



The 2017 Child Protection Sector Budget *Burundi*

KEY MESSAGES

- Resource allocation to programs relevant for the effective protection of child rights are difficult to track in the 2017 Financial Law of the Government of Burundi, since they are scattered over different Ministries. The Ministries identified for the critical provision of child protection services, including in the areas of birth registration, justice for children and child protection from violence, exploitation and abuse are: the Ministry of the Interior, the Ministry of Public Security, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Civil Service and the Ministry of Human Rights, Social Affairs and Gender.
- 1.54 per cent of total available national resources are allocated to departments within these Ministries offering child protection services (15 billion BIF or 9 million USD) compared to 2.1 per cent or national resources in 2016. This means that in 2017, the Government allocated approximately 2,880 BIF (1.72 USD) per child for its protection.
- Zero external resources supporting child protection services are traceable in the 2017 Financial Law.
- It is difficult to obtain information on specific child protection programmes and activities. There is need to routinely generate and publish disaggregated budget data.

(1) Introduction: The Child Protection Sector in Burundi

Every child has the right to be protected from all forms of violence, exploitation and abuse, which hinder their development and reduce their sense of self-worth. The respect of children's rights is an integral precondition for a country to advance and providing children with a protective environment is fundamental for them to prosper and to make the most out of their potential. The new, post-2015 development agenda specifically underlines the requisite to reduce all forms of violence, including abuse exploitation, trafficking and torture of children (Sustainable Development Goal 16) and further addresses other child protection concerns, such as violence against girls and women, child marriage and female genital mutilation as part of the SDG 5 on gender equality and ending child labor and the use of child soldiers (SDG 8).

Burundi has ratified the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), the international agreement setting goals to achieve on behalf of nations' children, in October 1990. The 2005 Burundian Constitution highlights the importance of respecting human rights. In 2008, the *National Policy on Orphans and Other Vulnerable Children* was adopted by the Council of Ministers. Subsequently, a National Policy on the Child Protection in Burundi was developed for the years 2012-2016 based on a mapping of existing child protection services conducted in 2011 in Burundi. The 2011 exercise revealed many challenges in the child protection system in Burundi, but also highlighted already functioning services. Responsibilities related to the protection of children are spread across several Ministries, which makes adequate coordination challenging.

Furthermore, it is difficult to track resource allocation to the child protection sector, since services and thus financial resources are scattered across several Ministries.

According to Burundi's National Policy on Child Protection 2012-2016, eight Ministries provide services that support the realization of children's rights and promote their protection. Additionally, basic services such as access to health, nutrition, education and water and sanitation, provided for by different sectoral Ministries, are equally important for children to grow and thrive.

At UNICEF, child protection refers to preventing and responding to violence, exploitation and abuse against children, and five Ministries in Burundi have been identified as critical for ensuring the protection of children in Burundi¹:

- (i) **The Ministry of Human Rights, Social Affairs and Gender:** the main mission of the Ministry of Human Rights, Social Affairs and Gender (MHRAG) is to address issues and respond to needs of the most vulnerable groups in the country, including children; the MHRAG coordinates the implementation of the National Policy on Orphans and Other Vulnerable Children and has a decentralized structure in place for the protection of children (*Département de l'Enfant et de la Famille* and *Centres de Développement Familial et Communautaire*).
- (ii) **The Ministry of Justice and Keeper of the Seals:** the Ministry of Justice is in charge for ensuring the judiciary protection of minors and it leads the country's work in the area of justice for children.
- (iii) **The Ministry of the Interior and Patriotism:** the Ministry's population department leads activities related to birth registration. Birth registration is crucial to allow children to

access further social services, such as health education and nutrition services. The Ministry is further critical in determining the age of penal responsibility.

- (iv) **The Ministry of Civil Service, Labor and Employment:** the Ministry of Civil Service supports the implementation of the national action plan aiming to eliminate all grave forms of child labor and supports education activities (i.e. professional training).
- (v) **The Ministry of Public Security:** within the Ministry of Public Security, the unit for the protection of minors has responsibility to prevent violence and abuse against children, including arbitrary and unnecessary arrest and detention.

Many of these child protection services are provided at decentralized level. The main structures in place are the Centers for Family and Community Development (CDFC), which are the devolved arms of the Ministry of Human Rights. In addition, Child Protection Committees (CPE) contribute to the prevention and response to violence, abuse and exploitation at provincial, commune and colline level through creating public awareness, monitoring and reporting of cases of abuse, exploitation, violence or neglect against children.

In Burundi, children are disproportionately affected by poverty and multiples vulnerabilities: 69% of children live in households that do not have enough financial means at their disposal to cater for their basic needs. Thus, being amongst the most vulnerable in society, children merit special attention. The following table provides an overview of different forms of vulnerabilities of Burundi's children.

¹ Despite their importance for the provision of certain child protection services (e.g. service provision on victims of violence, mainly survivors of GBV, violence in school, child marriage), the Ministries of Education, of Public Health and of Youth, Sports and Culture are not considered for this

child protection services financing tracking exercise. Budget Briefs for the Health and the Education sector are available.

Table 1: Prioritizing the protection of vulnerable children in Burundi

Classification of vulnerable children	Vulnerable children in Burundi	Responsible Ministry
Orphans	900,000 orphans in Burundi (NPCP 2012-2016)	Ministry of Human Rights, Social Affairs and Gender
Children not registered at birth	25% of children not registered at birth (DHS 2010)	Ministry of the Interior
Child labor and other work that is harmful	According to Burundi's legislation, children under the age of 16 are not allowed to work. Still, an estimated 7 % of children are involved in labor out of their homes and 86.4 % between 5 and 14 years old participate in domestic labor, some of which potentially harmful.	Ministry of Civil Service, Labor and Employment
Children subjected to harmful cultural practices (child marriage, FGM, etc.)	According to ISTEEDU 8.5 % of children/girls are married in Burundi before 18 (2010). Also, early pregnancy is a common phenomenon in Burundi. The situation could have worsened with the current political and social context.	Ministry of Human Rights, Social Affairs and Gender
Abused children (physical, sexual, emotional)	Sexual and Gender-based violence, mostly perpetrated against girls, is widespread in Burundi. The Ministry of Human Rights reports 10,000 reported cases of SGBVs in 2015 (no update available for 2016).	Ministry of Human Rights, Social Affairs and Gender
Children without adequate family care	A survey conducted in 2010 estimated that 2,661 children in Burundi are living in the streets. The number could be higher due to the recent degradation of the socio-political situation.	Ministry of Human Rights, Social Affairs and Gender
Children on the move due to migration, kidnapping and trafficking	Since the on-set of the ongoing crisis, child-trafficking has been reported. Unverified data suggests that several hundred children, mainly girls, crossed international borders.	Ministry of Human Rights, Social Affairs and Gender
Children in contact with law	In 2016, 246 children were referred to Burundi's two re-education centers and received services. However, more children are in conflict with law and may be currently in prison or have benefited from on-going efforts of diversion for minor chargers.	Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Public Security
Children affected by emergencies	According to the country's Humanitarian Response Plan, more than 1,2 million children are in need of support as a results of the crisis; more than 200,000 children have fled the country since April 2015 (UNHCR)	Ministry of Human Rights, Social Affairs and Gender
Children affected by armed conflict and violence	In 2016, 12 children were killed due to the crisis; many more have been unlawfully detained and arrested; one in five Burundian children has witnessed violent crime. Children living in streets are at high risk of recruitment in the event of escalation of the political situation.	Ministry of Human Rights, Social Affairs and Gender, Ministry of Public Security

Based on: UNICEF 2014 Financial Benchmark for Child Protection

(2) Child Protection Spending Trends

UNICEF's Strategic Plan 2014-2017 highlights the importance of improved and equitable prevention of and response to violence, abuse, exploitation and neglect of children and emphasizes the important to support the strengthening of child protection systems. This is only possible if adequate financial resources are ear-marked for such interventions. The five Ministries, which cater for the most essential child protection (CP)-relevant services, receive only a very limited amount of domestic resources. While in 2016, 13 per cent of total domestic resources were allocated to these child protection-relevant Ministries, only 10.5 per cent of available national resources are allocated to these Ministries in 2017 according to the Financial Law (see Fig. 1). None of these Ministries benefits from any external support with the exception of the Ministry of Civil Service that receives World Bank support to finance the maintenance of a salary scheme data base.

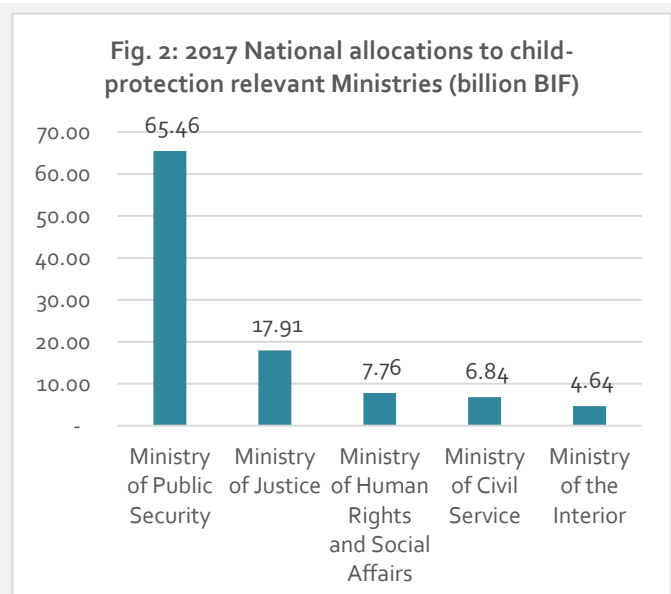
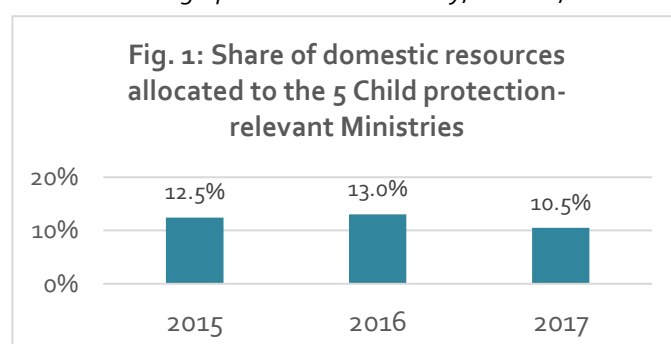
Amongst the five CP-relevant Ministries, the Ministry in charge of Public Security is allocated the highest amount of domestic resources, followed by the Ministry of Justice; national resources to the Ministry of Civil Service decreased significantly from 2016 to 2017 (-73.8 per cent reduction); it, as well as the Ministry of the Interior and the Ministry of Human Rights and Social Affairs, are allocated less than 1 per cent of available national resources in 2017 (see Fig. 2). Most notably, the Ministry of Human Rights and Social Affairs – most likely, the most relevant service provider for many child protection services, including at decentralized level, received “only” 7.76 billion Burundian Francs in 2017 (approximately 4.6 million USD²).

Furthermore, within all of these five Ministries only a certain amount is used for child protection; most resources are allocated to other non-CP relevant programs. In total, it is estimated that only 1.54 per cent of national resources (compared to 2.1 per cent in 2016) were allocated to programs and departments, which are CP relevant (15.07 billion BIF; 9 million USD; see Fig. 3). In absolute terms, this means that in 2017 the Government of Burundi allocated approximately 2,880 BIF (1.72 USD) per child for its protection – less than in 2015 and in 2016 (see Fig. 4). Nonetheless, it is important to note that several of the Ministries, which have not been classified as CP-relevant in the narrow sense,

do play an important role in terms of assuring the well-being of children. Within the 87% of domestic allocations dedicated to other, non-CP relevant Ministries, the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Public Health, two critical Ministries for improving the situation of children in Burundi, receive considerable amounts of domestic resources, and also receive external donor support.

Key Child Protection Indicators	
2017 Total Population, proj. (ISTEEBU/UNFPA)	10,400,938
2017 Child Population, proj. (ISTEEBU/UNFPA)	5,232,116
% Children > 5 whose birth is registered	75.2
% Women aged 20-24 who were fist married by age 18	20.0
% Children aged 5-14 engaged in child labour	26.3
Justification of wife beating (female, %)	72.9
Justification of wife beating (male, %)	44.3

Source: Demographic and Health Survey, Burundi, 2010



Source: Financial Law 2015-2017, Ministry of Finance, GoB

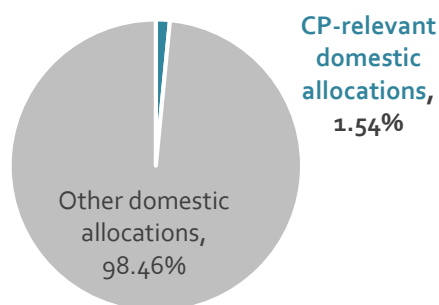
² 1 USD = 1673.683 BIF (UN Exchange Rate, February 2017).

As illustrated in Fig. 5, and summarized in Table 2, the biggest amount of child protection-relevant resources is managed by the Ministry of Human Rights and Social Affairs, also devoting the greatest share of resources within the Ministry to the protection of children. An estimated 72.9 per cent of its (small) budget is used to support the protection of children at national and sub-national level (5.66 billion BIF; 3.4 million USD). The Ministry is in charge of supporting the Centres for Family and Community Development. These structures support orphans and other vulnerable children at provincial, commune and community level. Unfortunately, allocated domestic resources to the Ministry of Human Rights, Social Affairs and Gender (former Ministry of National Solidarity) decreased by more than 15 per cent between 2015 and 2016, and an additional -2.6 per cent from 2016 to 2017 (see Fig 6).

Respectively, more than 3 billion BIF of resources within the Ministry of Public Security supporting juvenile justice, and the Ministry of Civil Service, targeted at the prevention of child labour and promoting professional and vocational training, are dedicated to child protection. Lowest, however, are national allocations profiting the systematic registration of children at birth (1.8 billion BIF).

The Ministry of the Interior, which is responsible for this task, was allocated 0.94 billion BIF (approx. 562,000 USD) in 2017. Birth registration is a critical child protection service in Burundi, since without birth certificate many other services which are essential for guaranteeing the proper development of the child are not accessible; e.g. free health care for children under five.

Fig. 3: Share of 2017 child protection-relevant national allocations (%)



Source: Financial Law 2015-2017, Ministry of Finance, GoB

Fig. 4: Available Resources for Child Protection services per child (in BIF)

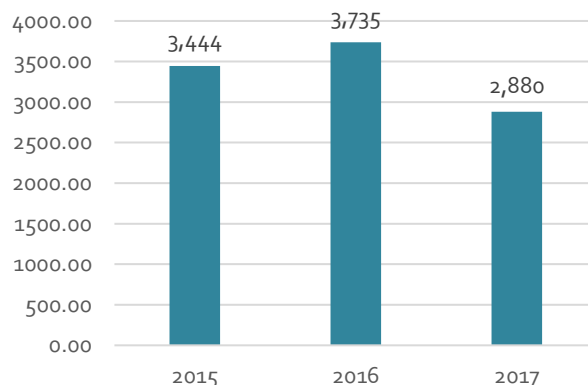


Fig. 5: Child protection relevant allocations within selected Ministries (in billion BIF)

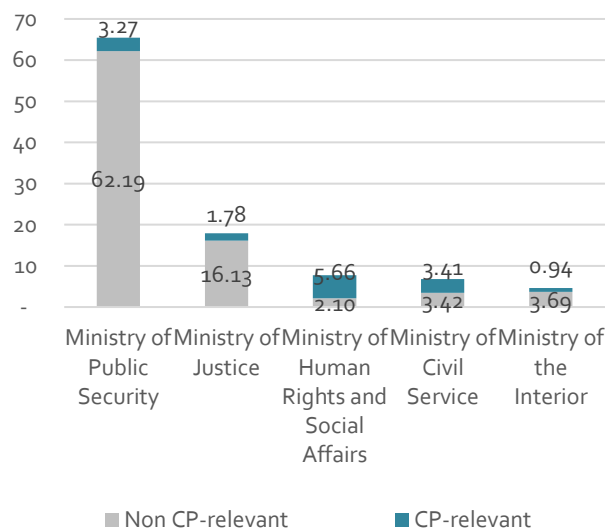
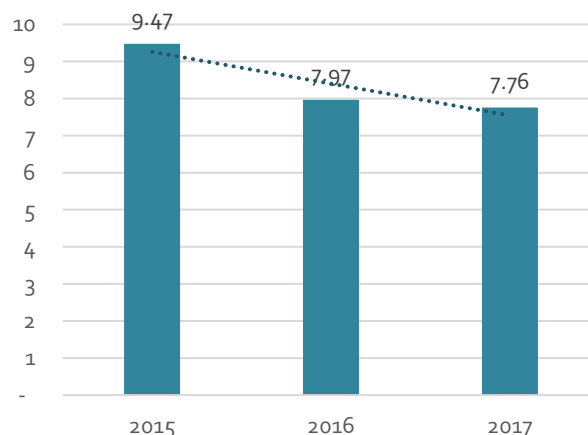


Fig. 6: Allocations in national resources to the Ministry of Human Rights, Social Affairs and Gender (in billion BIF)



Source: Financial Law 2015-2017, Ministry of Finance, GoB

Table 2: National allocations within child protection relevant Ministries

Ministry	Total Nat. Resources (BIF)	CP relevant (BIF)	Share (%)	Purpose
Ministry of the Interior	4,635,422,028	944,438,245	20.4	Birth registration
Ministry of Public Security	65,462,189,739	3,273,109,487	5.0	Justice for children
Ministry of Justice	17,909,358,543	1,779,698,401	9.9	Justice for children
Ministry of Civil Service	6,835,094,840	3,411,128,765	49.9	Child labor; vocational trainings
Ministry of Human Rights/Social Affairs/Gender	7,759,684,470	5,660,574,567	72.9	Protection of children against violence, exploitation and abuse

(3) Key Policy issues

The following are key policy issues in the area of child protection financing:

- **Systematic Tracking of Child Protection Financing:** Taking into consideration, that child protection services are scattered across several Ministries, efforts to facilitate more systematic tracking of allocations and expenditures to child protection relevant interventions need to be strengthened; capacities within the relevant divisions of the Ministry of Finance as well as Line Ministries need to be developed to enable the elaboration of budgets organized by functional classification. Having a clear understanding of how much resources are allocated and spent on the protection of children, is foundation for informed advocacy efforts for the respect and realization of child rights.
- **Making Child Protection Financing a Priority:** According to the 2017 Financial Law, departments in charge for the provision of child protection services received only 1.54 per cent of all available national allocations (1.72 USD per child) are available in 2017 to finance critical areas such as juvenile justice, birth registration and structures enabling the protection of children from abuse and violence.
 - (i) **Birth registration:** According to the latest available data, one in four children are still not registered at birth in Burundi. There is need to provide for financial resources that allow to intensify efforts of sensitizing the population regarding the importance of registration, as well as of tracking unregistered children or of finding alternatives on how to ensure access to social services for these unregistered children.
 - (ii) **Juvenile justice:** As per international standards and guidelines, children cannot under no circumstances be put in adult prison. With this end, UNICEF supported the construction of two re-education centres in the country (Ruyigi and Rumonge province). However, maintenance of these buildings has proven to be a challenge for the Government. Resources need to be set aside to not only ensure well-being of children and an appropriate hygiene standard within these re-education center, but also for initiatives aiming to prevent juvenile crime and the provision of legal and psycho-social support and reintegration opportunities for children that are in conflict with the law.
 - (iii) **Fight against Child Labour:** A child's place is in school or with his or her family, and not at work. It is important to ensure availability of sufficient resources and put emphasis on preventing child labour and exploitation. Real access to education and professional and vocational trainings coupled with sensitization may provide parents with an incentive to desist from exposing their children to activities, which are harmful to their emotional and personal development.
 - (iv) **Prevention of violence and abuse:** Global data suggest that every five minutes, a child dies as a result of violence. An estimated 120 million girls and 73 million boys have been victims of sexual violence, and almost one billion children are subjected to physical punishment on a regular basis (End Violence against Children Global Partnership). Although there's lack in systematic data collection due to limited resources and sensitive context, Burundi is increasingly facing cases of violence including domestic violence against children. Therefore, special policies and measures including parental education and violence monitoring systems should be put in place and adequately funded to prevent and respond to violence against children.