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Short-duration country programme document

Burundi

Summary

The short-duration draft country programme document for Burundi is presented to the Executive Board for discussion and approval. The Board is requested to approve the aggregate indicative budget of \$7,807,500 from regular resources, subject to the availability of funds, and \$12,532,000 in other resources, subject to the availability of specific-purpose contributions, for the year 2009.

The situation of children and women

1. Burundi continues to face complex political, economic and social challenges. Varied political agendas regarding the 2010 elections have led to a paralysis of the national parliament, stalled peace talks with the remaining rebel group and inspired a resurgence of violence. The United Nations reclassified the security clearance for the entire country into Phase Three (Relocation), with two provinces in Phase Four (Programme suspension). However, the volatile political situation has been de-escalated in part by the mediation efforts of the African Union, with the support of the peace consolidation programme of the United Nations Integrated Office in Burundi (BINUB), as well as the strategic location of the Executive Secretariat of the International Conference for the Great Lakes Region (IC/GLR) in Bujumbura, the efforts of donors and the larger international community, and the return of the Forces of National Liberation, in May 2008, in the Joint Verification Monitoring Mechanism. BINUB and the IC/GLR help protect and strengthen the rights of

* E/ICEF/2008/16.

children and women in Burundi, and also have programmes in support of good governance, security, justice, the resolution of land conflicts and the larger issues of human rights.

2. In the social sector, children and women remain vulnerable to the impact of widespread poverty, decline in the quality of life, high unemployment, rising food prices, and grave inequity in access to basic social services. The lack of basic and disaggregated data is critical. This document still has to rely on data from the 2005 multiple indicator cluster survey (MICS). Children's rights continue to be violated in Burundi, and the country continues to be monitored under Security Council resolution 1612. The most serious violations of the rights of the child include sexual and gender-based violence, particularly rape, recruitment of child soldiers, exploitation and abuse of street children and working children, as well as orphaned children, particularly those affected by HIV/AIDS. Malnutrition remains an important cause of morbidity and mortality in children under the age five. In 2005, 39 per cent of all children under five were underweight, 53 per cent stunted and 7.4 per cent wasted. Although the 2007 National Anthropometric Survey indicated that the percentage of underweight and stunted children had decreased to 35.2 per cent and 46 per cent, respectively, these rates still remained among the highest in the region.¹ The other three major causes of death of children under five in health facilities are malaria (47 per cent), diarrhoea (20.6 per cent) and acute respiratory infections (16.9 per cent). The underlying causes are the precarious environmental conditions, poor hygiene practices and lack of access to potable water. Maternal mortality is high, due to complications during pregnancy and childbirth, as over 60 per cent of women deliver at home without the assistance of a qualified professional. The estimated HIV prevalence rate among pregnant women aged 15 to 24 is 8.6 per cent. Access to paediatric treatment and prevention of mother-to-child transmission (PMTCT) remains low, at less than 6.5 per cent. The surge in demand for health services, following the declaration of the Government, in 2006, to provide free care for pregnant women and for children under five, has put intense pressure on an already weak health system.

3. The declaration of free primary education, in August 2005, led to a significant increase in net enrolment, from 59 per cent in 2004/2005 to 72.4 per cent in the 2005/2006 school year, and resulted in the number of out-of-school children declining from 550,000 to 274,000. While access is increasingly being addressed, major challenges, such as lack of qualified teachers, school infrastructure and teaching and learning materials, remain, and continue to affect the quality of basic education, leading to high repetition rates (30.3 per cent in 2006) and low retention (7.2 per cent drop out), especially among girls and vulnerable groups. Thirty-eight per cent of primary schools do not have separate sanitation facilities for boys and girls; however there is near gender parity in enrolment (index 0.91).

4. In addition to 117,000 internally displaced persons in the country, around 150,000 Burundian refugees are expected to return home by the end of 2009 (some 396,000 have already been repatriated). As of May 2008, a total of 17,000 illegal immigrants have been expelled from Tanzania, and more are expected in 2009. The

¹ The 2005 figures refer to the National Nutrition Survey carried out by UNICEF, in collaboration with the World Food Programme and the Ministry of Health, while the 2007 National Anthropometric Survey was carried out by UNICEF, in collaboration with the Ministry of Health; both surveys have been validated by the Government of Burundi.

current volatile security situation in the country and in the sub-region may lead to further internal displacements and population movements across borders. The international food crisis may compound the existing food insecurity in the country.

The country programme, 2009

Summary budget table†

<i>Programme</i>	<i>(In United States dollars)</i>		<i>Total</i>
	<i>Regular resources</i>	<i>Other resources</i>	
Basic education and gender equality	1 910 000	5 568 000	7 478 000
Health and nutrition	1 395 500	2 739 486	4 134 986
HIV/AIDS and young people	855 000	1 007 000	1 862 000
Child protection and rights promotion	1 107 000	1 671 000	2 778 000
Water, sanitation and hygiene	819 000	1 500 000	2 319 000
Social policy, advocacy and communication	855 000	25 000	880 000
Cross-sectoral costs	866 000	21 514	887 514
Total	7 807 500	12 532 000	20 339 500

† Additional funds are expected to be raised, if necessary, to respond to humanitarian situations.

5. This one-year extension of the current country programme will allow UNICEF, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Population Fund and the World Food Programme to harmonize their country programme cycles and content with BINUB programming and with the one-year extension of the United Nations Integrated Peace-Building Support Strategy in Burundi. It will also help the agencies to synchronize with the Burundi Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper, and its review will guide the development of the next United Nations Development Assistance Framework and the country programme.

Goals, key results, strategies, and relationship to national and international priorities

6. The overall expected results of the one-year programme will remain the same, but more strategically focused within each programme component while strengthening gender awareness and a human rights-based approach. Within the BINUB framework, the programme is consistent with global and national priorities, in particular in the following areas: (a) the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the Convention on the Elimination of all Discrimination Against Women and the Africa Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child; (b) the Millennium Development Goals, the goals of *A World Fit for Children*, the health and protection strategies of the Africa Union, the frameworks of the International Health Partnership and the Harmonization for Health in Africa initiative and all medium-term strategic plan focus areas; and (c) the Peace Building Priority Plan, the

Burundi Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper and national sector plans. As the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs is phasing out, UNICEF needs to reinforce its leadership in the cluster approach. Emergency preparedness and response will be mainstreamed within all programmes, and national capacities in early-warning and disaster response will be strengthened.

Programme components

7. **Basic education and gender equality.** This programme will continue to strengthen the capacity to uphold the right of children to a quality education through comprehensive measures to enhance access, completion, gender equality and performance. The 'child-friendly school' concept, with defined standards for quality, will be promoted and developed, including early childhood care and development. Support will be provided through the modelling of child-friendly school design and construction. The programme will also improve quality basic education by developing the capacities of educational leaders and school committees in school-based management and by reinforcing the skills of teachers in active teaching methods. Within the sector-wide approach to the United Nations Development Assistance Framework, UNICEF will continue to lead and provide technical assistance in the implementation of the sector plan, as well as foster coordination and policy dialogue.

8. **Health and nutrition.** This programme will contribute to the reduction of morbidity and mortality by continuing to provide, nationwide, a package of high-impact interventions through facilities, outreach and community-integrated management of neonatal and childhood health services. These measures will include vitamin A supplementation to children under five; promotion of iodized salt; iron-folic acid supplementation to pregnant women; promotion of young child feeding practices; and family awareness and management of acute malnutrition. The nutrition surveillance system will continue to be strengthened. Support will continue to be given to expand PMTCT services and pediatric HIV care. Prevention of malaria will be improved by increasing distribution and use of insecticide-treated mosquito nets to pregnant women and children under five.

9. **Child protection and rights promotion.** This programme will continue to strengthen the protective environment for children by reducing the risk of violence, exploitation, negligence, discrimination and abuse of children and women. At the national level, it will support revision and development of policy, legal and regulatory frameworks, and at the sub-national level, it will strengthen the capacities of the Government, civil society organisations and communities to promote children's rights and the protection of children. Particular attention will be paid to child soldiers, orphans and other vulnerable children, including those who have been displaced, live in the streets or are forced to work. Another priority is protecting the children and women who have been the victims of sexual and gender-based violence. The programme will work closely with other partners on monitoring and reporting on child rights violations, reform of the juvenile justice system and transitional justice, and implementation of the National Plan of Action for Orphans and Vulnerable Children (2007-2011).

10. **HIV/AIDS and young people.** This programme will promote a mix of evidence-based interventions to guide a national HIV prevention strategy for young people (aged 15 to 24 years). These interventions will be based on the results of an

HIV/AIDS prevalence and behavioural combined survey, with a baseline established for access and utilization of voluntary counselling and testing services.

11. **Water, sanitation and hygiene.** Using data from the National Survey on Water and Sanitation coverage in schools, this programme will continue to promote water and sanitation facilities in primary schools, in line with the UNICEF global strategy. In addition, the programme will help to increase access to safe drinking water in communities with low coverage level and support the implementation of the national policy for the water, sanitation and hygiene education sector.

12. **Social policy, advocacy and communication.** This programme will help improve the policy and legal frameworks for the progressive realization of rights of children and women. Particular emphasis will be on social policy analysis and assistance to the Government in the development of national, subnational and sector plans and approaches to alleviate poverty and to promote and protect the rights of children and women. The programme will also assist in data collection and analysis related to monitoring the situation of children and women. Programme communication on preventive health will help to enhance knowledge, promote behaviour change and increase demand for health services in communities. The participation of children in policy advocacy and dialogue at the national and subnational levels will be promoted.

Major partnerships

13. UNICEF will continue to work closely with BINUB and all United Nations system agencies, and will continue to strengthen its partnerships with the European Union, the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, the Global Alliance for Vaccine and Immunization, IC/IGLR, the World Bank, and other international and regional partners. International non-governmental organizations (NGOs), such as the Burundi Red Cross, Concern Worldwide, Gruppo Volontari Civile, International Medical Corps and Population Services International, as well as national NGOs and networks and political authorities, will play a key role in the achievement of expected programme results. New strategic partnerships will be developed.

Monitoring and evaluation

14. Data from the 2008 national child poverty and disparities study, together with the situation analysis on children and women and the preliminary results from the 2008 census, will help to shape policy dialogue for children and women.² Improving the timeliness and availability of reliable national data will continue to be a focus. Ownership and utilization of the BurundInfo database by national counterparts will be strengthened. The monitoring and evaluation system will continue to rely on joint monitoring and field visits with the Government and other partners. Recommendations and checklists from monitoring and field visits will facilitate year-end review to assess progress and results. In collaboration with the United Nations Population Fund and the World Health Organization, a national emergency obstetric care assessment will be conducted to inform the creation of a roadmap for Millennium Development Goals 4 and 5. The country office will update its

² Both studies are currently underway; results are expected in the third quarter of 2008. The census, supported by the United Nations Population Fund and UNICEF, is scheduled for the last quarter of 2008; results are expected by the end of the first quarter 2009.

integrated monitoring and evaluation plan, which guides the strategic allocation of resources for key data collection and analysis work, and will ensure that evaluation and other research findings are followed up through a management plan. UNICEF will continue to lead the joint monitoring and evaluation task force for the implementation of the United Nations Integrated Peace Consolidation Support Strategy (2007-2009).
