



Child Protection

Budget Brief 2021-2022

Key messages

1. For fiscal year 2021-2022 state budget, the amount allocated to child protection is BIF 39.5 billion, or US\$20.0 million. It represents 2.3% of the total budget as in 2020-2021¹. In relation to the national economy as a whole, it represents 0.5% of GDP.
2. The child protection sector involves several ministries and institutions. To increase efficiency, it is therefore necessary to strengthen efforts in programming and monitoring child protection expenditure.
3. Children represent almost half of the population (47.2%). They face a high prevalence of all kinds of violence (89.6%)² as well as various other protection challenges. These include birth registration (66%³ of Burundian children have a birth certificate), child labor (30.60%), juvenile justice and also challenges for children living on the streets.

Recommendations

- As the sector involves several ministries and institutions, there is a need to strengthen efforts in **coordination, programming** and **monitoring** of child protection expenditure.
- Local governments do not have budget lines for child protection services although they provide key services in the sector.

There is a need to identify a **mechanism for communes to take child protection services into account in communal planning and budgeting**, especially with the development of communal development plans.

- The availability of data on children can greatly improve the budgeting process. This can be achieved through studies as well as **strengthening the information and data management system** for ministries involved in child protection.

- In view of the inadequacy of statistics in the sector, it is necessary, on the one hand, to speed up the establishment of the **Single Social Register** and, on the other hand, to organize **surveys and studies** to complete the said Register, which includes information on an inventory of the inhabitants of an entity, updated on a continuous basis through the registration of information on births, deaths, adoptions, legitimations, marriages, divorces, changes of employment, changes of name and changes of residence. Throughout the life of each individual, they allow for **the centralization and comparison**, in an automatic and continuous manner, of certain data that are recorded in separate files.

Child protection

Introduction



Child protection is an integral part of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1789), the Sustainable Development Goals, the Convention on the Rights of the Child, Convention 138 concerning Minimum Age for Admission to Employment, and Convention 182 prohibiting the Worst Forms of Child Labor.

Consequently, every country must ensure the protection of the child, i.e., prevent and respond to his or her needs so that he or she can follow a normal development. Protecting children means protecting them from all situations that may expose them to abuse such as sexual exploitation and abuse, trafficking, hazardous work, violence, lack of shelter, forced recruitment into armed political groups and movements, early marriage, impunity and lack of fair justice, etc.

In the process of implementing the child protection policy, Burundi has signed and continues to put in place tools for its operationalization in accordance with international standards.

In particular, Burundi has a national child protection policy whose vision is to provide, from 2020 to 2024, every child with a reassuring political, legal, institutional and community environment through a solid protection system that meets the principles of the International Convention on the Rights of the Child.

In addition to this policy, there are initiatives aimed at the validation and adoption of minimum standards for the care of children deprived of parental care and those placed in care institutions, the strategy for the prevention and reintegration of street children, the child protection code, the law on civil status and the law to eliminate all forms of gender-based violence and the national policy on gender equality.

Child protection is also part of Burundi's National Development Plan 2018-2027 (Strategic Direction 2, axes 4 to 7: improving performance and collaboration in the areas of health, strengthening the education system and improving

training provision, developing the social protection sector, decent employment and youth) and the Sustainable Development Goals, 2015-2030 (SDGs 1 to 5: eradicating poverty, combating hunger, access to health, access to quality education and gender equality).

In addition, the country is in the process of setting up a Single Social Register for social protection which will allow the registration of births, deaths, adoptions, legitimations, marriages, divorces, name changes, changes of residence, etc..

Moreover, to better prevent and respond effectively to the needs of children, the Government has set up a *Department of Children and Families* and a *child helpline with a toll-free number, 116*, in the Ministry of National Solidarity, Social Affairs, Human Rights and Gender.

With these tools, Burundi aims to provide every child with a reassuring political, legal, institutional and community environment, with a solid protection system in line with the principles of the CRC⁴ by 2024. Therefore, all measures affecting children must be taken in accordance with the principle of the best interests of the child.

The challenges facing the child protection sector in Burundi include an incomplete legal framework, harmful social attitudes and practices, and the absence of a professional training center or school on social protection.

On the other hand, the absence of a national child protection case management mechanism hinders the coordination and orientation of service providers in the sector.

Currently, the child protection sector involves seven ministries, the key one being the Ministry of National Solidarity, Social Affairs, Human Rights and Gender.

Child protection

Considering the needs of the sector and the limited budgetary space, budgetary allocations to the child protection sector remain insufficient for the implementation of its activities.

The statistics presented in the table below provide information on the state of child protection in Burundi.

Some key statistics on child protection in Burundi

Children aged 0-17 in 2020, as % of total population (ISTEEBU: population projections 2010-2050)	47.97%
Children registered at birth (ISTEEBU, DHS III 2016-2017)	83,50 %
Infant mortality rate in 2017 per 1000 live births (DHS III 2016-2017)	78‰
Proportion of children born in a health facility (National Development Plan 2018-2027)	85%
Children living below the national poverty line (636,510 FBu per year, MODA Study, 2016-2017)	74%
Rural children living below the national poverty line (636,510 FBu, MODA Study, 2016-2017).	72%
Urban children living below the national poverty line (636,510 FBu, MODA Study, 2016-2017).	33%
Chronic malnutrition rate (Nutrition Survey 2020)	52.2%
Child labor (ISTEEBU, DHS 2016-2017)	30.60%
Children aged 1-14 who experienced any form of violence (ISTEEBU, DHS III 2016-2017).	89.6%
Proportion of the state budget allocated to child protection	2.3%

Sources: PNDS III, p. 15; Republic of Burundi, Ministry of Finance, Budget and Economic Planning (MFBPE), Finance Law 2021-2022.



The trend of increasing budgetary allocations, observed between 2018-2019 and 2021-2022, shows the Government's willingness to progressively attach importance to this sector.

The proportion of the state budget allocated to the child protection sector is 2.3% in 2021-2022 as in 2020-2021. As a proportion of GDP, budgetary allocations to this sector represent 0.5% in 2021-2022. (Figure 2)

Analysis of budgetary allocations to child protection in percentage of GDP and in percentage of the state budget shows that these allocations follow the same trend in nominal and real terms over the three phases of analysis of budgetary trends cited above.

Overall, child protection allocations remain low considering the pressing need to improve child welfare.

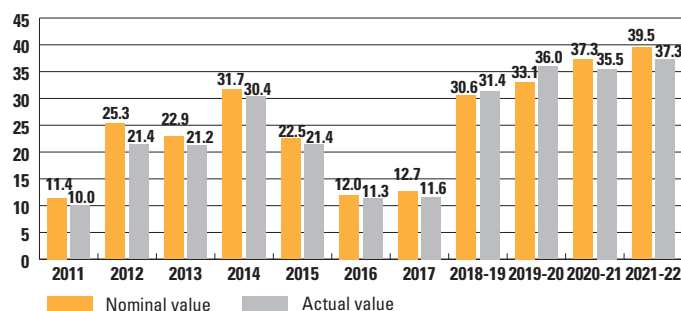
Evolution of budgetary allocations, for child protection

Over the period 2011-2021/2022, budgetary allocations for the child protection sector increased from BIF 11.4 billion in 2011 to BIF 39.5 billion in 2021-2022, an increase of 2.4% over the entire ten-year period.

On average, budget allocations increased each year by 0.25% in nominal terms⁵. This remains the same as the budget allocations in real terms⁶.

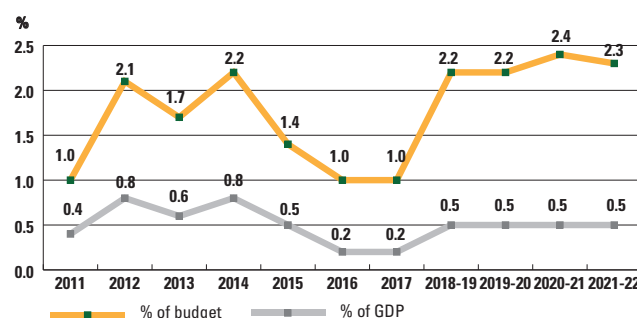
The resources allocated to child protection (in real and nominal terms) are evolving erratically from 2011 to 2021-2022. Indeed, over the period from 2011 to 2014, budget allocations to the sector showed an upward trend. However, they fell from 2015 to 2017 before rising again in 2018-2019 (Figure 1).

Fig. 1 : Evolution of budgetary allocations to the child protection sector in nominal and real terms, in billions of BIF



Sources: Finance Acts 2011 to 2021-2022

Fig. 2: Evolution of budgetary allocations for child protection as a % of the state budget and GDP



Sources: Finance Acts 2011 to 2021-2022

Child protection



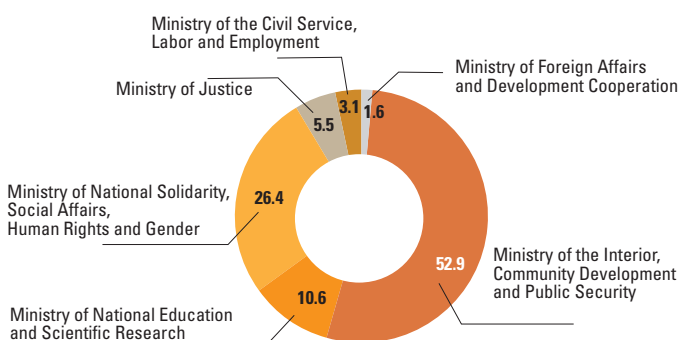
Composition of budget allocations for the child protection sector

- Seven ministries are involved in child protection, including
 - the Ministry of National Solidarity, Social Affairs, Human Rights and Gender,
 - the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of the Interior, Community Development and Public Security,
 - the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation,
 - the Ministry of National Education and Scientific Research,
 - the Ministry of Public Health and the Fight against AIDS, and
 - the Ministry of the Civil Service, Labor and Employment..

■ It should be noted that the Ministry of the Interior, as part of its remit, is in charge of several programs (birth registration, adoptions, marriages, etc.) and uses a significant proportion of the budget for this sector. Figure 3 shows the budget allocations for the different ministries in the financing of child protection.

■ Child protection programs include the basic education programs, gender equality and HIV/AIDS prevention among young people, the capacity-building programs on the use of the mother and child health card, improving access to justice for the most vulnerable, the national programs for the enforcement of judgements, recording and capacity-building, etc.

Fig. 3: Distribution of child protection expenditure by institution in 2021-2022 (in %)



Sources: Finance Acts 2011 to 2021-2022



Child protection

Child protection sector budget estimates and execution

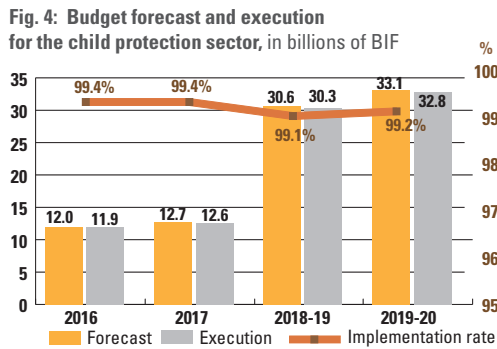
Figure 4 below compares the expenditure planned in the BIL with the expenditure executed during the period under review.

It appears that implementation rates have always been close to 100%. This reflects the good quality of budget programming for the child protection sector from 2016 to 2020-2021.



Funding of child protection

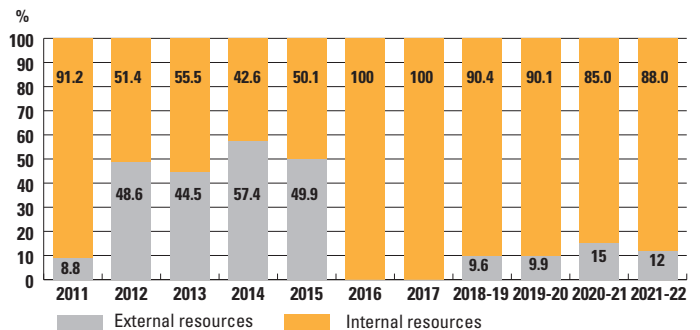
The analysis of the sector's funding shows that funding comes from both internal and external sources. Overall, domestic resources have contributed significantly over the period under review (2016-2019) except for Fiscal Year 2014. However, budgetary allocations in Fiscal Years 2016 and 2017 come entirely from domestic resources. There is a relatively timid return of external funding from the 2018-2019 budget year onwards.



Sources: Finance Acts 2021-2022



Fig. 5: Sources of funding for the child protection sector, in %



Sources: Finance Acts 2011 to 2021-2022

1. The budget allocated to child protection in 2020/2021 was BIF 37,268,015,478, equivalent to US\$19,461,105.69 ;
2. ISTEEDU, EDS 2016/2017 ;
3. ISTEEDU, EDS 2016/2017 ;
4. CRC: Convention on the Rights of the Child
5. Budget allocations in nominal terms are those shown in relation to a given period.
6. Budgetary allocations in constant or real terms are those that are adjusted for price increases relative to a base or reference figure.



Acknowledgements

The budget analysis presented in this document is part of a series of analyses on the social sectors for the fiscal year 2021-2022. It is the result of a frank collaboration between the University Research Centre for Economic and Social Development (CURDES), the Ministry of Finance, Budget and Economic Planning and the sectoral ministries.