



UNITED NATIONS
ERITREA



2022 UN Annual Results Report UN Eritrea



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UN Country Team Members

The United Nations Country Team (UNCT) is composed of the heads of all the UN agencies, funds, and programs active in Eritrea. The United Nations in Eritrea is composed of twenty entities (10 Resident and 10 Non-Resident) led by the Resident Coordinator. The Agencies, Funds, and Programmes (AFPs) commit to working together in pursuing the strategic priorities laid out in the UNSDCF 2022-2026, towards achieving the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development and in line with the national priorities of the Government of the State of Eritrea, to collectively improve the quality of life of Eritreans.

Resident Agencies



Non Resident Agencies



Key Development Partners

The key development partners of the United Nations in Eritrea are the Government of the state of Eritrea, International Financial Institutions (IFIs), donor governments, development agencies, and the people of Eritrea. The UN Country Team wishes to thank all partners who have supported the work of the United Nations in 2022.

National Partners



Government of the State of Eritrea

Ministry of Finance and National Development (*MOFND*)

Ministry of Land, Water and Environment (*MOLWE*)

Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare (*MOLSW*)

Ministry of Mines and Energy (*MOM&E*)

Ministry of Marine Resources (*MOMR*)

Ministry of Information (*MOI*)

Ministry of Agriculture (*MOA*)

Ministry of Education (*MOE*)

Ministry of Justice (*MOJ*)

Ministry of Health (*MoH*)

Auditor General Office.

Contributing Partners



European Union

BILL & MELINDA
GATES foundation



Foreign, Commonwealth
& Development Office



Government of Italy



United Nations
CERF



The Fred
Hollows
Foundation



Government of Ireland



Government of Germany



Government of Japan



GREEN
CLIMATE
FUND



Government of USA

Canada

Department of Foreign Affairs,
Trade and Development



FOREWORD

I am pleased to present this Annual Results Report (ARR) on behalf of the UNCT for 2022 against a backdrop of many positive developments in the region and has rekindled hope for development thus potentially allowing countries including Eritrea to focus their efforts on human and sustainable development.

Achieving SDGs in Eritrea requires strategic partnerships. There is no single actor that has all the resources needed to achieve SDGs. Reaching them is only possible through renewed emphasis on multi-sector, multi-stakeholder and transformative partnerships at scale. It is against this backdrop that the Government of the State of Eritrea and the United Nations system in Eritrea jointly signed the 2022-2023 Annual Work Plans (JWPs) to formally mark the implementation of the new Cooperation Framework.

This Annual Results Report highlights the achievements but also challenges of SDG implementation in Eritrea. The country achieved notable but mixed results in advancing economic, social, and environmental progress. Strong progress was posted in nutrition, health, education, gender, agriculture, water, and sanitation. The country also made appreciable gains in climate action through adaptation and mitigation measures.

Eritrea was also active in the international arena having worked collaboratively with the UN system to successfully prepare and present the Voluntary National Review (VNR) Report at the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) in July 2022 in New York. The country also participated in COP27 in Egypt and the Transforming Education Summit (TES) in New York. Recently, Eritrea took part in the 2023 Least Developed Countries Conference 5 (LDC5) in Doha, Qatar.

This notwithstanding, Eritrea continued to face multiple layers of external and internal risks including a severe drought in the Horn of Africa, locust infestations, negative impacts of economic sanctions as well as passthrough effects of the Ukraine-Russia crisis with implications for livelihoods. Frequent locust infestations are a menace to agriculture with the potential to adversely affect food and nutrition security in the country. Growth projections at 4.7 percent and 3.6 percent for 2022 and 2023 fall below the 7 percent threshold for the achievement of SDGs. The unilateral and coercive sanctions are undoubtedly having debilitating and compounding effects on the people and the economy. Ballooning public domestic debt remains a huge challenge and exerts a significant negative permanent effect on economic growth. Although Eritrea's public debt-to-GDP ratio dropped by 9.1 percentage points to 175 percent in 2021 relative to 2020; the country is still in debt distress. Thus, these areas remain a top priority for policy advocacy and strategic intervention from the UN system.

I want to thank the Government of the State of Eritrea for the excellent access and engagement availed to various UN agencies to carry out their work in line with their mandates. Meanwhile, my Office will continue to constructively engage national authorities on behalf of those agencies that have a challenging mandate. I wish to particularly appreciate the Government for hosting several UN senior officials from the affected agencies to initiate dialogue and review the status of their work in the country.

Finally, I wish to recognise the constructive leadership of H.E. Dr. Giorgis Teklemikael, Minister of Finance and National Development (MFND) and his technical team on the preparation of the 2022-2023 Joint Work Plans. Together, we can and should accomplish bigger and better milestones for the people of Eritrea. As the UN system in the country, we pledge our continued support to the Government of the State of Eritrea through our national and regional expertise and assets as we implement the new Cooperation Framework.

Aeneas C. Chuma
United Nations Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator
Eritrea



¹ AfDB

² AfDB

ACRONYMS

AfDB	<i>African Development Bank</i>
AfPs	<i>Agencies, Funds and Programmes</i>
BSRP	<i>Basic Services Response Priorities</i>
CCA	<i>Common Country Analysis</i>
CERF	<i>Central Emergency Response Fund</i>
CF	<i>Cooperation Framework</i>
CPR	<i>Contraceptive Prevalance Rate</i>
CSOs	<i>Civil Society Organizations</i>
DCO	<i>Development Coordination Office</i>
ECCE	<i>Early Childhood Care and Education</i>
EPI	<i>Expanded Program on Immunization</i>
EU	<i>European Union</i>
FAO	<i>Food and Agricultural Organization</i>
FCDO	<i>Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office</i>
FP	<i>Family Planning</i>
FRMP	<i>Fisheries Resources Management Programme</i>
GDP	<i>Gross Domestic Product</i>
GEF	<i>Global Environment Fund</i>
GIS	<i>Geographical Information Systems</i>
GOSE	<i>Government of the state of Eritrea</i>
GPE	<i>Global Partnership for Education</i>
IDSR	<i>Integrated Disease Surveillance and Response</i>
IEC	<i>Information, Education and Communication</i>
IFAD	<i>International Fund for Agricultural Development</i>
IFIs	<i>International Financial Institutions</i>
IOM	<i>International Organization for Migration</i>
IRENA	<i>International Renewable Energy Agency</i>
ITC	<i>International Trade Centre</i>
JWP	<i>Joint Work Plan</i>
LNOB	<i>Leaving No One Behind</i>
M&E	<i>Monitoring & Evaluation</i>
MAM	<i>Moderate Acute Malnutrition</i>
MLA	<i>Monitoring and Learning Achievement</i>
MMR	<i>Ministry of Marine Resources</i>
MoA	<i>Ministry of Agriculture</i>
MoE	<i>Ministry of Education</i>
MoH	<i>Ministry of Health</i>
Mol	<i>Ministry of Information</i>
MT	<i>Metric Tons</i>
MTR	<i>Mid Term Reviews</i>
NCD	<i>Non-communicable diseases</i>
NICUs	<i>Newborn Intensive Care Units</i>
OCHA	<i>Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs</i>
ODA	<i>Official Development Assistance</i>

ODF	<i>Open Defecation Free</i>
OMT	<i>Operations Management Team</i>
PEP	<i>Post Exposure Prophylaxis</i>
PHC	<i>Primary Health Care</i>
PRM	<i>Partnership and Resource Mobilization</i>
RCO	<i>Resident Coordinator s Office</i>
RRF	<i>Results and Resources Framework</i>
SAM	<i>Severe Acute Malnutrition</i>
SBCC	<i>Social and Behaviour Change and Communication</i>
SDGs	<i>Sustainable Development Goals</i>
SOPs	<i>Standard operating procedures</i>
SRS	<i>Southern Red Sea zone</i>
SSP	<i>Small Seed Pack</i>
TORs	<i>Terms of reference</i>
TPLF	<i>Tigray People s Liberation Front</i>
UN	<i>United Nations</i>
UNCG	<i>United Nations Communication Group</i>
UNCT	<i>United Nations Country Team</i>
UNDAF	<i>United Nations Development Assistance Framework</i>
UNDP	<i>United Nations Development Programme</i>
UNECA	<i>United Nations Economic Commission for Africa</i>
UNEP	<i>United Nations Environment Programme</i>
UNESCO	<i>United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization</i>
UNHCR	<i>United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees</i>
UNICEF	<i>United Nations Children s Fund</i>
UNIDO	<i>United Nations Industrial Development Organization</i>
UNODC	<i>United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime</i>
UNSDCF	<i>United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework</i>
UPR	<i>Universal Periodic Review</i>
USA	<i>United States of America</i>
USD	<i>United States Dollar</i>
VBAs	<i>Village Based Advisory</i>
VNR	<i>Voluntary National Review</i>
WASH	<i>Water Supply Sanitation and Hygiene</i>
WFP	<i>World Food Programme</i>
WHO	<i>World Health Organization</i>

ERITREA AT A GLANCE

Population: **3.6 million (1.786 male and 1.834 million Female) ***

Under 15: **40%**

Urban: **30%**

Rural: **70%**

'Population Density, (persons per square km): **29.9**

'Population Sex Ratio, (males per 100 females): **97.3**

Life Expectancy at Birth, (years): **66.5 (64.4 Male and 68.7 Female)**

Total land area: **124,000 km²**

Agriculture Area: **75920 Km²**

Forest Area: **10,584 Km²**

89% attained ODF status

Access to improved water supply: **51.8%**

* World Population Prospect 2022

The overall number of children enrolled in elementary, middle, and secondary schools is **619,180** in 2019/2021

Adjusted Net Enrolment Rate (ANER) ~ **20.9%** (Male 21.1%, Female 20.8%) pre-primary

Adjusted Net Enrolment Rate (ANER) ~ **84.5%** (Male 86.1%, Female 82%) primary level

Adjusted Net Enrolment Rate (ANER) ~ **65.7%** (Male 69.4%, Female 61.6%) middle

Adjusted Net Enrolment Rate (ANER) ~ **48.5%** (Male 50.5%, Female 46.3%) secondary

Adult literacy: **77%** (**Male 84% and Female 69%**)

Youth Literacy rate **93%** (**Male 94% and Female 93%**)

UHC: **54.9%**

HIV prevalence: **0.5%**

HIV Incidence: **0.1% per 1000 population**

Neonatal mortality rate: **18 per 1000 live births**

Under 5 Mortality rate : **39 from 1000**







CHAPTER 1:

Key Development Context in the Country and Regional Context

Eritrea is located in the Horn of Africa and is situated on the western shore of the Red Sea. The country's total land area is approximately 124,320 km², with a coastline spanning 3,150 km including its 350 islands. Mainly arid and semi-arid, with little and erratic rainfall, Eritrea has six political administrative regions, which vary in terms of their respective size, population, biodiversity, geography, and socio-economic conditions. The total population of Eritrea was estimated to be about 3.6 million (World Population Prospect 2022³). Almost 40 percent of Eritreans are under the age of 15 years⁴, showing a young overall population and presenting significant potential for a demographic dividend in the future. About two-thirds of the country's population lives in rural areas, while population density in the country stands at approximately thirty-five people per km² of land area, which is less than the global and Sub-Saharan Africa averages.

The State of Eritrea has made encouraging economic recovery from multiple and mutually reinforcing shocks (Horn of Africa drought, COVID-19, locusts, invasion, and Ukraine- Russia war). However, further progress was curtailed by USA and EU unilateral sanctions, which together weighed heavily on the population, especially the vulnerable groups jeopardizing the ability to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The Government of the State of Eritrea responded by implementing social protection programmes, including funding from Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF), while expanding social services which are still uneven across the population.

Eritrea's economy grew by 2.9 percent in 2021, a switch from a contraction of 0.6 percent in 2020. Growth was led by industry and services on the supply side and private consumption and investment on the demand side. The up-tick in global demand and prices for metals boosted the industry, but services' contribution to growth in 2021 was lower than pre-COVID levels as hospitality, tourism, transport, and trade were hit by containment measures. The stability of global supply and value chains eased inflation to 4.5 percent in 2021 from 4.8 percent in 2020. The financial sector is small, bank-based, and offers a limited range of financial services. The fiscal deficit narrowed to 4.0 percent of GDP in 2021 from 4.4 percent in 2020, reflecting fiscal consolidation and a gradual pickup in public revenues with the economic recovery. The fiscal deficit was financed by a draw-down on government deposits with the central bank. Eritrea's public debt to GDP ratio dropped by 9.1 percentage points to 175.6 percent in 2021 compared to 2020; the country is still in debt distress. The current account surplus widened to 13.5 percent of GDP in 2021 from 11.4 percent in 2020, reflecting the rise in global demand for and prices of base metals (metals account for about half of the total exports). International reserves were estimated at 4 months of import cover in 2020⁵.

³ World Population Prospect

⁴ World Population Prospect

⁵ AfDB

CHAPTER 1:

GDP growth is projected at 4.7 percent and 3.6 percent in 2022 and 2023, due to increased international prices for metals. Growth will be led by industry and services, and by private consumption and investment. Fluctuations in commodity prices are a key downside risk to the outlook, which calls for increasing value addition and export diversification. Higher food and oil prices triggered by the Russia–Ukraine conflict were expected to increase inflation to 6.2 percent in 2022 before it eases to 3.5 percent in 2023. Fiscal consolidation and enhanced public revenues from metal exports are projected to lower the fiscal deficit to 1 percent of GDP in 2022 and generate a surplus of 0.1 percent in 2023, with the current account surplus stabilizing at 13.5% and 13.3% of GDP.

Regional instability and the war in Ethiopia forced the Government of the State of Eritrea to redirect its priorities and resources toward securing its national sovereignty and territorial integrity. The country came under unilateral sanctions from the EU and USA in March 2021⁶ and November 2021⁷ respectively, hindering its prospects for future economic development and investments and aggravating humanitarian concerns.

The State of Eritrea has made strides in building its bilateral relations with regional neighbours through bilateral visits including of the Heads of State of Somalia, Ethiopia and Kenya to Eritrea as well as senior Eritrean visits to Sudan and Chad on several occasions. These positive trends in regional peace, relations, and integration of Eritrea in the Horn of Africa, if sustained and advanced, have immense potential to transform the development landscape in Eritrea in its path to achieving the 2030 Agenda.

Environment and climate change action continued to remain a priority of the State of Eritrea. Eritrea's inaugural Voluntary National Review (VNR) presented at the 2022 High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development recognized climate change mitigation and adaptation, halting biodiversity loss, reducing land degradation, and restoring ecosystems as some of the key priorities for action by the Eritrean Government.

The approval of the 2022-2023 UN Joint Work Plans only done in late October 2022 and implementation started in December 2022. Nonetheless, UNCT members continued the implementation of legacy projects from United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF 2017-2021) related Joint Work Plans.

⁶ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=OJ:L:2021:099I:FULL&from=EN>

⁷ <https://home.treasury.gov/news/press-releases/jy0478>





CHAPTER 2:

UN Development System Support to National Development Priorities Through the Cooperation Framework

2.1. Overview of Cooperation Framework Results

On January 25, 2022, the Government of the State of Eritrea (GoSE) and the United Nations in Eritrea signed the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework 2022-2026 (UNSDCF).

The Cooperation Framework 2022-2026 (CF) is a forward-looking, dynamic, and flexible plan that embraces the spirit of reform of the UN development system at the country level, as mandated by UN General Assembly Resolution 72/279. The Cooperation Framework 2022-2026 is the fifth generation of strategic cooperation between the Government of the State of Eritrea and the UN system in Eritrea. It outlines the contribution of the UN development systems to national development and thereby to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to end poverty and protect the planet within the framework of the 2030 Agenda together with the 2063 Agenda in a coordinated, integrated way.

It reflects an unwavering commitment to the principles of Leaving No One Behind (LNOB), gender equality and women's empowerment, and the UN system's commitments to international standards and treaties Common Country Analysis (CCA); and Eritrea's guiding principles articulated in the 1994 National Charter. The UNSDCF priorities were derived from a thorough country analysis that identified key development challenges. The UNSDCF has two major priorities. Each focus area has two general outcomes and seven outcomes to be delivered between 2022 and 2026 two broad outcomes and seven outputs to be delivered between 2022 and 2026:



CHAPTER 2:

Priority Area 1: *Human Development and Well-being*

The Human Development and well-being priority area seeks to improve the prosperity and well-being of all Eritreans. It focuses on a wide range of areas, including health and nutrition, education, water, sanitation and hygiene, immunization, and energy. It also addresses issues around general governance, public management, and accountability. This priority has two outcomes that respond to at least nine (9) SDGs (on Health, Education, Water and Sanitation, Gender Equality, Affordable and Clean Energy, Reduced Inequality, Peace, and Strong Institutions and Partnerships), along with national priorities.

Priority Area 2: *Inclusive diversified and climate-resilient economy*

The Inclusive, Diversified and Climate-Resilient priority area acknowledges that climate change affects each aspect of sustainable development with profound and potentially lasting implications for people, the planet, partnerships, and prosperity. The pursuit of an inclusive and diversified economy would have to be climate resilient to generate and sustain the gains required for achieving medium and long-term development goals. This priority area focuses on multi-dimensional poverty, hunger and food security, agriculture, livelihood, job opportunities and employment. It also focuses on climate change, sustainable natural resources management, disaster risk reduction and mitigation, biodiversity, responsible consumption and production, urbanization, sustainable cities and communities, conservation, and environmental degradation.

Cross-cutting issues such as capacity building, innovation, gender, women's empowerment, youth, and disability are all grouped under the UN Programming Principles to create greater accountability for them.

UNSDCF priority areas and outcomes align with national priorities in health and nutrition, education, water, sanitation and hygiene, energy, agriculture and food security, social protection, environment, and investment in human and technical capital. They are also aligned with regional and global development agendas.

The United Nations in Eritrea secured over \$60 million in resources for the implementation of its joint work plans in 2022 and out of this 52 percent was spent.





The high-level 24 senior officials from UN regional offices across Africa, including six Regional Directors and two Deputy Regional Directors delegation visited Eritrea between 24 to 28 January 2022. The delegation was led by the UN Development Coordination Office's Regional Director for Africa, included five other Regional Directors representing the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, UN Economic Commission for Africa, UN Office on Drugs and Crime, UN Population Fund and the World Food Programme. The Deputy Regional Directors from the UN High Commissioner for Refugees and UN Office on Drugs and Crime are also among the participants. Other Regional Directors sent their senior representatives.

During the five-day mission, UN officials discussed a wide range of issues with government and development partners. These included fully utilizing the UN's resources to ensure optimal delivery in the new cooperation framework's priority areas; COVID-19 vaccinations; regional dynamics in the Horn of Africa and the role Eritrea could play in fostering peace and security; regional trade integration and Eritrea's perspectives on the African Continental Free Trade Agreement; human rights issues; climate action; and data for development.

Members of the visiting mission were unanimous in their view that they had gained a better understanding of Eritrea's context, its unique development perspectives and Eritrea's expectations of a re-invigorated partnership with the UN in this new era of cooperation. The delegation members said they were better placed to be "ambassadors" of Eritrea's development achievements. The government, in turn, agreed to address resource absorption issues and to scale up the implementation of programmes in the new cooperation framework era in line with the call for accelerated progress in the Decade of Action with eight years left to achieve the SDGs.

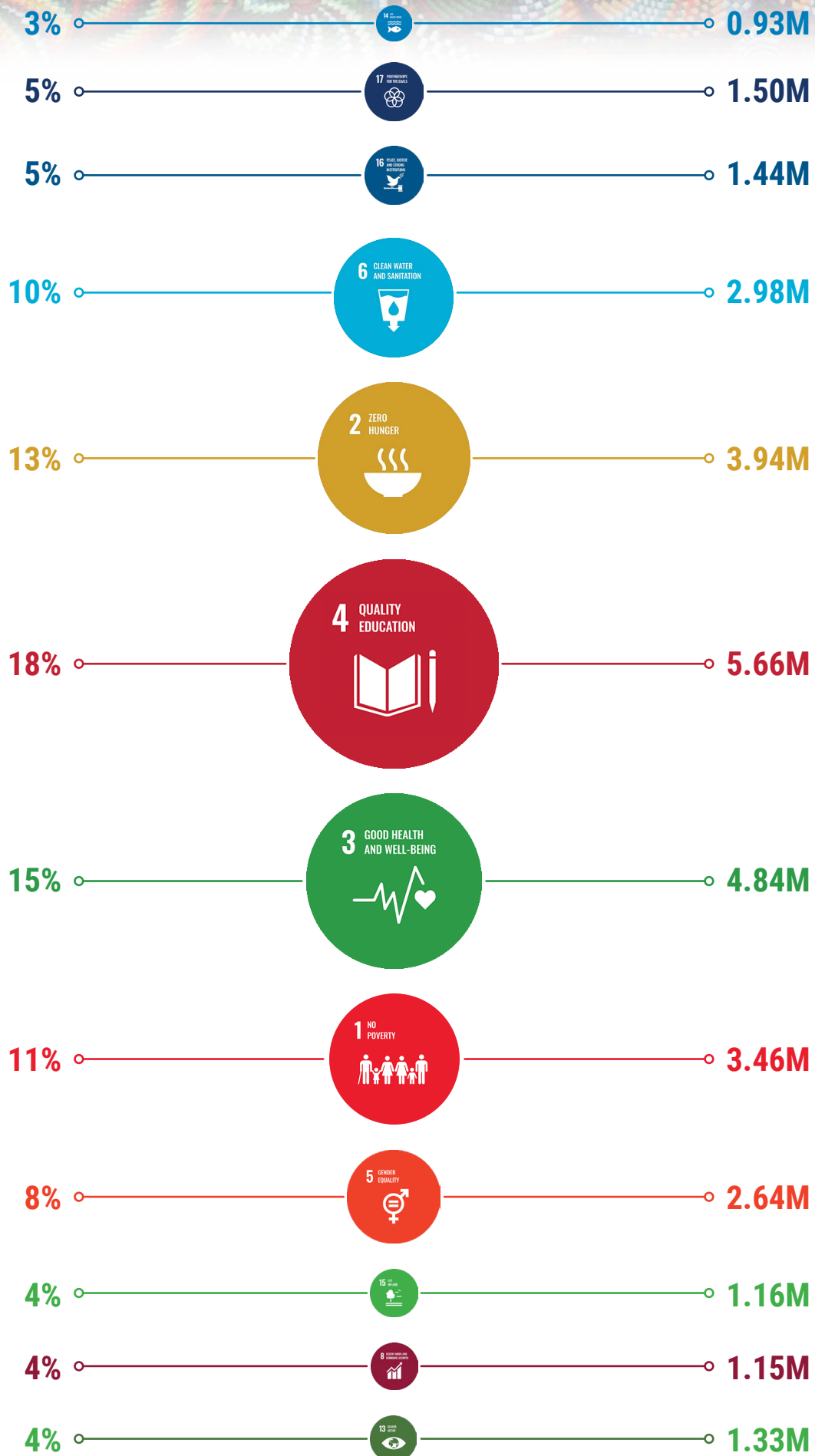




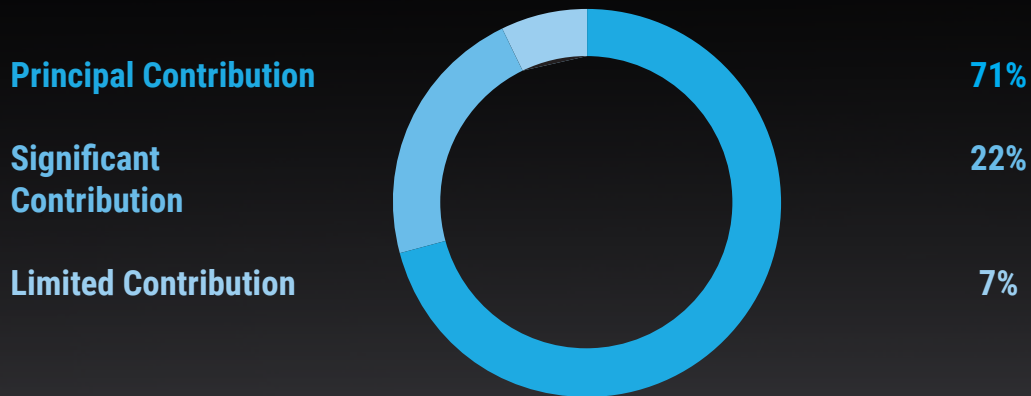
TOTAL EXPENDITURE



SDG CONTRIBUTION



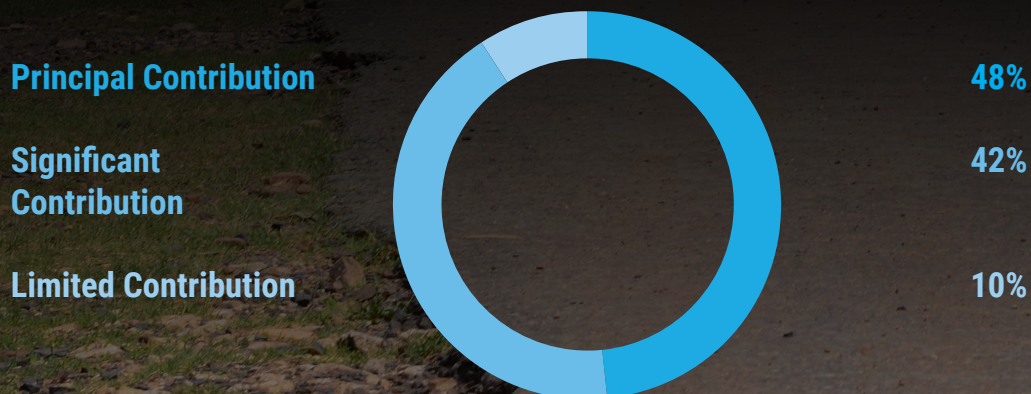
Human Rights Markers



QCPR Functions



Gender Equality Markers







PEOPLE

Equitable access to quality essential social services

UNICEF, UNFPA, UNAIDS, WHO and UNDP



54,583
Children treated with
quality nutrition service



93%
Females age 9-14
vaccinated for HPV



59,538
Women Attend
Skilled Delivery



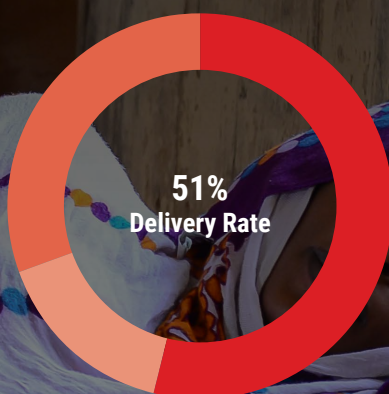
619,180
Students enrolled

Total Expenditure USD 12,415,451

Require

Planned

Expenditure



43.1 Million

24.2 Million

12.4 Million

SDG Contribution



4.8 Million



2.2 Million



5.5 Million





2.2. Cooperation Framework priorities, outcomes, and outputs

Outcome 1: By 2026, more people have benefited from equitable access to and use of inclusive high quality essential social services.

Output 1.1

Policy instruments and strategies developed and adopted to guide institutional capacity building, service delivery and emergency preparedness and response.

Health System and policies

The United Nations in Eritrea strengthen the capacity of the MoH for policy development, review, and implementation to improve the health system.

- Provided technical guidance to MoH for the accreditation process for the upgrade of the laboratory to the expected competency level required by ISO/IEC 17025 and/or WHO pre-qualification. It also developed a Quality Manual and developed Quality and Laboratory technical procedures. Furthermore, the UN in Eritrea has also contributed to strengthening the laboratory network at sub-national levels, providing access to higher-quality diagnostic services.
- Supported in the finalization of Eritrea Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTD) Master Plan 2022-2026. The master plan aligns with the new NTD Roadmap 'Ending the neglect to attain the Sustainable Development Goals A road map for neglected tropical diseases 2021–2030.' This NTD Master Plan is a comprehensive five-year strategic document for the government to effectively plan and implement sustainable NTD programmes for the control, elimination, and eradication of targeted NTDs' peripheral areas.
- Supported in preparing and planning the STEP-Wise approach to the NCD (Non-Communicable Diseases) Risk Factor Surveillance Survey (STEPS). The survey instrument covers key behavioural and biological risk factors. Through this intervention, the country now uses the same standardized questions and protocols as all other countries. This is good for not only monitoring NCD risk factors within the country, but also for making comparisons between countries.
- Provided both technical and financial support to the MoH for the development of the National Action Plan for Health Security (NAPHS 2022-2026). The NAPHS 2022-2026 focuses on sustaining and strengthening the gains made as well as addressing challenges experienced in the implementation of the previous NAPHS.
- Supported the MoH in adapting the 3rd Edition IDSR (Integrated Disease Surveillance and Response) Technical Guidelines (TGs) and Training Modules. This is an important milestone to strengthen IDSR implementation in Eritrea. In addition, support was also provided to improve emergency preparedness for monkeypox and other public health events.
- Supported the development of the Reproductive, Maternal, neonatal, Child, Adolescent Health, Nutrition and Healthy and Active Ageing (RM-NCAH NUT & HAA) strategic plan 2022-2026. This followed a detailed programme review and therefore holds comprehensive strategies and interventions for RMNCAH NUT and HAA in collaboration with UNICEF, UNFPA and other partners.
- Eritrea uses Artesunate-amodiaquine as first-line therapy for uncomplicated malaria, and its efficacy is monitored every two years. UN provided Technical and Financial to the Therapeutic efficacy of the anti-malarial drugs study.

Nutrition

The United Nations in Eritrea worked with the government and partners to implement nutrition programs. 852,117 children, youth and women were reached by the United Nations with quality promotional, preventive, curative and rehabilitative nutrition services. This includes 54,583 children with acute malnutrition (23,630 severe and 30,953 moderate malnutrition) who were admitted and treated with quality nutrition services (ready-to-use therapeutic food) across the country's 328 facility and community-based therapeutic feeding sites. Ninety-two (92%) of the acute malnutrition treatment centres achieved a cure rate of over 90 percent.

The United Nations also supported the MoH in training 532 health workers and 699 community volunteers were trained in integrated nutrition promotion at community level. In addition, 248,364 children ages 6 to 59 months received vitamin A supplementation, 113,916 adolescent girls and pregnant women received iron-folic acid, a key prevention intervention for anaemia and 173,360 primary caregivers of children ages 6 to 23 months received Maternal, Infant and Young Child Feeding counselling services.



Education

Considerable progress has been made in the education sector. The number of schools at all reaches 2,254 (671 pre-primary centres) and enrolments at all levels were 619,180 in 2021. Female enrolment is steadily increasing, and the historically huge gender gap is narrowing.

Access to primary-level education is high with an Adjusted Net Enrolment Rate of 84.15% (female: 81.2 percent) and 48.5 % for secondary school. Access to pre-primary and lower secondary level education remains low. Although the gross enrolment rate (GER) for the pre-primary level has increased, it remains low, at only 20.9 percent.



The Ministry of Education is in the process of finalizing the integration of early childhood education/pre-primary as part of the primary School education component. To support the implementation of the right to education and in line with the Strategic Plan to Expand Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE), the United Nations in Eritrea supported the Ministry of Education (MoE) in carrying out the preparatory work needed to set up centres which can accommodate 8,500 children.

In support of the ECCE strategic plan to improve the quality of early-level teaching and learning and to train three hundred teachers by 2023, the UN provided technical assistance in the development of the ECCE Facilitators Guide and the Parenting Enrichment Handbook. To further strengthen community engagement and demand for early childhood services, the UN provided the MoE with expert communication support for social and behavioural change in the development of relevant materials.

The United Nations supported the MoE in training 2,611 teachers (211 women), enable around 80,000 students to achieve better teaching and learning outcomes.

2,443 children and youth (1,737 girls) from the most disadvantaged Zobas were enrolled and supported to attend school to ensure fulfilment of their right to education.

To improve access to education, the UN supported the Ministry of Education in finalizing pending construction projects in Gash Barka Zoba, such as the Kerkebet Boarding School (five hundred lower-secondary students) and eleven complimentary education centres serving 1,200 children.

The United Nations has consistently worked to reach the most vulnerable and has supported the expansion of the Keren School of Deaf, the only school of its kind in Eritrea with a boarding facility that accommodates the deaf, giving access to education to children from across the country. A total of 118 primary school students and twenty-five lower secondary school students (47 and 10 girls, respectively) were enrolled at Keren School of the Deaf.

The Government revived the Donkey for School initiative, which enabled 100 children (20 girls) with mobility impairments access schools.

The UN supported improved the quality of education and learning by reviewing and publishing the National Standards for Quality Education (NQSE); Trained 194 master trainers on the Learning Assessment and Progression Guide, which was then distributed to 2,000 teachers; distributed Monitoring the Learning Achievement (MLA) IV involving 330 teachers and principals; and trained 64 special education teachers.



Output 1.2

Delivery of equitable age-appropriate and gender-responsive essential social services strengthened

Health Services Delivery

The UN in Eritrea consistently supports expanding access to essential maternal, neonatal, and child health services.

- 703,954 children (502,289) and women (201,665), including prenatal, delivery, postnatal, and new-born care; were immunized against 12 vaccine-preventable diseases; and management of common childhood illnesses.
- 351,091 children aged 0 to 59 months were provided with clinical care for common childhood diseases using the 2019 WHO Integrated Management of Neonatal and Childhood Diseases (IMNCI) guidelines, which are currently implemented in 81 percent of the 301 health facilities across the country.
- With the support of UN agencies, the quality of emergency obstetric and new-born care in 18 of the 21 new-born Intensive Care Units (NICUs) was improved by replenishing with essential equipment and supplies and training 175 health workers.
- Health facilities providing basic emergency obstetric and new-born care (seven signal functions) have been increasing to 70 percent in 2022 from the baseline of 68 percent in 2021. -The number of community hospitals providing comprehensive emergency obstetric and New-born care has increased from 09 in 2021 to 12 in 2022.

The UN has supported the Government through the recruitment of ex-pat health workers. To minimize the gap in the shortage of Anaesthetists in the country, the UN supported the MoH through the placement of ex-pat Anaesthetists to serve in the zonal and the national referral Hospital. As part of a technical support, this has contributed to the capacity building of national health workers and narrowing the shortage, as well as the reduction in maternal and neonatal morbidity and mortality.

Significantly, up to 50 percent of neonatal deaths occur in the first 24 hours of a child's life and 75 percent occur during the first week due to preventable and treatable diseases.

- Technical and Financial support was provided to the MoH to establish new NICUs in 8 regional hospitals and strengthened 7 existing but poorly equipped ones in regional hospitals by providing functional and modern equipment.
- A significant increase in operational neonatal intensive care units from 41 percent to 77 percent of regional hospitals providing adequate care was given to newborns, thereby reducing neonatal and infant mortality rates.
- The UN supported the improvement of the health sector's capacity to ensure the continuity of vital health-related services, such as immunization programs and eMTCT. A total of 68,736 children benefited from the first dose of the Measles-Rubella (MR-1) vaccine, and 65,900 children with the second dose of the MR-2 vaccine. The coverage reaches 96.9 percent and 90.7 percent for MR-1 and MR-2, respectively. The UN also supported the Ministry of Health in introducing the Human Papilloma Virus vaccine for cervical cancer, which was provided to 93 percent of in and out-of-school females aged 9-14.

Eritrea with the support of the UN internally assessed the status of Elimination of mother-to-child transmission of HIV, Syphilis, and Hepatitis B. The internal assessment showed that there is a low HIV prevalence in the country, and high coverage of process indicators suggesting that eMTCT of HIV has been already achieved. It also showed the hat eMTCT of syphilis is on the decline with a possibility for validation.



Furthermore, the country established four technical working groups to address the gaps identified in the assessment related to programme, data, laboratory, and human rights and equity in collaboration with the UN HIV joint Team. Following addressing the identified gaps, the UN will support the country with external validation of progress towards eMTCT.

The provision of Family Planning (FP) services is critical for avoiding maternal morbidity and mortality; yet, FP utilization is still extremely low, with a CPR of 13.5 percent. As a result, unmet family planning requirements are still high and stable at 27.4 percent. The UN agencies strengthened the family planning programme through advocacy and the provision of family planning commodities. The family planning program reached 31,919 with the modern method of contraception in 2022.



Output 1.3

National and community-based systems for delivering social services improved

The Government of the State of Eritrea (GoSE) has prioritized community-based healthcare as a key strategy for the delivery of primary healthcare services. Eritrea has been recognized for its achievements in healthcare over the years. Many villages have adequate health centres, but there are several villages and communities across the country with limited resources that are struggling to provide health services. To alleviate the problem, the Ministry of Health singled out individuals from the villages and gave them six months of training so that they could provide basic health services, including identification of certain diseases and treatment or referral to health facilities; mobilizing communities for health, nutrition and environmental campaigns including vaccination; and providing necessary ANC services to pregnant women and encouraging attendance and delivery in health facilities and monitoring for signs of a pandemic. These Barefoot Doctors will be deployed in the most remote communities, even beyond the services of mobile outreach health clinics, and will serve rural populations, including nomadic and semi-nomadic communities.

With the UN support thirty-four newly recruited Bare Foot Doctors (BFDs) were trained to strengthen community-based service delivery for remote and hard-to-reach communities, increasing the capacity to reach an estimated additional 68,000 children and women. Through the BFDs (121 in total including 15 female) and together with community health workers, the MoH conducted 3 rounds of integrated, mobile outreach services providing an essential PHC package for 4,992 children and pregnant women in 450 hard-to-reach communities across 22 districts. The UN in Eritrea supported Maternity Waiting Homes (MWHs) by providing critical supplies and kits. 17 MWHs in three zobas were supplied with nutritious food. MWHs help to increase skilled birth attendance across the country. In 2022, total skilled delivery was 59,538 of which 5,769 was from MWHs, accounting for 9.7 percent. The skilled birth attendance rate however is still sub-optimal at 57 percent (target 62%) due to a combination of reasons including financial and geographic barriers, and will require continued efforts to expand access in the most remote and hard-to-reach areas.

Obstetric fistula is a major health problem affecting many young women in Eritrea. The UN continuously supported the fistula treatment Centre since its establishment. 41 women received fistula treatment in 2022. So far, since the establishment of the Fistula Treatment Centre, close to 1801 women have been treated. In connection with this, mass community mobilization was conducted on fistula and elimination of all forms of gender-based violence during the commemoration of International Fistula Day, World AIDS Day, and other events.

Using the platform of different international days like International Women's Day and the 16 days of Activism, communities and media people were sensitized on the effects of gender-based violence.



⁸ MOH Annual Report

AN EXTRA MILE WITH THE BAREFOOT DOCTORS

Meet Ametezgi Ginbot - Barefoot Doctor in Keren, Anseba Region

Imagine you need immediate medical attention, but you do not have access to healthcare services nearby. As a result, you find yourself desperate, worried, and hopelessness invades your world. It is during these difficult times that barefoot doctors (also called BFDs) come into the picture. Among other strategies for extending health care services in hard-to-reach communities, BFDs are the backbone for the communities they serve, reaching disadvantaged populations and leaving no one behind.

Upon selection, the training period lasts six months, half covering theoretical learning and the rest clinical practice. Training sessions are conducted in primary health facilities by the Ministry of Health staff. The training concludes with graduation ceremonies, where BFDs are recognized by their communities. In addition, BFDs are given certificates; remuneration is paid every three months, and the path to growth in the nursing field is discussed.

Under Ministry of Health's leadership, from 2019 till present day, UN Eritrea supported the six-month residential training of 121 BFDs and further supported in areas of logistics and essential medical equipment and supplies.

The history of BFDs in Eritrea dates back to the Eritrean Public Health Programme (EPHP) introduced in 1981, where BFDs were part of human resources. Lay workers were trained in first aid, childbirth assistance, dispensing drugs, and preventive medicine in scattered, remote, and hard-to-reach areas.

The BFDs in Eritrea are front-line health workers trained and equipped to provide essential health care services in remote areas without access to health facilities. These areas can only be reached on foot or using camels, where severe cases are reported to nearest facilities. BFDs must have a minimum level of education above 8, including the ability to read and write in the local language. Communities select BFDs, with residence in the community being a criteria.

Ametezgi Ginbot is among the 15 female graduates. She lives with her two children in Adi-Kenie, located in Keren within the Anseba region. Ametezgi stopped going to school in grade 10, fortunately, she was selected by her community to become a BFD. She proudly joins her colleagues to provide integrated outreach services in her community. Ametezgi expresses, "I have received training to support myself and my fellow villagers. I'd like to thank those who allowed me to take the training program. In addition, I thank my mother and uncles for caring for my children during the training period".

In partnership with UN Eritrea, the government-led revitalisation of the BFDs programme is ongoing. Ametezgi adds, "The opportunity is not a trivial matter. Those provided with the opportunity should demonstrate due interest". For now, Ametezgi enjoys giving back to the community and its citizens that believe in her.





PEACE

ACCOUNTABLE AND EFFICIENT INSTITUTIONS
UNDP, UNIDO, UNICEF, UNFPA



60,493
Vulnerable people supported in kind or cash



45,000
Young and adolescent girls live in FGM free communities



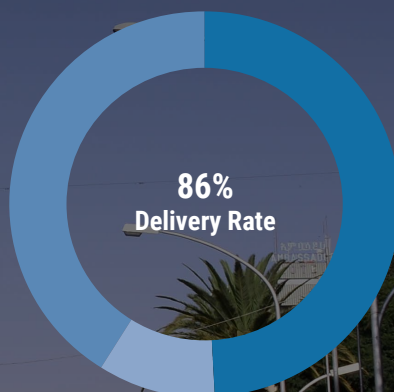
298,539
People participated in campaigns positive gender-related norms



382
Villages proclaimed zero tolerance to FGM

Total Expenditure USD 6,429,157

Require
Planned
Expenditure



7.5 Million
6.42 Million
1.51 Million

SDG Contribution



1.15 Million



1.15 Million



1.19 Million



1.43 Million



1.54 Million





Outcome 2: By 2026, Eritrea's public sector institutions are more accountable and efficient, and more people enjoy the right to development

Output 2.1

Capacities of institutions to provide oversight and deliver services improved

Support from the UN contributed to improved quality of service delivery in public institutions including the Ministry of Information, Audit Services, and Civil Society.

- The media play a vital role in raising awareness and influencing public opinion, and they are a valuable resource for mobilization. Improving professionalism in the media sector is critical in the context of citizens' fundamental right to information. United Nations Eritrea provided support to the Ministry of the Information (MoI) to replace the time-consuming analog system with a digital system, which led to significant changes in the development of television and radio programs. Its impact on improving efficiency and productivity is visible as the new system has drastically reduced the time required to develop television programs (estimated at 30-40% of the time) and the time journalists used to spend on sending reports and saved resources that the Ministry had allocated to purchasing video cassettes. In addition, the MoI data collection and administrative capacity have been increased, allowing it to develop targeted SDG awareness and advocacy programmes.
- In line with its improvement-oriented innovation vision, the United Nations in Eritrea was engaged in creating a partnership with Cisco and the National Confederation of Eritrean Workers (NCEW) and supported the CISCO networking academy training program. This training would enhance the connectivity of the country's development institutions.
- UN ERITREA is committed to supporting the effort of Eritrean National Innovation Hub (ENIH) to leverage home-grown digital solutions and innovation for economic development and transformation. The UN provides financial and technical support in preparing the operational strategy of the Eritrean National Innovation Hub (ENIH) and establishing the ENIH overall. The ENIH aims to bring together researchers, creators, and innovators to nurture creative ideas and fosters a common understanding among youth, women, and various stakeholders on strengthening innovations, technologies, and digital solutions.
- To improve audits and comply with international standards, the United Nations in Eritrea supported the Office of the Auditor General staff to improve their knowledge of the international audit standards and achieve level 4 out of 5. As a result, public finance management has improved; Audits meet international standards and achieve level 4 out of 5, up from level 3.5 in 2021; and performance-related audits are carried out for 30% of the audited public entities.
- With its commitment to LNOB, the UN in Eritrea, in collaboration with key stakeholders, played a critical role in identifying and selecting the neediest beneficiaries from the large vulnerable population. 60,493 vulnerable people with diverse skills, in-kind and cash business start-up contributions helped alleviate the adverse impact of COVID-19 on the social and economic conditions of vulnerable households.

Output 2.2

National statistical and data-producing institutions have increased capacity to collect, collate, analyse, use, and manage data

With the support of the UN in Eritrea, GoSE presented its first-ever Voluntary National Review (VNR) to the UN High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development in July 2022. The VNR report focused on two SDGs: SDG3 and SDG13 and presents the country's experiences, including achievements, challenges and key lessons learned, in implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The preparation process followed a whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach that facilitated the active participation and input of various ministries, departments, and Civil Societies Organizations (CSOs), including the National Union of Eritrean Youth and Students (NUEYS), the National Union of Eritrean Women (NUEW) and the National Confederation of Workers (NCEW); Academy; and the United Nations Development System in Eritrea.

Output 2.3

Capacities of public institutions to consolidate national harmony and socio-economic development increased.

The UN contributed to improved access to justice, and dispute resolution and strengthened institutions to address and implement UPR recommendations.

UN Eritrea supported the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) in strengthening its human and institutional capacities in line with its strategic plan, which prioritizes human resource development through distance learning, on-the-job training, enhancing the professional and research capacity of the sector and the participation of society in improving access to justice. Supported the enrolment of 93 (30% women) staff in LLM with UNISA drawn from the Judiciary, Prosecution and Legal Services. UN Eritrea's support to the Ministry of Justice has transformed court proceedings and operations from time-consuming paper-based, manual operations to a computer-based system. The new system resulted in a significant reduction in the time required to provide services such as issuing powers of attorney and court judgments, as well as authenticating documents. This, in turn, resulted in higher service user satisfaction and an improved work environment.

UN Eritrea also provided financial and advisory services to strengthen institutions to address and implement UPR recommendations in the follow-up process, leading Eritrea to participate in the Human Rights Council.



Output 2.4

Communities have increased capacities to counter harmful traditional practices

Eritrea, with support from the UN, has made considerable progress to ensure political and legal frameworks are in place to prevent and respond to gender-based violence and to eliminate harmful practices such as child marriage and female genital mutilation.

In 2022, 298,539 people participated in community engagement campaigns and interventions to promote positive gender norms. A major child protection success was the declaration of two sub-zones (Adi-Tekelezan and Halhal) as FGM-free, resulting in 13,500 under the age of fifteen girls living in seventy villages being protected from exposure and risk of FGM. 20,920 community elders participated in a public statement in support of FGM/C cessation in 142 high-impact villages. At the end of 2022, an estimated 45,000 young and adolescent girls were living happily in 142 villages that upheld the community's proclaimed zero tolerance of FGM. The number of communities that have made a public statement to end FGM increased from 227 in 2020 to 382 in 2022.

Locally agreed statutes in the Adi-Tekelezan Zone sub-zone of Anseba Zone aiming to end child marriages to prevent, has been extended to the northern Red Sea zone Afabet and Nakfa Subzones and Maekel zone of the Berik subzone, where 49,090 girls under the age of eighteen, are also protected from underage marriage.

The UN maintained its partnership with NUEW, a civil society organization mandated to lead the national gender agenda, and 192 NUEW women frontline workers attended a week-long introductory training session on NUEW's commitment to protecting against sexual exploitation and sexual abuse (PSEA).

Youth Employment and Skills Development to enhance economic opportunities in Eritrea

United Nations in Eritrea works with stakeholders to create opportunities and a more conducive environment for young people to pursue their aspirations, with a primary focus on developing entrepreneurial skills and expanding economic opportunities.

To date, 19 beneficiaries have graduated in Ceramic Craftsmanship and 13 have completed basic computer training as part of the youth employment and skills development program in Zoba Anseba. UN In Eritrea has provided financial support through NUEYS to support youth and women in improving their livelihoods with provision of skills development training of their choice.

Fiori Alemu, 31, is among 19 female beneficiaries who received training in pottery making. She was happy to sell her ceramic products at Keren Market and grateful to be able to generate income to support her family.

UN Eritrea and the National Union of Eritrean Youth and Students (NUEYS) have joined the Leaving No One Behind (LNOB) imperative to ensure that youth are informed, engaged, and empowered to lead a sustainable human contribution to the development and resilience of their communities. In FY2020-2021, 349 people received various skills and professional training such as poultry farming, beekeeping, palm leaf and pearl crafts, hairdressing, culinary arts, water pump maintenance, music, ceramic handicraft as well as wood and metal work. Program implementation included interest-free student loan programs to align youth with business initiatives.





PROSPERITY

LIVELIHOODS, INCLUSIVE & DIVERSIFIED ECONOMY

UNDP, FAO, IFAD, WFP, UNIDO



373,094

Animals vaccinated
against brucellosis



23,876

Livelihoods safeguarded



70,000

Ha of land protected



162,160

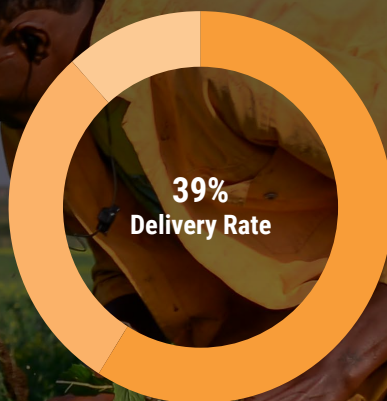
Children benefited from
cash transfer

Total Expenditure USD 4,651,717.00

Require

Planned

Expenditure



26.49 Million

13.20 Million

5.13 Million

SDG Contribution



0.23 Million



0.93 Million



0.93 Million



1.16 Million



1.39 Million





Outcome 3: By 2026, people in Eritrea, especially the disadvantaged population, have increased livelihoods as economic growth becomes more inclusive and diversified

Output 3.1

Public sector capacities are strengthened to develop strategies and policies for enterprises, job creation and employment

Owing to its geographical location, Eritrea is naturally prone to greater climatic variations in general and drought, infestation, and animal diseases. Eritrea's current climatic condition is quite variable and is influenced by the Sahel Saharan desert.

The Eritrean economy is heavily dependent on agriculture. However, the sector is seriously threatened by Desert Locust (DL) invasions, infestation of locusts also has negative impacts on forestry and the ecosystem. In mitigating these critical livelihood challenges, the United Nations is actively involved in providing early recovery support to drought-affected communities, particularly in the Northern and Southern Red Sea Regions. It also implements Emergency Assistance programs to curb the desert locust outbreak and enacts a Control and Surveillance Okab fir animal diseases (PPR and Brucellosis).

UN supported the country's efforts to control the DL outbreak and protect the livelihoods of the most vulnerable members of the population. Strengthened national desert locust surveillance capacity, rapid response and safety in pesticide use resulted in 500,000 ha of land being monitored and 70,000 ha of land treated, and 35,000 cattle and 120,000 small ruminants protected. As a result of UN support, a marginal crop has been damaged and the livelihoods of around 23,876 households have been sustained. In addition, 32,500 Ha of crop land was protected with nominal vegetation damage due to the joint collaboration of the UN and implementing partners.

Output 3.2

Skills and capacity of people, especially women and youth, are improved for increased access to diversified livelihoods and employability

Poor rainy seasons have resulted in severe water shortages and droughts in parts of Eritrea, particularly in the Northern Red Sea (NRS) and Southern Red Sea (SRS) regions. To counter this, the UN provided life-saving assistance in the areas of food security, nutrition, early recovery and water and sanitation (WASH). The Rapid Response CERF Allocation responds to the current impact of drought on vulnerable people, particularly agro-pastoralists, and mitigates the impact of further deterioration and vulnerability.

To ensure the food security and livelihoods of the most vulnerable groups in the most drought-affected areas of the country, 3,096 Metric tons (MT) of animal feed was procured and distributed to 146,000 pastoralist and agro-pastoralists in NRS and SRS, 60,000 of whom were Female-Headed Households (FHH) or female beneficiaries, and 540 MT of chick mishmash were also distributed to 2160 women who had previously received chicks.



Output 3.3

Access to finance, productive assets, technology, infrastructure, and equipment is increased in support of sustainable livelihoods

To improve the food security and livelihood of vulnerable pastoralists, agro-pastoralists and farming communities affected by FMD and Brucellosis, the UN provided support to the government of Eritrea.

- 18,479 farmers got basic good hygiene practices and promote good animal husbandry.
- 25 Animal Health and laboratory personnel trained on basic FMD and Brucellosis diagnostic techniques.
- Vaccination of 373,094 cattle, sheep, and goats against brucellosis.

To strengthen the capacities of the Government's fisheries, sector the UN agencies provide technical and financial support assistance to the Government of Eritrea.

- Solar fish drying facility constructed as a pilot for further up-scaling and research purposes
- 63.2 ha of mangrove was planted in coastal Zobas by mobilising 270 community members of which 40% are female households.
- Mobilization and awareness creation for fisheries reservoir utilization to improve fish consumption habits conducted in ten selected micro dams involving a total of 390 households (198 are WHH).
- Fish consumption promotion targeting households, schools and hospitals was conducted in two Zobas where a total of 285 students and 518 HH participated in the sessions that involved a practical demonstration of cooking fish.
- Provide support for improved nutrition awareness campaigns to increase fish consumption: Mid Term Review (MTR) survey was done and indicated that MDD-W stands at 42. Whereas attitude towards fish eating has increased to 85 percent and fish-eating practice is still low at 57.5 percent only.
- A total of 1493 HH (7465 persons) received skills capacities and productive assets to engage in sustainable and gainful fishing.



Output 3.4

National social security and protection stems are strengthened and expanded to reach the most vulnerable families and population groups

Through the Regional Rural Poor stimulus fund which is an IFAD initiative to respond to shocks and loss of livelihoods caused due to COVID-19, under the building back better initiative for the greater Horn of Africa, 591 village-based advisors (122 female) were trained and supported to provide services of Village-based advisory services for disseminating improved technologies.

This assisted in improving access to high-quality seed through the training of VBAs who disseminated the Small Seed Pack (SSP) and related extension packages to reach a total of 26,026. The delivery mechanism was innovative and proved a quick and effective means for adopting improved inputs.

The program has provided farmers with a choice of improved high-quality seeds to choose from and engage in gainful farming activities, following distribution in inputs supply chains causing shortage of availability of improved seed and /or traditional inputs supply routes. The initiative is also believed to have improved the voicing and decision-making of women groups in the selection of HH seed varieties.

CERF – RR Project also responded to the dire demand for animal feed caused due to the drought through the distribution of 3000 MT of animal supplementary feed and 300 MT Layer feed in the NRS and SRS reaching a total of 150,000 HH (735,000 individual people), out of these women comprise 60,000 HH.



Social policy and social protection

With the support of the United Nations, considerable progress has been made in improving access to social protection for vulnerable groups. Several progressive child-sensitive social protection measures have been put in place to reduce vulnerability to multidimensional poverty. There are 4,748 trained community-based social service workers (37 percent female), capable of providing appropriate social services, either as social workers, rehabilitation workers or community mobilizers. The training, co-financed by the United Nations, contributed to ensuring the effective utilization of direct cash transfers. As a result, coverage of community-based social protection services coverage and programme efficacy are expected to improve. The training of additional social workers also led to an increase in the number of vulnerable children covered by cash transfers, from 150,000 in 2021 to 162,160 in 2022.

Through the community-based social assistance programme, about 30,000 vulnerable children (48 per cent girls)—32 per cent of whom were children with disabilities—were reached with social protection support, improving access to education and other basic social services related to mental health, psychosocial support, and referral services.

During 2022 through the UN support, national coverage of community-based, inclusive development for disability-inclusive programming expanded from 54 to 58 sub-zones, representing coverage of 86 per cent and facilitating increased access to various social services for over 6,080 children with disabilities (32 per cent girls). Thus: 57 percent improved physical rehabilitation with psychosocial support, 33 percent enrolled in school and about 10 percent received mobility support (including donkeys and related accessories), resulting in improved school attendance and reduced school dropout. Compared to 2021, the number of children with disabilities who received community-based social services more than doubled, rising from 1,800 to 5,000 in 2022.

In 2022, the UN contributed to the development and finalization of a national policy for social protection and a social protection strategic plan (2023–2027), by providing strategic guidance and policy recommendations to the Government. The national disability policy was reviewed and children with disabilities, who have traditionally been invisible in both their families and communities, increasingly appear to be accessing social services.

To respond to the slowdown in the economy and livelihoods, particularly in the informal sector, the UN invested in increasing farmers' productive capacities through alternative income generation schemes, the UN distributed 600 Beehive boxes for 300 families; 150 Donkeys with water jerrican for 150 families; 1500 Sheep/Goats for 100 families. Of the total number of economic beneficiaries, 65 percent are women and 60 percent are youth.

150 vulnerable women have been supported with assets worth of Nakfa 3,000 to engage in horticulture production, trade, reproduction of livestock, beekeeping, and animal driven carts. 230 vulnerable women, refugees returned from Ethiopia and women who lost their jobs received cash assistance and livelihood support.

450 vulnerable women affected by the effects of HIV/AIDS have been supported to improve their skills in areas such as poultry, bees, livestock, fruit and vegetable production, small business administration, resource management, mat and bead embellishment item making, and sewing/tailoring, computer applications, leadership, management, and gender issues.





PLANET

CLIMATE RESILIENT, SUSTAINABLE ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES
UNDP, FAO, UNICEF, UNEP



125,874

People supported with
safe and climate resilient
water supply



45,000

Ha landscape and
seascape under
improved ecosystem



89%

Of the population
attain ODF

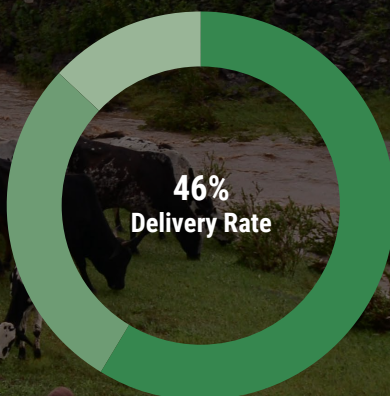


4,900

drought-affected
households benefited
from cash for work

Total Expenditure USD 7,067,744

**Require
Planned
Expenditure**



32.2 Million

15.37 Million

7.06 Million

SDG Contribution



0.40 Million



0.91 Million



1.16 Million



1.61 Million



2.98 Million





Outcome 4: By 2026, people in Eritrea have benefited from climate resilient, sustainable environment and natural resources management

Output 4.1

The capacity of institutions and communities are strengthened to sustainably manage and use environmental and natural resources

The United Nations in Eritrea continues to support efforts to improve access to safe drinking water and good sanitation. The proportion of rural population with access to safe drinking water has significantly increased to 70 percent in 2021, while in urban areas access stands at 92 percent.

- With the unfolding global climate crisis and its impact on children and women, the GoSE discontinued the use of hand pumps and prioritized solar-driven, climate-smart investments. Through community-led upgrading and construction of new climate-resilient, solar-powered water supply systems, 125,874 people (69% Female) across 37 communities (including 30 drought-affected communities), were supported with improved access to safe and climate-resilient water supply services. To date, 490 community water points were solar-powered, 65 percent of which were established since 2017 through direct UN in Eritrea funding and support.
- Provided access to safe drinking water for five villages of the Anseba and Gash Barka regions. Strengthened the capacity of sixty rural communities in developing disaster and climate risk-informed inclusive community development plan for community-based resilience and the capacities of key 4 sub-regional level stakeholders Strengthened disaster and climate risks preparedness and management through developing risk informed planning and implementation enhanced. Strengthened emergency preparedness capacity of high disaster risk prone areas in Northern and Southern Red Sea and Anseba regions.
- By the end-2022, the percentage of the population living in ODF-declared communities had risen to 89 percent (from 73 percent in 2021) reaching an additional 220,190 people (99,086 Males, 121,104 Females, including 11,830 living with disabilities) with sanitation and hygiene facilities across 344 target villages.
- In collaboration with UN Eritrea, the Ministry of Health launched an ongoing ODF assessment in selected rural and urban areas to identify strategic enablers to ensure that the remaining 300 villages (58 in urban/semi-urban settings, with an estimated population of 224,049) have access to adequate sanitation and contribute to the national ODF goal.



Output 4.2

Access to modern, renewable, and affordable clean energy sources and services increased

To support Eritrea in its endeavour to transition to renewable energy, the UN in collaboration with IRENA (International Renewable Energy Agency) has initiated engagement with GoSE to promote/strengthen renewable improved energy supply in the country. The support will include (i) Technical Assistance and (ii) Financial Matchmaking support with partners introducing the renewable energy projects to the fittest potential financiers





Output 4.3

Capacities of communities and national institutions are enhanced to mitigate, adapt, and mainstream climate change and disaster risks

The UN in Eritrea collaborated with national counterparts to support climate change adaptation, environmental protection, natural resources management, and resilience building.

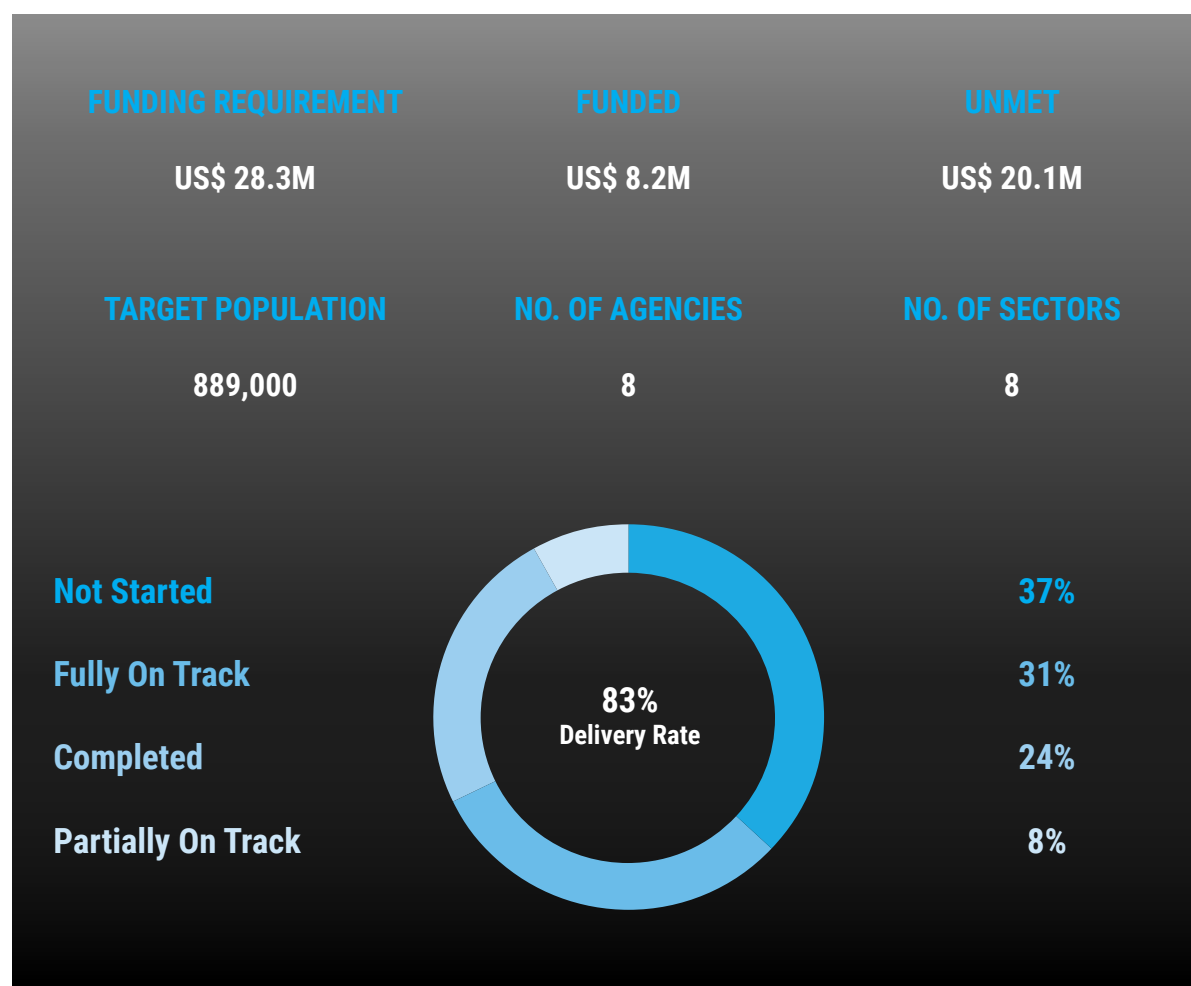
- Supported the conservation of biodiversity through protected area systems with positive trends in species populations at the site level and strengthened the participation and capacity building of local communities, especially women, in protected area system management and natural resource management. 45,000 hectares of landscape and seascape have undergone improved ecosystem/biodiversity management through UN technical and financial assistance, contributing to improved livestock and crop production and household resilience. In addition to the environmental benefits, 5,000 men and women who participated in conservation activities have also benefited financially (about \$200 each) from these activities through the associated cash-for-work program.
- Helped to build capacities for biodiversity conservation in protected area systems by providing training on GIS (Geographical Information Systems), ecosystem management, habitat, and biogas management for 350 field experts and extension workers.
- Supported the promotion and strengthening of date palm production to improve the rural sector, contributing to economic diversification, nutrition and food security, and the reduction of emissions and carbon sink enhancement by strengthening the Tissue Culture National Laboratory of the National Agricultural Research Institute of the Ministry of Agriculture.
- Supported 4,900 drought-affected households (60% women-headed households), totalling 23,520 people, including women, youth, children, people with disabilities and the elderly which enabled beneficiaries to alleviate the negative impacts of drought. This included a cash-for-work-based land restoration and conservation of 878 and the construction of eight water ponds for livestock.
- Supported the Ministry of Labour and Human Welfare (MLHW) in the establishment of a vulnerability database to collect, collate and analyse gender-segregated data for persons with disability, single women-headed households, and other vulnerable groups.
- Continued to support the Ministry of Land, Water and Environment to strengthen its environmental information and database for informed decisions about the environment and integrating environmental considerations into key national policies.
- Initiated support to enhance Eritrea's national climate pledges through undertaking an inclusive process to revise and submit its enhanced Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) by 2023.
- Initiated support to update the 1999 biodiversity stocktaking assessment report to inform natural resource management efforts and integrating environmental considerations into key national policies.

Basic Services Response Priorities - BSRP 2022:

The 2022 Basic Services Response Priorities (BSRP) document attempted to prioritise the response to the most urgent needs of the Eritrean people within the Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (SDCF) 2022-2026, which was jointly developed by the Government of the State of Eritrea (GoSE) and the United Nations. The 2022 BSRP consolidated the most urgent projects from within the Food Security and Livelihoods (FSL); Nutrition; Health; Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH); Basic Education; Multi-sector support to Refugees; and Protection sectors. These urgent projects aimed to reach a total target population of 889 thousand people, within all six Zobas of Eritrea.

The 2022 BSRP is primarily intended as a tool to identify and compile those projects which target the most vulnerable groups with lifesaving and/or life-sustaining assistance. The projects in this document were tied to the nine categories of vulnerable people identified as part of the SDCF process, under the principle of 'Leave No-one Behind', namely women, especially Female-Headed Households (FHHs); the elderly, especially those alone; rural and peri-urban children; young people; the urban poor; war-injured veterans and their dependents; people living with chronic illness including HIV, and with a disability; people living in hard-to-reach rural areas; and refugees and migrants.

An assessment of the project status at the activity level shows that 51 percent of the activities were either completed or fully on track. Only 8 percent were partially on track. However, a considerable proportion of the activities (37 percent) have not started as of 31 December 2022. Activities that were not completed in 2022 may be continued in 2023, as part of the projects in the 2022-2023 Joint Work Plans.





2.3. *Support to Partnerships and Financing the 2030*

It is widely recognized that achievement of the SDGs can only be realized through effective partnerships and strong cooperation between governments and different stakeholders across a broad range of areas.

Eritrea's partnership policy underlined by the principle of self-reliance where it is selective of the areas open for partnership with external partners. Government always starts with internal resources before augmenting them with donor support for complementarity. The country is under unilateral coercive measures (sanctions) coupled with declining ODA globally which limits the donor base for potential cooperation in the implementation of the current CF and the SDGs. Hence, the UN system is advocating for joint partnership and resource mobilization engagement going forward to accelerate the implementation of the joint programs.

The country came under unilateral sanctions from the EU and USA in March 2021 and November 2021 respectively, derailing its prospects for future economic development and investments and aggravating humanitarian concerns. The sanctions have severely restricted the financial landscape in Eritrea. The UN Partnership and Resources Mobilization Group (PRM) held a two-day reflection on the global and country financial landscape which drew partnership and resources mobilization experts from the Headquarters of UNICEF, OCHA and UNDP, UN Africa-China Partnership Regional Office in Addis Ababa, as well as some development partners in Eritrea.


The workshop aimed to create a platform for UNCT, chairs of results groups of the four outcome areas in the Cooperation Framework (CF) and senior UN programmes staff to take a deep dive on the analysis of the partnership and resource gaps for the implementation of the CF and explore available country, regional and global level opportunities.

As a result, the UNCT identified and developed concept notes for joint programmes to respond to national priorities in the areas of data for development, economic prosperity, reduction of maternal and infant mortality, and energy. The Resident Coordinator has also led in creating spaces for joint engagement of the UNCT members with development partners in Eritrea as well as with non-traditional partners.

The UN in Eritrea had policy discussions with development partners to address the growing challenges of sustainable financing to implement the 2030 Agenda. These included, for example, African Development Bank (AfDB), the EU, and Japan. The AfDB, has USD\$80m to support agriculture, education, water and sanitation, and governance policy in Eritrea. The policy discussions identified areas where AfDB and UNCT can optimize funding by working on complementary areas to advance SDGs. The European Union highlighted its limitation to support Eritrea except in specifically identified areas due to current policy challenges.

The partnership and Resource Mobilisation group also developed a draft strategy to guide the UNCT in strengthening partnerships and mobilising additional resources in the specific unique context of Eritrea. Elements of the strategy including continued engagement with new and emerging donors were implemented in 2022 and will be further pursued in 2023.





2.4. Results of the UN working more and better together: UN coherence, effectiveness, and efficiency

The Office of UN Coordinators (UNRCO), guided by the UN Common Agenda and UN Coherence Reform, plays a critical role in enabling UN agencies on the ground, as well as non-resident agencies, to provide demand-driven technical assistance to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

In January 2022, the United Nations system in Eritrea launched its 2022-2026 Cooperation Framework, and Joint Biennial Work Plan in October 2022. Under the leadership of the UN Resident Coordinator, the UNCT provided overall guidance, and technical and financial support for the effective and efficient implementation of the UNSDCF 2022-2026. The United Nations Country Team (UNCT) aspires to produce transformational and impactful achievements in support of Eritrea's national development priorities under the Cooperation Framework.

Following the Government's approval of JWP for 2022-2023 in October 2022, Joint Sector Technical Meetings were held which brings together UN entities and Implementing Partners (Government ministries). They collectively reflected on the approved Joint Work Plans, funding situation, how to accelerate implementation, reinforced synergies, and identified gaps in UN support to national priorities. The reflections boosted confidence in GoSE/UN partnership as well as confirmed the choices of UN joint programmes, reaffirmed the role of specialised agencies, including those not physically located in the country and underscored the need and opportunities for joint resource mobilisation with GoSE.

In January 2022, DCO Regional Director for Africa led a group of UN Regional and Deputy Regional Directors based in Addis Abba, Nairobi, and Johannesburg in a joint mission to Asmara to engage with the Government of the State of Eritrea with a view to improving relationships. The engagements were very fruitful and resulted in deepened appreciation for perspectives of the GoSE and UN, as well as clearer understanding on Government's expressed priority areas for support.

The UN RCO leveraged expertise from UNDCO and UN entities at global and regional levels to support development of strategies for joint resources mobilization in the restricted landscape in Eritrea. Through their expertise, opportunities for more coherent and better engagement with donors, including IFIs, were identified including through joint programmes and south-south cooperation.

UN DCO Headquarters deployed a Senior Development Coordination Officer – Crisis Management for three months (2nd November 2022 to 31 January 2023). This bolstered RCO capacity to provide strategic advice and coordination support in technical engagements with government, partnership; and resource mobilisation initiatives; development of four concept notes for UN joint programmes; preparation of the updated UN common country analysis, and preparation of RCO/UNCT submissions of background paper on Eritrea for Deputies Committee and Executive Committee at New York HQ.

The United Nations in Eritrea continued to deliver together under the UNSDCF, ensuring coherence, effectiveness, and efficiency across different thematic and operational areas.

Program Management and Data Team (PMDT)

The PMDT (Program Management and Data Team) was revived in 2022 and aims to improve the management of the collaborative framework by ensuring synergies between all result groups and related joint programmes. The TOR has been redesigned to better serve the PMDT's mission. The PMDT led the development and completion of the 2022-2023 JWP and facilitated a technical meeting between the implementing partners and UN agencies focused on the technical implementation of the JWP. The PMDT also led and coordinated the process of the 2022 UNCT Annual Result Report and CCA update in collaboration with the CCA Inter-Agency Issue Groups and performed a quality review of the Joint Program Concept Notes.

OMT

The OMT has been involved in rolling out the UN efficiency agenda in Eritrea, including the review and signing of the BOS 2.0, assessment of the UN common premises and preliminary discussions on the establishment of the common back office or Local Shared Service Centre (LSSC). Two key projects and initiatives endorsed by the UNCT have started and are currently underway, including the Common Internet Connectivity and Common Solar power supply System.

The UN in Eritrea implemented several common operational activities in 2022, including an Operations Monitoring Checklist, operations measures to address changes in the county security situation, management of the UN contract for Security guard Services, costing of the UN Clinic's Action plan to enhance its HR capacity, laboratory equipment and expansion of the clinic's clientele, and development and implementation of the OMT rolling working 2022-2023.

The OMT has witnessed active and engaging participation of all UN agencies in all operation's functional areas.

UNCG

The United Nations Communication Group (UNCG) with support from the UNCT has developed a communications strategy to shape and coordinate communication activities of the UNCT in alignment with the UNSDCF 2022-2026 and the UN Global Communications Strategy 2020-2024. The primary aim of the Communication Group is to provide a user and demand-driven support to the UNCT. The UNCG also supported important international observances involving strategic engagement with development partners and the Government and highlighted the UN's support for the Government and people of Eritrea. The UNCG supported the UN Day Commemorations and an all-staff event including town hall sessions that served as important avenues for all staff and the UNCT to communicate and resolve challenges.

Programming Principles Group (gender equality, human rights and LNOB)

The UNCT's Programming Principles Group (gender equality, human rights, and LNOB) collaborated with the government and other key partners to enhance dialogue and knowledge platforms to promote gender equality, human rights, and LNOB.



Using the platform of different international days like International Women's Day and the 16 days of Activism, communities and media people were sensitized on the effects of gender-based violence.

The group arranged an event for International Women's Day (IWD) On March 8, which included gender trivia and a screening of IWD videos. Gender awareness training was provided to the whole employees of the Auditor General's Office (OAG), and the Office was assisted in establishing a Gender Focal Team to take leadership and ownership of gender capacity building and associated initiatives at the OAG.

Gender analysis for humanitarian contexts/settings was given to the Basic Services Working Group. The training helped with gender analysis in project submissions and ensures that gender issues are integrated at every stage of the project/program cycle.

Joint Program for HIV

Significant success has been achieved in preventing the transmission of HIV and sustaining a decline in prevalence and incidence through the sustained implementation of high-impact interventions and a well-coordinated multi-sectoral approach. The multisectoral initiatives contributed to the strengthening of partnerships and mobilization of resources for an effective HIV/AIDS response, as well as the improvement of the entire health system, directly contributing to SDGs

Despite Eritrea's limited resources, great progress has been made in responding to HIV and other sexually transmitted infections. The Joint program supported the country's effort and commitment to "achieve zero HIV infection". The Government embraced the Fast Track Goals (95:95:95) for eradicating HIV as a public health issue by 2030. The country has shifted its eMTCT of HIV and syphilis interventions to focus on triple eMTCT of HIV, syphilis, and hepatitis B virus (HBV) in line with the WHO's recommendations and the joint program supported by the country to establish and orient a National Validation Committee (NVC) to provide oversight in preparing for the validation process and a pre-assessment exercise. In addition to the continuing national validation and certification process for eMTCT, the team is collaborating closely with the Ministry of Health on promoting male involvement in eMTCT and intensifying community-based social behavioral change communication to increase knowledge and demand for eMTCT.

Several workshops were held to encourage communities to take the lead in intervening and supporting the reduction of new infections, as well as to combat stigma. Innovative techniques were employed to create high-impact HIV preventive interventions and scale up evidence-based, gender-responsive, and people centered programmatic measures to ensure equal access for populations at substantial risk of HIV. World Aids Day (WAD) was the focus of various actions, including advocacy and the media and local radio stations' involvement to promote awareness and prevent new infections. The Joint team supported national WAD commemorations by providing funding for Information, Education and Communication (IEC) materials and leaflets. The joint team supported the production of 10,000 IEC to be distributed across the region during the celebration.

The Joint team supported the development, review, and finalization of the HIV DR proposal for implementation. Furthermore, the Joint team held a briefing and orientation session for MoH focal points on the survey.

2.5. *Evaluations and Lessons Learned*

The independent summative evaluation of the SPCF 2017-2021 was conducted. The main objective of the Final Evaluation is to assess progress on the implementation of UNSPCF (2017-2021); its relevance to current and future national context and global commitments of the country; the effectiveness of UNSPCF management arrangements; and learning lessons that would add value to the work of the UN in the next CF. The evaluation highlighted several recommendations and lessons learned.

Relevance: The relevance of the SPCF program is unquestionable given the unique position that the UN holds in Eritrea as a key interlocutor for development strategies and policies, including the normative dimension of human rights, gender, and climate, among others. The program interventions are well aligned with the national development priorities National Indicative Development Plan (NIDP, 2014-2018) and derived sectoral policies and strategies.

Effectiveness and early impact: The SPCF has achieved a range of results in eight outcome areas that improve access to essential services, reduce land degradation, and strengthen the human and institutional capacity of selected government institutions. Factors hampering synergies between program components and between implementing sectors include a low culture of information sharing and mechanisms for generation and dissemination of knowledge and experience, lack of needs assessment studies and solid project implementation arrangements, and lack of coordination between stakeholders and UN agencies. Early effects have been observed in some of the SPCF programmes, e.g. improved income of target beneficiaries and improved value creation for their products.

Efficiency: The SPCF program received 98 percent of the funds expected.

Sustainability: The SPCF projects are more likely to be maintained and sustained due to grassroots involvement in their design and implementation and the provision of value-added machinery and training.

Coherence of purpose is highly pronounced in the GoSE and the UN response to the Covid-19 pandemic, where earmarked SPCF budget was reallocated to respond to the pandemic without disrupting the main objectives of the SPCF.





Recommendation: The UN should expand the scope of the CCA to include socio-economic development issues, re-engineer its positioning in Eritrea, develop a SPCF that is integrated across sectors and agency levels, integrate the development-humanitarian-peace triple nexus, and develop a monitoring framework and guidance for integrated programming.

The UNCT accepts the recommendations and findings. Most of the recommendations have been incorporated into the ongoing CF. A management response plan has been prepared and is being implemented.

2.6. Financial Overview and Resource Mobilization

The year 2022 was the first year of implementation of the UNSDCF 2022-2026. The UN system collectively delivered US\$ 31,043,060.67 during 2022 with a 52 percent delivery rate. The low delivery rate is attributed to the late signing of JWPs and liquidation of long outstanding Direct Cash Transfers (DCT).

Breakdown of Financial Overview 2022

PILLARS	REQUIRED	AVAILABLE	EXPENDITURE	DELIVERY RATE
People 	43,136,629.00	24,190,923	12,415,451	51%
Peace 	1,510,000.00	7,500,000	6,429,157	86%
Prosperity 	26,494,904.00	13,205,399	5,130,709	39%
Planet 	32,202,370.00	15,375,872	7,067,744	46%
TOTAL	103,343,903.00	60,272,194	31,043,061	52%

Delivery Rate

TOTAL

52%

PEOPLE

51%

PLANET

46%

PEACE

86%

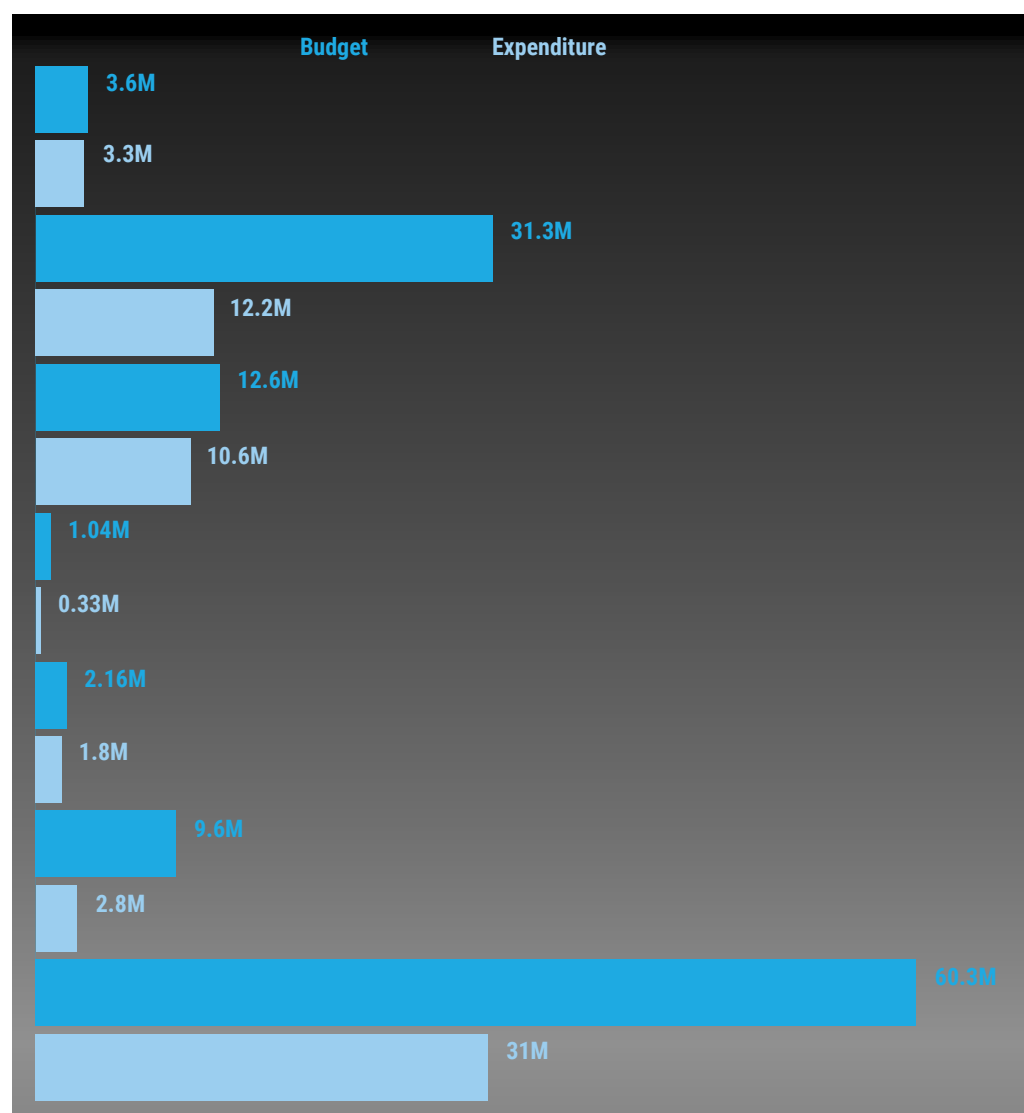
PROSPERITY

39%

UN Agencies Development Programme Delivery 2022 (USD)



TOTAL







CHAPTER 3:

UNCT key focus for next year

Although the UNCT had formed Results Groups with clear TORs (terms of reference) in 2022, their work was mostly on hold because the Government had suspended the preparation of JWPs.

In the backdrop of the contextual developments outlined in the first chapter, the UN priority focus for 2023 will be as follows:

1. The RC/UNCT shall engage with UN system-wide efforts at regional level to support the full implementation of the 2022 peace agreement between Ethiopia and TPLF, and the 2000 Algiers Agreement.
2. Review UNCT configuration to ensure it is responsive to critical needs and priorities of Eritrea to be fit for purpose.
3. Engage the Government for a comprehensive strategy on diaspora involvement in Eritrea's development.
4. Provide support to the Government to change the negative narrative and create enabling environment for development assistance.
5. On an ongoing basis, initiate periodical meetings/reviews with GoSE on CF.
6. Undertake sustained advocacy for agencies with a difficult mandate in the country.
7. Undertake several diagnostic activities so that UNCT is clear on areas for development.
8. Elevate role of UNCG for improved messaging and advocacy about the work of the UNCT.
9. Undertake joint resource mobilization focusing on traditional and emerging donors.
10. Work towards a coherent and better-coordinated UNCT more focused on delivering consolidated support to Eritrea.







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