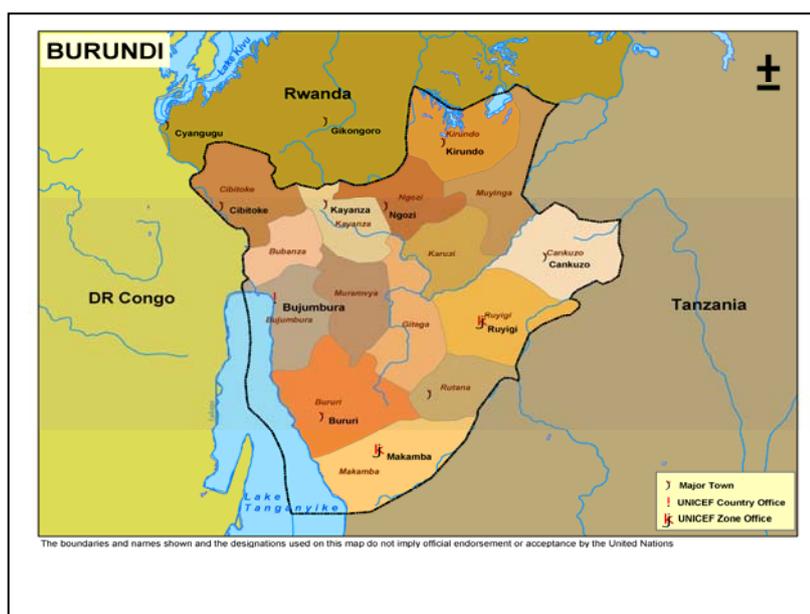


For every child
Health, Education, Equality, Protection
ADVANCE HUMANITY



UNICEF HUMANITARIAN ACTION BURUNDI IN 2008



CORE COUNTRY DATA

Population under 5	1461
Population under 18 (thousands)	4249
U5 mortality rate *	176
Infant mortality rate *	120
Maternal mortality ratio 2005*	615
Primary school enrolment ratio (2000-2006, net, male/female)*	72/68
% U1 fully immunized (DPT3)*	58
% population using improved drinking water sources (rural/urban) *	63/80
Estimated no. of people (all ages) living with HIV, 2005 (thousands)	150
% U5 suffering moderate and severe underweight/stunting **	39/53

Sources: *The State of the World's Children 2008*

* Burundi MICS 2005

** Enquête nationale de nutrition 2005

In Burundi, 53 per cent of under-five children suffer from chronic malnutrition. Food deficit is estimated at 32 per cent, and only 32 per cent of citizens enjoy adequate hygiene and sanitation facilities. The country harbours 836,000 orphans and other vulnerable children (roughly 11 per cent of the total population). Funds are needed to address the poor nutritional status and low coverage of health services, thus ensuring the survival and healthy development of its 1.4 million under-five children.

Summary of UNICEF financial needs for 2008

Sector	US\$
Health and nutrition	500,000
Water, sanitation and hygiene	600,000
Education	2,000,000
Child protection	500,000
Emergency preparedness and response	900,000
Total*	4,500,000

*The total includes a maximum recovery rate of 7 per cent. The actual recovery rate on contributions will be calculated in accordance with UNICEF Executive Board Decision 2006/7 dated 9 June 2006.

1. CRITICAL ISSUES FOR CHILDREN

Burundi celebrated two years of democratic rule in August 2007, but the situation of children and women is a stark reminder of the human and infrastructural destruction of the years of conflict. Chronic malnutrition among under-five children, at 53 per cent, is one of the highest in the subregion. The country's food deficit is estimated at 32 per cent. The year 2007 began with heavy storms and flooding which destroyed homes, schools and infrastructure, swept away farms and caused food shortages, resulting in many children abandoning school.

Only 63 per cent of the population has access to potable water, while access to adequate sanitation facilities is available to only one third of the population at 32 per cent. Degeneration of basic social services, deterioration of infrastructures, food insecurity, HIV/AIDS, and weak legal and policy environment have been among the main causes of the increased vulnerability of children. Sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV), especially against underage girls, remains a problem despite official pronouncements condemning its prevalence. This is fuelling the increase in street children, HIV/AIDS and delinquency. According to the National Council on the Struggle against AIDS the number of orphans and vulnerable children (OVC) rose from 650,000 in 2004 to 835,996 in 2005 (roughly 11 per cent of the total population). From August 2006 to September 2007, neighbouring Tanzania expelled 13,734 Burundians as illegal immigrants, and from January 2007 to date, 7,319 persons. About 31 per cent are children under six years old and 30 per cent are women. Tanzania plans to send some 150,000 Burundian refugees across the border by December 2007. Apart from increasing land conflicts and stretching basic infrastructure to the limit, many children will miss school and access to health care.

The number of children seeking to benefit from the Free Education for All policy continues to grow. The return of refugees and expelled Burundians creates an additional demand for educational facilities and trained teachers. The government with support from UNICEF and other partners is working hard to meet this increasing need for school infrastructure, furniture, books and qualified teachers.

2. KEY ACTIONS AND ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2007

UNICEF has been supporting the 'Consolidation of Peace in Burundi' programme as the key agency within the United Nations Integrated Office in Burundi (*Bureau intégré des Nations Unies au Burundi – BINUB*). UNICEF collaborated with the Government, sister UN agencies and national and international partners to provide humanitarian aid to the population, but specifically to children and women, in its priority areas of health, nutrition, water, sanitation and hygiene, education and child protection. Though changes in policies and resource allocation targeting children and women have suffered delays due to recurrent insecurity and the creeping paralysis of Burundi's political institutions, there are still some positive developments. The 2005 Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS), which was released this year, indicates a reduction in infant mortality from 156 in the year 2000 to 120 per 1,000 live births in 2005 and a similar reduction of under-five mortality from 233 to 176 per 1,000 live births. Maternal mortality also fell from 855 to 615 deaths per 100,000 live births, while the 2005 National Nutritional Survey indicates a decrease in acute malnutrition from 10.4 per cent to 7.4 per cent.

In the area of health and nutrition, with UNICEF's technical assistance and provision of supplies to the Ministry of Public Health, 3 million children aged 0-14 years and 700,000 women aged 12-45 years were immunized during catch-up vaccination campaigns, including deworming and vitamin A supplementation of 85 per cent of children aged 6-59 months and distribution of folic acid to pregnant women. Two rounds of tetanus vaccination campaigns in two high-risk provinces complemented the routine immunization in order to boost coverage to 73 per cent among girls aged 12 years and women of childbearing age. Ninety health workers received professional training on emergency obstetrical and neonatal care in five provinces. A newborn care strategy was introduced in the national reproductive health policy in September 2007. To reduce deaths from malaria, 200,000 insecticide-treated mosquito nets (ITNs) were distributed to fully immunized children and to pregnant women at their first antenatal care visit. UNICEF also provided logistics support for the importation and transportation of 720,000 UNITAID new antimalarial treatments (artemisinin-based combination therapy – ACT). HIV treatment was provided to 412 women, while 371 babies received antiretrovirals in 23 centres. Since January 2007, 15 new centres have become operational. UNICEF's nutritional support to 19 therapeutic and 201 supplementary nutrition centres allowed for the case management of 71,045 malnourished children. The improved management of severely malnourished

UNICEF HUMANITARIAN ACTION REPORT 2008

children through the community-based therapeutic care approach in four pilot provinces resulted in 90 per cent recovery rate.

The government's Free Primary Education for All has dramatically increased school enrolment rates according to a government evaluation report. In 2007 UNICEF constructed and rehabilitated 844 classrooms and 657 latrines, and installed 107 aquatanks for schools in the entire country. A total number of 27,500 school benches, 980 teachers' desks and chairs were also procured and distributed to schools in all 17 provinces. UNICEF provided school materials for 400,000 identified orphans and other vulnerable children (OVC), while 31,293 pupils received sanitation education in Hygiene Clubs set up in 100 schools equipped with latrines. In five provinces, 18,000 households were supported and trained to construct their own latrines.

Advocacy for child protection to government and civil society is receiving greater attention; inter-agency collaboration within BINUB is assisting the government in the revision of laws affecting children. About 350 children previously associated with armed groups benefited from vocational training, while 125 received psychosocial support. Peace education is ongoing in 65 communes to ensure the reintegration of these former child soldiers. Faced with increasing incidence of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV), UNICEF is supporting centres for SGBV case management and HIV prevention in the five high prevalent provinces where survivors receive medical care, psychosocial counselling and care, legal support and rehabilitation. UNICEF has helped train more than 1,000 community mobilizers for behaviour change at community level, as well as police and judicial officers.

In the emergency sector, UNICEF assisted more than 30,000 persons with non-food items, including 3,910 malnourished children and their mothers, 4,152 households expelled from Tanzania and 2,375 households affected by natural disasters. In cholera endemic areas, 4,000 households received cholera prevention kits.

3. PLANNED HUMANITARIAN ACTION FOR 2008

Coordination and partnership

UNICEF works within the coordinated collaboration of BINUB with Government, donors and civil society. A sectoral rather than cluster approach is in place with the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) on natural disasters, and with the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the World Food Programme (WFP) on the rehabilitation of refugees and expelled people.

Regular programme

Emergency preparedness and response is integrated into all programmes of the 2005-2007 Country Programme Action Plan (CPAP). The CPAP results from the joint collaboration between UNICEF counterparts, government ministries, UN agencies and other partners.

Health and nutrition (US\$ 500,000)

Some 150,000 refugees, 22,000 expelled persons, host communities and impoverished persons will benefit from the following key activities:

- Provide essential drug supplies in four transit centres for 22,000 expelled persons and for 798,000 people in 17 provincial health centres;
- Introduce community therapeutic care in five new provinces to treat a monthly average of 1,200 severely malnourished children in 60 outpatient treatment centres (OPTCs);
- Improve quality of care, including paediatrics, in 38 existing prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV (PMTCT) centres; train 25 medical doctors and 222 health workers on the prevention of HIV transmission; provide antiretrovirals and medicines (12,000 doses for 8,100 HIV+ pregnant women and 2,050 children), HIV tests and reagents, and establish a referral and monitoring system;
- Train 630 health workers in the 'Reach Every District' strategy and in mid-level management to improve the expanded programme on immunization (EPI) at provincial and district levels;
- Distribute 150,000 ITNs to scale up malaria prevention.

UNICEF HUMANITARIAN ACTION REPORT 2008

Water, sanitation and hygiene (US\$ 600,000)

Some 50,000 displaced persons, focusing particularly on children and women, will be reached through the following key activities:

- Construct/rehabilitate wells and adequate sanitary facilities in 100 schools for 96,000 children;
- Rehabilitate/construct gravity-fed systems to provide safe drinking water to some 12,500 individuals in permanent and return areas;
- Construct/rehabilitate 4,000 household latrines;
- Train 10 local water authority management teams in three provinces on water and sanitation assessments, strategic options, rehabilitation planning, leak detection, water testing, repair and maintenance of mini water supply systems;
- Promote hygiene education and hygiene awareness programmes in 100 schools and 5 local communities in order to complement existing water and sanitation services.

Education (US\$ 2,000,000)

Some 533,600 displaced and war-affected children and 10,675 teachers will benefit from the following key activities:

- Supply basic scholastic materials, including notebooks, pencils and erasers, for 533,600 primary school-aged OVC;
- Procure and distribute school supplies ('school-in-a-box' kits and supplementary notebooks) for 20,000 returnee/expelled Burundian children from Tanzania;
- Train 275 primary schoolteachers on HIV/AIDS and peace education;
- Rehabilitate/extend 2 schools and 12 classrooms per province (a total of 72 classrooms for over 3,600 schoolchildren) in 6 target provinces. These will be complemented by the construction of 144 latrine holes and 24 aquatanks for water points. The schools will also be provided with 12 administrative blocks for teachers and 72 teachers' dormitories/homes;
- Support the construction of 200 temporary classroom structures as an intermediary strategy to accommodate 10,000 primary schoolchildren.

Child protection (US\$ 500,000)

- Support an estimated 300 separated and unaccompanied children affected by their parents' expulsion from Tanzania, and support their identification, documentation, tracing, care and reunification;
- Support partners to rehabilitate 2,000 OVC and reunite them with their families, communities and/or schools;
- Provide medical, psychosocial and legal assistance to an estimated 600 children and women victims of sexual and gender-based violence.

Emergency preparedness and response (US\$ 900,000)

Some 6,000 children and 10,000 persons victims of natural disasters will be supported through the following key activities:

- Respond to emergencies in coordination with BINUB to implement UNICEF's *Core Commitments for Children in Emergencies*;
- Distribute non-food items and/or shelter materials to at least 2,000 households;
- To prevent epidemics distribute hygiene kits to at least 1,200 households;
- Train five national partners (Burundi Red Cross, local and international NGOs and Government) in emergency preparedness and response.