

UNICEF BURUNDI

LEVEL :	P2, Temporary Appointment
Titre :	Programme Officer - Climate and Environment
SECTION :	WASH and CEED
DURATION :	364 days
DUTY STATION :	Bujumbura, Burundi

1. Organizational Context and Purpose for the job

UNICEF works in some of the world's toughest places to reach the world's most disadvantaged children and young people. To save their lives. To defend their rights. To help them fulfil their potential. Across 190 countries and territories, we work for every child, everywhere, every day, to build a better world for everyone. And we never give up.

UNICEF Values on Climate Change and Environment

The global climate crisis is a children's rights crisis. UNICEF's Climate Change Risk Index (CCRI, 2023) indicates that children and adolescents in Burundi are exposed to a "high" risk situation due to the environmental, social, and health impacts of climate change (ranked 51st out of 163 countries). Children bear the heaviest burden of climate change. They are more vulnerable than adults to extreme weather conditions, air pollution, natural disasters, toxic risks, and related diseases.

Natural disasters related to climate change, such as floods and landslides, are increasingly frequent in Burundi and accounted for 84% of internal displacements in the country in 2021. However, the impacts on the population are differentiated by social inequalities, gender, age, and marginalized groups (e.g., people with disabilities, Batwa, etc.). They are exacerbated for the most vulnerable populations. Additionally, some groups find their actions limited due to their weak decision-making power, lack of access to natural resource management, and vulnerabilities such as social exclusion and violence, particularly gender-based violence.

Climate change, lack of access to energy, and environmental degradation induce significant implications for children. Consequently, UNICEF's commitment is imperative to ensure children live "in safe and sustainable climate and environmental conditions" (UNICEF Strategic Plan 2022-2025). UNICEF Burundi, through its Country Program Document (CPD 2024-2027), which results from the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (2023-2027), contributes to the strategic priority of "better management of natural and environmental resources and improved preparedness and response to climate and human-induced disasters."

How can you make a difference?

UNICEF Burundi is seeking a motivated professional with experience in youth and children's climate and environmental action engagement.

Under the direct supervision of Chief WASH & CEED, the purpose of this position is to strengthen meaningful youth and adolescent engagement and participation in climate and environmental actions, support governments and key line ministries in elevating attention given to children and support the inclusion of children and young people in the development and implementation of the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) and National Adaptation Plans (NAP).

The implementation plan should align with the UNICEF Sustainability and Climate Change Action Plan (SCAP) 2023-2030. Moreover, the focus will be on supporting youth-led advocacy to build public support for concerted action and influence decision-makers to shape sustainable public policies. This will include developing evidence-based policy and advocacy guidance and toolkits, supporting partnerships, evidence generation, and planning and implementing advocacy campaigns.

2. Main activities and outcomes

1. Strategic programme planning, coordination, and implementation support.

- a. Support climate change and environment-specific interventions in the UNICEF Country Programme (2024-2027)
- b. Identify any recurrent problems or trends and suggest remedies and solutions, such as training, guidelines, etc.
- c. Support the translation and implementation of the foundational elements, mainstreaming, and areas of acceleration of UNICEF's SCAP in Burundi.
- d. Prepare sectoral progress reports for management, donors and partners.

2. Evidence generation, policy, and positioning of UNICEF in climate change

- a. Support the country office, young people, and partners in meaningfully engaging with and contributing to national and international climate and environment policy decision-making, including the UNFCCC processes, national climate change strategies, nationally determined contributions (NDCs), national adaptation plans (NAPs), climate financing decisions, etc.
- b. Support communication and policy advocacy regarding climate change, environmental degradation, and child rights in Burundi. Provide input into key national climate and environment policy dialogues (national action plans, policies, and climate strategies).
- c. Provide technical guidance to programme sections on mainstreaming youth voices and engagement on climate in all programme areas.
- d. Keep abreast, research, benchmark, and implement best practices notably in the climate change impact and Environment, and share best practices and knowledge learned, including through the development of case studies, the management of programme assessments and maintaining a knowledge management system regarding climate and Environment.
- e. Assist in the preparation of learning/knowledge products, covering innovative approaches and good practices, to support overall Climate and Environment sector development.

3. Technical support to mainstream and accelerate climate change and environmental issues

- a. Provide technical support to UNICEF Country Offices to mainstream and accelerate the SCAP youth engagement and empowerment activities. Develop materials to guide the Burundi Country Office in mobilising and empowering youth on climate action.
- b. Liaise with potential agencies and institutions that UNICEF should partner with to deliver integrated results on climate change, environmental issues, and DRR at the country level.

4. **Capacity Building, climate innovation and knowledge management:**

- a. Facilitate advocacy campaigns and initiatives, promoting the meaningful participation of young people in climate-related decision-making processes at local, national, regional, and global levels as relevant.
- b. Collaborating with the Communications & Advocacy section, develop/contextualize communication materials and tools to raise awareness and establish UNICEF's engagement.
- c. Identify and promote innovative approaches and interventions to enhance resilience, regularly monitor and evaluate the implemented projects, document results, and identify opportunities for scale-up and replication.
- d. Create and deliver learning opportunities for UNICEF CO staff to ensure capacity remains current with the latest developments.

IV. **Impact of Results**

The efficiency and efficacy of support provided by the Programme Officer (Climate and Environment) will contribute to:

1. In partnership with the government, young people, and development partners, the youth in Burundi were mobilized to take concrete sustainability and climate initiatives for child-rights-focused climate policies.
2. Burundi Country Office mainstreams and implements programmes for and with young people to act on climate change, maximizing existing platforms and initiatives.
3. Synergistic cross-sectoral programming in WASH, health, nutrition, social protection, Operations, protection, education, and skills sectors should be implemented to ensure climate programming has a greater impact on children.

3. **Recruitment qualifications.**

Education

- A **Bachelor degree** in one of the following fields: environmental sciences, climatology, geology or earth sciences, climate change, disaster risk reduction, water resource management, engineering, social and economic development, community development, international cooperation or another relevant technical field is required.

Work Experience

- At least two years of relevant work experience, particularly in areas related to development cooperation in climate change adaptation and mitigation, environment and socio-economic development.
- Familiarity with children's rights and gender in the context of climate and environment change. Knowledge of gender equality principles and gender-sensitive programming.
- Previous experience within UNICEF or others UN agencies is an asset.

- Demonstrated ability to work harmoniously in a multicultural environment and establish harmonious & effective working relationships both within and outside an organization.

Language requirements

Fluency in French and good working knowledge of English is required.

UNICEF values and competency Required (based on the updated Framework)

i) Core Values

- Care
- Respect
- Integrity
- Trust
- Accountability

ii) Core Competencies (For Staff with Supervisory Responsibilities)

- Nurtures, Leads and Manages People (1)
- Demonstrates Self Awareness and Ethical Awareness (1)
- Works Collaboratively with others (1)
- Builds and Maintains Partnerships (1)
- Innovates and Embraces Change (1)
- Thinks and Acts Strategically (1)
- Drive to achieve impactful results (1)
- Manages ambiguity and complexity (1)

iii) Technical Knowledge

a) Specific Technical Knowledge Required

- Rights-based and Results-based approach and programming in UNICEF.
- UNICEF programme policy, procedures, and guidelines are in the manual.

b) Common Technical Knowledge Required

- UNICEF programmatic goals, visions, positions, policies and strategies.
- Knowledge of global human rights issues, specifically regarding children and women, and the current UNICEF position and approaches.