



UNITED NATIONS  
ERITREA



# 2023 UN ANNUAL RESULTS REPORT

## Eritrea



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## Acronym

<b>BSRP</b>	Basic Services Response Priorities	<b>NAPHS</b>	National Action Plan for Health Security
<b>CCA</b>	Common Country Analysis	<b>NCD</b>	Non-communicable diseases
<b>CERF</b>	Central Emergency Response Fund	<b>OCHA</b>	Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
<b>CF</b>	Cooperation Framework	<b>ODF</b>	Open Defecation Free
<b>EPI</b>	Expanded Program on Immunization	<b>OMT</b>	Operations Management Team
<b>EU</b>	European Union	<b>PEP</b>	Post Exposure Prophylaxis
<b>FAO</b>	Food and Agricultural Organization of the UN	<b>PHC</b>	Primary Health Care
<b>FCDO</b>	Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office	<b>PMT</b>	Program Management Team
<b>FReMP</b>	Fisheries Resources Management Programme	<b>PRM</b>	Partnership and Resource Mobilization
<b>GDP</b>	Gross Domestic Product	<b>RCO</b>	Resident Coordinator's Office
<b>GER</b>	Gross Enrolment Rate	<b>RRF</b>	Results and Resources Framework
<b>GoSE</b>	Government of the State of Eritrea	<b>SAM</b>	Severe Acute Malnutrition
<b>GPE</b>	Global Partnership for Education	<b>SDGs</b>	Sustainable Development Goals
<b>HPV</b>	Human Papilloma Virus	<b>SOPs</b>	Standard Operating Procedures
<b>IMAM</b>	Integrated Management of Acute Malnutrition	<b>UHC</b>	Universal Health Coverage
<b>IFAD</b>	International Fund for Agricultural Development	<b>UNCG</b>	United Nations Communication Group
<b>IFIs</b>	International Financial Institutions	<b>UNCT</b>	United Nations Country Team
<b>IGAD</b>	Intergovernmental Authority on Development	<b>UNDP</b>	United Nations Development Programme
<b>IOM</b>	International Organization for Migration	<b>UNECA</b>	United Nations Economic Commission for Africa
<b>IMF</b>	International Monetary Fund	<b>UNEP</b>	United Nations Environment Programme
<b>ITC</b>	International Trade Centre	<b>UNESCO</b>	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
<b>JWP</b>	Joint Work Plan	<b>UNFPA</b>	United Nations Population Fund
<b>LDC</b>	Least Developed Countries	<b>UNHCR</b>	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
<b>LNOB</b>	Leaving No One Behind	<b>UNICEF</b>	United Nations Children's Fund
<b>M&amp;E</b>	Monitoring & Evaluation	<b>UNIDO</b>	United Nations Industrial Development Organization
<b>MAM</b>	Moderate Acute Malnutrition	<b>UNODC</b>	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
<b>MLA</b>	Monitoring and Learning Activity	<b>UNSDCF</b>	United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework
<b>MMR</b>	Ministry of Marine Resources	<b>UPR</b>	Universal Periodic Review
<b>MoA</b>	Ministry of Agriculture	<b>VNR</b>	Voluntary National Review
<b>MoE</b>	Ministry of Education	<b>WASH</b>	Water Supply Sanitation and Hygiene
<b>MoH</b>	Ministry of Health	<b>WFP</b>	World Food Programme
<b>MOI</b>	Ministry of Information	<b>WHO</b>	World Health Organization
<b>MTR</b>	Mid Term Reviews		

# UN Country Team members

The United Nations Country Team (UNCT) in Eritrea remains the partner of choice for the Government of the State of Eritrea and stands firmly in support of the country's commitment to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the development agenda put forward by the Government. The UN's presence in Eritrea consists of 9 resident and 10 non-resident agencies. The UN system in Eritrea is led by the Resident Coordinator (RC). The work of the United Nations in Eritrea is guided by the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) 2022-2026 and is fully aligned to the SDGs, with a focus on addressing the needs of the vulnerable groups and premised on the principle of Leaving No One Behind (LNOB) and gender equality. It is also premised on the UN system's obligations to international standards, conventions, declarations, and treaties. The Cooperation Framework and work of the UN is fully aligned to the country priorities of the Government of the State of Eritrea (GoSE), to collectively improve the quality of life of Eritreans.

## Resident Agencies



## Non-Resident Agencies





# Key Development Partners

The successful implementation of UN programmes in Eritrea is greatly attributed to the invaluable contributions of both national and contributing partners. The United Nations (UN), as a development partner, works closely with the Government of the State of Eritrea (GoSE) to foster collaboration and advance development goals. Through joint technical committee meetings, Joint Government-UN performance reviews, and other collaborative platforms, UN agencies and government entities have formed a primary strategic partnership to achieve development objectives.

Another key platform for UN engagement with development partners in Eritrea is the Development Partners Forum (DPF), which includes donor governments, development agencies, and other stakeholders. Chaired by the UN Resident Coordinator, the DPF serves as a forum for dialogue, cooperation, and the promotion of coordinated approaches to support the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in Eritrea. The UN Country Team actively engages with development partners to enhance collaboration and ensure the effective utilization of resources.

The UNCT is indebted to all partners who generously supported the work of the United Nations in 2022- 2023 reporting period. Their commitment and assistance play a crucial role in contributing to achieving positive outcomes and making a difference in the lives of the Eritrean people.

## National Partners

The Government of the State of Eritrea: Ministry of Finance and National Development/National Statistics Office (NSO), Ministry of Health, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Land, Water and Environment, Ministry of Information, Ministry of Marine Resources, Ministry of Mines and Energy, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare, Ministry of Justice, Custom Department and Auditor General Office.

## Contributing Partners





## Foreword by the UN Resident Coordinator

It is with great pleasure that I present the 2023 UN Annual Report for Eritrea. This report provides a comprehensive overview of key developments and results in relation to the collective efforts of the United Nations Country Team, the Government of the State of Eritrea, and its development partners towards Eritrea's realization of its national development priorities and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Eritrea's impressive achievements during the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) era serve as a strong basis for advancing its commitment to the SDGs and its overall development agenda. Eritrea stands out as one of the few countries to have achieved specific MDGs, such as reducing maternal mortality and achieving near-universal immunization. These successes have laid a solid foundation for further progress and momentum towards the SDGs.

We are almost at the half way point in the implementation of the joint Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (2022-26). Notable achievements have been made thus far in food security, basic social services and social protection, sustainable environment and natural resources, energy, and more.

However, it is important to acknowledge the challenges faced by Eritrea. Some are shared challenges, including growing global inequalities and uncertainties, escalating food and energy costs, and severe climate impacts. Others are unique to the context, such as unilateral sanctions and ongoing regional

instability. These external factors have posed obstacles to sustainable development and require renewed approaches and efforts.

Despite these challenges, Eritrea remains steadfast in its commitment and leadership to its development goals, and ensuring the needs of vulnerable groups are met so that no one is left behind. This commitment is grounded in principles of gender equality and the pursuit of international standards and obligations.

Looking ahead, the UNCT is determined to accelerate progress on the Cooperation Framework, as well as to leverage global, regional, and country strategic partnership opportunities alongside effective coordination for transformative outcomes in the lives of all Eritreans.

I would like to take this opportunity to extend my appreciation and commend the dedicated members of the UNCT, both resident and non-resident agencies, for their tireless efforts and unwavering commitment. Their work in accompanying the Government and people of Eritrea on their development journey has been instrumental in driving positive change and advancing progress.

I invite you to engage with this report, which reflects the collective commitment and determination of the United Nations and its partners in supporting the development aspirations of the people of Eritrea. Together, we can create a brighter future for all.



**Nahla Valji**

**UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator**

Eritrea





# 1 | Key developments: country and regional contexts

While Eritrea has faced significant political and socioeconomic challenges in the past, recent developments indicate an approach towards heightened engagement and collaboration with the global community. Eritrea's collaboration to end the crisis in Sudan, and its stance of solidarity to those Sudanese who have sought refuge in the country, further highlights its constructive role in peace initiatives and humanitarian assistance.

Eritrea's economy should be viewed in the broader context of a fragile global economic and financial outlook. The IMF forecasts global real GDP growth of 3.0% in 2023, down from 3.5% in 2022, with a projected growth of 2.9% in 2024. This has implications for the country's economy. Within the region, Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) has been affected by a sluggish global economy, inflation, high borrowing costs, and a cost-of-living crisis. SSA's growth rate was 4% in 2023 but is expected to slow down to 3.3% in 2024—reflecting headwinds affecting the region. Growth is expected to pick up in 2025 to 4%, too low to make a dent in poverty and income inequality.

Eritrea faces the impact of various external shocks and stressors, including the Ukraine-Russia conflict, rising global energy and food prices, and volatile global financial conditions. Climate change, including frequent droughts, also pose serious challenges to food and nutrition security. Classified as a low-income country by the World Bank, Eritrea faces difficulties in addressing poverty, improving health and education outcomes, and achieving the SDGs due to constraints in its fiscal space.

Although Eritrea experienced a decline in real GDP growth in 2023 due to a global recession and climatic shocks, growth projections for 2024 show signs of recovery. Eritrea's growth is influenced by factors such as escalating

global energy and food prices, volatile financial conditions, the Sudan crisis, and the adverse effects of climate change. In 2022, real GDP growth was estimated at 2.3%, compared to 2.5% in 2021. Growth projections for 2023 and 2024 are relatively modest but promising, with an expected growth rate of 2.6% in 2023 and a slight increase to 3.1% in 2024. The recovery in base metal prices in international commodity markets is expected to contribute to this growth. However, achieving the Sustainable Development Goals would require an annual growth rate of 7%.<sup>1</sup>

The mining industry, along with government investments and small-scale trading in the informal sector, is expected to be the primary driver of growth in 2023 and 2024. Despite a weak private sector, government investments and informal sector activities are propelling medium to long-term economic recovery efforts.

This notwithstanding, Eritrea faces challenges in securing financing for its national development priorities due to limited cooperation from partners, exacerbated by unilateral sanctions imposed by the US Government and the EU in 2021. With a subdued fiscal space, the Eritrean government, in collaboration with the UN system, has been the primary source of financing for SDG initiatives across all six regions of the country. Private remittances from Eritreans residing abroad continue to be vital for the economy, supporting social development and household consumption.

While Eritrea's economic outlook appears relatively positive, there are risks associated with global and regional factors. In addition, the country's heavy reliance on rain-fed agriculture and the threat of desert locusts as well as the impacts of climate change in the Horn of Africa could impact food and nutrition security in the medium to long term.

<sup>1</sup> Africa Development Bank: Eritrea Economic Outlook







## 2 | UN Development System support to national development priorities through the Cooperation Framework

### 2.1. Overview of Cooperation Framework Results

The year 2023 marked the second year of the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework 2022-2026. Since its inception in 2022, this Framework has served as the main programme tool for all UN agencies operating in Eritrea. It aligns with the priorities of the Government of the State of Eritrea, allowing the United Nations to be a resource to the country in addressing various crises and development needs. Through collaborative efforts with other international organizations, the UN system plays a crucial role in accompanying the Government's efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals in Eritrea.

The Framework focuses on two strategic priorities and four pillars. The pillars aim to strengthen inclusive governance, institutions, and service provision, promote gender equality and human rights, and address environmental challenges. The pillars are contributing to driving transformation in public service delivery by targeting key government institutions, benefiting the Eritrean population at large but focusing more on youth, women, and vulnerable groups.

### Human Development and Wellbeing

#### People: Equitable access to quality essential social services:

The People Pillar achieved significant progress in nutrition, health, education, and gender equality, including the establishment of early childhood care and education programs, the expansion of immunization programs, and the enhancement of maternal and child health services. Efforts to combat malnutrition have been implemented. Furthermore, initiatives have been implemented to strengthen social protection and improve access to basic services provided to vulnerable children, including those with disabilities. As a result, there have been improvements in health outcomes, maternal and newborn health services have been improved, increased educational opportunities, and a reduction in the negative impact of malnutrition.

**102,013,794**  
USD

TOTAL REQUIRED

**28,739,066**  
USD

TOTAL AVAILABLE

**22,054,930**  
USD

TOTAL EXPENDITURE



### Peace: Accountable and efficient Institutions:

The peace pillar achieved significant results and had a positive impact by enhancing government accountability and statistical capacities, promoting justice and legal reforms, providing specialized training, and improving the skills of government staff. This led to the updating of the outdated Statistical Master Plan, capacity development plans, and the translation of the government's vision into concrete actions.

<b>12,960,329</b> USD	<b>11,058,180</b> USD	<b>7,135,813</b> USD
TOTAL REQUIRED	TOTAL AVAILABLE	TOTAL EXPENDITURE

### Inclusive, Diversified and Climate Resilient Economy

#### Prosperity: Livelihoods, inclusive & diversified economy.

The prosperity pillar has significantly improved lives by providing food assistance, increasing income in rural agricultural and fishing communities, enhancing market access, promoting sustainable agriculture and fisheries, restoring ecosystems, and ensuring social protection for vulnerable individuals.

<b>93,477,302</b> USD	<b>60,772,443</b> USD	<b>18,851,530</b> USD
TOTAL REQUIRED	TOTAL AVAILABLE	TOTAL EXPENDITURE



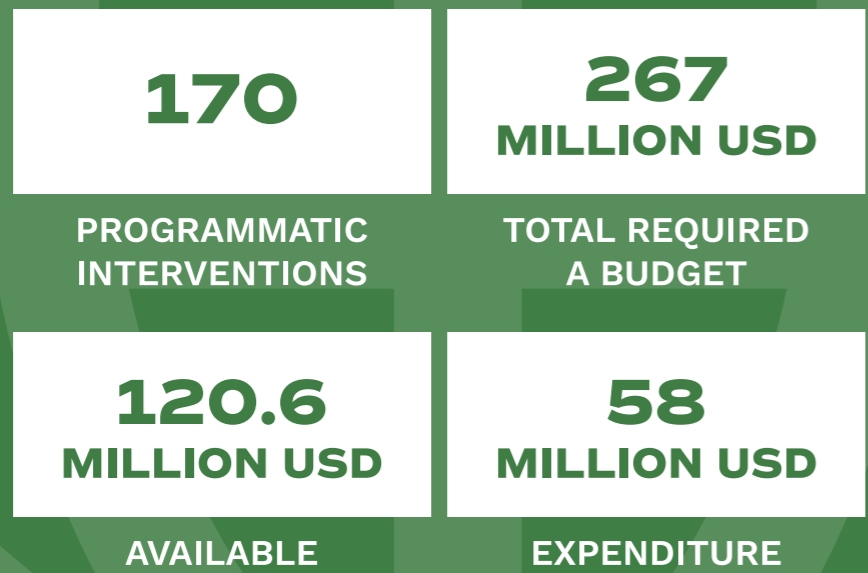


**Planet: Climate resilient, sustainable environment & natural resources:**

The Planet Pillar made a notable impact by improving the livelihoods of drought-affected households through improved climate-resilient water access and improved, soil and water conservation initiatives, land restoration, and adaptation measures. Sustainable natural resources management was implemented as well as capacities enhanced in adaptation and mitigation measures including land use planning and studies, natural resources management, and climate-smart agricultural practices.

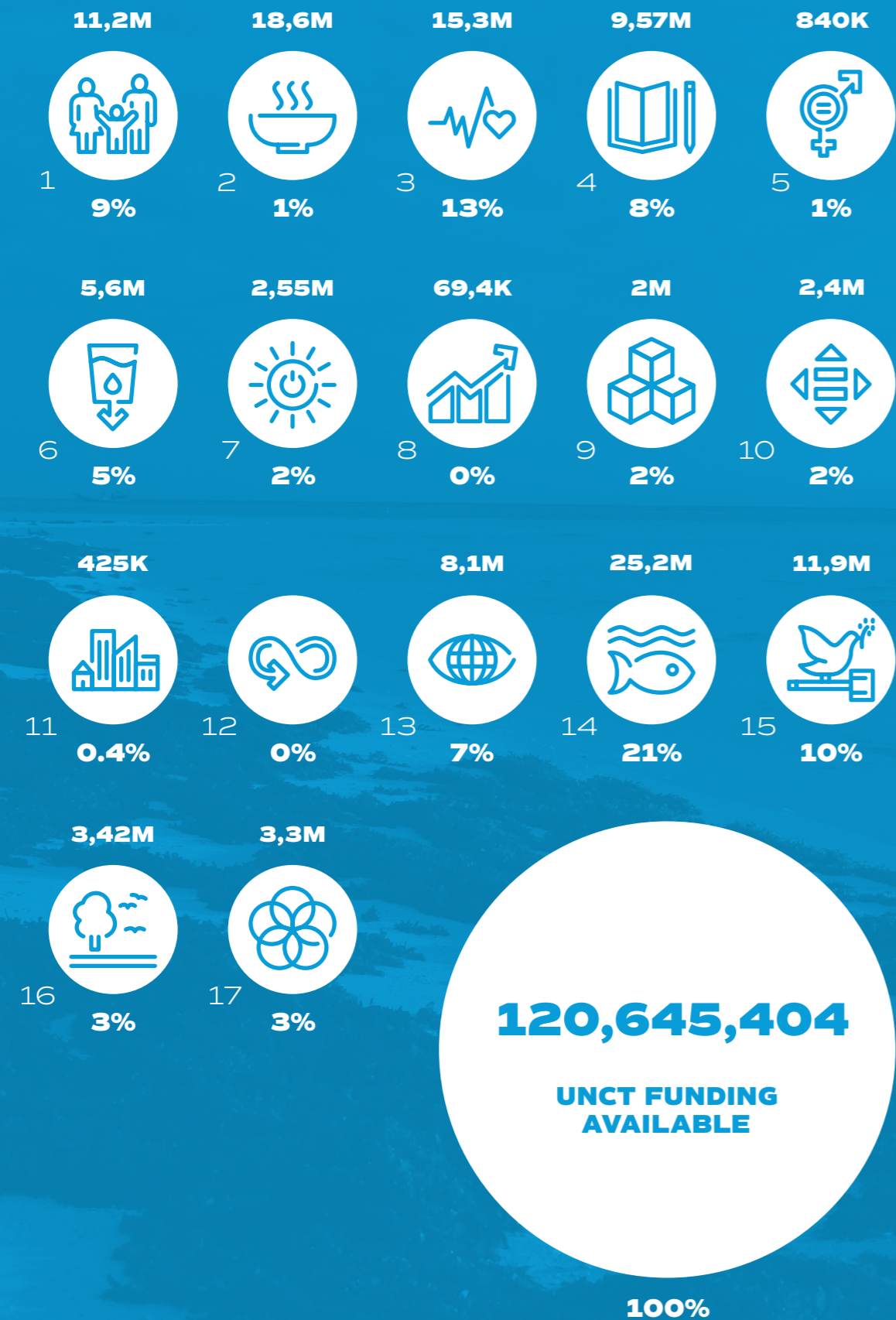


Overall, these achievements demonstrate the tangible results and positive impact of the peace, people, and planet pillars in promoting sustainable development and enhancing the well-being of communities.

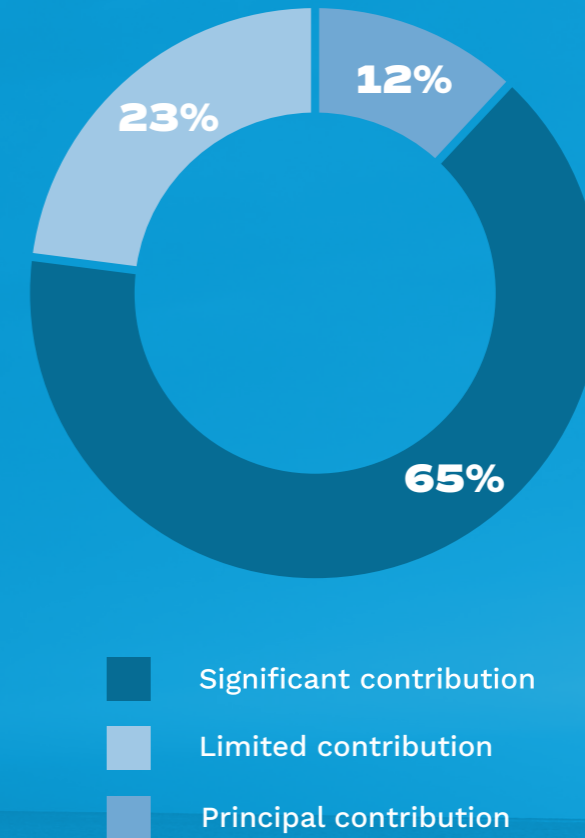




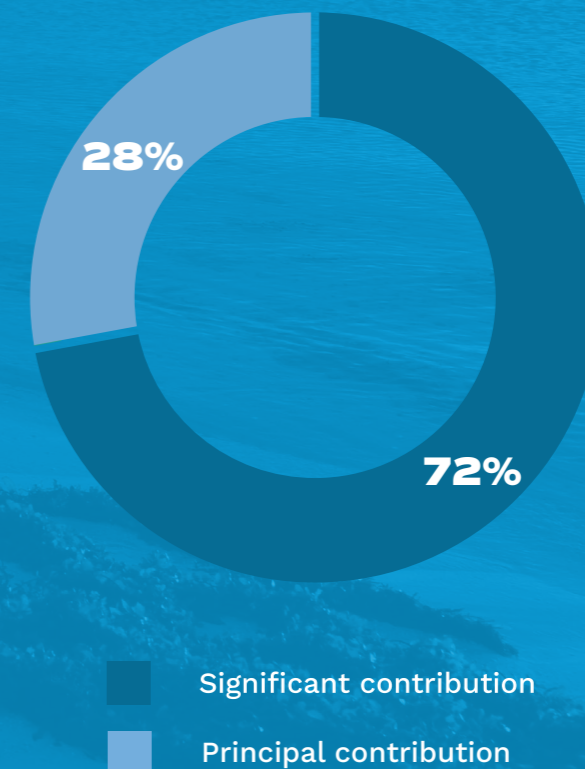
## Joint Work Plan 2022-2023 contribution to SDG



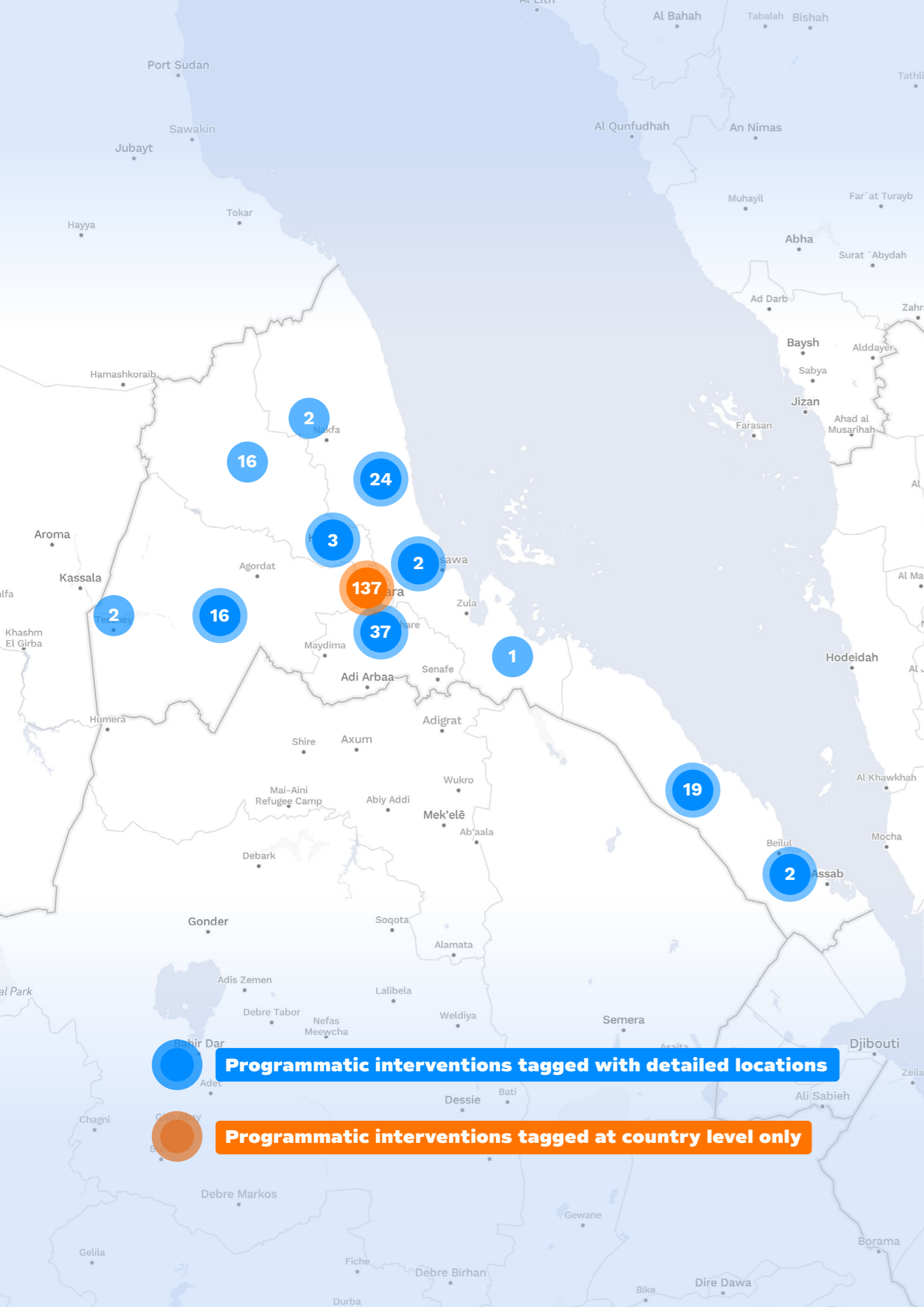
## HUMAN RIGHT MARKER



## GENDER EQUALITY MARKER







**Programmatic interventions tagged with detailed locations**

**Programmatic interventions tagged at country level only**

### UNCT-SWAP Gender Equality Scorecard

In 2023, the UN in Eritrea conducted the SWAP Gender Equality Scorecard to ensure accountability and gender-responsive implementation. Eritrea scored well in 10 out of 15 indicators, meeting or approaching the minimum requirements.

The assessment highlighted shortcomings in gender analysis within the planning frameworks, the lack of specific overarching targets aligned with the SDGs, and insufficient robust gender equality indicators. It also highlights the gender parity gap within the UNCT and the lack of joint programs or dedicated coordination mechanisms on gender.

While efforts have improved compared to the previous UNSCDF, it is crucial to increase both gender mainstreaming and stand-alone gender equality programming to effectively promote gender equality and the rights of women and girls. Areas for improvement were identified in all sectors.

DIMENSION	INDICATORS	MISSING MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS	APPROACHES MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS	MEETS MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS	EXCEEDS MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS
<b>1</b> PLANNING	<b>1.1 COMMON COUNTRY ANALYSIS</b>	●			
	<b>1.2 UNSDCF OUTCOMES</b>	●	●		
	<b>1.3 UNSDCF INDICATORS</b>				
<b>2</b> PROGRAMMING AND M&E	<b>2.1 JOINT PROGRAMMING</b>	●	●		
	<b>2.2 COMMUNICATION &amp; ADVOCACY</b>			●	
	<b>2.3 UNSDCF M&amp;E</b>		●		
<b>3</b> PARTNERSHIP	<b>3.1 ENGAGEMENT GOVERNMENT</b>			●	
	<b>3.2 ENGAGEMENT WITH RELEVANT CSOS</b>			●	
<b>4</b> LEADERSHIP & ORG CULTURE	<b>4.1 LEADERSHIP</b>		●		
	<b>4.2 ORGANIZATIONAL CULTURE</b>			●	●
	<b>4.3 GENDER PARITY</b>	●			
<b>5</b> GENDER ARCH. AND CAPACITIES	<b>5.1 GENDER EQUALITY COORD MECHANISM</b>	●			
	<b>5.2 GENDER EQUALITY CAPACITIES</b>		●		
<b>6</b> FINANCIAL RESOURCES	<b>6.1 RESOURCES</b>	●			
<b>7</b> RESULTS	<b>7.1 GENDER EQUALITY RESULTS</b>		●		



## 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.

Pillar 1 – People: Equitable access to quality essential social services

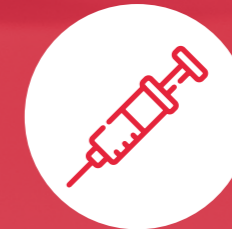
<b>46,675,245</b> USD	<b>15,152,973</b> USD	<b>11,129,545</b> USD	<b>73%</b>
REQUIRED	AVAILABLE BUDGET	EXPENDITURE	DELIVERY RATE



**50,000 children** with moderate or severe acute malnutrition received lifesaving treatment.



**360,000 children** under five and over **180,000 pregnant women** were provided with essential micronutrient supplementation.



**91% cure rate** for malnourished children



No. of health facility provide basic emergency obstetrics and newborn **increased to 92% from 70%.**

## OTHER IMPORTANT ACHIEVEMENTS:

- **58 women** were treated for fistula.
- **224,607 (93%) girls** between the ages of 9 and 14 received HPV vaccine
- **125,268 children** under two received vaccinations for measles and rubella to prevent outbreaks.
- **6,970** most left behind school children (4512 girls and 219 children with disabilities) were enrolled and retained.
- **219 children (with disabilities)** were supported with the ‘Donkey for School’ project and 750 children with disabilities supported only by pediatric rehabilitation seating arrangements in classes.

\* Visit Page 33 for more information.

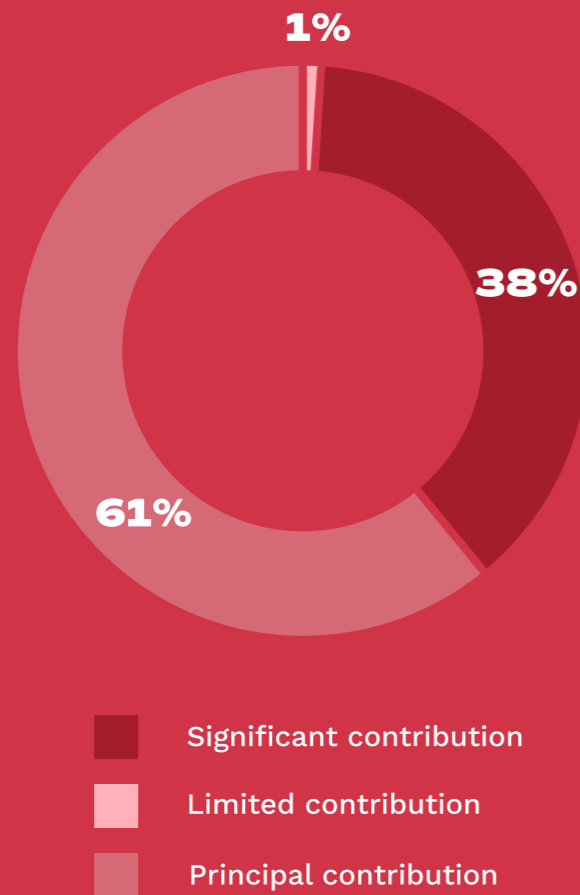


## CONTRIBUTING AGENCIES:

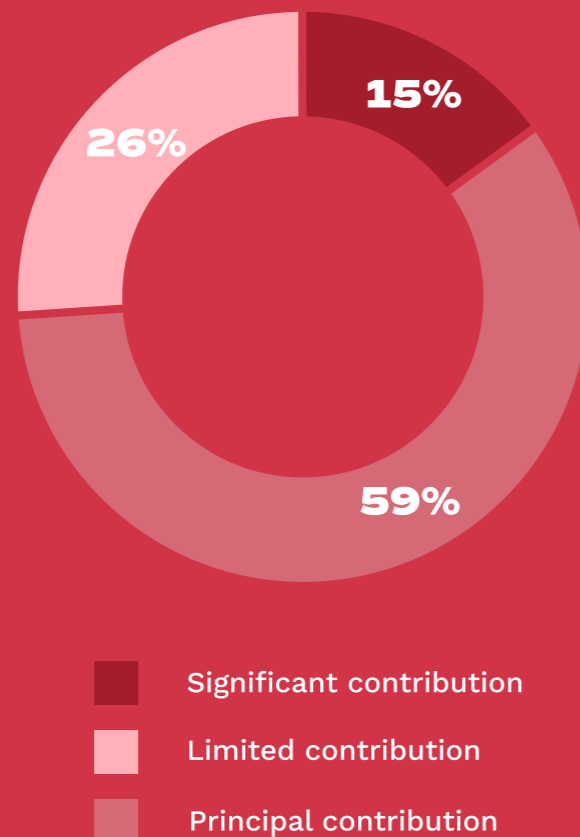




## HUMAN RIGHT MARKER



## GENDER EQUALITY MARKER



## OUTPUT 1.1

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

The people pillar has a focused objective of expanding basic social services, access to universal health coverage, quality education, and nutrition. It aims to achieve adequate, inclusive, equitable, gender-sensitive, and sustainable quality basic social services and service delivery.

**Health System Strengthening:** The UN provided technical support to the government to enhance the national healthcare system and strengthen the country's capacity. This support included developing strategic plans, guidelines, and regulatory frameworks, resulting in improved effectiveness of the healthcare system.

- The UN contributed to the development of strategic plans: National Human Resources for

Health Strategic Plan 2023-2027 and National Health Information Systems Strategic Plan 2023-2026.

- Supported the development and updating of guidelines for district health systems, including Zoba Health Management Committee Guidelines, Zoba Health Systems Management Team Guidelines, and Ministry of Health Kebabi Health Committee Operations Guideline.
- Assisted in developing an annual operational plan for implementing the National Action Plan for Health Security (NAPHS) to improve preparedness for public health emergencies.
- Supported in the development of a costed one-health multisectoral roadmap for strengthening emergency preparedness architecture and health systems resilience for Eritrea.
- Provided technical support for formulating a National occupational health safety policy and strategy documents for 2023-2028.
- Offered technical assistance to identify and address challenges and gaps in sub-zoba health management.
- Initiated phased implementation of management teams for health services at the sub-zoba level, optimizing organizational structure for effective management and governance.
- Supported the finalization of 2023 profiles for the six zobas, providing situation analyses to track progress and trends in Universal Health Coverage (UHC) implementation. These profiles provide a comprehensive understanding of the healthcare landscape in each zoba.
- Provided technical support in the preliminary assessment of elimination of mother-to-child transmission of HIV/Syphilis and hepatitis (eMTCT) to move Eritrea to the eMTCT validation Process (Path to Elimination).
- Supported the accreditation of the measles-rubella serology laboratory. The UN is also engaged in enhancing the capacity of the health sector through the procurement of digital X-Ray, dialysis machines, and other related items.



These initiatives aim to enhance healthcare systems, improve health information management, strengthen sub-zoba healthcare management, ensure effective responses to health crises, promote healthcare worker well-being and safety, and improve sub-zoba health management performance. They also identify and address challenges and gaps for better healthcare delivery through optimized organizational structure and governance actions.

**Nutrition:** The Government of Eritrea, in collaboration with the UN, has taken significant steps to improve the well-being and prospects of those in need. Through essential nutrition interventions, community empowerment, and advocacy for sustainable practices, Eritrea is making a difference.



## OUTPUT 1.2

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

In 2023, the Ministry of Health (MoH) launched a nutrition campaign with support from the UN. This campaign aimed to promote nutritious local foods, including Dura cereals, Milk, and Kebkebe legumes, during the critical first 1,000 days of a child's life. The goal of the campaign was to address the high rates of stunting (50%) and wasting (15%) among children under the age of five. The UN played a crucial role in supporting this innovative approach by helping the MoH develop the National Homemade Complementary Feeding guideline for children.



The UN's specialized procurement was pivotal in ensuring uninterrupted nutrition supplies to 328 sites across all 58 sub-zobas of the country. This included critical items such as ready-to-use therapeutic food, vitamin capsules, and iron and folic acid tablets. As a result, over **50,000 children** with moderate or severe acute malnutrition received life-saving treatment. Additionally, more than **360,000 children under five and over 180,000 pregnant women** were provided with essential micronutrient supplementation to fortify their health and resilience.

Through comprehensive capacity-building initiatives, **224 health workers and community volunteers** were trained in the Integrated Management of Acute Malnutrition (IMAM). This led to an impressive **91% cure rate** for malnourished children.

**Education:** The UN's support for the government's efforts to improve education in Eritrea has had a transformative impact on the lives of children. By establishing community-based education sites, providing learning materials, increasing enrolment of out-of-school children, and enhancing data analysis, the UN is empowering individuals and communities. These efforts by the UN are fostering sustainable development and progress, while ensuring equal education opportunities for all children in Eritrea.

UN supported enhancing the quality of education by providing technical support to the Ministry of Education (MOE) for their in-service certificates and diploma level training of 4,412 teachers and printing of more than

229,000 student textbooks for primary and middle levels. This initiative aims to improve the quality of education and provide children with the necessary tools for their educational journey.

The UN has also supported the most left-behind school children. Through this support, more than **6,970 out-of-school children** (4512 girls and 219 children with disabilities) were enrolled and retained in school, including over-aged out-of-school children and adolescents.

A total of **118 primary (47 girls) and 40 lower-secondary (25 girls)** students were enrolled at the Keren School of the Deaf following its expansion to include lower-secondary classes.

The MOE, in collaboration with the UN and other stakeholders, implemented an innovative project known as 'Donkey for School'. The programme provided **969 students with disabilities (430 girls)** with donkeys and accessories, including pediatric rehabilitation seating arrangements and learning facilities across 43 schools. This contributes to children with disabilities' access to and retention in school, as well as supporting the livelihood of their families. As a result, the program encouraged the academic persistence of children with disability and their family's access to social resources and social integration.



To ensure effective evidence for planning and strengthening data systems related to assessing the quality of education, UN supported the Ministry of Education (MoE) to conduct the fifth round of the Measuring Learning Achievement (MLA-V) assessment after a gap of five years – the fourth round was conducted in 2018.

The United Nations has collaborated with the MOE to enhance education in the country, focusing on access, retention, and learning outcomes. Their joint efforts have yielded positive outcomes, particularly in terms of increased enrolment and improved retention rates.

Notable improvements have been observed in the pre-primary Gross enrollment ratio (GER), which rose from 20.9% to 22.4%. The GER also increased at the elementary, middle, and secondary levels, with growth rates of 11.6%, 0.1%, and 2.3%, respectively. These advancements signify considerable progress in expanding educational opportunities for Eritrean students.

Both girls' and boys' enrolment rates have shown commendable increases compared

to the previous year. Girls' enrolment grew by 6.2%, while boys' enrolment increased by 7.9%. This indicates that collaborative efforts have positively influenced gender parity and access to education.

Furthermore, there has been a notable decrease in the out-of-school rates across all education levels between 2019/2020 and 2021/2022. The out-of-school rate for primary school dropped from 15.85% to 15.43%, while the rate for middle school decreased from 34.28% to 20.56%. In secondary school, the out-of-school rate also declined from 51.53% to 45.62%. These reductions reflect successful measures implemented to ensure more students attend school and benefit from education.

Additionally, there have been significant increases in the number of students, teachers, and schools at the pre-primary, elementary, middle, and secondary levels. These expansions in the education system demonstrate a commitment to creating a conducive learning environment for Eritrean youth.



The Donkey for School Project is implemented by the Ministry of Labour and Human Welfare (MoLHW) in close collaboration with UNICEF and other government partners. Its primary goal is to facilitate access to education for Children With Disability (CLWD) by providing them with donkeys as a means of transportation. Additionally, the project extends economic support to the families of these children.

Eritrea's rugged terrain, characterized by steep mountains and sandy lowlands, poses significant transportation difficulties. For CLWD navigating this challenging landscape to attend school becomes even more arduous. Under such context, the project equips families of CLWD in rural areas (especially hard-to-reach girls) with donkeys, which serve as a practical mode of transportation, allowing children to travel to school more easily. The donkey is the best means of transportation for the terrain of Eritrea's rural areas because alternative means such as wheelchairs, tricycles, and motorized vehicles are not only unsuitable for the topography but also economically unviable as running and maintenance costs would be unaffordable.

By addressing transportation barriers, the Donkey for School Project contributes to inclusive education. It empowers CLWD to access education, fostering their personal development and prospects.

The current project is built on the previous evaluation which has shown that overall attendance has improved, and fewer children with disabilities drop out of school.

The innovative project demonstrates how a seemingly unconventional solution, adapted to the country context, can make a meaningful difference in the lives of children facing mobility challenges in Eritrea.



Madelina Medane, a 12-year-old girl with a disability, prepares to ride to school on Wahazit, her donkey. Yodit, Madelina's mother, carefully helps her daughter mount with a cushioned blanket. The UNICEF-supported Donkey for School programme enables children with disabilities to attend school; and provides income for their families.

Credit: ©UNICEF/Eritrea/2018/Redie



Saida's mission to pursue her education and bring change to her village.

Saida Ahmed, a 13-year-old girl from the Saho ethnic group is on a mission to pursue her education and bring change to her village. She goes to Danalo Elementary and Junior School, located about 70 km away from sub-zoba Foro in the Northern Red Sea. Danalo is one of the schools built under the Global Partnership for Education (GPE) programme and offers schooling up until Grade 5. The community came together to fulfil their unwavering desire for education, adding classes this year. Saida is fortunate to continue to Grade 6 due to the extension.

Currently, the Grade 6 she is in caters to 64 students, of whom 20 are female students. Saida says "You may notice low participation of girls in our area. In the previous years, once done with Grade 5, one had to move either to Foro or Adi Keih, about 60 km away from where we are now, obviously, making parents reluctant to send their girls far from home".

Saida's discernable passion for education did not come out of nowhere. "My father is a Bare-Foot Doctor who works in the Anseba region. In my quest to explore and reach his stage, I always ask him about his work. People like my father and my agriculture-graduate maternal uncle motivate me to continue pursuing my education, as it is the key to everything".

Saida wants to become a medical doctor so she can serve her community. "In my community, people travel a long distance to get treatment. If we all pursue our education, we can solve these problems. That is why I want to continue my education. I want to see the expansion of higher grades so that we do not drop out, especially me and my fellow female students. Despite not having many women role models in my community, we want to become one and encourage young girls to strive for high grades so we can make a difference in our communities".

Saida Ahmed's story highlights the dedication of communities to enhancing educational opportunities, reducing gender disparities, and promoting enrollment of girls in schools.



Eritrea is one of the few countries that entered the SDGs period having achieved most of the MDGs, particularly related to health. The

### OUTPUT 1.3

National and community-based systems for delivering social services improved.

country has made notable advancements in reproductive, maternal, newborn, child, and adolescent health, including a reduction in maternal and neonatal mortality rates, an increase in skilled deliveries and antenatal care visits, and improved postnatal care. The under-five mortality rate has also significantly decreased over the years. The UN system has significantly contributed to strengthening health systems, particularly in maternal and child health.

**Maternity Waiting Homes and Skilled Birth Attendance:** Maternal and newborn services thrived on the primary healthcare platform, which provided 62% of pregnant women with at least four antenatal care visits. The support from the UN in providing essential supplies to Maternity Waiting Homes (MWHs) has had a significant impact on the number of skilled births attendance and overall maternal health thus contributing to the decline in maternal and neonatal mortality. In 2023, MWHs accounted for approximately **12% of all deliveries** (compared to **9.7%** in 2022). This increase can be attributed to the presence of skilled health personnel at birth and the efforts made to raise awareness. This demonstrates the effectiveness of MWHs in promoting safe childbirth.

More than 56,000 births were attended by skilled health personnel, which shows an increase of about 43,000 in 2022. This is partly due to UN support to the Ministry of Health (MOH) in the awareness raising of over 147,000 women to improve their knowledge of the importance of antenatal care, the identification of maternal risks, and the importance of seeking delivery in health facilities for skilled care.

**Strengthening Healthcare Delivery and Health Workforce:** The Maternal Health Programme has been greatly strengthened by the UN's facilitation of the recruitment of four international OB/GYNs and the provision of capacity-building training to 126 health workers. This has resulted in an increased ability to provide high-quality care for pregnant women. The presence of these skilled professionals has led to improvements in antenatal care, the early detection of maternal risks, and the establishment of effective referral systems.

The UN's investment in the training and deployment of healthcare providers has also had a positive impact on the delivery of services related to adolescent sexual reproductive health, the prevention of harmful practices, and the management of cases involving victims of female genital mutilation during ANC visits. The training also helped integrate FGM awareness raising into postnatal visits. As a result, 8,824 (49%) of the total 18,008 postnatal attendees were benefited. During these home visits, counselling services on FGM were included as an essential component. Mothers were provided with information on the link between FGM and sexual and reproductive health.



Maternity Waiting Home in Endagiorgis, Adiquala sub zone, Dehub (UNFPA ERI)

**Expansion of Emergency Obstetric and Newborn Care:** The UN supported an expansion of Emergency Obstetric and Newborn care and as a result, the% of health facilities providing basic emergency obstetric and newborn care has reached **92% from 70%** in 2022, ensuring that more women and newborns receive life-saving interventions. Additionally, the number of community



hospitals providing comprehensive emergency obstetric and newborn care has grown to **19** (from 12 in 2022), further enhancing access to critical healthcare services. 22 clinicians and health workers from national- and Zoba-level trained as trainers in essential labor and newborn care to enhance the quality of care for delivering pregnant women and their newborns.

Maternal and newborn services on the primary health care platform were **strengthened by 24-hour 7-days-a-week service availability in all 241 designated Emergency Obstetric and Newborn Care (EmONC) facilities.**

**Fistula Treatment:** The UN's continuous support for the Fistula survivors (UNFPA ERI fistula treatment center has resulted in the treatment of **58 women** in 2023, bringing the total number of treated cases to nearly **1860**. Mass community mobilization campaigns conducted during International Fistula Day, World AIDS Day, and other events have raised awareness about fistula and the elimination of gender-based violence. These efforts have helped in addressing a major health problem affecting young women in Eritrea, promoting their well-being and social inclusion.

**Primary Healthcare Outreach and Immunization:** With UN support for the primary healthcare outreach program, the Ministry of Health (MOH) has exceeded its target, benefiting over **860,000 women and children**. This is coupled with high immunization coverage rates for diseases.

Under MoH leadership, the UN contributed to a comprehensive strategy, including routine services and mobile clinics for remote communities, supported by effective vaccine procurement and stock management, as well as strengthened cold chain capacity for the

302 health facilities delivering immunization services. Each of these facilities at least one piece of solar-driven cold chain equipment supporting the achievement of a 97.5% vaccination rate for diphtheria, tetanus, and



Young girls sometimes perceived to be a burden to their families, and so are often married off at an early age.

This was the fate of Jamila. Jamila Mohammed is a 15-year-old child. Her uncle married her off, to a much older man, at the age of 14 and she conceived a child one year after.

During her pregnancy and delivery, she did not attend antenatal care or visit a health facility for delivery. Jamila suffered a prolonged obstructed labour for almost 3 days. She delivered at home and had a still born baby. Jamila developed obstetric fistula as a result of her prolonged delivery and failure to go to a health facility. She was referred to Mendefera National Fistula Centre after seven months of suffering from obstetric fistula. She underwent two successful surgeries and received psychological support provided at the center.

Jamila's story is an illustration of the challenges young girls face at an early age as a result of harmful traditional practices.

pertussis. The EPI partnership with Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, and the UN, allowed over 153,000 children (69% of the target of 220,388) to receive two doses of the measles and rubella vaccines to prevent outbreaks, a particular risk arising from cross-border movement and population displacement.

The UN provided financial and technical support to implement 3 rounds of the planned 4 rounds of Sustainable Outreach Immunization Services (SOS) in 22 hard-to-reach areas, nomadic and semi-nomadic populations in the 4 Zobas. In the 3 rounds of SOS services, key vaccination uptake below 2 years of children were, DTP-1 (1,625), DTP-3 (1,522), Measles-Rubella-1 (1,798) and Meales-rubella-2 (2,035) which has contributed about 2-2.5% of the 2023 total vaccination uptake. Besides immunization services, other essential primary health care services were also provided which included Ante Natal Care, Vitamin-A supplementation, Health promotion, out-patient consultation, HIV screening and testing, nutritional screening, and insecticide-treated net distribution. In the 3 rounds of SOS, 1,641 pregnant mothers received ANC services while 11,676 children less than 5 years received vitamin-A supplementation.



*A young girl taking her HPV vaccine as part of the 2nd Round HPV campaign in Bidiho Elementary and Junior School, Massawa, Northern Red Sea.  
©UNICEF/Eritrea/2023/Redie*

With the support of the UN, a total of 224,418 girls between the ages of 9 and 14 received both the 1st and 2nd doses of the HPV vaccine, making up 93% of the targeted group.

The UN supported the training of 75 Barefoot Doctors (BFD) in 2023 bringing the total to 196 BFDs who are estimated to reach 392,000 from remote and hard-to-reach communities annually. In the absence of health infrastructure, the BFDs are a critical mechanism to bridge equity and achieve Universal Health Coverage

**Integrated Management of Childhood Illnesses:** Over **605,000 children (more than 50% increase from the previous year)** have benefited from UN-supported integrated management of childhood illnesses services. Through a multifaceted approach, including social and behavior change communication strategies, health worker capacity building, and mass-media advertisements, the quality of care and awareness among communities have been improved significantly. These efforts have resulted in better health-seeking behaviors and increased access to life-saving treatment for children.



# OUTCOME 2

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

Pillar 2 – Peace: Accountable and efficient public sector

<b>6,616,556</b> USD	<b>5,546,706</b> USD	<b>3,469,609</b> USD	<b>63%</b>
REQUIRED	AVAILABLE BUDGET	EXPENDITURE	DELIVERY RATE



Over **1000 government personnel** empowered with different capacity-building programs



**38,900 girls and women** were protected from FGM and juvenile marriage



Over **650,000 people** participated in community awareness on eradicating harmful practices



**411,000 parents and caretakers** trained in effective parenting



**150,000 individuals** engaged in community sensitization initiatives aimed at eradicating harmful practices.

- 3** GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING
- 5** GENDER EQUALITY
- 8** DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH
- 9** INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE
- 10** REDUCED INEQUALITIES
- 16** PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS
- 17** PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS

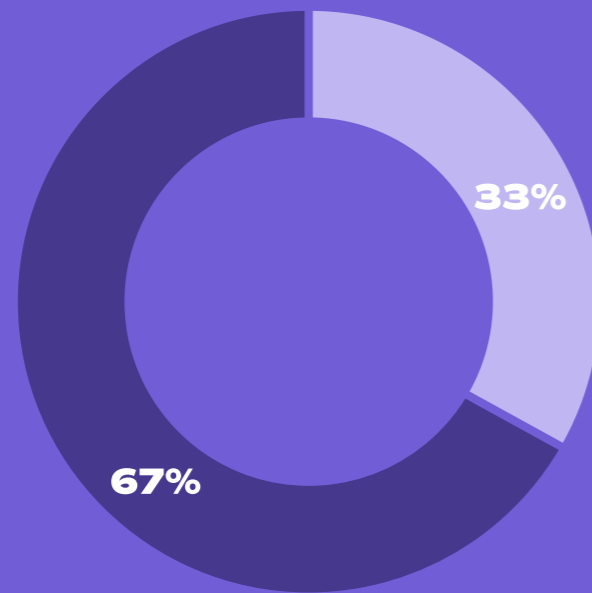


## CONTRIBUTING AGENCIES:



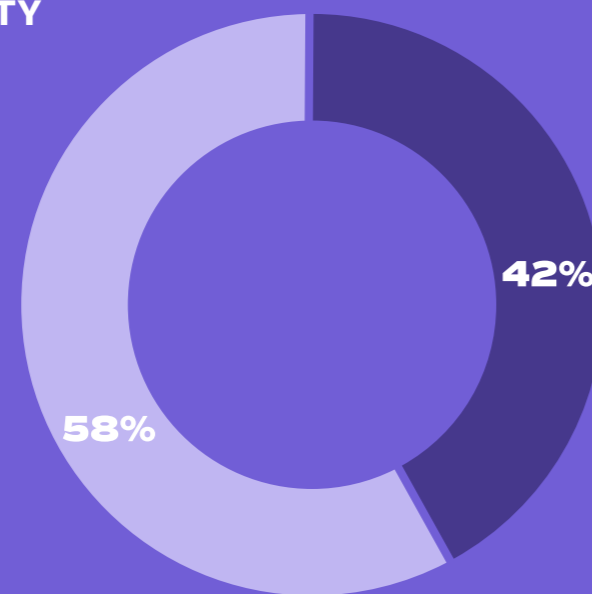


## HUMAN RIGHT MARKER



Significant contribution  
 Limited contribution

## GENDER EQUALITY MARKER



Significant contribution  
 Limited contribution

## OUTPUT 2.1

Capacities of institutions to provide over- sight and deliver services are improved.

The primary objective of the peace pillar is to enhance the capacity of national and local governments to ensure accountability, as mandated by the country's regulations. Additionally, it aims to foster the development of national statistical capacities and promote the growth of a robust data ecosystem and reduction of harmful practices.

Through its extensive support and capacity-building initiatives, the United Nations has made a significant impact on Eritrea's development journey. In its continuous commitment to fostering human and institutional capacity, the UN has played a crucial role in supporting the Ministry of Finance and National Development, as well as other government sectors in Eritrea.

30 (13.3% women) from ten key Government ministries representatives participated in a virtual training workshop on policy formulation and planning as a major step toward formulating the National Development Plan.

The skills training on Computer Model for Feasibility Analysis and Reporting (COMFAR) was provided to sixteen government personnel (25% women). COMFAR is a tool developed by UNIDO for Financial and Economic Analysis of Feasibility Studies.

The UN supported the establishment of a new Department of International Development Cooperation (MoFND-IDC) under the Ministry of Finance and National Development. This support was provided to enhance the human and institutional capacity of the department. The establishment of this department facilitated government-UN partnership in planning, implementation, monitoring, oversight, and integrated support to build resilience. To enhance the human capacities of the implementing partners 50 (40% women) from various arms of government attended skills upgrading courses on Advanced Microsoft Office Applications, AutoCAD, accounting principles with Peach Tree software, Store Management, and Secretariat Science.

Thirty-six individuals from various government offices (including 5 women) participated in an intensive 15-day training program on Futures Thinking and Strategic Planning. The objective of this program was to enhance the capacity of participants to anticipate future changes and engage in strategic planning.

## OUTPUT 2.2

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

By empowering government personnel, the overall human capacity of the Ministry and other relevant entities has been strengthened, fostering greater efficiency and effectiveness in their respective roles.

### Diaspora Professionals Making a Difference:

UN supported in deploying seven volunteer Diaspora professionals to various ministries and organizations in Eritrea, leveraging their expertise to drive positive change. The volunteers supported the development and implementation of systems such as the Document Management System (DMS), Food and Beverage Management System,

and Stock Inventory System. Furthermore, they have conducted research, analyzed global policy decisions, and enhanced capacities in several areas, including computer programming. These efforts have bolstered the efficiency and effectiveness of various government entities and CSOs.



**Data for Development:** The United Nations has played a vital role in supporting the National Statistics Office (NSO) and other government institutions in Eritrea. Through various capacity-building activities, the UN has contributed to laying a sound ground to facilitate evidence-based planning, monitoring, and evaluation of national policies.

With the support of the UN, the NSO has successfully updated its Statistical Master

### OUTPUT 2.3

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

Plan (SMP), enabling it to incorporate global changes, new developments, and plans of the NSO and other government organizations regarding official statistics. a capacity needs assessment was conducted, resulting in the development of the NSO Capacity Development Plan. This plan focuses on enhancing technical skills in data collection and analysis, procuring ICT equipment, and capacity building for the CRVS system.

### OUTPUT 2.4

Communities have increased capacities to counter harmful traditional practices.

In preparation for the EPHS-2024, the UN provided prerequisite capacity-building training workshops on various topics, benefiting a total of 133 participants from the NSO and other government institutions.

Furthermore, to raise awareness of the Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (CRVS) System in Eritrea, intensive training workshops were conducted on the Business Process Improvement (BPI) framework and

data collection for fieldwork staff. These workshops aimed to develop a common understanding, enhance knowledge, and improve skills necessary for undertaking a comprehensive assessment of the CRVS system. a total of eighty-one individuals participated in these workshops, including 51 technical officers responsible for CRVS and 30 fieldwork personnel. The workshops were led by both international and local consultants and experts. Additionally, the comprehensive assessment of the CRVS system and the development of the multi-year strategic plan were completed.

In the context of capacity building, forty-five individuals (40% of whom were women) attended a 5-days skills training on the Law of the Sea. This training introduced the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) and related agreements.

With UN support, the Ministry of Justice has developed a framework that conceptualizes the Eritrean government's vision regarding justice, legal reforms, trade, environment, regional integration, and international cooperation. The framework proposes steps to translate this vision into concrete actions.

The UN has also supported the Customs Department's Information Technology Center, strengthening human and institutional capacity-building programs for efficient customs clearance and improved revenue control.

In promoting decent work, through the UN's support preparation of the establishment directory, vocational training for one hundred beneficiaries, and the provision of monitoring and healthcare equipment is in progress.

With the support of the UN, Eritrea has made significant strides in establishing political and legal frameworks to prevent and address gender-based violence. Additionally, the country has made efforts to eradicate harmful practices such as child marriage and female genital mutilation.

The UN supported the government in the efforts to create FGM-free communities, approximately **65,578 members** of the community participated in dialogue on protecting children from violence, exploitation, and harmful practices. As a result, a total of **38,900 children, women, and adolescent**

**girls** in thirty-four sub-zones (142 villages) were protected from FGM and juvenile marriage.

Female genital mutilation (FGM) sensitization was integrated into postnatal visits, which were conducted for a total of 18,008 attendees. Out of these attendees, **8,824 mothers** (49%) participated in the postnatal visits that addressed FGM.

Several initiatives were carried out to promote community mobilization, raise awareness, and build capacity to eliminate harmful practices and bring about social norm changes, with a particular emphasis on FGM.

**411,217 parents and caretakers** have gained enhanced knowledge regarding effective parenting techniques. **150,000** were actively engaged in community sensitization initiatives aimed at eradicating harmful practices such as FGM, child marriage and violence against children.

Efforts were also made to protect girls under the age of eighteen residing in five sub-zones from underage marriage. This was achieved through the implementation of local regulations, resulting in no documented instances of actual or attempted child marriages taking place in these communities.



*Kibirty Tesfamichael, Resident of Halib Mentel, Elabered sub-zone: "FGM yields no benefits. I've ceased cutting girls professionally, undergoing sensitization training three times in Keren and four times in Elabered sub-zones. Let us leave the past behind and usher in a new dawn for the sake of our daughters." Photo was taken during FGM observance at Halib Mentel Village. ©UNICEF/Eritrea/2023/Redie*

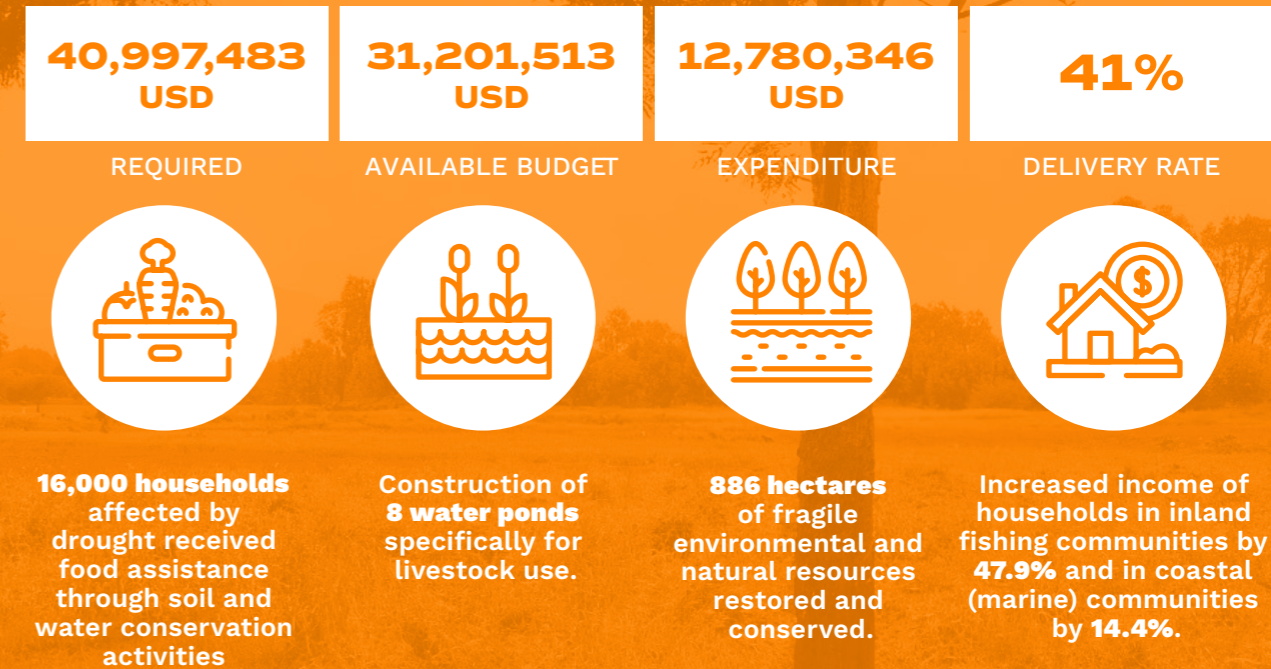




# OUTCOME 3

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

Pillar 3 – Prosperity: Livelihood, inclusive & diversified economy



## OTHER IMPORTANT ACHIEVEMENTS:

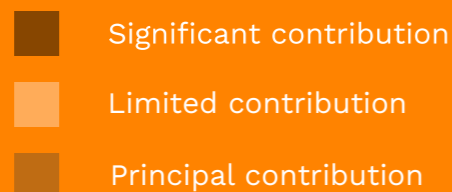
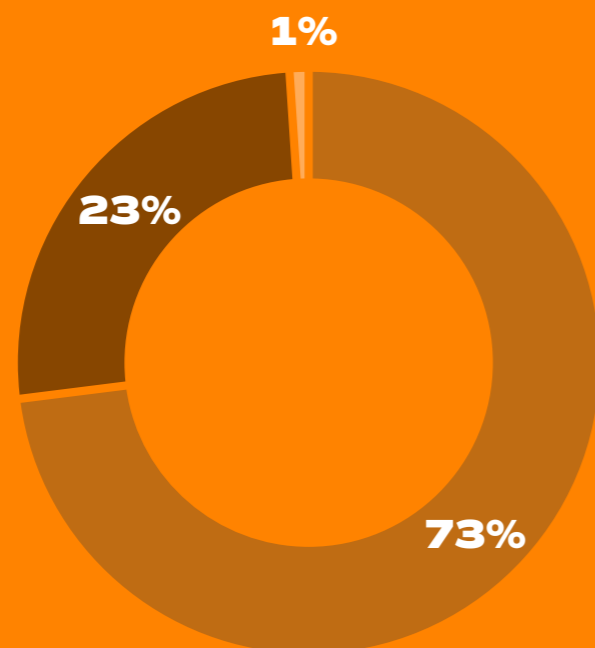
- Improved access to physical market, processing, and storage facilities for inland communities by **54.3%** and for coastal communities by **27.9%**.
- Enhanced knowledge of fish preservation techniques by **67.2%**.
- Increased positive attitude towards fish eating by **85%**.
- Expanded land under improved management through mangrove forest and halophiles planting and restoration, reaching a total of **450.5 hectares** (an increase of 192 hectares).
- Inland dams for fish farming increasing from **15 to 22**.
- Established and strengthened **164** fishing and fish processing cooperatives.
- **21.9-ton** increase in fish catches from inland dams, accounting for **50.2%** of the total fish caught since 2017 (43.5 tons).
- An estimated **24,274 vulnerable children**, including children with disabilities living in 10,843 households were reached with integrated community-based social protection support that improved access to basic social services.

## CONTRIBUTING AGENCIES:

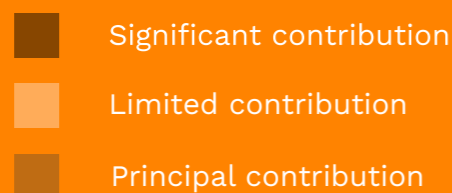
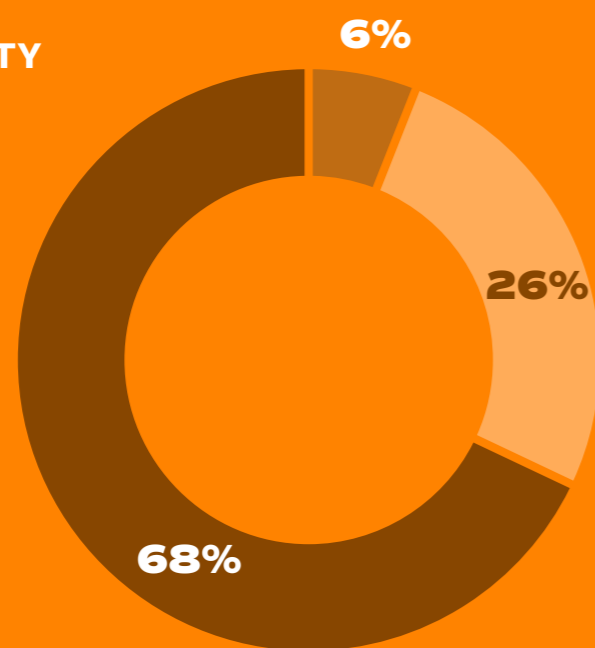




## HUMAN RIGHT MARKER



## GENDER EQUALITY MARKER



The UN in Eritrea has made considerable contributions in supporting the country's national priorities and achieving strategic outcomes outlined in the prosperity pillar. These efforts have focused on fostering a competitive, modern, resilient, and job-creating economy, while also

addressing social and economic disparities. Through collaboration with Implementing Partners and national stakeholders, the UN has worked towards inclusive and diversified economic growth that has long-term impacts on food security and natural resources.

### OUTPUT 3.1

**The capacity of the public sector is strengthened to develop strategies and policies for enterprise, job creation and employment.**

The UN's support has been crucial in driving positive change and delivering tangible results. By aligning its activities with national priorities, the UN has effectively contributed to strengthening food security and promoting sustainable agriculture. These efforts have

been carried out in collaboration with national stakeholders, ensuring that interventions are contextually relevant and address the specific needs of Eritrea.

The UN has provided significant support in policy development and capacity building in various sectors in Eritrea:

- 1. Agricultural Innovation Systems:** To enhance capacities in agricultural innovation, the Tropical Agriculture Platform (TAP) Framework scaled up. Conducted relevant institutional and human capacity assessments, organized marketplaces, and fairs, and facilitated dialogues on national agricultural policies.
- 2. Preparatory phase of Agricultural Census:** Comprehensive project document for the Agricultural Census and a permanent agricultural statistics and information system prepared pending for implementation.
- 3. Farmer Field Schools:** 24 Farmer Field Schools were established in five regions, providing practical learning platforms for farmers. Moreover, 111 extension officers (12 women and 109 men) were trained on farmers' field school methodology.
- 4. Sustainable Natural Resource Management:** Strengthen institutions to collect, analyse, and apply data for sustainable natural resource management, promoting conservation and responsible use of resources.
- 5. Fisheries Research and Management:** Technical assistance has been provided in fisheries research, management, and aquaculture development. a total of 50 senior technical officers from the Ministry of Marine Resources, National Fishery Corporation, Ministry of Justice, Eritrean Navy, Ministry of Local Government, and Marine College were trained on the Port State Measure Agreement (PSMA) and prepared the Eritrean Strategy and Roadmap for its implementation. The Government of the State of Eritrea is now a member of the Global PSMA.
- 6.** The UN also supported initiating the formulation and operationalization of a National Strategic Framework for integrated disaster risk management and climate change adaptation in the agriculture and food security sector, promoting holistic approaches to address these challenges sustainably.



In line with Eritrea's National Priorities in Agriculture and Food Security, the UN aims to support vulnerable communities in enhancing their livelihoods. This goal is achieved through the implementation of strategies and solutions that promote inclusive and diversified economic growth, which has a lasting effect on food security and natural resources.

## OUTPUT 3.2

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

The government's initiatives in the agriculture and food security sectors have had a significant impact on vulnerable communities, improving their livelihoods. One of the main programs implemented was food-for-work schemes, which aimed to protect the livelihoods of households affected by drought in the Northern Red Sea, Southern Red Sea, and Anseba regions.

This initiative employed food-for-work schemes and community-based soil and water conservation activities to restore and sustainably conserve natural resources,

## OUTPUT 3.3

Access to finance, productive assets, technology, infrastructure, and equipment is increased to support sustainable livelihood.

enhancing food security and land conservation. Sixteen thousand households affected by drought received food assistance through soil and water conservation activities. Through these initiatives, the UN has addressed the immediate needs of those facing food insecurity by providing them with essential sustenance. By focusing on vulnerable groups, including women, men, women-headed households, and people with disabilities, the UN has recognized the specific challenges faced by

these individuals and has taken steps to ensure their inclusion and access to food assistance.

The Food Security Initiative has gone beyond short-term food provision by incorporating conservation activities into its approach. These efforts have not only provided immediate relief but have also aimed to build resilience and sustainability within these communities.

The UN supported the restoration and conservation of **886 hectares** of fragile environmental and natural resources to enhance food security and build resilience in drought-affected areas. This includes the rehabilitation of **708 hectares** of fragile natural environment, the restoration of **170 hectares** of grazing and pastureland, and the construction of **eight water ponds** specifically for livestock use.

The Date Palm Expansion Program in Eritrea initiated by the Ministry of Agriculture with the sustained technical and financial support of the UN since 2010 continues to expand.

In 2023 the Date Palm Expansion Program transformed into the Date Palm Support Program (DPSP) and now focuses on boosting the capacity of date palm researchers, planners, and producers while strengthening production, protection, and marketing strategies in Eritrea. Achievements included knowledge transfer, establishing and equipping a Tissue Culture Laboratory, and establishing a joint technical working group comprising the Ministry of Agriculture and UN agencies.

The DPSP has created job opportunities, reduced emissions, and improved livelihoods through capacity building, production support, and market strategies. In 2023, a total of 13,400 vitro plants have been procured that will make a significant contribution to meeting the government's vision of planting 300,000 trees by 2030 which is expected to yield 21 thousand metric tons of dates per year, making Eritrea an exporter of date palms.

A total of **286 and 370 farm households** and extension officers respectively, were trained on date palm on a wide range of climate-smart agricultural practices including soil conservation, efficient irrigation, intercropping, pollination, offshoot selection, sorting, packaging, post-harvest handling, and marketing.

The National Agricultural Research Institutes (NARI) was equipped with proper lab equipment and trained its staff with necessary tissue culture techniques and is now capable of producing in Vitro plants for the expansion of date palm plantations.

In response to the recent drought, 625,000 chicks and 1400MT of poultry feed were distributed to 25,000 households of women in drought-affected communities in three regions. Animal disease surveillance programs ensure timely responses to outbreaks, and 600,000 vials of livestock vaccines have been procured to prevent the spread of Foot and Mouth Disease, Lumpy Skin Disease, and Brucellosis in all six zones.

The Fisheries Resources Management Programme (FReMP) showcased the UN's value-added impact in improving household food security, alleviating rural poverty, and promoting sustainable fisheries management in Eritrea. Through transformative initiatives like mangrove forest restoration, infrastructure development, and empowerment of fishing cooperatives, FReMP significantly benefited thousands of households, enhanced economic development, and ensured marine biodiversity conservation.

FReMP project made significant strides and achieved notable milestones. In 2023 over **5,300 households**, comprising approximately **26,600 individuals**, benefited from the services supported by the project. Thus, the total number of households benefited from technologies and services promoted by FReMP has reached 79% of its target of 13,534 households (**51% women**) and translated into a total of 67,670 individuals.

Land under improved management saw a substantial increase of **192 hectares** through the restoration of mangrove forests and halophiles, reaching a total of **450.5 hectares** since the project's inception. The project successfully expanded its interventions to **22 inland dams**, enhancing fish farming, fishing knowledge, and fish processing practices, thereby improving livelihoods and food security in these areas. Additionally, **164 (146 coastal and 18 inland fishing cooperatives)** fishing and fish processing cooperatives were formed and strengthened, with operational guidelines established to ensure their effectiveness. Training on improved production practices was provided to **1,465 cooperative members**, resulting in increased fish catches by **21.9 tons** in inland dams. Infrastructure development included the completion of a solar fish drying facility and plans for another facility, improving fish utilization for human consumption and enhancing food security. The project also focused on nutrition, developing a strategy, and providing training to promote fish consumption. Reservoir and catchment management plans were drafted, and a Vessel Monitoring System was established

to enhance monitoring and control of fishing activities. Energy-efficient ice machines were procured, increasing ice production capacity, and benefiting small and medium-scale fishers. Furthermore, the project supported the production of liquid fertilizer from seaweed and fish waste, meeting high demand from crop farmers. These achievements have had significant positive impacts on livelihoods, environmental conservation, and sustainable fisheries management.

Similarly, the Integrated Agricultural Development Programme (IADP) has positively transformed rural livelihoods by empowering farmers, promoting sustainable practices, and enhancing food security through water resource management, value chain strengthening, climate-resilient practices, and empowering rural producers' organizations. A total of 3,264 households (approximately 16,320 individuals) benefited from the supported services, increasing the overall number of beneficiary households to 4,789. Twelve watersheds were identified and prioritized for integrated water resources management activities, contributing to sustainable water management practices. Five administrative regions selected their value chains based on provided guidelines, facilitating targeted interventions. Climate-resilient land management techniques were applied to 175 hectares of land, promoting productivity and resilience in Zoba Debub and NRS regions. The project supported one hundred rural producers' organizations, strengthening their capacity for inclusive agricultural development. Furthermore, 2,914 farmers were trained in improved production practices and technologies, while 1,080 Ministry of Agriculture staff members received training to enhance their support to agricultural development.

By prioritizing the participation of women and youth, investing in infrastructure, promoting knowledge sharing, and enhancing capacity-building, the IADP has fostered inclusive and resilient agricultural systems that benefit rural communities in Eritrea. Overall, the United Nations in Eritrea continues to make significant strides in supporting the country's sustainable development goals and improving the well-being of its citizens through tailored interventions and collaborative partnerships with local stakeholders.



## Eritrea: The Rise of the Date Palm

Eritrea is actively pursuing a promising initiative to modernize its date palm industry, through a partnership with UN and the government. Through the Date Palm Support Program (DPSP), the UN agencies jointly provided advanced technological support and capacity building for national experts and date palm farmers. This collaborative effort signifies an important step towards transforming the date palm sub-sector in Eritrea.

The DPSP initiative provides many ways to boost farmers' income, enhance their livelihoods, improve food security and nutrition, stimulate market growth, promote economic progress, and ensure environmental and social sustainability through the expansion of date palm cultivation. By promoting sustainable date palm cultivation, it can play a significant role in mitigating climate change and bringing about various socio-economic and environmental benefits mentioned earlier. Just one date palm tree can reduce CO2 emissions by 200 kg per year. The joint program is presently making substantial investments in the sector to fully harness its potential and attain its desired goals at the local and national levels.

At the core of this initiative are inspiring individuals like Berhana Ogbu and Saada Ibrahim Kalifa, women from the Massawa sub-zone, who have embraced the opportunity to nurture date palm trees. Their stories embody enthusiasm, optimism, resilience, and a vision for economic prosperity within their communities and by extension their country's development. Despite challenges such as water scarcity, exacerbated by the impact of climate change, their unwavering determination to harness the benefits of date palm cultivation shines through.

Saada Ibrahim Kalifa, a Gahtelay Resident working at the government nursery, shared, "I am employed here with the responsibility of preparing the land for cultivating date palm trees. Through our work, we have gained expertise in identifying date palm tree offshoots and successfully planting them individually. This endeavour has provided valuable income for us, enabling us to support our families and children and empowered women like me to contribute meaningfully to our community."

Further north, in Dogali, Northern Red Sea, Abdu Hamid Geber stands as a beacon of ambition with over 1,700 date palm trees under his care. Abdu envisions Eritrea becoming a significant player in the international date palm market through a focus on quality and innovation, including plans for an attractive packaging system to expand into national and global markets.

The joint DPSP's unwavering partnership, including capacity-building programs and the establishment of critical infrastructure like the date palm Tissue Culture Laboratory, underscores a shared commitment to unlocking the full potential of Eritrea's date palm sector. Recent initiatives include training 650 stakeholders including farmers, extension officers, and date palm researchers. Moreover, in addition to the already successfully planted 2,000 vitros and additional 3,3600 offshoots, the procurement and distribution of 13,400 new date palm vitro plants of high-quality Majihool variety in 2023 through the DPSP initiative, signals a forward-thinking approach that promises a positive step towards achieving food security.



An intensified implementation of a community-based capacity-building strategy, by the government's social protection policy and strategy, resulted in a **17% increase** in the social protection workforce, now totaling **5,600 individuals, 42% of whom are women**. This empowered workforce provided accessible and equitable social protection, with a particular focus on beneficiary registration and targeting mechanisms.

- An estimated 24,274 vulnerable children, including children with disabilities living in 10,843 households (target 8,500), were reached with integrated community-based social protection support that improved access to basic social services, including education, health care, child protection, livelihood support, and mental health and psychosocial support service.
- The Community-Based Inclusive Development program which offers referral services, social protection assistance and psychosocial support, expanded its geographical coverage to 88% of sub-zobas and provided services to 24,500 children, including 6,500 with disabilities.

The program significantly contributed to the availability of services for 8,400 children with disabilities, of which 40% are women. a total of 219 children with disability received assistive mobility support in the form of donkeys, wheelchairs, and physiotherapy services, enabling many of them to be re-enrolled, retained and, for 285 of them, transited into the next school grade.

- A total of **10,843 disadvantaged families**, including **4,357 families of children with disabilities** and **6,486 women-headed households**, received social protection support through income-generating activities, cash

transfers, and educational supplies. As a result, **15,865** (45% girls and 34% children with disabilities) vulnerable children, benefited from social protection assistance, allowing them access to education, healthcare services, and food availability while also exposing them to efforts at preventing school dropout, child marriage, violence, and neglect.

- Seventy-five women-headed households received vocational training and entrepreneurship guidance, increasing their income security to meet the basic needs of their children.
- The implementation of the national social protection policy and strategic plan enhanced the program's integration and coordination among implementing partners, delivering quality and integrated services for vulnerable children and families.



### OUTPUT 3.4

National social security and protection systems are strengthened and expanded to reach the most vulnerable families and population group





# OUTCOME 4

By 2026, people in Eritrea, have benefited from climate resilient, sustainable environment and natural resources.

Pillar 4 – Planet: Climate resilience, sustainable environment & natural resources

<b>37,806,963</b> USD	<b>4,169,437</b> USD	<b>3,957,883</b> USD	<b>95%</b>
REQUIRED	AVAILABLE BUDGET	EXPENDITURE	DELIVERY RATE



**37,573 people**  
(18,122 men and 19,451 women)  
benefit from access to clean water



**92%** Open Defecation Free (ODF) status



**2000** hectares of land were restored through community-based soil and water conservation activities, ensuring food security and land conservation



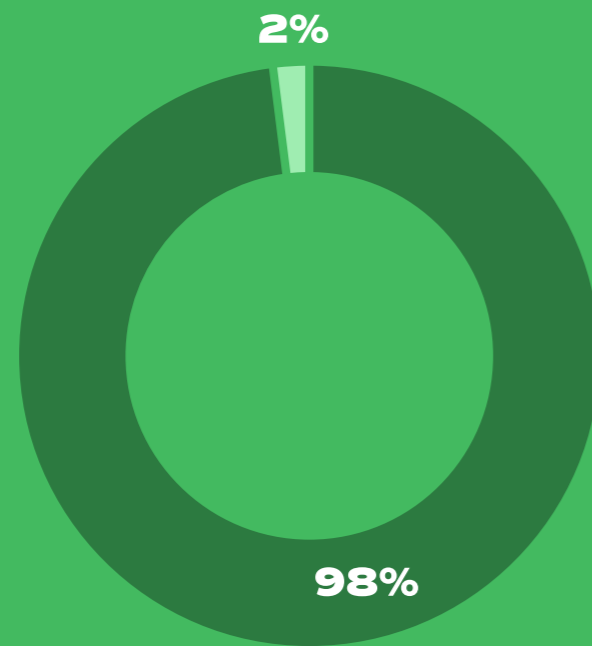
**1000** people directly benefitting from initiatives, with UN support, to protect nature and promote sustainable use of resources

## CONTRIBUTING AGENCIES:



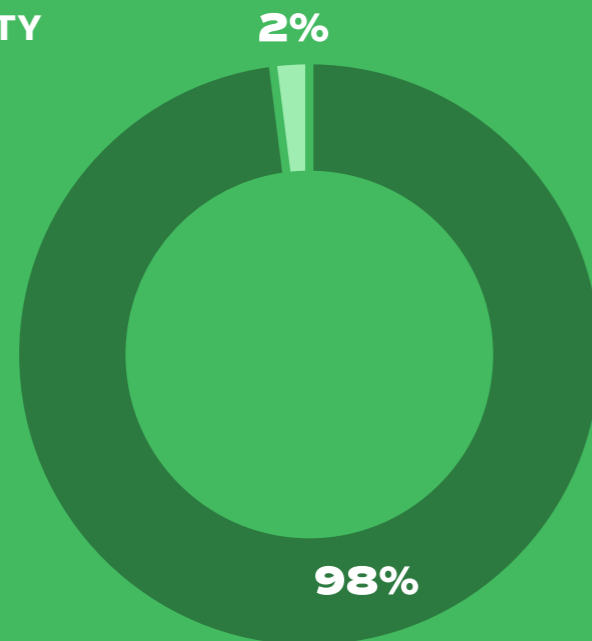


## HUMAN RIGHT MARKER



■ Significant contribution  
■ Limited contribution

## GENDER EQUALITY MARKER



■ Significant contribution  
■ Limited contribution

The Planet pillar plays a crucial role in addressing pressing environmental challenges and promoting sustainable development in Eritrea. Through strategic resource allocation and collaborative partnerships, it focuses on areas such as climate action, resilience building, disaster risk reduction, natural resource management, sustainable agriculture, and renewable energy. By engaging with government counterparts, civil society, and development partners, the UN aims to foster policy dialogue and implement projects that have a tangible impact on the lives of people and the environment.

In 2023, the support provided by the UN under the Planet pillar resulted in significant achievements that made a significant impact on local communities and the environment.

### OUTPUT 4.1

Capacities of institutions and communities are strengthened to sustainably manage and use environmental and natural resources.

### Sustainable Land Conservation and Environmental Conservation:

The UN provided support to communities, enabling them to conserve and sustainably utilize land resources. This support resulted in an enhanced flow of ecosystem services, leading to improved livelihoods and food security for **16,000 households** affected by drought, including **60%** of women-headed households, which received emergency food support through the food-for-work scheme. This initiative resulted in the successful restoration of **2,000** hectares of

degraded lands. The intervention also played a vital role in promoting gender equality through the equitable and sustainable use of natural resources. This assistance played a vital role in ensuring the affected households had access to food and alleviating the immediate food insecurity caused by the drought by leaving no one behind. It also helped improve the overall well-being and resilience of the affected communities.

**Access to Sustained and Safe Water Supply and Sanitation:** The UN has made significant strides in improving access to sustained and safe water supply and sanitation in Eritrea. Through targeted interventions, the UN has facilitated access to safe and sustainable water for **37,573 individuals (18,122 men and 19,451 women)**. This has been achieved through community-led upgrading and construction of climate-resilient, solar-powered water supply systems in **30** drought-affected areas.

Since the start of the new Cooperation Framework, 46 communities, comprising a population of 165,715 individuals (69% women), successfully gained access to enhanced water supply services. An additional twelve systems are nearing completion, which will provide access to safe water for another **22,293 people**. The user communities cover the operation and maintenance costs, highlighting the effectiveness of the community service delivery model in Eritrea.



Furthermore, with UN support Eritrea has achieved a **92%** Open Defecation Free (ODF) status (which was 91% in 2022), demonstrating notable high sanitation utilization rates across different regions.

In line with Eritrea's goal of eliminating trachoma, UN and the government have collaborated on producing and disseminating informative education



and communication (IEC) materials. These materials have been used to conduct community dialogues promoting handwashing and face-washing practices in Zoba Debub, where trachoma has not yet been eliminated. As a result, **204,000 people in 204 communities, including 15,434 students in twenty-two schools**, have been reached with these educational initiatives.

**Capacity Strengthened:** The UN provided specialized training on environmental issues to **276** individuals, including **68** women. This training enhanced their understanding of climate change resilience and sustainable land management, equipping them with the necessary skills to effectively address environmental challenges. It also enabled them to assess the impacts of climate change and take proactive measures for adaptation and mitigation.

**Women's Participation and Leadership:** Recognizing the transformative impacts of women's participation in climate change adaptation and reforestation, the UN actively promoted women's leadership by recognizing and rewarding six exceptional women. This recognition not only showcased the significant contributions of women but also inspired others to actively engage in environmental conservation and adopt sustainable practices. The UN's emphasis on gender equality in environmental initiatives demonstrates its commitment to inclusive and equitable development.

## OUTPUT 4.2

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

**Access to Reliable and Clean Energy:** Recent assessments of electrification access in Eritrea reveal a significant disparity, with 53% of the population having access to electricity, primarily in urban areas, while only 10% have access in rural regions. Although this represents an improvement compared to Eritrea's National Energy Policy (2018) estimate of 40-45% electrification, the per capita electricity consumption remains extremely low at around 75.136 kWh/year, well below the African average. Consequently, rural communities heavily rely on traditional biomass fuels, which

account for 93% of their primary energy sources. This reliance has led to forest depletion and environmental sustainability challenges. Moreover, it poses significant health risks, particularly for rural women and children.

Eritrea is looking at bolstering renewable energy sources such as geothermal, solar, and wind power. Emphasizing community-government collaboration, the nation aims for an inclusive energy transition, leveraging renewables and technology for equitable access through a holistic approach by positively impacting the lives of the people to generate economic growth and sustainable development as well as improved health, education, and other social services.

## OUTPUT 4.3

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

Acknowledging the critical importance of ensuring dependable energy access, the UN has launched initiatives dedicated to bolstering energy sustainability. Over the next three years, the focus will be on mobilizing additional resources, particularly for the establishment of Solar Photovoltaic mini grids and the installation of substations to connect towns and villages to the

national grid. These efforts also prioritize the provision of electricity through renewable and clean energy sources. By harnessing the power of renewables, these endeavors hold promise in elevating standard of living and fostering economic growth in Eritrea.

**Resilience of Communities Strengthened:** The UN has made significant efforts to enhance the resilience of vulnerable individuals on multiple fronts. One key area of focus has been providing entrepreneurial and vocational training for rural youths, along with support for female-headed households. These initiatives have yielded positive outcomes such as improved livelihoods, economic resilience, and sustainable opportunities. Moreover, these interventions have not only offered immediate relief but also empowered communities to effectively tackle future challenges. In total, around **one thousand** vulnerable individuals, including persons with disabilities, the elderly, and women-headed households, have directly benefited from these impactful initiatives.

- 260 vulnerable individuals, including persons with disabilities, elderly, and women-headed households, were strengthened through the provision of entrepreneurial and financial management training.
- 715 rural youths (40% women) expanded their capacities through vocational training and access to startup tools in various sectors.
- Fifteen female-headed households enhanced their resilience through the provision of 15 mobility shops and cash assistance, empowering them to better respond to unexpected crises.
- Strengthened the capacity of the orthopaedic workshops to increase service on mobility support for persons with disabilities through procurement of orthopaedic materials.







## Progress made towards the promise of “leaving no one behind”

The principle of Leaving No One Behind is a fundamental commitment shared by all UN member states as part of the 2030 in Eritrea. The 2022-2026 Cooperation Framework and collaborative program are founded on the goal of eradicating poverty, eliminating discrimination and isolation, and reducing inequality.

The implementation of the Leaving No One Behind principle supports efforts to address inequality and disadvantage, considering the impact of climate change and environmental degradation. It ensures that no individual or group is overlooked in development processes and that their specific needs and vulnerabilities are acknowledged.

In line with this commitment, the 2023 Basic Services Response Priorities (BSRP) in Eritrea were designed to meet the urgent needs of the Eritrean people within the Cooperation Framework. The BSRP aimed to assist vulnerable groups in Eritrea, prioritizing the principle of Leave No One Behind. The 2023 BSRP played a crucial role in identifying and executing projects that offered lifesaving and life-sustaining assistance to the most vulnerable groups in Eritrea. These projects targeted nine categories of vulnerable people as defined by the Cooperation Framework. The primary objective was to reach a total of 1.2 million people across all six Zobas of the country.

As part of the 2023 BSRP, UN agencies implemented various projects in different sectors, providing direct support to at least 603,000 individuals. Efforts were made to specifically assist vulnerable populations, including orphaned children, persons with disabilities, and female-headed households. Education disparities among ethnic-linguistic minority groups were also addressed in the BSRP, focusing particularly on improving enrolment and transition rates for girls.

The United Nations in Eritrea has implemented projects targeting vulnerable groups such as orphaned children, persons with disabilities, and female-headed households. The UN also supported the government to strengthen community-based strategies and engage para-social/community workers to ensure that the voices and needs of marginalized groups are heard and addressed. The existing strong community mechanism at the decentralized level, along with community-based basic service delivery social services, played a crucial role in preventing harmful practices like female genital mutilation (FGM)

and underage marriage. Community-based strategies fostered community discourse and contributed to averting FGM and underage marriage for 38,900 girls and women in 2023, establishing a resilient framework for long-term viability. Furthermore, specific support was provided to 4,500 children with intellectual disabilities, 1,500 children with hearing impairment, and other children with mobility and physical disabilities. This support included assistive devices, social protection measures, access to education and other basic social services, mental health and psychosocial support services, and protection from abuse and neglect due to social stigma and discrimination.

Eritrea's commitment to leaving no one behind is also evident in its provision of free healthcare for the public. The country has trained 196 BFD reaching an estimated 392,000 individuals from remote and hard-to-reach communities annually. This serves as a critical mechanism for bridging equity and achieving Universal Health Coverage, especially in areas with limited health infrastructure.

The UN supports national statistical systems in their efforts to go beyond national averages and prioritize inclusiveness and addressing inequalities. The UN provides support in developing a Statistical Master Plan and conducting a comprehensive capacity assessment, which will empower the National Statistical Office (NSO). This empowerment will specifically focus on ensuring the availability of reliable disaggregated and gender-specific data to address inclusion and inequality. By doing so, the UN aims to capture the diverse realities that exist and address socioeconomic disparities, gender gaps, and regional imbalances. This data-driven approach enables evidence-based decision-making for equitable development and social progress.

Despite the above notable progress, there are still challenges and concerns related to leaving no one behind. These challenges include inadequate resources, limited data management resources, and the need to align shock-responsive social protection with sectoral coordination, all of which hinder program implementation and effective data collection. To address these challenges, a multi-dimensional approach is required to tackle the root causes of inequality and discrimination. This approach involves promoting social inclusion, raising awareness about the rights and needs of marginalized groups, and working towards eliminating



harmful practices such as female genital mutilation and child marriage. Additionally, fostering partnerships and collaboration among government agencies, civil society organizations, and international partners is essential to leverage resources and expertise in achieving these objectives.

In conclusion, the commitment of Eritrea and the United Nations to leaving no one behind

is significant. By building on achievements and addressing the identified challenges, Eritrea can continue on its journey toward a more inclusive, equitable, and sustainable society where the rights and well-being of all individuals are upheld.



## 2.3. | Support to Partnerships and Financing the 2030 Agenda

The power of partnership is recognized as a key pillar of the Sustainable Development Goals and is a dedicated Goal in itself. The UN in Eritrea has recognized and enforced its work in Eritrea with multi-stakeholder partnerships to realize the commitments on the Cooperation Framework and support the overall SDGs in Eritrea.

This has not however been easy in the current funding landscape. The global situation coupled with the unilateral coercive measures imposed by the EU and USA hinders prospects to expand the partnership and funding base.

Nonetheless, partnerships were forged in 2023 with special emphasis on untapped spheres including south-south cooperation, regional development banks, and global interagency pooled funding mechanisms.

**South-South Cooperation:** The UN in Eritrea has developed a joint program on sustainable production and consumption under the China-Horn of Africa Transformative Partnership Initiative. This partnership involves the government of China, Eritrea, the UN China and UN Eritrea, and technical teams from relevant ministries of both sides. The project aims to access funding under the Global Development and South-South Cooperation Fund (GDF) managed by the China International Development Cooperation Agency (CIDCA). It focuses on promoting a circular economy, green economic transition, and inclusive and innovative technologies for sustainable production and consumption.

**Partnership with African Development Bank (AfDB):** The UNCT in Eritrea has enhanced and deepened engagement with AfDB to support the country's development aspirations. Collaboration with AfDB includes areas such as energy, water and sanitation, agriculture, skills and capacity building, and economic and financial governance. The partnership aims to promote sustainable development through country and regional networks.

**Central Emergency Relief Fund (CERF):** Eritrea has benefited from the CERF's Under-Funded Emergencies (UFE) allocation of US\$5 million to respond to the impact of drought. The allocation supported projects in food security and livelihoods, water, sanitation and hygiene, and lifesaving health and nutrition. Implementation was carried out by UNDP, FAO, UNFPA, UNICEF, and WHO in close collaboration with government partners.

**Strategic partnerships with Ireland, Japan, UK-FCDO, and the EU:** The UNCT in Eritrea has collaborated with Ireland, Japan, the UK's Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO), and the European Union (EU) on the strategic pillars of the Cooperation Framework for basic services and well-being.

**Regional and Global Engagements:** The UNCT, through the Resident Coordinator (RC), has actively engaged at regional and global levels to support partnership and financing for the 2030 Agenda in Eritrea. The RC participated in the 5th United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries (LDC5) to ramp up support for the Cooperation Framework. The RC also held discussions with the UN Deputy Secretary General to deepen strategic engagement with Eritrea on SDGs and regional peace agreements.

Overall, these partnerships and engagements have contributed to advancing the SDGs and mobilizing financing for the 2030 Agenda in Eritrea, particularly in areas such as sustainable production and consumption, energy, water and sanitation, agriculture, and humanitarian support during emergencies.

**UN Solidarity:** the UN staff has contributed to the National Blood Bank of Eritrea through blood donations (23 units equivalent to 10,350ml of blood), demonstrating a spirit of partnership and solidarity.



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

The United Nations Country Team (UNCT) Eritrea's steadfast dedication to coherence, effectiveness, and efficiency was evident through its collaborative efforts, streamlined resource management, and efficient communication strategies. By harmoniously working together and leveraging their respective strengths, the UN in Eritrea exemplified its unwavering commitment to achieving and making a tangible, positive difference in the lives of the communities it serves.

In 2023, the UN Eritrea made significant strides in its development efforts with the successful implementation of the Cooperation Framework and the Joint Biennial Work Plan, facilitated by the UNCT. This collaboration involved close cooperation with government ministries and implementing partners to expedite the execution of joint programs and identify areas where UN support could be further enhanced.

The UN demonstrated its unwavering commitment to coherence, effectiveness, and efficiency through a series of impactful initiatives. A total of 19 UN agencies collaborated both domestically and internationally to align their endeavours with the objectives outlined in the Cooperation Framework. The country programme documents (CPDs) of all agencies involved in program or cooperation strategy development processes are in alignment with the Cooperation Framework for 2022-2026.

Through the Programme Management Team (PMT) regular joint plan reviews were conducted in conjunction with the government, ensuring ongoing coherence and allowing for adjustments to optimize the collective impact of their endeavours. PMT has also provided quality assurance to data, monitoring and reporting provided to UNCT throughout the year, contributing to regular monitoring of implementation of Joint work plans (JWP), through pertinent selection and updates on the SDG outputs indicators aligned with JWPs and UNSDCF and evidence-based planning and programming.

The utilization of joint work plans and innovative approaches offer significant potential to reduce transaction costs and redundancies within the UN system. Joint work plans (JWP) and innovative approaches in the UN system have reduced costs, eliminated redundancies, and improved efficiency. Collaborative efforts between ministries and UN agencies have successfully boosted efficiency and prevented duplication. The progress of the UN reform on the ground has been clearly demonstrated through the successful implementation of joint programmes. Examples of effective joint program development include the "Ending Harmful Practices" program, climate-resilient water supply and date palm development projects, the Joint Programme on Ending Preventable Maternal and Newborn Deaths, data for development initiatives, and joint capacity building of healthcare providers in maternal and newborn emergency care. These mechanisms facilitated coordination and collaboration among UN entities, enabling them to work together more efficiently towards common goals.

Efficient operational resource management was prioritized by the UN in Eritrea. In terms of operational resource management, the Country Team consistently collaborated and combined their resources to ensure the efficient and effective management of shared services through the Operational Management Team (OMT), thereby optimizing the management of shared services. The participating agencies made substantial contributions to enhancing the budget, quality, and accessibility of these shared services, which encompassed cleaning, IT services, security measures, contract management, and healthcare provisions at the UN clinic.

The operational resources management is aligned with the Business Operations Strategy (BOS 2.0). Last year the country team completed the review and signed off the BOS 2.0. In terms of

budget management UNCT achieved an actual cost avoidance of USD 805,044 against the plan to save 339,895(136.91%) in the year 2023.

The UN Communication Group, with the support of the UNCT, developed a comprehensive communications strategy that effectively coordinated communication activities in alignment with the UNSDCF and the UN Global Communications Strategy. The primary objective of the group was to provide user-centric and demand-driven support to the UNCT, while also engaging with development partners and the government to highlight the UN's support for Eritrea. The UN Communication Group played a pivotal role in raising awareness and advocating for development efforts in Eritrea. Equipped with a well-crafted work plan aligned with the UNSDCF, the group targeted diverse stakeholders through various communication channels, effectively amplifying key messages and fostering engagement.

Moreover, the group actively supported joint events and campaigns, effectively showcasing the UN's objectives, participating in global summits, and forging partnerships. As part of its efforts, the group organized an event to commemorate International Women's Day, which included engaging activities such as gender trivia and video screenings. Additionally, the Programme Principal Group conducted a gender scorecard to evaluate progress of UNCT in women's rights and gender equality, and a comprehensive report was submitted.

Significant success was achieved in the prevention of HIV transmission, resulting in a sustained decline in prevalence and incidence rates. The UN Joint team in Eritrea prioritized evidence-based prevention services, addressed stigma and discrimination, and empowered communities in the fight against HIV. Awareness campaigns, widespread information distribution, and equitable access to crucial HIV prevention, treatment, care, and support services were prioritized. The team also provided support to Eritrea in applying for grants and facilitated the exchange of HIV-related data, thereby contributing to considerable progress in the country's HIV response. Efforts were made to combat stigma and engage communities in reducing new infections, including the implementation of condom distribution programs to promote safe sexual practices.



## Promoting Wellness: United Nations Eritrea Compound Unveils New Staff Wellness Centre

In a significant move towards prioritizing the well-being of its staff, the United Nations Eritrea compound unveiled a wellness centre. Spearheaded by the staff association and inaugurated by the Resident Coordinator, this initiative aims to address the crucial importance of mental and physical health among UN personnel. By recognizing the significance of well-being, the UN in Eritrea seeks to create a supportive environment that aligns with the Sustainable Development Goals and promotes the overall welfare of its staff members.



Mental and physical health play pivotal roles in the overall well-being and productivity of individuals. The challenging and demanding nature of work within the UN can place significant stress on staff members, making it essential to provide resources for self-care and support. By dedicating resources to mental and physical health, the United Nations in Eritrea acknowledges that prioritizing staff well-being creates a positive impact not only on the individuals but also on the quality of work produced and, ultimately, the achievement of the SDGs.



The newly inaugurated wellness centre in the United Nations Eritrea compound stands as a testament to the organization's commitment to the well-being of its staff. The centre offers a range of facilities and services designed to meet the diverse needs of individuals, fostering a holistic approach to wellness.

From fitness equipment and exercise classes, the centre aims to provide staff members with opportunities to enhance their physical and mental well-being.

The establishment of the wellness centre within the United Nations Eritrea compound perfectly aligns with the SDGs, particularly Goal 3:

Good Health and Well-being. By prioritizing the physical and mental health of its staff, the UN compound is not only fulfilling its duty as an employer but also setting an example for promoting well-being in the wider community. Staff members who are healthy and content are better equipped to fulfil their professional responsibilities effectively, thereby contributing to the achievement of the SDGs on a broader scale.





## 2.5. | Evaluations and Lessons Learned

The UNSDCF programming cycle (2022-2026) began in 2022, considering the recommendations and lessons learned from the final evaluation of the UNDAF 2017-2021. The evaluation highlighted several weaknesses, including the scope of CCA, alignment between UN positioning and priorities, coordination and harmonization, and a fragmented approach to planning and implementation. It also noted insufficient consideration of the development-humanitarian-peace nexus, weak systems, and capacities of national and local administration for monitoring integrated programming, and the absence of a monitoring framework.

To address these weaknesses and improve development efforts in Eritrea, several actions have been taken. These include completing an updated Common Country Assessment (CCA) to gain a detailed understanding of socio-economic development issues, aligning the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework with national priorities, and re-engineering the UN's positioning in the country. A framework has been developed to guide and harmonize development programs at the national and Zoba levels, and efforts have been made to strengthen monitoring and evaluation systems.

The UN Country Team is working towards strengthening joint programs and programming among UN agencies through regular monitoring facilitated by the Program Management Team (PMT). The integration of the humanitarian-development-peace triple nexus into the UNSDCF and measures to enhance the resilience of systems and capacities of national and regional governments are also underway. These actions aim to enhance coordination, effectiveness, and sustainability of development initiatives in Eritrea.

During the implementation period in 2023, several lessons have been learned. Key lessons include the importance of strong leadership by the Government of the State of Eritrea, in line with its self-reliance principle, which encompasses strong political will, government ownership, convening power, and decision-making capacity. The involvement of the UN aligns with the government's self-reliance principles.

The Joint FGM program has benefited from a strong local governance structure, including by-laws that enforce local governance and a network of community-based organizations with convening and community mobilization authority. Community involvement and engagement lead to the development of localized remedies to address harmful practices, as demonstrated by the provision of a solar-based water pumping system and the construction of micro dams for groundwater recharge.

The humanitarian/development nexus, viewed through the lens of disaster preparedness, helps address problems such as poverty and inequity, as it determines who is most affected when disaster strikes. Advocacy has become more inclusive of direct counterparts, led by the Ministry of Finance and National Development (MoFND), and can help remove bottlenecks, facilitate implementation, and expedite the liquidation of Direct Cash Transfers (DCT), given the reach and role of the MoFND in managing cash transfers to line ministries.

To ensure the successful implementation of projects, timely action is prioritized, including initiating procurement processes promptly after project approval. Additionally, promoting food security and income generation in drought-prone areas through "Food for Work" programs and providing high-quality livestock feed, as well as introducing alternative income sources like date palm farming in coastal regions, are crucial. Project success is facilitated through partnerships that employ participatory and collaborative approaches, capacity building, and active community involvement in planning, implementation, and awareness raising. Improved data management, technology utilization, and the incorporation of gender-disaggregated data further enhance project outcomes. The adoption of climate change mitigation measures such as solar energy, collective approaches to social protection, and being accountable to affected populations also strengthen project implementation.

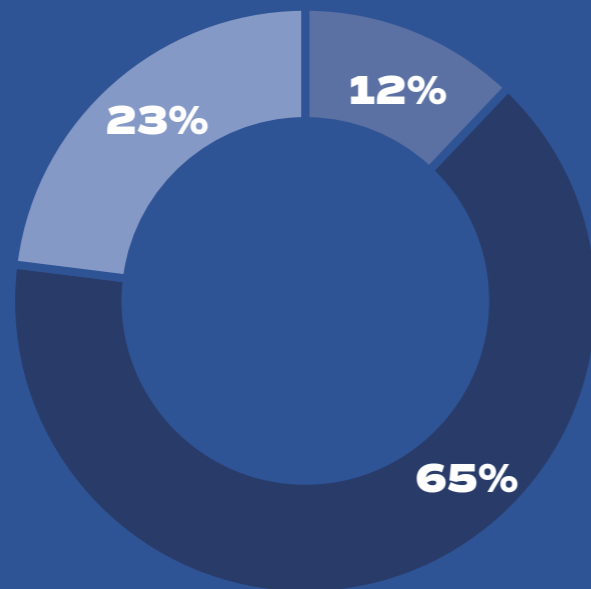
## 2.6. | Financial Overview and Resource Mobilization

The implementation of the Cooperation Framework in 2023 required a total allocation of USD 56,070,629, of which USD 31,337,383 was effectively spent, resulting in a financial execution rate of 56%.

PILLARS	AVAILABLE	EXPENDITURE	DELIVERY RATE
PEOPLE	15,152,973.00	11,129,545.00	73%
PEACE	5,546,706.00	3,469,609.00	63%
PROSPERITY	31,201,513.00	12,780,346.00	41%
PLANET	4,169,437.00	3,957,883.00	95%
TOTAL	56,070,629.00	31,337,383.00	56%

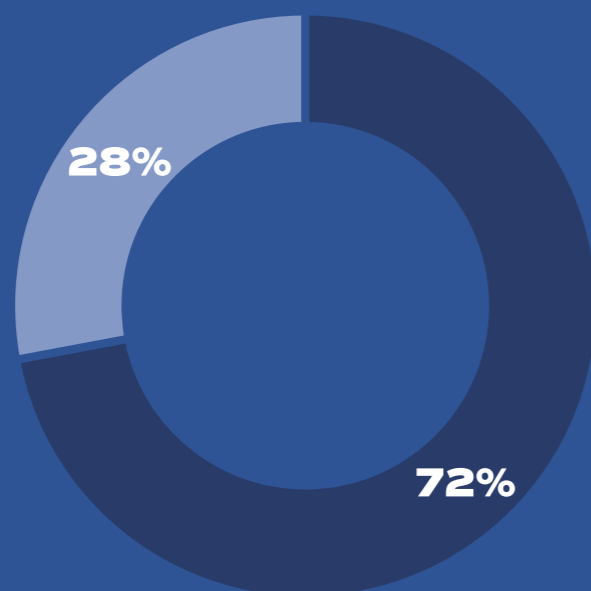


### HUMAN RIGHT MARKER



- Significant contribution
- Principal contribution
- Limited Contribution

### GENDER EQUALITY MARKER

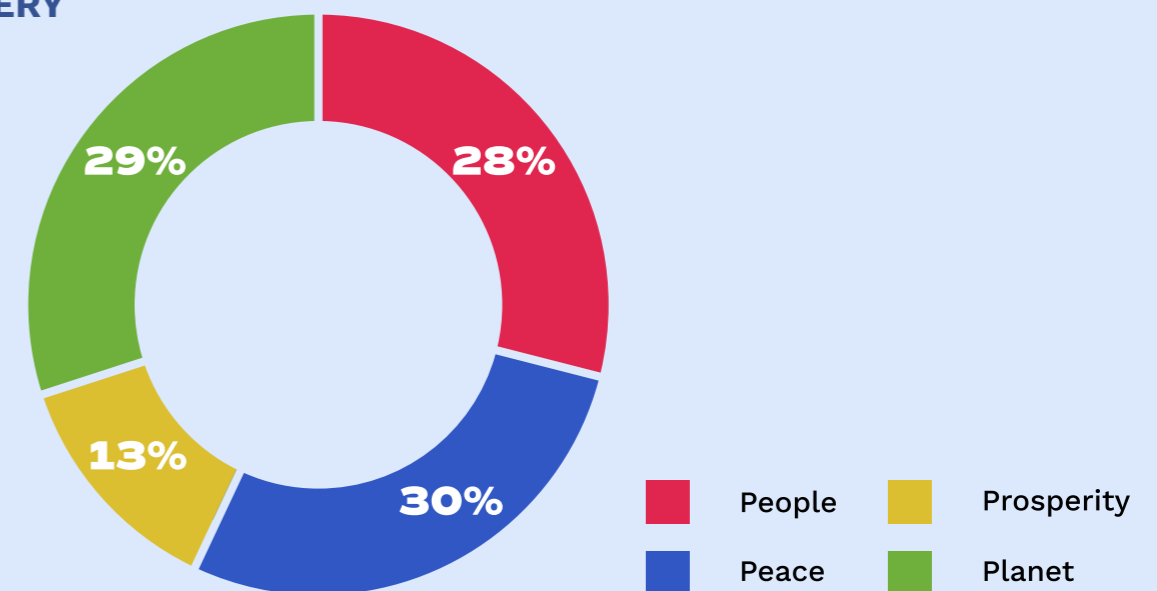


- Limited contribution
- Significant contribution

### Breakdown of Financial Overview 2023

Agency	Available Budgeting USD	Total Expenditure	% of budget utilization
(FAO)	6,121,313.00	4,685,618.00	77%
(IFAD)	21,104,730.00	4,521,405.00	21%
(UNDP)	12,098,080.00	9,250,525.00	76%
(UNFPA)	1,907,760.00	953,503.00	50%
(UNHCR)	421,650.00	22,519.00	5%
(UNICEF)	10,782,773.00	10,782,773.00	100%
(UNIDO)	19,408.00	19,408.00	100%
(WFP)	110,000.00	-	0%
(WHO)	3,504,915.00	1,101,632.00	31%
<b>Total</b>	<b>56,070,629.00</b>	<b>31,337,383.00</b>	<b>56%</b>

### DELIVERY RATE



- People
- Prosperity
- Peace
- Planet





### 3 | UNCT key focus for 2024

There is a substantial funding gap across all pillars, highlighting the need for action. The UNCT will collaborate with the government to reassess and adjust the pledged funds to a more realistic and feasible budget. The UN and the government will work closely for joined-up partnership and resource mobilize and address the funding gap.

In response to addressing potential risks to the national grain harvest, specifically posed by factors such as El Niño and unexpected heavy rains, the United Nations and the Government of Eritrea need to collaborate to develop inclusive programs aimed at proactively tackling potential food shortages.

The UNCT will promote data-driven processes for inclusive and climate-smart agriculture, diversifying agriculture for small-holder farmers with nutrition-sensitive value-chains, enhancing resilience of vulnerable populations through access to assets, technology, and climate-smart practices, and strengthening joint work programs among UN agencies for efficient resource utilization and greater impact.

The UNCT will conduct a comprehensive review of the implementation of the 2023 work plans and programming for the period of 2024-2026 in collaboration with the government.

In 2024, the United Nations will prioritize targeted support to enhance national capacities for evidence-based decision-making. This support will include strengthening the statistical system, conducting the Voluntary National Review on select Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and assisting in the institutionalization of the civil registration for vital Statistics system.

Eritrea should actively engage in regional and international forums to overcome challenges and seek greater integration. The UNCT is ready to support and to leverage this engagement for Eritrea's progress, stability, and influence in global affairs.

The UNCT will be focusing on supporting the government's priorities in the social sector, which include health, education, social protection, statistics, and capacity building. Additionally, they will focus on the economic sector, which encompasses energy, environment, agriculture, industry, and marine resources. These priorities align with the concept of the six transitions, which likely refer to key areas of development or transformative changes in a country.









**UNITED  
NATIONS  
ERITREA**



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