

**Burundi**  
**Child Protection**  
**Sectoral and thematic Report**  
**January - December 2018**



*Children returning home after a recreation activity in Gitega Province (Photo ©UNICEF/Burundi 2018/Dan Rono)*

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## Table of Contents

1	Abbreviations and Acronyms.....	2
2	Executive Summary .....	3
3	Strategic Context of 2018.....	4
3.1	Trends in protection environment and issues in child protection.....	4
3.2	Challenges and Opportunities.....	6
4	Results in the Outcome Area.....	7
4.1	Justice for children .....	8
4.2	Protection from violence abuse and exploitation.....	9
4.3	Social protection of OVCs.....	10
4.4	Birth registration .....	11
4.5	Child protection in emergencies .....	11
4.6	Results Assessment Table .....	12
5	Financial Analysis.....	14
6	Future Work Plan.....	17
7	Expression of Thanks .....	19
8	Annexe : Human Interest Stories.....	20

# 1 Abbreviations and Acronyms

AFJB - Association de Femmes Juristes du Burundi

CNPJE- Department of Correction Office, National Cell of Judicial Protection of Childhood

CFPJ- Judicial Training Centre

DCF - Department of Children and Family

FENADEB - Fédération Nationale des Associations Engagées dans le Domaine de l'Enfance au Burundi

FVS/AMADE - Famille pour Vaincre le Sida- Association Mondiale des Amis de l'Enfance

GBV- Gender Based violence

GoB – Government of Burundi

HAC – Humanitarian Action for Children

HRP – Humanitarian Response Plan

IDP – Internally Displaced Person

IOM – International Organization for Migration

ISTEEBU – Institute of Statistics and Economic Studies of Burundi

MDPHSG - Ministry of Human Rights, Social Affairs and Gender

PPSM - Plateforme des intervenants en Psychosocial et en Santé Mentale

SDGs - Sustainable Development Goals

SOJPAE - Solidarité de la Jeunesse Chrétienne pour la Paix et l'Enfance

UCBUM - United for Children Burundi Bw'uno Musi

UNFPA - United Nations Population's Fund

UNHCR - United Nations High Commissioner for Refugee

UNICEF – United Nations Children Fund

## 2 Executive Summary

Burundi's pervasive poverty (national poverty rate of 69 %), large family sizes (eight people on average), very young population (49% of the population is under 18 years), recurrent political-security crisis and forced population displacements pose serious challenges to the capacity of the Government, communities and families to protect children.

As of December 2018, some 139,634 people, around 56 per cent of whom children under 18 years, were internally displaced (OIM, 2018) while 347,155 Burundians are refugees in neighbouring countries since fleeing the country for protection and assistance in early 2015. A voluntary return of refugees is happening but the number of people in need of protection remains high at 1.1 million in 2018 and 457,900 in 2019.

In 2010, UNICEF Burundi launched its country programme that ended in 2018; a period marked by the upsurge of protection needs due to the 2015 political-security events. The overall objective of child protection interventions in the 2010-2018 programme was to ensure that "children in Burundi live in a protective environment preventing and responding to violence, abuse and exploitation".

An assessment at the end of the country programme in 2018 showed an overall progress in success indicators, however many challenges persist. Many children in Burundi continue to be victims of, or witnesses to, violence, abuse and exploitation, including hazardous work, human trafficking and gender-based violence. The arrest and detention of children, long pre-trial detentions and limited access to services affect children in conflict with the law. Many children living and working on the street are forcibly removed, and children lacking parental care are often placed in institutions.

Since children without birth certificate in Burundi are highly exposed to arbitrary arrest and detention, UNICEF used part of the thematic fund in 2018 to contribute to an ongoing national campaign for unregistered children. So far, the campaign has facilitated the registration of more than 600,000 children. In addition, UNICEF provided legal support to 338 minors in conflict with the law using the thematic fund, leading to the release of 147.

UNICEF has launched a new country programme for the period 2019-2023. Building on achieved results and on lessons learned – especially on intersectoral interventions and on community-based child protection systems –, the new child protection sector programme will focus on three main axis: (1) Enhancing the national capacity to apply child-friendly and gender-sensitive policies and procedures for child protection and increase evidence on child protection issues; (2) Strengthening institutional capacity to deliver quality child protection services at provincial, communal and community levels, including in emergencies; and (3) Equipping families and communities to protect their children, especially the most vulnerable, from violence, abuse, exploitation and neglect, including in emergencies.

Burundi is facing a decrease in its public budget following the suspension of the foreign direct support to the State following 2015 political events. To ensure that the country meets its strategic goals (including SDGs) in the area of child protection, more funding is needed to support the system-related aspect of child protection, including "justice for children."

Given the increase in need for a robust emergency child protection response during the ending program and the necessity to adapt, UNICEF Burundi salutes the flexibility offered by the received thematic fund, which allow the country office to invest more and timely on where the money is needed most.



### 3 Strategic Context of 2018

Burundi remains one of the poorest countries in the world. Its current gross domestic product (GDP) per capita of US\$ 320.1 (World Bank 2017) is among the lowest in the world and the country is lagging in terms of human development ranking 185 out of 189 countries (HDI 2018). Child poverty is widespread with nearly 7 out of 10 children (69 %) living in households that have insufficient means to meet their basic needs. In rural areas, where many children live, child poverty stands at the particularly alarming rate of 72 %, as compared to 33 % in urban areas.

Burundi is the third densely populated country in Africa (413 inhabitants per square km) with 49 % of the 11.8 million population being children under the age of 18 years and 23 % aged between 10 to 19 years old. Although in decline, the total fertility rate remains high (4.6 children per woman) and the population is growing at a yearly rate of 2.6%. By 2050, the number of children is expected to exceed 6.7 million, compared to 5.7 million in 2018 (ISTEEBU, 2017). In this context, pressure on education and health systems and demand for nutrition, WASH, protection and participation are expected to remain strong.

Additional constraints limiting Burundi's capacity to realize the rights of children include a poorly diversified economy, a high vulnerability to natural hazards, and the prominence of patriarchal gender norms and values. The recurrent socio-political difficulties further compound the situation. Although the overall situation has improved since 2017 around 142,625 people (including 87,000 children) remain internally displaced (IOM, November 2018) and another 347,155 (including 193,018 children) are refugees in neighbouring countries (UNHCR, December 2018).

Following a Tripartite meeting between the Government of Burundi, Tanzanian Government and the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), a Work Plan for the voluntary repatriation of an estimated 72,000 Burundian refugees was agreed upon. UNHCR estimates that around 56% of returning refugees are children who will be joining their communities of origin, where vulnerable children already live, thereby increasing households' vulnerability. Burundi's reintegration services are not adapted to support the returnee children who face the significant risks of protection listed above.

In 2018, the persisting socioeconomic crisis and climatic hazards continued to exacerbate the Burundian population's vulnerability and exposed them to protection risks. This difficult context was further complicated by the decision of the Government of Burundi to suspend international NGOs, for a period of three months (1 October 2018 to 1 January 2019) during which they were asked to comply with the January 2017 Burundian law on INGOs. This decision has impacted on the implementation of the programme and could potentially reduce the humanitarian space in Burundi and consequently reduces the response capacity of humanitarian actors.

#### 3.1 Trends in protection environment and issues in child protection

The number of people in need of protection has decreased from 1.8 million in 2017 (38 % children<sup>1</sup>) to 1.1 million in 2018 (51 % children). The humanitarian needs overview conducted in late 2018 estimated that nearly 458,000 people (56 % children) will be in need of protection in 2019 (OCHA, HRP 2017, 2018 and 2019). The most vulnerable population groups are: (1) persons in situations of internal displacement; (2) returnees; (3) expelled nationals, refugees and asylum seekers returned to Burundi; (4) victims of natural disasters; (5) host communities that reside close to or host populations

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<sup>1</sup> Children under the age of 18 years

experiencing internal displacement or recent return; and (6) other civilians exposed to protection risks. Among these vulnerable population groups, children are at particular risk of protection.

According to IOM, Burundi is above all a "source country" for victims of trafficking, where adults and children are forced into forced labour, domestic servitude, prostitution and other forms of sexual exploitation, at the national, regional and international levels. Victims of child trafficking in Burundi include children from the age of one month to 15 years, including girls and women forced to work in the sex trade.

The situation of sexual violence remains worrying in Burundi, a total of 9,445 cases of gender-based violence were reported in 2018 of which 75% are sexual violence related according to UNFPA. Of the total number of reported cases, 539 survivors were returnees. The vulnerability of female IDPs and returnees exposes them to the risk of sexual violence especially when searching for firewood, collecting water and, at home because most of the IDPs and repatriates live with foster families. Partners report that 43% of IDPs fear reporting abuse for several reasons, including lack of trust in service providers which is reported by 23% of survivors. Indeed, Article 25 of Law No. 1/13 of 22 September 2016 on prevention, protection of victims and the repression of GBV has given the social workers of the Ministry of Gender an obligation to report to police forces, all GBV cases even without consent of survivors who are often apprehensive of their safety and that of their family.

Many children in Burundi are victims of, or witnesses to, violence, abuse and exploitation, including hazardous work, human trafficking and gender-based violence. The arrest and detention of children, long pre-trial detentions and limited access to services affect children in conflict with the law. Many children living and working on the street are forcibly removed, and children lacking parental care are often placed in institutions. **While some progress has been made on advancing children's rights over the past years, the following issues continue to affect Burundi's child protection system:**

**Birth registration.** Birth certificates are the only documents that guarantee access to free health care for children aged under-5, as well as free access to basic education (Grades 1-9), or for children or adolescents to prove their age in case of arrest or detention. However, only 66.2% of registered children aged under-5 receive their birth certificates. Birth declaration and issuance of birth certificates is hampered by the limited amount of time that parents have for birth registration; the requirement that two witnesses need to be present to register a birth; and the long distances to travel for birth certificates.

The high number of children among Burundian refugees returning from Tanzania has raised further the issue of birth registration. Since returnee children do not have a birth certificate, it will be difficult to determine their age in case of arrest or involvement in trafficking networks, and they may face limited access to basic social services including education and health care.

**Justice for children.** Rapid staff turnover, a lack of female officials and weak coordination among actors in the penal chain diminish the possibility that children will benefit from a fair judicial process. While investments have been made to build the capacity of the police and judicial authorities, too little progress has been made in implementing child protection laws and policies and in adopting child-friendly practices in law enforcement or judicial system.

**Violence against children.** Among the bottlenecks to addressing violence against children are Burundi's weak legal framework and weak enforcement of existing laws; the lack of systematic reporting of cases; limited services for victims; and poorly qualified social workers. Violence in schools,

including instances of sexual abuse by teachers, is one of the underlying causes of girls dropping out of school.

In the past three years, violence against children has also increased, particularly sexual violence, perpetrated by family members, neighbours or education staff. Most teenage girls faced with early pregnancy are banished from their families and may end up on the street with their child. Those who can stay at home and carry their pregnancy to term are usually forced to leave school and are rarely allowed to resume their studies after giving birth. To avoid this, girls may decide to terminate the pregnancy while others chose to abandon their child after birth. This puts them in conflict with the law (90% of girls imprisoned, as of January 2018, were accused of abortion or infanticide).

**Exploitation of children.** Although Burundi adopted an Action Plan to Eliminate the Worst Forms of Child Labour (2010-2015) in 2009, child labour and child trafficking remain significant issues. In 2016, civil society and national and international media reported the transnational trafficking of hundreds of Burundians, mainly girls and women, primarily to the Middle East. Girls and boys are also internally trafficked for domestic work and sexual exploitation. In April 2016, the Burundian authorities declared that "child trafficking is a transnational crime". The main target places for child trafficking are schools, public places and poor neighbourhoods.

**Children living and working on the street, and without parental care.** Burundi's pervasive poverty, large family sizes (eight people on average), a very young population and recurring natural and man-made emergencies, have contributed to the rising numbers of children living in the streets and the serious challenges this poses to the Government, communities and families in their efforts to protect and respond to children's basic needs.

In 2018, the child protection sub-sector identified and assisted at least 1,711 children, including 127 girls living on the streets, particularly in Bujumbura Mairie province. Between January 2017 and June 2018, 2,221 boys and 177 girls living and working on the streets were arrested, largely because Government authorities considered that they were susceptible to be recruited by armed groups and therefore posed a security risk.

**Child protection data collection and information management.** Burundi has very little disaggregated child protection data and lacks a centralised child protection information management system. Existing data on sexual and gender-based violence are not coherently collected and cannot be used to inform appropriate interventions for children.

## 3.2 Challenges and Opportunities

**Vulnerability and wide spread poverty.** The resilience of the Burundian population, which has been undermined in recent years by a difficult political situation, sluggish economic growth and climatic vagaries, has weakened communities and its ability to cope with new shocks. Due to lack of resources, the most vulnerable people have poor access to administrative documentation, schooling, medical care, health insurance cards, and care services for survivors of gender-based violence (VBG) and legal assistance services. Without sustainable reintegration mechanisms, people returning from displacement are exposed to protection risks, including new displacement, exploitation, violence and abuse, including trafficking, forced recruitment, negative survival strategies and GBV especially for children and adolescents.

**Funding gap and operational constraints.** The key challenge in 2018 was a lack of funding, both domestic and foreign resources, due to the recurrent political-security situation the country. To this

was added the announcement of the suspension of international NGOs by the Government of Burundi, for a period of three months from 1 October 2018, the time that they comply with the law on international NGOs of January 2017. This development constitutes a risk to the humanitarian space in Burundi and consequently reduced the response capacity of humanitarian actors following the announcement of some INGOs close their office in Burundi due to an incompatibility between government requirements and humanitarian principles. Access to services and recourse by survivors of gender-based violence could be negatively impacted.

**Closing of the Office of United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) in Burundi.** In addition to the already mentioned suspension of INGOs in the last quarter of 2018, the late decision by the Government (early December 2018) to close Burundi's OHCHR will obviously have negative consequences for the access of survivors to legal services and could negatively further impact human and child rights' monitoring and reporting in the country.

The ongoing mass arbitrary arrest and detention of street children, as well as numerous child rights violations documented within the community, highlight the need for a more coordinated approach among child protection actors including the Government, to provide appropriate services to affected children. UNICEF Burundi supported the capacity building of the Ministry of Human Rights, Social Affairs and Gender on coordination especially during emergencies at the field level.

UNICEF Burundi also provided training to provincial child protection response teams, to reinforce national preparedness capacity. In addition, UNICEF Burundi also reinforced the capacity of the child protection monitoring system and promoted the development of an effective information management system for the child protection sub-sector.

UNICEF Burundi strengthened its collaboration with the Burundian national police to enable them to take on a more active role in the prevention of child trafficking and sexual exploitation. UNICEF Burundi strengthened collaboration with UNHCR to address the special protection needs of child returnees' and worked with IOM to improve the quality of child protection and GBV-related information in the Displacement Tracking Matrix.

## 4 Results in the Outcome Area

The year 2018 marked the end of UNICEF Burundi's Country Programme (2010- 2018) which started in 2010 and was prolonged twice due mainly to political-security events in the country.

The overall objective of UNICEF Burundi's intervention in the Child Protection sector during the ending country programme was to ensure that, "by the end of 2018, Burundian girls and boys live in a protective environment preventing and responding to violence, abuse and exploitation".

UNICEF Burundi planned to achieve this by ensuring that:

- Burundi has a functional **"Justice for children"** that develops child sensitive procedures for child victims, witnesses, and offenders by the end of 2018;
- Burundi's **Child Protection System** is strengthened and has services that prevent and respond to violence, abuse and exploitation of children;
- **Social protection for orphan and other vulnerable children (OVC)** is supported through initiatives that reinforce the socioeconomic capacity of families and communities;



- Burundi increases its capacity to strengthen **birth registration** within the civil registration and vital statistics system; and
- Burundi's **capacity and system** are sustained and promoted to ensure children protection from violence, abuse and exploitation in **humanitarian situations**.

At the end of the current 2010-2018 Country Programme, UNICEF assessed the overall progress made in the Child Protection outcome and estimated that it is on track as all the related targets are fully or partially achieved. (see Result assessment framework below).

The most important progresses during the ending CPD were made in the areas of birth registrations and in developing a community-based social protection system for OVCs. However, following the onset of a political-security crisis in early 2015, the context of the country evolved drastically with a sudden increase in protection needs in humanitarian setting. To ensure the country maintain the progress achieved prior to the conflict and maintain the cap toward its development objectives, Burundi Country Office adopted some flexibility in the management of existing funding and prioritised value for money by investing more on appropriate interventions for children. This highlights the relevance and importance of the thematic funding received for the programme.

The following gives an illustration of key results achieved in 2018, through the implementation of activities in each output.

#### 4.1 Justice for children

The legal and policy environment for children in Burundi has improved with the 2017 revision of the 2009 Penal Code and the adoption of the 2018 Penal Procedures Code: these were realized through UNICEF advocacy and technical advice in drafting of revisions. Through a partnership with Association of Women Lawyers of Burundi (AFJB) and the Federation of Organizations Working in the Field of Child (FENADEB), the capacity of 180 judicial actors was enhanced through training (including 60 lawyers on child-friendly interviewing technics, and 60 judiciary police and 60 magistrates on rehabilitative juvenile justice). The training was accompanied by 20 practical sessions on rehabilitative juvenile justice across four provincial jurisdictions. The number of judicial actors trained did not meet its target of 1,000 because of the frequent rotation of judicial personnel experienced during the 2018 referendum period, UNICEF Burundi will prioritize their training in 2019 through a partnership with AFJB and FENADEB. AFJB also conducted 288 visits to detention centres and police cells and provided legal assistance to 338 minors, leading to the release of 147 of them (120 boys and 27 girls).

Mobile courts were organized by the office of the General Directorate of Penitentiary Affairs with UNICEF Burundi's support to hear 190 cases involving minors (175 boys and 15 girls) to overcome the limited coverage in functioning courts. This led to a significant decrease in waiting times for trials and the release of 90 of these children, including 80 boys and 10 girls. In addition, 296 minors (250 boys and 46 girls) who were awaiting trials received legal assistance during their court proceedings, leading to the release of 110 children (including 31 girls).

Community-based conflict resolution has led to a reduction in numbers of children in conflict with the law: this is evidenced by the fact that 186 boys were convicted in 2018 out of a targeted 500. All the convicted boys were transferred to two juvenile rehabilitation centres in Ruyigi and Rumonge, where UNICEF Burundi's partner AFJB provided legal assistance as well as counselling and psychosocial support. Meanwhile, 126 children in the two-juvenile rehabilitation centres, including 13 girls from

the female detention centre in Ngozi, benefitted from vocational training run by NGO partner Stamm Foundation. On completion of the courses, participants will receive appropriate reintegration kits to help them start their businesses.

Following UNICEF Burundi's and partners' advocacy, 1,710 street children (1,583 boys and 127 girls) arrested and detained in police stations around the country were released.

A key issue during this period was that the Child Protection Code which was developed in 2017 has not yet been adopted, despite the commitment and final review by the Ministry of Justice. UNICEF Burundi will continue its support for the process and intensify its advocacy.

## 4.2 Protection from violence abuse and exploitation

In 2018, 132 additional Child Protection Committees (CPC) were created in Makamba and Rutana provinces, bringing the total number to 2,500 with 17,142 members including 1,566 new members in 2018. The members were trained to identify and support children with protection needs. Significant efforts were made to build the capacity of government and civil society child protection actors, as well as care givers of vulnerable children, voluntary foster families and other stakeholders in the community. In total 128 government social workers (including 65 women) were trained on case management to improve the quality of response and referrals for individual cases. Meanwhile, 1,281 parents (including 814 females) of vulnerable children, including children in the street reunified with their families, received training on good parenting skills. As a result, 9,233 vulnerable children, victims or witnesses of violence, abuse and exploitation (including 2,437 girls) received appropriate services and support in the country.

During the country programme period the effectiveness of community-based child protection structures for preventing and responding to violence, abuse and exploitation was recognized and strengthened. Currently, CPCs are active in 53 communes in 7 of the 18 provinces in the country. CPC and Solidarity groups will be scaled up in the new programme to reinforce the community-based child protection system. A major challenge remains the fragile family environment, where even minor shocks can exacerbate existing vulnerabilities. Although this was partially addressed through the creation of village-based solidarity groups described under the Output 3 additional efforts will be necessary in this regard.

The Government's Child Help Line supported by UNICEF Burundi continued to play an important role in the reporting and referral of child protection and gender-based violence (GBV) cases to appropriate services as well as in documenting trends of violence, abuse and exploitation of children, based on the numbers of verified reports. In 2018, the Child Help Line has received over 1,500 calls, 60 % from adults or children requesting for food support. Other calls reported cases of violence in communities and requests for general information. As of October 2018, the line had received and referred for appropriate support 112 cases, including 16 cases of GBV. UNICEF will use government led decentralized child protection coordination structures to raise awareness on the helpline and provide training to helpline staff on systematic case management and referrals.

Limited progress has been made this year in providing alternative care for children unnecessarily hosted in centres for children deprived of parental care. This was primarily due to increased socio-economic vulnerabilities experienced nationwide which prevented communities from taking on

initiatives to care for them. UNICEF Burundi in partnership with the Department of Children and Families ensured that all institutions were sensitized on the National Minimum Standards for Children deprived of a family environment and the application of rigorous admission criteria. Furthermore, a network of 497 transit families was activated to receive children in need of temporary care arrangements.

### 4.3 Social protection of OVCs

The capacity of families to protect their children and respond to their basic needs has been weakened by poverty, emergencies and lack of regular income. This situation has, for example, also contributed to an increasing number of children dropping out of school (171,652 children in 2017-2018), and a significantly increase in the number of children leaving their families, mostly in rural areas, to fend for themselves on the streets in Bujumbura and other major towns like Gitega and Ngozi.

To address this phenomenon, CPCs play a key role supported by local saving groups known as “Nawe Nuze” (solidarity groups), the members of which, mainly women and girls, make small contributions to a savings fund, which provides members with small credits to be used to support vulnerable children in the community. In 2018 UNICEF Burundi, through its partners, provided financial and technical support to 3,346 Nawe Nuze groups in 10 out of 18 Burundi provinces. Building on positive achievements, UNICEF has encouraged and supported partners to establish more solidarity groups in communities where children were reunified to support reintegration and help prevent children facing high protection risks including separation and trafficking.

The groups were trained on economic management, innovative income generating activities and basic business management skills. A total of 117,348 vulnerable children (including 60,049 girls) benefitted from the groups, including internally displaced and returnee children who received services including school enrolment, provision of food, clothing and other material support, legal support for inheritance disputes and birth certificates. Furthermore, 3,156 children (including 1,666 girls) accessed health care with health insurance cards distributed to 665 households through the Nawe Nuze.

Using women’s engagement in these groups as a platform, UNICEF Burundi will encourage them to take on more leadership and decision-making roles in their community and households. UNICEF Burundi initiated discussions with other child protection actors to develop a more unified approach and package of support for the groups. In addition, as the approach has been effective and successful, it is recommended to integrate beneficiaries of other UNICEF Burundi supported interventions, including CPCs, voluntary foster families and boys and girls benefiting from economic reintegration activities, to sustain their investment.

UNICEF Burundi continued supporting the provision of safe and durable solar lighting solution to vulnerable households through a social marketing approach, named “Project Lumière” (light project). The implementing partner Famille pour Vaincre le Sida- Association Mondiale des Amis de l’Enfance (FVS-AMADE) has reached 15,922 households in Bujumbura Mairie, Bururi, Gitega, Makamba and Rumonge provinces. Several constraints had been noted in the implementation of the Project Lumière, prompting UNICEF Burundi to conduct an evaluation of the business model. The evaluation has proposed some changes in distribution of supplies, improvements in materials and marketing strategies outlined in a new business model which will be implemented in the 2019-2023 Country Programme

#### 4.4 Birth registration

In Burundi, birth certificates are the only documents that guarantee access to free health care for children under five, as well as free access to basic education (Grades 1-9). Birth certificates also enable children or adolescents to prove their age in case of arrest or detention. Under national legislation, parents face a fine if they fail to register the birth within 15 days. This has been a major constraint for vulnerable parents, including returnees, who have not been able to report the birth of their children within the 15-day time limit, especially during the political crisis period.

UNICEF Burundi and other child protection actors advocated successfully for a waiver of the fine and have supported the Ministry of Interior, Patriotic Training and Local Development to organize a national birth registration campaign which resulted in 394,941 children obtaining their birth certificates. Birth registration in Burundi is a three-step process starting with identification of children (so far 516,530 children have been identified as a result of the ongoing campaign, then registration (398,930 have been registered) and finally issuance of birth certificates (394,941). This means that 99% of children who were registered as part of the campaign also received their birth certificate which is a significant improvement compared to 2017 where only 76.5 % of registered children received their birth certificate.

UNICEF Burundi supported the campaign by purchasing birth registers and other supplies and hiring and training 205 temporary civil registration field staff. At field level, public awareness activities and the identification of unregistered children were led by the Centre for the Development of the Family and the Community (CDFC) of the Ministry of Human Rights, Social Affairs and Gender and supported by all the member organisations of the Child Protection Working Group, to reach the maximum number of children in need.

Challenges remaining regarding the registration of births include: social stigma in registering children born out of wedlock, as the mother will be required to declare the name of the father of the child; requirement of two witnesses for registration; distance to registration point; and the availability of Civil Registration and Vital Statistics officers. UNICEF Burundi will continue to advocate for the adoption of the revised Child Protection Act to address these bottlenecks and is in negotiations with the Ministry of the Interior to prolong the current late registration fee waiver.

#### 4.5 Child protection in emergencies

Although the number of people requiring humanitarian assistance fell overall in 2018, UNICEF Burundi and its partners continued delivering critical child protection services to 83,471 children (including 33,080 girls). Among them, 47,429 children (including 18,067 girls), including displaced and returnee Burundian children and refugee children from the Democratic Republic of Congo, participated in activities and accessed services available in 20 child-friendly spaces (CFSs). As schools were opened, there was a risk of school timetables conflicting with the CFSs, particularly in Bujumbura Mairie. To mitigate this, the number of CFSs was reduced from 51 to 13, to cover only Rumonge and Makamba provinces, which were affected by the influx of Congolese refugees.

Despite investment from the Government of Burundi and partners, the socio-economic situation has continued deteriorating, reducing the most vulnerable households' capacity to meet their basic needs and protect their children. This is evidenced by frequent school dropout (171,652 cases (including 81,207 girls) were documented in the 2017/18 academic year), and an estimated 2000 children or

families living or working in the streets. In 2018, UNICEF Burundi and partners assisted with family tracing and reunification of 6,121 separated children (including 2,057 girls). This included 1,710 children living on the streets arrested during police roundups who were released following advocacy by UNICEF and other partners.

In 2018, 24,324 children (including 11,158 girls) benefitted from community reintegration interventions including economic reintegration and enrolment in schools. This included children rescued from the street and other children in emergency-affected areas identified as at high protection risk. Many of these children originate from Bujumbura Maire and provinces affected by displacement, especially Gitega, Makamba, Rumonge, Rutana and Ruyigi provinces. This includes 3,780 children (including 1,406 girls) affected by trauma and/or psychological distress, who benefitted from psychosocial support and appropriate follow-up in collaboration with UNICEF partner PPSM.

The child protection in emergencies technical workforce was reinforced through training of 200 Child Rights Monitors (90 female) on community monitoring and response to GBV. These monitors recorded 631 child rights violations and made 390 referrals to appropriate services. Through the Global Child Protection Alliance, training sessions were organized on professional supervision and coaching including case management in Bujumbura Mairie, Bujumbura Rural, Gitega, Rutana, Rumonge, Makamba and Kirundo provinces for 176 government counterparts (77 female) including social workers. These activities and achievements have helped significantly improve the quality of services provided for child victims, as violations against children are appropriately identified and documented, and response services from relevant partners are provided.

National preparedness capacity was also reinforced through training of provincial child protection response teams. The Ministry of Human Rights, Social Affairs and Gender's leadership was strengthened to coordinate the Child Protection Sub-Sector (including emergencies at field level) through financial and technical assistance. Sub-Sector coordination meetings were held monthly as planned and information was shared at provincial level. This permitted the Sub-Sector to actively contribute to reporting on the 2018 Humanitarian Response Plan and informed the 2019 Humanitarian Needs Overview and HRP.

## 4.6 Results Assessment Table

The table below presents some key context specific indicators in the child protection sector, showing the results achieved by 2018 compared to the results in 2017 and targets as outlined in the Burundi extended CPD.



### Outcome and outputs indicators

	Baseline		Status	Target	Actual Status	Rating	Primary Sources
	Year	Value	2017	2018			
Proportion of children under 5 years of age whose births have been registered with a civil authority, by age.	2010	75.2%	83.5%	85%	83.5%	Partially achieved	DHS
Children (0-17 years) living in residential care	2014	3,514	2,876	2,500	2,876 (2017)	Partially achieved	Government reports
% of girls and boys who sought help from a professional after experiencing sexual violence reported that have ever experienced any sexual violence who sought help from a professional	2017	100%	100%	80%	90%	Fully achieved	Sector review
<b>Output 1: Justice for Children</b>							
# of trained justice actors with increased knowledge on child-focused service delivery	2015	0	716	1,000	180	Partially achieved	Sector review
# of children benefitting of the services of the re-education centres	2014	0	299	500	186	Partially achieved	Sector review
<b>Output 2: CP from Violence, Exploitation and Abuse</b>							
Availability of a strategy for preventing and responding to violence against children	2014	No	No	Yes	No	Not achieved	Sector review
# of provinces implementing at least one prevention of violence against children activity	2014	10	18	18	18	Fully achieved	Sector review
# of provinces with multi-sectorial response package of services for victims of sexual violence in place	2014	1	3	9	4	Partially achieved	Sector review
# of provinces with a mechanism in place to collect data on victims of violence	2014	10	18	12	18	Fully achieved	Sector review
# of children in residential care referred to alternative care through UNICEF-supported programmes	2014	0	165	50	N/A		
<b>Output 3: Social Protection of OVCs</b>							
# of functional solidarity groups - VSLA	2014	700	2,907	1,850	3,346	Fully achieved	Sector review
# of children receiving protection package of services per year	2013	5,851	71,071	55,000	117,348	Fully achieved	Sector review
<b>Output 4: Birth Registration</b>							
Percentage of districts that have a free and universal birth registration service within the civil registration (in accordance with national legal requirements)	2017	100%	100%	100%	100%	Fully achieved	Sector review
# of births registered with UNICEF assistance	2014	423,319	73,481	21,234	394,941	Fully achieved	Sector review

	Baseline		Status	Target	Actual Status	Rating	Primary Sources
	Year	Value	2017	2018			
Percentage of health workers trained on Birth Registration in targeted provinces	2017	19% in 4 targeted provinces	19% in 4 targeted provinces	40% in 4 targeted provinces	40% in 4 targeted provinces (2017)	Not achieved	Sector review
<b>Output 5: CP in Emergencies</b>							
# of children benefitting from child protection services in humanitarian situations	2014	3,000	21,679	100,000	83,471	Partially achieved	UNICEF situation reports
Availability of a functioning national coordination mechanism for child protection in humanitarian situations	2014	Partially	Yes	Yes	Yes	Fully achieved	Sector review
% of districts that have an information management system that is inter-operable and supports and tracks case management, incident monitoring and performance monitoring (humanitarian)	2017	0	0	20%	12%	Partially achieved	Sector review

## 5 Financial Analysis

Out of a planned budget of around US\$6.7 million in 2018, UNICEF Burundi Child Protection section spent US\$4,998,625 including US\$ 287,314 of thematic fund. The amount of thematic fund utilized represents 93% of programable amounts received from German and Belgium Natcoms.

In response to the increase in the number of children arrested and detained since 2016, UNICEF Burundi has been assisting the affected children by providing legal support and working with authorities to improve the detention conditions of detained children. In 2018, the thematic fund was utilized to support 338 minors in conflict with the law, leading to the release of 147. This funding also contributed to training of judicial actors and in organizing mobile courts sessions that significantly reduced the length of legal procedure. Through this support children in juvenile rehabilitation centers Rumonge and Ruyigi benefitted from vocational training and life skills, psychosocial support, counselling and post-release reintegration.

In addition, since children without birth certificate in Burundi are highly exposed to arbitrary arrest and detention, UNICEF used part of the thematic fund to contribute to an ongoing national campaign for unregistered children. So far, the campaign has reached over 600,000 children.

In 2019, an estimated US\$ 5,3 million is required to implement child protection intervention in Burundi of which US\$ 1.3 million need to be mobilized.

**Table 1: 2018 Planned budget by Thematic Sector****Child Protection****BURUNDI**

Intermediate Results	Funding Type <sup>1</sup>	Planned Budget <sup>2</sup>
001 - JUSTICE FOR CHILDREN	ORE	0
	RR	537,679
	ORR	121,651
002 - CP FROM VIOLENCE, EXPLOITATION, ABUSE	ORE	0
	RR	329,456
	ORR	500,812
003 - SOCIAL PROTECTION OF OVCS	ORE	0
	RR	314,691
	ORR	230,738
004 - BIRTH REGISTRATION	ORE	0
	RR	216,450
	ORR	0
005 - CHILD PROTECTION IN EMERGENCIES	ORE	4,000,000
	RR	283,568
	ORR	143,129
<b>Total Budget</b>		<b>6,678,174</b>

**Table 2: for Report: Thematic Contributions Received for Thematic Pool****Child Protection**

Donors	Grant Number*	Contribution Amount	Programmable Amount
Belgian Committee for UNICEF	SC1899050012	81,000.00	77,142.86
German Committee for UNICEF	SC1899050015	232,997.35	221,902.24
<b>Total</b>		<b>313,997.35</b>	<b>299,045.10</b>

**Table 3: 2018 Expenditures in the Thematic Sector (in US Dollars)****Child Protection**

Organizational Targets	Expenditure Amount*			
	Other Resources - Emergency	Other Resources - Regular	Regular Resources	All Programme Accounts
23-01 Prevention and response services for violence against children	1,699,978	1,099,520	1,312,291	4,111,789
23-03 Access to justice	-1,653	139,652	748,837	886,837
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,698,325</b>	<b>1,239,172</b>	<b>2,061,128</b>	<b>4,998,626</b>

**Table 4: Thematic expenses by Results Area**

<b>23 Protection from Violence and Exploitation</b>	
<b>CHILD PROTECTION</b>	
Row Labels	Expense
Other Resources - Emergency	138,186
23-01 Prevention and response services for violence against children	138,186
Other Resources - Regular	140,128
23-03 Access to justice	140,128
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>278,314</b>

**Table 5: Expenses by Specific Intervention Codes**

<b>23 Protection from Violence and Exploitation</b>	
<b>CHILD PROTECTION</b>	
Row Labels	Expense
23-01-02 Services to prevent or respond to violence, exploitation and abuse	779,869
23-01-03 Services to prevent or respond to gender-based violence in emergencies	126,222
23-01-04 Psycho-social support in emergencies	1,321,614
23-01-06 Public finance management for child protection	79,287
23-01-13 Child Protection - Emergency Preparedness	436,622
23-01-14 Parent/caregiver education and programmes on violence, exploitation and abuse - across the life cycle	3,847
23-01-15 Parent/caregiver education and programmes on violence, exploitation and abuse - 0 to 7 years	85
23-01-16 Parent/caregiver education and programmes on violence, exploitation and abuse - 8 to 18 years	28
23-01-17 Social and behaviour change communication on violence, exploitation and abuse	131,152
23-01-19 Violence, exploitation, and abuse - surveys (e.g. KAP, VACS), data analysis/research/evaluation evidence generation, synthesis, and use	334
23-01-22 Inter-sectoral coordination and collaboration on violence, exploitation and abuse	37,489
23-01-24 Violence, exploitation, and abuse - planning, co-ordination and programme monitoring	29,734
23-01-99 Technical assistance - Prevention and response services for violence against children	51,741
23-03-01 Promoting diversion and alternatives to deprivation of liberty	69,449
23-03-02 Justice sector workforce strengthening and capacity building (including police)	50,600
23-03-03 Access to child-friendly police and justice sector services	183,109
23-03-04 Birth Registration/Civil Registration and Vital Statistics systems	70,166
23-03-05 Alternative care reform and service provision	54,175
23-03-99 Technical assistance - Access to justice	206,943
26-01-01 Country programme process (including UNDAF planning and CCA)	158,581
26-01-03 Humanitarian planning and review activities (HRP, RRP, UNICEF HAC)	452
26-02-04 Stimulating demand for and capacity to use data	10,113
26-02-05 Administrative data, registers and non-MICS household surveys and censuses	2,849
26-02-08 Programme monitoring	28,858
26-03-02 Capacity and skills development for social behaviour change	107,002

26-03-03 Children, adolescent and youth engagement and participation	524,838
26-03-04 Community engagement, participation and accountability	2,601
26-03-06 Research, monitoring and evaluation and knowledge management for C4D	1,795
26-03-07 Strengthening C4D in Government systems including preparedness for humanitarian action	59,922
26-03-99 Technical assistance - Cross - sectoral communication for development	-11
26-05-01 Building evaluation capacity in UNICEF and the UN system	75,106
26-06-02 Innovation activities	27,728
26-06-04 Leading advocate	41,261
26-06-06 Supporter engagement	4,582
26-06-07 Leading brand	7,823
26-06-08 Emergency preparedness (cross-sectoral)	37,286
28-07-03 Country office leadership and direction	37,013
28-07-04 Management and Operations support at CO	238,362
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>4,998,626</b>

**TABLE 6: Planned Budget and Available Resources for 2019**  
**Child Protection**

Intermediate Result	Funding Type	Planned Budget <sup>1</sup>	Funded Budget <sup>1</sup>	Shortfall <sup>2</sup>
001 - ENHANCED NATIONAL CAPACITY AND EVIDENCE GENERATION	ORE	608,438	450,896	157,542
	ORR	0	0	0
	RR	488,669	500,000	-11,331
002 - STRENGTHENED INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY ON SERVICE DELIVERY	ORE	590,897	437,897	153,000
	ORR	368,914	222,958	145,956
	RR	517,133	529,125	-11,991
003 - EQUIPPED FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES FOR CP	ORE	800,665	593,350	207,315
	ORR	1,659,658	1,003,034	656,623
	RR	250,198	256,000	-5,802
<b>Sub-total Other Resources - Emergency</b>		2000000	1,482,143	517,857
<b>Sub-total Other Resources - Regular</b>		2,028,572	1,225,992	802,580
<b>Sub-total Regular Resources</b>		1,256,000	1,285,125	-29,125
<b>Total for 2019</b>		<b>5,284,572</b>	<b>3,993,260</b>	<b>1,291,312</b>

## 6 Future Work Plan

To address these issues, UNICEF Burundi's interventions in the 2019-2023 country programme will focus on:

**1. Enhancing the national capacity to apply child-friendly and gender-sensitive policies** and procedures for child protection and increase evidence on child protection issues. UNICEF Burundi will address barriers to effective systems and governance through support for a review of the legal and institutional framework; development of a new national child protection policy; the application of existing laws and policies; monitoring of and reporting on implementation of the Convention of the Rights of the Child; coordination mechanisms for prevention and response to violence, exploitation



and abuse; justice sector reforms; establishment of child-friendly, gender-sensitive alternative care; and improvements in data collection and case management.

UNICEF Burundi will also focus on the gains made in the previous country programme, especially in strengthening existing coordination mechanisms through the technical and financial support provided to the Department of Family and Children (DEF) in the Ministry of Social Affairs, which is responsible for sector coordination and other multi-sectoral coordination fora. To help ensure that institutions do not expose girls and boys to the risk of violence, abuse, exploitation and neglect, UNICEF Burundi will continue to support Government efforts to implement the “national minimum standards for children living in institutions or deprived of a family environment” adopted in 2013.

**2. Strengthening institutional capacity to deliver quality child protection services** at provincial, communal and community levels, including in emergencies. UNICEF Burundi will address institutional constraints to the delivery of quality child protection services through support for the capacity development of actors in the justice system, with a focus on the specific needs of girls; capacity development of provincial child protection authorities and community-based Child Protection Committees (CPCs)<sup>2</sup>; the introduction of birth registration at health facilities; and emergency preparedness and response at the provincial, communal and community levels.

In 2016, UNICEF Burundi successfully advocated for the immediate transfer of all detained girls and boys from adult prisons to centres adapted for children, after supporting the construction of two centres for children in conflict with the law; the latter now provide education and reintegration services to about 250 boys. In the 2019-2023 country programme, UNICEF Burundi will continue to support the justice system to improve standards of care, as well as the implementation of the rules and regulations being applied in these two centres. UNICEF Burundi will also explore the possibility of launching a pilot initiative to establish health facilities as secondary civil registry centres, especially since 84 % of births occur in healthcare facilities in Burundi.

**3. Equipping families and communities to protect their children**, especially the most vulnerable, from violence, abuse, exploitation and neglect, including in emergencies. In the previous country programme, UNICEF Burundi supported DEF in establishing and training 2,368 CPCs in 17 of the country's 18 provinces, which helped Burundi establish a strong community-based child protection system.

CPCs play a role in organizing local savings groups known as “solidarity groups” (‘Nawe Nuze’ in Kirundi), where members, mainly women and girls, make small contributions to a savings fund, which provides members with small credits. They also engage with other groups, such as a solidarity fund, which helps with unexpected costs, such as medical care, and a children's fund, which supports vulnerable children. Most solidarity groups also pursue activities for economic empowerment and have made a significant contribution to building local safety nets and promoting economic self-sufficiency among families. UNICEF Burundi will continue to support these solidarity groups, including through the introduction of innovative approaches for income generation. UNICEF Burundi will also

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<sup>2</sup> Child protection committees are village based that brings together 9-12 trained volunteer members that monitor, refer and report on child protection issues in their village. There are currently 2,368 active committees in 17 provinces.

scale up flagship projects, such as ‘Mpore Mwana’ (comfort the child) and ‘Turashoboye’ (yes, we can!), to extend coverage in new vulnerable regions, especially in zones with high concentrations of refugees and IDPs.

Furthermore, to prevent children from coming into conflict with the law, UNICEF Burundi will strengthen and scale up community-based reconciliation and reparation mechanisms by capitalizing on existing awareness-raising capacity of community-based child protection committees, and increasing the roles of children, families and communities in conflict prevention and resolution.

### **Key results**

By 2023, UNICEF Burundi’s Child Protection Programme will ensure that Burundian girls and boys, particularly the most vulnerable amongst them, can benefit from a child protection system that protects them from violence, abuse and exploitation, including in humanitarian situations.

Specifically, UNICEF Burundi’s Child Protection programme will ensure that:

- The number of children aged under-5 with birth certificates increases from 55 to 85 % by 2023.
- Every year, 80,000 vulnerable boys and girls, as well as their respective families, in 10 vulnerable provinces benefit from community-based safety net projects;
- By 2023, Burundi has in place procedures and services for children in contact with the law which comply with international norms;
- By 2023, Burundi routinely collects and publishes key types of administrative data on violence, exploitation and abuse of children, disaggregated by age and sex;

Achieving these will significantly contribute to helping Burundi achieve its targets under SDG 5 and SDG 16 by 2030, as well as the expected UNDAF results.

## **7 Expression of Thanks**

UNICEF Burundi would like to thank all the donors contributing to the thematic funding, especially Belgian and German National Committees for UNICEF for their contribution in 2018. Thematic funds have contributed to empowering vulnerable children socially and economically. Interventions, implemented within these funds contribute to improving survival and resilience of thousands of beneficiaries in the target communities.

UNICEF also appreciates and acknowledges the Government of Burundi, implementing partners, civil society organizations and other donors for their effective partnership thereby contributing to achieve key results for the protection of children and women in Burundi.

## 8 Annexe. Human Interest Story

### BURUNDI CHILD PROTECTION

#### Seven unaccompanied children escaping from the fighting in the DRC



Photo @ UNICEF Burundi / Grev HUNT

Clashes between rebel forces of Mai-Mai and Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, in South Kivu province, caused thousands of Congolese to flee their homes and cross Lake Tanganyika by boat with the hopes of finding safety in Burundi.

Among those seeking refuge are seven brothers and sisters, with ages ranging from 5 to 14, who left their village Kisokwe in a hurry. When they encountered the armed rebel forces in their path they abandoned

their possessions and began running. In their flight, these children were separated from their parents and for the first time in their lives found themselves alone. Nevertheless, they continued walking to Lake Tanganyika where they had been told that there was a boat taking refugees to Burundi. Their 24-hour journey was full of difficulties especially for the 5-year-old, but they finally arrived totally exhausted and boarded a boat. Then after a five-hour boat ride they arrived in the port of Rumonge in Burundi and were received as refugees.

UNICEF Child Protection partners provided temporary care, psychosocial services (through child friendly spaces and individual counselling) as well as family tracing support for unaccompanied children. These boys and other children in temporary care are able to regain their childhood, they are able to eat, play and sleep soundly without any worries, while recuperating from their difficult journey.

Unfortunately, Child Protection partners involved in family training were unable to find the children's family and the brothers suggested placement with their uncle who lives in Burundi. After following due process including an assessment of the uncle and family homestead, consent from both the children, their uncle and local authorities, the brothers were placed temporarily with the uncle's family.

Although sad to be separated from their parents, the children were overjoyed to see the familiar face of their uncle and cousins. The children hope to soon be return to the DR Congo to see their parents again, once the situation has calmed down.