



Burundi

Burundians across the country, especially women and children, remain vulnerable to humanitarian crisis due to high levels of poverty. This precarious situation is compounded by natural disasters (i.e., floods, landslides and rainfall deficits), population movements, epidemics (e.g., cholera and peaks of malaria) and the risk that Ebola will spread into the country. Some 1.74 million people, including 976,200 children, are affected by the humanitarian crisis and the economic downturn, and will require humanitarian assistance in 2020.¹ This includes some 60,000 children² at risk of severe acute malnutrition (SAM). With the ongoing outbreak of Ebola in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Burundi is a priority 1 country for Ebola preparedness. While important progress has been made in 2019, critical gaps remain in ensuring Ebola prevention and adequate capacities to respond. Given that the two cholera epidemics of 2019 remain difficult to contain and malaria cases continue to spike, the health situation is worrying. In addition, 110,000 people³ are displaced inside the country, primarily due to natural disasters. The ongoing voluntary repatriation process within the tripartite agreement facilitated the return of 15,000 Burundians⁴ (57 per cent children) in 2019. The presidential elections scheduled for 2020 are expected to influence these dynamics.

Humanitarian strategy

In 2020, UNICEF will reinforce the resilience of systems and communities by increasing disaster risk reduction and emergency preparedness interventions and expanding multi-sectoral and integrated responses to reduce and mitigate the risks of and needs associated with population movement, health epidemics, natural disasters and malnutrition. In line with the national contingency plan, UNICEF will also target those in priority districts who are most vulnerable to the spillover of the Ebola outbreak with prevention and preparedness activities emphasizing water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), risk communication and community engagement, as per UNICEF's comparative advantage in Burundi. UNICEF will provide a package of gender-sensitive interventions comprising life-saving health services; malnutrition prevention and treatment; access to safe water and sanitation; hygiene promotion; and critical and risk-informed education and protection services. Efforts to meet the needs of people with disabilities in humanitarian response are currently limited but will be expanded in 2020. Communication for development will be mainstreamed across all sectors of intervention and mechanisms for engaging communities in social cohesion, risk reduction and improved access to basic services will be strengthened. As part of its coordination responsibilities, UNICEF will continue to lead the WASH, nutrition and education sectors and the child protection sub-group.

Results from 2019

As of 30 September 2019, UNICEF had US\$7 million available against the US\$10 million appeal (70 per cent funded).⁵ In 2019, UNICEF responded through an integrated package of interventions in the most affected provinces in Burundi, including areas affected by displacement, return and epidemics and health districts at risk of Ebola. As of September 2019, UNICEF had reached some 155,000 children with critical child protection services and provided essential therapeutic feeding treatment to more than 31,000 children suffering from SAM. The UNICEF WASH response continued to address current vulnerabilities and linked these efforts to longer-term resilience-building and preparedness activities, especially in cholera-prone areas and districts at risk of Ebola. Some 355,000 affected/at-risk people accessed safe and clean water with UNICEF support and 571,000 people received hygiene messages and key life-saving information. Despite limited funding, UNICEF and line ministries provided access to learning opportunities for some 29,000 school-aged children, including internally displaced and returnee children, and supplied the Government with stocks of essential drugs, including for malaria and cholera treatment, benefiting 70,000 persons. UNICEF reached 1.3 million people with key Ebola prevention messages and has continued its efforts in risk communication and community engagement to prepare for and respond to epidemics.⁶

Humanitarian Action for Children

unicef 

Total people in need

1.74 million⁷

Total children (<18) in need

1 million⁸

Total people to be reached

741,200⁹

Total children to be reached

600,400¹⁰

2020 programme targets

Nutrition

- 45,000 children aged 6 to 59 months affected by SAM admitted for treatment
- 550,000 children assessed for acute malnutrition through mass screening

Health

- 50,000 children vaccinated against measles
- 250,000 people, at least half of them children, provided with essential drugs¹¹

WASH

- 100,000 people accessing a sufficient quantity of safe water for drinking, cooking and personal hygiene¹²
- 320,000 people in cholera and Ebola high-risk areas reached with key messages on safe and healthy hygiene practices

Child protection

- 160,000 children accessing critical child protection services, including mental health and psychosocial support
- 80,000 children and women accessing gender-based violence risk mitigation, prevention or response interventions

Education

- 60,000 school-aged girls, boys and adolescents accessing formal and/or non-formal education opportunities
- 6,500 education duty bearers trained on education in emergencies and risk reduction
- 500,000 school-aged girls and boys reached with Ebola prevention messages

Communication for development

- 1,700,000 people reached with key life-saving/behaviour change messages on Ebola prevention and control
- 165,000 people reached with information on access to basic services in emergency situations

	Sector 2019 targets	Sector total results	UNICEF 2019 targets	UNICEF total results
NUTRITION				
Children under 5 years with SAM admitted for treatment	30,000	32,242	30,000	32,242 ⁱ
HEALTH				
People, at least half of them children, provided with essential drugs, including malaria drugs			250,000	70,000 ⁱⁱ
WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE				
People accessing the agreed quantity of clean water for cooking, drinking and personal hygiene	250,000	354,947	200,000	354,947
People provided with information on key hygiene practices	250,000	571,119	200,000	571,119 ⁱⁱⁱ
CHILD PROTECTION				
Children and adolescents benefiting from critical child protection services	150,000	155,373	100,000	155,373 ^{iv}
EDUCATION				
Children accessing formal and non-formal early learning, pre-primary and primary education	115,000	29,911	100,000	29,911 ^v
Teachers trained on education in emergencies and disaster risk reduction	1,500	450	1,000	450
COMMUNICATION FOR DEVELOPMENT				
Children, adolescents and young adults (under 24 years) benefiting from peace, social mobilization and life-skills education			150,000	25,056 ^{vi}
People reached with Ebola preparedness activities			500,000	1,339,914

* Results are as of 30 September 2019 due to the quarterly reporting schedule.

ⁱ The level of results reached can be explained by the increase in the number of malaria cases in 2019, which may have impacted the nutritional status of children.

ⁱⁱ The target includes the projection of potential refugees from the Democratic Republic of the Congo in connection with the presidential elections of late 2018. No specific response was ultimately required.

ⁱⁱⁱ Hygiene promotion results exceed the targets mainly due to the amount of activities conducted for Ebola preparedness and the multiple cholera outbreaks since the beginning of the year, which meant increased efforts from UNICEF and partners.

^{iv} The increase in the number of children reached is due to activities organized jointly by a consortium of child protection partners (most of them funded by UNICEF) in poor areas in Bujumbura, Rumonge and Makamba during the school holidays.

^v Education results are expected to be accelerated with the new academic year.

^{vi} Programme implementation is ongoing and achievements are expected to increase by the end of the year. However, the target will not be reached as planned due to limited funding. Resources mobilized in 2019 have mainly focused on Ebola preparedness.

Funding requirements

UNICEF is requesting US\$16.5 million to meet the humanitarian needs of children in Burundi in 2020. Without timely and adequate funding, UNICEF will be unable to scale up its humanitarian response to address the critical needs of women and children in the current context of heightened vulnerability, recurrent epidemics, child malnutrition, natural disasters and population movements. UNICEF also urgently needs to increase preparedness efforts to address the risk of the Ebola outbreak spilling over from the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Sector	2020 requirements (US\$)
Nutrition	3,700,000
Health	1,600,000
Water, sanitation and hygiene	4,000,000
Child protection	3,500,000
Education	1,500,000
Communication for development	1,700,000
Sector coordination	500,000
Total	16,500,000

¹ Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, 'Burundi: 2020 Humanitarian Needs Overview', OCHA, 2019.

² District Health Information System II, December 2018. The results of the recent Joint Approach for Nutrition and Food Security Assessment (January 2019) show a deterioration in the nutritional situation, with 5.1 per cent of children suffering from acute malnutrition, compared with 4.5 per cent in 2018.

³ International Organization for Migration, Displacement Tracking Matrix Burundi, July 2019.

⁴ United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, 'Regional Overview of the Burundian Refugee Population', 31 July 2019.

⁵ Available funds include US\$3.1 million received against the 2019 appeal and US\$3.9 million carried forward from the previous year.

⁶ At this time, no estimate of persons living with disabilities reached by UNICEF programming can be provided due to a lack of targeted programming and disaggregated information. Efforts will be made to address this gap in 2020.

⁷ 'Burundi: 2020 Humanitarian Needs Overview'.

⁸ Ibid.

⁹ This is based on the number of children to be reached (see endnote #10) plus the adult population target for people to be reached with key messages on hygiene practices (140,800). An estimated 56 per cent of the target population are women and girls (415,072), according to Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, 'Burundi: 2019 Humanitarian Response Plan', OCHA, 2018. According to the 2011 World Health Organization (WHO)/World Bank report, persons with disabilities make up 15 per cent of the population. UNICEF Burundi plans to strengthen the collection of disaggregated data related to disabilities through its 2020 programming.

¹⁰ This is based on the highest programme coverage for nutrition through the mass screening of 550,000 children plus 50,400 children targeted for education (84 per cent of the target of 60,000 children accessing formal and non-formal education opportunities). An estimated 53 per cent of the target population below 18 years are girls (318,212), according to 'Burundi: 2019 Humanitarian Response Plan'. According to the 2011 WHO/World Bank report, children with disabilities make up 10 per cent of the population.

¹¹ This includes the pre-positioning of inter-agency emergency health kits related to Ebola preparedness. This target has decreased compared to 2019 mainly due to the reduced number of people finally repatriated against the previous forecasts made.

¹² This is in line with the Sphere standard of 15 litres of water per person per day and water quality standards on residual chlorine and turbidity. This target has decreased compared to 2019 mainly due to the priority to support access to water in health facilities to improve infection prevention and control, which will reduce the number of direct beneficiaries as the intervention will more broadly benefit the catchment population.

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