Burundi

Burundian children and families, especially women and children, remain vulnerable to humanitarian crisis due to high levels of poverty. This precarious situation is compounded by natural disasters (floods, landslides and rainfall deficits), population movements, epidemics (e.g., cholera and peaks of malaria) and the risk that Ebola will spread into the country. Some 1.74 million people, including 976,200 children, are affected by the humanitarian crisis and the economic downturn, and will require humanitarian assistance in 2020.1 This includes some 60,000 children² at risk of severe acute malnutrition (SAM). With the ongoing outbreak of Ebola in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Burundi is a priority country for Ebola preparedness. While important progress has been made in 2019, critical gaps remain in ensuring Ebola prevention and adequate capacities to respond. Given that the two cholera epidemics of 2019 remain difficult to contain and malaria cases continue to spike, the health situation is worrying. In addition, 110,000 people³ are displaced inside the country, primarily due to natural disasters. The ongoing voluntary repatriation process within the tripartite agreement facilitated the return of 15,000 Burundians (57 per cent children) in 2019.

In 2020, UNICEF will reinforce the resilience of systems and communities by increasing disaster risk reduction and emergency preparedness interventions and expanding multi-sectoral and integrated responses to reduce and mitigate the risks of and needs associated with population movement, health epidemics, natural disasters and malnutrition. In line with the national contingency plan, UNICEF will also target those in priority districts who are most vulnerable to the spillover of the Ebola outbreak with prevention and preparedness activities emphasizing water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), risk communication and community engagement, as per UNICEF’s comparative advantage in Burundi. UNICEF will provide a package of gender-sensitive interventions comprising life-saving health services; malnutrition prevention and treatment; access to safe water and sanitation; hygiene promotion; and critical and risk-informed education and protection services. Efforts to meet the needs of people with disabilities in humanitarian response are currently limited but will be expanded in 2020. Communication for development will be mainstreamed across all sectors of intervention and mechanisms for engaging communities in social cohesion, risk reduction and improved access to basic services will be strengthened. As part of its coordination responsibilities, UNICEF will continue to lead the WASH, nutrition and education sectors and the child protection sub-group.

**Humanitarian strategy**

In 2020, UNICEF will reinforce the resilience of systems and communities by increasing disaster risk reduction and emergency preparedness interventions and expanding multi-sectoral and integrated responses to reduce and mitigate the risks of and needs associated with population movement, health epidemics, natural disasters and malnutrition. In line with the national contingency plan, UNICEF will also target those in priority districts who are most vulnerable to the spillover of the Ebola outbreak with prevention and preparedness activities emphasizing water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), risk communication and community engagement, as per UNICEF’s comparative advantage in Burundi. UNICEF will provide a package of gender-sensitive interventions comprising life-saving health services; malnutrition prevention and treatment; access to safe water and sanitation; hygiene promotion; and critical and risk-informed education and protection services. Efforts to meet the needs of people with disabilities in humanitarian response are currently limited but will be expanded in 2020. Communication for development will be mainstreamed across all sectors of intervention and mechanisms for engaging communities in social cohesion, risk reduction and improved access to basic services will be strengthened. As part of its coordination responsibilities, UNICEF will continue to lead the WASH, nutrition and education sectors and the child protection sub-group.

### Results from 2019

As of 30 September 2019, UNICEF had US$7 million available against the US$10 million appeal (70 per cent funded). In 2019, UNICEF responded through an integrated package of interventions in the most affected provinces in Burundi, including areas affected by displacement, return and epidemics and health districts at risk of Ebola. As of September 2019, UNICEF had reached some 155,000 children with critical child protection services and provided essential therapeutic feeding treatment to more than 31,000 children suffering from SAM. The UNICEF WASH response continued to address current vulnerabilities and linked these efforts to longer-term resilience-building and preparedness activities, especially in cholera-prone areas and districts at risk of Ebola. Some 355,000 affected/at-risk people accessed safe and clean water with UNICEF support and 571,000 people received hygiene messages and key life-saving information. Despite limited funding, UNICEF and line ministries provided access to learning opportunities for some 29,000 school-aged children, including internally displaced and returnee children, and supplied the Government with stocks of essential drugs, including for malaria and cholera treatment, benefiting 70,000 persons.

UNICEF reached 1.3 million people with key Ebola prevention messages and continued its efforts in risk communication and community engagement to prepare for and respond to epidemics.6

### Humanitarian Action for Children

#### Total people in need

- 1.74 million

#### Total children (<18) in need

- 1 million

#### Total people to be reached

- 741,200

#### Total children to be reached

- 500,400

### 2020 programme targets

**Nutrition**

- 45,000 children aged 6 to 59 months affected by SAM admitted for treatment
- 550,000 children assessed for acute malnutrition through mass screening

**Health**

- 50,000 children vaccinated against measles
- 250,000 people, at least half of them children, provided with essential drugs

**WASH**

- 100,000 people accessing a sufficient quantity of safe water for drinking, cooking and personal hygiene
- 320,000 people in cholera and Ebola high-risk areas reached with key messages on safe and healthy hygiene practices

**Child protection**

- 160,000 children accessing critical child protection services, including mental health and psychosocial support
- 80,000 children and women accessing gender-based violence risk mitigation, prevention or response interventions

**Education**

- 60,000 school-aged girls, boys and adolescents accessing formal and/or non-formal education opportunities
- 6,500 education duty bearers trained on education in emergencies and risk reduction
- 500,000 school-aged girls and boys reached with Ebola prevention messages

**Communication for development**

- 1,700,000 people reached with key life-saving/behaviour change messages on Ebola prevention and control
- 165,000 people reached with information on access to basic services in emergency situations
30,000 mobilized in 2019 have mainly focused on Ebola preparedness.

Rumonge and Makamba during the school holidays.

meant increased efforts from UNICEF and partners.

Results are as of 30 September 2019 due to the quarterly reporting schedule.

The level of results reached can be explained by the increase in the number of malaria cases in 2019, which may have impacted the nutritional status of children.

The target includes the projection of potential refugees from the Democratic Republic of the Congo in connection with the presidential elections of late 2018. No specific response was ultimately required.

Hygiene promotion results exceed the targets mainly due to the amount of activities conducted for Ebola preparedness and the multiple cholera outbreaks since the beginning of the year, which meant increased efforts from UNICEF and partners.

The increase in the number of children reached is due to activities organized jointly by a consortium of child protection partners (most of them funded by UNICEF) in poor areas in Bujumbura, Rumonge and Makamba during the school holidays.

Education results are expected to be accelerated with the new academic year.

Programme implementation is ongoing and achievements are expected to increase by the end of the year. However, the target will not be reached as planned due to limited funding. Resources mobilized in 2019 have mainly focused on Ebola preparedness.

**Funding requirements**

UNICEF is requesting US$16.5 million to meet the humanitarian needs of children in Burundi in 2020. Without timely and adequate funding, UNICEF will be unable to scale up its humanitarian response to address the critical needs of women and children in the current context of heightened vulnerability, recurrent epidemics, child malnutrition, natural disasters and population movements. UNICEF also urgently needs to increase preparedness efforts to address the risk of the Ebola outbreak spilling over from the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

**Who to contact for further information:**

Jeremy Hopkins
Representative, Burundi
Tel: +257 2220 2010
Email: jhopkins@unicef.org

Manuel Fontaine
Director, Office of Emergency Programmes (EMOPS)
Tel: +1 212 326 7163
Email: mfontaine@unicef.org

Carla Haddad Mardini
Director, Public Partnership Division (PPD)
Tel: +1 212 326 7160
Email: chaddadmardini@unicef.org

---

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sector</th>
<th>2020 requirements (US$)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nutrition</td>
<td>3,700,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health</td>
<td>1,600,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water, sanitation and hygiene</td>
<td>4,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child protection</td>
<td>3,500,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>1,500,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Communication for development</td>
<td>1,700,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sector coordination</td>
<td>500,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>16,500,000</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

1 Results are as of 30 September 2019 due to the quarterly reporting schedule.
2 The level of results reached can be explained by the increase in the number of malaria cases in 2019, which may have impacted the nutritional status of children.
3 The target includes the projection of potential refugees from the Democratic Republic of the Congo in connection with the presidential elections of late 2018. No specific response was ultimately required.
4 Hygiene promotion results exceed the targets mainly due to the amount of activities conducted for Ebola preparedness and the multiple cholera outbreaks since the beginning of the year, which meant increased efforts from UNICEF and partners.
5 The increase in the number of children reached is due to activities organized jointly by a consortium of child protection partners (most of them funded by UNICEF) in poor areas in Bujumbura, Rumonge and Makamba during the school holidays.
6 Education results are expected to be accelerated with the new academic year.
7 Programme implementation is ongoing and achievements are expected to increase by the end of the year. However, the target will not be reached as planned due to limited funding. Resources mobilized in 2019 have mainly focused on Ebola preparedness.

---

**UNICEF**

Jeremy Hopkins
Representative, Burundi
Tel: +257 2220 2010
Email: jhopkins@unicef.org

Manuel Fontaine
Director, Office of Emergency Programmes (EMOPS)
Tel: +1 212 326 7163
Email: mfontaine@unicef.org

Carla Haddad Mardini
Director, Public Partnership Division (PPD)
Tel: +1 212 326 7160
Email: chaddadmardini@unicef.org