## Highlights

- On 13 August 2019, the Burundi Ministry of Public Health and AIDS control (MoH) kicked off the immunization campaign against Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) for front-line workers.
- Construction work on the Ebola treatment centre for Mudubugu, Bubanza Province, is being finalized.
- The national contingency plan was revised in June 2019 and covers activities until the end of December 2019 estimated at US$ 11.5 million. As of 20 August, the remaining gap is US$9.78 million. Of this, UNICEF is appealing for approximately US$ 2 million.
- UNICEF Burundi has been actively involved in preparedness efforts since the outbreak in DRC in August 2018 with a focus on Infection Prevention and Control (IPC)/WASH and Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE).

## UNICEF actions with partners

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>INDICATORS</th>
<th>Targets by December 31</th>
<th>Results to date$^1$</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>C4D:</strong> # of people reached with EVD related messaging through community engagement and interpersonal communication approaches in areas at risk of EVD</td>
<td>2,000,000</td>
<td>1,300,000</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>C4D:</strong> # of people trained to sensitize the community on EVD prevention and control</td>
<td>1,500</td>
<td>646</td>
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<td><strong>WASH:</strong> # of entry points provided with essential WASH services in areas at risk of EVD</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>16</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>WASH:</strong> # of staff in health facilities trained on IPC/WASH in areas at risk of EVD</td>
<td>300</td>
<td>247</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>CHILD PROTECTION:</strong> # of partners’ organizations trained on psychosocial support and child protection services as part of EVD preparedness</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>EDUCATION:</strong> # of teachers trained with EVD prevention information in schools in areas at risk of EVD</td>
<td>2,000</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>NUTRITION:</strong> # of nutrition stakeholders oriented in NiE (Nutrition in Emergency) including EVD</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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$^1$ Reached in 2019

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**Funding requirements 2019**

Main gaps remain in IPC/WASH at health facility level and RCCE in priority health districts (including schools).
Government preparedness
A National Ebola Taskforce (NTF) has been set up under the leadership of the MoH, and in collaboration with relevant government departments, WHO and other UN agencies (UNICEF, IOM, UNHCR, WFP, OCHA), donors (World Bank, USAID, DFID) and NGOs (ICRC, MSF-OCB). This taskforce coordinates the EVD preparedness and response planning (National Contingency Plan, Centralized Operational Plan, District Micro-Operational Plans etc.). In May 2019, thematic groups were established and re-structured in line with the EVD pillars: surveillance, case management, laboratory, IPC/WASH, communication and community engagement and logistics. The different coordination fora are meant to meet on a weekly basis, however, the last NTF meeting was held in June. In June, the members of the NTF revised the national plan through the development of costed plans per pillar for preparedness activities until 31 December 2019. The needs identified in these plans for the next six months were estimated at US$ 11.5 million. Resource mobilization and reallocation of funding have reduced the gap to US$ 9.78 million as of 8 August, with approximately US$ 3 million needed for the case management/IPC/WASH pillar.

Partner support for EVD preparedness
UN agencies, including UNICEF, operate within the government coordination and response structures. WHO has been convening weekly strategic EVD coordination meetings at the national level with UN agencies, donors, cooperation bodies and NGOs. EVD UN technical meetings are also called on a weekly basis for the implementation and monitoring of the CERF. This fund was allocated in February 2019 and UNICEF received US $600,000. Ad hoc meetings and working sessions with UN agencies and NGOs are also convened by WHO as needed.

UNICEF actively participates in and provides technical support to the NTF and several sub-committees, such as IPC/WASH, Case Management, Logistics and Communication/Community Engagement (as a co-lead). There are also numerous multi-sectoral coordination structures provided by UNICEF at the national level, which can be used in responding to an EVD outbreak. Other existing UNICEF led coordination groups such as WASH, Child Protection and Education sectors have included preparedness and surveillance as a standing item in all meetings.

UNICEF Preparedness Strategy
UNICEF Burundi’s preparedness strategy is aligned with the National EVD Response and Preparedness Plan for RCCE and IPC/WASH. Based on UNICEF’s comparative advantage, the Country Office supports the 21 priority districts\(^1\) in the following areas:

- **Risk communication and community engagement** with the aim to promote protective practices to prevent EVD transmission and promote timely care seeking; to reduce anxiety by communicating technically correct messages to targeted populations; to mobilise communities to identify and quickly report potential cases. UNICEF co-chairs the RCCE sub-committee and will continue to provide support to (1) generating evidence, including through the Knowledge, Attitudes and Practices (KAP) surveys and anthropological reviews/studies; (2) developing and implementing risk communication and social mobilisation plans to ensure engagement through interpersonal communication (door-to-door) and mass awareness communication (mobile cinema, communication caravans, mass media such as radio and TV spots and SMS); with key influencers (community leaders, cultural and religious leaders, health providers including traditional healers, teachers) and community networks (Burundi Red Cross volunteers, para-social workers, fishermen, etc.); (3) supporting the MoH in developing communication plans for preparedness and response.

- **Infection, Prevention and Control (IPC) through WASH** with the aim to prevent EVD transmission in points of entry from DRC and priority 1 countries, health facilities, institutions and communities (including schools). UNICEF will continue to distribute essential WASH supplies (such as chlorine, handwashing stations, etc.), train health workers and WASH resource persons on IPC, contribute to construction and/or rehabilitation of water supply and sanitation

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\(^1\) As part of Burundi’s EVD National Contingency Plan, 21 health districts that share a border with the DRC, Rwanda and Tanzania, at risk have been categorized at two priority levels (Priority 1: 6 health districts: Bujumbura North, Cibitoke, Isale, Mpanda, Mabayi, Bujumbura Centre; Priority 2: 15 health districts: Rumonge, Kabezi, Nianza-Lac, Bugarama, Bujumbura South, Kayanza, Ngozi, Buye, Kiremba, Vumbi, Kirundo, Busoni, Giteranyi, Rwibaga and Muyinga).
facilities in points of entry and health facilities and enhance and promote hand washing practices in public spaces through integration of WASH and risk communication activities.

- **Support for Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF)** in the context of EVD, includes the updating of national guidelines and protocols, development of implementation tools and building the capacity of frontline health workers and implementing partners in high-risk districts to provide lifesaving nutrition services for infants and young children affected by Ebola.

- **Child Protection, including Psychosocial Support** for children affected by EVD, is still not considered as a pillar of the National EVD Contingency Plan. UNICEF advocates for the review of the plan in order to include this activity and will develop a minimum response package together with sectoral protection groups held at national level. Training of implementing partners on psychosocial support and individual child protection services in case of EVD will also be conducted in the coming months. IYCF and Child Protection interventions are not yet included in the National EVD plan, which needs to be revised to address these gaps.

**Summary Update of Programme Preparedness Activities**

**Risk Communication, Social Mobilization and Community Engagement**

Ebola preparation activities began in 2018 with UNICEF as the co-lead of the Ebola Task Force Sub-committee on Communication and Participation. The Ebola Communication Strategy jointly designed with the MoH includes multi-channel interventions targeting both the most-at-risk populations and the general public. Various information, education and communication (IEC) materials and job aids were validated by the MoH. The MoH, UNICEF and WHO have been participating in joint trainings for doctors, nurses, outreach workers and NGOs, on how to recognise signs and symptoms of Ebola, report suspect cases and respond to rumours. Local plans were developed by community health workers. Vulnerable communities, including fishing communities, whose members regularly cross the lake to the DRC were targeted by training mentorship programmes. Technical support has been provided to the MoH to develop radio spots and messages on Ebola. A baseline knowledge, attitudes and practices survey on Ebola was completed. To mobilize teachers, undertake training for hotline staff and engage religious leaders and child protection committees to support Ebola prevention, a partnership was established with the Province de l'Église Anglicane du Burundi. The Ministry of Communication, Information, Education and Population (CIEP) with support from UNICEF produced radio spots and content for radio programmes which were broadcast on national. The content is also by the radio listening groups. Listening groups in Bururi and Rumonge provinces (760 members) acquired knowledge on Ebola prevention enabling them to share key messages and promote good practices with community members (1,658 households). A U-Report poll on Ebola complimented activities reaching 69,088 U-Reporters.

In 2019, the training activities continued in border communities. Targeted populations included journalists, teachers, school children, fisherman, religious leaders, traders, traditional healers, public health and entry point personnel (646 persons in total). Ebola awareness and community engagement activities reached 1.3 million people through interpersonal communication, public service announcements, mobile cinema, religious leaders and outreach caravans that included theatrical performances and quiz contests. These activities were implemented in priority health districts in coordination with the MoH's Department of Information, Education and Communication. Congolese communities in Burundi were targeted. Mobilisation activities also targeted nine marketplaces near the border crossings. Radio programming is on-going with broadcasts in Kirundi, French and Swahili. Radio messages are reinforced via Short Message Service on EVD prevention, which are distributed through the four major telephone networks reaching an estimated 4 million people. UNICEF and its partners (MoH and the theatre group Ni-Nde) produced a TV show based on EVD themes and key messages. The TV show and the related TV spots reached an estimated 3.1 million, majority of whom in the priority districts.

In collaboration with the Ministry of Education, 538 members (218 teachers, 210 school directors, 110 School Management Team members) were trained between December 2018 and February 2019 in three provinces (Bujumbura Rural, Cibitoke and Bubanza) and five communes (Kabezi, Mutimbuzi, Rugombo, Buganda and Mpanda).

In July 2019, the training materials for partners and teachers was revised by Ministries of Education and Health with the support of UNICEF. In addition, a concept note was developed by the UNICEF emergency team to leverage funds for greater coverage of priority 1 and 2 health districts of the National Contingency Plan and the UNICEF Burundi Office Preparedness Plan.
Infection Prevention and control/WASH

Since the end of 2018, UNICEF in collaboration with the MoH and WASH partners has been involved in improving access to safe water, sanitation and appropriate hygiene practices at the main points of entry with DRC (ground and lake borders). Sixteen of the 23 entry points have been provided with essential WASH services (water supply, sanitation facilities and handwashing station).

Regarding water supply, UNICEF has adopted a strategy based on a short, medium and long-term approach:

- **Short-term strategy:** Support with water trucking for entry points without any water supply system to ensure access to safe water to border staff and travelers. This intervention has been conducted in five entry points since December 2018 ensuring access to safe water for 45,000 weekly travelers. This number has progressively decreased from five to three entry points due to longer-term adjustments made in two entry points.

- **Medium-term strategy:** Installation of drilled wells equipped with hand pumps to replace water trucking and where connection to the existing network is not feasible. Five priority-1 entry points were serviced with a well in the first half of 2019. Three additional wells were installed in host communities and schools.

- **Long-term strategy:** Provision of sustainable water supply solutions such as connection to water networks to allow access to water in the entry points and for the surrounding communities. While this activity was conducted in seven priority-2 entry points, technical studies are still ongoing in other priority-1 areas.

In terms of sanitation, 14 out of 23 entry points in priority districts 1 and 2 were provided with blocks of latrines coupled with hand washing stations (74 latrines were constructed) in the first half of 2019.

A campaign on EVD awareness and appropriate hygiene practices is ongoing in 14 entry points and neighboring communities. UNICEF has supported the training of 360 community leaders, 150 health staff from 50 health centers in priority districts 1 and 2, and 150 teachers from 50 schools in priority districts 1 and 2, on IPC and WASH, as well as 97 health center hygienists on chlorine solution preparation. With UNICEF support, door-to-door awareness campaigns were conducted by community health workers that reached 57,684 households for a total of 346,104 people. About 45,088 school children (22,950 girls; 22,138 boys) also learned about Ebola prevention and control. These activities are being conducted by UNICEF partner NGO AIDE, and the Department of Hygiene of the MoH.

During the reporting period, UNICEF provided extensive technical support to the Ministry of Health in coordination with WHO in the elaboration of minimum IPC/WASH package for health centers, which is currently being validated. Technical assessments were conducted in three entry points and a call for tender was launched for the selection of companies for the construction of latrines.

**Psychosocial support, including Child Protection**

UNICEF in collaboration with WHO and the MoH organized two training sessions in Bujumbura Mairie in December 2018 and February 2019 for 72 social workers (43 men; 29 women) from 38 child protection organizations. The trainings included basic information on EVD (symptoms, transmission modes, prevention and response measures), child protection risks in case of an outbreak, the impact of EVD on the psychosocial wellbeing of children and the need for psychological first aid (PFA). Social workers were encouraged to share the information with their colleagues and to raise awareness on EVD prevention and response measure in daily activities conducted with children and communities. A total of 38 hand washing stations have been ordered for partners that are hosting a high number of children daily and for child care centers as a prevention measure.

UNICEF has undertaken with partners the adaptation and adoption of a child protection minimum package for children directly or indirectly affected by EVD. The objective is to consolidate a pool of social workers appropriately trained and ready to facilitate access to CP and psychosocial services in case of an EVD outbreak.

**Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF)/Nutrition in the context of Ebola**

UNICEF played an instrumental role organizing the first capacity building workshop on Nutrition in Emergencies (including in case of EVD outbreak) attended by 40 participants from the Government, UN Agencies and local NGO starting on 19 August 2019. The Regional Office is facilitating the activity. It is expected that by the end of August, a set of tools will have been developed for Burundi on responding to nutritional challenges during emergencies, including IYCF in the context of EVD.
UNICEF Burundi EVD preparedness interventions are costed at US$ 4 million. As of August 2019, the funding gap for the UNICEF Burundi EVD preparedness plan stands at approximately US $2 million. By 20 August, US$ 2 million was received through the generous contributions of the CERF and from DFID, as well as from the UNICEF Global Humanitarian Thematic funding (GHTF). An EPF loan for an amount of US$ 500,000 was received to support the implementation of the most urgent activities led by UNICEF.

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<tr>
<th>Estimated Funding Requirements for Ebola Response (September 2018 - December 2019)</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Pillars</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>---------------------------------------------------------------</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Coordination</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Case management/IPC/WASH</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Risk communication and community engagement</strong></td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
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</table>

Next SitRep: 20 September 2019

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