Executive summary

Burundi has been plunged into a protracted crisis following the attempted coup d’état in 2015. The vast majority of the country’s population has been impacted by the subsequent economic crisis, which has seen 1 in 20 Burundians taking refuge in a neighbouring country or being internally displaced.

The European Union (EU) suspended direct financial support to the Government, including budget support, in March 2016. Nonetheless, 28.4 per cent of the State budget is financed from external sources (project aid) – a smaller contribution than in 2016 (30.2 per cent) and 2015 (49.5 per cent).

The Government intends to rely on its own resources and has made no indication that it is likely to provide support to an already very vulnerable population. Even before the current crisis, Burundi was already one of the poorest countries in the world, occupying the 184th place (out of 188 countries) on the Human Development Index in 2016.

In 2017, UNICEF Burundi responded to the protracted crisis by strengthening the resilience of existing services, which remain the best channel to deliver basic services to women and children.

UNICEF Burundi supported analysis such as the Multiple Overlapping Deprivation Analysis (MODA), conflict analysis, Gender Programmatic Review, preliminary results of the 2016–2017 Demographic and Health Survey (DHS III), and UNICEF 2017 Situation Analysis of Women and Children (SITAN). These analyses provided valuable evidence for the development of the United Nations Common Country Analysis (CCA) and UNICEF Burundi’s new Country Programme Cooperation (CPD 2019–2023).

The most important achievements in 2017 include:

- Net progress was made nationwide on births assisted by a skilled attendant (85 per cent according to DHSIII) as well as on the proportion of newborns who were HIV-exposed receiving antiretroviral (ARV) medication for prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV (PMTCT), with a coverage increase from 40 per cent in 2014 to 95 per cent in 2017 (according to the Health Information Management System).

- Between January and October, a total of 43,444 children under 5 years of age with severe acute malnutrition (SAM) (22,524 girls and 20,920 boys) were admitted and treated in health facilities across the country. With joint efforts by UNICEF Burundi and the Ministry of Health (MOH), performance indicators were maintained within standards.

- UNICEF Burundi handed over 162 fully equipped classrooms to the Ministry of Education (MOE) and organized a back-to-school campaign reaching 1,039,000 fundamental school children in vulnerable provinces, as well as a nationwide distribution
of textbooks for 1.72 million children in Grade 7 and 1,056,000 children in Grade 8. This large-scale distribution was aimed at alleviating education costs for families under pressure and fostering access to education and retention of students.

- Following the 2016 decree for a systematic transfer of children in contact with the law to rehabilitation facilities, the time children spent in police cells was significantly reduced. In 2017, UNICEF Burundi provided legal assistance to 288 of the 298 children who entered the rehabilitation centres, 130 of whom were subsequently released.

The most significant shortfalls in 2017 were:

- Due to funding constraints, UNICEF Burundi distributed school kits through the back-to-school campaign in seven provinces, instead of nationwide, and trained only 719 educators in early childhood development, instead of 1,500 as planned. For the same reason, UNICEF Burundi trained only 129 health workers (19 per cent) on birth registration, while initial planning called for training 60 per cent of them.

- UNICEF Burundi continued to face human resources challenges, including difficulties related to the recruitment of highly qualified French-speaking candidates to a D level non-family duty station.

The most important collaborative relationships formed by UNICEF Burundi included:

- Since 2016, UNICEF Burundi has been the managing agent for the Global Partnership for Education (GPE) and has signed collaborative agreements with the GAVI Alliance and the German Development Bank (KfW).

- Through advocacy for an integrated approach around the humanitarian-development nexus, UNICEF Burundi was able to attract additional funding and donor support, notably from the Government of Belgium, the United Kingdom’s Department for International Development, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the United Nations Peace-building Fund (PBF).

- Under the leadership of the Resident Coordinator, United Nations agencies are developing a more coherent approach as well as more joint United Nations proposals and common plans. These common efforts included the Humanitarian Needs Overview (HNO), the Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP), the Repatriation of Burundian Refugees in Tanzania Plan and the Joint Response Plan for Returnees and Refugees. In addition, several joint concept notes were submitted to PBF, Human Security Trust Fund (HSTF), and the EU. The CCA is currently in the process of being finalized and will feed into the development of the next United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF).

**Humanitarian assistance**

Population movements, both inside and outside Burundi, took place after the 2015 socio-political crisis, creating humanitarian needs for children. A total of 390,914 Burundian refugees are now in the region, the majority of whom (54.6 per cent) are children, while an estimated 200,000 are internally displaced persons registered in 18 provinces (according to the International Organization for Migration [IOM], November 2017), 58 per cent of whom are children.
Furthermore, a depreciating national currency and limited availability of foreign currency has made imports expensive, placing additional pressure on already vulnerable communities. Food insecurity and food prices have risen; this has affected the capacity of households to care for their children.

UNICEF Burundi worked to maintain the resilience of populations and of public service delivery systems while addressing multiple humanitarian situations. As lead or co-lead in five sectors – nutrition; water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH); education; child protection; and health – UNICEF Burundi also supported the most affected populations, particularly women and children, by ensuring access to essential services and information, including for internally displaced persons and new returnees from the United Republic of Tanzania. In close collaboration with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), UNICEF Burundi provided assistance to 13,000 returnees in transit centres and communities of return, especially with WASH, education and child protection services.

In 2017, UNICEF Burundi increased its capacity to respond to the growing number of children affected by humanitarian situations, including children experiencing psychological distress, displaced and returnee children, separated and unaccompanied minors and an increasing number of street children. Critical protection services benefited 21,679 children, 87 per cent of them (18,829) through 51 child-friendly spaces (CFS). UNICEF Burundi has reinforced the monitoring of violations affecting children in the context of the Burundi crisis, including deaths, torture and gender-based violence. In total, 1,091 violations were reported, but only 112 cases could be verified due to the sensitivity of the cases and the difficulty monitors and partners faced in accessing information.

Following the official MOH announcement of the malaria epidemic on 13 March 2017, UNICEF Burundi strategically re-supplied government stocks of essential malaria drugs to ensure that 1,075,000 people, including 825,000 children, received adequate and timely life-saving treatment for malaria and cholera. UNICEF Burundi led the social mobilization efforts and provided more than 21,112 households with key health messages, hygiene promotion and children’s rights. As of October 2017, a decrease in reported cases accompanied the end of the declared epidemic, following a national campaign to distribute long-lasting insecticidal nets in September 2017. According to MOH data, the cumulative number of malaria cases reported during the first 46 weeks of 2017 reached 6,891,291 cases with 3,017 deaths; over the same period in 2016, the number of reported malaria cases was 6,863,285, with 3,288 deaths.

In 2017, hospitals and health centres admitted and treated a total of 43,444 children with severe acute malnutrition (22,524 girls and 20,920 boys). This represents 87 per cent of the expected national caseload. Performance indicators were maintained within standards (89 per cent were cured, 3 per cent died, 5 per cent defaulted and 4 per cent did not respond).

In 2017, Burundi also saw 336 cases of cholera, which were all reported and treated in local health centres. UNICEF Burundi supported MOH’s response to cholera through the provision of cholera treatment kits and improvement of the cholera reporting database. Some 49,000 affected people accessed safe and clean water, including through community-based water infrastructures with UNICEF Burundi support, and 172,000 people received hygiene supplies and life-saving information in areas affected by malaria and cholera.

UNICEF Burundi and MOE provided 68,411 school-aged children (37,562 girls and 30,849 boys), including internally displaced and returnee children, with access to formal and non-formal
learning opportunities. UNICEF Burundi and MOE also rehabilitated 89 damaged classrooms. In addition, a joint action between UNICEF Burundi and UNICEF Tanzania made it possible for 1,323 Burundian student refugees in Tanzanian camps to take their end-of-year exams.

Under the leadership of the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), the 2018 HNO and HRP were finalized. According to the 2018 HNO and HRP, 3.5 million people, including 2 million children, are affected by the ongoing crisis and the associated economic downturn. As a result, 2.3 million people will be targeted by the Humanitarian Country Team, more than double last year's target. In addition, a US$16 million plan to repatriate Burundian refugees in Tanzania and a US$30 million Joint Response Plan for the returnees and refugees were developed under the leadership of UNHCR, bringing the total budget of the 2018 HRP to US$143 million.

Emerging areas of importance

Refugee and migrant children are of key importance for UNICEF Burundi. Since April 2015, Burundi has plunged back into a political-security crisis linked to the disrupted 2015 electoral process. Since the onset of the crisis, about 400,000 Burundians have sought refuge in neighbouring countries (UNHCR, November 2017), while an estimated 200,000 are internally displaced (IOM, November 2017). Following the signature of a voluntary repatriation agreement between authorities in Burundi, Tanzania and UNHCR, it is estimated that 120,000 Burundian refugees, 56 per cent of them children, will return home by December 2018, including 60,000 who will return spontaneously. An additional 50,000 people from the Democratic Republic of the Congo could also find refuge in Burundi due to the escalating violence in the Kasai region and South Kivu province.

To respond to this situation, UNICEF Burundi has finalized a return and reintegration response plan that aims to provide an integrated package of interventions to 60,000 people – half of them children – including refugees and internally displaced persons. In addition to facilitating their reintegration, these interventions are aimed at preserving social cohesion in host communities that have already been overstretched by the ongoing crisis. UNICEF Burundi has also adjusted the protection response plan to ensure that the children of returnees receive appropriate services. In addition, UNICEF Burundi has reinforced child protection monitoring mechanisms to track, report and respond to protection risks faced by children crossing to or from neighbouring countries, including the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Rwanda and Tanzania.

Climate change and children. After successfully piloting a project to use compressed earth blocks for school construction to reduce deforestation, UNICEF Burundi worked with the Ministry of the Environment to integrate these new approaches into national standards for infrastructure building.

Greater focus on the second decade of life. UNICEF Burundi, in partnership with the non-governmental organization (NGO) Centre Ubuntu, implemented interventions with adolescents identified by the community as being in conflict with authorities in order to help communities deal with complex issues relating to returnees and social cohesion. These adolescents and their parents benefited from solidarity and group activities and received training on Ubuntu (‘humanity towards others’) values and life skills, thereby helping them to strengthen their self-awareness, enhance their relationships with others and improve their decision-making skills. In addition, they learned entrepreneurial skills using a community credit and savings model. Anecdotal evidence confirmed increased levels of tolerance, a perceived improvement in social cohesion of communities and a new understanding of gender equality to help prevent violence against
women.

**Support movements to accelerate results for children.** UNICEF Burundi pursued its support to the Scaling-Up Nutrition (SUN) Secretariat positioned at the second vice-presidency level with technical and financial support to the Renewed Efforts Against Child Hunger and undernutrition facilitator. A delegation from Burundi participated in the annual SUN global meeting in Côte d'Ivoire; this provided an important platform for advocacy to increase awareness and common understanding of the urgent need to address stunting in Burundi.

**Summary notes and acronyms**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Acronym</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ARV</td>
<td>antiretroviral</td>
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<tr>
<td>CCA</td>
<td>United Nations Common Country Analysis</td>
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<td>CIEP</td>
<td>Communication, Information, Education and Population Division</td>
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<td>CFS</td>
<td>child-friendly spaces/ or child-friendly schools</td>
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<td>CLTS</td>
<td>community-led total sanitation</td>
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<td>CMT</td>
<td>country management team</td>
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<td>CORDAID</td>
<td>Catholic Organization for Relief and Development Aid</td>
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<td>CPC</td>
<td>child protection committee</td>
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<td>CPCD</td>
<td>Communal Plan for Community Development</td>
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<td>CPD</td>
<td>country programme document</td>
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<td>CPIE</td>
<td>child protection in emergencies</td>
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<td>DCT</td>
<td>direct cash transfer</td>
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<td>DHS</td>
<td>Demographic and Health Survey</td>
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<td>EPI</td>
<td>expanded programme on immunization</td>
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<td>EU</td>
<td>European Union</td>
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<td>GPE</td>
<td>Global Partnership for Education</td>
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<td>HACT</td>
<td>harmonized approach to cash transfers</td>
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<td>HNO</td>
<td>Humanitarian Needs Overview</td>
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<td>HRP</td>
<td>Humanitarian Response Plan</td>
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<td>ICT</td>
<td>information and communication technology</td>
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<td>IDP</td>
<td>internally displaced persons</td>
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<td>iCCM</td>
<td>integrated community case management</td>
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<td>IOM</td>
<td>International Organization for Migration</td>
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<td>ISTEEBU</td>
<td>Burundi Institute of Statistics and Economic Studies (Institut de Statistiques et d'Etudes Economiques du Burundi)</td>
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<td>KfW</td>
<td>German Development Bank</td>
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<td>LTA</td>
<td>long-term agreement</td>
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<td>MOE</td>
<td>Ministry of Education</td>
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<td>MCHW</td>
<td>Mother and Child Health Week</td>
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<td>MOH</td>
<td>Ministry of Health</td>
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<tr>
<td>MODA</td>
<td>Multiple Overlapping Deprivation Analysis</td>
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<tr>
<td>NGO</td>
<td>non-governmental organization</td>
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<tr>
<td>OCHA</td>
<td>Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (United Nations)</td>
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<tr>
<td>ODF</td>
<td>open defecation free</td>
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<tr>
<td>OHCHR</td>
<td>Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights</td>
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<tr>
<td>PBF</td>
<td>United Nations Peace-building Fund</td>
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<tr>
<td>PCA</td>
<td>programme cooperation agreement</td>
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<tr>
<td>PMTCT</td>
<td>prevention of mother-to-child transmission (of HIV)</td>
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<tr>
<td>RET</td>
<td>Refugee Education Trust</td>
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<tr>
<td>SAM</td>
<td>severe acute malnutrition</td>
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In 2017, UNICEF Burundi provided support to MOH and the Communication, Information, Education and Population Division (CIEP). While health workers represent the primary source of health information within the population (knowledge, attitudes and practices survey 2016), opinion leaders are also an effective channel for communicating health messages in Burundi. Therefore, UNICEF Burundi engaged with and built the capacity of 54 religious and community opinion leaders during efforts to introduce new vaccines; of 400 opinion leaders and 400 teachers during malaria prevention campaigns (Mwaro and Bururi province); and of 400 religious leaders and 130 child protection committee (CPC) members during cholera prevention efforts (Cibitoke province).

Under the leadership of UNICEF Burundi, a series of training modules for the promotion of nutrition interventions for stunting reduction were translated into Kirundi following a consultative process with MOH, national and international NGOs and communities. The modules are scheduled to be disseminated in 2018.

UNICEF Burundi strengthened the capacity of MOE’s national technical team to enable it to develop the education transition plan and its action plan, as well as more generally for overall sectoral management and planning. At a local level, UNICEF Burundi supported the training of 266 supervisors and 3,927 teachers on the new fundamental school curriculum, which is expected to improve the quality of teaching and learning. To further enable community engagement and ownership of schools, 1,899 school management committees received training following a revision of the training module to include school performance monitoring tools, school infrastructure maintenance, emergency preparedness and school-level management.

UNICEF Burundi continued to strengthen partners’ capacities for systematic monitoring of violations against children, notably through the training of 5,137 members of child protection committees. In addition, UNICEF Burundi trained 834 community members (including parents and social workers) on psychosocial support, positive parental practices and entrepreneurship.

Evidence generation, policy dialogue and advocacy

UNICEF Burundi supported the Burundi Institute for Statistics and Economic Studies or Institut de Statistiques et d’Etudes Economiques du Burundi (ISTEEBU) in the finalization of DHSIII. This survey will significantly improve data availability for children and women at the national and subnational level.

UNICEF Burundi finalized a Gender Programmatic Review in 2017, published the 2016 MODA
and is currently finalizing the 2017 SITAN. Preliminary results of these reviews and analyses will inform the drafting of the new country programme of cooperation as well as the development of the new CCA and UNDAF).

The 2017 policy briefs on child-relevant sectors provided a basis to advocate for the importance of protecting child-sensitive programmes from government budget cuts in the face of the economic situation. UNICEF Burundi partnered with the World Bank for a health sector public expenditure review to assess the impact of the protracted crisis on the health system; the results of the review are expected to be used to develop a response plan to increase the resilience of the country’s health system.

UNICEF Burundi supported the elaboration of a study on risks and vulnerabilities faced by the education sector. This study informed the national education state report and the ongoing development of the education transition plan.

As a result of advocacy by UNICEF Burundi, the Ministry of Interior granted an extension of special measures for late birth registration, including for internally displaced persons and returnees. child protection committees, solidarity groups and child-friendly spaces seized this opportunity to identify 73,481 unregistered children, 20,329 of whom have already obtained birth certificates. UNICEF Burundi played a key role in convincing protection partners to develop a response plan and a common advocacy strategy in order to prevent massive street population arrests and address the phenomenon of street children.

**Partnerships**

UNICEF Burundi continued to provide technical and financial support to the SUN Secretariat positioned at the second vice-presidency level. UNICEF Burundi and a Burundi delegation composed of civil society and government representatives participated in the SUN Movement Global Gathering (7–9 November 2017, Abidjan, Côte d’Ivoire), which provided an important opportunity to renew partnerships around nutrition.

As part of the Global Health Partnership H6 and in line with A Promise Renewed, UNICEF Burundi developed an innovative mentorship programme for nurses and doctors with the Catholic Organization for Relief and Development Aid (CORDAID) in the province of Gitega (centre) to improve maternal and newborn health care within the context of the KiraMAMA project (healthy mothers).

As the managing agent for the GPE fund, UNICEF Burundi supported the Government in securing a second GPE fund allocation. In 2017, UNICEF Burundi launched an education watch initiative to serve as a coordination platform to bridge activities, such as child-friendly spaces and Schools as Zones of Peace. Education and child protection partners participating in the initiative included Handicap International (technical coordinator), Play International, Libraries Without Borders and the Platform for Psychosocial Support.

A partnership with the National Federation of Organizations Engaged in the Domain of Children in Burundi helped UNICEF Burundi ensure child rights monitoring and, whenever possible, appropriate support to affected children.

Partnership with civil society organizations remained an important way for UNICEF Burundi to deliver services to children and women at the community level. In 2017, UNICEF Burundi worked with 28 civil society organizations through programme cooperation agreements (PCAs)
and small-scale funding agreements, for a total value of US$7 million. Discussions are ongoing and will be pursued in 2018 with UNHCR to support return and reintegration and with the World Bank notably in cash transfers but also on education, nutrition and early childhood development.

External communication and public advocacy

UNICEF Burundi advocated for the participation of children in media-related activities. This took the form of training for 23 child journalists on children’s right to education and another workshop on their right to participation. Both these activities occurred against the background of recent government restrictions on local media, which have limited the presence of international media in Burundi.

Several events, including a video message to coincide with World Children’s Day, were organized with runner Francine Niyonsaba, UNICEF Burundi’s ‘Champion for children’ and Olympic silver medallist in the 800 meters.

As part of World Children’s Day and to celebrate the Convention on the Rights of the Child on 20 November, 17 children participated in a UNICEF country management team (CMT) meeting and went with the Representative for a meeting with the Minister of Human Rights, Social Affairs and Gender to discuss the situation of children in Burundi in the presence of media representatives.

UNICEF Burundi boosted its presence on social media channels, such as Facebook, Instagram and YouTube, to advocate for children and mobilize resources to improve the lives of children in Burundi. In 2017, UNICEF Burundi’s Facebook page had more than 32,000 followers and posted children’s messages and three videos produced by child journalists.

Samples of videos produced by UNICEF Burundi in 2017 can be found here:

- www.youtube.com/watch?v=I5g97Q-80m4
- www.youtube.com/watch?v=Tu3Vbs_Vvw8
- www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZuMqCIT48xE&t=3s
- www.youtube.com/watch?v=717FeYFGphA

South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation

Both UNICEF Burundi and government members of the CPD Monitoring Group (including senior staff from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Communal Development and the Ministry of Planning) visited UNICEF Morocco and government partners involved in monitoring and evaluation. This exchange mission made it possible for the team to learn from best practices in data collection at both the national and subnational levels and engage in exchanges on lessons learned. It is expected that this mission will result in improvements in monitoring systems and help to create a better understanding of the importance of monitoring and evaluation.

To reinforce national capacities in coordination of child protection in emergencies (CPiE), UNICEF Burundi facilitated the participation of two people in a technical workshop organized by the UNICEF regional child protection team for West and Central Africa; the two trainees included the focal point for CPiE in the Ministry of Human Rights, Social Affairs and Gender and the focal point for child protection in the Burundian Red Cross. The training formed part of the preparations for the Burundi CPiE coordination action plan, which is expected to be validated by a national CPiE working group.
Identification and promotion of innovation

UNICEF Burundi continued to make improvements to the RapidPro Short Message Service (SMS)-based platform. These improvements were aimed at ensuring that critical data is channelled from communities to UNICEF Burundi and its partners; these data have, in turn, enhanced monitoring and analysis and contributed to better decision-making in UNICEF Burundi programmes and government ministries.

In health, two mobile-based applications on the RapidPro platform have been used to report and track supplies during mother and child health weeks (MCHWs) as well as to report on severe cases of malnutrition. A third mobile-based application for monitoring cholera provided early notification and supported timely management of cases. In 2017, over 2,000 pregnant women were registered and monitored through the fourth mobile application as part of the KiraMAMA project for maternal and newborn care.

With 68,069 participants, U-Report continues to engage young people in discussions around their needs and priorities. U-Reporters provided their opinions and feedback since the beginning of the year through polls addressing a variety of topics, including access to water, climate change, malaria prevention, menstrual hygiene in schools, Internet access, children's rights, gender-based violence and HIV/AIDS.

Building on previous positive experience, UNICEF Burundi has reoriented Projet Lumière by introducing solar panels as well as existing human-powered, lamp-charging bicycles. To date, 9,922 households in Burundi have access to a cleaner and safer home lighting source as a result of this project.

UNICEF Burundi continued to invest in renewable energy and in compressed stabilized earth blocks as an innovative and environment-friendly building material. These initiatives have resulted in a number of climate-sensitive programming benefits for children and their communities, including: 1) clean and off-grid energy for rural households; 2) improved learning conditions through solar-powered classrooms, tablets and eco-friendly classrooms; and 3) improved cold chain through solar-powered refrigerators for health centres.

Support to integration and cross-sectoral linkages

Given the ongoing crisis, reinforcing community resilience has become an important objective of UNICEF Burundi. Health and nutrition, education, WASH, child protection and communication for development teams have worked in close collaboration to provide an integrated response to the 2017 cholera outbreaks by providing supplies, psychological support and adequate information to affected communities. For the first time, UNICEF Burundi’s education team was engaged in the cholera response; puppets were used to raise school children’s awareness about the importance of good hygiene for cholera prevention in cholera-prone areas.

As in 2016, UNICEF Burundi’s child protection and education teams continued to work together on child-friendly schools and on Schools as Zones of Peace in order to improve protection, referrals and access to services for vulnerable children. The initiative identified and supported children in need of psychosocial support in schools and communities and also encouraged out-of-school children to re-enrol.

Menstrual hygiene management became a new focus for cross-sectoral collaboration in 2017.
An education and WASH integrated intervention was implemented in the two target provinces of Rumonge and Ngozi.

While UNICEF Burundi continued to encourage the use of the mother and child booklet to improve birth registration, the child protection and health and nutrition teams have sought to improve the nutritional status of children by implementing a joint approach in the two provinces of Makamba and Rutana. This approach has encouraged mothers with children who are malnourished or at risk of being malnourished to improve household nutrition by cultivating kitchen gardens and participating in solidarity groups.

**Service delivery**

UNICEF Burundi continued to support the Government with the provision of essential supplies and materials for health and nutrition, education, potable water and rehabilitation or construction of health, education and water and sanitation infrastructures.

In 2017, UNICEF Burundi remained the only provider of traditional routine vaccines and therapeutic feeding products in the country. With support from the GAVI Alliance, specific attention was paid to strengthening and ensuring the sustainability of the supply chain for immunization and nutrition. More than 79 solar refrigerators were installed in accordance with the national cold-chain transition plan to solar power. UNICEF Burundi provided training on nutrition supply management and forecasting, as well as on SMS reporting for real-time supply monitoring, to 354 pharmacists and nutrition focal points. In addition, the capacities of national and decentralized MOH staff were also strengthened to respond rapidly to SMS stock-out alerts for therapeutic feeding products in health centres. UNICEF Burundi also reinforced the capacities of opinion leaders (religious and community leaders), as they are playing a central role in community mobilization.

With support from GPE, UNICEF Burundi provided textbooks for 2.8 million students in Grades 7 and 8 and over 70,000 teacher textbooks for Grades 7, 8 and 9. Through the back-to-school campaign, over 1 million vulnerable children benefited from much-needed school supplies. End-user monitoring missions were conducted to obtain feedback from schools and communities to ensure that all children received the materials as planned.

UNICEF Burundi supported an estimated 21,700 vulnerable children – including street children, children in conflict with the law, returnees and displaced children – in the three provinces of Bujumbura Mairie, Rumonge and Makamba. The support provided included critical services, such as psychosocial support, judicial support, emergency shelter, documentation, family reunification and reintegration packages. A total of 71,071 additional vulnerable children were assisted through UNICEF-supported child protection committees and solidarity groups across the country.

**Human rights-based approach to cooperation**

UNICEF Burundi has placed a human rights-based approach at the centre of its interventions on issues of government accountability in: 1) the areas of education, health, child protection and nutrition; 2) maintaining a continued focus on equity for the most deprived children; 3) advocating to protect children’s rights; and 4) capacity building, public awareness and service delivery. UNICEF Burundi also made use of human rights reporting mechanisms to further the interests of children.

UNICEF Burundi systematically included young girls and boys from the most vulnerable groups
– such as returnees, ex-combatants, internally displaced persons, orphans and the poorest – in its activities aimed at raising awareness on peace and reconciliation through community dialogue and interactive theatre sessions.

UNICEF Burundi provided support to the Government as it prepared the complementary report for the implementation of the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child. UNICEF Burundi, in partnership with World Vision International, advocated for government participation in the global campaign to prevent violence against children. These efforts resulted in a contextualized five-year national campaign against neglect of children in Burundi.

As chair of the United Nations Programme Management Team, UNICEF Burundi reinforced the capacity of programme management team members. Notably, training on human rights-based approaches with support from the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and gender training with support from United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women) ensured that these lenses are applied in the development of the CCA and UNDAF. The 2017 Gender Programmatic Review and the 2016 MODA conducted by UNICEF Burundi provided important information to the CCA, the UNDAF and the ongoing SITAN for the new CPD.

**Gender equality**

In 2017, UNICEF Burundi carried out a Gender Programmatic Review to inform the 2017 SITAN and the development of the new country programme document. The review has also focused on identifying key entry points across the different sectors as a way of enhancing multisectoral and multi-level impacts on gender in Burundi and further strengthening programming synergies with other United Nations agencies and civil society organizations in line with the new UNICEF Gender Action Plan 2018–2022.

Gender equity is rooted in all of UNICEF Burundi’s interventions. In 2017 UNICEF Burundi dedicated US$570,000 specifically for gender interventions, with a focus on UNICEF Burundi staff capacity-building and on child protection interventions, including the prevention of gender-based violence. During the humanitarian response, UNICEF Burundi prioritized the special needs of girls and their empowerment when designing child protection services and programmes, including child-friendly spaces and emergency shelters. The child protection team advocated for including equality and equity in the National Child Protection Policy. Child protection structures, including the Centre of Community and Family Development and child protection committees, have achieved gender parity. UNICEF Burundi provided support to 1,000 vulnerable young mothers and girls at risk of sexual exploitation in the two provinces of Bujumbura Rural and Ruyigi through the ‘Mporemwana’ project, which is aimed at reinforcing resilience and self-esteem.

UNICEF Burundi also addressed the exploitation of young girls and worked closely with IOM and OHCHR to support the Government in its efforts to prevent and respond to human trafficking. UNICEF Burundi supported the efforts of the Ministry of Human Rights, Social Affairs and Gender to protect women and girls by raising awareness about the newly adopted law on gender-based violence.

While Burundi has reached gender parity in terms of the gross enrolment ratio at primary school, the gender parity is 0.76 at the secondary level. UNICEF Burundi provided school kits and cash to 125 young mother students to enable them to pursue their schooling. It likewise supported the celebration of the International Day of the Girl Child in October 2017 on the
theme of ‘Eliminating School-Based Gender Violence’, which was subsequently heard by listeners across the country after it was broadcast on national radio stations.

Environmental sustainability

In 2017, UNICEF Burundi implemented advocacy and accountability interventions on climate change, climate change adaptation and mitigation, and the Greening UNICEF initiative.

Advocacy on climate change was based on evidence generated from UNICEF Burundi’s 2015–2017 construction of three pilot schools. This resulted in the adoption of the following commitments and initiatives in 2017:

- MOE decided to build at least 10 per cent of the 157 classrooms planned in 2017 using compressed stabilized earth blocks, instead of the traditional burnt brick, in order to reduce deforestation.
- School construction norms and standards have been updated to incorporate environmental protection and climate change adaptation and mitigation measures.

UNICEF Burundi supported MOE and MOH in scaling-up basic eco-friendly infrastructure construction approaches to achieve climate change adaptation and mitigation objectives. These included:

- Joint supervision of technical studies and bidding processes for the construction of 30 classrooms using compressed stabilized earth blocks. The classrooms will be delivered in 2018 and will benefit more than 1,500 children, including children with disabilities.
- The electrification of four schools using solar panels, which will benefit 1,800 school children and their teachers.
- The ongoing construction of a new cold chain storage building for the National Immunization Programme using semi-industrial bricks produced from an energy-efficient brickyard.

In 2017, UNICEF Burundi pursued its Greening UNICEF initiative as part of UNICEF’s goal of achieving a net-zero climate footprint by 2020. To this end, UNICEF Burundi implemented the following initiatives:

- The new office premises were equipped with more ecological and energy-efficient systems, such as solar energy for external lighting and a centralized printing system to reduce paper consumption.
- Elaboration of a three-year greening and accessibility action plan and the establishment of a ‘Green Team’ made up of representatives from the administration, construction and information and communication technology (ICT) units. This team acts as a task force for the implementation of the action plan.
- The installation of solar energy panels to power the server room is ongoing as part to the ongoing implementation of the Greening and Accessibility Fund.

Effective leadership
The UNICEF Burundi country management team (CMT) continued to provide strategic direction, guidance and oversight to ensure that planned results were achieved and risks mitigated. The team met on nine separate occasions in 2017 and took decisions on strategic aspects of programme and operations management. Particular emphasis was placed on four areas on the permanent agenda: 1) budget implementation and harmonized approach to cash transfers (HACT) update; 2) follow up on the audit recommendations; 3) review of the UNICEF Burundi dashboard and management indicators; and 4) review of action plan based on the Global Staff Survey results. The CMT maintained a register of actions and decisions for follow-up and implementation monitoring. In addition, programme coordination meetings were held prior to each team meeting for detailed discussions on budget implementation as well as programmatic and cross-sectoral issues.

UNICEF Burundi has addressed 19 out of 20 of the audit recommendations (five recommendations were closed in 2016 and a further 14 closed in 2017).

UNICEF Burundi updated and tested its business continuity plan twice in 2017 to ensure that the current combination of structures and processes are ready to be employed in the event that normal systems and structures were disrupted. While some major risks were identified in the plan, an unforeseen fuel crisis affected Burundi. However, this was quickly mitigated at the UNICEF Burundi level through the purchase of additional quantities of fuel, which were stored within the UNICEF compound.

UNICEF Burundi benefited from the UNICEF Eastern and Southern Africa Regional Office peer review in November 2017; the review highlighted the following areas as warranting further attention, namely: 1) financial control; 2) HACT; 3) knowledge management; and 4) evaluation. An action plan is currently under development to address these issues in 2018.

**Financial resources management**

In 2017, UNICEF Burundi pursued its efforts to maintain a high standard in managing its financial and fiduciary resources while operating in a high-risk environment. As of 29 December 2017, the total allocation of funds was US$44,317,227 (after the re-phasing of the grant received at the end 2017), with 100 per cent utilization of Regular Resources funds (US$12,405,853), 99 per cent utilization of Other Resources funds (US$20,002,324), and 99 per cent utilization of Other Resources Emergency funds (US$11,504,293). Programme and operations meetings were organized on a monthly basis to review programme implementation and discuss bottlenecks and direct cash transfer (DCT) liquidations.

As of 29 December, no DCTs were outstanding for more than nine months and 1 per cent were outstanding between six and nine months. As part of the audit action plan, UNICEF Burundi developed a cash transfer checklist, which was aimed at ensuring the timely and efficient processing of DCT payments. The cash forecast process was effective throughout the year, with UNICEF Burundi systematically meeting the established benchmark for monthly cash balances.

In 2017, UNICEF Burundi reviewed its records and archive systems and actively participated in the definition and the application of United Nations standard costs in Burundi, including for cash assistance to partners and consultation fees. The harmonized standard costs were effective for the budgeting process of programme and operations activities.

Bank reconciliation operations were performed regularly throughout 2017, and no overdue or critical reconciling items were reported.
**Fundraising and donor relations**

The EU and some bilateral donors suspended direct financial support to the Burundian Government, including budget support, in March 2016. However, they maintained their financial support to the population through international NGOs or United Nations agencies. UNICEF Burundi benefited from some of these re-channelled funds from GPE, KfW, and the GAVI Alliance Fund.

In 2017, resource mobilization efforts resulted in US$23.3 million in other resources, which made it possible to address the continuum of humanitarian to development work; 83 per cent were raised from public sector donors, such as GPE and KfW, and an additional 12 per cent were raised from private sector sources, such as the UNICEF National Committees in Belgium, Germany, Spain and Switzerland. A total of US$22.7 million was carried over to address the continuum of humanitarian to development work in 2018 and beyond.

UNICEF Burundi mobilized funds for emergency responses though the Humanitarian Action for Children mechanism. Out of the total US$18.5 million appeal for 2017, 75 per cent were mobilized from bilateral donors (Belgium, the United Kingdom’s Department For International Development, Japan, KfW, the Swedish Agency for International Development Cooperation, USAID, USAID’s Food for Peace, UNICEF National Committees in the United Kingdom and France, and the U.S. Fund) to address the most pressing humanitarian needs arising from the ongoing protracted crisis.

As in 2016, and due to security risks and lengthy visa procedures, UNICEF Burundi was only able to host one National Committee (the U.S. Fund for UNICEF), which came twice with a team from a private donor. This has resulted in a new partnership, ‘BeyGood4Burundi,’ which is raising funds to provide the most vulnerable children and women in targeted provinces with access to potable water.

Forty-two high quality reports were prepared according to an established quality assurance process and five humanitarian situation reports were prepared. All donor reports and humanitarian situation reports were submitted on time.

**Evaluation and research**

The rolling research, impact monitoring and evaluation plan for 2017–2018 was finalized at the beginning of 2017, and regularly monitored by the country management team. Over 76 per cent of planned studies and research activities were implemented by the end of 2017.

To ensure adequate follow-up on results, the CMT institutionalized the development of an internal management response for all studies and research activities to ensure that findings and recommendations are translated into action and feed into programme action plans.

As noted during the UNICEF Eastern and Southern Africa Regional Office peer review of November 2017, UNICEF Burundi has not completed any formal evaluation over the past three years. However, two evaluations were planned for 2017: the end-line study of Projet Lumière, and the end-line survey of the nutrition project in the province of Ngozi (north). The first study is still being finalized in partnership with the Université Libre de Bruxelles, while the second evaluation was completed. The evaluation management response contains important recommendations for UNICEF Burundi to address prior to scaling up this project.
In 2017, ongoing support was provided to ISTEEBU to finalize the DHSIII. UNICEF Burundi
completed and disseminated the 2016 MODA and developed a Gender Programmatic Review
report and a conflict analysis. Work is currently ongoing to finalize the 2017 SITAN. These
analyses provided valuable evidence for the development of the strategy notes and the new

**Efficiency gains and cost savings**

UNICEF Burundi led a common premises project that included three United Nations agencies
(UNICEF, the United Nations Population Fund [UNFPA] and UN Women). The project was
completed in February 2017 following a relocation to new premises with shared common
resources. The joint premises are expected to lead to substantial cost savings in the future,
despite high one-time costs in the first year (2017) of the relocation. A comparison of the costs
incurred in 2016 for rent and utilities (in the previous United Nations compound) with 2017 costs
(in the new building) pointed to savings of about US$100,000 following the cost-sharing
agreement among the three United Nations agencies.

UNICEF Burundi participated as co-lead of the United Nations Operations Management Team
in the development of the United Nations Burundi Business Operating Strategies. Although a full
Business Operating Strategies document was not developed, several common processes were
jointly implemented, including eight long-term agreements (LTA) for fuel procurement, vehicle
rentals and vehicle maintenance services, and so on. Lead agencies were designated to
conduct the LTA assessment processes on behalf of participating agencies; staff in the
procurement and operations sections could save an estimated 15 hours for each LTA they
processed due to the implementation of shared common resources.

**Supply management**

UNICEF Burundi’s procurement plan for 2017 amounted to US$27.9 million. US$13.3 million of
this sum (48 per cent) was implemented as of 27 November. US$10.5 million (78 per cent) of
the implemented sum was used to procure goods, while US$2.8 million (32 per cent) of it was
used to procure services.

Of the total sum spent on the procurement of services, transportation represented 24 per cent
(US$715,000), followed by construction work, which accounted for 23 per cent (US$662,000).

Of all goods, 78 per cent were procured for health and nutrition, followed by 16 per cent for
education, 3 per cent for WASH and 3 per cent for cross-sectoral activities. Local and offshore
procurement accounted for 27 per cent and 73 per cent, respectively.

In total, 47 per cent of the goods procured were delivered directly to partners, avoiding storage
of items in UNICEF Burundi’s controlled warehouse. The average value of supplies managed in
the controlled warehouse amounted to US$2.2 million. On 4 December, stock worth US$2.8
million was stored at UNICEF Burundi’s warehouse; 31 per cent of that consisted of contingency
stocks.

The delivery of ready-to-use therapeutic spread food was further improved through ongoing
integration into the national essential drugs supply chain managed by the national drug store
(Centrale d’Achat des Médicaments Essentiels du Burundi). The procurement of health and
nutrition supplies amounted to US$7.1 million in 2017, in support of needs for essential drugs
and community-based health and nutrition services.
In addition to the regular supply procurement, goods of a total value of US$866,000 were procured in 2017 through the procurement services mechanism.

Table 1. Procurement 2017 (UNICEF Burundi)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Goods</th>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Sector</th>
<th>Value (US$)</th>
<th>%</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>221</td>
<td>Education</td>
<td>1,658,841</td>
<td>16</td>
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<td></td>
<td>222</td>
<td>Health and nutrition</td>
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<td>Protection</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>224</td>
<td>WASH</td>
<td>339,352</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>225</td>
<td>Communication and</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>participation</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>126</td>
<td>Cross sectoral</td>
<td>163,101</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Services</th>
<th>Code</th>
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<th>Value (US$)</th>
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<td>Health and nutrition</td>
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<td>participation</td>
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<td></td>
<td>126</td>
<td>Cross sectoral</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
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Table 2. Construction

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<th>Sector</th>
<th>Value (US$)</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>221</td>
<td>Education</td>
<td>261,888</td>
<td>40</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>222</td>
<td>Health and nutrition</td>
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<td></td>
<td>126</td>
<td>Cross Sectoral</td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>662,764</strong></td>
<td>100</td>
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</table>

Security for staff and premises

In 2017, Burundi continued to be classified as a non-family D level duty station due to the protracted political crisis. A curfew is in place in Bujumbura Mairie from 12 a.m. to 5 a.m. due to repeated security incidents. However, this has no impact on the programme implementation and there are no restrictions for missions in the provinces. The security team provided support to assess national staff members’ houses. Rolling security and political analysis was undertaken throughout the year.

In the first quarter of 2017, UNICEF Burundi moved to a new compound, which is shared with UNFPA and UN Women. The move and the installation in the new building entailed the re-organization of UNICEF Burundi-led security measures. UNICEF Burundi hired a local security
assistant on a temporary appointment contract to strengthen security capacities.

In August, United Nations agencies began the transition from the mission analogue communication system to a new digital radio system throughout the country. To date, UNICEF Burundi has replaced 50 per cent of its radio inventory for the new digital system and staff training on the new radios has taken place.

In 2017, UNICEF Burundi conducted several telephone tree exercises, two business continuity plan exercises and a security awareness training for all staff, as well as two specific Women’s Security Awareness Trainings. UNICEF Burundi acquired two emergency cardiac defibrillators and conducted staff training in the new compound with the United Nations doctor. UNICEF Burundi has 30 sets of personal protective equipment and two armoured vehicles (Level B6).

**Human resources**

UNICEF Burundi’s current staffing structure comprises 71 staff members (45 per cent females and 55 per cent males), including 24 international professionals. Of these 24 international professionals, 9 are from donor countries and 15 from programme countries. Other staff include 16 national officers, 31 general services staff, one international general services staff, and two United Nations Volunteers.

UNICEF Burundi continues to face human resources challenges, including difficulties related to the recruitment of highly qualified French-speaking candidates to a D non-family duty station. In 2017, the office recruited 16 staff, including 2 international professionals, 1 national officer, and 13 general services staff. All recruitments were completed in a timely manner. There are currently nine vacant positions. Staff completed 95 per cent of performance evaluation reports planning by the established deadline. Information on human resources reform was provided to all staff, and additional training on the new performance management system was provided to 50 per cent of staff.

UNICEF Burundi implemented a staff development plan and completed all group training planned for 2017. Training sessions were conducted on protection from sexual exploitation and abuse as well as ethics and gender. In addition, 14 afternoon learning sessions allowed staff to remain informed on key cross-sectoral subjects.

In May 2017, UNICEF Burundi organized a three-day staff retreat not only to discuss the 2016 Global Staff Survey results but also to celebrate successes and results achieved over the year. An Office Improvement Plan was developed to address recommendations from the survey, and its implementation was systematically monitored during country management team and joint consultative committee meetings.

A staff counsellor (shared with Madagascar and South Sudan) was hired and is now visiting the office every other month. UNICEF Burundi management worked closely with the staff association and the ‘Iteka Women’s group’ to address issues related to staff well-being.

**Effective use of information and communication technology**

UNICEF Burundi staff are making good use of the Microsoft Office 365 software package to communicate and are increasingly using OneDrive, which is improving the way users share documents across the organization. Software standards have been upgraded to Windows 10 and Microsoft Office 2016, offering noticeable improvements in terms of security, performance, and operability between Office 365 and SharePoint, which translates into more efficiency for
users. While SharePoint has been activated and featured with libraries, it is not being used optimally to support collaborative processes.

With the innovations lab and dedicated ICT infrastructure, UNICEF Burundi is hosting open-sourced servers and applications that support real-time data collection, processing and analysis using the RapidPro SMS-based platform. The collected information is presented on dashboards, which are shared with relevant stakeholders, including government partners.

To ensure and encourage youth and community engagement, U-Report was scaled up to more than 68,000 users. In 2017, eight online surveys were launched on topics such as school dropouts, access to water, HIV/AIDS awareness during World AIDS Day, and so on. Results were used to assess service delivery and community attitudes, as well as to send critical information and positive behaviour messages back to U-Reporters.

UNICEF Burundi has committed to reducing its ICT-related carbon footprint. To this end, UNICEF Burundi developed a greening and accessibility action plan as an initial step towards installing a solar-powered data centre. In addition, it is conducting an energy audit and has made a successful application to the UNICEF Greening and Accessibility Fund; its greening strategy is expected to make significant advances in the near future.

**Programme components from RAM**

**ANALYSIS BY OUTCOME AND OUTPUT RESULTS**

**OUTCOME 1** Education: School and pre-school-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**

In 2017, UNICEF Burundi continued to support the education sector’s vision of improving access to quality education and universal education, and to the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals 4 and 5. In line with these efforts, the primary school gross enrolment ratio has now reached 119 per cent and the gross enrolment ratio for pre-primary education has increased to 10 per cent.

Despite the impact of the persistent socio-political crisis, which undermined the development of the education sector in terms of financing, investments and the quality of the learning and teaching environment, UNICEF Burundi continued to support MOE on sector coordination, information exchange and the implementation of strategic interventions.

As sector lead, UNICEF Burundi ensured coordination and supported the implementation of the Strategic Plan, as well as the development of the Education Transition Plan (2018–2020 Education Sector Plan), which aims to tackle the impact of the crisis and support a sustainable education sector environment.

UNICEF Burundi sustained its technical support to the Government, including knowledge generation to enhance evidence-based programming through the finalization of studies consisting of an assessment of school infrastructures and an analysis of the risks and vulnerabilities facing the education sector.
UNICEF Burundi extended its support to formal education, particularly with the implementation of the new curriculum policy for basic education, the consolidation of the Education Management Information System and the building of new schools and classrooms. In June, UNICEF Burundi officially handed over 162 new fully equipped classrooms in 18 schools to MOE; these new classrooms were funded by the education basket fund and GPE. In addition, 3,927 teachers and 266 supervisors were trained on the new fundamental school curriculum.

From September to November 2017, UNICEF Burundi organized the back-to-school campaign, which reached 1,039,000 fundamental school pupils with school materials. Special emphasis was given to equity, with materials distributed to vulnerable children, including returnees and internally displaced school-aged children. In addition, with financial support from GPE, UNICEF Burundi edited, printed and distributed 1.72 million pupil textbooks and 34,400 teacher guides for Grade 7, 1,056,000 pupil textbooks and 24,000 teacher guides for Grade 8 and 15,000 teacher guides for Grade 9, as well as 440,000 samples of didactic posters for fundamental school and pre-primary students throughout the country. This large-scale distribution was aimed at alleviating education costs on pressured families and fostering access to education and retention of pupils.

Furthermore, UNICEF Burundi, in partnership with the Government, faith-based organizations and NGOs, implemented pre-school interventions for children aged 3–5 years throughout 2017. This included the production of pedagogical materials and training of educators to improve the quality of learning in pre-schools.

To increase the retention of girls in schools and address gender-based violence, girl-mothers were provided with school kits and financial support to enable them to pursue their education.

UNICEF Burundi continued to support preparedness for and response to emergencies. More than 68,411 school aged-children benefited from UNICEF Burundi’s support to fulfil their right to education, regardless of the circumstances they faced. Following the joint advocacy efforts of UNICEF Burundi, UNICEF Tanzania, UNHCR and the Government of Tanzania, 1,323 Burundian students in refugee camps in Tanzania were able to take their end-of-year exam. In addition, UNICEF Burundi in partnership with a local NGO (Refugee Education Trust [RET]) implemented communication activities to prevent school drop-out among children living on the Tanzanian border.

Finally, UNICEF Burundi encouraged cross-sectoral interventions to provide a holistic response to children who are both in and out of school. Education and child protection programmes collaborated in a response to the needs of children experiencing violence and living in difficult situations through the ‘Schools and Spaces as Zones of Peace’ project. In partnership with local and international NGOs, the project was deployed to three of the provinces that have been most affected by the socio-political crisis, Bujumbura Mairie, Makamba (south), and Rumonge (south-west). The project is aimed at building bridges between Schools as Zones of Peace and child-friendly schools to acquire better information on unregistered children and drop-outs, and ultimately bring them back to school. The UNICEF Burundi education and WASH programmes also developed a three-year WASH-in-school strategic plan. This plan includes a menstrual hygiene management initiative, which was piloted in 36 schools in 2017.

**OUTPUT 1** 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 CFS in the curriculum, with emphasis on vulnerable children.

Analytical statement of progress
UNICEF Burundi focused its interventions on improving learning outcomes for more than 1.7 million students enrolled in basic education. In the most disadvantaged provinces, 162 classrooms were built and equipped, creating a safe and protective school environment for more than 11,700 students and teachers.

UNICEF Burundi’s education and WASH programmes worked together to promote sanitation, potable water and hygiene, including menstrual hygiene management, and targeted the pilot provinces of Rumonge and Ngozi, in the south and north-west of the country respectively. UNICEF Burundi built the capacities of 25 trainers involved in the programme; the trainers went on to train 186 teachers and to create and equip student clubs. In addition, gender-sensitive latrines and water points were built in 20 schools.

UNICEF Burundi provided support for the preparation of a study to diagnose school infrastructures and to develop a set of norms and standards to be used in school construction, to support MOE in the planning and implementation of school-building interventions.

UNICEF Burundi trained 266 supervisors and 3,927 fundamental school teachers to promote quality teaching and learning, and effectively deliver the new curriculum of fundamental education to all cycle 4 students. The school management committee training module was revised to include school performance monitoring tools and other themes, such as school infrastructure maintenance and emergency prevention and management.

For the reintegration of returnees and internally displaced children, as well as to keep children at risk of dropping out in school, UNICEF Burundi supported the 2017–2018 Back-to-School campaign targeting the most vulnerable provinces, reaching 1,039,000 fundamental school children with materials. At the same time, with support from GPE, all cycle 4 students received one school textbook per subject. In addition, teacher guides and other pedagogical materials were distributed for a total of 12,780 classrooms.

To further reinforce efforts to tackle the root causes of school drop-out (the current average, as established by the Education Management Information System, is 8 per cent), UNICEF Burundi partnered with the NGOs RET and YouthGlobe to conduct social mobilization campaigns in the seven most-affected provinces, namely Rumonge in the west, Makamba in the south, Rutana in the south-west, Ruyigi and Cankuzo in the east, and Muyinga and Kirundo in the north of the country.

UNICEF Burundi, in partnership with the local NGO FAWE, provided school kits and cash support to 125 young mother students (out of 135 supported since 2015), to allow them to pursue their schooling. UNICEF Burundi also supported the celebration of the International Day of the Girl Child, through the organization of a competition on how to eliminate school-based gender violence, which was broadcasted on national radios.

The building of a new inclusive education centre was supposed to start in 2017 but was delayed due to a lack of consensus on the issue of children with special needs, as well as a lack of accurate data. UNICEF Burundi supported the participation of MOE in an international workshop which focused on children with special needs to encourage the development of a new government policy in this regard.
OUTPUT 2 By the end of 2018, access and quality of pre-school is improved through classroom construction and equipment, dissemination of teaching and learning material as well as capacity building of actors.

Analytical statement of progress
According to the 2017 Education Management Information System, access to pre-school education remains very low in Burundi with pre-school enrolment rates of 10.3 per cent of children aged 3–6 enrolled in 1,190 pre-schools across the country.

Through partnership with a faith-based organization, Organisation Diocésaine pour l’Entraide et le Développement Intégral de Muyinga, 20 pre-school classrooms were built in the two northern provinces of Muyinga and Kirundo. UNICEF Burundi provided support in developing the MOE Pre-school Strategy that will be used as an advocacy tool to raise funds for the pre-school subsector. Although UNICEF Burundi provided pedagogical materials and posters to improve the quality of learning in pre-schools (benefiting 59,500 pre-school children), the sector remains in dire need of trained educators, teaching material and classrooms.

The skills of at least 55 heads of schools, in Cankuzo province in the northeast, were enhanced in managing pre-school structures. In order to further improve the quality of teaching, an additional 719 educators in four provinces – Ngozi (north), Bururi (southwest), Gitega (centre), and Cankuzo (northeast) – were trained on the learning by playing methodology. Follow-up monitoring was carried out in four pre-school structures built in partnership with AVSI Burundi in Kayanza province in the north, where eight educators in charge of 425 children were sensitized on pedagogical practices in 2016. This exercise highlighted highly positive results: educators managed to adapt their teaching methods to young children and tended to use the materials provided in an appropriate manner.

However, the pre-school sector generally remains heavily underfunded, with only 0.003 per cent of the education budget allocated to this subsector. The quality of education in pre-schools is weak, with unmotivated educators recruited by communities without a solid initial training and salary. Equipment and educational materials needed to develop children’s skills in the psychomotor and cognitive domains are insufficient both in number and quality. UNICEF Burundi will, therefore, intensify its support for pre-school education in 2018 through the elaboration of a costed advocacy pre-school strategy for MOE to seek new funding opportunities.

OUTPUT 3 By the end of 2018, the education sector can face emergency situations.

Analytical statement of progress
As the lead for education in emergencies, UNICEF Burundi supported implementation of the three-year Strategic Plan for Education in Emergency (2017–2019) and coordinated the education inputs for the development of the 2018 HNO and the HRP. Through the Education in Emergencies Working Group, UNICEF Burundi ensured the establishment of cross-sectoral mechanisms to deliver education in emergencies. A contingency stock was prepositioned to cover the needs of 16,280 children, and more than ten members of the Education in Emergencies Working Group have been trained on cross-cutting education and protection issues, including gender-based violence.
UNICEF Burundi, in partnership with UNHCR, supported 19,020 school children (10,461 girls and 8,559 boys) facing emergency situations in pursuing their schooling, through the distribution of learning materials. This number included 534 returnee children in Gatumba (west), Gitara, Makamba, Ruyigi and Kajaga (east), and over 15,000 children in Congolese refugee camps in Kinama, Musasa and Kavumu (northeast), and Bwagiriza (east), as well as in 10 schools in Bujumbura Rural. In addition, UNICEF Burundi, in partnership with the national NGO Association pour la Paix et les Droits de l’Homme, provided school supplies to 2,000 internally displaced children (in the Mushasha camps), as well as learning materials to 396 children (218 girls and 178 boys) from the Batwa minority ethnic group in the commune of Buterere (province of Bujumbura Mairie[west]).

UNICEF Burundi, in partnership with the NGO ARS, supported 570 internally displaced children in Muramvya province (centre) in pursuing their schooling.

UNICEF Burundi trained 642 teachers and 104 members of school management committees on the prevention of illnesses that are directly linked to the lack of hygiene, notably cholera, in Cibitoke province (north-west).

Following joint advocacy by UNICEF Burundi, UNICEF Tanzania, UNHCR and the Government of Tanzania, 1,323 students from the Burundian refugee camps in Tanzania were able to take their end-of-year exams.

In addition, UNICEF Burundi launched the rehabilitation of 10 out of 71 classrooms damaged by heavy rain in the south-west province of Rumonge in order to host more than 3,180 students (1,668 girls and 1,512 boys).

As part of the implementation of the education sector emergency response plan, MOE is conducting a rapid assessment of the situation of returnees and internally displaced children in five of the most affected provinces, Ruyigi (east), Makamba (south), Gitega (centre) and Muyinga and Kirundo (north).

With the financial support of the Swedish Agency for International Development Cooperation, UNICEF Burundi partnered with two local NGOs (Jesuit Refugee Service and Hope 87) for the reintegration of 1,000 returnees and internally displaced children into 54 schools in the three provinces of Muyinga, Ruyigi and Makamba in the east. This agreement included the distribution of teaching and learning materials, teacher training on psychosocial support and community mobilization.

UNICEF Burundi, in partnership with Play International, PPSM and Handicap International, provided support to children in difficult situations in 50 Schools as Zones of Peace and CFS in the provinces of Bujumbura Mairie (west), Rumonge (south-west) and Makamba (south), benefiting over 31,000 children and 480 teachers. Cooperation in the fields of education and child protection has made it possible to build bridges between schools and CFS in order to reintegrate children into schools.

**OUTCOME 2 Health and Nutrition:** 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 preliminary results of DHS III show insufficient progress in child well-being. Between 2010 and 2017, under-five mortality fell from 96 to 78 deaths per 1,000 live births; stunting prevalence also fell slightly from 58 per cent to 56 per cent.

However, with the exception of Bujumbura Mairie, all provinces were still above the stunting critical threshold set by the World Health Organization (WHO). In 2017, 61 per cent of children aged 6–59 months and 39 per cent of women aged 15–49 years were found to be anaemic, compared to 45 per cent and 19 per cent respectively in 2010. This situation may be due to the low availability of iron and folic acid supplementation for pregnant women, the ongoing malaria epidemic and the high food insecurity being experienced at the time of data collection (October 2016 to March 2017).

According to the Health Information Management System, 80 per cent of birth were assisted by a skilled attendant; DHS 2016–2017 preliminary results set this rate at 85 per cent. Reduction of maternal mortality has been slow: With a ratio of 712 maternal deaths per 100,000 live births according to DHS 2010 (DHS 2017 data are not yet available), Burundi is far from achieving Goal 5 of the Millennium Development Goals which targeted a maternal survival ratio of 275/100,000 live births. Quality management of obstetrical and neonatal emergencies are seen as the main challenge facing maternal health in Burundi. United Nations agencies from the H6 Global Health Partnership, including UNICEF Burundi, are preparing fund mobilization and donor advocacy documentation to raise awareness on this important health issue. UNICEF Burundi also identified the need for the Government to introduce of a more comprehensive strategy on sexual, reproductive, maternal, newborn, adolescent and child health.

Net progress has been made nationwide on the proportion of newborns exposed to HIV who receive effective ARV medication for PMTCT. Coverage increased from 48 per cent in 2014 to 95 per cent in 2017 following efforts by different partners active in HIV prevention and care.

UNICEF Burundi contributed to this success with technical support, service delivery and ARV procurement in about 10 per cent of health centres covering 10 per cent of ARV needs nationwide. With UNICEF Burundi’s technical support, MOH completed an evaluation of its national elimination of mother-to-child HIV transmission plan 2012–2016 and defined new national priorities in the 2017–2020 plan. This new plan is aligned with the National Health Policy, the National Health Development Plan (extended to 2018), and the new HIV National Strategic Plan for 2017–2020.

UNICEF Burundi is the co-lead agency in the health sector and the lead agency in the nutrition sector. It is also the main provider of therapeutic nutrition supplies and traditional vaccines, such as bacillus calmette–guérin; tetanus toxoid; diphtheria, tetanus and pertussis; bivalent oral polio vaccine; and measles first dose. Between January and October, a total of 43,444 children under 5 years of age with SAM (22,524 girls and 20,920 boys) were admitted and treated in health facilities across the country. This represents 87 per cent of the expected national caseload with an admission trend similar to 2016. Despite this high burden, performance indicators were maintained within standards (89 per cent were cured, 3 per cent died, 5 per cent defaulted, and 4 per cent did not respond) thanks to joint efforts by UNICEF Burundi and MOH.

The diphtheria, tetanus and pertussis vaccine coverage improved from 85 per cent in 2014 to 93.5 per cent in 2016; it reached at least 310,649 (92 per cent) of children aged 0–11 months (partial data January to November 2017), which is similar to the progress seen for most vaccines. The Expanded Programme on Immunization (EPI) successfully implemented the
national combined measles and rubella vaccine campaign, the switch to pneumococcal conjugate vaccine (PCV13) four doses, while preparing the 2018–2020 comprehensive multi-year plan. UNICEF Burundi, EPI and the GAVI Alliance’s health system strengthening unit worked closely to implement immunization activities but delays prevented some activities from taking place as planned. All parties identified alternative solutions, such as supply procurement and MCHW funding, to ensure full utilization of the GAVI Alliance’s Burundi fund allocation.

A total of 1,339,863 children aged 0–59 months were supplemented in vitamin A (79 per cent of coverage) and 1,203,191 children aged 12–59 months were dewormed during the first round of MCHW in June, with success rates similar to the coverage levels reached in 2016. The second MCHW round took place in December 2017 but results are not yet available.

Following the 8 million cases of malaria in 2016 affecting mostly north and northeastern health districts, and the subsequent official malaria epidemic declaration on 13 March 2017, a response plan with a budget of US$41 million was developed and approved by MOH under the leadership of WHO and with technical contributions from UNICEF Burundi.

The cumulative number of malaria cases reported during the first 46 weeks of the year was 6,891,291 cases with 3,027 deaths (MOH, 23 November 2017). On 8 December, MOH and WHO made a joint declaration announcing that the malaria epidemic was contained.

**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**

Mobilization of nutrition sector partners was essential to increase coverage of Positive Deviance/Hearth (‘Mamans lumières’) for the management of moderate acute malnutrition through the training of all 1,485 key community actors active in selected areas; 83 per cent was achieved with UNICEF Burundi support. However, this approach is insufficient for stunting prevention.

Therefore, with UNICEF Burundi’s support, the MOH National Nutrition Programme used a consultative process to finalize a multisectoral integrated counselling package on maternal, infant and young child feeding practices, including training modules and tools such as cards, leaflets and posters. The parenting gender aspect was integrated by illustrating boys and girls as well as fathers and mothers practicing key behaviours. A national pool of 24 MOH trainers was trained on this package and cascade trainings planned for 2018 will target actors from sectors including agriculture, social protection and WASH.

Nevertheless, the number of skilled local and international partners to assist MOH is limited, making a rapid scale up of this new multisectoral package for stunting prevention challenging. Therefore, UNICEF Burundi will support MOH in the identification and capacity building of local civil society organizations, including local women’s associations in selected health districts to increase scale-up possibilities. In 2018, UNICEF Burundi will promote this package through communication channels such as local media and community theatres to increase coverage and chances for behaviour change.

Although important progress was made in 2017 on community nutrition for the prevention of stunting, Burundi’s capacity to implement, supervise and monitor remains a challenge to be considered before scaling up. To address monitoring challenges, specific tools for community-
level monitoring were developed but technical support is needed to operationalize them. The use of innovative technologies to ease timely reporting will be considered in close collaboration with MOH.

MOH was able to procure about 45 per cent of the vitamin A supplements it needed to implement MCHW but increased levels of investment in 2018 are slim in light of the difficult economic context. To address micronutrient supplementation service quality, a national strategy on micronutrient supplementation (vitamin A, iron and folic acid and home fortification with micronutrient powder) was developed. Implementation plans, training and communication materials and monitoring tools will be further developed in 2018.

The programme design and the pool of trainers for home fortification with micronutrient powders are available for scale-up at the community level. Cascade training was carried out at all levels of the health pyramid in the targeted implementation areas in the provinces of Ngozi, Bubanza and Bujumbura rural. Communication tools were developed to ensure adequate information on home fortification and these tools were integrated into the multisectoral maternal, infant and young child feeding counselling package. UNICEF Burundi will consider further action to develop radio broadcasts and to disseminate specific key notes to the health centres and local authorities to prevent and address misperceptions as well as facilitate behaviour adoption and adherence. Low funding is the main bottleneck for the scale-up of this nutrition-specific intervention.

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

Analytical statement of progress
In UNICEF Burundi-targeted provinces, an average 84.3 per cent of births were assisted by health personnel, higher than the target of 80 per cent. A total of 19 health centres in Burundi are designated basic emergency neonatal and obstetrical care facilities and operate 24/7. However, these health centres represent only a quarter of the 80 Basic Emergency Neonatal and Obstetrical Care health centres recommended by WHO. An additional 11 health centres will be upgraded to basic emergency neonatal and obstetrical care centres in 2018.

As part of activities to improve the quality of maternal and newborn care, UNICEF Burundi supported the procurement of offshore and local essential drugs, material and equipment to support 11 basic emergency neonatal and obstetrical care facilities and 89 other health facilities offering maternal and newborn care (but not assessed as basic emergency neonatal and obstetrical care), as well as to three emergency neonatal and obstetric care training centres. These three training centres will be operational in 2018 within existing paramedical schools and will allow students and professionals to benefit from updated technical knowledge and skills. Joint funding mobilization efforts are ongoing to assist the 89 maternal and newborn care health facilities in becoming basic emergency neonatal and obstetrical care centres in 2018.

UNICEF Burundi continued its support to the KiraMAMA (healthy mother) project, which aims at improving access to and demand for quality care during pregnancy, delivery and post-delivery. In Mutaho health district of Gitega province, a total of 136 community health workers were trained in the use of RapidPro to register pregnant women and refer them in a timely manner to prenatal consultations, delivery facilities and postnatal care. More than 2,000 pregnant women were recorded in the system for follow-up and referrals. Through a new partnership agreement, CORDAID is assisting MOH and UNICEF Burundi to develop a mentorship programme for
nurses and doctors that will provide them with a learning opportunity on quality health care for mothers and their newborns. Three doctors and 12 nurses have already completed their training under this programme and stakeholders have recommended that UNICEF Burundi and CORDAID should continue to collaborate on the development of this innovative teaching approach. UNICEF Burundi continued to support MOH in providing intermittent preventive treatment of malaria in pregnancy, introduced in 2015 in the province of Gitega (centre).

With UNICEF Burundi’s support, the evaluation of the elimination of mother-to-child HIV transmission plan 2012–2016 was completed.

UNICEF contributed to the continued quality PMTCT programme in 90 health facilities (50 with Caritas Burundi through a partnership agreement and 40 public facilities with MOH). During the first semester, 77 per cent of pregnant women attending antenatal care for the first time were tested for HIV in health facilities nationwide; 79 per cent of pregnant women living with HIV were treated with ARVs for PMTCT and 100 per cent of 92 children born of HIV-positive mothers benefited from paediatric care, including ARVs. UNICEF Burundi positively concluded a small-scale pilot project of financial assistance and skills development for income-generating activities for pregnant or lactating women for PMTCT. A scale-up phase was designed and will be implemented in 2018.

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

With UNICEF Burundi support, in 2017, SAM management services coverage was extended to 418 health facilities – or close to 53.7 per cent of the total number of health facilities nationwide. In supporting efforts to improve nutrition products supply chain management and forecasting challenges, UNICEF Burundi helped train a total of 354 pharmacists, nutrition focal points and national and decentralized MOH staff to follow up on SMS-reported stock-out alerts, which improved timely supply replenishment in health centres.

Community-based management of acute malnutrition reporting was fully integrated into the national health information system. A total of 43,444 SAM cases (22,524 girls and 20,920 boys) were admitted and treated as of October. This is 87 per cent of the expected national caseload, and similar to the admission trend in 2016. Performance indicators are maintained within standards (89 per cent were cured, 3 per cent died, 5 per cent defaulted and 4 per cent did not respond).

UNICEF Burundi supported 12 of the 30 health districts in implementing integrated community case management (iCCM) of childhood diseases with diarrhoea and pneumonia supply procurement. UNICEF Burundi provided additional technical support in four districts through NGO partnerships. Community health workers provided advice and/or treatment for 73,753 children (61,396 for malaria, 5,540 for diarrhoea and 1,763 for pneumonia), of which 72,177 were screened for acute malnutrition and referred, as necessary. Challenging iCCM national coordination mechanisms impaired the implementation of the newborn component. Discussions are ongoing with MOH to support national and district levels through direct implementation. Moreover, no mechanism is in place to ensure the distribution and use of iCCM essential drugs by health care workers, instead of using them for regular health centre activities. UNICEF Burundi will continue its advocacy and support for a stronger coordination mechanism and supply chain linking all implementation levels.
More than 79 solar refrigerators were installed at facility and district levels: This figure is one tenth of the 767 solar refrigerators that are needed by 2020. No stock-out of vaccines was reported in 2017, thanks to adequate vaccine forecasting. UNICEF Burundi supported the MOH/EPI measles-rubella combined vaccines campaign for children aged 1–14 years, reaching 99 per cent of the targeted 4,175,423 children. Following this, measles and rubella vaccines were introduced into routine EPI services and the national MOH budget is now contributing to measles and rubella vaccine procurement. This investment represents about 40 per cent of the traditional vaccines (bacillus calmette-guérin; tetanus toxoid; diphtheria, tetanus and pertussis; bivalent oral polio vaccine; and measles first dose), replacing the measles first dose vaccine previously procured by UNICEF Burundi. Partial results (January to November 2017) show that UNICEF ensured the immunization of at least 310,649 (92 per cent) of children aged 0–11 months with traditional vaccines. In-country analysis was initiated to identify low performing health districts to implement Reach Every Children Approach; a formal equity analysis is planned for 2018.

An evaluation of the EPI communication plan showed that actions taken to create demand were insufficient and weakly designed. This led to a UNICEF Burundi-supported in-depth revision of the EPI communication plan. As a result, immunization promotion tools and key messages were created for implementation in 2018.

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

**Analytical statement of progress**

With a financial contribution from the Government of Germany, UNICEF Burundi supported MOH in the provision of malaria drugs and diagnostic test kits for 1,075,000 people, vastly exceeding the planned target of 175,000 (US$3.6 million), as well as microplanning and behavioural change communication. The National Malaria Programme was supported in using RapidPro, SMS-based real-time reporting for supply tracking and case notification.

Cholera continues to be a source of concern in Burundi with multiple small and contained outbreaks. Since January, there have been 336 reported cases of cholera (against the estimated (targeted) 400), including 132 children. No deaths were reported in six health districts. UNICEF Burundi supported the response by 1) providing cholera treatment kits; and 2) improving the cholera reporting database through the training of 52 provincial and district staff and 304 health centre staff on the use of RapidPro for early cholera notification.

UNICEF Burundi supported the NGO Caritas Burundi so that it could develop a new service for the medical management and psychosocial support of gender-based violence survivors along with community-level violence prevention. In less than six months, 17 health centres in the four provinces of Bujumbura Mairie, Cibitoke (northwest), Kirundo (north) and Makamba (south) provided support to 1,265 gender-based violence survivors, a much larger number than expected. This innovative project not only highlighted this underserved thematic area, but also stimulated community demand for scale-up. UNICEF Burundi will pursue its implementation, while also working on national authorities’ awareness about the importance of full integration of gender-based violence response into the health system.

UNICEF Burundi supported the participation of a Burundian delegation to the annual SUN Global Meeting in Côte d’Ivoire; this has helped to raise awareness of the importance of
maintaining nutrition as a national priority. At MOH level, monthly coordination meetings were organized by the National Nutrition Programme to facilitate the coordination of nutrition partners. UNICEF Burundi provided support to MOH to map nutrition interventions to ease coordination and prevent duplication of efforts.

SAM admission trends in 2017 were similar to those in 2016 (43,444 cases in December 2017 of the 50,000 target) and no stock-out of nutrition supplies was reported. The most vulnerable provinces were those affected by the malaria epidemic and food insecurity. However, the Multiple Initial Rapid Assessment results and subsequent cross-check conducted in October were not consistent with the routine SAM admission trends. Some provincial disparity raises concern which will be addressed by the National Nutrition Programme through close follow-up on these vulnerable areas until results can be confirmed by a nutrition Standardized Monitoring and Assessment of Relief and Transitions survey supported by UNICEF Burundi in 2018.

Infant and young child feeding in emergencies was integrated into the national community-based management of acute malnutrition protocol and the multisectoral nutrition counselling package. This includes a specific module and behaviour change communication tools which can be extracted from the regular package for rapid intervention. However, there are still important steps to be completed before it can be operational as per the UNICEF Core Commitments for Children in Humanitarian Action; this includes training of partners such as UNHCR, IOM and NGOs working with returnees, refugees and internally displaced persons.

OUTCOME 3 By 2016, populations in provinces with low access to potable water and basic sanitation have an improved access to these services and adopt appropriate hygiene practices.

Analytical statement of progress
Burundi has made progress in WASH in recent years but the proportion of the population using improved drinking water sources increased only moderately from 72 per cent in 2010 to 72.8 per cent in 2015, and thus remained behind the 85 per cent target contained in Millennium Development Goal 7. The proportion of people using improved sanitation also increased slightly, from 54.7 per cent in 2010 to 57.6 per cent in 2015, but remained well below the Millennium Development Goal target of 71 per cent.

The Government adopted a National Water Policy in 2009, followed by a National Water Strategy 2011–2020 and a National Sanitation Strategy 2015–2025. These strategies have been aimed at: 1) eliminating open defecation by 2025; 2) achieving universal access to basic water; and 3) achieving basic sanitation for 90 per cent and 80 per cent of the urban and rural populations, respectively, by 2030.

In 2017, UNICEF Burundi supported the provision of drinking water to 97,960 people and the establishment of water point management committees for each new water point; 50 per cent of the water management committees needed to be women who were involved in decision-making. These committees received training in infrastructure management and maintenance; they needed to know how to assess and solve potential problems as well as identify when problems required outside assistance. This training also built a knowledge base on how to identify and set up an effective cost-recovery system to support the sustainability, operation and maintenance of water points.

UNICEF Burundi initiated a three-year programme to reach 100 per cent of water coverage by
2020 in the three provinces of Cankuzo, Rutana and Ruyigui (east); these three provinces experienced global acute malnutrition rates ranging between 5–10 per cent, critically high levels according to WHO standards. In addition to providing new infrastructure, the programme also addressed support systems for water user committees, including the establishment of supply chains, the rehabilitation of existing water points and the strengthening of WASH institutions.

Through a community-led total sanitation (CLTS) approach, over 141,500 households gained access to improved sanitation facilities; this helped to create a cleaner environment and reduced the risk of waterborne diseases, including cholera outbreaks. The CLTS approach stimulated demand for improved sanitation facilities at community levels. Out of 901 sous-collines (sub-hills) participating in the programme, 704 sub-hills were certified as open defecation free (ODF) by the national department supported by UNICEF Burundi.

The hierarchical structure of Burundian society facilitated the implementation of CLTS from the national level down to the community level. The CLTS approach effectively mobilized communities, with households investing in the building of new, adequate latrines. CLTS contributed to a significant change in behaviour: Young children learnt from adults about the importance of adequate sanitation and hygiene; and open defecation by adults is no longer tolerated and even punished in some cases with fines. Handwashing promotion is integrated in the ODF strategy and resulted in the inclusion of handwashing facilities in the new latrines built.

About 35,763 girls and boys gained sustainable access to safe drinking water in 21 schools, while about 18,781 girls and boys at 19 schools gained access to basic sanitation through the construction of gender-separated latrines with handwashing facilities. A menstrual hygiene management action plan was developed and training in menstrual hygiene management was provided to 25 trainers and 186 school teachers. UNICEF Burundi also equipped six health centres with WASH facilities and supported the capacity development of governmental institutions. Through Global Handwashing Day, about 2 million people were reached with handwashing messages.

Due to the ongoing crisis and the limited in-country presence of the sector lead, the German Society for International Cooperation, UNICEF Burundi continued to engage in a strategic dialogue with the Government and donors to strengthen the enabling environment for the WASH sector. This has included the dissemination of strategies, mobilization of additional resources, support to sector coordination and evidence generation. This has further enabled the Government to develop the country’s Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) plans by identifying targets, baselines, strategies and resources (investment needs and financing gap) to achieve SDG 6.

For humanitarian action, UNICEF Burundi’s support to the Government has improved the coordination, preparedness and response of the sector’s key partners. Water supply, sanitation and hygiene were given top priority with particular emphasis on cholera outbreaks, internally displaced persons and returnees from Tanzania. UNICEF Burundi also supported the Burundian Red Cross in establishing stockpiles in six strategic locations, each providing supplies for at least 1,000 families, which enabled a rapid response when necessary.

The key challenge in 2017 was a lack of funding (both domestic and foreign resources) due to the ongoing political instability. Limited Government support has been provided to communities to ensure the sustainability of WASH infrastructures, and an information management system covering the WASH sector is needed. In 2018, UNICEF Burundi will develop an impact strategy to transform the evidence from the 2016–2017 budget briefs into action. UNICEF Burundi will
also seek to address the data gap by supporting the Ministry of Energy and Mines in developing an information management system.

**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 safe source of drinking water and gender-separated sanitation facilities, and their pupils adopt adequate hygiene practices including handwashing with soap.

**Analytical statement of progress**

In 2017, UNICEF Burundi supported the Government in providing WASH services in schools in nine provinces in partnership with line ministries and NGOs. It also provided permanent access to safe drinking water for an additional 21 fundamental schools, reaching 17,763 girls and 18,473 boys. UNICEF Burundi also provided 18,781 school children (9,080 girls and 9,701 boys) in 19 schools with gender-segregated, improved latrines equipped with handwashing facilities.

In partnership with Norwegian Church Aid, UNICEF Burundi introduced the school-led total sanitation approach in the province of Kirundo (north); this approach reached about 1,640 households and 7,199 pupils (3,480 girls and 3,719 boys) in Busoni Commune through five schools. Twenty-one members of school hygiene clubs were trained on safe storage and treatment of drinking water, proper use of latrines and handwashing with soap at critical times. Furthermore, UNICEF Burundi supported the training of 25 trainers and 186 school teachers from 36 schools on menstrual hygiene management in schools. UNICEF Burundi also provided support to six health centres with water systems and handwashing facilities. UNICEF Burundi will continue to advocate for increased investment in equipment maintenance, training and installation of school management committees.

UNICEF Burundi commissioned a comprehensive inventory of WASH infrastructure in schools in the two pilot provinces of Makamba (south) and Bujumbura Rural. The study revealed that only one out of three schools had sanitation infrastructures, a situation which is affecting boys and girls in an unequal way. Due to inadequate facilities at schools, 76 per cent of girls missed classes during their menstrual cycle, particularly if they had to go home to use the toilet or walk long distances to the nearest toilet.

UNICEF Burundi supported a study on menstrual hygiene in schools in the four provinces of Bujumbura Rural, Gitega (centre), Makamba (south) and Rumonge (east). This study observed that menstruation was often perceived as taboo and had negative cultural perceptions. This is particularly problematic for girls in schools who suffer stigma due to a lack of services and facilities to help them cope with the physical and psychological pains they experience during menstruation. Less than 28 per cent of school teachers discussed issues of menstrual hygiene management in schools.

These cultural perceptions and absent facilities have resulted in a lack of adequate knowledge and preparation for young girls before their first menstrual cycle, and is further negatively influenced by the lack of, or inadequate availability of water and absence of products for menstrual management. For 2018, UNICEF Burundi will provide schools with sanitary pads or other products for menstrual hygiene management, continue education about menstruation for girls and boys, parents’ and teachers’ associations and other parent and community structures.

Global Handwashing Day was celebrated to promote handwashing with soap and appropriate
sanitation and hygiene practices in schools and communities. Through the use of mass media, including television, radio and newspapers, an estimated 2 million people were reached with handwashing messages.

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 and adopts good hygiene practices including handwashing with soap and treatment and safe storage of household water.

Analytical statement of progress
In 2017, UNICEF Burundi provided support to increase access to safe drinking water, eliminate open defecation, and promote handwashing and good hygiene practices among children and families. The interventions focused on five provinces – Cibitoke (north-west), Bujumbura Rural, Rutana (south-east), Ruyigui (east) and Karushi (centre) – that have been prone to cholera outbreaks and have high rates of stunting.

As a result of UNICEF Burundi’s support, 95 water points were built to provide access to safe water to an additional 25,000 people; 72,410 people were served with potable water through the drilling of 35 wells equipped with a hand pump. This drilling is part of the three-year UNICEF Burundi-supported programme which, by 2020, aims to achieve complete water coverage in the three provinces of Cankuzo (east), Rutana (south-east) and Ruyigui (east), which have been classified as facing a serious nutrition crisis. The programme also provided support for water user committees, establishment of supply chains, rehabilitation of existing water points and strengthening of WASH institutions, as well as the training of 35 plumbers and repair of their tool equipment to ensure the timely repair of facilities. The selection of the most appropriate technology was discussed with multiple stakeholders, including communal water boards and the National Water Supply Agency in rural areas. Communities equipped with water facilities were supported to establish 128 water user committees, with at least 50 per cent of female members participating in decision-making. These committees received technical training in infrastructure management and maintenance to enable them to assess and solve potential problems, as well as to identify when they needed further outside assistance. The training also included a component to identify and set up an effective cost-recovery system to support the sustainability of operation and maintenance of water points. Challenges persist in a lack of affordable spare parts and overuse of facilities due to increasing demand. UNICEF Burundi will continue its support to solve these challenges, as well as to ensure that communal water boards and water user committees are fully functional.

UNICEF Burundi supported the scaling up of the CLTS approach and the development of a sanitation road map. With financial support from UNICEF Burundi, the national department certified 10 communes as open defecation free (ODF). In addition, a total of 901 sub-hills were sensitized; 704 of the 901 sub-hills became open defecation free during 2017, representing an 85 per cent conversion rate. As a result, over 707,515 people are now benefiting from an environment that is free from faecal contamination and from a reduced risk of contracting diarrhoeal diseases. The CLTS approach contributed to significant behaviour change; open defecation by adults is no longer tolerated and even punished in some cases with fines, and young children are taught by adults to adopt appropriate sanitation behaviour. Promotion of handwashing was integrated in the Burundi ODF strategy to increase the building and use of latrines and handwashing facilities.
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
UNICEF Burundi continued to strengthen the enabling environment for the WASH sector through the application of pro-poor water and CLTS strategies. In addition, through the organization of a three-day retreat attended by all WASH stakeholders, UNICEF Burundi supported preparation for the high-level meetings on Sanitation and Water for All in Washington, D.C., and the development of the country’s SDG plan by identifying targets, baselines, strategies and required resources (investment needs and financing gaps).

With the dissemination of the 2017 WASH Budget Brief, UNICEF Burundi advocated for the active engagement of all stakeholders in the budget dialogue. Support was provided to the Ministry of Communal Development and the Ministry of Energy and Mines, which is in charge of water, to document lessons learned which could support the integration of WASH in planning processes at both the communal and national levels. Thanks to successful advocacy on eliminating open defecation by UNICEF Burundi, additional government funds were allocated to WASH-related sanitation projects. At the subnational level, UNICEF Burundi supported a regional workshop in Makamba Province (south) to integrate WASH interventions in the preparation of communal work plans.

To enhance the sustainability of water supply systems, especially in rural communities, UNICEF Burundi has developed a RapidPro SMS-based platform called ‘Amazi Meza’ (Potable water) to collect real-time information on water point functionality and management. Reporting has focused on: 1) problems with the water network; 2) mapping of the water network; and 3) resources mobilized from local water user committees and their utilization by communal water boards for repair and functioning. This system has been tested in the three pilot provinces of Makamba (south), Rutana (south-east) and Ruyigui (east) and will enable real-time monitoring of the functionality of water networks and their water committees.

To address sectoral coordination challenges, UNICEF Burundi supported the Ministry of Energy and Mines in organizing a workshop attended by all relevant stakeholders to identify gaps and discuss a sectoral investment plan, through information sharing, harmonization of intervention technologies and mapping of interventions implemented by different actors.

Monitoring and evaluation capacity in the sector is weak. The Government decentralization process has transferred responsibilities for rural water supply to the communes, but these lack effective monitoring and evaluation tools as well as funding. The lack of funding is also due to the suspension or withdrawal of donors following the crisis Burundi has faced. In 2018, UNICEF Burundi will support the Ministry of Energy and Mines to establish an information management system and address this bottleneck.

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
The volatile political and security situations, as well as recurrent disease outbreaks, required continuous humanitarian actions for children and women during 2017. Although demand for
interventions was growing, funding was limited; the UNICEF Burundi Humanitarian Action for Children emergency appeal remained 70 per cent unfunded for WASH activities. As lead of the emergency WASH sector, UNICEF Burundi worked closely with partners (government institutions, United Nations agencies and international and national NGOs) to strengthen preparation for and response to the humanitarian situation. Water supply, sanitation and hygiene have been given top priority by sector partners with particular emphasis on containment of cholera outbreaks and responses to internally displaced persons and returnees from Tanzania. As a result of collective efforts coordinated by the Government and UNICEF Burundi, 104,609 people were provided with access to water by the WASH sector.

With the available funding (30 per cent of the Humanitarian Action for Children 2017) to respond to multiple cholera outbreaks, UNICEF Burundi provided safe drinking water to 48,835 people (29 per cent of the target). Through water trucking, 6,800 people, mostly women and children, were supplied with at least 7.5 litres of safe drinking water per person per day and 19,630 people benefited from hygiene kits. Furthermore, 172,081 people (58 per cent of the target) were reached with key cholera prevention messages through household visits, and 124 health workers (including health district staff, health promotion technicians and community workers in the cholera hotspots) were trained on cholera prevention and response, thereby increasing their capacities to react quickly to potential new outbreaks.

In addition, four technicians from the Burundian Red Cross were trained to install, operate and maintain surface water treatment units; one Red Cross WASH technician was trained in cholera epidemiology. Once trained, WASH technicians contributed to increasing resilience at the community level for potential new cholera outbreaks. In the absence of reliable data when developing the 2018 HRP, vulnerability criteria – such as limited access to WASH facilities, chronic malnutrition among children under 5 years of age, cholera and malaria-prone areas and displaced and returnee populations – were all taken into consideration.

UNICEF Burundi also conducted a mapping of partners by geographic location and capacity. Based on the assessment and planning, contingency supplies of non-food items, including women's dignity kits, water storage, treatment and transportation containers, household water treatment chemicals, water quality control kits and emergency latrine construction equipment were procured and pre-positioned for 25,000 people in five strategic locations.

OUTCOME 4 Communication for Development: 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
In 2017, UNICEF Burundi continued to strengthen community resilience by supporting positive behaviour change and practices related to health, nutrition, WASH, protection and education. Strategic partnerships were established with grassroots and faith-based organizations to raise awareness through various communication channels, such as participatory theatre, community dialogue, interpersonal communication and door-to-door activities; these efforts reached 657,523 people with messages on key family practices.

UNICEF Burundi supported the development of the ‘Agashi’ series, a kind of radio soap opera in Kirundi (the local language) and the radio show ‘Tujijuke’ on the promotion of family key practices and HIV/AIDS prevention. According to a national telephone survey conducted by the
NGO Population Media Centre, the programme was broadcasted on 11 different radio stations and reached 80 per cent of the country’s radio audience.

To address recurrent cholera outbreaks, UNICEF Burundi worked with CIEP and NGO partners to raise awareness on cholera and malaria prevention as part of the malaria response plan. Through interactive theatre, 11,209 people improved their knowledge of malaria prevention, including the correct use of mosquito nets. More than 1.4 million people were sensitized on the prevention of cholera and the importance of good hygiene practices by religious and community leaders using interpersonal communication and social mobilization. An additional 88,096 people benefited from interactive theatre in community-level sessions on cholera prevention in cholera-prone provinces.

In response to gender-based violence, teenage pregnancy, dropouts from school and violence, 255,825 people were sensitized on gender-based violence, stigma, discrimination and the importance of the family. Through UNICEF Burundi-supported efforts, 99,419 people improved their knowledge of HIV prevention, resulting in 8,498 young people taking action to determine their status via an HIV test. In addition, 23,908 people were sensitized on the importance of education with a particular focus on preventing girls from dropping out of school.

Peace-building activities remain important in the current socio-political context but limited resources have meant that achievements have remained limited to pilot projects. In 2017, 668,732 young people and adolescents participated in peace-building activities through participatory theatres aimed at building community cohesion between host communities and refugees or returnees. In 2017, UNICEF Burundi strengthened the capacity of implementing partners in monitoring their interventions, notably in developing community participatory tools (testimonies, pre-test/post-test), and in conducting regular joint field visits.

**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 OSR and zinc and 60 per cent of pregnant women use PMTCT services in health structures by 2018.

**Analytical statement of progress**
In 2017, 117 community groups were established following the training of 855 community workers in the provinces of Kirundo and Muyinga (north). These groups organized community dialogues which enabled 1,961 people (981 men, 744 women, 123 boys and 113 girls) to improve their knowledge of key family practices for health and nutrition.

In collaboration with MOH, UNICEF Burundi built the capacity of 24 senior staff at CIEP on the new infant and young child feeding module. Door-to-door monitoring organized by CIEP and community listening groups showed that, of the 270 households visited in the communes of Kabarore (Kayanza), Gatara (Kayanza), Vumbi (Kirundo), Ntega (Kirundo), Gasorwe (Muyinga) and Mwakiro (Mwakiro), 78 per cent had correct knowledge on the utilization of long-lasting insecticide-treated mosquito nets, 78 per cent on complementary feeding, 60 per cent on exclusive breastfeeding and 75 per cent on handwashing with clean water and soap. However, despite increased knowledge, translation into practice remains a challenge as communities have difficulties meeting even basic needs.
As part of the malaria response plan developed after the malaria epidemic was officially declared in March 2017, UNICEF Burundi supported MOH in developing a strategic communication plan as well as related tools and training materials. This collaboration was enhanced by UNICEF Burundi co-chairing the MOH sub-committee for social mobilization. UNICEF Burundi’s local partner the Province of the Anglican Church of Burundi rolled out malaria prevention training sessions for 400 opinion leaders (religious and community leaders, community health workers, members of Mothers’ Union) and 400 teachers in the provinces of Mwaro (centre) and Bururi (south-east).

Using interactive theatre, another UNICEF Burundi partner, the local NGO Tubiyage Association raised awareness on malaria prevention for over 11,200 people, targeting parents with children under 5 years old and pregnant women. This resulted in 333 persons (93 men, 94 women, 74 boys and 72 girls) proposing local solutions, including advertising the sale of long-lasting insecticide-treated mosquito nets and environmental control measures to eradicate stagnant water sources. UNICEF Burundi, in collaboration with CIEP, introduced puppet theatre shows in the provinces of Bururi and Mwaro; as a result, 4,377 school children (2,249 girls, 2,128 boys) learned the importance of using long-lasting insecticide-treated mosquito nets to protect themselves and their families from malaria.

UNICEF Burundi also supported EPI and MOH in developing a Strategic Immunization Communication Plan 2017–2020. Twenty national trainers, 12 provincial health promotion coordinators, 46 supervisors, and 119 health promotion technicians from EPI and MOH benefited from Communication for Development capacity-building to strengthen routine immunization. MOH national campaigns, such as the measles-rubella immunization campaign and MCHWs, and social mobilization activities were supported by all provincial governors, 18 directors of health districts, 18 provincial directors of education, 54 religious leaders and 17 media representatives who were engaged in promoting immunization uptake in their respective communities. UNICEF Burundi further provided social mobilization support to MOH in relation to the introduction of the human papilloma virus vaccine.

**OUTPUT 2** At least 60 per cent of school children in targeted primary school 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**
According to the preliminary results of DHS III, only 21 per cent of the population regularly uses water and soap for handwashing. Furthermore, the proportion of the population using improved drinking water sources and using improved sanitation is still below Millennium Development Goal targets (72.8 per cent and 57.6 per cent, respectively, in 2015). These are some of the determinants of the cholera outbreaks which were still recurrent in 2017, although on a scale that was manageable through existing systems.

UNICEF Burundi continued to promote key messages to prevent cholera in cholera-prone health districts through a mixed communications approach using radio broadcasts, interactive theatre, the religious community and door-to-door activities. UNICEF Burundi, in collaboration with CIEP, raised awareness on cholera prevention among an estimated 11,000 individuals (2,500 men, 2,500 women, 3,000 boys and 3,000 girls) in the communities of Bujumbura Rural and Makamba (south) provinces.
In the province of Cibitoke (northeast), UNICEF Burundi supported CIEP and the local NGO Province of the Anglican Church of Burundi in strengthening the skills of 400 religious leaders and 130 child protection committee members in conducting community awareness sessions on cholera prevention. In the province of Cibitoke, 20,249 people were sensitized on cholera prevention and on the importance of hygiene. This resulted in the installation of 291 ‘tippy-tap’ handwashing stations at the household level. In 20 schools in the same province, CIEP used puppet theatre to sensitize 20,233 children (10,257 girls and 9,976 boys) on the importance of good hygiene practices against cholera.

In collaboration with the local NGO Tubiyage Association, UNICEF Burundi used theatre performances for the behaviour change component of the CLTS approach, reaching 11,209 people (3,069 women, 3,274 men, 2,271 boys and 2,595 girls) on improved sanitation and hygiene. After performances participants demonstrated their knowledge of good hygiene practices through the organization of community competitions. Through these activities, 281 beneficiaries publically declared that they would maintain their latrines after the initiation of the CLTS project.

As a contribution to the WASH communication for development activities, the ‘Agashi’ series (local soap opera) integrated the promotion of home water treatment, hygiene and sanitation through 48 radio broadcasts.

However, some major constraints to the adoption of appropriate WASH practices persist and are largely due to increasing poverty levels, which compromise the financial capacity of families to buy soap, procure potable water and build adequate latrines in the household. The distance to water points is sometimes an additional challenge, with the burden of water collection falling mainly on women (60 per cent) and girls (18 per cent). In addition, households prioritize water for drinking and cooking rather than for handwashing.

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

Analytical statement of progress
Children in Burundi still face protection-related challenges, such as discrimination against and stigmatization of minority groups (albino, Batwa, disabled children, children infected or affected by HIV/AIDS) and street children. This situation was exacerbated in 2017 by the widespread poverty of households, which has limited the ability of parents to take adequate care of their children.

UNICEF Burundi continued its efforts to protect children by using interactive theatre in collaboration with the local NGO Tubiyage Association to raise awareness about the crucial role of families and communities in protecting children from discrimination against and stigmatization of minority groups and street children, and in combating the worst forms of child labour. In the four provinces of Ngozi, Kirundo (north), Gitega (centre) and Rumonge (south), 47,089 people were reached through this approach.

In collaboration with Tubiyage, UNICEF Burundi produced a documentary film on the use of these interactive theatres and the positive results for community behaviour with increased awareness of family roles regarding child protection. Feedback after the theatre performances
indicated that the majority of respondents (164 out of 168 respondents) learned about the importance of non-discrimination and non-stigmatization of children infected or affected by HIV/AIDS, Batwa children, albino children and children living with disabilities.

To reinforce these activities, CIEP initiated a broadcast programme called ‘Tujijuke’ (in the local language, ‘Convince us’) targeting existing child protection committees and listening groups at the community level. After these broadcasts, further community discussions were held to advocate and decide on the adoption of concrete actions and positive behaviour for the promotion and protection of children's rights within their respective communities. One of the challenges, due to the political crisis and the sensitivity of the Government regarding the use of media, was the length of administrative procedures to receive formal approval from CIEP for radio broadcasting. This delay did not allow the various communication activities to happen simultaneously and to reinforce each other at community level.

OUTPUT 4 At least 70 per cent of parents in the areas of intervention are aware of the importance of pre-school and participate in the promotion of education for all, and at least 40 per cent of adolescents out of school in targeted areas have access to life skills activities including HIV/AIDS prevention and peace building by the end of 2018.

Analytical statement of progress
The ongoing socio-political-economic crisis impacted the education system with some students and young people fleeing Burundi, especially adolescent boys who are generally considered a threat by the authorities. An assessment conducted by NGO partner RET in 28 schools revealed other causes of school dropouts, namely early pregnancies, violence (including gender-based violence) in schools, lack of hygienic facilities for menstruating girls, education costs, hunger and household poverty.

To address this situation, UNICEF Burundi and RET developed communication tools on the prevention of school dropouts and the reintegration of students who had already dropped out.

Special focus was given to communes with the highest dropout rates; and 137 (85 men and 52 women) agents of change and 137 actors (54 women and 83 men) benefited from training on social mobilization techniques (interactive theatres). With their support, social mobilization activities reached 23,908 people (11,476 males and 12,432 females) in the provinces of Rutana (south-east), Makamba (south) and Rumonge (east). The network of this initial group of community change agents was expanded by a further 540 community members (366 men and 174 women) who actively ensured that children continued to attend school (180 children returned to school during 2017).

UNICEF Burundi, in collaboration with the local NGO Province of the Anglican Church of Burundi, implemented a holistic life skills programme consisting of activities, such as peace-building, resilience and prevention of HIV/AIDS, early pregnancy and gender-based violence, that aimed at enhancing knowledge and youth values by establishing clubs and peer-education support in making informed decisions about health and conflict resolution. These activities reached 24,574 adolescents (12,957 girls and 11,617 boys) and an additional 99,419 youth (46,261 boys and 53,158 girls) benefited from a targeted HIV and gender-based violence prevention campaign. Among these youth, 8,498 (3,977 boys and 4,521 girls) voluntarily choose to be tested for HIV.
UNICEF Burundi, in collaboration with the local NGO Centre Ubuntu, implemented peace-building activities to enhance social cohesion and gender equality. This was made possible by creating and enabling youth-friendly spaces in 11 Ubuntu communities in the provinces of Makamba, Rutana, Karuzi, Gitega, Ngozi, Rumonge, and Kayanza for dialogue and peace consolidation, reaching 14,235 children (6,698 boys and 7,537 girls). Life skills communication activities on peace-building and self-reliance trainings were conducted with 659 youth (388 girls and 271 boys). Beneficiaries, including 347 youth (181 girls and 166 boys), confirmed that social tolerance had increased following the intervention, and 293 young people (221 girls and 72 boys) also stated that saving and loan activities contributed to youth empowerment and greater levels of gender equality.

OUTCOME 5 Cross-sectoral programme: National monitoring and evaluation structures provide reliable data for monitoring SDGs and other national goals and advocacy for children and women by the end of 2016.

Analytical statement of progress
UNICEF Burundi continued to support data creation for evidence-based advocacy and policies. Continuous support was provided to the 2016–2017 DHSIII. Data collection was finalized in March and a preliminary report issued in May. UNICEF Burundi supported the drafting of the final report, which was expected to be issued by year’s end. UNICEF Burundi also published the child poverty study (MODA) providing valuable information on the multiple deprivations faced by children and a Gender Programmatic Review report. In addition to supporting evidence-based advocacy, UNICEF Burundi developed budget briefs in child-relevant sectors and finalized the fiscal space analyses on social protection. UNICEF Burundi further conducted a comprehensive SITAN.

These analyses have closed data gaps on children and women and provided valuable evidence for the development of a new CPD. Through a participatory consultative approach, sectoral strategy notes were drafted, outlining the priorities and key interventions to be implemented for the period 2019–2023.

In collaboration with the World Bank and the Government, UNICEF Burundi supported the preparations of the ‘cash plus’ component of the cash transfer programme to be launched in 2018. It also supported technical discussion of the registry and monitoring and evaluation system, the design of the impact evaluation and the involvement of community workers, particularly social workers.

UNICEF Burundi continued to strengthen the social protection system in Burundi. A number of initiatives were implemented to reinforce the coordination, monitoring and evaluation capacities of the Social Protection Secretariat; this support was provided through: 1) a review of the social protection strategy framework; 2) the development of a five-year budgeted action plan; and 3) the development of a monitoring and evaluation manual. Moreover, the development of a communication plan to address misunderstandings and resistance factors related to cash transfer in the local context is ongoing. An institutional diagnosis is also underway for more efficiency and better governance within the system.

Burundi continues to suffer from widespread energy poverty, weak infrastructure and limited communication channels, which hamper access to services and information. The mobile penetration rate is 28 per cent and only 3 per cent of the population has access to the central electricity grid. To address these challenges, UNICEF Burundi continued to use innovative
approaches to deliver its programmes and to ensure a feedback loop from adolescents and beneficiaries. RapidPro SMS-based applications were scaled up across the country and used for monitoring the cholera outbreak in the six affected provinces, among other purposes.

To ensure youth and community engagement, U-Report was scaled up to more than 68,000 users; this involved the launch of eight polls on topics covering school dropouts, access to water and HIV/AIDS awareness during World AIDS Day. Results were used to assess service delivery and community attitudes, as well as to share critical information and positive behaviour messages back to U-Reporters.

Electrification of schools with solar panels continued in five schools, bringing light to classrooms and administrative offices. Forty solar panels were distributed for Projet Lumière, a social enterprise model for delivering off-grid energy supply to rural households. This intervention has benefitted 13,000 households, including 43,000 children. Finally, three solar-powered tablets, known as Koombooks, were distributed as part of a new ICT in Education initiative to reinforce teacher capacity through digital content.

In relation to media and child rights communication, UNICEF Burundi worked with traditional and social media to feature stories on children and child rights. UNICEF Burundi organized 10 media events to convey messages on UNICEF Burundi’s key priorities. In addition, 23 child journalists received training on reporting children’s right to education. Twenty-six journalists attended a workshop on the Convention of the Rights of the Child and social participation, which contributed to increased knowledge about ethical reporting on children.

Through collaboration with the National Children’s Forum in Burundi and child journalists, UNICEF Burundi advocated for child participation and advocacy. In partnership with Burundi International Festival of Film and Audiovisual, 25 trained child journalists produced five videos on children’s rights to sensitize people on the situation faced by children in Burundi, reaching more than 23,000 local leaders and children. A total of 19 media houses also participated in this initiative, multiplying the impact of these communication products. In collaboration with Francine Niyonsaba, UNICEF Burundi ‘Champion for Children’ and 2016 Olympic silver medallist, a media event was organized and a video with her message was produced and released on World Children’s Day.

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
In 2017, UNICEF Burundi continued to strengthen systems for reliable generation of data on children and women. ISTEEBU was supported in the finalization of the 2016–2017 DHSIII. Data collection for the survey was finalized in early March and the preliminary report was issued in May. In September, UNICEF Burundi supported the final report writing, which was expected to be validated by the end of the year. DHSIII will significantly improve data availability and close existing data gaps for children and women at the national and subnational level. Preliminary data have already supported evidence-based planning in relation to SDG baselines, the ongoing development of the National Development Plan and the development of the new UNICEF Burundi Country Programme of Cooperation 2019–2023.

To strengthen the statistical capacity of national partners, UNICEF Burundi supported the
participation of ISTEEBU in the 48th session of the United Nations Statistical Commission in early March in New York; the session focused on the SDG indicator framework and the setting of indicators for the post-2015 development agenda. To improve coordination and timely validation of routine data, UNICEF Burundi provided support to the Technical Committee on Statistical Information (Comité Technique de l’Information Statistique).

UNICEF Burundi continued to strengthen decentralized monitoring and evaluation capacities by supporting the Ministry of Communal Development in improving its capacities for monitoring the Communal Plan for Community Development (CPCD). In April 2017, UNICEF Burundi convened key CPCD planning and monitoring and evaluation actors in a workshop to analyse the current monitoring and evaluation system and to validate related tools. Support was also provided for development of the methodological framework for CPCD data collection and reporting to be tested in the two pilot provinces of Gitega and Kirundo. As one of the main tools for the collection of baselines and monitoring and evaluation of the CPCD, the framework is expected to be finalized before the end of the year in time for the planning of the new CPCD cycle, which is expected to begin in 2018.

UNICEF Burundi also participated actively in the national prioritization process of the SDGs to ensure the integration of child-related SDGs and indicators into the national framework. Despite these improvements, the timely availability of disaggregated data and data coordination remains an area that will require improvements to avoid duplication in data collection. In 2018, UNICEF Burundi will therefore continue to support data collection and analysis at national and subnational level for evidence-based programming and reporting.

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 quality planning, guidance was provided at the beginning of the year for the development of the 2017–2018 Rolling Work Plan and the Annual Management Plan. Progress towards the work plan was monitored through mid-year and annual reviews which were informed by joint field missions organized with the Government’s Technical Monitoring Group (Groupe Technique de Suivi) to assess progress achieved for children and women. To enhance the capacity of the Technical Monitoring Group, trainings were organized on UNICEF Burundi’s mandate and programme cycle, results-based management, gender and resilience. In addition, UNICEF Burundi supported three Technical Monitoring Group lead members participate on an exchange mission to Morocco to learn about monitoring and evaluation systems and practices.

To strengthen field monitoring, quarterly planning and a new field monitoring template were introduced, along with a recommendation tracker. Despite these efforts, field monitoring was still weak, and further improvements, particularly in relation to monitoring of recommendations, will need to be made in 2018.

The process of developing PCAs was improved through revised standard operating procedures and strengthened quality assurance. In 2017, over 31 PCAs and six small-scale funding agreements were reviewed and signed with 28 different partners. Although an office-wide understanding of PCAs was strengthened, additional efforts are needed in 2018 to further improve the process.
The HACT plan was developed in February and updated twice in 2017. As of 1 November, US$11.8 million was transferred to implementing partners. To assess the financial management of partners, 133 per cent of required programmatic visits, 86 per cent of planned spot checks and 90 per cent of scheduled audits were conducted. Results of these activities were shared at quarterly HACT Committee meetings. Based on a recommendation made by the 2015 UNICEF Burundi audit, tools to improve HACT planning, reporting and follow-up were implemented. Despite these efforts, timely HACT planning and follow-up on recommendations remain an area for further improvement.

The planning and monitoring team regularly monitored the UNICEF Burundi budget of US$47,422,252 and provided monthly updates for programme coordination meetings. As of 16 December, 97 per cent of the overall budget was utilized (98 per cent of Regular Resources, 95 per cent of Other Resources and 98 Per Cent Of Emergency Resources). Quality assurance of funding proposals and 42 donor reports were provided to ensure timely high-quality submissions.

Guidance and technical leadership was provided for the development of the new CPD 2019–2023 through a one-week training on results-based management and the organization of the Strategic Moment of Reflection in September. In addition, guidance was provided for the drafting of the strategic notes defining priorities, theory of change and implementation and monitoring frameworks.


**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**

Burundi’s main independent radio stations were closed in 2015; in 2017 new restrictions on the media were introduced by Burundi’s National Communication Council, which hampered media freedom. International media organizations have had difficulty obtaining visas for reporters and/or hiring local correspondents. Despite these barriers, UNICEF Burundi organized 10 media events to convey messages on its key priorities. In addition, 23 child journalists received training on reporting about children’s right to education, and 26 journalists attended a workshop on the Convention of the Rights of the Child increasing their capacity to report on children’s rights.

UNICEF Burundi continued to work with child journalists and the child members of the National Children’s Forum in Burundi to advocate for child participation and policies to protect the rights of children. In partnership with the Burundi International Festival of Film and Audiovisual, 25 trained child journalists produced five videos on children’s rights, which were shown in order to sensitize people about the situation of children in Burundi. These audiovisual materials were watched by more than 23,000 local leaders and children. Nineteen media houses took part in this initiative to multiply the impact of these communication products. To promote the rights of children to expression, 36 members of the National Children’s Forum received training on citizens’ rights and children’s rights.
Programme fundraising activities were supported by disseminating visibility and communications materials on UNICEF Burundi’s social media platforms. Two private donor visits were organized in collaboration with the U.S. Fund for UNICEF. UNICEF Burundi supported a well-publicized fundraising event, organized by the U.S. Fund for UNICEF, that resulted in more funding for the WASH sector.

UNICEF Burundi is increasingly boosting its presence on social media – Facebook, Instagram and YouTube – to advocate for children and their participation and to mobilize resources for activities to improve the lives of children. With more than 32,000 followers, the UNICEF Burundi Facebook page continues to be the most followed Facebook page in Burundi. UNICEF Burundi posted children’s messages and three videos produced by child journalists on digital platforms.

Seventeen children were invited to participate in a meeting of UNICEF Burundi’s Country Management Team on World Children’s Day to promote children’s right to participation. This meeting was followed by a question and answer session attended by the media and chaired by the Minister of Social Affairs, Human Rights and Gender and children.

The UNICEF Burundi communication and participation team organized a workshop on children’s digital experiences for 15 children to contribute to UNICEF’s report, The State of the World Children. A media event with Francine Niyonsaba, UNICEF Burundi ‘Champion for Children’ and 2016 Olympic silver medallist in the 800 metres, was organized, and a video with her message was produced and released on World Children’s Day.

**OUTPUT 4** By end of 2016, monitoring and delivery of basic social services for children are strengthened through the integration of efficient and inclusive innovative technologies and approaches.

**Analytical statement of progress**

Burundi continues to suffer from widespread energy poverty, a weak infrastructure and limited communication channels that are hampering access to services and 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.

In 2017, UNICEF Burundi continued to work towards the implementation of innovative technologies across the three main areas: 1) real-time data collection; 2) youth and community engagement; and 3) climate change.

For real-time data collection, key achievements were realized using the RapidPro SMS-based platform which was deployed with seven child protection, health, nutrition and WASH applications; of these seven applications, two have been scaled nationwide. The application for monitoring cholera outbreaks has been scaled to all affected provinces, namely Bubanza (west), Bujumbura Mairie, Bujumbura Rural, Bururi (west), Cibitoke (north-west), Rutana (east) and Makamba (south). In addition, following a request by MOH and as part of the malaria response plan following the malaria outbreak declaration, an additional application was developed for real-time reporting for supply tracking and malaria case notification.

To ensure youth and community engagement, U-Report was scaled up to more than 68,000 users. Eight polls were launched in 2017 on topics such school dropouts, access to water and HIV/AIDS awareness during World AIDS Day. Results were used to assess service delivery and community attitudes, as well as to share critical information and positive behaviour messages...
To strengthen electrification of schools and contribute to climate change mitigation, solar panels were installed in five schools in the northern provinces of Kayanza, Ngozi, and Muyinga, bringing light to classrooms and administration offices. Forty new solar panels have also been distributed for Projet Lumière, a social enterprise model for delivering off-grid energy supply to rural households. Launched in 2014, Projet Lumière has since benefited about 13,000 households, including 43,000 children.

In collaboration with the Université Libre de Bruxelles, UNICEF Burundi conducted a socio-economic impact evaluation of Projet Lumière to further institutionalize innovations; the report is being finalized and results will support the programming and scale-up of UNICEF Burundi’s broader climate change and innovation interventions.

Finally, three solar-powered tablets, known as Koombooks, are being distributed via the international NGO Libraries Without Borders as part of an innovative education approach that seeks to reinforce teacher capacity through digital content.

**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**

In 2017, UNICEF Burundi maintained the dialogue with the Government and the World Bank to develop the first cash transfer project (Merakabandi) in Burundi. UNICEF Burundi successfully valued its comparative advantage and capacity to implement a ‘cash plus’ component with health and nutrition interventions as a complement to the cash transfer. Ongoing discussions are being held with the Government on the funding mechanism for this component. In addition, UNICEF Burundi contributed to technical discussion about the implementation of this World Bank project which should start in 2019, notably on the registry and monitoring and evaluation system, beneficiaries targeting and the involvement of community workers, particularly social workers.

UNICEF Burundi continued efforts to strengthen the social protection system, particularly the coordination, monitoring and evaluation capacities of the Social Protection Secretary. In this regard, UNICEF Burundi has supported: 1) the review of the social protection strategy framework; 2) the development of a five-year budgeted action plan; and 3) the development of a monitoring and evaluation manual is ongoing to increase the capacity for better coherence and oversight of the social protection sector.

Despite of the adoption of a social protection policy accompanied by a national strategy, the coverage of the contributory and non-contributory social protection programme remains limited. UNICEF Burundi is currently supporting an institutional diagnosis of the sector, which is aimed at increasing efficiency and improving governance in the system.

The main bottleneck for the social protection system is related to the limited financing of social protection interventions due to the withdrawal of many donors as well as the limited fiscal space to fund social protection interventions with domestic resources. In this regard, UNICEF Burundi has continued evidence generation by developing the 2017 budget brief on social protection and finalized the fiscal space analyses on social protection. In 2018, these analyses will support a
output 6 By 2018, strategic researches, 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 advocacy 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
Pursuing its efforts to advocate for increased investment in children, UNICEF Burundi developed six budget briefs on child-relevant sectors (child protection, education, health, social protection, WASH and state budget) to ensure that child-sensitive programmes are protected from additional cuts during this period of austerity. In 2017, all social ministries, with the exception of the Ministry of Human Rights, Social Affairs and Gender and the Ministry of Agriculture, received larger budgets than in 2016. More specifically, for the health sector, an additional amount of US$570,000 was allocated in 2017 to fund the performance-based financing mechanism. A 100 per cent increase was allocated to purchase vitamin A and a slight increase (US$360,000) was earmarked for the health insurance scheme. In the education sector, an Education Fund was created with a budget of US$4.3 million to support the fee-free education policy. An extra budget line of US$59,749 was created for sanitation and hygiene. All these measures led to increased allocations of US$5.33 million in the 2017 government budget.

UNICEF Burundi signed a strategic partnership with the World Bank to carry out a health public expenditure review to assess the impact of the protracted crisis on the health system. The results showed that health inequities had been exacerbated by the current crisis, and financial barriers have impacted access to care, notably because of an increase in the price for drugs and transportation. A response plan will be developed and implemented in collaboration with the World Bank and the Government to strengthen the resilience of the health system. The same exercise for the education sector ongoing, and results are expected to be available in early 2018.

UNICEF Burundi finalized and disseminated the 2016 MODA and developed a Gender Programmatic Review report and a conflict analysis. The finalization of the 2017 SITAN is ongoing. These analyses, along with the preliminary results of the 2016–2017 DHSIII, provided valuable evidence for the development of the Strategy Notes and the new CPD 2019–2023.

Moreover, the fiscal space analysis has been finalized; it provides information on the most suitable options for increasing fiscal space for the social sector in the current economic situation. An advocacy tool for policy dialogue with the Ministry of Finance was developed to provide important information once the budget process is reopened to the public.

**Document centre**

**Evaluation and research**

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Lessons learned

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Programme documents

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