**Highlights**

- Certain suburbs of Bujumbura continue to experience frequent cordon and search operations, however schools are open and students are attending classes.

- Crime is on the rise. The attempted assassination, on 11 September, of the Chief of the Defense Staff of the Burundian Military demonstrates a degree of fragility within the state.

- Advocacy continues on behalf of the children charged with involvement in an armed group. On 21 August, UNICEF participated in follow-up visits to the prison, provision of legal aid, and a joint letter (UNICEF & OHCHR) to the Ministry of Justice to advocate for a fair trial that considers the right to restorative justice of these children.

- UNICEF supported the Ministry of Education’s Back to School campaign by providing school kits and teaching materials to more than 250,000 children from the most deprived 7 provinces.

- UNICEF Burundi’s appeal for US$ 8,700,000 is only 26% funded this year. Urgent support is required, particularly given the possibility of a shortage of essential medicines for children and women in the coming months, but also in response to the protection crises.

**Key figures**

- **162,250** Community members reached on cholera prevention and control through communications activities (UNICEF, 28 September)

- **52** Minors still incarcerated and charged with ‘involvement in armed groups’ (UNICEF, 30 September)

- **More than 250,000** Children supported as part of the Back to School campaign.

- **Over 191,831** Number of refugees seeking asylum in neighbouring countries (UNHCR, 29 September)

**Situation Overview & Humanitarian Needs**

- Parts of Burundi continue to be marked by insecurity, illegal arrests, targeted assassinations of political opponents against the 3rd mandate of President Nkurunziza with no respite in sight. On 11 September 2015, an attempted assassination of the Chief of the Defense Staff of the Burundian Military took place. Grenades and exchanges of gunfire continue on a nightly basis in suburbs of the capital, specifically where the population has shown opposition to the 3rd mandate of the President. There has been consistent incidents of grenade attacks, especially against the police checkpoints.

- Certain suburbs of Bujumbura still experience frequent cordon and search operations. Schools noneless are open and students are attending classes, but pupils cannot stay late and many schools (primary and secondary levels) close at noon.
There are already clear signs that the socio-economic development of the country is at stake due to the sharp decline in bilateral aid. Children, particularly the most vulnerable, bear the brunt of the consequences as social services are impacted. Working with partners, UNICEF continues to promote the welfare and wellbeing of children throughout the country, with a particular focus on protection of children against all forms of violence, exploitation and family separation.

Humanitarian leadership and coordination
The WASH sectoral group has conducted a sectoral situation assessment in 9 provinces in July to take stock of the situation of WASH in the community, health care facilities and schools. The priority collines and institutions for specific interventions for water supply, sanitation, and hygiene promotion have been identified and a risk-reduction and preparedness action plan was developed. Rapid assessment of the education sector in 10 targeted provinces is ongoing.

Humanitarian Strategy
UNICEF’s preparedness and response has focused on support to existing structures, such as management of severe acute malnutrition at community and facility levels, including additional therapeutic feeding. UNICEF has been providing crucial support to ensure continuation of EPI services, and UNICEF ensures children and women’s access to water for drinking, cooking and personal hygiene. Support for the Back to School campaign also came at a critical moment of providing normalcy to children, many of whom had not been attending school during the last months of the past school year.

UNICEF’s Response with Partners

Health & Nutrition
The Minister of Health officially declared the end of the cholera epidemic in early September. Nonetheless, a hundred suspected cases were reported between September 6th and 16th in the district of Mabayi. Although 3 cases tested positive for cholera by the national laboratory, it was suspected that the real cause was food poisoning also as most patients had participated in a common religious meal. All patients were discharged after 1 or 2 days. MoH, WHO and UNICEF recommended to review quality assurance of the national laboratory. Since 17th of September there have been no new reported cases of cholera.

Pre-existing challenges within the health drug distribution system which have been exacerbated by the breakdown in partnerships with bilateral donors, and hence shortfalls in the release of financial support in the current context, have resulted in the National Drug Store of Burundi not being able to purchase drugs for the coming months. UNICEF is working with partners to address the risk of essential drug shortage.

Education
UNICEF supported the Ministry of Education’s annual Back to School campaign through provision of school kits and teaching materials to more than 250,000 school children in seven of the most deprived provinces and 10 districts in 420 primary schools. The most vulnerable provinces host returnees from refugee camps that were previously closed in Tanzania. The opening ceremony of the campaign was launched by the Minister of Education and the UNICEF Representative on Monday, 21st September.
**WASH**

During the UNICEF-led WASH coordination meeting, the humanitarian risk reduction-preparedness action plan was shared. The other key elements of the sectoral contingency plan were also updated, including 3W (who does what where), stock mapping and humanitarian scenarios for the coming 6 to 12 months.

The Ministry of Health (Department of health promotion, sanitation and hygiene: DPSHA), Burundian Red Cross and UNICEF conducted a hygiene promotion training session for 25 educators of 6 Child Friendly Spaces in Bujumbura-Mairie in coordination with the NGO Sports without Borders. The educators were trained in and equipped with practical tools, and started hygiene promotion sessions to increase the knowledge and enhance practices through regular handwashing of 7800 children. Monitoring by partners is ongoing.

In support of the Back to School campaign led by the Ministry of Education, UNICEF provided soap to 430 schools in the 7 target provinces (covering over 247,000 children) to encourage hygiene promotion and handwashing at the schools.

**Child Protection**

Public trials for the 52 minors arrested and charged with ‘involvement in armed groups’ following fighting in the northern province of Kayanza were held on 21st September. 38 children in pre-trial detention are retained for public trial, while a further 14 children were already sentenced to 2 years imprisonment. Legal Aid and psychosocial support are provided to the children through the partnership with NGOs APRODH and Terre des Hommes. Appeals against the sentences have been made for the 14 sentenced children. UNICEF and OHCHR continue to follow-up with the Ministry of Justice and advocate for the transfer of the children to the re-education center, followed by their release and reintegration back into society. The UNICEF Representative also visited the prison of Rumonge where these children are held in order to step up advocacy efforts.

UNICEF continues to follow up on twenty minors who were arrested and charged with involvement in armed groups and sent to Ruyigi Rehabilitation Center in August 2015. 16 minors have been released after the public trials and 4 children are still awaiting hearing by judges. Reintegration activities are ongoing by implementing partners.

In partnership with the NGO IRC 4 out of 7 children released and reintegrated by the National Independent Commission for Human Rights (Commission Nationale Indépendante des Droits de l’Homme, CNIDH) have been formally identified and reintegration activities are ongoing.

To address psychosocial support needs for children in Bujumbura, UNICEF continues to support a network of child-friendly spaces (CFS) throughout the capital. 28 spaces are now operational, providing much needed access to basic services and psychosocial support services to children adversely affected by the current volatile situation. The psycho-social platform deploys psychologists who offer psychosocial support and counselling for children experiencing trauma.

Thirteen cases of illegal adoption have been reported to UNICEF. These cases are currently being verified and followed up in collaboration with the NGO SOJPAE.
Communication for Development (C4D)

C4D interventions related to cholera prevention in three communes of Makamba Province were concluded at the end of September. In the last three months, the project has contributed to raise awareness of 32,590 households and an estimated 162,950 community members through door to door identification and awareness activities. 16,250 people have been exposed to cholera prevention messages through mass communication activities including interactive theatres groups. Some 250 handwashing devices ("Tippy Tap") have been set up and benefit 1250 community members. C4D has supported the dissemination of radio programmes on cholera prevention. In early October, a radio emission will be organized to publicize the results of the door to door activities and the impact of the project in Makamba province.

Follow-up committees, comprised of local administrative chiefs, community leaders, district health teams and youth peer educators were established to ensure continuity and sustainability of the project in 75 collines of intervention.

Media and External Communication

The Communication team continues to cover the ongoing emergency and ongoing regular programmatic interventions. A photo essay with a human interest story on the Back to School campaign and a photo essay on promotion of good hygiene practices in the Child Friendly Spaces were developed. A video on Cholera prevention will be published soon. The joint Minister of Education and UNICEF Representative launch of the Back to School campaign also received a great deal of media coverage.

FUNDING

UNICEF Burundi is appealing for US$ 8,700,000 of which USD 2,726,689 has been received to date. This amount includes US$ 419,972 carried forward from 2014. Without additional funding of US$ 5,973,311, UNICEF will not be able to scale up response to the humanitarian needs or continue supporting the continuation of critical basic social services, notably health care and the evolving child protection crises in the country.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Appeal Sector</th>
<th>Original 2015 HAC Requirements (US$)</th>
<th>Revised 2015 HAC Requirement (US$)</th>
<th>Funds Received Against 2015 HAC (US$)</th>
<th>Funding gap</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>WASH</td>
<td>1,000,000</td>
<td>1,700,000</td>
<td>754,196</td>
<td>945,804</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>200,000</td>
<td>444,800</td>
<td>174,931</td>
<td>269,869</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nutrition</td>
<td>700,000</td>
<td>1,425,000</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1,425,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health</td>
<td>100,000</td>
<td>4,300,000</td>
<td>924,286</td>
<td>3,375,714</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child Protection</td>
<td>500,000</td>
<td>830,200</td>
<td>233,304</td>
<td>596,896</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cross-cutting Support</td>
<td>220,000</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sub-Total</td>
<td>2,500,000</td>
<td>8,700,000</td>
<td>2,306,717</td>
<td>6,393,283</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carry-forward*</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>419,972</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total funding available**</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2,306,717</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grand Total</td>
<td>2,500,000</td>
<td>8,700,000</td>
<td>2,726,689</td>
<td>5,973,311</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Next SitRep: 30/10/2015

Who to contact for further information:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Contact Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bo Viktor Nylund</td>
<td>Representative Burundi</td>
<td>Tel: +257 79960044 Email: <a href="mailto:bvnynlund@unicef.org">bvnynlund@unicef.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Natascha Paddison</td>
<td>Deputy Representative Burundi</td>
<td>Tel: +257 79985095 Email: <a href="mailto:npaddison@unicef.org">npaddison@unicef.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eliane Luthi</td>
<td>Communication Specialist Burundi</td>
<td>Tel: +257 73819388 Email: <a href="mailto:eluthi@unicef.org">eluthi@unicef.org</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

UNICEF Burundi Humanitarian Situation Report 30 September 2015