displaced populations, and exposed these populations to health risks. In 2015, almost half of the 398 reported cases of cholera were registered in the Nyanza-Lac District due to mass displacements to Tanzania. In 2016, 393 cholera cases were reported, with two deaths in four provinces along Lake Tanganyika.

As WASH-in-emergencies sector lead, UNICEF Burundi ensured the coordination of the WASH response to the cholera outbreak in close coordination with the health sector. A total of 11,130 people in cholera-affected areas received safe drinking water through water trucking. With UNICEF support, 5,096 people affected by cholera and floods benefited from hygiene kits and hygiene promotion, and more than 150 community health workers were trained on cholera prevention in Nyanza-Lac District, reaching more than 100,000 people. After four weeks without any reported case, the MoPH officially declared the end of the cholera outbreak in December 2016.

Floods and other crises linked to climate change continued to pose a threat to the existing water supply and sanitation infrastructure in some areas. In partnership with the Burundian Red Cross, UNICEF Burundi provided safe water to 5,000 people and adequate sanitation facilities to 3,090 people in flood displacement sites. In total, 100 households affected by either cholera or floods received hygiene kits.

In addition, Burundi continued to receive Congolese refugees. UNICEF and its partner, COPED, completed the construction of a new gravity water supply system following a request by UNHCR. The system serves a nursery, a primary school and a high school in the camp, benefiting 9,000 refugees, including 1,900 women and 5,990 children.

In 2016, UNICEF Burundi also supported six child-friendly spaces with materials to ensure the safe transportation and storage of drinking water, regular handwashing and a space where 2,250 children can play and learn.

With UNICEF Burundi support, 15 people from the Government and NGOs were trained on WASH-in-emergencies.

OUTCOME 5 Communities adopt practices that are conducive to health, nutrition, education and child and women protection against abuse, exploitation and violence by 2018

Analytical statement of progress:
Since 2015, street protests, political violence and sharp economic decline have led to the further deterioration of the fragile living environment of Burundi’s children. Even communications channels did not escape the scourge of political violence, as private radio stations were burnt or closed. To promote positive behaviour change, UNICEF Burundi explored new communication channels such as proximity community radios and manual energy powered radios with pre-recorded content. UNICEF Burundi also expanded the already successful use of interactive theatres and of U-Report, a mobile-based system that allows youth and community volunteers to speak out on social issues through regular polls. However, given the tense political/security situation, UNICEF Burundi critically analysed U-Report content so as not to expose youth.
In 2016, UNICEF Burundi continued to encourage the adoption of healthy behaviour in health and nutrition, hygiene and sanitation practices, the prevention of violence against children and the promotion of life skills through different communication platforms and media channels.

In addition to existing listening groups, additional groups were identified in Rumonge Province, and light mothers were provided with manual powered radios. This approach facilitated community discussions around child survival topics. In response to the spread of the cholera outbreak, special emphasis was put on cholera prevention along the shores of Lake Tanganyika in collaboration with WASH and health programmes.

Although representing 65 per cent of the population, Burundian youth play a marginal role in society and face high unemployment, which deprives them of economic opportunities. Youth also bear the brunt of the current security/political crisis, as many are suspected of association with opposition movements and are perceived as a threat or potential reserve for rebel armed groups.

In 2016, UNICEF Burundi built strategic partnerships with international and grassroots NGOs, as well as faith-based organizations, to address conflict and promote community dialogue. Among others, the Centre Ubuntu reached 19,224 people (2,888 men, 2,971 women, 6,886 girls and 6,479 boys) through a combination of participatory theatre, interactive performances and a psychosocial narrative. UNICEF Burundi provided technical support to develop life skills and adolescent competencies, which were complemented by Ubuntu values. The project was first funded with Peacebuilding Education and Advocacy funds. Thereafter, based on a positive evaluation of the first phase, UNICEF Burundi mobilized other peacebuilding funds to pursue the activities through the Office of the United Nations Resident Coordinator.

The project produced notable outcomes in promoting communities’ peaceful cohabitation and fostering the active participation of community members to solve their own problems. The changes produced appear to be the result of the teaching of positive values, learning about peaceful conflict resolution, asking for forgiveness and the involvement of both residents and returnees in project activities.

Interpersonal change also seems to be a result of shared livelihood activities. Additional improvement in the behaviour of some individuals appears to have had a positive impact on friends, family members and the wider community.

**OUTPUT 1** At least 60 per cent of children in provinces of geographical focus area are fed according to the guidelines on infant and young children feeding practices, 60 per cent of children under 5 sleep under long-lasting insecticide-treated nets, 60 per cent of parents are able to recognize signs of danger and adopt key practices on the treatment of diarrhoea with oral rehydrations salts and zinc and 60 per cent of pregnant women use the preventing mother-to-child transmission services in health structures by 2018.

**Analytical statement of progress:**
In the provinces of Kayanza, Kirundo and Muyinga, 3,487 persons (1,525 men, 1,855 women, 52 boys and 55 girls) participated in community dialogues to discuss the adoption of key family practices in health and nutrition, including the importance of exclusive breastfeeding until six months, the use of long-lasting insecticidal nets, handwashing with soap and running water, recognition of danger signs and complementary feeding after six months.
Interpersonal communication and door-to-door approaches were used to strengthen communication efforts on key practices in the provinces of Makamba and Rumonge, where 30,500 households (approximately 150,000 people) were reached by 144 peer educators (88 men and 56 women). UNICEF Burundi supported the Government Communication, Information, Education and Population (CIEP) Division to empower 576 community health workers to promote key family practices in their respective communities.

UNICEF Burundi conducted a four-day workshop on C4D-in-emergencies for 28 key partners in the WASH, health and protection sectors. The objective was to strengthen the capacity of existing emergency partners in C4D to ensure better preparedness and response to infectious diseases such as cholera, measles and other emerging diseases. Using the human rights-based approach, the workshop allowed partners to acquire basic knowledge to engage communities to respond to emergencies.

UNICEF Burundi continued to support national broadcasting of radio programmes developed by CIEP to complement Agashi, a very popular radio soap opera, with the objective of contributing to the reduction of mortality and morbidity of children under 5.

In addition to the existing listening groups, additional groups were identified in the Rumonge Province, and light mothers were provided with manual powered radios. This approach facilitated community discussions around child survival topics.

UNICEF Burundi also supported social mobilization events in 2016, including the African Vaccination Week and MCHWs, and provided technical support to the development of the HPV communication strategy, which involved the training of 2,069 stakeholders to support social mobilization activities for the introduction of the HPV vaccine.

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 improved good hygiene practices (latrine use, handwashing, treatment) by 2018

Analytical statement of progress:

In 2016, strategic partnerships with grassroots’ organizations were established to raise awareness of the importance of handwashing with water and soap at critical moments, good hygiene and sanitation, as well as cholera prevention through door-to-door and interpersonal communication and participative interactive theatre. This approach encouraged communities to raise local issues and find subsequent community solutions.

A special emphasis was put on the prevention of cholera in the provinces of Makamba and Rumonge due to the recurrent cholera outbreaks in the region and its proximity to the Tanzanian border. Indeed, there are important cross-border traffic activities along the Tanzanian border due to a Burundian-populated refugee camp and cholera cases.

A combination of participatory theatre, radio programmes and door-to-door activities allowed communities to be reached with messaging related to cholera prevention, basic sanitation and improving hygiene practices. Theatre presentations organized by the Ninde (meaning ‘what is it?’) local group addressed various issues relating to hygiene and the prevention of diseases transmitted via dirty hands, targeting both primary school-aged children and provincial authorities. Public contests were organized to assess the level of understanding.

In schools, 24,088 students (12,364 girls and 11,724 boys) and 407 teachers from 36 schools were taught about the importance of washing hands at critical moments, how to wash hands, how to avoid diarrhoea and how to prevent cholera. A total of 216 hygiene
clubs initiated by students under the supervision of teachers engaged in peer education and organized debates and contests on hygiene and sanitation practices.

The Province of the Anglican Church of Burundi reinforced cholera prevention in Makamba Province by mobilizing communities, churches, schools and ‘peace villages’ (villages with repatriated people). In total, 10,498 people were reached by 60 peer educators and are now aware of cholera prevention methods and the importance of washing hands with soap and water at critical times.

In response to the cholera outbreak in the provinces of Bujumbura Rural and Bujumbura Mairie, UNICEF Burundi built a partnership with the Burundian Red Cross to raise awareness on cholera prevention at the household level through door-to-door activities.

As part of support for CLTS in the provinces of Makamba, Karuzi and Rutana, the Tubiyage Theatre Group organized 298 interactive theatre performances on hygiene and sanitation with UNICEF Burundi support, reaching 76,230 people (22,515 men, 20,626 women, 16,612 boys and 16,477 girls), including more than 455 local authorities. Following the performances, 2,457 people made a commitment on how they would try to solve environmental and hygiene problems.

OUTPUT 3 Protection networks, community leaders, local administration, religious groups and partner NGOs are involved in activities of prevention, protection from violence, sexual exploitation and child labour and the promotion of systematic and retrospective birth registration by the end of 2018

Analytical statement of progress:
UNICEF Burundi, in collaboration with government counterparts, notably the CIEP, strengthened the capacities of CPCs to foster discussion through radio listening group activities on child protection, such as, for example, the importance of the role of the family and prevention of child abandonment. In 2016, a group of 1,034 members (412 men, 404 women, 93 boys and 125 girls) from 269 CPCs of 11 communes of Gitega Province were trained on different issues related to child protection and 33 radio broadcasts were produced and aired to support the work of CPCs in their respective communities.

With support from UNICEF Burundi, the Tubiyage Theatre Group used interactive theatres in the provinces of Ngozi, Gitega and Muyinga to raise awareness of the fight against sexual and gender-based violence and stigma and discrimination against children affected and infected by HIV/AIDS, as well as Batwa children, albino children and children living with disabilities. In total, 6,627 people (2,219 men, 2,313 women, 1,016 boys and 1,079 girls) participated in 36 interactive theatre sessions.

Gender-based violence was discussed in the provinces of Kirundo, Ruyigi, Bubanza and Bujumbura Mairie to raise the awareness of community members. More than 392 acts of narrative theatre were publically performed, engaging 12,391 people (3,823 men, 3,539 women, 2,667 boys and 2,362 girls) who benefited from thought-provoking and life-changing interactions. Community members learned to recognize six different forms of gender-based violence, including physical violence, psychological abuse, sexual violence, social violence, economic/financial violence and rape. The community members committed to fighting gender-based violence within households and at the community level. Thus, in the second part of the narrative theatre—interaction with the community—392 participants (129 men, 116 women, 76 boys and 71 girls) expressed themselves by proposing solutions and alternative scenarios to gender-based violence issues presented during the performances.
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 who are out of school in targeted areas have access to life skills activities including HIV/AIDS prevention and peacebuilding by the end of 2018

Analytical statement of progress:
Community-based social mobilization and dialogue, especially with youth, is a great vector for peacebuilding and social cohesion within communities. In 2016, UNICEF Burundi built strategic partnerships with international and grassroots NGOs, as well as faith-based organizations, to address conflict resolution and promote community dialogue.

The Centre Ubuntu reached 19,224 people (2,888 men, 2,971 women, 6,886 girls and 6,479 boys) through a combination of participatory theatre, interactive performances and psychosocial narrative.

In partnership with the NGO Refugee Education Trust, UNICEF Burundi developed a project to engage the community to reduce the rate of drop out among schoolchildren in the provinces with the highest rates.

The Burundian Scout Association and the Province of the Anglican Church of Burundi integrated the life skills modules into their activities and conducted HIV prevention campaigns, gender-based violence education campaigns and early pregnancy prevention education. The ‘Know your HIV Status’ campaign resulted in 16,108 youth getting tested for HIV to determine their status.

More than 79 per cent of 23,770 youths (14,163 girls and 9,607 boys) regularly participated in group sessions on life-skills capacity-building activities under the guidance and with the technical support of 120 peer educators trained by the Province of the Anglican Church of Burundi in the provinces of Rumonge and Nyanza-Lac. In Makamba, the province with has the highest number of internally displaced persons, 70 life-skills peer educators trained 7,027 young leaders and teenagers (3,807 females and 3,220 males) on making informed choices regarding their well-being, health and safety.

In the provinces of Muyinga, Gitega and Bujumbura Mairie, a network of ‘Permanent Community Clubs’ developed by the Scouts regularly reached 4,500 youth and adolescents through discussions animated by 450 peer educators. The aim was to create a positive environment for youth to strengthen social cohesion, while avoiding negative peer pressure to join youth gangs. Youth have provided testimonies on how the community clubs have reduced their vulnerability to peer pressure (in relation to drugs, alcohol, premature pregnancy, etc.) and increased their ability to resolve conflicts in their community.

In Bujumbura Rural Province, Norwegian Church Aid invested in conflict prevention among youths with a special emphasis on strengthening entrepreneurship and empowerment. Norwegian Church Aid developed the capacity of 515 youths (215 girls and 300 boys) in entrepreneurship and business, complemented by savings and credit training on micro-projects that involve a self-financing strategy. A total of 382 youths (139 girls and 243 boys) received training in occupations and professions that were identified as good business ventures in the local market (based on the results of a market study). To complement this, Norwegian Church Aid trained 60 youths (24 girls and 36 boys) on the peaceful resolution of conflicts. Saving and credit groups were formed to create a spirit of mutual aid and solidarity around financially empowering activities. Savings and credit groups are maturing, as demonstrated by 15 out of 29 groups (51.7 per cent), which have entered the lending phase.
Search for Common Ground focused on capacity building of youth and adolescents, helping them develop skills in peaceful conflict resolution. A total of 108 boys and 26 girls were trained on peaceful conflict resolution by youth mentors.

**OUTCOME 6** National monitoring and evaluation structures provide reliable data for monitoring the Millennium Development Goals and other national goals and advocacy for children and women by the end of 2016

**Analytical statement of progress:**
Child-sensitive public policy making is challenging in Burundi, a highly aid-dependent country, characterized by widespread vulnerability and poverty, limited (and decreasing) fiscal space, political instability and civil unrest.

The reduction of aid flows in the context of the current security and political crisis, coupled with rapid economic decline in a country where more than six people in 10 already live below the national poverty line, could deprive thousands of poor people, especially children, access to basic social services. Indeed, in 2015 nearly half of the credited state budget (49.5 per cent) was financed by foreign aid. In 2016, this rate dropped drastically due to donor aid cuts, making the 2016 state budget lower than that of 2008 despite years of constant economic growth prior to the current crisis. Children are the most affected by the consequences of the crisis as domestic and external allocations to key social sector ministries drastically fell in 2016.

Considering that research is one the key pillars influencing the qualitative, equitable and socially responsible planning and decision-making of key institutions in all aspects of children’s lives, a key achievement of 2016 was the launching of Burundi’s third Demographic and Health Survey led by ISTEEBU in cooperation with ICF Macro. UNICEF Burundi supported the coordination of actors and successfully advocated to initiate data collection in 2016 despite the ongoing political/security crisis.

The DHS III will help to measure programme achievements in key sectors, including health, nutrition, education and child protection and will inform evidence-based planning for UNICEF’s next programme cycle, as well as the UNDAF 2019–2023.

In collaboration with the Government, sister United Nations agencies and other partners, UNICEF Burundi strongly supported the periodic review documentation of the UNDAF and the development of the UNDAF Joint Working Plan for 2017–2018. Furthermore, UNICEF contributed to key United Nations system coordination activities through the UNCT Group for Results, UNDAF thematic groups and the Programme Management Team.

In line with the UNDAF two-year extension (2017–2018), UNICEF Burundi prepared another application for the extension of its current programme cycle by two years, until the end of 2018, and the country programme document planning timelines were adjusted, resulting in the postponement of the review of the current UNICEF Burundi programme theory, including sectorial theories of change and action.

To ensure evidence-based advocacy, the 2016 budget briefs and the note on socio-economic vulnerability were used to advocate for donor support and to sensitize the Government on the risk of the current crisis voiding development results achieved during the decade of relative stability. The briefs were instrumental to informing the dialogue within the UNCT and with donors about the need to protect investments in child survival, development and protection.

Furthermore, UNICEF Burundi supported political dialogue through the high-level forum, Socio-economic Consultation on Burundi, which took place in Geneva on 7 and 8 November
2016 and was hosted by the Government of Switzerland in its capacity as the chair of the Burundi Configuration in UNICEF Headquarters. Participants included the UNCT, international financial institutions (the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund and the African Development Bank) and the European Union as an observer. The purpose of the meeting was to exchange information on the socio-economic situation in Burundi and to seek alignment among multilateral actors. Four social sectors were selected for priority action: education; health and nutrition; agriculture and food security; and displacement, returns and early recovery.

Following the sudden closure of Burundi’s four main independent radio stations in 2015 and the establishment and growth of other radio filling the media void, UNICEF Burundi reassessed the media landscape and engaged in short-term partnerships with six other radio stations, with a longer-term view of building a network of child-friendly radios committed to increasing media space on children’s issues starting in 2017. Training on ethical reporting on children’s issues was also conducted with media still operating in the country to ensure that reporting on conflict-related issues involving children does not adversely affect or harm children.

National Children’s Forum elections were successfully held, with children elected at village (hill), commune and provincial levels to represent other children and relay their concerns to high-level authorities and other decision makers.

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 2018.

Analytical statement of progress:
Due to competing government priorities and given that most objectives were not achieved and that new data is lacking, the Burundi Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper II (2012–2016) was extended until the end of 2018. Subsequently, all national strategic documents have been extended.

In 2016, UNICEF Burundi continued to closely cooperate with and provide technical support to ISTEEBU in key areas such as health, nutrition, child protection, WASH and cross-sectoral areas, regarding quality research and statistics. As a result—and despite the ongoing security/political crisis that hampered the overall realization of planned interventions—ISTEEBU further improved its contribution to existing coordination and monitoring mechanisms of key national strategies and policies concerning children, youth and women. UNICEF Burundi has been one of the lead agencies contributing to key interventions of the Sectoral Group on Statistics, aiming to further enhance the quality of data and information for monitoring Burundi’s key strategies and policies, including its Vision 2025, CSLP II and the Millennium Development Goals. The ISTEEBU-United Nations Joint Statistical Programme signed in 2014 to this effect has served as a basis for continuously enhancing ISTEEBU’s commitment to quality data pertaining to children, youth and women, as well as key demographic and macro-economic data, with a focus on equity. To further enhance capacities in baselining and monitoring the Sustainable Development Goal indicators, UNICEF Burundi supported ISTEEBU’s participation in the 47th session of the United Nations Statistical Commission.

UNICEF Burundi continued to support the national Technical Committee on Statistical Information, which is comprised of ISTEEBU and all line ministries, for planning key quality research and statistics and preparing the 2016–2017 workplan. In line with the Committee’s planning priorities, UNICEF Burundi further supported ISTEEBU to develop partnerships with sectoral management information systems (mainly with the education and health sectors) in
the areas of methodological discussion and data exchange to feed information into national databases.

UNICEF Burundi heavily supported the coordination of actors and successfully advocated for the start of DHS III data collection in 2016 despite the ongoing crisis. DHS III was conducted by ISTEEBU in cooperation with ICF Macro and will help to measure programme achievements in key sectors including health, nutrition, education and child protection, while also informing evidence-based planning for UNICEF’s next programme cycle and the UNDAF 2019–2023.

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 2018.

Analytical statement of progress:
To ensure high-quality results-based planning and monitoring, the planning and monitoring section provided continued support to programme sections in the development of the Country Office 2016–2017 Rolling Workplan and the monitoring of its implementation.

The planning and monitoring section was responsible for the implementation of the programme mid-year and annual review, with a focus on measuring progress achieved against planned results. Two rounds of joint field monitoring missions were conducted in collaboration with the Government’s Technical Monitoring Group and all line ministries in May and November 2016, to assess progress achieved for children and women and engage stakeholders in the achievement of results.

In collaboration with the Government, United Nations sister agencies and other partners, UNICEF Burundi strongly supported the periodic review documentation of the UNDAF, as well as the development of the UNDAF Joint Working Plan for 2017–2018. Furthermore, UNICEF contributed to key United Nations system coordination activities through the UNCT Group for Results, UNDAF thematic groups and the Programme Management Team.

The planning and monitoring team was instrumental to the sound financial monitoring and quality assurance of donor reports, resulting in high quality reports, zero delays in reporting and budget utilization as of 31 December 2016 (after re-phasing) of 99 per cent regular resources funds, 100 per cent other resources funds and 100 per cent other resources emergency funds. The planning and monitoring team consistently facilitated the quality assurance of programme cooperation agreements and played a leading role in HACT quality assurance and monitoring. Throughout the year, 152 per cent of programmatic visits, 79 per cent of scheduled audits and 48 per cent of planned spot checks were conducted. The planning and monitoring section led the development of the annual management plan and the regular update of key performance management indicators presented quarterly in CMTs, as well as accurate and timely inputs to key Virtual Integrated System of Information/Results Assessment Module planning and reporting tools, dissemination of up-to-date data from recent research and surveys, and sectoral management information systems, by developing a periodic factsheet entitled ‘Burundi at a glance’.

In line with the UNDAF two-year extension (2017–2018), the planning and monitoring section prepared another application for extension of the current programme cycle by two years, until the end of 2018, and the CPD planning timelines were adjusted. This resulted in the postponement of the review of the current UNICEF Burundi programme theory, including sectorial theories of change and action. Moreover, the planning and monitoring section substantially contributed to the implementation of the recommendations of the 2015 audit.
OUTPUT 3 By 2018, the right of children to expression is progressively fulfilled and donors, authorities and other stakeholders and duty bearers are increasingly aware of the situation of children and women in Burundi, especially the most vulnerable.

Analytical statement of progress:
In 2016, UNICEF Burundi developed its country office-level communications and public advocacy strategy, in line with the Global Communication and Public Advocacy Strategy, and developed a digital communications strategy and a closed-door advocacy strategy for private engagement with ministers on key priority issues.

Reputation management in the context of child rights violations remained key. Through close collaboration with the UNICEF Burundi child protection section, media, the UNICEF Private Fund-raising and Partnerships Division and the Eastern and Southern Africa Regional Office, UNICEF quickly ensured space for its position on the right to education in top-tier international media, including Liberation, Agence France Presse, Radio France International and Neue Zürcher Zeitung, with position tweets headlining under the #Burundi hashtag for days.

Following the sudden closure of Burundi’s four main independent radio stations in 2015 and the establishment and growth of other radio filling the media void, UNICEF reassessed the media landscape and engaged in short-term partnerships with six other radio stations. Training on ethical reporting on children's issues was also conducted with media still operating in the country to ensure reporting on conflict-related issues involving children does not adversely affect or harm children.

Building on UNICEF Burundi’s existing child-led advocacy approach, 22 new child journalists were trained in basic journalism techniques, conflict-sensitive reporting, advocacy through photojournalism and digital communications. The aim was to bring real-time children’s impressions from the field directly to UNICEF followers in the country and beyond, all while ensuring children are not exposed to security risks linked to reporting in an increasingly difficult operating environment for media. Real-time radio and social media activities were conducted, reaching hundreds of thousands of radio listeners and Facebook users.

The National Children's Forum elections were successfully held, with children elected at village (hill), commune and provincial levels to represent other children and relay their concerns to high-level authorities and other decision makers.

UNICEF Burundi’s Facebook page became the sixth most read Facebook page in the country, growing by more than 40 per cent in 2016 alone and solidifying UNICEF’s position as the leading voice for children in Burundi. UNICEF Burundi also launched its own Instagram account to coincide with UNICEF’s 70th anniversary, further expanding its digital presence.

Engagement with influencers continued and as part of the roll-out of #ForEveryChild, a new influencer, an Olympic athlete, was engaged as a ‘Champion for Children’ to help amplify child protection messages, especially for the most vulnerable, through traditional and social media.

OUTPUT 4 By the 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:
Leveraging innovation is challenging in Burundi where widespread energy poverty, weak infrastructure and limited communication channels severely limit service delivery and access to information. The mobile penetration rate stands at 28 per cent and only 3 per cent of the population has access to the central electricity grid. The situation of social infrastructure is equally grim: nearly 96 per cent of primary schools, 71 per cent of health centres and 52 per cent of district hospitals remained without electricity in 2014.

UNICEF Burundi has been integrating innovation—in the form of new technologies, products, partnerships and approaches—into its programmes to deliver better results for children.

Key achievements were realized in mobile-based data collection and reporting using the RapidPro platform. The application for monitoring cholera outbreaks has been particularly relevant within the emergency. The cholera system routinely monitors the incidence of the disease at the community level and sends alerts to the district, province and central levels for immediate follow-up by a supervisor.

To enable youth and community engagement, U-Report was scaled up to 66,648 users. Ten polls were launched on various topics, ranging from access to health services to peacebuilding, handwashing and opportunities for young people. Results were used to assess community attitudes and service delivery and to share critical information and positive behaviour messages with U-Reporters.

The pilot school in Busebwa was equipped with a large-scale solar system for powering 11 classrooms, an administrative block and a computer and laboratory room. Solar panels were also procured for the next phase of Project Lumiere—a social enterprise model for delivering off-grid energy supply to rural households—to replace the current pedal-powered generators as a more modern energy technology. Currently implemented with 54 community groups, Project Lumiere has benefited more than 10,000 households, including 30,000 children. Furthermore, a third Digital Drum—solar-powered computer kiosk—was installed in the Ruyigi re-education centre to provide informal learning opportunities to children in conflict with the law.

To support and scale up innovation, two new partnerships were established with the NGO Libraries Without Borders for an ICT-in-education pilot and with the Free University of Brussels for an impact evaluation of Project Lumiere.

OUTPUT 5 By 2016, social policies, including the strategy of implementation of the national social protection policy, taking into account the specific needs of women and children, are developed and implemented

Analytical statement of progress:
UNICEF Burundi is the sector lead among financial and technical partners on social protection. Through an ongoing policy dialogue with the Government on public finance for children, UNICEF Burundi was a key advocate for preventing child-sensitive budget lines from being cut since the onset of the crisis.

Although data availability and accuracy have constituted a general problem in Burundi over the past decade, the current volatile situation, coupled with a lack of transparency of key government institutions, further hampers access to quality data and information. UNICEF Burundi focused on gathering information on the socio-economic situation to support emergency preparedness activities. A simulation of the impact of the current crisis was planned for 2016 to provide relevant information on the potential impact of the current crisis.
on social sectors based on different scenarios. Due to the very sensitive political situation, this activity could not be implemented.

UNICEF Burundi has maintained a policy dialogue with the World Bank to develop an inclusive national cash transfer programme. The World Bank board approved this national cash transfer programme at the end of 2016 for US$40 million, targeting 30,000 households in four provinces.

**OUTPUT 6** By 2018, strategic research, studies, surveys, assessments and evaluations are conducted and disseminated to generate knowledge and evidence about the situation of children, young people and women and contribute to advocate for the development and implementation of programmes and policies to achieve the best results for children, young people and women with equity.

**Analytical statement of progress:**
In 2016, UNICEF Burundi conducted the Multiple Overlapping Deprivation Analysis. Preliminary data was validated in December 2016 and showed that 69 per cent of children live below the national poverty line. The results will inform the new generation of the national strategic document (the next Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper) as well as the UNICEF Burundi situation analysis update.

Providing evidence for advocacy, the 2016 budget briefs for health, education and WASH and the note on socio-economic vulnerability have been used to advocate for donor support and to sensitize the Government on the risk of the current crisis voiding the development results achieved in the recent years. The budget briefs were instrumental to informing dialogue with United Nations agencies, international financial institutions and donors on the need to protect investments in child survival, development and protection.

UNICEF Burundi supported political dialogue through the ‘Socio-economic Consultation on Burundi’, which took place in Geneva on 7 and 8 November 2016 and was hosted by the Government of Switzerland in its capacity as the chair of the Burundi Configuration in UNICEF Headquarters. Participants included the UNCT, international financial institutions (the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund and the African Development Bank) and the European Union as an observer. The purpose of the meeting was to exchange information on the socio-economic situation in Burundi and to seek alignment among the multilateral actors. Four social sectors were selected for priority action: education; health and nutrition; agriculture and food security; and displacement, returns and early recovery.

### Document Centre

#### Evaluation and research

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