### Highlights

- **In 2020**, UNICEF mobilized US$ 1.9 million (28 per cent).
- With the support of the Government of Japan, DFID and UNICEF National Committees, UNICEF was able to respond to the most essential needs of refugee children, including for Education, Child Protection and support the national EVD preparedness efforts.
- 6 million people were reached with messaging on EVD and COVID-19 prevention and access to services.
- UNICEF provided IPC supplies to 22 hospitals, including 3 tons of chlorine powder for disinfection and 1,500 litres of hand sanitizer.
- 29,848 refugee children were reached with quality inclusive education.
- 12,347 refugee children were vaccinated against measles.
- 8,500 Burundian refugee children received child protection services in Mahama Camp and in host communities.

### UNICEF’s Response and Funding Status

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Funding status</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Health and Nutrition</td>
<td>Vaccination against Measles</td>
<td>123%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Funding status</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>WASH</td>
<td>Refugees accessing agreed</td>
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</tr>
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<td></td>
<td>Health and PoE staff trained</td>
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</tr>
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<tr>
<td>Child Protection</td>
<td>Refugee children receiving supported education</td>
<td>43%</td>
</tr>
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<td></td>
<td>Funding status</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>Refugee children reached</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Funding status</td>
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<tr>
<td>C4D</td>
<td>People reached on EVD</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>People engaged on EVD</td>
<td>24%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Funding status</td>
<td>34%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Situation in Numbers

- **1,100,000** children in need of humanitarian assistance (UNICEF 2020 HAC)
- **2,200,000** people in need of humanitarian assistance (UNICEF 2020 HAC)
- **146,831** Refugees (UNHCR December 2020)

### UNICEF Appeal 2020

**US$ 8 million**

- **28 % funded**
Funding Overview and Partnerships


As of 31 December 2020, UNICEF raised US$ 1.9 million and addressed the most essential needs of refugee children, including for Education, Child Protection and Health.

Situation Overview & Humanitarian Needs

Rwanda’s first case of COVID-19 was confirmed on 14 March 2020. As of 31 December, there were 8250 confirmed cases of whom 6,369 have recovered, with 86 deaths reported. All confirmed cases of COVID-19 are being monitored and contacts have been traced.

Since the last Cabinet meeting on 27 November 2020, movements are still prohibited between the hours of 10:00 pm and 4:00 am. Fitness facilities, swimming pools, live performances and cultural shows may now operate in compliance with COVID-19 prevention measures. Most offices are open at 50 per cent capacity, and funerals and weddings cannot exceed 75 people.

The Government of Rwanda has reopened most schools. As of December 2020, primary grades 5 and 6, as well secondary levels 3, 5 and 6 have resumed in-person classes. Private schools have resumed in-person learning for all grades. Universities, technical and vocational schools have also resumed in-person learning. When the new school year begins in January 2020, it is expected that all schools will be open for in-person learning.

In 2020, UNICEF supported the Government of Rwanda to mitigate the secondary effects of COVID-19 on children and families, including by supporting remote learning when schools closed, providing Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for community health workers and child protection volunteers, and by constructing handwashing facilities in schools.

There are currently 146,831 refugees and asylum seekers in Rwanda1. Of these, 69,666 are Burundian refugees, 76,845 are refugees from the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), and 320 are refugees from other countries. Refugee children under the age of 18 make up over 50 per cent of the total refugee and asylum-seeker population.


Most Burundian refugees reside in Mahama Camp, which currently hosts 59,538 people. In addition, there are more than 11,400 Burundian refugees in the urban areas of Kigali and around 880 in Huye.

Finally, on 18 November 2020, the Minister of Health of the DRC H.E. Dr Eteni Longondo, declared an end to the 11th Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) outbreak in the North-Western Province (Equateur) of the country, five months after the outbreak began. Throughout the outbreaks in DRC, Rwanda had remained free of Ebola.

Summary Analysis of Programme Response

Health and Nutrition

For refugees in 2020, UNICEF supported vaccine procurement and monitoring of routine immunization in Mahama Camp. A total of 12,347 children received essential vaccinations between January and June 2020. UNICEF also continued to provide technical support and nutrition supplies through the Government of Rwanda for malnourished children under five. These services are integrated into ongoing national programmes. In January 2020, Mahama Camp saw an additional 25 children under five (11 boys and 14 girls) admitted to treatment programmes for severe acute malnutrition. Of these children, 14 were treated and cured (8 boys and 6 girls), and one discontinued treatment.

To support EVD preparedness in 2020, UNICEF supported the Ministry of Health to plan roll out of the electronic Community Event-Based Surveillance (eCEBS) system and to supervise community health workers previously trained on EVD surveillance in 15 high-risk districts. From March, UNICEF supported the Ministry of Health and Rwanda Biomedical Center to strengthen coordination of EVD preparedness at the emergency operation centre in planning, logistics, operations and information and technology.

Education

When schools closed due to COVID-19 in March 2020, UNICEF supported 2,661,225 children with home-based or distance learning when schools closed due to COVID-19, included for refugees. Although schools began to reopen in November 2020, remote learning remained a priority in the education sector.

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1 As of most recent UNHCR Operational Update, September 2020
In October and November, approximately 82 per cent of students (2,473,625) were engaged in distance learning. UNICEF also supported individualized home-based learning for 7,282 children with disabilities.

UNICEF supported the Government to raise awareness on safe resumption of in-person learning and implementation of safe school protocols by designing, printing and distributing brochures and posters with key messages on COVID-19 prevention and response to 2,635 schools which started to reopen in November 2020 for the higher primary and secondary levels. The remaining lower primary, primary and ECD centres are schedule to open in January 2021.

In 2020, UNICEF and partners distributed education materials for 13,000 students in three Congolese refugee camps. UNICEF continued to support ECD in Mahama Camp for Burundian refugees, focusing on early childcare, stimulation and learning for children aged 0-6 years through centre- and home-based services. Before ECD centres close due to COVID-19, there were 5,643 children (2,786 boys and 2,857 girls) enrolled in Mahama’s three ECD centres, while 1,162 children (574 boys and 588 girls) were enrolled in 72 home-based ECD settings managed by trained parents. UNICEF also provided 18 ECD kits with play and learning materials for the 18 new semi-permanent ECD classrooms in Mahama.

Child Protection
In 2020, UNICEF provided alternative care arrangements for over 2,200 children without parental or family care. To help mitigate the psychological effects of COVID-19 on children and families, UNICEF facilitated the Government to establish a toll-free hotline for reporting child protection cases. PPE was also procured and distributed to all 29,674 child protection community volunteers to facilitate them to continue home visits, awareness raising, and case referral.

UNICEF and Save the Children had planned to support additional child protection initiatives child- and youth-friendly spaces in Mahama Camp. These activities were to include psychosocial support through learning and play tablet sessions and development of inclusive activities for children with disabilities. Unfortunately, due to COVID-19 and the subsequent lockdown in Rwanda, all activities in Mahama Camp were suspended. UNICEF therefore adjusted plans to support operational continuity for the child protection workforce by providing airtime and means of communication, risk communication, and awareness of child protection risks during COVID-19. 8,500 children were reached with essential child protection services.

In EVD preparedness, UNICEF supported capacity development for child protection and frontline health workers, training 15 Child Protection and Welfare Officers, 20 Gender and Family Promotion Officers based at the district level, and 90 health frontline workers from district hospitals. This was done with the support of UNICEF DRC, as well as Rwanda Biomedical Center (RBC). Due to COVID-19, the training for the remaining 15 Child Protection and Welfare Officers was not conducted.

WASH
Throughout 2020, UNICEF supported the Ministry of Health with one full-time staff to strengthen WASH/IPC in health centres around the country. UNICEF also helped train 160 health workers on WASH/IPC and, as the economy began to reopen, over 615 hospitality, airport and factory supervisors.

In October, UNICEF provided over three tonnes of chlorine powder for disinfection and 1,500 litres of hand sanitizer for health facilities, for a total of US$ 96,000 of WASH/IPC supplies primarily provided to 22 hospitals. UNICEF produced six Kinyarwanda language training videos on chlorine solution preparation, chlorine solution testing, maintenance of sprayers, donning, doffing, and safe burial for the Ministry of Health.

Between October and November, critical hygiene supplies were provided to 484 children aged 0-3 whose mothers were detained, 560 detained minors over the age of 14, and 2,069 children and youth with disabilities. Over 3,700 of Rwanda’s most vulnerable children and their caregivers – 26 per cent of whom were girls over 10 – also received hygiene supplies critical to preventing COVID-19.

UNICEF supported over 50 health centres with upgraded handwashing facilities and water storage. UNICEF also supported the Ministry of Education with a new design for a durable, cost-effective, water-saving group handwashing facility. With funds mobilised by UNICEF, these handwashing facilities will be installed in all primary schools in Rwanda to prepare for safe school reopening in January.

For refugee response, UNHCR has significantly increased its WASH capacity and in the last year addressed the water deficit in Gihembe Camp for Congolese refugees.

Communication for Development (C4D), Community Engagement & Accountability
In 2020, UNICEF reached 6 million people with messages on EVD and COVID-19 prevention and access to services. Over 120,000 people participated in EVD and COVID-19 engagement actions.

In October and November, UNICEF and partners engaged over 45,000 people in feedback collection and rumour tracking on COVID-19. To address prevailing misconceptions, UNICEF supported community radio programmes and community sensitisation sessions, reaching over 100,000 people each week across Rwanda.
In 2020, UNICEF partnered with the popular KISS FM radio station to include COVID-19 content on their weekday morning programme, including an interactive “fact or fiction” segment where listeners could call in to ask or answer questions on COVID-19. UNICEF also organised 12 live conversations with COVID-19 experts during these morning programmes, and radio spots on COVID-19 prevention recorded by Rwandan music industry influencers. These programmes had between 1.8 and 2 million listeners each weekday.

To strengthen community engagement in Mahama Refugee Camp and its host communities, UNICEF trained 55 community influencers, community health workers, religious leaders, local leaders, youth and education sector representatives on COVID-19 and interpersonal communication skills. A similar training was also conducted for partner organisations, who then trained 300 more community influencers in Mahama Camp and neighbouring communities.

UNICEF supported capacity building of 45 health providers from selected health centres on inclusive services for persons with disabilities, focusing on public health outbreaks. About 128 persons with disabilities were trained as trainers in COVID-19 / RCCE to support capacity development of self-help groups and grassroots level organizations of persons with disabilities.

UNICEF supported “refresher” trainings for over 13,000 community health workers to conduct home visits and trained 1,887 new community health workers. The key focus of training was on EVD signs and symptoms, prevention measures, interpersonal communication skills and accountability to affected populations. A series of feedback sessions with trained community health workers were conducted to discuss achievements and challenges with regards to community engagement. In February and March, 14,540 community health workers conducted community engagement through ‘door-to-door’ home visits. When the Ebola emergency was declared over in June 2020, the content of these trainings remaining relevant in the COVID-19 context.

UNICEF continued to include messages on Ebola prevention in the popular Itetero children’s radio programme and procured 108 solar-powered radio sets for ECD centres to allow children and parents to listen to Itetero more reliably. UNICEF is also helping train nearly 200 religious ECD volunteers on EVD prevention, risk management and high-risk religious doctrines. These volunteers will then train an additional 420 community members. Over 150 ECD caregivers and families were also trained. Communication materials were also distributed in 53 ECD centres.

**Humanitarian Leadership, Coordination and Strategy**

In 2020, the focus moved from EVD to COVID 19. UNICEF and other development partners established COVID-19 technical coordination mechanisms, with groups focusing on health, social protection, food security, and the socio-economic impact of COVID-19.

In November 2020, these mechanisms were transitioned to regular health sector coordination mechanisms, with COVID-19 as a standing agenda item. UNICEF was actively involved in the first three of these groups, co-leading the group on social protection along with DFID. These mechanisms kept development partners informed on the COVID-19 response, collected and shared feedback for the Government, and coordinated the development partner response to COVID-19.

For the refugee response, the Ministry of Emergency Management and UNHCR continue to be the overall coordinators of inter-agency efforts. The humanitarian strategy agreed between the Government and development partners is to provide comprehensive services to refugees and seek fulfilment of their basic rights. This includes provision of registration, shelter, household equipment, food and water, maintaining sanitation and hygiene, health and nutrition services, education, and protection. Refugee coordination meetings are held each month and include donors and development partners.

In 2020, UNICEF and UNHCR developed an action plan within the Blueprint framework which aims to strengthen the support to refugees in education, child protection and WASH including for the prevention and response to health epidemics. Rwanda is one of 10 countries included in this global initiative.

In EVD preparedness, the Government constructed an Ebola Treatment Centre in Rubavu, and 23 isolation units were prepared in hospitals in 15 priority districts. Ebola response simulation exercises were conducted regularly to test Rwanda’s preparedness in response to a case. A toll-free hotline was established to report suspected cases of Ebola. Other efforts to enhance EVD preparedness included Emergency Operations Centre activation, enhanced surveillance, capacity building for case management, and laboratory testing. About 3,000 health workers in high-risk areas were vaccinated as a preventative measure, including more than 1,100 in Rubavu District.

UNICEF supported the Ministry of Health to develop and revise the national Risk Communication Strategy for EVD Prevention, as well as the risk communication components of the revised National EVD Contingency Plan. UNICEF also supported the Ministry of Health to develop plans, protocols and training for WASH and nutrition for EVD infection prevention and control. UNICEF also supported the Ministry of Education and National Commission for Children to strengthen their preparedness efforts.
More specifically, UNICEF is a member of the national task force led by the Minister of Health. UNICEF also provides technical support to the Government to enhance preparedness levels through participation in simulation exercises, pre-positioning of supplies, risk communication and community engagement, streamlining infection prevention and control (including through WASH) into preparedness, development of the guide on child protection and in building capacity at all levels, including among community health workers.

UNICEF also contributed to development of the Interagency Ebola Contingency Preparedness Plan alongside WHO, WFP, UNHCR and IOM and is an active member of the bi-weekly UN Ebola Coordination meeting. In 2019, DRC was activated as an L3 Emergency country and Rwanda, along with South Sudan, Uganda and Burundi, were raised to L2 Emergency.

Human Interest Stories and External Media

On the 2020 COVID-19 response, UNICEF produced the following stories and multimedia:

- 17 videos, published on social media and available on YouTube;
- 8 human-interest stories available on the website;
- 4 press releases, available on the website;
- A Kinyarwanda translation of “My Hero Is You”, a children’s animated book on COVID-19;

Between July and December 2020, through partnership with the Association of Rwandan Journalists (ARJ), 50 articles on COVID-19 were published in various local media (10 each month), with 15 directly mentioning UNICEF support.

UNICEF also launched a COVID-19 information centre on the website, with contextualized information in both English and Kinyarwanda. Content on COVID-19 was released in English and Kinyarwanda on the Internet of Good Things, with related topics like prevention, nutrition, parenting tips, and mental health.

A collection of photographs is available on the UNICEF Rwanda WeShare site with relevant photography credits.

On the refugee response, UNICEF produced one video on the Republic of Korea-supported tablet project in Mahama Camp, where children learn violence prevention through educational and fun apps. Photographs from Mahama Refugee Camp are also available.

In EVD preparedness, UNICEF produced a video illustrating how religious leaders are using sermons and teachings to spread Ebola prevention messages to their followers. UNICEF also finalised production of the “Twirinde Ebola” music video on Ebola prevention, featuring popular artists from Rwanda and one from DRC. The music video was broadcast widely per the dissemination plan agreed with national and private broadcasters and was shown on LED screens at border locations. A collection of photographs and b-roll for external use continues to be available on the UNICEF Rwanda WeShare site, with relevant shot lists and photography credit.

Next SitRep: 31 March 2021


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### Annex A

**Summary of Programme Results: Refugee response and EVD prevention**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sector</th>
<th>Overall needs</th>
<th>2020 target</th>
<th>Total results*</th>
<th>Change since last report</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Health &amp; Nutrition</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children vaccinated against measles in refugee camps</td>
<td>10,000</td>
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<td>12,347</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>WASH</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Refugees accessing the agreed quantity of water for drinking, cooking and personal hygiene</td>
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<td>40,000</td>
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<td>Health facilities and points of entry staff trained and equipped to conduct infection prevention and control activities for Ebola</td>
<td>535</td>
<td>535</td>
<td>304</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Child Protection</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Refugee children receiving child protection services in the camp and in host communities</td>
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<td>Child protection workers trained on Ebola preparedness and psychosocial support</td>
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<td>121</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Education</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Refugee children reached with quality, inclusive education</td>
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<td>30,000</td>
<td>29,848</td>
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<td><strong>Communication for Development (C4D)</strong></td>
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<td>People reached on EVD through messaging on prevention and access to services</td>
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<td>People engaged on EVD through RCCE actions</td>
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<td>500,000</td>
<td>120,000</td>
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</table>

*WASH services in camps were provided by UNHCR

### Annex B

**Funding Status: Refugee Response and EVD Prevention**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sector</th>
<th>Total Requirements</th>
<th>Funds available 2020</th>
<th>Funding gap</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
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<td>Funds Received Current Year</td>
<td>Carry-Over from 2019</td>
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<tr>
<td>Health &amp; Nutrition</td>
<td>2,500,000</td>
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<td>Water, sanitation and hygiene</td>
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<td>Child Protection</td>
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<td>Education</td>
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<td>Communication for development</td>
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<td>Sector Coordination</td>
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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
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