

Country Disease Outlook

Burundi

August 2023



World Health
Organization

African Region

Background

The Republic of Burundi is a relatively small country in central Africa. It is landlocked and bordered by DRC, Rwanda and Tanzania. It is a low-income with the lowest GDP per capita of any country in the world in 2022 (US\$ 238.4) and has a population of 12.6 million (2021). The average density of this population, one of the highest in Africa, is estimated at approximately 463.04 inhabitants per square kilometer in 2020, with more than 90% of the population living in rural areas.

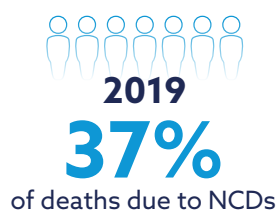
Key points

- ◆ Burundi has a high burden of communicable and non-communicable disease (NCDs), with the latter making up 37% of deaths in 2019.
- ◆ Burundi has improved its child survival rates between 2015 and 2021, however it has not yet met the SDG targets for neonatal or under-five mortality rates.
- ◆ Burundi had 210,343 people receiving antiretroviral therapy in 2021 and almost achieved the 95-95-95 goals for HIV, reaching 93-98-93 in 2021.
- ◆ Burundi is endemic for four out of the five NTDs amenable to preventive chemotherapy through mass drug administration (MDA), reaching 5.4 million people with MDA in 2021.
- ◆ Burundi has historically achieved high vaccination rates, with above 90% coverage rates, reaching 94% with the third dose of DTP-containing vaccine and 90% with the first dose of measles-containing vaccine in 2021.

UHC/CN

Universal Health Coverage/Communicable
and Non-communicable Diseases
WHO Regional Office for Africa





Broad disease outlook

The country has a high burden of both communicable (such as malaria, tuberculosis, HIV/AIDS) and non-communicable disease (including cardiovascular disease, chronic respiratory disease, cancer and diabetes). The latter was estimated to have caused 37% of deaths in 2019.

Communicable diseases

Malaria

Malaria remains a public health problem in Burundi, with an estimated 3.7 million cases in 2021, resulting in 5,957 deaths. The country is off track to meet the Global Technical Strategy for Malaria targets as the incidence rate per 1,000 population increased since 2015 from 200 to 291 per 1,000 population.

There are opportunities to strengthen the malaria programme. Insecticide-treated bednet use in children under five years was only 8.3% and just 37% of people with fever, for whom care was sought and received a finger/heel prick, used artemisinin-based combination therapy (ACT).

Tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS

Incidence of tuberculosis in 2021 was 100 per 100,000 people. The mortality rate of TB cases (all forms, excluding HIV coinfection) has reduced since 2015, from 22 to 20 per 100,000 population in 2021, and the TB mortality rate among HIV-positive people has fallen from 6.5 to 2.3 in the same period.

The 95-95-95 goals are almost fully achieved:

- ▲ 93% of people living with HIV that know their status.
- ▲ 98% of people living with HIV who know their status are on treatment.
- ▲ 93% of people living with HIV and on treatment who are virally suppressed.

Approximately 73,849 people were receiving antiretroviral treatment in 2021.

Neglected tropical diseases

Burundi is endemic for four out of the five NTDs amenable to preventive chemotherapy through mass drug administration (MDA), namely onchocerciasis, soil-transmitted helminthiasis, schistosomiasis and trachoma. In 2021, there were 4.8 million people targeted for MDA, and 5.4 million were treated.

Other notable NTDs that remain endemic are taeniasis and cysticercosis, leprosy, rabies and mycetoma.

Non-communicable diseases

NCDs are a major health problem in Burundi. The age-standardised mortality rate across four major NCDs (cardiovascular disease, chronic respiratory disease, cancer and diabetes) was 720 per 100,000 in males and 582 in females in 2021.

Burundi has implemented efforts on the NCD progress indicators related to NCD policy and plans tobacco taxes and tobacco smoke free/pollution, but progress has been more limited on other indicators, including tobacco media campaigns, alcohol advertising restrictions, salt policies, marketing to children and physical activity awareness.

Childhood Immunization

Burundi's coverage rates of vaccination in children have historically been high, with the third dose of DTP-containing vaccine above 90% since 2006, having reached 94% in 2021. Similarly, the measles vaccination coverage for the first dose was 90% in 2021.

There were an estimated 24,415 under-immunised children and 16,946 zero-dose children in 2021. It is important for Burundi to maintain its vaccination coverage and ensure that catch-up vaccination strategies are implemented.

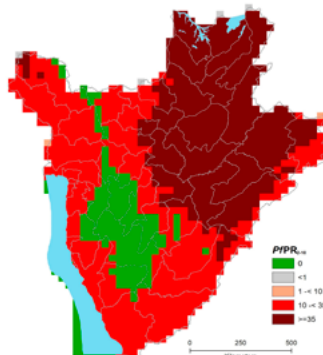
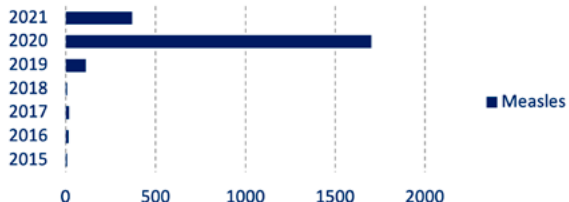
Child survival

Based on the UN Inter-agency Group for Child Mortality Estimation (UN IGME) estimates, the under-5 mortality rate has fallen from 68 to 53 per 1000 live births between 2015 and 2021, it is still above the SDG target of 25 per 1,000 live births. Similarly, neonatal mortality fell from 24 to 20 per 1,000 live births in the same period, although it remains above the SDG target of 12.

MALARIA

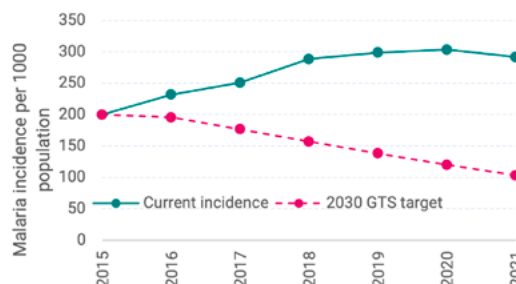
POPULATION AT RISK IN 2022	TOTAL MALARIA CASES IN 2021	TOTAL MALARIA DEATHS IN 2021
12.6 million	3.7 million	5,957

ITN use in children under five years 8.3% and 36.6% use of ACTs among those for whom care was sought and received a finger or heel prick



Plasmodium falciparum malaria prevalence in children in Burundi in 2020. Estimates from the Malaria Atlas project

Malaria incidence since 2015 compared to GTS targets shows that the country has never been on track to achieve targets for disease reductions.

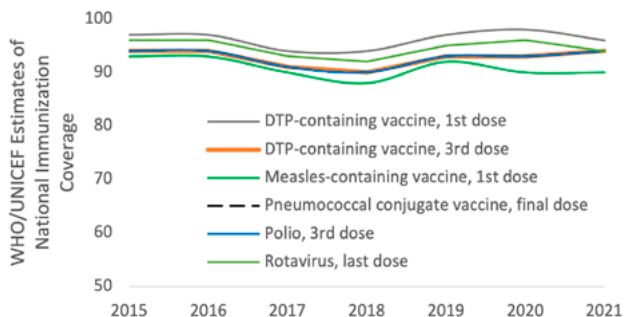


Zero dose 16,946 **Under-immunized 25,419**

WUENIC estimates show that vaccination coverage has remained relatively high since a drop in 2016.

However, there were major outbreaks of measles in 2020/21.

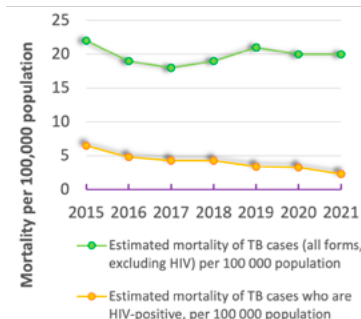
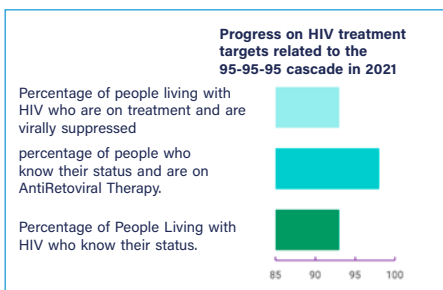
EXPANDED PROGRAMME ON IMMUNIZATION IN CHILDREN



HIV AND TUBERCULOSIS

- 73,798** people receiving antiretroviral therapy in 2021
- 88%** Treatment success rate for HIV-positive TB cases
- Unknown** of children (aged < 5 years) household contacts of bacteriologically-confirmed TB cases on preventive treatment

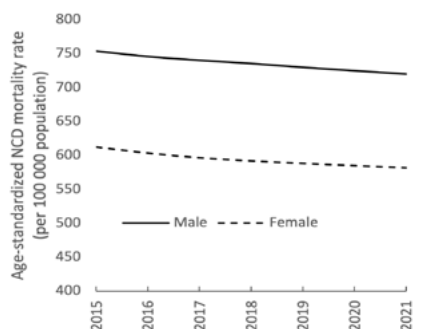
21% Domestic funding for TB
53% Domestic funding for HIV



- Indicator 1 - Targets
- Indicator 2 - CRV Mortality
- Indicator 3 - Surveys
- Indicator 4 - NCD policy and Plan
- Indicator 5A - Tobacco taxes
- Indicator 5B - Tobacco smoke free/polution
- Indicator 5C - Tobacco health warning
- Indicator 5D - Tobacco advertising ban
- Indicator 5E - Tobacco media campaign
- Indicator 6A - Alcohol availability
- Indicator 6B - Alcohol advertising restrictions
- Indicator 6C - Alcohol taxes
- Indicator 7A - Salt policies
- Indicator 7B - Trans fats policies
- Indicator 7C - Marketing to children
- Indicator 8 - Physical activity awareness
- Indicator 9 - NCD guidelines

NCD PROGRESS INDICATORS

- Achieved**
- Partially achieved**
- Not achieved/Unknown**



NEGLECTED TROPICAL DISEASES

Endemic NTDS requiring Preventive Chemotherapy (PC)

- Lymphatic filariasis (Eliminated)
- Schistosomiasis
- Soil-transmitted helminthiasis
- Trachoma
- Onchocerciasis

PC-NTDs treatment in 2020
4.8 million targeted for MDA
5.4 Million treated with MDA

OTHER MAJOR NTDs

- Taeniasis and cysticercosis
- Rabies
- Leprosy
- Mycetoma

