

BUDGETARY ANALYSIS  
**HEALTH**  
2019 | 2020



*Burundi*

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## Key messages and recommendations

- The proportion of the national budget allocated to the Ministry of Public Health and the Fight Against AIDS is 10.8% in 2019/2020, against 11.6% in 2018/2019. More effort is necessary to reach the objective of 15% of the state budget going to health in line with the Abuja commitments<sup>1</sup>.
- Remarkable progress has been made in maternal and child health in recent years, but challenges remain. Within this framework, it will be necessary to increase the budget to maternal and child health programmes, including nutrition.
- A budget line has been created for the purchase of traditional vaccines, amounting to BIF 50 million. An increase in this allocation is necessary to respond to the needs of the population and to enable the purchase of new vaccines with Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance.
- Investments are a critical area in the health sector. Currently, a large share of resources allocated to investments comes through external assistance (91.7%). It is vital to increase domestic resources to the relevant ministries for use in investment in the health sector.

# BUDGETARY ANALYSIS

## HEALTH

### Introduction

In December 2018, Burundi put in place its third National Health Development Plan (NHDP III), covering the period 2019–2023. This plan aligns with the National Development Plan 2018–2027, adopted in June 2018. The NHDP III is also aligned with the National Health Policy 2016–2025 as well as international acts and declarations to which Burundi has committed, such as the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Astana Declaration on Sustainable Primary Health Care, among others.

Through the NHDP III, the government of Burundi has confirmed its commitment to improving the health of the population and its intention to achieve SDG 3: Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages. In order to achieve this, Burundi needs to make more progress, although the country has already made considerable advances. In particular, according to the 2016/2017 Demographic and Household Survey (DHS):

- The maternal mortality ratio remains high, at 334 deaths per 100,000 live births, against an SDG target of 70 by 2030.

- The neonatal mortality rate is at 23 deaths per 1,000 live births, against an SDG target of 12 by 2030.
- The infant and child mortality rate is at 78 deaths per 1,000 live births, against an SDG target of 25 by 2030.
- Young adolescents (15–24 years) represent 19.29% of the population, and their access to health services remains poor (34%).
- The level of knowledge of methods of preventing HIV and sexually transmitted infections remains low (42% of girls and 50% of boys have a good knowledge of prevention methods).
- Adolescents and youth are exposed to other problems, such as malnutrition and the abuse of alcohol, tobacco and other psychoactive substances.

In addition to these indicators, efforts should be made to honour Burundi's commitment to allocate at least 15% of the national budget to the health sector.

**Table 1. Key statistics in the health sector**

Indicator	Value
Maternal mortality ratio (per 100,000 live births)	334
Neonatal mortality ratio (per 1,000 live births)	23
Infant and child mortality ratio (per 1,000 live births)	78
Chronic malnutrition rate among children under five years	56%
Rate of access to health services for young people aged 15–24	34%
Malaria prevalence	27%
Share of the budget allocated to the health sector in the national budget (fiscal year 2019/20)	10.81%

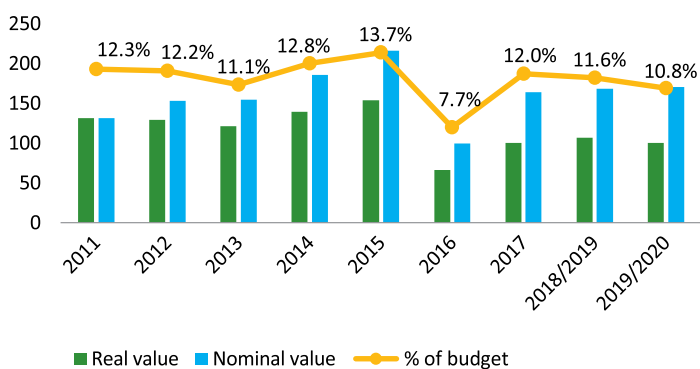
Sources: NHDP III; Finance Law 2019/2020; DHS 2016/2017



## Trends in budgetary allocations to the health sector

Resources allocated to the Ministry of Health saw an increase over time in nominal terms between 2011 and 2015 and then dropped in 2016 before rising again in the 2017 fiscal year. This points to the importance of external financing, which fell dramatically in 2016. In fiscal year 2019/2020, the budget allocated to the Ministry of Health is BIF 170.29 billion<sup>2</sup>, against BIF 168.14<sup>3</sup> in 2018/2019 – a small increase in absolute terms.

**Figure 1. Trends in budgetary allocations in nominal and real terms (BIF billions)<sup>4</sup>**



Source: Finance Laws 2011–2019/2020.

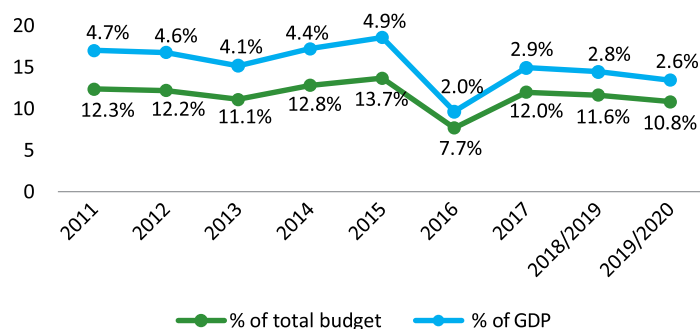
Figure 1 shows that, in the period under review, the evolution of health expenditure in nominal terms and real terms follows the same path.

Against the total budget, the share of the state budget allocated to the Ministry of Health is 10.8% in 2019/2020, against 11.6% in 2018/2019. This share remains lower than the commitment in the Abuja Declaration.

In macro-economic terms, public financing allocated to the Ministry of Health represents 2.6% of gross domestic product (GDP) in 2019/2020, against 2.8% in 2018/2019 – also a slight decrease.



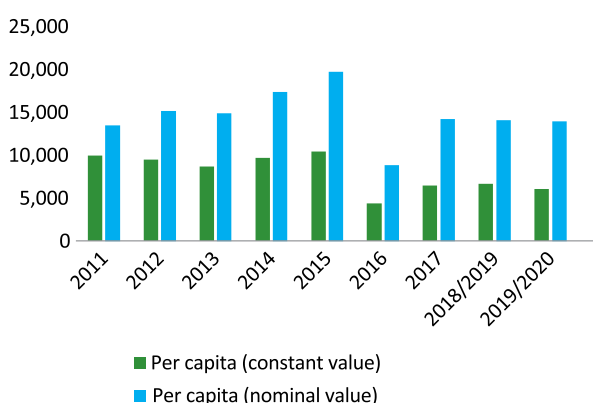
**Figure 2. Evolution of expenditure on health as a share of GDP and a share of the total budget (%)**



Source: Finance Laws 2011–2019/2020

In the 2019/2020 fiscal year, per capita allocations to health, in nominal terms, are at BIF 13,984.3 (or US\$7.14), against BIF 14,119.4 (US\$7.60) in 2018/2019. These calculations are based on an estimated Burundian population of 12,176,882 in 2019/2020 against 11,362,675 in 2018/2019<sup>5</sup>.

**Figure 3. Trends in per capita health expenditure (BIF)**



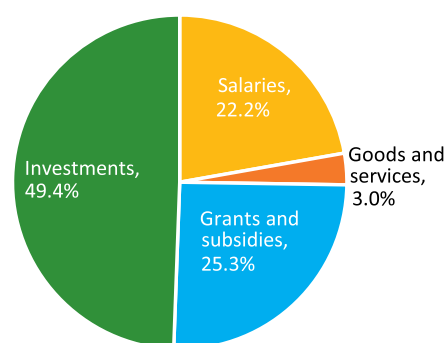
Source: Finance Laws 2011–2019/2020

### Composition of health expenditure

The Ministry of Health expenditure for fiscal year 2019/2020 takes the form of salaries, goods and services, grants and subsidies, and investments.

According to Figure 4, the share of investments in the total budget of the Ministry of Health is 49.4%. It is important to note that 91.7% of this investment expenditure is financed through external assistance. In second place, grants and subsidies represent 25.3% of the total expenditure of the ministry. Wages and salaries make up 22.2% of expenditure. Finally, goods and services take up only 3.0% of the ministry budget.

**Figure 4. Share of health expenditure by economic type in 2019/2020 (%)**



Source: Finance Laws 2011–2019/2020

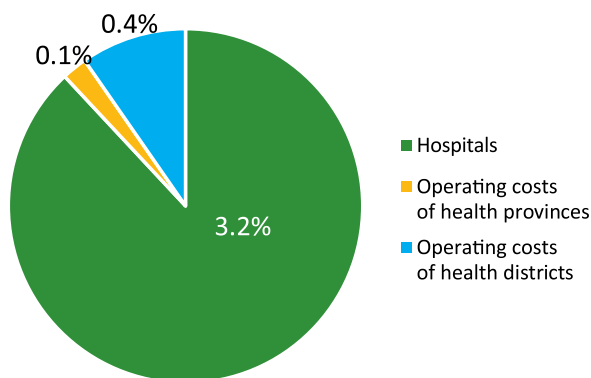
An in-depth analysis of the budget for 2019/2020 by economic type shows that salaries in the health sector represent 8.6% of overall salaries in the state budget. Goods and services in Ministry of Health expenditure make up 4.1% of the total budget for the purchase of goods and services. As for grants and subsidies, these represent 14.4% of the total budget. Finally, allocations dedicated to investments are at 14.6% of the total state investment budget.



## Budgetary allocations in the health sector to decentralized and peripheral structures

The Ministry of Health is made up of a number of decentralized and peripheral entities. These include health provinces and districts, hospitals and health centres. Every year, a part of the budget allocated to the Ministry of Health is transferred for use in the operationalization of these structures.

**Figure 5. Expenditure across decentralized structures in 2019/2020 (%)**



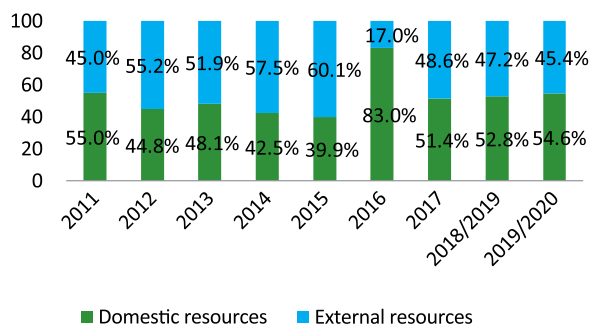
Source: Finance Law 2019/2020

Figure 5 shows that the largest share of expenditure is on hospitals.

## Sources of health sector financing

The budget allocated to health includes external assistance. For fiscal year 2019/2020, the share of external resources in the total sector budget represents 45.4%, against 54.6% coming from domestic resources. Total external assistance for fiscal year 2019/2020 is made up of development grants, amounting to BIF 77.38 billion, against BIF 79.83 billion in 2018/2019. This represents a slight drop in comparison with the previous two years. Most of these resources go towards investments.

**Figure 6. Sources of health financing (%)**



Source: Finance Laws 2011-2019/2020

<sup>1</sup> UN Economic Commission for Africa (2011) "Ten Years after the 'Abuja Commitment' to Allocate 15% of National Budgets to Health". Information Note, March, Addis Ababa

<sup>2</sup> In 2019/2020, US\$1 = BIF 1,956.26.

<sup>3</sup> In 2018/2019, US\$1 = BIF 1,856.26.

<sup>4</sup> Budgetary allocations in nominal terms are those that are given for a given period. Budgetary allocations in real terms of those that are adjusted according to a rise in prices compared with a base figure or reference (here, a figure from 2011).

<sup>5</sup> ISTEERU population data

This budget brief is part of a series of budgetary analyses of the social sectors for fiscal year 2019/2020.

### Acknowledgements

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