**Highlights**

- Socio-political tensions remain high amidst continued violence and insecurity in the country, in particular following the assassination on 15 August of the former Head of the Burundian army, Colonel Bikomagu.

- On 20 August, President Pierre Nkurunziza took Oath of Office unexpectedly early for a controversial third term, with a pledge to end the months of violence and a call on those who fled the country to return.

- News that Burundi may no longer be eligible for the US African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) could further weaken the country’s economy and have significant impact on social services for children.

- 28 Child-Friendly Spaces are now operational in Bujumbura, providing much needed access to basic services and psychosocial support services to children adversely affected by the current situation.

- UNICEF Burundi is appealing for US$ 8,700,000 of which only 26% has been received to date. Urgent support is required, particularly given the possibility of a shortage of essential medicines for children and women in the coming months.

**Key figures**

- **150,000** Community members reached on cholera prevention and control through communications activities (UNICEF, 25 August)

- **0** New cholera cases in the past month (Ministry of Health, 25 August 2015)

- **52** Minors still incarcerated and charged with ‘involvement in armed groups’ (UNICEF, 25 August)

- **Over 189,000** Number of refugees seeking asylum in neighbouring countries (UNHCR, 25 August)

**Situation Overview & Humanitarian Needs**

Politically-motivated assassinations and violence continue, amid increasing fears of further violence in the coming weeks. The recent assassination of former head of the Burundian army, Colonel Bikomagu, by unknown assailants outside his home, has heightened the level of fear within the country. Bikomagu’s death comes just a few weeks after Lieutenant General Adolphe Nshimirimana, Burundi’s former head of the intelligence services was killed.

A Presidential Decree issued 24 August nominated a new Government for the period 2015 to 2020. The new Government consists of 20 appointed Ministers; five previous Ministers have retained their Ministries, others are newly appointed to their posts. As relations between the Government of Burundi and some donor governments continue to be fragile, it is expected that the socio-economic development of the country and that children, particularly the most vulnerable, will bear the brunt of the consequences as social services are
impacted. Working with partners, UNICEF Burundi 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
Joint assessment missions conducted in May continue to determine priority sectors, WASH (cholera prevention and response), food security/nutrition, and protection. Discussion with partners at sectorial level is on-going to define urgent response including funding requirements.

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. UNICEF ensures children and women’s access to water for drinking, cooking and personal hygiene.

UNICEF’s Response with Partners
Health & Nutrition
There have been no newly reported cholera cases since 24 July 2015. The cholera treatment station at Kabonga, near the Tanzanian border, has now closed. The Minister of Health is expected to officially declare the end of the cholera epidemic in a few days.

Due to pre-existing challenges which have been aggravated by the reluctance of some donors to release financial support in the current context, the National Drug Store of Burundi has not been able to purchase drugs for the coming months. UNICEF has alerted partners about the risk of essential drug shortage in the coming months.

Education
Discussions concerning the organization of exams for refugee children are still ongoing. There is a need to develop a long-term, overarching strategy on how to ensure that children’s education is recognized, especially when they are enrolled in the host countries education system.

WASH
UNICEF facilitated an action planning workshop on the 18-19 August, to discuss the findings of the WASH sectorial assessment in 9 priority provinces. The 9 provincial leaders and representation from government, identified the key priority actions for risk reduction and emergency preparedness in WASH services. UNICEF and partners continues to support WASH activities in Rumonge prison, where children continue to be detained in poor sanitation and hygiene conditions.

UNICEF is coordinating with the Burundi Red Cross and Ministry of Health to organize a training session on hygiene promotion for the educators of 6 Child-Friendly Spaces in Bujumbura-Mairie. Once trained and equipped with communications material, they will lead animated sessions on best hygiene practices with the children attending these spaces.

Child Protection
The total number of the children arrested and charged with ‘involvement in armed groups’ following fighting in the northern province of Kayanza stands currently at 52. They are being held in the (adult) prison in Rumonge in 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 to follow-up with the Ministry of Justice to advocate for the transfer of these children to the re-education center. UNICEF and partners have received hygiene kits, clothing and sleeping mats for distribution to the imprisoned minors.

Furthermore, the 7 minors held on charges of ‘involvement in armed groups’ and released and reintegrated by the National Independent Commission for Human Rights (Commission Nationale Indépendante des Droits de l’Homme, CNIDH) have still not been identified, although their communes of origin are now known. 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 in fighting or hostilities. One major concern is access to information and the engagement of external actors in resolving this current situation.

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 situation. The psycho-social platform deploys psychologists who offer psychosocial support and counselling for children experiencing trauma.

**Communication for Development (C4D)**

In anticipation of future cholera outbreaks in the upcoming rainy season, C4D activities related to cholera prevention have been increased. In Nyanza-Lac commune and related areas, these activities have reached 30,000 households and an estimated 150,000 members of communities through door-to-door identification and awareness activities. 95 Community leaders and local government officials have been trained, demonstrating a high level of community engagement to support the program team in identifying vulnerable households and awareness campaigns.

210 handwashing devices (“Tippy Tap”) have been set up by youth peer educators trained to control any future cholera outbreaks in Nyanza-Lac, reaching out to a community 1,050 members. In addition, 12 awareness sessions have been organized using interactive theatre, competitions and games on cholera prevention to a community of 6,000 members. C4D also continues to support the dissemination of a radio program on cholera prevention, which is broadcast twice a day.

Health district team continues to meet weekly with key stakeholders and 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.

**Media and External Communication**

UNICEF Burundi continues to cover the ongoing emergency, with the recent publication on migration and increasing vulnerability, published on unicef.org.

The Communications team also covered C4D interventions on prevention and control of cholera with B-roll, documentary, a webstory and photo essay for future publication as well as ongoing regular programmatic interventions in the area of Health.

**FUNDING**
UNICEF Burundi Humanitarian Situation Report - 26 August 2015

UNICEF Burundi is appealing for USD 8,700,000 and to date UNICEF Burundi has gratefully received USD 1,674,891 which also includes USD 512,146 carried over from 2014. Without additional funding of USD 6,054,311, 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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Appeal Sector</th>
<th>Original 2015 HAC Requirements</th>
<th>Revised 2015 HAC Requirement (US$)</th>
<th>Funds Received Against 2015 HAC (US$)</th>
<th>Funding gap</th>
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<td>WASH</td>
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<td>Nutrition</td>
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<td>Child Protection</td>
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<td>Cross-cutting Support</td>
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<td><strong>Sub-Total</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Carry-forward</strong>*</td>
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<td><strong>Total funding available</strong></td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Grand Total** | 2,500,000 | 8,700,000 | 2,645,689 | 6,054,311 | 70% |

**Next SitRep: 09/09/2015**

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