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**COUNTRY PROGRAMME PROFILE**

Burundi

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## BASIC DATA

LDC/MSA/UNICEF group I

Area (1980): 27,834 sq km

Population density: 162 per sq km

GNP at market prices (1979): \$US 760 million

GNP per capita (1979): \$US 190

GNP per capita growth rate (1970-1979): 1.5 per cent

Population projections	<u>Demographic projections</u>			<u>Annual growth rate</u>	
	<u>Population (thousands)</u>			<u>(percentage)</u>	
	<u>1975</u>	<u>1980</u>	<u>1985</u>	<u>1975-1980</u>	<u>1980-1985</u>
Total population	3 791	4 241	4 824	2.24	2.57
Children:					
0-15	1 675	1 872	2 160	2.23	2.06
0- 6	829	960	1 159	2.94	3.77
7-12	587	623	700	1.19	2.32
13-15	259	289	302	2.24	0.83
16-18	236	266	295	2.41	2.06
Population breakdown (percentage)					
	<u>1975</u>	<u>1980</u>	<u>1985</u>		
Rural	97.00	97.70	97.90		
Urban	2.20	2.30	2.50		
Life expectancy at birth (years)					
	<u>1950-1955</u>	<u>1975-1980</u>	<u>1980-1985</u>		
Male	32.0	39.4	41.9		
Female	35.0	42.5	45.1		

Other data

School enrolment ratios - first level (6-11 age group) gross

	<u>1978 (percentage)</u>
All children	21
Girls	17

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**Percentage of children aged 0-6 years (1980):**

With access to safe water supply (urban areas only):	11
Served by excreta disposal facilities:	15
Suffering from moderate or severe malnutrition:	40

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**Administrative structure**

Burundi is divided administratively into eight provinces which are in turn divided into 18 districts, 9 communes, and 2,460 "hills". They are administered by governors, communal administrators, and chiefs of hills, respectively. While depending primarily upon central political and administrative structures, each province has some degree of autonomy. The population per hill averages between 1,000 and 1,600.

The people of Burundi have traditionally lived in dispersed family units on the hills; there are therefore very few villages. The Government is currently attempting to resettle whole populations in experimental villages, but it is too early to judge the outcome of this effort.

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**Priority problems and needs of children**

Population density in Burundi is high, rising to 450 inhabitants per square kilometre in some areas. Families which average six members often hold less than one hectare of poor quality land. The situation is compounded by problems of deforestation and land erosion. Food production is reduced even further by heavy losses due to archaic food processing and conservation techniques. Moreover, in the most populated provinces, cash crops are increasingly given precedence over food crops. The estimated daily calorie intake averages 1,900 and in some rural areas reaches only 1,400. As a result, malnutrition is increasing among children, pregnant women, and nursing mothers.

Spring water is relatively abundant in most provinces, but the hilly terrain and the inaccessibility of the springs make water collection an arduous task for women and girls. In addition, most springs are not capped and present a health hazard, particularly for young children. Parasitosis affects an estimated two thirds of all children.

The incidence of measles, tuberculosis, and neo-natal tetanus is high among infants and young children. Although the Government has made a real effort at decentralization, it has had difficulty providing services because of the dispersion of human settlements. Rural health services are plagued by a shortage of equipment and qualified personnel, and the vaccination campaign has only recently been launched.

Access to education is limited; the proportion of children enrolled in primary schools remains unchanged since 1972. Only about 21 per cent of the primary school-age population attends school; these children are largely concentrated in Bujumbura and larger towns. An additional 35 per cent of children receive some literacy education at literacy/catechism centres run by missions.

Advancement and education of rural women may well be crucial in tackling priority problems facing children. In addition to home and child care responsibilities, women provide 85 per cent of the labour in traditional agriculture and 45 per cent in cash crop cultivation. Moreover, in view of relatively heavy migration by males to urban areas and empirical evidence that men do not always spend their incomes on their families, the role of the woman as provider becomes increasingly important.

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PROGRAMME CO-OPERATION, 1976-1981

Latest commitments: \$US 2,324,000  
 for period 1980-1982  
 (E/ICEF/P/L.1958 (RBC))

	<u>Annual expenditures</u>		<u>1981 call-forwards</u>	
	<u>1976-1980</u>	<u>1981</u>	<u>Planned</u>	<u>Actual</u>
	<u>average</u>			
	(thousands of US dollars)			
From balance of earlier commitments on 1 January 1981 and 1981 Board commitments			832	617
From commitments between Board sessions in 1981			<u>500</u>	<u>-</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>761</b>	<b>737</b>	<b>1 332</b>	<b>617</b>
<u>Breakdown by field of assistance</u>				
Child health	188	278	685	294
Water supply and sanitation	128	199	165	65
Child nutrition	112	117	-	132
Social welfare services for children	1	1	-	2
Formal education	251	49	185	37
Non-formal education	49	55	260	47
Planning and project support services	32	38	37	40

### Health

Over the past five years, UNICEF has provided support for the upgrading of 680 paramedical technicians, nurses, and auxiliaries. The emphasis, particularly since 1980, has been on preventive medicine and primary health care. In addition, 95 doctors have taken UNICEF-assisted courses in tropical medicine. UNICEF agreed to finance the training of 120 primary health care workers in 1981 but the Ministry of Health has not yet started the activities due to delays in defining the programme and shortage of recurrent funds and supervisory staff.

To overcome equipment shortages, 60 rural health centres have been provided with simple equipment and 100 paramedics undergoing refresher courses have received basic kits to take back to their health centres or departments. As a result of these efforts and the Government's determination, maternal and child health activities are now being undertaken in all of the country's 160 health centres.

An immunization programme to combat tuberculosis, poliomyelitis, measles, diphtheria, tetanus, and pertussis was launched in two provinces in 1980. Coverage in the test zones has now reached an estimated 60 per cent of the target group. UNICEF supplied vaccines, equipment, and vehicles for the programme and has recently been joined by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) which is supplying heavier cold chain equipment, vehicles, and funds for training paramedics and physicians.

The transport maintenance unit assisted by UNICEF was reorganized in 1979, two years after its establishment, and has been operating successfully since May 1980 under the supervision of a UNICEF expert. UNICEF also provides spare parts, funds for some support staff, and driver and mechanic training courses.

UNICEF has been involved in a programme for responsible parenthood, through a continuing dialogue with UNFPA and USAID who are directly financing family planning projects. UNICEF has always supported equipping of rural health centres and retraining of medical and paramedical staff.

### Water supply

In 1978, a project to cap rural springs and provide gravity schemes was launched by the Ministry of Rural Development with UNICEF co-operation. Although the implementation rate was initially slower than expected due to shortage of special contributions, the programme is now operating on schedule: 1,000 springs have been capped, 30 kilometres of water gravity schemes have been planned and another 25 kilometres have been executed. Over 90 community artisans (fountainiers) have been trained to cap and maintain springs. UNICEF has supported this project by funding a water expert and a national officer, subsidizing the training of community workers, and supplying vehicles and equipment including pipes, cement, and plastic sheets. Financial support has been readily forthcoming from the Ministry, and community participation through labour and provision of local materials has been particularly important. The acclaim this project has received within Burundi has stimulated the interest of a number of other external agencies; UNCDF recently pledged almost \$US 760,000 to assist the project.

### Education

Since 1976, UNICEF support has enabled the Ministry of Education to retrain 4,000 primary school teachers, 300 principals, and 27 school inspectors annually in the reformed primary curriculum. In addition, UNICEF has financed agricultural equipment for over 500 primary schools and home economics and technology equipment for another 300. UNICEF has also provided 200 tons of paper for printing teacher and student texts which incorporate the new curriculum.

UNESCO, the World Bank, and several bilateral agencies have also provided financial support for educational reform. Because access to primary education is currently limited to 21 per cent of the age group, the Ministry of Education is now facing the challenge of spreading the benefits of the reformed programme.

### Integrated rural development

Since 1976, UNICEF has co-operated with FAO in undertaking an integrated rural development project in the central province of Gitega, under the auspices of the Ministry of Rural Development. The objective of the programme has been to improve the socio-economic and nutritional status of the rural family through increased output and effective use of food crops. The programme comprised three projects aimed at improved food production and nutrition, women's rural development activities, and application of appropriate technology.

The first of these projects focused on increasing agricultural production through provision of seeds, fertilizer, and tools. This was complemented by the women's activities component which emphasised training for rural women in gardening, poultry raising, nutrition, and hygiene. This project has been very successful in demonstrating rural women's keen interest in learning and applying new techniques. Project activities in the Gitega region are to be taken over shortly by a large-scale regional development project financed by the World Bank, thereby permitting UNICEF to phase out its co-operation in this field.

In the appropriate technology project started in 1978, demonstration and development workshops were established to provide farmers, particularly women, with locally made items that would not only aid them in food production and conservation but lighten their tasks as well. Among the items developed were water jars, food driers, silos, and food storage devices. This successful project is now being extended to another region within the framework of the development of co-operatives assisted by ILO.



### Women's activities

Since 1977, collaboration with the Ministry of Social Affairs has focused on supplying community centres with home economics equipment and on annual training and retraining of up to 120 mid-level and extension workers (monitrices and animatrices) of the Ministry of Social Affairs. At the suggestion of UNICEF, a new curriculum was established to make the training course more practical and better adapted to the needs of rural women. In addition to preparing the extension staff for work in rural areas, this new orientation should also permit collaboration with the Ministry of Rural Development which has become involved in women's activities. However, these objectives are being met with difficulty since community centres in the past have been oriented mainly towards remedial education for out-of-school youth, with little effective outreach to rural women.

### Project support communications

In 1981, the UNICEF liaison office organized a one-week project support communications workshop for mid-level staff of the women's union, President's Office, the UPRONA Party (Union Pour le Progres National) and ministries involved in rural development activities. The workshop emphasized practical communication skills such as preparation of brochures and posters for water, nutrition, and hygiene projects.

### Monitoring and evaluation

UNICEF has attempted to strengthen its own monitoring of programme implementation through standardized financial and programme reporting. In May 1981, UNICEF conducted a mid-implementation review in collaboration with the Ministry of Planning and relevant technical ministries. The review allowed UNICEF and the Government to evaluate the status of implementation of all projects and to identify successes and constraints. It was agreed that more systematic monitoring was desirable, especially in the fields of education and health. The review also established a firm foundation for identifying areas of future collaboration between the Government of Burundi and UNICEF.

### Call-forward report

As previously noted, UNICEF had agreed to finance the training of 120 primary health care workers in 1981. Due to delays in the definition of the programme by the Ministry of Health as well as the shortage of recurrent funds and supervisory staff, this programme was not realized in 1981, but has been rephased to 1982. Accordingly, a significant difference exists between planned and actual call-forwards in 1981.

PROGRAMME CO-OPERATION, 1982-1985  
 RECOMMENDATION TO EXECUTIVE BOARD

Proposed commitment: \$US 2,862,366 <sup>a/</sup> duration 1983-1985  
 Proposed noting: \$US 2,500,000 duration 1983-1985  
 Participating agencies: WHO, UNFPA, ILO, USAID, UNDP

Commitments and notings	Total	Probable yearly call-forwards			
		1982	1983	1984	1985

(thousands of US dollars)

Commitments

Balance of commitments for future  
 call-forwards as of 1 January 1982

From general resources	1 094	753	341	-	-
From supplementary funds	554	234	160	160	-
Proposed 1982 Board commitment	<u>2 857</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>577</u>	<u>1 060</u>	<u>1 220</u>
Total commitments	4 505	987	1 078	1 220	1 220

Notings

Notings awaiting funding  
 as of 1 January 1982

Notings awaiting funding as of 1 January 1982	600	350	250	-	-
Proposed 1982 Board noting	<u>2 500</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>440</u>	<u>830</u>	<u>1 230</u>
Total notings	3 100	350	690	830	1 230
Total commitments and notings	7 605	1 337	1 768	2 050	2 450

<sup>a/</sup> This includes \$US 5,366 to cover over-expenditure incurred under a previous commitment (E/ICEF/P/L.1613).

Breakdown of total by field of co-operation

	<u>1982</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Probable yearly call-forwards</u>			
	<u>Programme</u> <u>recommen-</u> <u>dation</u>	<u>existing and</u> <u>recommended</u> <u>co-operation</u>	<u>1982</u>	<u>1983</u>	<u>1984</u>	<u>1985</u>
Child health	1 074	1 920	560	378	419	563
Water supply and sanitation	2 223	3 022	309	771	874	1 068
Formal education	160	279	97	65	67	50
Non-formal education	155	315	45	75	80	115
Women's activities	875	991	116	227	306	342
Appropriate technology	677	857	180	202	238	237
Project support (general)	193	223	30	52	66	75
<b>Total</b>	<b>5 357</b>	<b>7 607</b>	<b>1 337</b>	<b>1 770</b>	<b>2 050</b>	<b>2 450</b>

1982 Programme recommendation by type of aid

	<u>Commitment</u>	<u>Granting</u>
	<u>(thousands of US dollars)</u>	
Supply, including freight	1 330	1 630
Training grants	212	470
Project support	1 315	400
<b>Total</b>	<b>2 857</b>	<b>2 500</b>

Government plans and programmes

The Government is preparing a five-year development plan for 1982-1986. Although not yet released, this plan will follow closely the socio-economic guidelines drawn up in 1980 by the UPROMA Party. The main targets will include: increasing agricultural production to feed a population expected to reach 5 million in 1985, as well as to generate foreign exchange through continued growth of cash crops; creating more employment opportunities outside traditional agriculture; decentralizing and increasing provision of social services in the fields of health, education, and community development; integrating women into the overall socio-economic development of the country; and developing co-operative structures to permit rural populations to increase their self-sufficiency and finance projects they themselves identify.

Health. The Government plans a national extension of the immunization programme now operating in two pilot areas. The goal is to immunize 50 to 70 per cent of children born between 1983 and 1985 against major communicable diseases. The Ministry of Health also plans to strengthen the network of 160 existing health centres and dispensaries throughout the country by increasing their role in maternal and child health services. For this purpose, the Ministry intends to equip the centres so that each may also offer immunization services. It also plans to train or retrain paramedical technicians working at this level, and to train a new category of third level personnel: primary health care agents.

Education. The Government recognizes that efforts must be strengthened to expand access to basic education. It therefore plans to gradually transform primary schools into community schools with greater financial and active participation by the community. In addition, the Government will support efforts by non-governmental organizations which currently provide basic literacy and numeracy education for up to 40 per cent of primary-age children.

Rural development. Rural development underlies many of Burundi's priorities as set forth in the development plan. The Government will support projects in fields such as improved production and conservation of crops, availability of clean water, and improvement of the rural habitat, including development of appropriate technology. Aware that women already play an important role in agriculture, the Government hopes to integrate them more fully into these activities.

#### UNICEF involvement

Discussions held throughout 1981 with the Ministry of Planning confirmed that the areas covered by the 1983-1985 UNICEF-assisted programme will correspond to the orientation of the Government's development plan. UNICEF commitments for the 1983-1985 period will continue in the areas of co-operation initiated within the 1980-1982 programme: health, water, education, women's activities, and appropriate technology. Within these sectors, extensions are foreseen in several areas: the vaccination programme, literacy training, appropriate technology, and women's activities. In the latter two areas, experimental activities will help provide the basis for national coverage by the end of the 1980's.

#### Health

UNICEF will continue to assist the Government in its efforts to strengthen its rural health programme integrating maternal and child health services, disease prevention, and primary health care. The main objectives of UNICEF's co-operation during the period will be: to expand the immunization programme to an average vaccination coverage by 1985 ranging from 26 to 43 per cent depending on the disease; to reinforce the rural health centres and dispensary network; to assist the Ministry of Health in training or retraining primary health care agents and paramedical technicians working in rural areas; and to assist the Ministry in logistic support of its rural health activities.

To achieve these objectives, UNICEF will provide vaccines and equipment to increase the annual immunization programme coverage to protect: 48,000 children against poliomyelitis, diphtheria, tetanus, and whooping cough; 80,000 children against measles and tuberculosis; and 96,000 pregnant women against tetanus. UNICEF will also supply basic drugs and equipment for up to 60 health centres and assist in the training and upgrading of 240 paramedical technicians and as many as 120 primary health care agents. Finally, UNICEF will support the Ministry of Health to ensure proper maintenance and repair of vehicles, including supply of spare parts, technical advice, and on-the-job training of 25 mechanics and 60 drivers.

UNICEF, USAID, WHO, and UNFPA will collaborate with UNICEF in its co-operation with the Ministry of Health in the fields of immunization and maternal and child health.

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### Water supply

The spring capping programme assisted by UNICEF since 1978 will continue at an accelerated implementation rate. Funds already received from special contributions and proposed general resources will permit the capping of 1,900 springs during the period 1982-1985. The programme will also include the establishment of engineering plans for 30 kilometres of water gravity schemes to serve health centres and primary schools, as well as the execution of 16 kilometres of these schemes.

While it is expected that additional special contributions will be forthcoming to finance a greater number of springs and water gravity schemes, UNICEF general resources will be important for covering basic personnel, administrative, training, and overhead costs. Specifically, UNICEF will finance the salaries of a water expert, a national officer, and some of the spring capping artisans and staff of the project unit; the training and retraining of up to 150 artisans; and a limited amount of materials. In 1982, the impact of the springs capped during the past two years on the health of the surrounding community will be evaluated. The results of this survey will be incorporated as appropriate into the implementation of the 1983-1985 programme.

### Basic education

The proposed programme will assist the Ministry of Education in meeting its objectives of expanding educational opportunities through both the formal primary system and non-formal channels. It will offer collaboration in the areas of primary teacher training, production of educational materials, and non-formal literacy training.

To support these projects, UNICEF will provide teaching equipment and teacher training guidebooks. Evaluation seminars for a new programme of pre-service teacher training for the reformed primary education curriculum will be held. The new programme will also help prepare primary teachers to supervise non-formal literacy training activities. In addition, a modest amount of assistance will be provided for maps for geography classes and for paper for printing teacher guidebooks for specific subject areas within the primary curriculum.

In an experimental venture, UNICEF and the Government will collaborate in the strengthening of existing non-formal basic education activities through the training or upgrading of up to 750 literacy or basic education teachers of missionary literacy centres (yagamkama) and through the printing of simple materials for literacy training.

### Women's activities

UNICEF will co-operate in the development of women's activities in two provinces, while reinforcing a national women's promotion planning unit being created in the Ministry of Rural Development. These activities will be undertaken primarily within the context of co-operative structures in the provinces. UNICEF will provide assistance for the training of animatrices sponsored by co-operatives and for the development of adapted educational materials in agriculture, hygiene, health, small animal breeding, and appropriate technology for use by the animatrices and the women they train. To undertake this project, UNICEF will also support technical advisory services throughout the period.

### Appropriate technology

UNICEF will continue to support appropriate technology activities which have been underway in two provinces since 1978, and will plan for an extension of these activities into two additional provinces during 1983-1985. As with women's activities, this programme will be based within existing co-operative structures. Appropriate technology workshops will be established at co-operatives where devices will be manufactured by local artisans who will be remunerated according to the number of articles produced. These articles will then be sold through the co-operatives, which will be responsible for the monitoring and evaluation of sales as well as for demonstration and extension of the techniques, in collaboration with the staff involved in the women's activities project.

The devices to be produced will be based upon needs identified by surveys to be conducted in each province in order to ensure their adaptation to local conditions. They may include simple devices for water storage; production, transformation and conservation of agricultural produce; and environmental hygiene.

UNICEF will assist the project by providing technical staff, materials, educational supplies, logistic support, and funds for in-service training and retraining of artisans. To encourage the active participation of an increased number of women in the co-operatives' appropriate technology activities, UNICEF will also finance a limited number of mills to be installed at the co-operatives.

### "Noted" components

The "noted" projects proposed here, to be financed from specific purpose contributions if these become available, are generally extensions or complements to the activities to be funded from general resources. Special contributions are required for programmes in:

(a) Health: vaccination programme and training of primary health care agents;

(b) Water: capping of 1,300 added springs and the execution of an additional 80 kilometres of water gravity schemes;

(c) Education: support of non-formal literacy training; and

(d) Women's activities: extension of co-operative-based women's programmes.

Proposed co-operation

In support of the above activities, the Executive Director recommends a commitment of \$US 2,857,000 from general resources for the period 1983-1985, and an additional amount of \$US 5,366 to cover over-expenditure incurred under a previous commitment (E/ICEF/P/L.1613); and further recommends a "noting" of \$US 2,500,000 for the same period, subject to the availability of specific-purpose contributions.