The recent spate of politically-motivated assassinations and generalized violence has increased levels of fear and insecurity within Burundi. In the current context, there is growing concern about the increased vulnerability of children and the need to protect them against all forms of violence. Of particular concern is the 5 August shooting of a child in Cibitoke (Bujuumbura Mairie), a death confirmed by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR). The death toll for children since the onset of the conflict now stands at 9. In regards to the 51 children who have been incarcerated following fighting in Kayanza province in June, negotiations are on-going with the Ministry of Justice and partners, but advocacy for the transfer of these children to a UNICEF-supported re-education center in Rumonge has yet to bear fruit.

In a context of heightened fear and insecurity, many Burundians continue to flee the country to neighbouring countries, including Rwanda, Tanzania, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Uganda. Other families have chosen to temporarily move to safer areas within the country as they wait for the situation to stabilize.
**Humanitarian leadership and coordination**

Joint assessment missions conducted in May continue to be relevant especially in regards to the priority sectors, WASH (cholera prevention and response), food security/nutrition, and protection. Discussion with partners at sectoral level is on-going to define urgent response including funding requirements.

**Humanitarian Strategy**

UNICEF’s preparedness and response strategy 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 cold chains for resumption of EPI services. UNICEF ensures children and women’s access to water for drinking, cooking and personal hygiene.

**UNICEF’s Response with Partners**

**Health & Nutrition**

There are no new reported cases of cholera or deaths related to cholera infection, thus indicating an effective cholera-prevention strategy during the current crisis.

In nutrition, MOH, Pathfinder and WFP released the results from the screening exercise in Nyanza-Lac Health district, a transiting area for most of the refugees fleeing to Tanzania. Results show a prevalence of acute malnutrition which is much higher than expected in the harvest season (8.3% global acute malnutrition; 1.0% severe acute malnutrition). 100% of the children identified were referred to the closest health centre offering the treatment of severe acute malnutrition.

UNICEF continues to support these health centres in terms of supply, capacity building and monitoring.

**Education**

School-going children, mainly in Bujumbura Mairie, Bujumbura Rural and Bururi, have returned to the classroom to finish their school year, in accordance with directives of the Ministry of Education. Currently school year closures have been extended to 20 August. A special session of the national 6th grade exam took place on 6 August for pupils who could not sit for exams in May (12,112 pupils). For this purpose, exam centers have now been established in all provinces. However, only 3,924 pupils sat for the additional session exam, namely in Bujumbura Mairie (2,264) and in Bujumbura Rural (1,367). Upper secondary examination was held from 3 to 6 August.

The education response to the Burundi refugee crisis is currently being discussed with the four countries hosting Burundian refugees. With respect to the issue of national 6th grade exam, several rounds of discussions have been held in Burundi with relevant actors, including the Ministry of Education and UNHCR, but have not led to the possibility of organizing national 6th grade examinations for refugee children in Rwanda, Tanzania, the DRC and Uganda.

Nonetheless, UNICEF Burundi has been working closely with colleagues from UNICEF Tanzania and has been sharing pedagogical material in line with the Burundian curriculum. Refugee children in DRC, Rwanda and Uganda are expected to be integrated in the national education system.

**WASH**

Soap and basic hygiene materials continue to be provided for children who frequent UNICEF-supported centre for children living in the street in Bujumbura. On average, about 100 children benefit daily from hand-washing and bathing needs, which will be provided for the following 3 months. The 51 children detained at Rumonge prison are also benefiting from the provision of soap and hand-washing promotion materials provided by UNICEF partner Terre des Hommes.

Primary findings of the WASH sectoral assessment in 9 priority provinces were shared with sectoral partners on 5 August. The collected data from the provinces will be consolidated in the coming weeks and an action plan will be developed for long-term plan development interventions.

**Child Protection**

On 5 August, OHCHR-UNICEF held a joint visit to Rumonge prison. The total number of the children arrested and charged with ‘involvement in armed groups’ following fighting in the northern province of Kayanza remains 51. One minor has been released on probation, 17 of the children have been sentenced, and 34 children remain in preventive detention. The children being held in the adult prison in Rumonge live under very poor conditions. The cells are poorly equipped, with
limited sanitation facilities and no access to basic services (one shower and one toilet for all those incarcerated). UNICEF continues follow-up with the Ministry of Justice to advocate for the transferral of the children to the re-education centre.

Furthermore, the 7 minors who were released and reintegrated by the CNIDH still have not been identified. There is continued strong advocacy to remind all parties that all children have the right to safety and protection from violence and should not be mobilized to participate in fighting or hostilities. One major concern is access to information and willingness to engage external actors in solving this situation.

UNICEF continues to support Child-Friendly Spaces (CFS) by ensuring that centers and organizations hosting displaced children and families are provided with access to basic services and psychosocial support services. An agreement with the psychosocial platform has been reached to ensure psychologists are available on-site to support the children.

**Communications for Development (C4D)**

C4D activities related to cholera prevention in Nyanza-Lac commune and related areas have reached 29,280 households and an estimated 146,400 members of communities. Interventions include door-to-door identification and awareness activities. Current interventions include the participation of local government officials, who have demonstrated a high level of engagement, vis-à-vis the introduction of the program team within the communities, identifying vulnerable households and awareness campaigns.

Health district team coordinates continue to meet on a weekly basis with key stakeholders/UNICEF partners on health and cholera control, prevention and treatment programs. This collaborative effort demonstrates high levels of success and synergy on ensuring continued vigilance and support of the health sector.

120 youth peer educators have been trained to implement the Tippy Tap program in an effort to control cholera outbreaks, particularly in dense rural communities with poor water facilities. At the outset of this program in Nyanza-Lac, there were limited cholera-prevention programs. The awareness campaigns have raised awareness and drastically reduced the number of new cases. Cholera prevention efforts will increase leading up to the rainy season, which usually instigates a cholera outbreak.

**Supply and Logistics**

Supply and logistics continues to closely monitor incoming supplies including WASH sector supplies for EPF II emergency orders. Supply has also recently received vaccines of 202,950 vials, PCV-13 vaccines and 15,550 vials of Measles vaccines which have been delivered to the EPI unit (MoH).

**Media and External Communication**

External Communication continues to ensure that key issues related to children’s rights, child protection and provision of essential services is mediatized, despite international media attention on election-related news.

Content related to key interventions continues to be produced, with a package containing 1 web story, 1 print story and B-roll on Child-Friendly Spaces in Bujumbura currently under production.
UNICEF Burundi Humanitarian Situation Report 12 August 2015

FUNDING

UNICEF Burundi is appealing for US$ 8,700,000 and to date UNICEF Burundi has gratefully received USD 1,674,891 which also includes US$ 512, 146 which was carried over from 2014. Without additional funding of US$ 7,537,255, 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.

Next SitRep: 26/08/2015

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<th>Appeal Sector</th>
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<th>Revised 2015 HAC Requirement (US$)</th>
<th>Funds Received Against 2015 HAC (US$)</th>
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