

ERITREA

COMMON COUNTRY ASSESSMENT
2016



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ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

ANC	Antenatal Clinic
AfDB	African Development Bank
ASRH	Adolescent, Sexual and Reproductive Health
BHCP	Basic Health Care Package
CAP	Consolidated Appeals Process
CCA	Common Country Assessments
CD	Capacity Development
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women
CEE	Complementary Elementary Education
CPAP	Country Programme Action Plan
CPD	Country Programme Document
DaO	Delivering as One
DHS	Demographic and Health Survey
DOCO	Development Operations Coordination Office
DRM	Disaster Risk Management
DRR	Disaster Risk Reduction
ECD	Early Childhood Development
ENC	Emergency Neonatal Care
ESDP	Education Sector Development Plan
EEBC	Ethiopia-Eritrea Boundary Commission
EPHS	Eritrea Population and Health Survey
EPLF	Eritrean People's Liberation Front
EU	European Union
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
FDI	Foreign Direct Investment
FGM/C	Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting
FP	Family Planning
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GoSE	Government of the State of Eritrea
HSSP	Health Sector Strategic Plan
HIV/AIDS	Human Immunodeficiency Virus/Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
ICU	Intensive Care Unit
IEO	Independent Evaluation Office
IPs	Implementing Partners
JP	Joint Programme
MDGs	Millennium Development Goals
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MND	Ministry of National Development
MNH	Maternal and Neonatal Health
MPP	Macro-Policy paper
MoA	Ministry of Agriculture
MoE	Ministry of Education
MoEM	Ministry of Energy and Mines
MoF	Ministry of Finance
MoFA	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
MoH	Ministry of Health
MoJ	Ministry of Justice
MoLWE	Ministry of Land Water and Environment
MoMR	Ministry of Marine Resources

MoTI	Ministry of Trade and Industry
MTEF	Medium Term Expenditure Frameworks
NARI	National Agricultural Research Institute
NCDs	Non-communicable diseases
NCHE	National Commission for Higher Education
NEIAPG	National Environmental Impact Assessment Procedures and Guidelines
NEMP	National Environmental Management Plan
NEPFP	National Economic Policy Framework and Programme
NGAP	National Gender Action Plan
NIDP	National Indicative Development Plan
NSO	National Statistics Office
NUEW	National Union of Eritrean Women
NUEYS	National Union of Eritrean Youth and Students
OCHA	Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
PGE	Provisional Government of Eritrea
PFDJ	People's Front for Democracy and Justice
PHC	Primary Health Care
RDT	Regional Directors' Team
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
SLM	Sustainable Land Management
SPCF	Strategic Partnership Cooperation Framework
SRH	Sexual and Reproductive Health
SWC	Soil and Water Conservation
TNA	Transitional National Assembly
ToR	Terms of Reference
UN	United Nations
UNCT	United Nations Country Team
UNDAF	United Nations Development Assistance Framework
UNDG	United Nations Development Group
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNSE	United Nations System in Eritrea
UNICEF	United Nations Children fund
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UPR	Universal Periodic Review
WFP	World Food Programme
WHO	World Health Organization

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¹ To be written by management in the penultimate draft when everything is finalised, including final editing, when all players are known

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. The Government of the State of Eritrea (GoSE) and the United Nations System in (UNSE) have carried out two Common Country Assessments (CCA) since independence, each preceding a United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF). The second CCA was designed and carried out mainly as an update of the first, reiterating the same development challenges which, despite some progress, still remained. The optimism for peace and development prevailing during the drafting of the first CCA had by 2005 dissipated with the realisation that the outstanding border issues would not easily be resolved and the “no war no peace” situation would continue. Throughout the years covered by these CCAs, including the current one, the vision of the GoSE for Eritrea has remained the same – a fast developing Eritrea with social equity and justice, anchored on the self-reliance principle. This CCA also builds on the two previous ones, highlighting the challenges which persist, progress made in meeting them and what remains to be achieved. The challenges include, the geopolitical situation and emerging crisis in Yemen, the situation of “no war no peace” with neighbouring Ethiopia, which continues due to an unresolved border dispute, despite the 2002 Algiers agreement. The UN sanctions on Eritrea still continue, a special rapporteur on Eritrea for human rights has been put in place and a commission of inquiry on Eritrea’s human rights situation put in place by the human rights council. Meanwhile, the country is making greater efforts at re-engaging with the international community and broadening its partnership base without compromising its principles.
2. The main development challenges identified and addressed in this CCA include: governance, economic development, food security; education; health and nutrition; water, sanitation and shelter; environment, energy and natural resources management; infrastructure development; human and institutional capacity development; information and communication technology; and specific/targeted assistance to vulnerable groups (including refugees). Government has highlighted some of these in its different policy and strategy documents.
3. From the analysis of the development challenges, the lessons learnt in addressing them and emerging consensus, the CCA identifies four strategic areas as the development priorities to be focused on if progress were to be made in addressing the country’s development challenges. These areas are intentionally broad so as to provide a strategic context in which more focused outcomes will be developed by different stakeholders. These strategic areas are²:
 - a. Governance, Human Rights and Capacity development
 - b. Sustainable Development
 - c. Resilience Building
 - d. Social Transformation
4. There has been considerable progress in each of these priority areas, but there are still gaps that need to be addressed and the UNSE and UN globally have the comparative advantage in addressing them. The United Nations System globally and in Eritrea have a comparative advantage to address some of the development challenges facing the country and to support government’s effort towards sustainable development in Eritrea. Eritrea’s

² Two further options for sets of strategic areas have been proposed and the final set will be determined by the UNCT following on-going discussion with GoSE

increased efforts towards partnership with the international community will be very useful in resolving some outstanding political issues.

- 5.
6. With respect to the priority development challenges identified above, the UN's comparative advantage is demonstrable both in Eritrea and through its global experience. The UN formalized its strategic development presence through the five year United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) in 2002, and through subsequent UNDAFs and the current SPCF. Evaluations over the years have shown that the UN system has been successful in supporting various GoSE initiatives.
7. The CCA recommends that the UNSE and GoSE regard the geopolitical context as important to development as the actual development challenges themselves and pertinent to the success of development strategies.

This draft CCA is an internal document based on interviews with UNCT and document reviews, pending in-depth consultations as per road map with GoSE and other stakeholders.

DRAFT

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 BACKGROUND

In countries where the United Nations (UN) system is represented by more than one agency, its main mechanism for support to the country is the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF). The development cooperation between the UN and Eritrea started even before the country got formal independence in 1993, with the UN's organisation and management of the referendum that led to independence. However, it was not until 2002 when the first UNDAF for the period 2002-2006 was signed, followed by second one for the period 2007-2011. After a brief eighteen months' hiatus,³ GoSE and UNSE signed a new Strategic Partnership Cooperation Framework (SPCF) covering the period 2013 – 2016. Hence Eritrea is a 2015 roll-out country⁴ for a new cooperation framework between the Government of the State of Eritrea (GoSE) and the United Nations System in Eritrea (UNSE), for the period 2017 -2021.

An important step in the roll out is the Common Country Assessment (CCA), which preceded both UNDAFs in Eritrea. The last SPCF, however, was not preceded by a CCA. Hence this CCA is the successor to the second, carried out ten years ago. While the analysis does not try to cover the entire 10-year period, it takes into account key developments during this period.

1.2 OBJECTIVES AND SCOPE OF THE CCA

The overall objective of this CCA is to provide insights into key development challenges facing Eritrea, their underlying causes; capacity gaps; and the UN comparative advantage in addressing priority challenges in order to inform the preparation of the next SPCF 2017-2021. The specific objectives are to:

- Undertake a situation analysis of Eritrea and understand the development challenges and their underlying causes;
- Contribute to national dialogue on 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and other international commitments;
- Deepen understanding of key actors, their context and capacities; and
- Identify key priority challenges for SPCF 2017-2021.

³ In 2011, the GoSE cancelled the ongoing UNDAF and stopped the preparation of the next. In the subsequent negotiations GoSE and UNSE agreed to resume their cooperation through a Strategic Partnership Cooperation Framework

⁴ The United Nations Development Group (UNDG) through its Development Operations Coordination Office (DOCO) manages, approves and supports the preparation process, called “roll out”, which encompasses a series of steps to be taken between the time a decision is made to develop the UNDAF, to the time it is actually launched. For ease of rendering support and coordination, UNDG ensures that a number of countries enter the roll out at the same time each year – hence the term “roll out countries”

The CCA generally has three elements as follows:

Assessment: This determines whether and where a development challenge exists, its intensity and who is affected.

Analysis: The causes of selected major challenges are analysed and national awareness and capacity gaps to address the challenges assessed. The analysis usually describes the interrelated causes in terms of immediate cause, underlying causes and root causes.

Prioritizing development challenges: Anchored on UN comparative advantage, three to five need to be prioritized to enhance the collective impact of UN system development operations, enhance synergies and reduce transaction costs from UN programme cooperation.

The timing of the SPCF roll out and thus of this CCA coincides with some major contextual developments, which could make it significantly strategic.

- Increased efforts by the United Nations in New York and at regional level at high levels to find ways to reengage with Eritrea. This has created a context in which the United Nations Country Team (UNCT) in Eritrea could potentially scale up its level of engagement to support efforts at transitional challenges.
- The good dialogue between the GoSE and development partners, especially the UNSE, and the increasing efforts by GoSE to participate in global and regional events and to encourage cooperation and partnerships in general.
- The recent decision that Eritrea will be a Delivering as One (DaO) country, which means that Eritrea will seek to capitalize on the strengths and comparative advantages of the different members of the UN family in order to increase the UN system's impact through more coherent programmes, reduced transaction costs for GoSE, and lower overhead costs for the UN system in Eritrea (UNDG, 2015).
- The development of the country's National Indicative Development Plan (NIDP) which sets out government's thinking and intentions in most major areas of development challenges.
- The current SPCF 2013-2016 is coming to an end therefore a new SPCF 2017-2021 needs to be developed. The CCA will form the analytical basis for the new SPCF.

A key objective for the CCA is to provide an opportunity for the UN and government to develop a common understanding of the challenges and opportunities in the country and to identify and agree on priorities.

1.3 The Preparation process ⁵

This CCA is an important milestone on the road map for the SPCF roll out, decided by the UNCT in May 2015. It has been prepared under a very tight schedule in order to contribute to the roll out without derailing the schedule, and compromising essential stakeholder consultations and buy-in, while ensuring that the identified priorities are aligned to national priorities.

⁵ This section will be finalised/re-written when consultations with GoSE have been carried out and completed

1.3.1 Approach and Methodology

The preparation process for this CCA has followed the guidelines set out for this process by the UNDG. Extensive consultations were held within the UNCT and between the UNCT and the GoSE. An SPCF technical team was established and its terms of reference agreed by the UNCT. The Government was engaged at two levels, the decision making level about launching the process and the strategic and operational level in terms of consultations on progress, gaps, priorities and the way forward. Once the GoSE formally requested the roll out of the SPCF process, roll out teams were established - Government/UN Steering Committee, Programme Management Team, Operations Teams, M&E team, and Communication Team.

The CCA process relied heavily on extensive document reviews. The key documents on the GoSE side were the recently released NIDP (2014 – 2018), the sector strategies and policies and a variety of assessments and publications by various international organisations. UN System documentation included the last CCAs, the UNDAFs/SPCFs and their reviews and evaluations since the last CCA, agency Country Programme Documents (CPD) and evaluations, internal reports and other agency publications. Other documents included country strategy papers of international financial institutions who have worked or are working in Eritrea. Generic web searches were used to get a sense of civic perceptions of issues and challenges in the public domain. Any UN agency assessments or situation analyses from the last two years were treated as current in lieu of additional stakeholder interviews.

The UNCT obtained the services of an international consultant, who worked with a local organisation (to be finalised later). The UNCT appointed a UN wide Readers Group whose terms of reference were mainly to provide feedback on the various drafts of the CCA, and recommend to the UNCT.

1.3.2 Justification for the CCA

This CCA was carried out to serve as the basis for formulating the UNDAF. Until recently the only available government analyses were in the form of the sector strategic plans produced by ministries. While a national development plan now exists, it is still in draft. This CCA will complement these existing analyses, from which it also draws.

1.4 THE STRUCTURE OF THIS REPORT

This report is presented in five sections. This introduction sets out the global context of the CCA and explains its scope, methodology and approach. Section 2 deals with the development context, while section 3 deals with the development challenges that Eritrea faces. Section 4 analyses partnerships and stakeholders engaged in the Eritrean development process as well as the UN's comparative advantage in this context. Finally, section 5 draws conclusions and makes recommendations for the SPCF.

2 THE DEVELOPMENT CONTEXT

Eritrea's development context is influenced by her attainment of independence in May 1993, it is still a young nation which continues to have challenges due to the “no war no peace” relationship with Ethiopia. It's vision, however has not changed since it was articulated in various party and government documents, in particular in the Macro-Policy Paper (MPP) of 1994. The same key messages about the country's vision have been reiterated over the years, in various documents and by national leaders, including recently by the President in an interview with the national media in February 2016, when he indicated that ‘Eritrea's mantra will remain the same’.

Since independence the country has gone through three main phases. The first phase from 1993 to 1998 was characterised by rapid and intense democratic and institutional building, development policy making and implementation, economic growth, and establishment of membership in international organisations. The second phase was dominated by the border war with Ethiopia which broke out in 1998 and ended in 2000, as well as by its aftermath of a continuing border dispute. The third phase, post war stabilisation, reconstruction and post conflict development, continues to date.

2.1 SITUATION ANALYSIS

2.1.1 Introduction

Eritrea's development aspiration is to achieve rapid, balanced, home-grown and sustainable economic growth with social equity and justice, anchored on the self-reliance principle. The Government values both community and individual rights, and regards social justice - access to education, health, food and equitable access to services regardless of identity, affiliations or locality – as a right of citizens. As is people centred economic development! This vision has endured from the liberation struggle through the first years of independence, the border war and to date.

Clearly, the geopolitical, international and national context which has hitherto framed the development challenges for Eritrea – a turbulent and unreconciled relationship with her big neighbour and former colonial power, an international community that is less sympathetic to Eritrea's side of events, a national context in which a promising development model was interrupted and the country's own stance in reaction to the invidious “no war no peace” situation - has not fundamentally changed since the first CCA was done. What has changed, albeit slowly and marginally, has been the main impulse of Government 's policy response, from when “(T)he expectation was that demarcation would soon take place and, in turn, this would pave the way for the normalization of relations between the two countries.” (UN Eritrea, 2005), to an increasing acceptance of the need to move forward in spite of the constraints caused by this situation. Thus by 2005 when the second CCA was developed, and “(T)his optimistic scenario” had not “materialized due to Ethiopia's refusal to accept and implement the Boundary Commission's decision” (UN Eritrea, 2005), GoSE was increasingly shifting emphasis from waiting for the resolution of the border situation, to a development strategy that accepted the possibility of a long drawn out

border conflict, and thus the need to find alternative pathways that navigate around the constraints. And this has yielded some impressive results, considering the context.

2.1.2 Map and location

Eritrea is located in North East Africa (between 12° and 18° North, and 36° and 44° east). It is bordered by Sudan to the north and west, Ethiopia to the south, Djibouti to the south-east and the Red Sea to the north and north-east. It has a land area of about 125.000 km², and a coastline stretching about 1.200 km. Off the coast there are over 350 islands, of which 210 comprise the area of the Dahlak Archipelago and other islands along the Red Sea coast.⁶ Eritrea is divided into six regions called Zoba, which are the primary geographical divisions through which the country is administered. These are; the Maekel/Central, Anseba, Gash-Barka, Debub/Southern, Northern Red Sea and Southern Red Sea regions. Eritrea gained independence from Ethiopia in May 1993, following a liberation struggle that lasted thirty years.

⁶ From Eritrea.be



2.1.3 Population

No population census has ever been held in Eritrea and therefore all population figures are estimates. The latest National Statistical Office (NSO)'s estimate is that the population of Eritrea is 3.6 million (justified by updated Zoba Admin registrations in the care of the government) of which 67 percent is rural (UNDP and GoSE, 2015). The male to female ratio is 100.7 males to 100 females. According to the Eritrea Population and Health Survey of 2010 (EPHS 2010) (GoSE, 2010), there is a rapidly growing urban population due to returning nationals and high rural-urban migration. The population distribution is partly influenced by geography with 50-60 percent of the population living in the Highlands. Consistent with African trends, the Eritrean population is predominantly young, a situation exacerbated by out-migration and war which has deprived the country of significant percentage of adult males. 49.2 percent of the population is made of people under 15 years, 48.4 percent with people age 15 – 59 years and 8.7 percent 60+ years.

One of the main social and demographic realities of Eritrean society is its large diaspora, i.e. Eritreans living out of the country, estimated to be around 750,000 during the struggle. Many left during various phases of Eritrean history, escaping from either Italian oppression, Ethiopian military repression, or generally the uncertainties of a country in perpetual struggle. In the last two decades the exit has been linked to both economic decline and indefinite national service.

Eritrea is a multi-ethnic society with nine different ethnic groups which all speak different languages. The ethnic groups are Tigrinya, Tigre, Saho, Afar, Kunama, Bilen, Rashaida, Hidarb and Nara. Some of these are related and share common roots. There are three official languages—Tigrinya, Arabic and English. There are two main religions – Christianity and Islam and membership is almost evenly divided, with a small percentage, up to 20 percent, professing other religions. While the 1997 constitution provides for freedom of association, there is express legal prohibition of political parties based on ethnic or religious backgrounds.

Culturally, the constitution emphasises in the preamble respect for age and prohibits discrimination against women. During the war, with as much as thirty per cent of the fighters being women, the Eritrean People's Liberation Front (EPLF) adopted an egalitarian approach to gender relations, with women being treated as equals in territory it controlled. The PFDJ in government continued with its commitment to non-sexism, gender equity and improvement of opportunities for women and girls.

2.1.4 Political Context

Eritrea is one of the last countries to gain independence in Africa, following a bitter and protracted liberation struggle against its neighbour, Ethiopia, to which it had been federally attached, and by whom it was eventually annexed. While the Eritreans had never accepted the federal attachment to Ethiopia, it was the annexation that intensified the resistance and triggered an armed struggle against Ethiopian rule that lasted thirty years until victory in 1991, which ushered in the new era of a free Eritrea.

A Provisional Government of Eritrea (PGE) was established for the period between 1991 and 1993. An internationally supervised referendum was held in 1993 and the Eritreans, opted for an independent sovereign Eritrean state, and independence was declared in May, 1993. Thus Eritrea is one of the younger nations in Africa. Because its struggle for independence was largely self-reliant, with few friends supporting it, the government's stance towards cooperation and partnerships embraces the principle of self-reliance. As part of the process of transitioning from liberation struggle to democratic governance, the EPLF transformed itself into a political party, the People's Front for Democracy and Justice (PFDJ). The same year, a transitional governing arrangement was set up. Elections were held for the Transitional National Assembly, which comprised 75 members of the PFDJ and 75 additional popularly elected members (representatives elected by the general population, of whom at least 11 must be women and 15 members representing Eritreans living abroad). It was established as the highest legal power in the state, until the establishment of a democratic, constitutional government. Its powers were to set the internal and external policies of the government, regulate implementation of those policies, approve the budget, and elect the president of the country. The President's powers included nominating individuals to the Cabinet, to authorities, commissions, and offices, for ratification by the Transitional National Assembly. The Cabinet, to be chaired by the President, was established as the country's executive branch, and was composed of 17 ministers. It was to implement policies, regulations, and laws and be accountable to the Transitional National Assembly (UNDP, 2013).

The judiciary was to be independent of both the legislative and executive bodies, with a court system that would extend from the village through to the district, provincial, and national levels. At the village and community levels customary law would prevail. The Transitional Government committed to achieving all these objectives during a four-year transition - draft and ratify a constitution, draft a law on political parties, draft a press law, draft an economic strategy and carry out elections for a constitutional government.

Through an extensive participatory process, and an outreach across the country and to Eritreans living abroad, the country developed a constitution which was ratified by the Constitutional Assembly in May 1997. It established democratic institutions, outlined the governance system and processes and guaranteed human rights. GoSE also introduced a civil service policy designed to introduce and sustain a small, efficient, well remunerated civil service, which would facilitate the growth of the private sector, investment in social development and ensure equitable development. The new constitution was not ushering in a new era, but formalising what was already being practised, as well as codifying the democratic values and self-reliance ethos from the struggle.

This political and democratisation programme was largely implemented, including the ratification of the constitution in 1997. The self-reliant development approach, fuelled by an open, trade driven economy was successful in stabilising and growing the economy, and generating interest and praise for Eritrea as one of the new models to follow

2.1.4.1 *The Border War*

But this progress was prematurely interrupted– a border dispute with Ethiopia escalated into a full scale war in 1998, which would last till June 2000, and displace a third of the population, destroy agricultural infrastructure and cause damage to the economy estimated at over 90 percent of GDP, by the time hostilities ceased. Although the Ethiopia-Eritrea Boundary Commission (EEBC), which was established and mandated with the agreement of both parties, to make a final and binding determination, did make a final “virtual” demarcation of the boundary, and Eritrea accepted the determination, the stalemate has continued because Ethiopia has not complied with it.

2.1.4.2 *No War – No Peace*

The situation above, in which technically the parties are not at peace, even though they are not fighting, has been characterised as "no war, no peace", a situation rife with uncertainty about peace and anxiety about war (UNDP, 2013). It also points to a deeper problem about the regional environment within which Eritrea has to carve out its future. The fact that the Ethiopian government that waged the border war with Eritrea was one that was supposed to be friendly to the Eritrean ruling party and leadership, as previous allies who had fought against the imperial and the Derge establishment together, pointed more to the resilience of the establishment than unresolved border issues. It therefore posed existential questions for the Eritrean state.

In these circumstances, the GoSE’s first priority became one of securing the sovereignty of the state, guaranteeing independence and securing the borders. Having demobilised its forces after independence, and then after cessation of hostilities following the border war, the stalemate on the EEBC decision forced the government to bring the country back to a state of heightened mobilisation. A decade and half later, border security remains a major priority, and the two countries maintain troops positioned alongside the border.

2.1.4.3 *The Democratisation Process*

In 1997 the country was poised for a democratic take-off, with the ratification of a constitution that provided for democratic governance and a Bill of Rights. But the governance of the country has followed a different trajectory from that envisaged by that new constitution. The constitution was not implemented and, therefore, the transitional arrangements were not replaced by the provisions of the new constitution as expected. National elections, slated for 2001, were never held. However, elections have been held regularly at the Zoba level. Institutions of the transitional Government, which were to have been replaced once the constitution was implemented, are themselves not functioning properly. For example, the Transitional Assembly has not met since 2002. Due to the sensitivities related to the international isolation that has followed, there is no published budget, the checks and balances provided for by the Constitution have not been as important a feature of the current arrangements as would have been, if that Constitution had been implemented.

2.1.4.4 *The Policy Response and the International Context*

GoSE was faced with policy choices in response to these developments. These choices would affect political activity in the country, economic management, national security arrangements and the evolution of the democratic process. It was in the process of making these choices that differences emerged in the ruling party and the first accusations of major human rights violations. This has led to measures that have resulted in a decade dominated by allegations and counter-allegations of human rights violations. The GoSE has also been accused of aggressive activities in the sub-region, including border encroachment and support to insurgent groups in Somalia, which resulted in UN international sanctions being imposed on the country. Security Council Resolution 1907, supported by the AU and passed in 2009, imposed an arms embargo, restricted travel of government leaders, and froze the assets of many of the country's political and military leadership. The accusations, denied by GoSE, was that Eritrea was funding the al-Shabaab, and that it refused to withdraw troops from the Djibouti-Eritrea border.

Although the UN reported that for the previous year there had been no evidence of direct Eritrean funding or involvement with Somali insurgents, more sanctions were imposed in December 2011, on the allegations that Eritrea was making efforts to destabilise Ethiopia and ordered it to cease funding for al-Shabaab. In addition, the country is under continued investigation by the Human Rights Council Special Rapporteur and a commission of Inquiry into human rights violation which was recently set up.

The border stalemate is considered a major impediment to the Government's efforts to uphold the rights of its people, for a variety of reasons.

- Human, material and financial resources, such as there are, remain tied up in the state of high mobilisation;
- International perceptions of the country became less positive after the war, affecting both foreign direct investment (FDI) and development assistance;
- The limited growth of the private sector as a result of both declining investment and government takeover of many sectors of the economy;
- Gradual but decisive suspension of the reforms and socio-economic and political measures introduced in the first seven years of independence and the consequent inertia characterising any reform efforts.
- Increasing the shortage of construction materials and thus difficulty in provision of shelter which the GoSE regards as a basic right.

All this has had the negative cumulative effects on the development of the country, limiting the ability to meet the economic, social and other rights of the Eritrean people. Resources tied up in security could have been used in other areas of development such as health, education and other basic social services, thereby meeting the needs of different population groups whose rights to such are thus compromised. The lack of FDI and the depletion of development assistance have limited inflows into the country, affected the ability of the economy to import capital goods or to procure other services pertinent to the needs of the population. The cherished goal of a private sector driven development, has not materialised. The political, social and democratic reforms that had been envisaged have not been implemented. This has resulted not just in the denial of rights for the different population groups, but to actual threats to the basic human rights of citizens as GoSE grapples with the imperatives of a security driven governance system.

2.1.4.5 *Impact on GoSE's Ability to Meet People's Economic and Social rights*

The Government values both community and individual rights, and regards social justice - access to education, health, food and equitable access to services regardless of identity, affiliations or locality – as a right of citizens. As is people centred economic development! The border stalemate is a major impediment to the Government's efforts to uphold the rights of its people in this context.

2.1.4.6 *Progress being made*

GoSE has recently demonstrated its willingness to both facilitate engagement and participate in international events. For example, Eritrea participated in the African Development Bank's 2014 Annual Meetings in Rwanda, at the level of the Minister of Finance; there was more active participation at the UN General Assembly high-level side meetings; GoSE participated in UN Day commemorations; and there have been high level UN visits to Eritrea, and considerable dialogue and engagement with GoSE at the highest levels. While these steps appear minimal, in the context of the recent history of the country vis-à-vis the rest of the world, they are significant and augur well for the future (AfDB, 2014).

The announcement by the President in 2015, of a new commitment to review the constitution, which would be a major sign that the country wishes to move forward with its original democratic agenda in spite of the border stalemate. In addition, the GoSE has submitted its second Universal Periodic Review (UPR) report, demonstrating an important commitment to the implementation of the recommendations of the UPR on human rights. In the current cycle, two hundred recommendations were made to the GoSE and, it has accepted ninety-two of them (UNCT, 2015). If pursued by all parties this will contribute to the building of trust and confidence between the UN, the rest of the international community and the GoSE.

2.1.5 The Economy

2.1.5.1 *Introduction*

The post-independence need for democratic development was matched by the just as urgent need for economic development. GoSE inherited an economy devastated by war in addition to being afflicted by perennial drought. Historically Eritrea had been one of the most industrialised in the region, but it had become significantly de-industrialised under Ethiopian rule.

In response to this situation the GoSE adopted the Macro-Policy Paper (MPP) which helped them move resolutely, systematically and quickly to build an economic system responsive to the country's specific circumstances, adopting policies which stressed social equity and market-oriented growth, and engaging with the global community, from the perspective of self-reliant development. By early 1998, with growth averaging 7 percent between 1993 and 1997, among the fastest growing in Africa at the time, the GoSE had managed to stabilize this post conflict country, laid the basis for the economy to take off, and to start the advance towards creating the basis for sustainable development. This policy orientation not only resulted in marked improvements in all key sectors, it was also laying the foundation for the achievement of Eritrea's development aspiration - to achieve rapid, balanced, home-grown and sustainable economic growth with social equity and justice, anchored on the self-reliance principle.

However, the border dispute and the war discussed above, saw GDP growth drop sharply to an estimated 1-2% for the period 2002/2008⁷. A number of possible national socio-economic initiatives and resources remain tied to a state of security mobilisation. Furthermore, the border conflict has left large areas of land unused due to unexploded landmines especially in the prime fertile agricultural regions of Gash-Barka and Debub.

2.1.5.2 *Structure of the Economy*

The mainstay of the economy is subsistence agriculture. Yet arable land accounts for only 12% of land use. Persistent drought has had adverse effects particularly on the vulnerable communities, groups and households. The drought also impacts the country's socio-economic conditions, as well as the environment.

Eritrea's gross domestic product (GDP) was estimated at \$7.842 billion, \$7.711 billion and \$7.61 billion, respectively in 2014, 2013 and 2012 PPP. Real growth rates for the same years were 1.7% (2014 est.), 1.3% (2013 est.) 7% (2012 est.) and per capita GDP was constant for the three years at \$1200. Gross national saving was 2.4% of GDP (2014 est.), 4% of GDP (2013 est.) and 5.9% of GDP (2012 est.). In 2014 the GDP composition was, by sector of origin:

- agriculture: 12.3%
- industry: 28.7%
- services: 59% (2014 est.)

And by end use

- household consumption: 91.5%
- government consumption: 22.8%
- investment in fixed capital: 15.7%
- investment in inventories: -15.3%
- exports of goods and services: 10.1%
- imports of goods and services: -24.8%

Eighty percent of the population is dependent on agricultural employment, while industry and services account for the remaining 20 percent. The budget deficit was at an estimated 10.7% of GDP in 2014 and is projected to improve as a result of higher mineral revenues and increased investments

⁷ World Bank Estimates

in the mining sector. Inflation was estimated at 12.0% in 2014 and will probably rise because of higher international commodity prices, an accommodating fiscal policy and rising demand for foreign exchange, as well as an unstable regional environment.⁸

2.1.5.3 *Fiscal Policy*

According to the 2015 African Economic Outlook, more disciplined fiscal management has resulted in an increasing favourable fiscal environment, with fiscal deficit at about 10.7% of GDP in 2014 and was expected to decline to 10.3% and 9.9% in 2015 and 2016 respectively, albeit aided by revenue from the mining sector. The trend is expected to improve with efficiencies anticipated with the full adoption of the Integrated Financial Management System (IFMS). Tax revenue, excluding grants, is projected to increase from 11.2% of GDP in 2014 to 11.3% in 2015. The mining investments present new opportunities to generate revenues, which, if properly invested grow the economy and impact the living standards of the people. Any substantial reduction in international prices for minerals would, however, negatively affect the revenue inflows. Revenues from the 2% development and recovery tax on the Eritrean diaspora have been an important source of government income. However, this has been declining, partly due to the UN sanctions imposed on its collection and transfer to Eritrea. To counter the effect of the decline in the inflows, the government has made investments in the mining sector, infrastructure including energy, and control of wage-bill growth its priorities. The government is also strengthening fiscal-management systems, including the customs and internal revenue divisions, to maximise revenue collections. Some subsidies, for example, on fuel have also been scrapped (AfDB, 2015).

2.1.5.4 *Poverty and Inequality*

Although Eritrea is one of the poorest countries in the world, the trend of the proportion of people living under the poverty line of USD1.25 per day has been steadily declining - from 70 percent in 1995 to 61 percent in 2010 and to an estimated 58 percent in 2015 (UNICEF Eritrea, 2015).

However, in spite of this steady progress, Eritrea has not been able to meet its MDG target of 35 percent. Poverty manifests differently between urban and rural areas, at 36 percent in the former and at 72 percent in the latter. It also manifests differently across Zobas. The coastal areas of the Northern Red Sea (NRS) and Southern Red Sea (SRS) have a disproportionate number of poorer households, particularly compared to the more urban Zoba of Maekel. Both coastal regions are characterised by low population density in two difficult eco-environments with high numbers of pastoralists and fishermen with precarious livelihoods (UNICEF Eritrea, 2015).

It is important to note that the steady, though not high rate of decline does not correspond with the unsteady course followed by the rate of GDP growth. This could be explained by the effect of policy focus, which is discussed elsewhere, and explains the attainment of three MDGs.

⁸ African Economic Outlook 2014

2.1.5.5 *Food Security*

Achieving food security is one of the main objectives of national development policy. Eritrea is a structurally food insecure country. It produces only about 60 percent of its total food needs in good rainfall years, and no more than 25 percent in poor years. Annual crop production depends on rainfall that is variable and unevenly distributed from year to year (GoSE, 2004), and the country is regularly threatened by famine. The crop production and livestock-carrying capacity of Eritrea's semi-arid climate is subject to severe natural limitations. Eritrea's household food insecurity is closely linked to poverty in terms of both cause and effect. The fact that food security has not been achieved explains partly the inability to make progress towards the achievement of the MDG goal of eradicating extreme poverty and reducing hunger (GoSE, 2004). The need to diversify the staple food basket to ensure a balanced nutritive diet is had is important.

2.1.5.6 *Infrastructure, Information and Communications Technology*

2.1.5.6.1 *Physical Infrastructure*

The NIDP notes that the liberation and border wars destroyed the physical infrastructure of the country - the roads, bridges, the railway system, and the ports (GoSE, 2014). Rehabilitation of all categories of infrastructure has been a priority of the GoSE since independence. In the absence of comprehensive official data, progress made through a judicious mix of self-reliance and strategic use of external support, increasing the multiplier effect of community mobilisation, can be gleaned through anecdotal evidence, or even advocacy documents. In one such document, a summary of achievements in the first twenty years of independence, Josief Abraha, notes a number of achievements (Abraha, 2011)

- In the Anseba Administrative Region road networks have been constructed at an expenditure of over 265 million Nakfa running from Keren to Geleb, Keren to Halhal and Keren to Afabet
- In Gash Barka Administrative Region over 150 water reservoirs and catchments and more than 118 ponds have been constructed in the region. In addition to the strategic large-scale dams of Gherset, Fanko Rawi, Fanko Tsimu'e, Aligidir and Omhajer. Further 6 dams have been constructed.
- In the Northern Red Sea Administrative Region, the construction of the strategic Kohaito-Foro road constitutes a turning point in the urbanization of the 10 adjacent villages and 20 transportation lines have been set up along
- In the Southern Red Sea Administrative Region, the construction of the Massawa-Assab road, Assab-Rahaita route, Garsa-Assab and the road running from Assab to the Ethiopian border, as well as over 1,000 feeder roads is also among the major accomplishments in the region
- In the Southern Administrative Region Villages connected through roads increased from 204 to 732

2.1.5.6.2 Information and Communications Technology

According to the NIDP, one of the goals of the GoSE “is to make Eritrea a knowledge based society. Accordingly, ICT development is considered crucial.” The plan notes that, overall, Eritrea still has much to left to do in development of the communications sub-sector. (GoSE, 2014). It will take investment, organisation and effort to reach that goal. The telecommunications infrastructure is quite inadequate and needs further development. There are only 60,000 fixed Telephones lines (2012), making Eritrea 160th in the world. It scores at 174 in mobile telephony at 305, 300, 177th in internet hosting and 140th at 200,000 internet users (2008). These statistics likely do not take into account the proliferation of cell phones and sbmart phones and complementary applications.

The NIDP sets the GoSE objective as to “achieve an average tele-density of 10 main telephone lines per 100 inhabitants and increase the number of internet users to 15 people per 100 inhabitants by 2018” (GoSE, 2014). The government intends to make a comparatively heavy investment in the telecommunications infrastructure in the next four years. (See table 5)

Table 1: NIDP Proposed investment in infrastructure including ICT

Organization	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	Total project Cost	USD Component	% of share of each Sub-sector	
						Nakfa		Nakfa	USD
Land Transport Sub-sector	19.2	30.7	28.0	5.2	2.2	98.4	2.05		4%
Maritime Transport Sub-sector	-	12.5	17	26.0	15.0	116.2	2.9	11%	6%
Civil Aviation Sub-sector	-	16.0	28.8			221.1	11.2	21%	23%
Communications Sub-sector	-	56.7	39.1	11.3	15.8	642.7	33	60%	67%
Total	19.2*	115.9	112.9	42.5	33.0	1078.3	49.2	100%	100%
				B					

2.1.5.7 **Recent Developments**

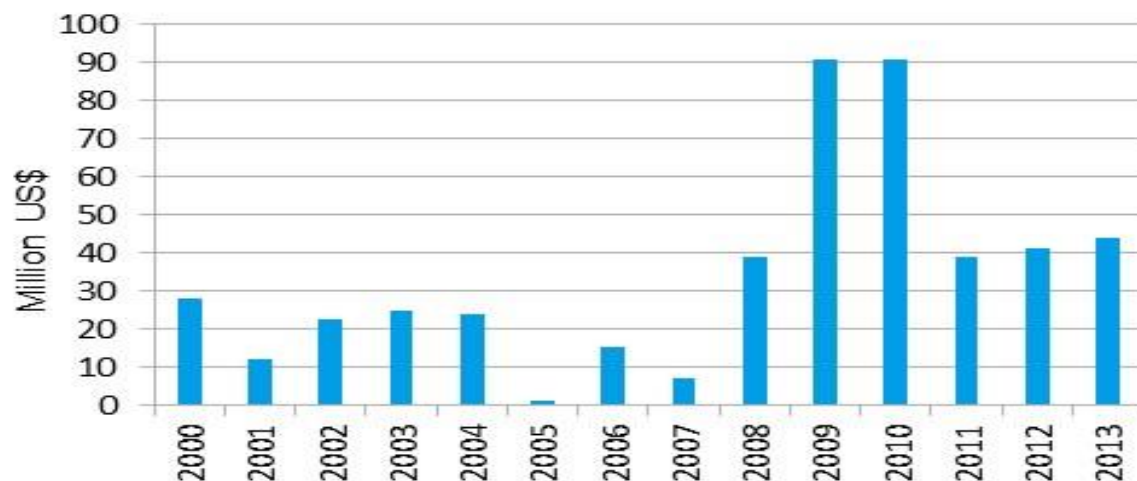
Although the recently released NIDP draft reconfirms the country's commitment to the creation of a modern, private sector-led economy, the period since the border war has seen the shrinking of the private sector and a growing direct role of the state in economic activities, due in part to the policies made in the wake of the border stalemate and consequent fallout within the region and globally. The average GDP growth rate between 2005 and 2010 GDP fell to - 0.7 percent. While the dip to -9.8 percent in 2008 is consistent with some of the worst effects of the global financial crisis on some countries, the average low growth rate of Eritrea during that period was almost consistently below the Sub- Saharan Africa average. This slow growth has not been conducive to Eritrea's attainment of its fundamental objectives of rapid growth and poverty reduction and poses a major development challenge for the GoSE and its development partners.

2.1.5.8 **Economic Recovery**

The first significant change came as a result of the rather significant investment in the mining sector. FDI in the sector peaked at \$90million in 2009 and 2010, compared to an average of half that volume in preceding years, resulting in the economy outperforming the African average in 2011 - 2012 as a number of mines came into production. GDP growth surged to 8.7 percent and 7.0 percent in 2011 and 2012 respectively. This impacted positively on fiscal management, with the budget deficit improving to an estimated 10.3 percent of GDP in 2013 from 15.5 percent in 2010, and with a projection for it to still improve.

Table 2:FDI Net Inflows⁹

⁹ Cited in the Eritrea CCA 2015



SOURCE: International Trade Centre

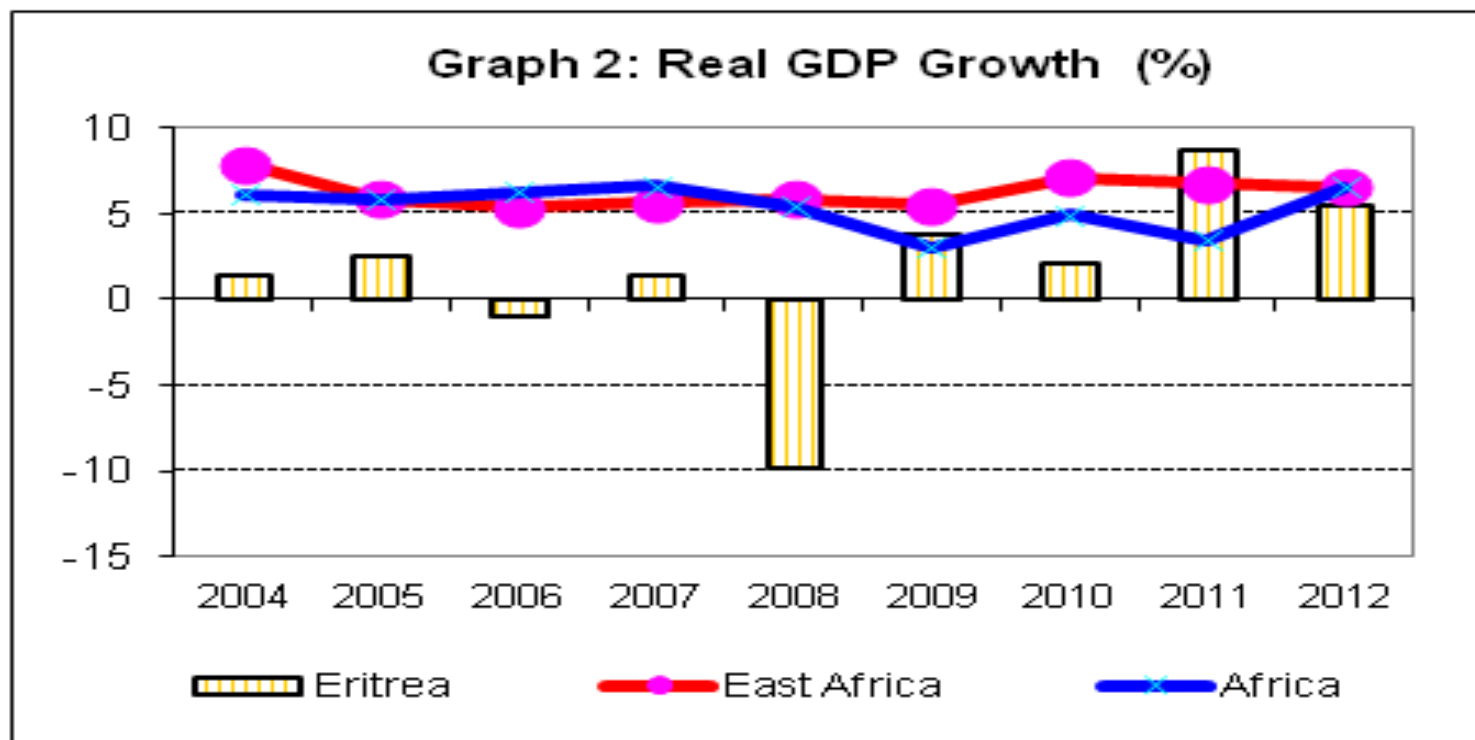
The surge was short-lived as it collapsed to 1.1 percent in 2013 and estimated 2.0 percent in 2014, which is largely “attributed to major crop failures and shortages of foreign exchange, which constrained importation of intermediate goods vital for the country’s industrial base”.¹⁰ Growth was projected to creep back up to 2.0% in 2014 and 2.1% in 2015.¹¹ Although the main driver of growth remains the increasing investments and production in the mining sector, over the medium term, there are further prospects in improved trade, the growth of the food sector and of the tourist industry. The NIDP sees long term investments in the modernisation of agriculture, industrialisation, infrastructure and information and communication technologies as key to achieving the balanced development aspired for.

Figure 1: Real GDP Growth 2004 - 2012¹²

¹⁰ AfDB, 2014

¹¹ Economic Intelligence Unit. (<http://country.eiu.com/Eritrea>)

¹² Cited in the Eritrea CCA 2015



Source: AfDB Statistics Department, African Economic Outlook, March 2013

This slow growth is not conducive to Eritrea's attainment of its fundamental objectives of rapid growth and poverty reduction and poses a major development challenge for the GoSE and its development partners.

Compared not only to the immediate post-independence period, but also to its own stated model of a private sector driven growth strategy, the economy is dominated by the public sector. This dissonance between stated policy and a de-facto state run economy has led to a situation of a lack of a coherent policy framework – for a long time the only policy documents available were sectoral strategic plans, without a national policy, except the original macro-policy paper of 1994. Hence there were no such instruments as the Medium Term Expenditure Frameworks (MTEF). To date there is no published budget in the country.

2.1.6 Social Development

GoSE inherited a completely broken down social infrastructure, with services devastated by the war and just neglected by successive colonial governments. By the time the liberation war ended the best functioning social infrastructure was in liberated territories run by the EPLF. Hence the priority of the GoSE was to develop the social sector, especially education, health and water and sanitation, seen as critical as both rights of the people and instrumental to development.

2.1.6.1 Education

The 1994 Macro-policy, the 2010 National Education Policy and the 2011 Adult Education Policy provide guidelines to uphold equitable access and delivery of quality education at all levels for all citizens. In Eritrea, education is seen as the main vehicle for poverty reduction, achieving equity, advancing national values and building national solidarity. Hence the Macro Policy objectives for education are:

- development of a population equipped with necessary skills, knowledge and culture for a self-reliant and modern economy;
- development of self-consciousness and self-motivation in the population to fight disease, attendant causes of backwardness and ignorance;
- Provision of basic education to all, regardless of their age, ethnic origin, sex and religion.

Much has been achieved in creating an educational system that responds to the needs expressed by the Eritrean government and society. New policies, standards, and guidelines were developed including: The National Education Policy, The Nomadic Education policy Early Learning Development Standards (ELDS) for holistic development of the child, ECD Parenting Enrichment manual, National Communication Strategy to increase girls' and other disadvantaged groups' access to primary education with translation to three local languages, The Complementary Elementary Education concept paper, EFA Action Plans developed and incorporated in the final EFA framework for Action. These strategic documents have been instrumental in responding to the educational needs and challenges of the disadvantaged groups and providing access to out of school children & nomadic populations (UNICEF, 2012).

The Education Sector Development Plan (ESP) further solidifies these objectives and provides for their implementation. The National Education Policy 2010 emphasises the value based citizen formation dimension of the education system, by stating that "Our education system aspires to produce all round citizens along with a firm commitment to country, people and social justice." This aspiration includes the development of creative and productive individuals who are capable of contributing towards the attainment of a modern, competitive, harmonious and self-reliant Eritrea.

The 2010 National Education Policy underlines the MoE's commitment on reaching the unreached and the goal for creating a literate society that can promote and facilitate good quality education to all children and at all levels. It calls for the provision of free and compulsory basic education; the use of the mother tongue as a medium of instruction at the elementary level; and the expansion of secondary and tertiary education opportunities as the most essential components of the education system. It also provides alternative routes for those who may not benefit from the formal provisions.

These include the Complementary Elementary Education (CEE) for children who fail to enrol into elementary school at the right age, education for pastoral communities, and adult literacy, which targets adults who missed out on their educational opportunities, and enables them, on certain conditions to enrol in colleges for further education (Ministry of Education, 2012).

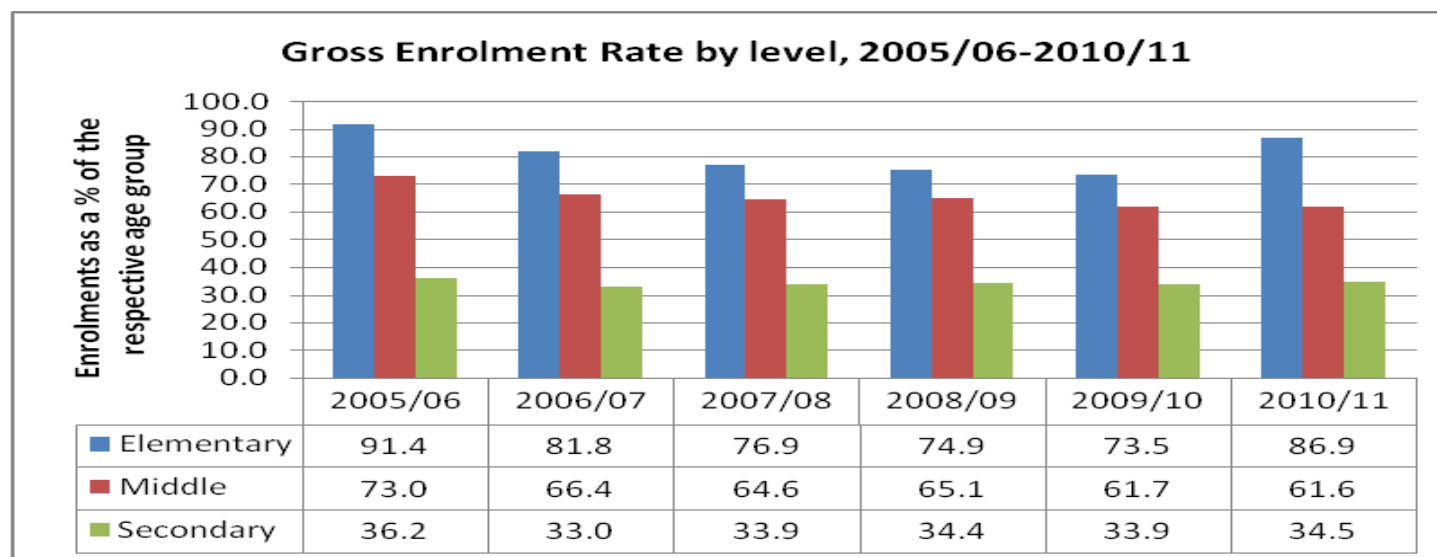
The above notwithstanding, investment in education remains low and not growing, actual enrolment ratios have not improved much. Remaining high at elementary level and low at middle and senior secondary levels (see Figure 3). The parallel Somali educational curriculum run in Umkulu Refugee Camp for KG, Primary and lower secondary levels, before merger into the Eritrean curriculum programme has run into difficulties occasioned by the departure of the well trained and qualified Somali teachers, leading to very low standards and high school drop-out rates. Retention is a pre-dominant problem, in so far as the same is not fully merged into the Eritrean national curriculum. Concern of refugee children developing socially unacceptable habits owing to no or low education, coupled with idleness merits timely attention, and key stakeholders consider the situation now dire, and threatening the principle of equality of access to education for all.

Table 3: Education Spending (including higher education) in the Context of GDP and Total Public Spending

	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual
Nkf	2008	2009	2010	2011
GDP US\$ Mn (World Bank)	\$1,380.2	\$1,856.7	\$2,117.0	\$2,609.0
GDP Nkf Mn (World Bank)	Nkf20,702.4	Nkf27,850.5	Nkf31,755.0	Nkf39,135.0
Total Education SpendingNkf Mn (MoF)	Nkf 763.8	Nkf908.6	Nkf1,038.2	Nkf1,036.4
Education Spending as % GDP	3.7%	3.3%	3.3%	2.6%
Education Spending as %Total Government Spending (MoF data)	8%	10%	8%	8%
Education Spending excluding Higher Education Nkf Mn (MoF)	Nkf 601.5			Nkf 823.1

Source: Education Sector Development Plan, 2013 – 2017, Asmara 2013

Figure 2: Gross Enrolment Rate by Level and Year, 2005/06 – 2010/11



Source: Education Sector Development Plan, 2013 – 2017, Asmara 2013

To address these challenges, the Ministry of Education Sector Plan was adopted and it designated the following priority areas as the most important for development over the coming five years (Ministry of Education, 2013):

- Increasing equitable enrolment in basic and secondary education through the construction of classrooms and ancillary facilities and targeted interventions aimed at girls and disadvantaged children.
- enhancing and expanding the provision of literacy and continuing education for adults and out of school youth;
- Improving the quality of basic, secondary and technical and vocational education by expanding teacher training and professional support, replacement of expatriate teachers by Eritreans at secondary level; development of curriculum and pedagogical reforms; improvement of educational support systems;

- Developing technical skills and technology training, by expanding existing technical schools and establishing new ones with due attention to cost-effectiveness and the technical skills and training geared to meet labour market demand. Training will be imparted in trades selected in consultation with the local industry to create strong employment linkages;
- Strengthening sector capacity to deliver better quality educational services by developing institutional capacity of the Ministry and regional offices in matters of policy planning, management, and monitoring and evaluation to implement the intended transformation of the education sector.

GoSE also expanded the education system by creating opportunities for tertiary education. Under the National Board of Institutions of Higher Education (NBIHE) there are seven new colleges, covering most of the essential disciplines - Eritrea Institute of Technology (Mai Nefhi), College of Health Sciences (Asmara), Orotta School of Medicine (Asmara), College of Business & Economics (Halhale), College of Marine Sciences and Technology (Massawa), Hamelmalo Agric. College (Hamelmalo), College of Arts & Social Sciences (Adi Keih). These colleges together represent the disciplines so far deemed essential for national development.

This expansion has no doubt begun to contribute towards meeting the capacity development needs, but both the volume and quality of graduates is still inadequate to significantly do so. The higher education system still needs massive financial, material, research, staff exchange, post graduate programmes and distance education support. (National Board for Higher Education, 2014).

Because education is seen as the foundation for capacity development, these efforts could resolve the challenge of capacity development. However, there is a need for a comprehensive approach to capacity development beyond just educational provision at all levels.

2.1.6.2 Health and nutrition

The goal of GoSE in health and nutrition is the improvement of health status, general well-being, longevity and economic productivity of all Eritreans (GoSE, 2014). While this has been an uphill task, progress towards these objectives has been made.

At independence in 1993 the main causes of childhood morbidity and mortality were malaria, diarrheal diseases, acute respiratory infections, vaccine preventable diseases and malnutrition. GoSE's policy was to focus on primary health care to tackle these challenges (GoSE, 2011). However, the resources were limited in the face of competing needs. Besides the size of the inherited challenges, the geo-political context described above made the prospect of meeting the challenges even more daunting. A strategy of both preventive primary health care and self-reliance was adopted and has remained the anchor for health provision in Eritrea.

The health provision architecture in Eritrea is a broad based three tier pyramid which privileges primary health care for the majority of the population and manages curative care with a carefully structured referral system.

Primary level of service consists of (I) Community-based health services with coverage of an estimated 2,000 to 3,000 people. This level provides BHCP based services by empowering communities, mobilizing and maximizing resources. The key delivery agent is the Community Health Worker under the leadership of the Village Health Committee. (ii) Health Stations offer facility-based primary health care services to a catchment population of approximately 5,000-10,000. (iii) Community Hospital is the referral facility for the primary health care level of service delivery serving a community of approximately 50,000-100,000 people.

Secondary level of services is provided by the regional (zonal) referral hospitals and second contact hospitals. They serve as referral facilities for the lower level facilities as well as teaching/training institutions for middle and operational level professionals and provide facilities for operational/applied research.

Table 4: The 3 Tier Health Provision System

Level of care	Health Facilities	Services provided
Primary level	Health stations/clinics (first contact and smallest health unit)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Preventative care focusing on immunisation, antenatal care, control and care of communicable diseases and basic curative services
	Health centres (larger than health stations)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Curative and preventative care, including polyclinic services, mother and child clinics, environmental sanitation, epidemic disease control and outreach services Supervision of health stations and provision of training to village health workers and traditional birth attendants
Secondary level	First contact hospitals at subzone level (generally located in regional capitals)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> General medical and obstetric care Basic laboratory support services Minor surgical procedures and deliveries and beds for inpatients Supervision of health centres in locality
	Zonal referral hospitals (located in regional capitals)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> General surgery, deliveries, laboratory, ophthalmic care, radiology, dental, obstetric and gynaecological services Used as clinical training sites
Tertiary level	National referral hospitals	<u>Specialised facilities located in Asmara serving whole country</u>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Orotta Hospital: medical and surgical cases for adults Orotta Paediatric Hospital Orotta Gynaecological and Obstetrics Hospital Behan Aini Ophthalmic Hospital St. Mary's Psychiatric Hospital

Source: MoH (2005).¹³

¹³ Cited in ODI: Progress in Health, "Progress in health in Eritrea: Cost-effective inter-sectoral interventions and a long-term perspective"

Tertiary level of service is provided by the national referral hospitals which are situated in the capital city- Asmara. They not only serve as national referral facilities but as centres of excellence for specialized training/ education, research and continuing education for acquisition of specialized health body of knowledge. There are still some referral hospitals in some of the regions – Mandefera for example. GoSE is also committed to principles of universal access; inter-sectoral approach to health; and to decentralization (GoSE, 2011).

The Health Sector Strategic Plan (HSSP) for the period 2012–2016, lays down principles to guide the health sector. These include; promoting equity in the provision of health service; ownership and participation; partnership and inter-sectoral collaboration; empowerment of individuals in households to prevent illness and maintain healthy lifestyles; efficiency through rationalization of health inputs; and government stewardship.

The Basic Health Care Package (BHCP) consists of three priority interventions: (i) maternal and child health and nutrition, (ii) prevention, control and management of communicable diseases and (iii) prevention, control and management of non-communicable diseases. These priority interventions are complemented by cross-cutting interventions, which include:-Environmental Health Services; Health Promotion and Education; Quality of Care; Support Supervision; Rehabilitative Health Care; Disaster/ Emergency Preparedness and Response and Occupational Health; as well as the essential and support health systems, which include:- Human Resource for Health Development and Management; Pharmaceuticals Procurement, Supply and Logistics Management; Biomedical Engineering; National Medicines Administration/ Regulation; Procurement and Supplies Management System; Transportation and Communication; Infrastructure Engineering; Laboratory and Diagnostic services; Medical Imaging Services; Blood Transfusion Services and Legal Affairs.

The policies, architecture and various strategies have produced impressive results. Most indicators for health, including the MDGs show that Eritrea has achieved more than the resources constraints would have suggested and ahead of many comparable countries.

Eritrea has succeeded in reducing its child mortality significantly and is currently on track with regard to attainment of MDGs 4, 5 and 6. The infant mortality rate decreased from 72 deaths per 1000 live births in 1995 to 48 deaths in 2002 and 42 deaths in 2010, which is lower than sub-Saharan Africa's average of 105 deaths. Under-five mortality rate dropped from 136 deaths per 1000 live births in 1995 to 93 deaths in 2002 and 63 deaths in 2010 compared with sub-Saharan Africa's average of 151 deaths. Maternal mortality ratio has declined from 998 per 100 000 live births in 1995 to 486 per 100 000 live births in 2010 (WHO, 2012).

Challenges, however, exist in the reduction of neonatal mortality. The outcomes of EDHS 1995 and 2002, and EPH S+ 2010 show that maternal mortality virtually stabilized at 25, 24 and 23 per 1000 live births respectively.

The eight major vaccine-preventable diseases (poliomyelitis, measles, diphtheria, tetanus, hepatitis B, TB, Haemophilus influenza type b and whooping cough) no longer pose any major public health challenge. The country has eliminated maternal and neonatal tetanus and reduced measles incidence to less than 90 percent of the 1991 levels.

The country has been certified as free of guinea-worm disease and has achieved polio-free status with the last polio case reported in 2006. The country is moving towards pre-elimination of malaria. In addition to the need to sustain these gains, areas with limited success such as control of tuberculosis and neglected tropical diseases are being addressed.

Since the adoption of the first strategic plan in 1997, the national HIV prevalence has steadily declined. Four sentinel sero-prevalence surveys conducted among pregnant women attending ANC services since 2003 show that HIV prevalence decreased from 2.47 % in 2003 to 2.38 % in 2005, 1.33 % in 2007, 1.31% in 2009, 0.79% in 2011 and 0.78% in 2013. The results of the Eritrea Population and Health Survey 2010 (EPHS 2010) indicate that 0.93% of Eritrean adults age 15-49 are infected with HIV with variations in age, sex, residential area and Zoba (0.28% for the 15-25 age group)

There has been significant progress in addressing Sexual and Reproductive Health issues. Through the Reproductive Health (RH) programmes the GoSE has been working towards reducing maternal mortality. The coverage and quality of their services continually improving to deliver RH information, services and commodities up to the local level. Free health care is offered to pregnant women and children under the age of 5, as well as better referral services, provision of emergency obstetric care, neonatal and assisted delivery services, and measures such as early treatment of malaria and provision of vitamin A supplements. The maternal mortality rate has been reduced from 998/100,000 live births in 1995 to 240 per 100,000 births and 35% of births are attended by skilled health personnel in 2010. Antenatal service coverage (at least one visit) in 2012 was 65.7% and increased by 45% compared to 1998. Emergency obstetric care functional health facilities increased from 40% in 2004 to 82.3% in 2012. Treating eclampsia with magnesium sulphate was introduced nationally in 2008, home based postpartum care initiated, maternal and prenatal death audit introduced, and neonatal tetanus was eliminated in 2004 and has been certified by the World Health Organization.

Figure 3: Progress in Reducing Under-5 Mortality Rate by Year 2015¹⁴

¹⁴ Eritrea Health MDGs Report 2014

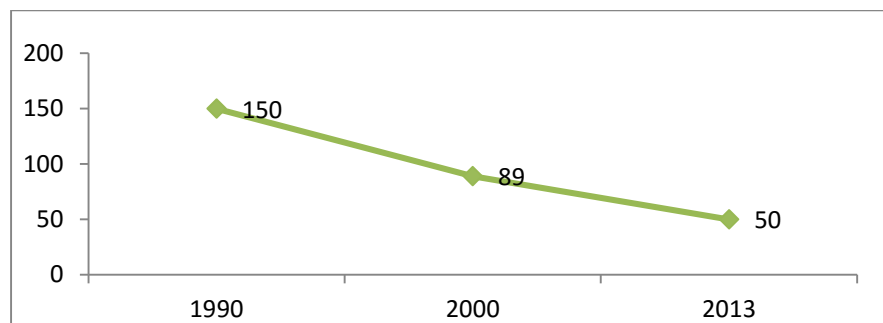
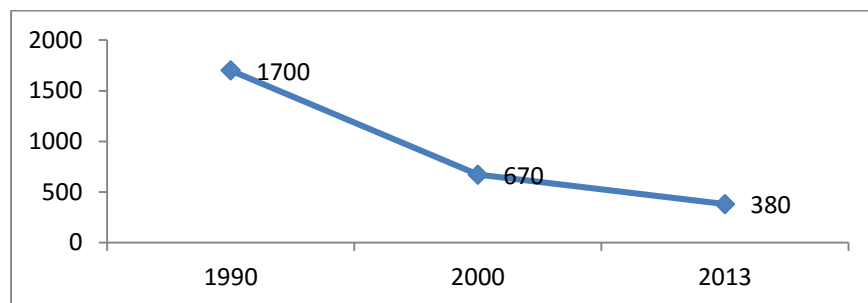


Figure 4: Maternal Mortality Ratio (MDG-5)



Source: World Health Statistics, 2014¹⁵

However, challenges remain and GoSE and its partners are committed to address them within the new SDG's framework.

The emerging epidemic and pandemic threats including dengue fever also require special attention. Non-communicable diseases (NCDs), especially diabetes, cardiovascular diseases, chronic obstructive pulmonary diseases and cancer, are on the rise. A recent survey (2010) shows a prevalence of 14.1 percent for hypertension and 4.7 percent for elevated blood sugar levels in the general population. The 24–75-year population that smokes daily is 7.2 percent, while 39.6 percent drink alcohol. Malnutrition remains one of the major public health problems in the country. In 2015, the malnutrition prevalence rate in the Somali Umkulu Refugee Camp in Massawa was measured at 19%, and is reflective of more or less the same dynamics in

¹⁵ Cited in Eritrea Health MDGs Report 2014

neighbouring communities. The supply of plumpy nut, CSB and other nutrition based supplements is needed more and will remain crucial for some time. (UNHCR 2015)

The issue of underage marriage and teen pregnancy, which contributes to maternal mortality and morbidity such as fistula is a critical challenge and has been being addressed by the SRH advocacy working with partners such as the NUEW. Gaps still exist in this area including increase in antenatal care (ANC) dropout rates; a persistently high unmet need for family planning; and inadequate competencies for SRH/MNH including for ASRH, FP, ENC. Sepsis is emerging as a major cause of maternal mortality. Additionally, strategies aimed at improving skilled birth attendance should be further strengthened in order to attain all the targets of MDG 5. There have been efforts to improve the health system in order to deliver services to the population in an equitable manner focusing on Primary Health Care (PHC) (WHO, 2012).

Table 5

Goal 6: Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases					
Target 6 A: Have halted by 2015 and begun to reverse the spread of the HIV/AIDS					
Indicator 1: HIV prevalence among population aged 15-24 years	1993-95	2001-03	2010	2013	Target 2015
	-	2.4	0.93	-	0
Indicator 2: Condom use at last high-risk sex (%) (Male)	-	2	91.9	-	100
Indicator 3: Proportion of population aged 15-24 years with comprehensive correct knowledge of HIV/AIDS (%)	-	96	27.9	-	100
Male			33.8		
Female			24.7		
Indicator 4: Ratio of school attendance of orphans to school attendance of non-orphans aged 10-14 years	-	-	95.3	-	100
Male			104.1		
Female			89.5		
Target 6B: Achieve by 2010 universal access to treatment for HIV/AIDS for all those who need it					
Indicator 1: Proportion of population with advanced HIV/AIDS infection with access to antiretroviral drugs	-	-	-	-	100
Target 6C: Have halted by 2015 and begun to reverse the incidence of malaria and other major disease					

Indicator 1: Incidence and death rates associated with malaria (per 1,000)	-	36	12	-	0
Indicator 2: Proportion of children under 5 sleeping under insecticide-treated bed-nets	-	4	27.9	-	100
Male			28.4		
Female			27.4		
Indicator 3: Proportion of children under 5 with fever who are treated with appropriate anti-malarial drugs		4	1.5	-	100
Male			1.8		
Female			1.2		
Indicator 4: Incidence, prevalence and death rates associated with tuberculosis				2011	
Male		70	97	97	0
Female		-	-	151	0
		-	-	4.7	0
Indicator 5: Proportion of tuberculosis cases detected and cured under directly observed treatment short course		85	-	-	100

Combat HIV/AIDS, Malaria and Other Diseases

Source: Eritrea Population and Health Survey (EPHS) (2010); Eritrea DHS (1995; 2002); HDR, 2011

Eritrea is vulnerable to natural disasters including earthquakes and volcanic eruptions. The country is also vulnerable to climate change variability with attendant droughts and floods. These pose a challenge to health and health service delivery including an increase in

communicable diseases as well as preparedness of the health sector to provide adequate response in line with the regional strategies on disaster risk management, and health and environment. The major focus of the Government and its partners as agreed through various dialogues is to sustain the achievements, improve on them, and address the existing and emerging challenges (WHO, 2012) (GoSE, 2011).

2.1.6.3 *Water sanitation and shelter*

Eritrean water consumption continues to be low compared to globally recommended minimum daily intake. The 2012 survey estimated daily average consumption at between 14–15 litres per person per day compared to globally recommended minimum daily usage of 20 litres. Water usage rates also show some regional variation. This data indicates the continuing need for sustainable improvement even against the success of progress to-date. UN data showed that in 1990 just 43 percent of the population had access to safe water implying a 2015 MDG target of 72%. According to the EPHS 2010, 49.9% of the rural population had access to improved water supply compared to 72.9% access for the urban population giving an overall figure of 57.9% access to improved water supplies across the country. GoSE is committed to ensuring access to improved drinking water sources in rural communities and to improved sanitation and hygiene services. Even when in 2011 it decided to disengage from the implementation of the UNDAF 2007 -2011, one of the key sectors it requested continuity in was the water and sanitation sector.

In 2006, only 58 percent of the population had access to safe water sources and there was no specific water and sanitation policy to address this challenge, and only 4 percent had means for practising proper water use and hygiene, both at home and at school. There was limited availability of latrines in rural areas and the risk of disease from open defecation was high (UNICEF, 2012).

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The magnitude of the poor sanitation problem facing post-independence Eritrea was shown by UN data that just 9% of the population (58% urban, nil rural) had access to an improved sanitation facility in 1990. By 2010 only 11.3% of the population overall and only 3.5% of the rural population had access to improved sanitation (EPHS 2010). The adoption of the community-led total sanitation (CLTS) approach by the GoSE in 2007 has accelerated sanitation coverage, accompanied by attention to sanitation practices toward safe hygiene. This has enabled a growing number of villages and communities to be declared open defecation free, although too many continue to be dependent upon unimproved latrines (UNICEF, 2015).

In terms of the sustainability of existing water supply systems an assessment conducted by Ministry of Water, Land and Environment (MoWLE) in 2012 indicated that only 43% of hand-pumps and 60% of water pumping systems were functional. Of the non-functioning water supply schemes, almost 45% had not been working for over two years and were to all intents and purposes abandoned with users having to find alternative water sources. Lack of spare or replacement parts is stated as the major bottleneck to maintaining functionality of the scheme's water lifting devices. The assessment states that 50% of the non-functioning devices lack spare parts however this percentage is certainly higher with 33% of devices reported as "broken".

Knowledge of safe hygiene practices is fairly high in Eritrea with almost 97% of people understanding the importance of washing their hands before eating and 71% recognising washing hands after defecation as the appropriate time to wash hands. The hygiene promotion aspect of the CLTS programme which mobilises and trains Community Hygiene Promoters who volunteer to support households in the communities with hygiene promotion information. However, in those villages declared ODF just under 60% of households reported being visited by the Community Hygiene Promoters indicating that there is room for improvement. Mass media campaigns on hygiene messages are conducted at various times of the year such as Global Handwashing Day and World Toilet day which disseminate hygiene messages in local languages through TV, radio, newspapers, public banners etc.

For institutional WASH, that is WASH facilities in Health Centres and schools, there is a need for better assessment of the WASH situation. Currently neither the Health nor the Education Management Information Systems include data on the status of WASH facilities in health centres or schools. Provision of access to safe, gender appropriate and inclusive WASH facilities in health centres is critical to ensuring safe delivery of health care and in schools to help promote health, cognitive capacity and creativity of school children and determine the quality of education.

A gradual upgrade to sustainable water practises such as the use of solar water pumps is evidenced in certain areas and would be the way forward, and especially for arid and semi-arid regions of the country. Three studies - Rural Water Supply Coverage and Functionality, Latrine Coverage and KAP Study and Assessment of WASH facilities in Health Care Centres in 2011 – were carried out and a Rural Sanitation Policy was developed and the National Water Policy was reviewed. The coverage of people with access to improved rural water supply increased from 58 percent in 2006 to 68 percent in 2012.

In rural sanitation, the Community Led Total Sanitation programme was initiated in 2008 and since then, a total of 165 villages have been declared open defecation free benefitting about 344,660 people with access to basic sanitation facilities. The coverage has increased from 4 percent in 2006 to 25 percent in 2012. However, the rural water coverage in this report is given as 54.8% - with a drop from 67.9% due to lack of investment in infrastructure & non functionality of 35% of water supply systems.¹⁶ The coverage figure was given as 49% in 2006. The EPHS 2010 gives a rural water coverage of 50%, only one percentage point increase in six years.

Eritrea is one of the few countries in Africa that has achieved the health related MDGs (4, 5 and 6, i.e. reduction of child 11mortality; reduction of maternal mortality and combating HIV and AIDS)¹⁷. Even though limited data does not permit comprehensive conclusions, the country appears to be making good progress on the crucial area of environmental sustainability. Much still remains to be done especially in MDGs 1 and 2; eradication of extreme poverty and hunger, and attainment of universal primary education, as all indicators are below target¹⁸.

2.1.6.4 Capacity Development

Capacity development (CD) in the public sector in Eritrea is the responsibility of each sector ministry. There is no central body responsible for national plans and strategies for CD. However, the existence of significant capacity gaps is felt throughout the system, and the need for a comprehensive strategy is evident.

¹⁶ Rural water Supply Coverage & Functionality Status Survey & Analysis WRD 2012 - page 5 Executive summary

¹⁷ Eritrea is now quoted as among 4 out of 46 countries in Sub-Saharan Africa (alongside Cape Verde, Mauritius and Seychelles) as one of 16 countries in the developing world on track to attain MDG 4 (Reduce Child Mortality) by 2015.

¹⁸ Eritrea MDG Report 2006.

These capacity gaps have been a bottleneck in Eritrea's development efforts. If the government's vision of a prosperous, peaceful, just, self-reliant and inclusive Eritrea is to be achieved, the country needs Eritreans with the capacity to deliver services in the public and private sectors. Education was not a high priority before independence. Enrolment at all levels was low at the time of independence and there was only one university. Professional skills formation was very limited. although after independence many efforts were employed to address this problem a lot remains to be done. National service and the high state of mobilisation Though helpful to some national priorities in supporting national building and defence of the country, there is limited participation in other regular labour markets.

The Government has been dealing with the problem partly by rehabilitating its own training institutes in the country and partly by importing foreign experts on a temporary basis but the long-term solution lies in a concerted national effort aimed at increasing educational and skill development opportunities. The Government has made considerable progress in both expanding enrolment and making it more accessible to girls as well as to boys. It has also invested in the expansion of tertiary education by, among other things, creating several colleges around the country from the former University of Asmara. It has also created vocational training institutions for artisan training for young people who do not have the grades for university. Government seeks support for the further development of this system in terms of increased physical infrastructure, teacher education and curriculum development. (UNDP Eritrea, 2014).

There are different capacity requirements and thus different approaches and policies are necessary to achieve them. The education policies already provide for individual capacity development through education and training. Institutional capacities required for public sector policy making, leadership and management, private sector capacity to do business and civil society capacity to analyse, advocate and support implementation of agreed programmes are also required.

2.1.6.5 *Gender and Women's Empowerment*

The approach to gender relations, along with the social transformation characterising governance in the liberated areas, would naturally take time to mainstream in the whole country. But GoSE has maintained its commitment.

The Eritrean Constitution, ratified in 1997, guarantees equal rights for women and men. Although the Constitution has not been formally implemented, references to it and subsequent actions attest to the fact that with regards to gender equity, it is an important guiding document. A number of decrees before and after the 1997 address key equity issues in particular a decree proving for women's equal rights in land ownership, within family and marriage, before the law, in inheritance and in passing on their citizenship to their children.

Eritrea ratified a number of international conventions as soon as she was eligible for membership. She acceded to the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) on September 5, 1995. Other conventions relevant to gender equity which she acceded to were the International Convention on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the International Convention on Civil and Political Rights in 1999, and the

African Charter on Human and People's Rights also in 1999. Eritrea has been committed right from the onset to the Beijing Declaration and Global Platform for Action and has been implementing along with the CEDAW, which was translated into most local languages **Invalid source specified..**

A number of policies and strategies were also developed and programmes implemented. The gender policy is premised on both the recognition that development cannot be achieved when half the population is disadvantaged as well as on the recognition of the right of women to equitable treatment and access in all spheres of society and the recognition of the historical disadvantaging of women necessitating additional measures to deliberately and affirmatively open up opportunities for women.

The policy ensured that gender issues are mainstreamed into all development planning and implementation processes. The policy was accompanied by a National Gender Action Plan (NGAP) which focused on political empowerment, economic and social empowerment, education and training, women's health and well-being and women in difficult situations **Invalid source specified..** Most of the official strategic documents such as the Indicative Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (I-PRSP), the national indicative plans and the sectoral strategic plans incorporate gender issues and have specific interventions planned.

As a result of all these policy and strategic interventions, progress on gender has been significant in Eritrea. Access to education and training for girls has been improved, leading to some progress, though little, in meeting the target of raising the ratio of girls to boys in primary school and scoring "major progress" on ration of females to males with some education. While the effort has brought significant progress, the statistics of female students in elementary, middle, and secondary schools still lag behind their male counterparts in terms of enrolment and repetition. More robust interventions are still needed to achieve equity.

Major interventions that benefit women have been made in the context of health provision, especially reproductive health, all of which is covered in the discussion under health. Suffice it to state here that the policy and strategic provisions have been put in place and much progress has been registered and impressive results have been achieved especially through its partnership with the National Union of Eritrean Women (NUEW). But challenges still remain and more needs to be done as the struggle for gender equity and women empowerment still continues as there are traditional and cultural practices that still oppress women. These are discussed in the next section.

2.1.6.6 *Youth Migration*

As mentioned under the discussion on population, youth migration has become one of the biggest social, political and economic challenges for Eritrea, with thousands leaving the country per month. The Commission of Inquiry on Human Rights violations in Eritrea reports that several hundred thousand Eritreans have fled the country since 2002. According to UNHCR the rate of migration is increasing, with 37,000 Eritreans having sought refuge in Europe by November 2014, compared to almost 13,000 during the same period in 2013, and approximately 2,500 in 2012 (UNHCR, 2014). Twenty-two per cent of the people arriving by boat in Italy during this period are said to be Eritrean, making Eritreans the second largest group to

arrive in Italy by boat, after Syrians. Eritreans are assumed to be among the high numbers dying while crossing the Mediterranean Sea trying to reach Europe.

According to the UNHCR report, there are currently more than 216,000 Eritrean refugees in Ethiopia and Sudan. Sudan has been hosting Eritrean refugees for more than forty years, which makes it one of Africa's most protracted refugee situations. Eritreans started to arrive in Ethiopia in 2002, after the end of the conflict between the two countries.

Different reasons are advanced for the migration. Most international organisation and governments cite political repression, human rights violations and the mandatory and often open-ended national service as reasons given by the refugees. On the other hand, GoSE emphasises a deteriorating economy, political isolation, the UN sanctions and insecurity as a result of the 'no war no peace' situation with Ethiopia. The Yemen crisis has exacerbated the situation putting the already vulnerable youth at the risk of being lured into terrorism related activities.

The migration deprives the country and the economy of people in their prime, who are more educated and trained, undermining further the capacity development efforts of GoSE. There are demographic and livelihood consequences in that the bulk of the migrants are young men. Not only does this distort the gender ratio, but it leaves behind female headed households, which further exacerbates the poverty situation.

There is a growing consensus that the issue needs to be addressed urgently and at source. The strategies include accelerating economic development, in particular employment creation, and addressing the issue of national service, especially its tendency to be indefinite. GoSE acknowledges that unemployment is one of the biggest challenges to youth and their families and it is one of the push factors for youth migration. Thus, it has in collaboration with UNDP and the Norwegian Ministry of Justice initiated a country-wide Youth Employment and Skills Development Project targeting to train 2,500 youth by the end of 2016 and also designed to stimulate the youth to self-support and/or get opportunity to work in private and parastatal companies by providing practical vocational skills and entrepreneurship capabilities, as well as providing business start-up financing and small scale business schemes.

The EU has argued that recommending blanket international protection to all Eritrean migrant's risks creating an additional pull factor for irregular migration. It has thus included in their Eritrea EDF 11 cooperation programme, a programme aimed at improving the living conditions of Eritreans and the economy, as a medium-term measure to address the root causes of migration.

It is also expected that the GoSE's opening up to the international community after a period in which most embassies, Bretton Wood institutions and UN agencies closed their presence in the country, will help to improve the situation. It's participation in the UPR process, its engagement in the Khartoum Process, a regional group designed to curb human-trafficking, will help stem the tide.

2.2 ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

Eritrea is one of the most vulnerable countries in the world to the vagaries of weather and climate, due mainly to increased climatic variability, recurring drought, flash flooding, and sea level rise. Rainfall is also expected to be seriously affected by climate change, varying by a ratio ranging from 0.1 to 0.15 mm. Such long term changes in climate will have serious adverse impacts on agriculture, water resources, forestry, coastal environments, and human health at the national level affecting regional and global conditions (IEO , 2014).

The effect of this vulnerability is already evident. It is affecting agriculture where rainfall patterns and longevity have changed with devastating effect on cultivable crop types, appearance of new pests, longer droughts and floods. Recurrent drought, warmer temperatures and high evaporation rates are resulting in smaller stream flows, lower groundwater levels, deterioration in water quality, and disappearance of base flows, which are the source of water supply for urban, rural, livestock and industry. There is also an impact on forests, where reduced soil moisture adversely affects the growth of shrubs and trees, which leads to shortages of biomass for energy and house construction, and a decline in other biomass products.

According to the IEO evaluation cited above, the sea temperature rise has already had a negative effect on coral reefs and on the fisheries that they support. Temperature changes impact on food and nutrients supply, growth, survival, reproduction, prey-predator dynamics and habitat. There are increased instances of toxic algal blooms (e.g. red tide) and mangroves and sea grasses are being impacted through altered sediment budgets.

Eritrea is endowed with the natural terrestrial habitats characteristic of the region, the diverse agro-ecosystems which have developed as a result of traditional agricultural activities in the region and the coastal marine and island ecosystems of the Red Sea. It is part of the Eastern African Highlands and Horn of Africa global biodiversity hotspot. High proportions of species in each category are endemic to the country and the sub-region, and are thus critical to the ecological balance.

Human influence, exacerbated by war and drought has placed increasing pressure on the natural terrestrial biodiversity of the country as well on the agro-biodiversity. The marine ecosystems of the Eritrean Red Sea region, which have remained relatively undeveloped, are still comparatively unaffected (DoE, 2000).

Some genetic erosion of the agro-biodiversity is already occurring, as the species such as sorghum, barley and teff, which are most genetically diverse in the Eritrean and Ethiopian highlands, are being replaced by High Yielding Varieties as farmers attempt to compensate for the diminished productivity of an unhealthy ecosystem (IEO , 2014).

Vulnerability to climate change is a major issue for an agrarian society where the large majority directly depends on land resources for their livelihoods. Climate change and their vulnerability to it, present challenges to crop and vegetable farming and cultivation, livestock rearing, forestry conservation, water resource management, coastal and marine environmental protection and the safeguarding of public health.

“Anthropogenic factors, both occurring at local and global levels are the main driving forces of the climate change in Eritrea.” (IEO , 2014) At the national level, as everywhere else in the world, greenhouse gas emissions from agricultural activities, forest activities, manure management, and methane emissions from livestock are contributory factors to climate change. Given the rural nature of Eritrean society, heavy dependence on biomass to meet household energy requirements has had an adverse effect on the forest cover of the country. This has resulted in desertification, degradation, diminishing biodiversity, reduction in grain yields, and a reduction in livestock production.

Within this context, major and urgent environmental issues faced by Eritrea are continued deforestation, desertification, soil erosion, overgrazing, and significant land loss as a result of the presence still of hundreds of thousands of land mines (IEO , 2014). Significant strides towards sustainability and environmental recovery have been made by the Government of Eritrea. It has embarked on a program to reforest (which in 1900 was 30% forested land, despite heavy logging) and prevent wood from being used as a fuel source. Land Degradation is a central issue causing serious concern. Lack of proper land use practices is the primary cause of degradation. In the central and the northern highlands, the land degradation is mainly due to water erosion.

As the main form of land use in Eritrea is agriculture and pastorals, land management is the prime concern to protect the arable land from land degradation. The major constraint facing soil conservation and water management have been the traditional land tenure system known as ‘Dessa’ System (village ownership). The heavy dependence on biomass fuel has led to aggravated deforestation, soil erosion and flooding.

10. Deforestation is another cause of concern, with a fall of forest cover to less than 1% as compared to 30% in the last century. Factors like agriculture expansion, increased firewood consumption, heavy livestock grazing, internal strife and construction of traditional houses known as ‘Hidmo’40 in rural are associated with the loss of forest cover.

Water is a scarce commodity in Eritrea, with no perennial water source, all rivers and their tributaries being mostly seasonal and intermittent. Ground water is the major source of water. But no drinking water standards have been formulated which resulted in increase in water pollution affecting the quality of ground water. There is high amount of fluoride which is also a chemical detrimental to human health. Sanitation and solid waste management are other issues that need to be addressed. Industrialization in Eritrea started quite early which resulted in industrial pollution as the machinery and technology can be outdated.

The GoSE’s response to the challenge of the environment has been robust and Eritrea has one of the most comprehensive environmental strategies in Sub-Saharan Africa. The principles underlying the environmental legal and policy framework in Eritrea stem from the National Charter of the Popular Front for Democracy and Justice (PFDJ) and subsequently promulgated laws, proclamations, directives and legal notices, as well as international conventions and protocols that the country has acceded to. Following the attainment of its independence in 1993, Eritrea has been actively engaged in preparing and establishing environmental laws and regulations and promoting relevant policies and strategies.

All GoSE strategic documents consistently include analysis of environmental dimensions of the strategy in question. The Macro-Policy Document (GoSE, 1994) sets out Eritrea's national development strategy, premised on the pursuit of and adherence to the guiding principles of human-centred, efficient, sustainable and equitable development. The policy addresses the need and strategy to minimise negative environmental impact of any chosen development strategy. Sustainable use of natural resources is enshrined in the 1997 Constitution (Article 8, Sub-Article3).

In addition, the GoSE developed and adopted the National Environmental Management Plan (NEMP) for Eritrea in 1995 as the primary policy document to guide the environmental sector. The policy lays out a strategy for environmental conservation (IEO , 2014). The plan comprises four parts (A-D):

- Part A: The overview, considers environmental and developmental prospects for Eritrea
- Part B: The major environmental and development issues confronting Eritrea
- Part C: the major steps and responses involved in an integrated environmental and development planning process
- Part D: Requirements for implementation of the plan and its associated project activities, institutional prerequisites, and financial/human resources.

The Ministry of National Development's 2009 National Development Planning Framework clearly stipulates that environmental issues should be mainstreamed in all development policies, plans, programs and projects. It also exhorts adherence to strict environmental standards protecting, restoring and enhancing the country 's environment. Annex 2 shows GoSE's progress in the legal, regulatory and policy framework for environment in Eritrea.

3 KEY DEVELOPMENT CHALLENGES

Eritrea's development trajectory was set during the independence decade, and the country got off to an excellent start until the breakout of the border war. The vision has remained constant, in terms of stated public policy. While a lot has been achieved, the situation analysis above has shown that the country still faces many challenges in its pursuit of this vision.

The 2015 Mid Term Review found that some progress had been made towards achieving the outcomes – insignificant in some and more significant in others. This assessment concludes that the development challenges have remained the same in spite of the progress that has been made. A lot more needs to be done in the same priority areas. The SPCF 2013 – 2016 was sub-titled “driving towards the MDGs”. Indeed, it made an important contribution to the achievement of, and progress towards the MDGs, with Eritrea achieving virtually all the health MDGs, making significant progress in the rest except poverty reduction and partnerships. The GoSE has committed to taking forward the remaining challenges and address these within

the framework of the new SDGs to which it has made a strong commitment. The SDGs not only continue with some of the same goals but state these in terms perfectly harmonious with the way Eritrean public discourse articulates them.

The NIDP puts into context the sectoral strategic plans which have hitherto guided national development processes. All these national and international analyses and agreements taken together, suggest a number of development challenges from which focused priorities could be derived. Meeting all of these challenges would constitute fundamental progress towards fulfilling the rights of all Eritreans. A strategic framework would need to be developed to help strategic sequencing of the process of addressing these challenges. And these challenges are: governance, economic development, food security; emergency and recovery, education; health and nutrition; water, sanitation and shelter; environment, energy and natural resources management; infrastructure development; human and institutional capacity development and; information and communication technology

3.1 POLITICAL CONTEXT

3.1.1 Binding Constraints Unique to Eritrea

Binding constraints in this context refers to those constraints that have become so pervasive that GoSE's degrees of freedom are so exogenously constrained that policy options are affected by, but have no capacity to autonomously influence these constraints. The border induced stalemate is one such constraint, as it has precipitated policies, decisions and events that have cumulatively become givens in policy making. The second unique feature about the Eritrean situation is the state of hostility with the international community on whom it could have depended for development resources.

These constraints impact the policy and strategic choices, while they are not within the purview of GoSE to resolve on their own. They have resulted in depletion of financial resources as both development aid and FDI have slowed, impacting the volume of inflows, the capacity to import, and to fund social services. The UN, in spite of its continuous presence in the country has not been able to mobilise all the resources required because of limited development partners engaged in the country. Program implementation remains a challenge due to limited capacities, the external challenges facing the country and the recent fiscal policies which are likely to limit cash flow. The third binding constraint is dominance of the economy by the public sector. While this is within the purview of GoSE to change, it has become so pervasive that policy options have to take its constraining effect for granted.

The other level of binding constraints is the natural endowment of the country. Eritrea is located in the Horn of Africa region, where arid and semi-arid climatic conditions prevail, making the country vulnerable to recurring droughts and environmental fragility.

There cannot be any meaningful development unless these constraints, which affect every facet of the economy and society, are addressed. They cannot be separated from the macro and sectoral development challenges. And yet addressing them requires diplomatic engagements at the highest global levels.

3.1.2 Governance

Governance is arguably the most difficult challenge faced by the country. Due to various reasons discussed throughout this assessment - the disruption caused by the border war, the continuation of the state of conflict in spite of not being at war and the consequent policy, strategic and bureaucratic choices made by GoSE in response to that situation - the constitution has still not been implemented and therefore the transitional arrangements were not replaced by the provisions of the new constitution as expected. Rather than be seen as the GoSE sees it, that is a situation in response to the stalemate, influential constituencies interpret the situation as a decision to adopt a non-democratic path to development, with all the consequences that have flown from that interpretation. The fact that even the Transitional Assembly has not met since 2002 is seen as further evidence that the GoSE is not keen on political participation. The key challenges for the GoSE are to overcome the perception of bad governance, to fulfil its commitments on human rights and other treaties, to manage the reengagement with the international community, to strengthen the key governance institutions such as parliament, the judiciary and to introduce transparency in key processes such as the budget and other decision making, so that citizens appreciate how and what decisions are made and by whom, in order to improve accountability. These challenges are both political will and institutional capacity.

3.2 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CONTEXT

The Government of Eritrea has declared that its economic development priority areas are; modernisation of agriculture, industrialisation, infrastructure and information and communication technologies. However, from the analysis in this assessment, Eritrea's economic conditions remain challenging as a result of international isolation and UN sanctions, the global economic slowdown, a difficult macroeconomic situation, and limited physical and human capital. High budget deficits, resulting mainly from large military expenditure, and a large social safety net, restrict the government's ability to maintain prudent fiscal targets (The World Bank , 2015 (updated)). Revenue has dropped over time as a percentage of GDP, from, for example about 50% in 2003 to less than 19% in 2009, partly due to decline in private sector activity, and development assistance and the diaspora tax. This decline, however, has been being increasingly made up for by the revenue from the mining sector and some improvement in fiscal management. The danger remains of the dependence on these because of both uncertainty of demand and instability of prices. Bold decisions regarding the management of the economy need to be made, in particular progressively enabling private sector participation.

3.2.1 Food security

To enhance food security requires several measures that are not currently all in place – increased food production is the key, and that hinges on “a number of factors namely: irrigation development, water control and management; land tenure; agriculture infrastructure; research and innovation; labour supply and appropriate technology; women's increased participation in modern agriculture; marketing; institutional capacity building; and agricultural data collection, processing and dissemination” (UN Eritrea, 2005). This needs to be supplemented with national capacity to import adequate quantities to make up for the production shortfall.

3.3 SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT CONTEXT

3.3.1 Education

While much has been achieved in education, a lot still remains to be done. Little progress has been made in increasing the proportion of pupils starting first grade who reach fifth grade and ratio of girls to boys in primary school. This is a major gap both in terms of the MDGs and GoSE long term view of social justice. The linkage between high school and tertiary education is also seen as a major challenge as it contributes to the capacity gap that characterise all sectors of the economy and society. School retention and drop-out rates for children from vulnerable groups (including refugees) will need to be improved as well. Teacher education still lags behind educational expansion and a systematic approach needs to be adopted.

3.3.2 Health and Nutrition

Stakeholders agree that the key health system challenges include the need for improving management of human resources for health including skill mix and retention; addressing the fragmentation of health information; developing appropriate health financing policy and strategies; and improving access to and rational use of safe medicines and technologies. Gaps and challenges in service delivery include the capacity to provide comprehensive and quality health care; the fact that the referral system is not being followed by the majority of those who attend health facilities; and limited availability of transportation and communication, particularly in areas where health facilities are located far from the population or are underequipped both technically and in terms of human resource manpower. The need to increase health posts is synonymous with that of improving quality health care, including to meet specific needs of certain vulnerable groups, for instance persons with disabilities, nomadic groups, and refugees.

3.4 ENVIRONMENT SUSTAINABILITY AND ENERGY CONTEXT

Despite the comparatively extensive provision for environmental sustainability considerations in development in key documents, challenges remain. The 2014 Independent Evaluation Office (IEO) evaluation report summarises the challenges well.

- Although National Environmental Impact Assessment Procedures and Guidelines (NEAPG) have been developed, there is no general environmental law to enforce the guidelines except in the mining and petroleum sectors (IEO , 2014). In addition, there are gaps in the adequacy of human and environmental data information, the centrality of EIA in decision making, and formal provision of Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) of programs, plans and policies.
- The draft nature of legal and policy instruments: Some have been in draft form for almost a decade - for example the Environmental Law.
- Some laws and regulations could be further implemented /enforced: Reasons, include lack of detailed implementation procedures and guidelines, i.e., any legal instrument will require well prepared and binding instruments that guide not only implementation but also noncompliance.

- Inadequate sensitization and awareness raising campaigns: Sensitization to the public and awareness raising to key stakeholders are two key elements that are needed for the effective and efficient implementation of any legal framework
- Exchange of experience and information sharing: Information sharing and exchange of experiences play a critical role in the preparation of an effective and efficient legal instrument.
- Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E): There is a need for simple and clear M&E instruments with simple and achievable indicators and parameters. Capacity Limitations: In most governmental institution there are few experts with the requisite capacity to prepare legal documents and guides, particularly in the area of environment. The condition is exacerbated when local and/or international consultants, with limited capacity are recruited to do the job (IEO , 2014).

3.4.1 Physical Infrastructure Development

The NIDP has laid out an extensive infrastructure development plan, which would enable development in all the other areas such as education and health as well as the rest of the economy. Some of the infrastructure in whose rehabilitation a lot has already been invested are lying idle due to the border situation. This situation cannot continue indefinitely.

3.4.2 Capacity Development

Institutional capacities required for public sector policy making, leadership and management, private sector capacity to do business and civil society capacity to analyse, advocate and support implementation of agreed programmes are required. The main medium to long term challenge for capacity development is the lack of national capacity development policy and strategy that is derived from the national development strategy. Capacity development interventions that have taken place hitherto have been sporadic and sector specific. To meet this challenge requires a central institutional anchor for such a national priority.

3.4.3 Information and Communications Technology

The NIDP sets the GoSE objective as to “achieve an average tele-density of 10 main telephone lines per 100 inhabitants and increase the number of internet users to 15 people per 100 inhabitants by 2018” (GoSE, 2014). The government intends to make a comparatively heavy investment in the telecommunications infrastructure in the next four years

4 PARTNERSHIPS, STAKEHOLDERS AND THE UNITED NATIONS COMPARATIVE ADVANTAGE

Eritrea’s development strategies are anchored in the country’s fundamental commitment to the principle of self-reliance. The people themselves are the key agents of their own development and Government has the responsibility to enable and support. Outside assistance is sought only when local resources, both technical and financial, have gone as far as they can. Development partners are, therefore, a last resort (in the positive sense of the

expression) in a hierarchy of self-reliance that starts with the community all the way to national government. Development partnership and stakeholders therefore include all levels of Eritrean society involved in different mutually beneficial partnerships. GoSE is the key agent for development, facilitating as it does people's efforts at local, regional and national levels on the one hand and interfacing with the international level on the other.

It is common practice in countries where the UN has a significant presence for the UN to support the country's resource mobilisation efforts, even for support to programme areas beyond those supported by the UN. In Eritrea the scope for such support is limited, partly because of the self – reliance approach but also because of the very limited availability of donors interested in supporting the country at this stage. These two reasons could also indicate an even bigger need for UN support, albeit more difficult and requiring a much more nuanced approach.

4.1 DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS IN ERITREA

After almost a decade of withdrawals, development partners have begun to show interest in returning to the country. Of course the UN has stayed the course since before independence; the other multilateral partner with significant presence is the European Union, which has just signed its 11th European Development Fund (EDF) with the GoSE. JICA has a liaison office in Asmara, but is operating from Nairobi. The African Development Bank (AfDB) has been supporting the education sector and food security. Ministers or senior officials from various countries have made exploratory visits to Eritrea – Finland, Japan, Norway, Italy, Germany, South Africa, Qatar, to mentioned but a few - and some have developed, or are developing cooperation agreements. There is renewed interest from Europe to cooperate around issues of migration with the view to stem the tide. There are no international NGOs resident in the country, the last of them having left in 2011, at the instruction of the government.

4.2 THE UN COMPARATIVE ADVANTAGE

The United Nations System globally and in Eritrea have both a comparative advantage and an obligation in Eritrea, to support Eritrea's development plans. Eritrea faces other political challenges that need continuous engagement at the level of member states through mechanisms like the UN general assembly and other competent regional bodies like the AU. resolution of the border dispute remains critical to ensure the country continues to focus on national development. The United Nations has had a significant presence in Eritrea, supporting the referendum on independence and facilitating the rapid accession of the country into membership and recognition. The UN has continued to support the development efforts of the country.

With respect to the development challenges discussed in this assessment the UN's comparative advantage is demonstrable both in Eritrea and through its global experience. The UN formalized its strategic development presence through the five year United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) in 2002. The second UNDAF (2007 – 2011) was succeeded by a new cooperation framework, the Strategic Partnership Cooperation

Framework, was agreed and launched. This demonstrated the appreciation of the importance of the presence of the UN in Eritrea. Evaluations over the years have shown that the UN system has been successful in supporting various GoSE initiatives.

The UN's comparative advantage with respect to each of the pillars and the various subcomponents has been analysed in the tables related to each pillar above. The inevitable conclusion is that the UN system in Eritrea has significant comparative advantage, drawing from its broad mandate, experience in Eritrea, and its access to global knowledge and resources.

5 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS¹⁹

5.1 CONCLUSIONS

Since the 2005 CCA, the State of Eritrea has experienced significant changes in its international context of operation as well as in the level of its development.

While significant achievements have been registered in all major priority areas, including the attainment of health related MDGs and notable progress in all except two, the international context was affected, by sanctions Criticisms on human rights have led to setting up the office of the special rapporteur on Eritrea and a commission of inquiry. The government has not accepted to cooperate with these mechanisms also they accept to participate with the UPR process and cooperate with OHCHR. The situation of out-migration remains of great concern. Since the country needs its young force to continue nation building initiatives. The relationship between the UNSE and GoSE has gone through several phases, but is now on track for a successful SPCF 2017-21. Since 2012, the GoSE has intensified its international engagements and made progress in human rights mechanisms like the UPR and cooperation with OHCHR.

Eritrea is increasing its partnership and continued international cooperation will contribute the countries development efforts.

It is also observed that the general consensus is that were it not for the worsening international context, more would have been achieved. This places normalisation of Eritrea's international relations at the centre of future efforts to achieve the country's development objectives.

Self-reliance has remained the over – arching development strategy, which has contributed to the potential sustainability of results achieved so far.

¹⁹ Tentative pending GoSE consultations

The development challenges in Eritrea are complex and require a more comprehensive approach than so far adopted. One conclusion in this CCA is that the UNSE should assist support a comprehensive approach to strategic conceptualisation, thinking and planning. The recommendations made below are, therefore, made from the perspective of moving towards this comprehensive approach. The UNSE's comparative advantage in supporting this approach for Eritrea is significant because of its collective mandate, history, global resources and position in the country.

5.2 RECOMMENDATIONS

5.2.1 Development Priorities for the next five years

All the challenges discussed so far are priorities. However, in the next few years only some of those could be addressed. Strategic choices have to be made. Priorities to be implemented must be analysed and sequenced in such a way that those implemented form the basis for future development priorities. For example, while economic growth per se cannot reduce poverty without targeted policies towards poverty reduction, it is, nevertheless, a prerequisite for poverty reduction. A sound education system is also a prerequisite for national capacity development. Any prioritisation needs to take these sequential prerequisites into account. The recommendations here are analytic categories within which a number of development challenges can potentially be linked with a single theory of change. While some of these may seem too broad, it is such levels of abstraction that enables looking at challenges as the strategic level.

From the extensive consultations with GoSE not just for the CCA, but for other macro-analysis or sectoral strategic plans, key priority areas have been identified. The CCA recommends focusing on four thematic pillars, identified for their critical impact on achievement of the Eritrean vision if successfully implemented. These four pillars are:

- Governance, Human Rights and Capacity development
- Sustainable Development
- Resilience Building
- Social Transformation.

These broad categories encapsulate a wide spectrum of themes and issues, dealing with concerns for all persons and an imperative/implicit need for specific attention towards the inclusion of vulnerable groups under appropriate headings, based on their specific needs. By analysing how the UN comparative advantages should be leveraged to address these challenges, the CCA helps further identify priority issues within a complex post-conflict environment.

The development challenges analysed in this CCA are amenable to different strategic formulations, depending on the preference for the level of abstraction or need for accentuating one group of priorities over others. With that in mind, two more priority categories are possible and have been suggested by this analysis. One scenario would have the following categories:

- Governance
- Food and Nutrition
- Human development and basic service delivery
- Environment

A third scenario would have the following categories:

- Health, food security and nutrition²⁰
- Environmental sustainability and energy
- Public sector capacity development
- Economic and social empowerment

The next section introduces and elaborates the first cluster of pillars and, in a tabular format, summarises the progress made towards meeting the challenges inherent in their achievement, identifies what needs to be done and demonstrates the United Nations comparative advantage in helping to address the gaps. This could be easily done with the other two sets of clusters as and when needed.

5.2.1.1 ***Governance and Capacity Development***

As analysed in Section 3, one main constraint to development in Eritrea is governance. The UN definition of governance is “the exercise of economic, political and administrative authority to manage a country’s affairs at all levels. It comprises the mechanisms, processes and institutions through which citizens and groups articulate their interests, exercise their legal rights, meet their obligations and mediate their differences”. (ECOSOC, 2006). Viewed from this perspective, the country’s place and relationship within the global governance system such as the United Nations, regional bodies and other global and regional collectives is not fully realised. The reasons for this have been discussed elsewhere in this document. The geopolitical environment in which a state of unresolved conflict exists between Eritrea and neighbours, especially Ethiopia.

Table 6: Governance and capacity development

²⁰ Or basic services with food security as a fifth category

DEVELOPMENT PRIORITIES	OVERARCHING SPECIAL DEVELOPMENT CHALLENGES	PROGRESS TOWARDS ACHIEVEMENT OF PRIORITY	WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE (GAP ANALYSIS)	THE UN COMPARATIVE ADVANTAGE
1. Governance and Capacity development human capital formation education health social security public sector capacity development policy development and institutional	✓ U ncompleted post conflict recovery process ✓ G eopolitical, international and national stalemate ✓ S uspended development modelling	✓ Student population increased from 200,000 to 600,000 ✓ Expansion of tertiary education ✓ Adult literacy rate from 30% to 67% ✓ New educational policies, standards, and guidelines were developed ✓ The number of nomadic schools increased exponentially as did enrolment ✓ Teaching quality, standards and support systems were enhanced	⊗ Need to build on success in health MDG's to universal health provision ⊗ Need for a comprehensive education, training and manpower development policy and strategy ⊗ Development of more comprehensive social protection policy and strategies ⊗ Implementation of a new governance architecture to establish and strengthen new governance institutions,	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Global Leader in CD with robust capacity assessment, design and implementation tools • Has extensive experience in public sector reform, including in Eritrea • Has supported many countries in complex development situations to design and implement governance programmes that address special circumstances and enable national governance models to emerge

<p>strengthening for governance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ national development planning system and capacity 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Life expectancy jumped from 46 years in 1991 to 62-63 (male/female) in 2010 ✓ Health related MDGs have been achieved ✓ Health policy developed ✓ Public capacities strengthened in MOH, NSO ✓ Limited institutional strengthening for governance institutions ✓ Limited strengthening of institutional capacity of the planning system 	<p>processes and procedures, including provisions for human rights, and all essential freedoms.</p> <p>⊗ National Planning system development, institutional capacity development and planning tools</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Through support to national planning institutions, global knowledge sharing and strengthening of data management institutions.
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5.2.1.2 Sustainable Development

The challenge of inclusive, environmentally sustainable economic development with a focus on poverty reduction, is at the heart of the 1994 macro policy paper. It has endured as the aspirational vision and its message now resonates with the SDGs. There are seventeen SDGs,²¹ and they cover the entire gamut of Eritrean development challenges discussed in this CCA. In this section the CCA focuses on the strategic issues of inclusive growth, (covering major sectors - agriculture and fisheries, mining, manufacturing, trade and tourism), poverty reduction, infrastructure development and environmental protection.

The Eritrea government has championed the link between growth, environmental protection and poverty reduction long before the MDGs were agreed, much less the SDGs (incomplete)

Table 7: Sustainable development

DEVELOPMENT PRIORITIES	OVERARCHING SPECIAL DEVELOPMENT CHALLENGES	PROGRESS TOWARDS ACHIEVEMENT OF PRIORITY	WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE (GAP ANALYSIS)	THE UN COMPARATIVE ADVANTAGE
1. Sustainable Development <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inclusive growth (agriculture and fisheries, mining, manufacturing, trade and tourism) Poverty reduction 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Uncompleted post conflict recovery process ✓ Geopolitical, international and national stalemate 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ GDP growth, although attaining a robust 7% in 2012, has only marginally improved. ✓ The MDG's directly linked to poverty reduction have not been achieved ✓ Progress made in providing dams, ports 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⊗ There is need to address the development policy vacuum, including reassertion of the role of the private sector ⊗ Improve the doing business environment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The UN has led the global launch of the sustainable development goals after successfully supporting countries in the implementation of the MDG's, including in Eritrea. • UN has been a leader in climate change

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Infrastructure development ▪ Environmental protection 	✓Suspended development modelling	rehabilitation, and road construction ✓ water and sanitation at different levels and covering diverse beneficiaries ✓ renewable energy investments a priority for both GoSE and development partners ✓ High commitment to environmental protection ✓ Significant investment in measures to mainstream environment in the work of all sectors	⊗ Achieve the rest of the MDG's targets within the new SDG context ⊗ The SDG has thrown up new and more ambitious indicators and the country needs to refocus in that context. ⊗ Infrastructure of all categories still inadequate for both service to population and investment attraction and retention	and the environmental agenda and has been supporting all of Eritrea's efforts <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The UN's success in supporting poverty reduction strategies and attainment of the MDG's through implementing the collective mandates of all its agencies is significant
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5.2.1.3 *Resilience building*

GoSE is committed to self-reliance as a development strategy and believes that an approach that focuses on strengthening the resilience of communities and households can increase the impact and cost effectiveness of development. A shared commitment by GoSE and the UNSE to this approach can help prevent humanitarian crises and provide faster and more sustainable solutions to crises in Eritrea when they occur.

Table 8: Resilience building

DEVELOPMENT PRIORITIES	OVERARCHING SPECIAL DEVELOPMENT CHALLENGES	PROGRESS ACHIEVEMENT OF PRIORITY	TOWARDS	WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE (GAP ANALYSIS)	THE COMPARATIVE ADVANTAGE	UN
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<p>2. Resilience building</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Food and nutrition security ▪ Drought policy and strategy ▪ Disaster risk management ▪ Livelihood support and social protection (basic services, social safety nets) 	<p>✓Uncompleted post conflict recovery process</p> <p>✓Geopolitical, international and national stalemate</p> <p>✓Suspended development modelling</p>	<p>✓ Food security has been enhanced through improved access to water, cash for work, provision of training, rangeland development, agricultural inputs and livestock restocking</p> <p>✓ There has been limited progress in developing a drought strategy, given the frequency of droughts in Eritrea</p> <p>✓ GoSE has made significant efforts at mainstreaming DRR at sectoral level, under key ministries such as Health, Agriculture, Labour and Human Welfare</p>	<p>✓ Need for drought policy/strategy that caters for both adaptation and responsiveness</p> <p>✓ DRR sectoral initiatives fragmented and lack synergy for maximum impact. The existing state and institutional capacity for DRR can therefore be strengthened through a policy framework and the establishment of a national coordination mechanism for DRM</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The UN has successfully supported national efforts to achieve food security across the globe and has both the developmental models and the technical wherewithal through its specialised agencies
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5.2.1.4 Social Transformation

Eritrea is committed to economic and social justice, to be realised through investments in social capital formation – education health, social safety nets, and general human development. The 1994 Macro policy puts a lot of emphasis on balanced development, and the development of the people is critical for social transformation. The self-reliance development approach is in itself for both people's contribution to their own development as much as it is about people's development through self-fulfilment.

Table 9: Social transformation

DEVELOPMENT PRIORITIES	OVERARCHING SPECIAL	PROGRESS TOWARDS ACHIEVEMENT OF PRIORITY	WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE (GAP ANALYSIS)	THE UN COMPARATIVE ADVANTAGE
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DEVELOPMENT CHALLENGES				
3. Social Transformation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Youth and migration ▪ Gender equality ▪ Children welfare and rights 	✓ Uncompleted post conflict recovery process ✓ Geopolitical, international and national stalemate ✓ Suspended development modelling	✓ Young people are migrating in unusually huge numbers for a country not at civil war, threatening the potential viability of families, social systems and the economy ✓ Significant progress made on gender equality ✓ Successful efforts both through educational development and direct children impacting policies have been made.	✓ Need for youth policies that take into account the specific situation of Eritrea ✓ Strategy to counter the trend by addressing the push factors within ✓ Need for comprehensive strategy to inculcate values of equality across all ethnic groups ✓ Need for consolidation and ensuring sustainability in particular through the SDG's	• The UN has global experience and access to best practice in general and from comparable development situations which can be applied in support of selected social development and Eritrean experience

The United Nations as a whole should address the binding constraints discussed in the CCA as a priority for development GoSE could define its development philosophy of self-reliance and link success to development achievements.

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3. ANNEXES

Annex 1

Table 10: Comparative advantage and gap analysis with respect to UN programming principles

Application of UN Programming Principles					
DEVELOPMENT PRIORITIES	OVERARCHING DEVELOPMENT CHALLENGES	UN PROGRAMMING PRINCIPLES	PROGRESS TOWARDS INTEGRATING THE PRINCIPLES IN DEVELOPMENT PRIORITIES	WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE	THE UN VALUE ADDITION
Governance and Capacity Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Uncompleted post conflict recovery process ✓ Geopolitical, international and national stalemate ✓ Suspended development modelling 	Human rights based approach	Not much has been done in specifically applying HRBA in Eritrea especially after the border war	Eritrea is committed to human rights and the HRBA is the best way to mainstream human rights in all the development activities of the country	Although this is one of the UN forte, in Eritrea this might continue to be compromised by the contradictory roles between the role the security council is playing in the country and the development role of the UN agencies, unless sufficient clarity is brought to bear
		Gender equality	Significant progress has been made towards reaching gender targets in governance and for CD	Mainstreaming is still a work in progress	The UN is uniquely qualified and vastly experienced in this and is already doing an excellent job in Eritrea

		Environmental sustainability	Eritrea has been very successful in committing to and planning environmental interventions and implementing some	There is political will and commitment. The SDG's provide an excellent opportunity to shift gears on environment and climate change and actually take the leadership that the political will and the country conditions provide for	The UN has both global leadership and track record and has been successfully supporting Eritrea
		Results based management	RBM in this area has not been evident	To raise the bar in governance and CD RBM is needed in the public sector productivity and accountability	
		Capacity development	Capacity constraints are the most attributed explanation for lack of progress in many areas. Much has been achieved, however, significant gaps remain.	There is no comprehensive policy and strategies for CD across sectors are ad hoc and disjointed one from another	UN has both tools and experience
Sustainable Development		Human rights based approach	Not much has been done in specifically applying HRBA in Eritrea especially after the border war	Eritrea is committed to human rights and the HRBA is the best way to mainstream human rights in all the development activities of the country	Although this is one of the UN forte, in Eritrea this might continue to be compromised by the contradictory roles between the role the security council is playing in the country and the development role of the UN agencies, unless sufficient clarity is brought to bear

		Gender equality	There is limited evidence of gender targets related to the participation in the elements under this priority. However, there are targets related to beneficiaries	Need for ensuring that policies and strategies are in place for women to both benefit and have agency in sustainable development activities.	The UN is uniquely qualified and vastly experienced in this and is already doing an excellent job in Eritrea
		Environmental sustainability	With the rising economic activities, there is consciousness towards ensuring an environmentally sustainable development approach and the need for impact assessments	The nexus between growth and environment is the subject of the SDGs and should be captured in a national development policy and plan	The UN has both global leadership and a track record and has been successfully supporting Eritrea
		Results based management	Not known	Needed	UN has comparative advantage
		Capacity development	Capacity constraints are the most attributed explanation for lack of progress in many areas in the country. Much has been achieved, however significant gaps remain	There is no comprehensive policy and strategies for CD across sectors are ad hoc and disjointed one from another	UN has both tools and experience
Resilience		Human rights based approach	Not much has been done in specifically applying HRBA in Eritrea especially after the border war	Eritrea is committed to human rights and the HRBA is the best way to mainstream human rights in all the development activities of the country	Although this is one of the UN forte areas, in Eritrea this might continue to be compromised by the contradictory roles between the role the security council is playing in the country and the development role of the

Social transformation					UN agencies, unless sufficient clarity is brought to bear
		Gender equality	There is both recognition and participation in reliance building by men, women and children	Deeper analysis and understanding of the impact on resilience of women participation, leadership and ownership	The UN is already significantly engaged in this area
		Environmental sustainability	Much of resilience building in Eritrea is based on recognition of environmental fragility and the need to manage it in the context of building resilience.	There is need to conceptually and historically tap into the resilience history and commitment in Eritrea and develop a resilience model for the country	The UN is engaged in this area and has developed the tools and gained considerable experience
		Results based management	RBM not really applied	Need to apply RBM because resilience building could easily be stuck in process.	UN has comparative advantage
		Capacity development	Capacity constraints are the most attributed explanation for lack of progress in many areas in the country. Much has been achieved, however significant gaps remain	There is no comprehensive policy and strategies for CD across sectors are ad hoc and disjointed one from another	UN has both tools and experience
		Human rights based approach	Not much has been done in specifically applying HRBA in Eritrea especially after the border war	Eritrea is committed to human rights and the HRBA is the best way to mainstream human rights in all the development activities of the country	Although this is one of the UN forte, in Eritrea this might continue to be compromised by the contradictory roles between the role the security council is playing in the country and the development role of the UN agencies,

					unless sufficient clarity is brought to bear
		Gender equality	Gender has been a running them in social transformation activities and programmes	Not enough mainstreaming	rephrase as above
		Environmental sustainability	Not much	Need specially to ensure engagement of different social groups and to benefit from traditional environment practices	UN in Eritrea already engaged at various levels
		Results based management	None	Needed	UN has comparative advantage
		Capacity development	Capacity constraints are the most attributed explanation for lack of progress in many areas in the country. Much has been achieved, however significant gaps remain	There is no comprehensive policy and strategies for CD across sectors are ad hoc and disjointed one from another	UN has both tools and experience

Annex 2

Table 11: Selected National Laws and Regulations on the Environment

Law, Regulation or Policy

Date of enactment/
amendment

National Policy Documents	
Macro Policy, GOE	1994
National Constitution, GOE	1997
National Economic Policy Framework and Program (NEPFP), GOE	1998-2000
Interim-Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (I-PRSP), GOE	2003
The Five Year Indicative Development Plan (FYIDP), GOE	2009
Ten Year Long-Term Indicative Perspective Development Plan (TYIPDP), GOE	2009
Multi Focal Area / Cross-cutting	
National Environmental Management Plan (NEMP), MOLWE	1995
National Environmental Assessment Procedures & Guidelines (NEAPG), MOLWE	1999
Environmental Law (Draft), MOLWE	2002
National Agricultural Development Strategy and Policy, MOA	1994/2005(draft)
Forest and Wildlife Policy (Draft), MOA	2005
Agriculture Sector Policy (Draft), MOA	2006
Land Use Policy (Draft), MOLWE	2007
Water Policy, MOLWE	2010
Biodiversity	
National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) (CBD), MOLWE	1996

Proclamation on Conservation of Biodiversity (draft)	1998
Forest and Wildlife Conservation and Development Proclamation No. 155, MOA	2006
Biosafety Policy Framework, MOLWE	2007
Climate Change and Energy	
Renewable Energy Sub-Sector Policy, MOME	1997
National Adaptation Program of Action (NAPA), MOLWE (DOE)	2007
Land Degradation	
Land and Forest Tenure Proclamation No.58, MOLWE	1994

Law, Regulation or Policy	Date of enactment/ amendment
Legal Notice No. 31, MOLWE	1997
Land Use Planning Regulatory Framework, MOLWE	1999
National Action Program (NAP) (UNCCD), MOA	2002
Integrated Water Resource Management, MOLWE (WRD)	2003
Water Law, Proclamation No. 162, MOLWE	2010
Five Year Action Plan for The Great Green Wall Initiative (Draft), MLWE	2011-2015
Ozone Depleting Substances	
ODS Terminal Phase-out Management Plan	2008

Regulation on Ozone Depleting Substances, MOLWE (DOE)	2010
Persistent Organic Pollutants	
Rags. for Importation, Handling, Use, Storage and Handling of Pesticides, MOA	2006
Draft Pesticides Proclamation	2008
National Implementation Plan on POPs (NIP)	2012
International Waters	
National Coastal Policy (draft), MOMR	2006

Source: *Eritrea CPE Country Environmental Legal Framework (CELf), Technical Document, Volume 2*²²

²² Cited in GEF Country Portfolio Evaluation:
ERITREA (1992–2012)