



The installation of mobile latrines has given families displaced by the Gabaniro landslide access to hygiene and sanitation services. May 2024, @UNICEF Burundi/2024/A.Muco

Burundi

Country Office

Flash Humanitarian Situation Report No. 2

unicef 
for every child

Reporting Period: 1 May to 31 May 2024

Highlights

- El Niño has affected populations across Burundi, with 29 reported dead, over 297,746 affected and over 47,739 displaced since September 2023.
- Cholera continues to rise due to floods and displacement, with 1,954 recorded cases and 11 deaths since the outbreak was declared in Jan 2022. Bujumbura area remaining the spot of the epidemic.
- UNICEF scaled up its child protection interventions providing 3,685 children, including 1,934 girls and 1,751 boys, with psychosocial support, representing an increase of 387 children in comparison to the number of children reached in April 2024.
- UNICEF provided 365 households with hygiene kits in the Matyazo site in Mubimbi commune of Bujumbura and provided 6,255 households with improved access to water in cholera-affected areas in the Rubirizi and Tenga communities.
- UNICEF and its partner Safe Inclusion supported mass screening for acute malnutrition in Makamba province, reaching 11,662 children aged 6 to 59 months.
- UNICEF organized an orientation session with its 19 humanitarian response implementing partners (national and international NGOs) to strengthen their capacity in promoting positive behaviors in their communities to safeguard vulnerable groups, particularly children and women of displaced populations.
- UNICEF currently has a funding gap of 67 per cent, and urgently requires additional funding to meet the needs of those most vulnerable.

Situation in Numbers

-  **318,000**
children in need of humanitarian assistance
-  **600,000**
people in need
(OCHA April 2024)
-  **36,907**
Internally displaced people
(IOM DTM Burundi Jan-May)
-  **109,701**
of pending Burundian returnees
(UNHCR, May 2024)

Funding Overview and Partnerships

UNICEF's Internal Response Plan for El Niño stands at US\$ 8 million¹ to provide life-saving services for women and children affected by the impact of El Niño. As of May 31 2024, UNICEF has received US\$ **\$2,069,396** against the plan. UNICEF sincerely thanks all donors for the contributions received. Nevertheless, humanitarian needs remain a concern in Burundi and the response to natural disasters remains largely underfunded.

UNICEF was able to prepare and invest for the seasonal impact of the rainy season by investing internal resources in preparedness efforts, including supplies procurement, as early as October 2023. These funds have enabled Child Protection, Health, Education and WASH sections to initiate an immediate rapid response to those made most vulnerable by the effects of El Niño which have been especially notable since the start of the year.

¹ UNICEF has developed an internal response plan for El Niño, aligned with the multisector OCHA El Niño Response Plan April-September 2024 <https://www.unocha.org/publications/report/burundi/burundi-plan-de-reponse-inondations-et-montee-du-lac-tanganyika-effets-el-nino>

So far, UNICEF has also received funds generously contributed by the Government of Japan to respond to the ongoing cholera outbreak which has been gravely exacerbated due to the impact of El Niño. These funds have greatly contributed to the prevention of a more serious escalation in cholera and communicable disease during this heavy rainy season and flood period.

UNICEF continues to appeal to partners for funding to be able to respond to the El Niño driven floods and landslides which are having a devastating impact on children and their families. Considering the limited capacity of humanitarian actors to respond, coupled with increasing inflation and economic crisis, small shocks have devastating effects on children and their families, timely and flexible funding is urgently needed to respond, particularly in the domains of WASH, Health, Nutrition, Social Protection and Child Protection.

Situation Overview & Humanitarian Needs

Burundi bears the brunt of climate-change related natural disasters and is amongst the least prepared countries to respond to climate change induced shocks. Since the rainy season which commenced in September 2023 and typically lasts until the end of May, El Niño has exacerbated the consequences of human induced climate change across Burundi. The provinces along the Lake Tanganyika have been the hardest hit by floods and landslides (Bujumbura Rural, Bujumbura Marie, Rumonge, Makamba and Bubanza). Provinces which are considered to be cyclically impacted by climate change in Burundi, have not gone unscathed this past rainy season. Both Cibitoke and Bubanza provinces in the Northwest of the country, bordering the Democratic Republic of Congo, experienced devastating heavy rainfalls which ruined crops, damaged homes, schools and infrastructures. Kirundo, a northern province bordering Rwanda, has historically experienced a mix of floods and drought, experienced heavy floods this rainy season.

El Niño has resulted in 29 recorded deaths, of which some are a consequence of exposure to wildlife in flood prone zones. Over 175 have been reported as injured², over 38,356 houses and over 220 classrooms have been destroyed, this is in addition to damage caused to roads, hydraulic and sanitation infrastructure³. The impact of El Niño exacerbated floods and heavy rains has been most significantly felt since the start of 2024, with more than 239,781 people affected and more than 36,907 forced to flee because of flooding and landslides⁴. Fortunately, rains have slowed down since mid-May but are expected back in September.

The damage to agriculture in a context where over 80 per cent of households depend on agriculture for their livelihoods combined with a precarious overall nutrition status, is worrying. There is an anticipated nutritional deterioration in the overall status of children and their families in the months to come. Some 40,000 hectares of fields were damaged, against a total of approximately 400,000 hectares resulting in 10 per cent loss of crops in the 2024A harvesting season⁵.

The level of the Lake Tanganyika has plateaued, for now due to limited rainfall in the past weeks. This is a welcome reprieve to communities to make their livelihoods along the Lake. While the flood waters commence to recede, the Government of Burundi took the decision to relocate 2,000 households (approximately 12,000 individuals) who were living in the flood-prone zone of Gatumba. The relocation of 904 households has taken place, to a site in Mubimbi. UNICEF alongside sister agencies and other actors are providing assistance. Longer term and more durable solutions are being considered, given the frequent and cyclical nature of the Lake flooding due to climate change. The littoral of the lake remains at risk of floods.

Concurrently with the floods and heavy rains driving displacement and misery across the country, multiple epidemics are ongoing in Burundi. As of epidemiological week 21, there were 2,002,507 cases of recorded malaria, representing an increase of 24 per cent during the same period last year. Cholera cases continue to rise, with a current cumulative recorded case of 1,954 (since the beginning of the 1 Jan 2023 outbreak declaration). In contrast, for the reporting period of 1 January to the 26 May 2023 versus that of 2024, there is a recorded increase of 13.13 per cent in cases in 2024, with weekly increments showing no break in the chain of transmission⁶.

² OCHA Burundi Flash Update #2

³ Ibid

⁴ IOM DTM Burundi April 2024 #35

⁵ OCHA Burundi Flash Update #2

⁶ Ministry of Health and WHO Epidemiological Bulletin week 21, covering period until the 26 May 2024

While the response is ongoing to reach children and their families who have been directly affected by floods and landslides over the past rainy season, due consideration and planning is already commencing with regards to the impact of the next rainy season, expected in September.

Summary Analysis of Programme Response

Health

In May, UNICEF contributed to the construction of the Buterere Cholera Treatment Center (CTC) with the aim of easing the strain on the existing existing treatment centers of Prince Regent Charles and Rubirizi. While the construction is still ongoing, the Ministry of Health (MoH) and other partners are dedicated to completing it by the end of June 2024. The floods situation in Gatumba, Nyanzalac and landslides in Gabaniro areas sparked an increasing number of displaced populations that needed to resettle and be assisted accordingly. In response, UNICEF, through a local partner (Global Development Community - GDC) plans to set up 2 mobile clinics in June 2024 in Gabaniro and Nyanza Lac to ensure the continuity of essential health care services especially for women, children and adolescents. A list of critical medicines and equipment to be provided has been validated with the Ministry of Health (Emergency Operations Center - EOC), including emergency and maternal kits.

UNICEF also supported the measles response in 10 most affected districts through the setup of 10 tents. In addition, UNICEF procured 60 beds with mattress to be deployed in Mukenke and Kirembe districts. Furthermore, UNICEF has provided substantial support to the measles immunization campaign, along with Vitamin A and Albendazole supplementation for children aged 6 to 59 months across all health districts. Preliminary results indicate that 1,978,999 (92.3%) children under 5 years were vaccinated, 1,404,632 dewormed (91.9%) and 1,598,120 (92.5%) received Vitamin A. This campaign had been crucial as vaccination forms a cornerstone of the response to measles epidemics.

In addition to the 1,978,999 of children reached by this immunization campaign, 528 Cholera cases were treated during the reporting period, and 12,939 people, including children under 5, adolescents, teenagers, pregnant women received primary health care.

Nutrition

UNICEF and its partner Safe Inclusion supported mass screening for acute malnutrition in Makamba province reaching 11,662 children aged 6 to 59 months. Among them, 81 children with severe acute malnutrition were referred to Bukeye, Kabonga, Mukungu and Adventist health facilities for treatment. In addition, UNICEF started a mass screening under the leadership of PRONANUT, targeting other affected areas in the Bujumbura, Rumonge, and Bujumbura Mairie provinces. The aim is to screen 64,000 children aged 6 to 59 months while primary caregivers will receive counselling on Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF). Recognizing that Vitamin A deficiency can delay recovery and lead to greater complications from measles, the measles campaign integrated Vitamin A supplementation and deworming for children under 5 years of age.

Child Protection

In May 2024, UNICEF and its partner Social Action for Development (SAD) scaled up child protection intervention reaching 3,685 children including 1,934 girls, affected by climate change-induced flooding, with psychosocial support. This represents a notable increase in comparison to April 2024 (3,298 children assisted). Interventions were mainly conducted in the Gatumba, Rumonge, Gabaniro, Mubimbi, and Mutambara sites. In these latter two sites, UNICEF provided 10 additional recreational kits to bolster psychosocial support. Additionally, 504 children (281 girls) obtained birth certificates, and 81 separated and unaccompanied children (8 girls and 73 boys) benefited from alternative care and were reunited with their families.

UNICEF is expanding its interventions in the Nyanza-Lac commune in Makamba province, aimed at to providing and improved access to protection services, including SGBV prevention and response, to children in need.

Education

In May 2024, following a request from the Minister of Education, UNICEF provided 9,021 house sheets and iron nails to the Ministry of Education to cover 261 classrooms in 111 schools destroyed by heavy rains in 11 out of 18 provinces (Cibitoke, Mwaro, Rumonge, Rutana, Ngozi, Gitega, Bururi, Kayanza, Bubanza, Bujumbura). Additionally, UNICEF acquired 30 tents (72m² each) to establish temporary learning spaces wherever classrooms

are destroyed or access to education is limited due to the lack of facilities. These tents had been delivered to the Ministry of Education's stock at the beginning of June and will be deployed in the field as needed.

WASH

UNICEF continued delivering water via water trucking to populations in cholera-affected areas and conducted household disinfections around cholera cases to promote hygiene and sanitation in the Cibitoke district. In early May, the northern Bujumbura district recorded a cholera outbreak in the Rubirizi and Tenga communities. In response, UNICEF ensured an improved access to drinking water through the installation and water supply of three bladders (two at the community level and one at the newly built Rubirizi CTC). These interventions benefitted 3,261 households in Rubirizi and 2,994 households in Tenga.

After the government's decision to move flood-affected residents from Gatumba to the Matyazo site in Mubimbi commune of Bujumbura province, UNICEF, in collaboration with Croix Rouge Burundi (CRB), provided WASH kits (each kit containing 1 container of 20L, 1 bucket of 20L, 1 Box of 24 soap pieces, 2 cups and 1 pack of 5 hygienic diapers) to 365 households. To address sanitation needs, 60 mobile latrines were installed in Gabaniro and Matyazo while waiting for the installation of semi-permanent latrines, whose construction has already started in Matyazo. In the same site, UNICEF also enhanced water accessibility by installing a bladder connected to the existing water supply network.

SBC

As a result of intense rains causing flooding in communities along the Imbo plain and frequent landslides in nearby hills, UNICEF collaborated with the Civil Protection to develop essential survival messages for children, women, and populations affected by floods and landslides. These messages, in French, Kirundi, and Swahili, cover topics such as hygiene, child health, nutrition during floods, care for children in critical situations, and protection of children and young girls at risk.

UNICEF organized an orientation session with its 19 humanitarian response implementing partners (national and international NGOs) to share these messages and support them to strengthen capacity of community volunteers and leaders of displaced populations to promote positive behaviours in their communities to safeguard vulnerable groups, particularly children and women.

SBC interventions were also implemented in support of the measles campaign integrated with Vitamin A supplementation and deworming with Albendazole targeting 2,143,165 children under 5 years old. UNICEF contributed to the development of the communication response plan and the production of informative and educational material. With training on messages and tools delivered to 89 national supervisors working in provinces. The campaign was launched in Kirundo province under the leadership of the First Lady. Prior to the campaign's launch, UNICEF and its partners briefed 39 medias (televisions, national and community radios) on the objective of the measles campaign coupled with Vitamine A supplementation and deworming, the expected target, and critical role of media in managing refusals or resistances.

In response to the lingering cholera epidemic, UNICEF has revitalized the Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE) committee at the central level. This initiative aims to reinitiate information and educational interventions within the four health districts where cases were reported: Isare, Bujumbura Nord, Bujumbura Centre, Bujumbura Sud, and Kabezi.

For this reporting period, a total of 2,364,573 (Girls= 378,332, Boys=496,560, Women= 827,601, Men= 662,080) persons had been exposed to messaging on prevention and services access, and 21,537 people (Girls= 3,446, Boys= 4,523, Women= 7,538, Men= 6,030) participating in engagement actions.

Humanitarian Leadership, Coordination and Strategy

UNICEF continues to play a pivotal role in the humanitarian efforts in Burundi, actively engaging in the UN Humanitarian Coordination Team (HCT) and various coordination mechanisms under the leadership of OCHA and the Government body responsible for the coordination of Risks and Disasters, via the National Platform. Partners are also engaging in discussions to find more durable solutions. UNICEF has dedicated Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) capacity, allowing UNICEF to participate fully in the PSEA Working Group

and relevant sub-working groups, supporting the intersectoral coordination mechanism. A briefing session on PSEA had been delivered to the 19 humanitarian response implementing partners (national and international NGOs) for recalling principles to be respected and promoted during their interventions.

UNICEF currently co-leads the WASH, Education, AAP and Nutrition working groups, as well as the Child Protection Coordination Group and participates in the weekly OCHA-led Inter-Sectoral Coordination Working Group to ensure alignment and coordination across the broader humanitarian response for those affected by the impact of El Niño.

As co-leader of the WASH sector, in May 2024, UNICEF continued to provide coordinated support to populations affected by various humanitarian crises in Burundi, including the cholera epidemic, floods, and the effects of El Niño, which have caused internal displacement to temporary or permanent relocation sites.

As co-lead of the Education sector working group, UNICEF continued to support the Ministry of Education emergency cell and other actors with providing a coordinate response effort to ensure continued access to learning for children.

As co-lead of the AAP working group, UNICEF continued to assess the response to the people displaced from floods 'impact, for having their voice heard and people well informed about services provided.

As co-lead of the nutrition sector, UNICEF supported the National Nutrition Programme (PRONIANUT) in organizing coordination meetings to ensure sector involvement and contributions.

To coordinate emergency child protection interventions, UNICEF, as co-lead of the Child Protection Coordination Group in Burundi, supported the activation of a task force to enhance coordination and protection responses for children affected by flooding, particularly in displacement and relocation sites.

Next SitRep: 22 July 2024

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Annex A

Summary of Programme Results

			UNICEF and IPs Response		
Sector Indicator Disaggregation		Total needs	2024 target	Total results	Change since last report* ▲ ▼
Health					
# children vaccinated against measles ⁷		2,143,165	2,143,165	1,978,999	▲ 1,978,999
# people receiving treatment for cholera		2,500	1,500	528	▲ 80
# children, adolescents and women accessing primary healthcare in UNICEF supported facilities		545,000	125,375	97,393	▲ 12,939
Nutrition					
# children 6-59 months with severe wasting admitted for treatment		4,600	3,820	81	▲ 81
# children 6-59 months screened for wasting		70,000	64,000	11,662	▲ 11,662
# primary caregivers of children 0-23 months receiving IYCF counselling		30,000	15,000	5,800	▲ 5,800
Child Protection					
# children and family members benefited from psychosocial support		45,000	26,000	6,977 ⁸	▲ 3,685
# UASC provided with alternative care and/or reunified		800	800	81	▲ 81
# birth registration for children		2,000	5,000 ⁹	2,349 ¹⁰	▲ 504
Education					
# children accessing formal or non-formal education, including early learning	Boys	15,000	843	1,656	0
	Girls		813		0
# children receiving individual learning materials	Boys	30,000	4,925	10,479	0
	Girls		5,554		0
WASH					
# people accessing a sufficient quantity of safe water for drinking, cooking and personal hygiene	Girls	68,500	11,138	9,361	▲ 4,487
	Boys		10702	8,993	▲ 4,310
	Women		8752	7,355	▲ 3,525
	Men		8408	7,066	▲ 3,387
# of household which were reached with hygiene kits distribution		10,875	5,000	815	▲ 365
	Girls	306,000	4,284	9,453	▲ 4,872
	Boys		4,116	9,083	▲ 4,682

⁷ The measles campaign is planned for June.

⁸ Double counting cannot be excluded due to the recurrence of children being displaced and potentially availing of services multiple times. Efforts are being made to reduce the risk of double counting in future.

⁹ UNICEF considers the needs of children to have access to birth certificates go beyond what was initially calculated in the HRP 2024 and given how essential this is for children to be able to access basic services is increasing its target.

¹⁰ This is a revision of results, as the previous Sitrep #1 reported results since January 2024. The results now presented represent April and May 2024 only.

			UNICEF and IPs Response		
Sector Indicator Disaggregation		Total needs	2024 target	Total results	Change since last report* ▲ ▼
# of person reached with hygiene promotion intervention and communication on PSEA	Women		3,366	7,428	▲ 3,829
	Men		3,234	7,136	▲ 3,678
Social Protection¹¹					
# households reached with UNICEF-funded humanitarian social assistance through solidarity groups	-	9,000	-	-	0
# beneficiaries of cash transfers who are linked with other programs, information and services	-	5,400	-	-	0
Social Behaviour Change¹²					
# people reached through messaging on prevention and access to services	Girls	70,000	25,000	378 332	▲ 378 332
	Boys			496 560	▲ 496 560
	Women			827 601	▲ 827 601
	Men			662 080	▲ 662 080
# people who participate in engagement actions	Girls	2,500	1,000	3 446	▲ 3 446
	Boys			4 523	▲ 4 523
	Women			7 538	▲ 7 538
	Men			6 030	▲ 6 030

Annex B

Funding Status*

Sector	Requirements*	Funds available	Funding gap	
		Humanitarian resources received in 2024	\$	%
Health	\$1,315,450	\$275,471	\$1,039,979	79%
Nutrition**	\$503,550	\$930,793	\$0	0%
Child Protection	\$252,100	\$169,224	\$82,876	33%
Education	\$825,000	\$83,204	\$741,796	90%
WASH	\$3,418,745	\$558,018	\$2,860,727	84%
Social Protection	\$1,210,061	\$2	\$1,210,059	100%
Social Behavior Change	\$306,000	52,683	\$253,317	83%
Total	\$7,830,906	\$2,069,396	\$6,188,754	67%

*The financial requirements presented are limited to the six month El Nino Response Plan, which reflect an increase in caseload and vulnerability across the country. Additional resources are required to be able to support children and their families beyond this initial six-month plan, and until the end of 2024 as well as preparedness planning for 2025.

**The Nutrition requirements represent the additional caseload driven by El Niño, which is aligned with the OCHA El Niño Response Plan April – September 2024, and does not represent the existing country wide case load, which has a budgetary requirement of \$5,880,000 for 2024.

¹¹ Due to lack of funding, activities have yet to commence.

¹² Ibid