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# PROVIDING TREATMENT AND CARE FOR SEVERELY MALNOURISHED CHILDREN

The 2021 Global Hunger Index places Burundi in the second place on the list of countries with the highest percentage of stunted children in the world.

To help reduce child mortality due to severe acute malnutrition, USAID provides funding for the Community Management of Acute Malnutrition interventions across Burundi. 59 percent of all children under five admitted and treated for severe acute malnutrition in 2022 have received these services thanks to USAID.

Several factors add challenges to an already dire situation. The world-wide price increases negatively impact the purchasing power of families throughout Burundi. In 2023, a total of 84,000 children are expected to need treatment for severe acute malnutrition.

## OBJECTIVES

- Provide ready-to-use therapeutic food for 60,000 children under the age of five affected by severe acute malnutrition,
- Strengthen nutrition supply chain management, including the quality of storage for therapeutic food, and the capacity of the health professionals,
- Enhance the Government's capacity for coordination, planning, implementation and monitoring of the nutrition program.

## **INTERVENTION AREA**

- Program is implemented in all 18 provinces of Burundi,
- 100 percent of health districts now offer treatment of Severe Acute Malnourishment in children,
- The program operates in 685 outpatient treatment centers and 61 inpatient centers.

## **RESULTS ACHIEVED FROM JANUARY 2023 TO DATE**

- 51,414 cartons of ready-to-use therapeutic food procured, stored, and distributed,
- 37,830 severely malnourished children admitted and treated,
- Conducted formative supervision and trained 159 healthcare workers, coupled with coordination meetings and data analysis at provincial levels,
- Conducted mass screening of 5,347 children,
- Conducted two end-user monitoring surveys.

## **KEY INFORMATION**

- Implementation period: July 2021 – December 2023
- Budget: \$4.3 million from USAID
- Implementing partner: UNICEF Burundi