Situation Overview & Humanitarian Needs

Following the adoption of UN Security Council Resolution 2248 in November and the ensuing UNSC consultations on the escalation of insecurity and violence in Burundi, the UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon addressed a letter to the President of the Security Council highlighting two options for UN presence in the country: a “multidimensional integrated peacekeeping operation under Chapter VII of the Charter of the UN” or a “fully fledged integrated special political mission.”

The Security Council in its 19 December press statement supported and urged all stakeholders to fully cooperate with the African Prevention and Protection Mission to Burundi (MAPROBU). The deployment of

Highlights

- Children continue to bear the brunt of the violence in Bujumbura: a 9-year-old boy was shot on 5 December as he was playing in the street in Cibitoke, Bujumbura; on 9 December, a 16-year-old child living in the street who attended a UNICEF Child-Friendly Space was killed by gunfire; and on 23 December, a 15-year-old playing at a school in Musaga was killed by a grenade.

- Extensive advocacy efforts by UNICEF and partners at the local, provincial, and national level led to the release of 11 children from prison, police and prosecutors detention cells, and re-education centers. It also led to the separation of children from adults in prisons. This also included the release and reintegration within 24 hours of the re-arrested child, who was previously released and reintegrated with his family on 30 November 2015 following allegations of his involvement with armed groups.

- As of 22 December, the cumulative number of cholera cases was 18, including 14 amongst returnees from Tanzania. These cases received the necessary care and services in the Kabonga Cholera Treatment Center in the southern district of Nyanza Lac.

Key figures

- **21** Children killed by gunfire or grenade fire since the onset of the crisis in April (UNICEF, 28 December)

- **At least 7 children** Detained for suspected association with armed groups in December 2015

- **Over 227,000** Refugees seeking asylum in neighboring countries (UNHCR, 22 December 2015)

- **Nearly 15,000** Internally displaced people in Makamba province (IOM, 17 November 2015)

- **18 cholera cases** In the district of Nyanza Lac
On 22 December, the Government of Burundi rejected the AU proposition for the peacekeeping mission MAPROBU, arguing that this equated to “denying the sovereignty of Burundi and [that it] would be considered an “invasion”.

On 28 December, although present for the Peace Talks in Kampala, the Government of Burundi issued a statement refusing the set date for the dialogue (6 January 2016) and rejecting the participation of some of the actors from the opposition groups.

Children’s issues were expressly highlighted by members of the United Nations Security Council during consultations on Burundi, with references made to access to healthcare and other social services, and to children being killed, detained, and separated from their families. Further, the Africa-Caribbean-Pacific and European Union (ACP-EU) Joint Parliamentary Assembly Resolution issued on 7 December 2015 explicitly pointed out similar concerns over children and included relevant recommendations.

UNICEF is increasingly concerned about the escalation of violence and the deteriorating security situation in Burundi, and the impact that this has on children. Following the attacks on three military bases and subsequent violence in Bujumbura and Bujumbura Rural on 11 – 12 December, official figures announced that 87 people were killed and 68 arrested, but these numbers are difficult to verify and are believed to be significantly higher.

The political and security situation remains volatile, and a climate of fear predominates the affected areas. This continues to impact the humanitarian situation, with an increase of displaced populations and refugees in neighboring countries (+5,990 in December, UNHCR December 22nd).

**Humanitarian Leadership and Coordination**

UNICEF actively participates in the Humanitarian Country Team and the inter-sectoral meetings, which lead strategic and cross-sectoral coordination of the humanitarian response. UNICEF was also closely involved in the organization of the Mission of the IASC Emergency Directors from 11 key UN Agencies and International Organizations, who visited Burundi from 2-5 December 2015 to assess humanitarian needs and engage in exchange and discussion with Government officials, international and national NGOs and partners, donors, as well as the Humanitarian Country team. The Emergency Directors raised their concerns and called for urgent action to prevent a humanitarian crisis in Burundi, while they called for the development of a humanitarian appeal and scale up of emergency preparedness and response efforts.

UNICEF continues its co-leadership role of the WASH, Education, Child Protection and Nutrition emergency sectoral groups. In the absence of WHO, UNICEF also co-leads the activities in the health emergency sectoral group alongside the Ministry of Health. The WASH emergency sectoral group has identified specific interventions for water supply, sanitation, and hygiene promotion as their priority risk reduction and preparedness activities, and the education emergency sectoral group is currently supporting the Government in organizing the annual data collection system for education for the 2015-16 school year.

Furthermore, as emergency WASH sector lead, UNICEF ensured that all critical WASH gaps and vulnerabilities were identified, and that relevant actors were provided with information on the 3W’s (Who, What, Where). The most recent WASH sector meeting, which took place on 15 December, had representation from the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Energy and Mines, several UN agencies (UNICEF, IOM and UNHCR), international and national NGOs, ICRC, and BRC (Burundi Red Cross).

In View of the above, UNICEF continued strengthening its partnerships with NGOs and UN agencies to increase the readiness to respond to the humanitarian impact of any future events and strengthening inter-sectoral
capacities to provide an integrated response in a timely manner to the current protection and human rights crisis.

**Humanitarian Strategy**

Due to the evolving situation, UNICEF continues to assess the impact on the population and their needs, particularly for children and women. UNICEF also continues to strengthen the monitoring and evidence base for preparedness and emergency response. The aim is to gain a better understanding of priority needs and increased risks through quantifiable information and evidence for more effective and appropriate response. In view of this effort, UNICEF is currently assessing the additional resources required and is working to enhance its capacity to undertake this task.

At the same time, UNICEF accelerated support to the contingency planning updates and a support mission from the UNICEF Eastern and Southern Africa Regional Emergency Team took place in December to help the continued planning and response efforts of the country office.

Furthermore, UNICEF is working closely with OCHA and the inter agency working group to articulate a narrative that is inclusive of women and children, in preparation for the humanitarian needs overview and humanitarian response plan for the flash appeal, which will be launched in February 2016.

Burundi has been selected to receive an allocation of US$13 million from the underfunded emergencies window of the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF). The country was among the top choices recommended by the United Nations agencies for an underfunded emergency allocation due to the continued low funding levels for humanitarian activities. Discussions are underway to identify and agree on the main priorities, strategies, and roles/responsibilities, after which the organizations will develop their respective projects.

With the support of the Regional Office and Headquarters, the Burundi Country Office has intensified its communications, advocacy, and resource mobilization efforts, with a focus on ensuring the protection of children and increasing their access to basic social services. However, shortfall in funding is a major concern for the continued and enhanced humanitarian response in Burundi.

**UNICEF’s Response with Partners**

**Health & Nutrition**

Faced with a real risk of nationwide shortage of essential drugs, making use of an Emergency Programme Fund loan from UNICEF Headquarters, essential drugs were ordered to cover priority needs in over 900 health centers and district hospitals for the next 2.5 months, with a population coverage of over 1.66 million children under five and more than 464,000 pregnant women. The distribution to all 46 districts has started and discussions are ongoing with partners (WHO, UNFPA, etc.) to fill the gap for an additional 4 months.

On 9 December, Kabonga Cholera Treatment Center (CTC) supported by UNICEF in the southern district of Nyanza Lac registered suspected cholera cases, some of which came from Tanzania. As of 22 December, the cumulative number of cases received in this CTC was 18 with no deaths (4 local and 14 from Tanzania). UNICEF and the Ministry of Health conducted two joint missions in 6 cholera-prone districts, including Nyanza Lac, in order to improve the reporting of cholera cases using the mobile-based application RapidPro.

UNICEF signed a stand-by agreement with the international non-governmental organization Africa Humanitarian Action (AHA) that can be activated in case of any health and nutrition emergency.

UNICEF is monitoring the nutrition situation of children through the national CMAM database. Furthermore, in December, UNICEF started the collection of health and nutrition data through 16 sentinel sites. The sentinel
sites are health centers closely linked to areas under food security stress, as well as markets across the country that serve to monitor trends in food prices for the Ministry of Agriculture. There are concerns that the current political crisis in Bujumbura will prevent vulnerable children from accessing essential medical care to prevent infectious diseases, thus worsening their nutrition status.

UNICEF also is planning to strengthen its nutrition monitoring, in particular for the mass screening of severe acute malnutrition. A funding proposal has been developed for this purpose, and it is expected that this intervention if conducted will greatly help the efforts to alert on any risk and ensure track of developments in this regard.

Education
Following the rapid assessments conducted by both provincial administrators and the Provincial Head of Education, it was noted that a total of 30 schools in Makamba, Ruyigi, and Bubanza provinces have been significantly damaged by the heavy torrential rain, leaving about 7,300 children without appropriate learning environments. In order to allow pupils to attend classes, UNICEF provided construction materials, including 1550 iron sheets, 115 kg of iron nails, and 90 boxes of chalk. Furthermore, UNICEF supported the Provincial Head of Education to work with local authorities to launch social mobilization activities, which aim to involve the community in school reconstruction efforts.

Another urgent need has been finding a replacement for the Supervising Entity for the Global Partnership for Education (GPE) funds. With support from its Regional Office and Headquarters, and following the resignation of the Belgium government, UNICEF is leading the discussions and coordination with the Ministry of Education, partners, and other relevant stakeholders to find an appropriate solution to fill the gap and redefining the set up approved in 2012 and the modality of GPE funds management. This is a crucial role, which if not urgently filled, can lead to financial loss and affect the operation of numerous schools as well as pedagogical and administrative supervision capacity for over 2 million children.

WASH
In early November, UNICEF and the BRC undertook a monitoring visit to the areas affected by the floods. Following the continued heavy rains, the number of displaced households increased from 184 to 209 in Gitaza commune. Approximately 141 households (869 people, including 157 children under 5) have settled in a displacement site with access to sufficient amounts of water for drinking, cooking, and personal hygiene, while another 68 households await for more tent installation. UNICEF provided soap for all the affected households. Furthermore, with UNICEF support, the BRC set up 30 sex-segregated toilet and shower spaces. Since the number of households at the site will increase, more sanitation facilities will be required.

In the commune of Cashi, there are now 135 displaced households (approx. 810 people). At the identified temporary relocation site, plans are underway to install the necessary WASH facilities.

In collaboration with child protection actors in Bujumbura, UNICEF continues to support hygiene promotion activities, with the provision of soap to six Child-Friendly Spaces, benefitting at least 7,800 children.

The WASH Sector is also looking to fill the gaps created by the withdrawal of donors and partners. GIZ is one of the important donors, and discussions are ongoing to identify the needs of priority projects. An example is a project focused on the production of Chlorine in the province of Makamba, which had 50% of the registered Cholera cases at national level.

Child Protection
UNICEF and partners are continuing to support the reintegration of 53 children who were charged with involvement in armed groups, along with 5 children charged with involvement in an insurrectional group who were reintegrated with their families or caretakers on 30 November. When one of these children was arrested again on 16 December following reintegration, UNICEF and partners launched an advocacy campaign at the
local, provincial, and national level, leading to the child’s release and reintegration within 24 hours. During a field monitoring visit, UNICEF learned that another child was allegedly arrested, and that yet another left for Rwanda, highlighting the need for ongoing advocacy and support for reintegrated children.

A total of 4 children held at the Ruyigi re-education center were released following UNICEF advocacy. At least 7 children were charged with involvement in armed groups and detained in December, and 10 children were identified who were previously wrongly considered to be adults and were held since July. UNICEF successfully advocated for the separation of 6 children from adults at the police detention cell in Rumonge and is continuing to advocate for these children and others to be provisionally freed. In addition, one child is held at the Bururi Prosecutor’s Office, and advocacy is ongoing for this child as well.

UNICEF reached an agreement with a local partner to expand psychosocial services for children beyond the current network of 28 Child-Friendly Spaces. The spaces already provide critical access to basic and protection services as well as psychosocial support for children affected by the current situation. With this new partnership, services will be expanded to individual cases identified outside of the Child-Friendly Spaces. This will include, for example, families who lost children, children who lost their main caregivers or relatives, or children who became orphans as a result of violence.

Support to the Ministry of Human Rights and Social Affairs continued to hold weekly meetings of the Committee on Child Protection in Emergencies. UNICEF is also working towards expanding and strengthening response to grave violations against children as a result of the crisis.

**Communication for Development (C4D)**

C4D continues its efforts to strengthen Cholera response and prevention in the province of Makamba through awareness raising campaigns, including sketches, peer to peer activities, door to door visits, interactive theatre, and games and competitions.

In an effort to respond to the Cholera outbreak, the UNICEF-CADEVI partnership is focusing on the promotion of best practices in hygiene and sanitation through the development and dissemination of WASH communication tools in Nyanza Lac, Makamba, and Mabanda commune. Close follow up is done to support the 120 youth educators and 116 communal follow up committees to ensure that they keep momentum with their activities. To date, these groups have reached more than 29,280 households (162,250 community members) through the Cholera prevention awareness activities, in addition to 16,250 people through radio broadcasts.

Based on the experience of other communes and lessons learned to date, C4D will extend awareness activities to the communes of Kayogoro, Kibago, and Vugizo. Life skills activities, including HIV/AIDS prevention, will be implemented along with cholera prevention and good hygiene promotion. In these new outreach areas, the target is for 141 trained peer educators to reach 30,000 households and conduct awareness activities on Cholera prevention, including promotion of good hygiene and sanitation.

At the school level, 43,200 pupils and 432 teachers from 36 primary and secondary schools will benefit from the peer-to-peer awareness activities on Cholera prevention, including a demonstration on how to set up a “Tippy-Tap” mechanism. Tippy-Taps have already been installed in marketplaces and public spaces to serve as examples of easy-to-make handwashing systems. It is reported that families across several provinces have already installed over 100 Tippy-Taps in their houses at their own expense. In the new outreach areas, 188 new demonstration Tippy-Taps will be established.

Social mobilization efforts are ongoing with different stakeholders, including local administrators as well as district health and education officials, to garner their support for the implementation of awareness raising activities. CADEVI CAD’s implementing partner will work closely with WASH administration and BRC (Burundi Red Cross).
Media and External Communication
Following up on a multimedia package developed by the External Communications team, there was increased interest in the situation of children in Burundi.

In view of the destruction of four main media institutions earlier in 2015, all of whom were partners of UNICEF, six new partnerships have been established with radios that are still operational in order to ensure that children’s voices continue to be heard in Burundi.

The UNICEF Burundi Facebook page topped 20,000 Likes, with half of its audience within Burundi’s borders.

Supply
An offshore order of 7,109 cartons of ready-to-use therapeutic food (RUTF) was received in Bujumbura. Preparations are currently underway to deliver this stock to over 240 nutrition rehabilitation facilities across the country. However, in spite of this delivery, the absence of contingency stock to respond to a full-scale nutrition crisis remains a major problem for the nutrition sector.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2015 Results Summary for UNICEF &amp; Partners</th>
<th>UNICEF 2015 targets</th>
<th>UNICEF 2015 results</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>NUTRITION</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Number of children under 5 with SAM admitted into therapeutic feeding programme</td>
<td>47,500</td>
<td>20,489*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>HEALTH</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of children under 5 vaccinated against measles</td>
<td>45,600</td>
<td>223,850</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of people treated for cholera</td>
<td>800</td>
<td>363</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of children under 15 and pregnant women reached with essential drugs</td>
<td>175,000</td>
<td>0**</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of children and women with access to at least 7.5 liters of clean water per person per day</td>
<td>53,000</td>
<td>38,400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of children and women benefitting from hygiene education and information pertaining to safe and hygienic practices, including specific information on cholera prevention</td>
<td>97,000</td>
<td>57,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>CHILD PROTECTION</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of vulnerable children (including street children) provided with care and psychosocial support due to prevailing situation</td>
<td>4,500</td>
<td>5,197</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of children benefitting from advocacy and support provided to prevent and respond to grave child rights violations</td>
<td>1,000</td>
<td>149***</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>EDUCATION</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of emergency-affected children (including adolescents) accessing quality education (including through temporary learning structures)</td>
<td>38,300</td>
<td>250,000****</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of emergency-affected children accessing life skills training and psychosocial support, including HIV/AIDS prevention</td>
<td>9,480</td>
<td>8,773</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Funding
UNICEF Burundi has appealed for USD 8,700,000 during the year 2015, of which US $4,561,486 has been received to date. With the increased violence and humanitarian needs, UNICEF has re-assessed the needs and planned to expand, strengthen and scale up its support during the year 2016. Without additional funds, UNICEF will not be able to monitor and scale up response to the humanitarian needs or continue supporting the provision of basic social services as well as the evolving child protection crisis 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$)</th>
<th>Funding gap (US$)</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>WASH</td>
<td>1,000,000</td>
<td>1,700,000</td>
<td>876,540</td>
<td>823,460</td>
<td>48%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>200,000</td>
<td>444,800</td>
<td>187,176</td>
<td>257,624</td>
<td>58%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nutrition</td>
<td>700,000</td>
<td>1,425,000</td>
<td>982,260</td>
<td>442,740</td>
<td>31%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health</td>
<td>100,000</td>
<td>4,300,000</td>
<td>1,879,605</td>
<td>2,420,395</td>
<td>56%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child Protection</td>
<td>500,000</td>
<td>830,200</td>
<td>249,635</td>
<td>580,565</td>
<td>70%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cross-cutting Support</td>
<td>386,270</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Sub-Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>2,500,000</strong></td>
<td><strong>8,700,000</strong></td>
<td><strong>4,561,486</strong></td>
<td><strong>5,138,514</strong></td>
<td><strong>53%</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carry-forward*</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total funding available</strong></td>
<td><strong>2,500,000</strong></td>
<td><strong>8,700,000</strong></td>
<td><strong>4,561,486</strong></td>
<td><strong>5,138,514</strong></td>
<td><strong>47%</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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