



STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP COOPERATION FRAMEWORK (SPCF)

Between

**The Government of the State of Eritrea and
the United Nations**

2017 – 2021

**“Inclusive Growth and National Capacity
Enhancement for Sustainable Development.”**

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FOREWORD

This Strategic Partnership Cooperation Framework (SPCF) 2017-2021, encapsulates the agreement between the Government of the State of Eritrea and the United Nations on selected areas of work that will constitute development cooperation over the next five years. The SPCF draws from and seeks to enhance Eritrea's development aspirations as articulated in the National Charter of the People's Front for Democracy and Justice (PFDJ) which states, inter alia, that the government shall seek to build a prosperous, peaceful and just country based on the principle of self-reliance. The SPCF is guided by the National Indicative Development Plan (NIDP) 2014-2018 and by the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development to which Eritrea is a signatory.

The uniqueness of this SPCF lies in its foundation the UN's "Delivering as One" approach, ensuring a cohesive response to national development priorities by UN agencies, the development and articulation of a common vision and goals, through a consultative and participatory process reinforcing the principles of the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness and the Accra Agenda for Action.

The SPCF remains a living and rolling document designed to accommodate issues emerging from the national development plan; any evolving Government policies; regional and international issues relevant to its implementation.

The Government of the State of Eritrea and the UN System are thus committed to working together in the spirit of partnership and mutual accountability to implement the SPCF as a contribution to the achievement of national development goals and aspirations. We will act together in cognizance of this opportunity and responsibility.

For the Government of the State of Eritrea



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For the United Nations



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ACRONYMS

ACRWC	African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child
AF	Adaptation Fund
AfDB	African Development Bank
ANER	Adjusted Net Enrolment Rate
CCA	Common Country Analysis
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women
CRC	Convention on the Rights of the Child
CSA	Climate Smart Agriculture Approach
CSO	Civil Society Organisation
CLTS	Community-Led Total Sanitation
DAO	Delivering as One
DML	Desired Mastery Levels
DRM	Disaster Risk Management
DRR	Disaster Risk Reduction
EEBC	Eritrea–Ethiopia Boundary Commission
EFA	Education for All
EMIS	Education Management Information System
EPHS	Eritrean Population and Health Survey
EPI	Expanded Program for immunization
EU	European Union
FAO	Food and Agricultural Organisation
GCF	Global Climate Fund
GEF	Global Environmental Facility
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GoSE	Government of the State of Eritrea
HMIS	Health Management Information System
HSSP	Health Sector Strategic Plan
HW	Hand Wash
IAEA	International Atomic Energy Agency
IFAD	International Fund for Agriculture and Development
ILO	International Labour Organization
IPs	Implementing Partners
IRRF	Integrated Results and Resources Framework
ITN	Insecticide Treated Net
JICA	Japan International Cooperation Agency
JRMS	Joint Resource Mobilisation Strategy
KAP	Knowledge, Attitude and Practice
MAPS	Mainstreaming, Acceleration and Policy Support
MDA	Ministries, Departments and Agencies
MDGs	Millennium Development Goals
MEA	Multilateral Environmental Agreements
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
ML&HW	Ministry of Labour and Human Welfare
MLWE	Ministry of Land, Water and Environment
MML	Minimum Master Levels
MND	Ministry of National Development
MOA	Ministry of Agriculture
MOE	Ministry of Education
MOF	Ministry of Finance

MOFA	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
MOH	Ministry of Health
MOI	Ministry of Information
MOLG	Ministry of Local Government
MOEM	Ministry of Energy and Mines
MPP	Macro-Policy Paper
MoMR	Ministry of Marine Resources
MTR	Mid Term Review
NCD	Non-communicable Disease
NCEW	National Confederation of Eritrean Workers
NCHE	National Commission for Higher Education
NER	Net Enrolment Rate
NIDP	National Indicative Development Plan
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
NHP	National Health Policy
NIDP	National Indicative Development Plan
NSO	National Statistics Office
NUEW	National Union of Eritrean Women
NUEYS	National Union of Eritrean Youths and Students
OAG	Office of the Auditor General
OCHA	Office of the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
OHCHR	Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights
OR	Other Resources
PFDJ	Peoples' Front for Justice and Democracy
RBM	Results Based Management
RR	Regular Resources
RRF	Results and Resources Framework.
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SPCF	Strategic Partnership Cooperation Framework
SPR	Strategic Prioritisation Retreat
TBD	To be Determined
UN	United Nations
UNAIDS	United Nations Joint Programme on HIV and AIDS
UNCBD	United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity
UNCCD	United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification
UNCT	United Nations Country Team
UNDAF	United Nations Development Assistance Framework
UNDG	United Nations Development Group
UNDOCO	United Nations Development Operations Coordination Office
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNIDO:	United Nations Industrial Development Organization
UNRC	United Nations Resident Coordinator
UPR	Universal Period Review
USD	United States Dollar
WASH	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene
WHO	World Health Organization

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. The Strategic Partnership Cooperation Framework (SPCF) 2017-2021 is the fourth strategic medium-term cooperation framework for Eritrea. It outlines the collective vision and shared response of United Nations agencies in Eritrea to the National Indicative Development Plan (NIDP) 2014-2018 and responds directly to the goals of the National Charter of the People's Front for Democracy and Justice (PFDJ) to advance Eritrea's sustainable development agenda and to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
2. The SPCF 2017 – 2021 was developed at the outcome results level, through a consultative process led by the Government of the State of Eritrea (GoSE) and the United Nations Country Team (UNCT) in Eritrea. The SPCF is aligned to the National Indicative Development Plan (NIDP), and makes reference to national sector plans, the 2013-2016 SPCF Mid-term Review (MTR) Report, concept notes prepared by GoSE's Ministries, Departments, and Agencies (MDAs), and key international development frameworks such as "the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development" and the African Union Agenda 2063.
3. The United Nation's response contributes to the National Indicative Plan through four strategic pillars:
 - Pillar 1:** Basic Social Services;
 - Pillar 2:** Environmental sustainability, resilience and disaster risk management;
 - Pillar 3:** Public sector capacity development; and
 - Pillar 4:** Inclusive growth, food security, and sustainable livelihoods
4. These results areas respond to national challenges related to (i) improving and sustaining social progress and environmental sustainability (ii) capacity development (iii) accelerated inclusive growth, food security and livelihoods (iv) gender and youth empowerment, and (v) human welfare and social and child protection.
5. The indicative resources required for the implementation of the SPCF 2017-2021 is estimated at USD 326,824,740 of which Regular Resources (RR) is USD 83,107,240 and Other Resources (OR) is USD 243,717,500. This is an increase of about 65 per cent from the amount of USD 188 million estimated for the 2013-2016 SPCF. A Joint Resource Mobilisation Strategy (JRMS) will be developed to mobilize additional resources.
6. The SPCF 2017-2021 will be guided by key core values of accountability, integrity, professionalism, and mutual respect. The Minister for National Development and the UN Resident Coordinator will jointly provide strategic oversight, coordinate and remain accountable for the SPCF's results. The UN Resident Coordinator, as the designated representative of the UN Secretary General, will coordinate the UN Country Team in achieving the SPCF 2017-2021 results.
7. An overall Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) framework and implementation plan will be developed to accompany the SPCF 2017-2021, providing a common tool for the operationalization of the planned results. Both the Government and the UN Country Team will be jointly involved in the implementation of results to reduce transaction costs and emphasize the partnership nature of the SPCF.
8. Focus will also be placed on South-South and Triangular Cooperation, offering valuable pathways to promote and encourage the sharing of knowledge, skills and expertise as well as the adaptation of good practices.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Preamble

The SPCF 2017-2021 comes at a strategic period in global development, with the commencement of *The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* adopted in September 2015, which places the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at its core. It provides an opportunity for the refinement of national goals and priorities towards sustainable and resilient development that “leaves no one behind.”

The United Nations Country Team in Eritrea takes mainstreaming, acceleration and policy support (MAPS) and alignment as its common approach to integrated national planning and programming. It draws on the guidance provided by the United Nations Development Group (UNDG) in the context of this new global compact by making available the UN’s extensive level of engagement and influence with partners in government, non-state actors, and international community, while acknowledging the need to have coherent, integrated system wide strategic planning, implementation and reporting. The SPCF 2017-2021 will place emphasis on South-South and Triangular Cooperation, offering valuable pathways to promote and encourage the sharing of knowledge, skills and expertise as well as the adaptation of good practices.

The SPCF 2017-2021, and the accompanying results and resources framework (RRF), has been prepared at outcome level to reflect its strategic nature. It will be followed by the preparation of a joint work plan and activity work plans in line with the UN Delivering as One (DaO) modality.

1.2 National Development Context and International Commitments

Located in the Horn of Africa, Eritrea attained formal independence in May 1993. It is bordered by Sudan to the northwest, Ethiopia to the south; Djibouti to the southeast and the Red Sea to the north and northeast. Eritrea is divided into six administrative regions (Zobas), namely, Maekel, Anseba, Gash-Barka, Dehub, Northern Red Sea, and Southern Red Sea.

The estimated official population size (2016)³ is 3.75 million and with children under the age of 15 years accounting for 47 per cent of the population it is characterised as a young population (EPHS 2010). While majority (65 per cent), of the population still live in rural areas the urban population is growing rapidly due to high rural-urban migration rates. The rural population derive their livelihoods mainly from rain-fed crop production, cattle rearing and fisheries, which are largely based on traditional production systems and are exacerbated by frequent droughts and environmental degradation.

Eritrea’s efforts to build a sovereign state and a strong economy have been characterised by three broad phases: (i) a rapid and intense institution building, open development policymaking, effective planning and execution, economic growth, and the establishment of membership in international organisations in the period immediately after independence; (ii) a post 1998-2000 war period of stabilisation and reconstruction; and (iii) a post conflict development period during which the country has recorded improvements in economic growth and social development. The major challenges that continue to affect the country include; (i) improving and sustaining social progress; (ii) environmental stability; (iii) capacity development; (iv) accelerated inclusive growth and food security; (v) gender and youth empowerment; and (vi) human welfare and social protection.

³ Ministry of National Development (National Statistics Office)

The vision of the Eritrean Government as stated in the Macro-Policy Paper (MPP) and the Charter of the People’s Front for Justice and Democracy (PFDJ) is to achieve rapid, balanced, home grown and sustainable economic growth with social equity and justice, anchored on the principle of self-reliance. The same vision is further reinforced in the Eritrea National Indicative Development Plan (NIDP) 2014-2018.

Eritrea is a signatory to a number of key international agreements, treaties and obligations and development frameworks including “the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development” whose goals and targets link well with its Self-reliance Policy and Development Agenda. In response to national challenges and taking into account key international agreements and development frameworks the SPCF 2017-2021 articulates four pillars and eight outcomes as summarized in Table 1 below. These outcomes are strongly interlinked and highly complementary. The design of the SPCF therefore allows for cross-thematic integration, synergies and linkages to maximize impact. It also supports the effective mainstreaming of normative issues such as gender, environment and capacity development across all the pillars and uses a rights based approach in articulation and delivery of results. The SPCF seeks to enhance the well being of all Eritreans including the refugees hosted by the country.

Table 1: Pillars and Outcomes

Pillar	Outcome
1. Basic Social Services.	1. By 2021, children under five, youth, women and other vulnerable groups including refugees, have improved access to and utilization of quality, integrated health and nutrition services for the achievement of universal health coverage (UHC) to safeguard healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages.
	2. By 2021, all people including refugees benefit from available and sustainable water, sanitation and hygiene services.
	3. By 2021, children in vulnerable communities, including refugees, have increased access to inclusive, equitable and quality early learning and basic education
2. Environmental sustainability, resilience and disaster risk management	4. By 2021, environmental and natural resources management is gender responsive, and sustainable, negating the impacts of ecosystem degradation, climate change, and strengthening community resilience to disasters.
3. Public sector capacity development	5. By 2021, the population, including vulnerable groups, benefit from evidenced-based planning and policy; accountable public institutions and systems that ensure human rights and equitable public service delivery.
4. Inclusive growth, food security, and sustainable livelihoods	6. By 2021 smallholder households have improved access to, and utilisation of quality food and enhanced livelihood opportunities.
	7. By 2021, women, men, children and youth, including vulnerable groups and refugees, have improved gender equitable opportunities to participate in economic, political, cultural and social development.
	8. By 2021, vulnerable children, adolescents, young people, women and people with special needs, including refugees, are better protected and have the capacity to participate fully in economic, social and political development.

1.3 Lessons Learnt from Previous Cooperation (2013- 2016)

The Strategic Partnership Cooperation Framework (SPCF) 2017-2021 builds on the successes, challenges and lessons learned from the mid-term review of the SPCF 2013-2016 which include the following:

1. A strong government with the ability to motivate and mobilize people behind clear priorities coupled with robust community participation, involvement and ownership of development projects and programmes is necessary to ensure sustainability and commitment to the achievement of goals
2. A clear national vision and cohesive policy framework, articulating the key goals and objectives is essential to ensuring the planning of interventions aligned to national priorities.
3. Reliable and widely published disaggregated data for development planning, monitoring and evaluation, as well as for communication and credibility, are essential for the achievement of results.
4. Joint programming, monitoring and effective coordination of interventions are essential to ensure a reduction in transaction costs and further enhance the benefits of UN support to the country. Sound and realistic assumptions and risk assessment are important for the successful implementation of all plans.

1.4 The SPCF Preparation Process

The preparation of the SPCF 2017-2021 officially commenced in June 2015 at the invitation of the Government requesting the UNCT to initiate the process. In July 2015, the UNCT commissioned the Mid-term Review (MTR) of the SPCF 2013-2016. In August, 2015, the UNCT in collaboration with Regional United Nations Development Group (R-UNDG) conducted a training workshop on Human Rights-based programming principles and Results Based Management (RBM) for the UNCT and technical staff to further strengthen their understanding of these approaches and ensure their application in the SPCF preparation process.

The drafting of the SPCF 2017-2021 document commenced in April 2016 after a meeting of the UN Agencies and all potential Implementing Partners (IPs). The meeting agreed that the SPCF 2017-2021 be prepared collaboratively and should include all resident and non-resident UN agencies in Eritrea. Six "SPCF Outcome Drafting Groups" were formed, to work on the agreed-upon outcome areas. In collaboration with the GoSE, the UNCT held a one-day Strategic Prioritisation Retreat (SPR) in May 2016, during which strategic pillars and outcomes were agreed. During the SPR, the draft Common Country Analysis (CCA) report was also presented.

2. SPCF 2017 – 2021 OUTCOMES

This section outlines the eight outcomes that contribute to the four pillars of the 2017-2021 Strategic Partnership Cooperation Framework: Basic social services; Environmental sustainability, resilience and disaster risk management; Public sector capacity development; and Inclusive growth, food security, and sustainable livelihoods. It articulates the strategies that will be used to deliver the outcomes, the rationale for programmatic choices and the UN's specific contribution. A comprehensive Results and Resources Framework (RRF) at outcome level is presented in Section 7 of this SPCF.

PILLAR 1: Basic Social Services

Outcome 1: By 2021, children under five, youth, women, and other vulnerable groups including refugees, have improved access to, and utilization of quality, integrated health and nutrition services for the achievement of universal health coverage (UHC) to safeguard healthy lives and promote well-being for all.

The National Health Policy (NHP) 2010 and the Health Sector Strategic Plan (HSSP) 2012-2016 provide the framework through which the Government of Eritrea works to ensure the health status, general wellbeing, longevity and economic productivity of all Eritreans. The NHP is founded on the principle that: "the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health is one of the fundamental rights of every human being." The inclusion of Universal Health coverage (UHC) as a concept under the health and nutrition outcome expresses the very spirit of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, with its emphasis on poverty alleviation, equity, and social inclusion that leaves no one behind. The most direct and relevant SDG for health and nutrition is SDG 3.⁴ The UHC, based on primary health care, serves a unifying concept, a platform for the integrated delivery of health services, and one of the most powerful social equalizers among all policy options. UHC is also a pro-poor strategy for sustainable development linked to SDGs 1⁵ and 2⁶.

The Government of Eritrea has prioritised the provision of primary health care to its population with significant results, despite a thin local and international resource base. It is one of the few countries that enter the SDG period having achieved most of the MDG targets on health. The under-five mortality rate (MDG 4) decreased from 136 per 1,000 live births in 1995 to 63 per 1,000 live births in 2010 and 50 per 1,000 live births in 2014⁷. Maternal mortality ratio (MDG 5) was halved from 998 deaths per 100,000 live births in 1995 to 486 deaths per 100,000 live births in 2010 and 380 per 100,000 live births in 2015⁸. The results are attributable to increased access to basic emergency obstetric care in all 258 national health facilities. In turn, 55 per cent of women delivered at health facilities in 2014 an increase from 34 per cent in 2010. Eritrea also recorded a reduction in HIV and TB incidence, and malaria cases and deaths (MDG 6), and is now at the malaria pre-elimination phase⁹. The projected malaria mortality rate was estimated at 0.002 per cent in 2015¹⁰. Life expectancy has also increased from 46 years in 1991 to 62 years in 2010¹¹.

Maintaining and building on this progress requires sustained focus on the drivers, as well as a review and update of the existing policies and plans that will further accelerate the achievement of results. An increase in the demand for skilled birth attendants and family planning is required, as is the need to address the traditional practices around child birth that encourage women to give birth at home

⁴ SDG 3: Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages.

⁵ End poverty in all its forms everywhere.

⁶ SDG 2: End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture.

⁷ Eritrea National Statistics Office/Fafo Institute for applied international studies, Oslo Norway; "Eritrea Population and Health Survey 2010" (EPHS 2010).

⁸ WHO, "Global Health Observatory Data Repository, 2015"

⁹ Eritrea Ministry of Health "Health Management Information System, 2015" (HMIS 2015)

¹⁰ HMIS 2015

¹¹ EPHS 2010

especially for the first born, lack of appropriate transportation, paucity of specialized midwives and inadequate deployment and shortages in technical and support staff. Limited tools to monitor quality of healthcare at the various levels and inadequate standards and guidelines for the procurement of goods and services, as well as inadequate M & E system and its linkage with HMIS include some of the challenges that must be addressed to sustain these results.

Furthermore, the progress in under-five child mortality masks challenges with neonatal mortality, which marginally improved from 25 per 1,000 live births in 1995 to 23 per 1,000 live births in 2010. Neonatal mortality accounts for half of all deaths in the first year and around a third of deaths in the first five years of life. About 70 per cent of neonatal deaths in Eritrea occur within one week of birth, mainly due to prematurity, complications during childbirth and infections¹².

UN Contribution and Strategies

Towards the achievement of this outcome, the UN will:

(i) Prioritize support for the development of health legislation, policies and sectoral plans, strategies and budgets, and strengthen national capacity for their implementation reflecting the Sustainable Development Goals principles of reaching out to marginalized population groups and leaving no one behind.

(ii) Contribute to the expansion and equitable utilisation of facility and community-based integrated high-impact maternal, new-born and child health interventions; specifically, quality antenatal and postnatal care, immunization, essential and emergency child birth care for mothers and new-borns, prevention and treatment of communicable diseases, particularly, HIV/AIDS, malaria and TB, and integrated management of childhood illnesses.

(iii) Strengthen the capacity of community health workers to implement integrated community case management, promote appropriate childcare and care seeking practices at household and community levels, and to make timely referrals to next level of care. There will be a strong focus on integrated nutrition security, infant and young child feeding practices.

(iii) Support to strengthening of the programming capacity of implementing partners at national and regional level with a focus on locally trained health personnel, while advocating for the generation of critical, sex and age disaggregated population data. This will address the structural issues related to shortages of front line health workers and support staff; weak M&E systems including the limited tools to monitor quality of healthcare at the various levels and inadequate standards and guidelines health provision, for the procurement of goods and services, weak logistics management information system and linkage with HMIS.

Outcome 2: By 2021, all people including refugees benefit from available and sustainable water, sanitation and hygiene services.

Eritrea's development priority in the Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) sector is sustained water supply and sanitation coverage to foster public health, human dignity, socioeconomic development and environmental protection. This priority is directly linked to SDG 6, which is to ensure the availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all.

According to the 2010 Eritrea Population and Health Survey, 49.9 per cent of the rural population had access to improved water supply compared to 72.9 per cent for the urban population giving an overall figure of 57.9 per cent access to improved water supplies across the country. By 2015 the Water Resources Department of the Ministry of Land Water and Environment estimated that coverage had improved to 79 per cent for rural populations, 98.3 per cent for urban populations giving an overall figure of 85 per cent coverage for the country.

In 2010 just over 11 percent of the total population (3.5 per cent rural, 25.8 per cent urban) had access to improved sanitation (EPHS 2010). This shows a marked but slow improvement from 1990 statistics that demonstrated that only 9 per cent of the population (0 per cent rural, 58 per cent urban) had access to an improved sanitation facility. Knowledge of safe hygiene practices is fairly high in Eritrea though with almost 97 per cent of people understanding the importance of washing their hands before eating and 71 per cent aware of the importance of hand washing after using the toilet. (MoH KAP Survey, 2012).

The provision of access to safe, gender appropriate and inclusive WASH facilities in health centers is critical to ensuring safe delivery of health care and in schools to help promote health, cognitive capacity and creativity of school children and determine the quality of education. There is however, a strong need to have better facilities and a need for better assessment of the current situation.

UN Contribution and Strategies

To achieve increased coverage of water and sanitation facilities, the UN will continue to support the government-led capacity building initiatives with special emphasis on:

- (i) Involving communities in strengthening their capacity to operate and maintain rural water supplies and to develop and implement sanitation action plans.
- (ii) Capacity building support to develop implementation protocols and guidelines on WASH in Institutions, rural water supply and sanitation and hygiene through the Community Led Total Sanitation (CLTS) approach.
- (iii) Evidence generation through support to the GoSE to conduct necessary assessments, surveys, and formative research such as the Eritrea Population and Health Survey (EPHS) and Knowledge, Attitude and Practice (KAP) surveys, as well as formative studies on community based approaches.
- (iv) Policy dialogue and advocacy to promote balance between upstream policy and institutional development and the downstream work of capacity building, monitoring, and service delivery in the critical areas of child survival and development through equity-focused programming.
- (v) Provision of service delivery assistance in the form of supplies, cash and services to facilitate the government, as implementing partners, to continue to provide WASH services. Service delivery assistance will also assist the GoSE sustain the service delivery gains as well as provide models of best practice to scale-up critical child survival and developmental WASH interventions.

Outcome 3: By 2021, children in vulnerable communities, including refugees have increased access to inclusive, equitable and quality early learning and basic education.

In line with SDG 4¹³Eritrea's Education Sector Plan seeks to: (i) Ensure inclusive and equitable access to basic education, (ii) Improve the quality of basic education and, (iii) Enhance the institutional capacity of the education sector.

Since 1991, the Ministry of Education (MOE) has put in place formal provisions, as well as alternative mechanisms such as complementary education, adult education and lifelong learning to promote equitable access to education for all, including in hard-to-reach areas. As a result, significant achievements have been registered in the education sector.

The Ministry has invested significant resources in the provision of physical infrastructure for basic education. Consequently, the total number of schools increased from 538 in 1991 to 1,864 in 2014 contributing to an increase in student enrolment from 213,368 to 679,038 in the same period. The net enrolment rate (NER) in primary education increased from 64 per cent in 2001 to 82 percent in 2014¹⁴. In addition, the NER for pre-primary level rose from 7 per cent in 1993/94 to over 20 per cent between 2008-2013. The Gender Parity Index, which highlights gender inequalities in education, declined marginally and currently stands at 0.96 at primary level, 0.94 at middle and 0.86 at secondary level.

With regard to the quality of education, the MOE has endeavoured to improve the quality of teaching and learning through continuous teacher training, curriculum review, provision of scholastic materials to improve the teacher textbook ratios, promotion of learner friendly pedagogies and increased support to parents and communities to play a supportive role in education service delivery. To strengthen institutional capacity, the Ministry has invested in the development of its management of information system, training of education sector personnel in data management, planning and research, as well as fostering systematic collaboration with other sectors.

Significant numbers of school-aged children remain out of school, particularly, at pre-primary and secondary levels. Only 17 per cent of 4 to 5 year olds attend preschool¹⁵ and around three quarters of children, especially those in the Southern Red Sea and Northern Red Sea regions need access to formal early childhood development activities. Pastoralism, nomadic and semi-nomadic lifestyles of some communities and the scattered settlements act as barriers to accessing and using education and other social services.

UN Contribution and Strategies

The UN will continue to support the GoSE implement a broad range of interventions to realise its stated objectives for basic education. These include:

(i) Increasing infrastructural capacity to cater for new enrolments, training new teachers and re-equipping existing teachers with the necessary pedagogical tools and practices to mediate the curricula of the 21st century; reviewing and updating the curriculum on a regular basis and fostering inclusive education.

(ii) Expanding community-led initiatives for promoting access to education for girls in disadvantaged areas while also strengthening preparedness and response for education in emergencies, and making more integrated provisions for the education of refugees and displaced children.

¹³SDG 4 "Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all"

¹⁴ Eritrea Ministry of Education "Education Management Information System, 2013/14" (EMIS 2013/14)

¹⁵ EMIS 2013/14

(iii) Supporting the GoSE in its efforts to strengthen partnerships with external stakeholders, as well as building on internal partnerships with the private sector, communities and children, through deepening technical support to the Education Working Group to enhance its role in the sector.

(iv) Enhancing the existing Education Management Information System (EMIS) management, planning and monitoring, as well as knowledge management through targeted interventions at the national and sub national levels.

(v) Advocating for increased investment in early learning and secondary education to foster access to formal schooling for the growing numbers of out of school children at the two levels and also to mobilize human and financial resources towards building systematic linkages basic education, technical and vocational education and training, and tertiary education in order for the sector to tap existing knowledge, skills and other resources that are abundant in the country.

PILLAR 2: Environmental sustainability, resilience and disaster risk management

Outcome 4: By 2021, environmental and natural resources management is gender responsive, and sustainable, negating the impacts of ecosystem degradation, climate change, and strengthening community resilience to disasters.

Eritrea has diversified eco-geographic zones with a significant diversity of fauna and flora both in the terrestrial and marine ecosystems. These environmental and natural resources upon which majority of the population of the country depend for their livelihoods are, however, under immense pressure resulting from land degradation, deforestation, overgrazing, soil erosion, unsustainable land management practices and loss of biodiversity. The environmental challenges are further exacerbated by climate change manifested in recurring drought, depletion of groundwater, and flash flooding.

Coupled with the impacts of climate change, environmental and natural resources degradation in the country continues to have deleterious economic and social repercussions for the population. It has resulted in poor agricultural produce and impacted negatively on food security and livelihoods of the population. Moreover, Eritrea is prone to natural disasters such as drought, floods, earthquakes and volcano eruptions. Drought is the most common hazard affecting livelihoods in large areas in the country. Further, the majority of households affected by fragile livelihoods are female-headed households.

The Government of the State of Eritrea, in partnership with UN and other development partners, has undertaken different environmental safeguard measures to respond to these environmental challenges including the formulation and implementation of different national environmental policies and legal frameworks; preparation and implementation of action plans. In order to support the national environmental protection efforts and to fulfil its international obligation, Eritrea has ratified the three most important United Nations environmental conventions (UNCCD, UNCBD and UNFCCC).

In spite of the comparatively extensive provision for environmental sustainability considerations some important challenges remain. There are still cases of serious land degradation, loss of biodiversity and ecosystem degradation exacerbated by the impact of climate change and desertification. In addition, given the magnitude of the environmental challenges the country faces there is a need to scale up the environmental protection progress made thus far. People's lives and livelihoods continue to be threatened by environmental degradation. There are critical environmental policy gaps and lack of harmonization, which call for a review and update of policy frameworks.

Other key areas requiring support include human and institutional capacity building, mainstreaming of climate change, gender and disaster risk management into national and local policies and development action plans. Similarly, issues of post-completion sustainability, improved implementation of environmental legislation, public awareness on environmental conservation and sustainable use, and enhanced monitoring and evaluation, constitute areas where additional efforts should be exerted.

UN action in this SPCF outcome area addresses four SDGs.¹⁶ Moreover, it is directly relevant to the three most important United Nations Rio Conventions on the environment (MEAs), namely UNCBD, UNCCD, and UNFCCC, to which Eritrea is a signatory party and committed to their implementation.

UN contribution and strategies

In support of the Government's environmental sustainability and inclusive growth strategy, the UN shall leverage its comparative advantage through technical support for policy development, human and institutional capacity development and resource mobilization in the following three interlinked development areas:

Ecosystem based environmental and natural resources management:

(i) Enhance the capacities of the national and local agencies responsible for management, conservation and sustainable use of diverse ecosystems.

(ii) Support capacity building of national agencies for policy formulation and implementation to enhance the productive capacities of environmental and natural resources.

(iii) Promote an integrated approach at the landscape level, embracing ecosystem principles including livelihood objectives in the management of ecosystems.

(iv) Promote mainstreaming of gender equality and women's empowerment into environmental and natural resources management.

Climate Change Adaptation and mitigation

(i) Promote the mainstreaming of climate change considerations into national and sector development policies and plans, as well as in development planning at district and community levels;

(ii) Strengthen institutional and technical capacities for effective climate change adaptation and mitigation

Disaster Risk Management

(i) Support the development of policy, legislative and institutional frameworks and practices informed by an understanding of disaster risk in all its dimensions of exposure, vulnerability and hazard characteristics;

(ii) Enhance disaster risk management at the national, sub-national and community levels;

(iii) Promote the mainstreaming and integration of gender-responsive disaster risk reduction considerations into national and local frameworks- laws, regulations and public policies, and development planning at all levels.

(iv) Strengthen early warning system at all levels.

(v) Support sustainable use and integrated natural resource management approaches that incorporate disaster risk reduction for improved livelihoods.

¹⁶ SDG 12: Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns; SDG 13: Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts; SDG 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development; SDG 15: Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss.

PILLAR 3: Public Sector Capacity Development

Outcome 5: By 2021, the population, including vulnerable groups benefit from evidenced-based planning and policy; accountable public institutions and systems that ensure human rights and equitable public service delivery.

Eritrea's national charter specifically emphasizes people's participation, people's rights and social equity, thus the country has been active in implementing its national laws and subscribing to a number of international treaties. Effective and efficient service delivery, supported by availability of timely, adequate and quality data is a key driver to sustainable development. Lessons learned demonstrate that lack of a comprehensive strategy to support capacity development in general has rendered interventions ad hoc and sector specific. To address this gap, the UN will advocate for and support the development of a strategy and institutional framework to facilitate policy coherence and information sharing.

The UN will seek to strengthen delivery of and access to quality public services, with a focus on unemployed youth and poor populations in rural areas. The previous UN response also supported delivery of and access to quality public services, with a focus on unemployed youth and poor populations in rural areas. Support was provided to selected institutions to increase their capacity in a number of areas including revenue collection, customs management, public service delivery and participation of women in decision making. Emphasis has also been on empowering the youth and women in communities.

This SPCF aims to continue to scale up interventions targeted at strengthening service delivery at all levels. The UN will continue to work on strengthening the managerial and technical capacity for public financial management in key public institutions responsible for service delivery (Ministry of Information, Office of the Auditor General, Ministry of finance, Ministry of Labour and Human Welfare and other relevant institutions as may be required). Institutional capacity building will also be provided to non-state actors such as the Worker's Union, the National Union of Eritrean Women and the National Union of Eritrean Youth and Students.

Availability of reliable data, accountability and downstream implementation capacity have been identified as three critical enablers for implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals. The proposed support under this outcome will strengthen the capacity for these three critical enablers. The UN has experience in strengthening capacities in the area of data collection and has previously worked together with and supported the National Statistics Office (NSO) to produce and disseminate comprehensive, timely and quality statistics through various studies and surveys including three Demographic and Health Surveys. In the area of Civil Registration and Vital Statistics, a five-year strategic plan has already been developed, awaiting implementation. Significant efforts have also been made to support the Government produce gender disaggregated data, designation of gender focal points to line ministries, gender budgeting and advocacy and training in gender mainstreaming.

However, a gap in the availability of and access to reliable disaggregated data for evidence based policy making and planning still remains. In order to improve the production and dissemination of statistics for evidence-based planning and policy formulation, the UN will increase its support to the (Ministry of National Development, National Statistics Office (NSO), and National Commission of Higher Education (NCHE), consistent with SDG 16¹⁷ and SDG 17¹⁸. The UN will also support the GoSE in improving decent work environment for all, which is consistent with SDG 10¹⁹.

¹⁷ SDG 16: Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels.

¹⁸ SDG 17: Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development.

¹⁹ SDG 10: Reduce inequality within and among nations.

In order to support government initiatives towards its wider ambition of social equity; the UN will support the implementation of national and international obligations and commitments. Previous efforts in supporting the government participate in UPR and other international commitments have proved extremely useful for national planning hence work in this area will continue. It is important that Eritrea continues to report on international commitments and implement recommendations accepted by the state including the UPR, CRC, CEDAW and other relevant international obligations. Support will be provided to continue mainstreaming human rights and enhancing engagement with the international community.²⁰

The SPCF 2017 – 2021 will advocate for and support the development of a strategy and institutional framework to facilitate policy coherence and information sharing including from emerging partners such as IFAD, EU, AfDB, and other bilateral donors. It will enhance the managerial and technical capacity for public financial management of selected institutions and promote environmental- and performance-based assessments of selected line ministries.

UN Contribution and Strategies

To continue with the progress made in the previous programming period towards the achievement of this outcome, the UN will:

(i) Advocate for and support the development of a strategy and institutional framework to facilitate policy coherence and information sharing from partners such as IFAD, EU, AfDB, and other bilateral donors.

(ii) Support the enhancement of public service in general including managerial and technical capacity strengthening for public financial management in selected institutions, and promote environmental- and performance-based assessments of line ministries.

(iii) Support the generation and dissemination of data including various evaluative and analytical surveys and studies, such as the Eritrean Population and Health Survey (EPHS); the utilization of sex-disaggregated data and the introduction of a comprehensive civil and vital registration system.

(iv) Support the establishment of a socio-economic indicator database and a comprehensive and gender responsive national data management system. UN will continue promoting gender equality by supporting the Government to produce baseline data on gender, support gender mainstreaming, budgeting and advocacy.

(v) Strengthen human and institutional capacities at sector level to plan, coordinate, implement, monitor and evaluate national development programmes.

(vi) Support the implementation of international obligations and commitments and continued engagement with the international community: for the reporting on international commitments and implementation of recommendations as accepted by the government of Eritrea, including support to Universal Periodic Review (UPR), Committee for the Rights of Children (CRC), CEDAW and other relevant international obligations to Eritrea.

(viii) Support the capacity of the Government to curb Transnational Organised Crime in particular trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants and strengthen the capacity of the justice system as a whole.

²⁰ Support to UPR project GoSE and UNCT

PILLAR 4: Inclusive growth, food security, and sustainable livelihoods

Outcome 6: By 2021 smallholder households have improved access to and utilisation of quality food and enhanced livelihood opportunities.

The national priority under this outcome, as expressed in the National Indicative Development Plan (NIDP) 2014-2018, is achieving the food and nutrition security of the Eritrean people. The priority is linked to the SDGs²¹ and the Zero Hunger Challenge set forth by the UN Secretary General. The NIDP highlights the improvement of household traditional and commercial farming and improving market access as a means of ensuring the achievement of food and nutrition security at the household level.

The outcome is also strongly linked to various UN agency mandates including; contribute to the eradication of hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition; increase and improve provision of goods and services from agriculture, forestry and fisheries in a sustainable manner; reduce rural poverty; enable more inclusive and efficient agricultural and food systems at local, national and international levels; increase the resilience of livelihoods to threats and crises.

Agriculture is a dominant sector in terms of economic activity, source of employment and the mainstay of livelihoods of the rural population. The sector, however, remains at subsistence level and under stress due to over-reliance on traditional farming practices; environmental degradation, including climate change; insufficient and irregular nature of rainfall patterns resulting in low levels of agricultural production and productivity. Poor crop harvests and shortage of livestock products combined with rising food prices, further weaken the food security situation and jeopardize the livelihoods of many rural subsistence farmers in the country.

The long-term development strategy for Eritrea promotes rapid, balanced, home-grown and sustainable economic growth with social equity. The UN will support this objective by providing upstream capacity building on policy formulation and implementation to enhance productive capacities and create a conducive environment for more investments. At the downstream level, the UN will support increasing livelihood opportunities for vulnerable groups, through vocational training, micro grants and job placement.

UN Contribution and Strategies

To achieve the outcome the UN will:

- (i) Continue to support the Government expand, diversify and make more sustainable the productive base and engage the international community.
- (ii) Continue to provide upstream support by engaging partners in a dialogue to identify capacity and policy gaps and to unlock potential development resources in the agriculture sector.
- (ii) Identify diversified productive sectors that could provide sustainable livelihood opportunities to the population. The experience with the mining sector could be replicated in other sectors with higher job intensity, such as manufacturing, food processing and tourism.

²¹(i) SDG 2: End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture; (ii) SDG 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls; (iii) SDG 6: Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all; (iv) SDG 13: Take urgent action to control climate change and its impact; (v) DSG 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development; and (vi) SDG 15: Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification and halt and reverse land degradation and halt diversity loss

(ii) Continue to work with communities to increase food and nutrition capacity, productivity and livelihoods with a special focus on youth and women.

(iii) Provide technical assistance to the Government in the areas of institutional and human capacity development, quality seed production; improvement of crop and animal production; improved water management through the introduction and installation of new irrigation systems; and provision of agricultural inputs; food processing for export and value addition of agricultural products to further increase employment and incomes in the agricultural sector.

Outcome 7: By 2021, women, men, children and youth, including vulnerable groups and refugees, have improved gender equitable participation and opportunities in economic, political, cultural and social development.

Gender equality is a catalyst for sustainable national development for the GoSE and efforts are in place to facilitate the participation of women and girls in the economy. The national priority for gender equality in Eritrea, linked to SDG 5,²² seeks to build “a society where women and men, girls and boys of diverse backgrounds share equal duties, enjoy equal opportunities and have equal rights to access benefits in all aspects of life.” Eritrea has ratified the key international conventions and human rights treaties related to gender equality and has furthermore, guaranteed the equality between men and women in all legal instruments in Eritrea.

Significant efforts are underway to reduce gender disparities and imbalances in different sectors of the society and economy in Eritrea. The implementation of CEDAW, CRC, and ACRWC is progressing in tandem with the implementation of the Global Platform for Action and results are apparent. A key example is the progress that has been made in reducing the practice of Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting (FGM/C) which according to the 2010 EPHS reveals a reduction in prevalence from 89 per cent in 2002 to 83 per cent, with 33 per cent prevalence among girls aged less than 15 years. But more is still required to attain acceptable levels of gender equality, however, due to weak gender mainstreaming across sectors and institutions resulting from low institutional capacities; deep rooted traditional attitudes, gender norms and values that lead to the continuation of harmful traditional practices such child marriage, FGM/C and the low status of women in the decision making processes and low participation in the economy.

The national priority for youth is “to cultivate and produce capable youth by promoting and strengthening youth in all aspects of national, regional, and international development processes.” This priority underscores the promotion of youth employment and the expansion and diversification of productive bases and is linked to SDG 8: Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all. Over 22 per cent of the Eritrean population are adolescents and youth. Their potential needs to be tapped and enhanced by involving them in meaningful productive activities. The “asset based approach” to participation encourages children and youth to act, enhance their life skills, and ability to change their own lives while promoting their active engagement in national development.

The meaningful involvement of youth will be central to the SPCF 2017-2021 with youth as partners, and leaders, placing emphasis on mobilising and focusing on individual and group talents and strengths that contribute to Eritrea’s national development. The UN will also support the government in strengthening the capacities of duty bearers for the provision of integrated youth friendly services thereby improving access to comprehensive information on sexual reproductive health, HIV and AIDS, substance abuse, peer-to-peer education as well as school health education and hygiene.

²² SDG 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls.

UN Contribution and Strategies:

The collective UN response towards the achievement of this outcome will:

- (i) Strengthen existing efforts to address the deep-rooted harmful traditional values and attitudes and practices, through continuous advocacy and sensitisation of communities.
- (ii) Provide technical and financial support to increase awareness on gender equity and equality at different levels.
- (iii) Provide technical and financial support to the country in implementing, monitoring and reporting on international commitments such as the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and Convention on the Elimination of Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW).
- (iii) Support the monitoring and evaluation of the gender mainstreaming programme, started in line ministries during the SPCF 2013-2016 programme cycle, and identify gaps, challenges and lessons learned in the implementation of the gender mainstreaming strategy and action plan.
- (iv) Create an enabling environment and strengthen the capacity of national institutions at up- and mid-stream levels, including fostering equal participation of girls and boys from vulnerable and hard to reach communities.
- (v) Support capacity building on policy formulation and implementation to enhance productive capacities and create a conducive environment for private sector investments.
- (vi) Provide support to enhance the capacities of targeted institutions in the development and implementation of youth empowerment initiatives
- (vi) Support selected national and sub-national institutions to improve productive capacities that are sustainable and employment intensive.
- (vii) Provide assistance at downstream level by increasing livelihood and employment opportunities for vulnerable groups, through vocational training, micro grants, and job placement.
- (viii) Provide technical and financial support to assist the government in the implementation of the Adolescents National Strategic Plan, particularly focusing on providing an integrated youth friendly response including policy initiatives for improving access to comprehensive information on sexual reproductive health, HIV and AIDS, substance abuse, child marriage, FGM/C, peer-to- peer education as well as school health education and hygiene.

Outcome 8: By 2021, vulnerable children, adolescents, young people, women and people with special needs, including refugees, are better protected and have the capacity to participate fully in economic, social and political development.

The national priority for social protection, which is aligned to SDGs 5 and 10²³, seeks “to remove all forms of social and economic misgivings that cause disparities and hindrances to the welfare and realization of equal development opportunities by providing the disadvantaged and vulnerable sections of Eritrean society with immediate needs and support to build and sustain self-reliant happy livelihoods.” The social protection agenda in Eritrea requires acceleration in order to provide all vulnerable groups with access to essential services. There is strong political will to commit resources to establish an efficient social protection delivery system.

The needs of disadvantaged families which host orphans and other vulnerable children, HIV infected and affected families, persons with disabilities, female-headed households, and families of displaced persons, demobilized soldiers and people affected by human made and natural disasters, including refugees most of whom have been in the country for over twenty years have increasingly been tackled through various activities. To address the protection of children from abuse, violence, neglect and exploitation, several community-based initiatives are being undertaken with a focus on primary prevention to promote community awareness and education on positive parenting. For example, the community based child well-being committees initiative is designed to raise overall community awareness on positive parenting and the realization of children’s rights, including monitoring and reporting on violence and abuse against children. Community and school based risk reduction activities, particularly from the threat posed by mines and explosive remnants of war, are also on-going and are aimed at protecting vulnerable children and youth from injuries and disabilities in war-impacted communities.

However, the sector faces challenges in providing support to vulnerable groups due to a lack of updated essential planning data that identifies the root causes and the magnitude of the problem, specifically on orphans and other vulnerable children and persons with disabilities. The absence of updated data and an integrated approach on the humanitarian mine action programmes, as well as limited technical and financial resources remains a challenge that further hinders the improvement of programme interventions. Social protection in Eritrea should also consider the needs of refugees and like the rest of the Eritrean population, require access to education, health, water, shelter and livelihoods support.

UN Contribution and Strategies

Towards the achievement of this outcome, the UN will:

- (i) Contribute to strengthening the delivery of an integrated community owned social protection system by improving the quality; coverage to reach geographically isolated areas as well as provide families with recovery buffers during emergencies or increased economic difficulties.
- (ii) Support capacity strengthening of national institutions and systems to improve coverage and sustainability of social protection support, with a focus on disadvantaged children and women.
- (iii) Support data collection, monitoring and evaluation, knowledge management and leverage strategic partnerships for children, youth and women.

²³SDG 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls
SDG 10: Reduce inequality within and among countries

(iv) Contribute technical and financial support for evidence-based advocacy and to promote rights-based, equity-focused policies, laws and programs.

(v) Communication to promote social and behavioural change to support the realization of the rights of all children, adolescents, young people, women, and people with special needs, including refugees.

(vi) Further promote the participation of children, women and other vulnerable groups in decision-making processes that affect their lives.

(vii) Support the implementation of social services programmes to be mainstreamed with risk-informed emergency preparedness and response in programme areas in line with government emergency response plans and the UN mandate.

(viii) Strengthen community based child protection system, including legal frameworks and policies to protect children from abuse, violence, neglect and exploitation.

3. PARTNERSHIPS, VALUES & PRINCIPLES

In the context of SPCF 2017-2021, partnership is understood to be the framework for strategic investments between the Government of the State of Eritrea (GoSE) and the UN Country Team (UNCT), in line with Eritrea's self-reliance policy. The UN Country Team collaborates to advance results-oriented partnerships in order to promote complementary and comparative advantages.

Significant efforts are therefore made to ensure strong partnerships with all stakeholders, including multilateral and bilateral development partners, international financial institutions, and other organisations. Focus is also placed on South-South and Triangular Cooperation, offering valuable pathways to promote and encourage the sharing of knowledge, skills and expertise as well as the adaptation of good practices.

The SPCF 2017-2021 will be guided by core values of accountability, integrity, professionalism, and mutual respect. The SPCF 2017-2021 will, in respect of each of the United Nations system agencies, be read, interpreted and implemented in accordance with and in a manner that is consistent with the basic agreement between such United Nations system agency and the Host Government.

4. IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS

4.1. Implementation Arrangements

The UN Resident Coordinator and the Ministry of National Development, who are accountable for the strategic oversight of its results, will jointly coordinate the SPCF 2017-2021. The UN Resident Coordinator, as the designated representative of the UN Secretary General, will coordinate the outcomes and outputs of the UN Country Team in achieving the SPCF 2017-2021 results. The SPCF results are organized at the Outcome Group level, and co-chaired by UN Heads of Agencies and Director Generals of line Ministries (Table 2). The Outcome Groups are aligned to nationally led systems and structures as appropriate for national ownership and to reduce transaction costs.

Table 2: Government and UN Representatives for Coordination and Working Groups

Outcome	Government Representative	UN Lead Representative
Outcome 1: By 2021, children under five, youth, women and other vulnerable groups including refugees, have improved access to and utilization of quality, integrated health and nutrition services for the achievement of universal health coverage (UHC) to safeguard healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages.	Ministry of Health	WHO
Outcome 2: By 2021, all people including refugees benefit from available and sustainable water, sanitation and hygiene services	Ministry of Health	UNICEF
Outcome 3: By 2021, children in vulnerable communities, including refugees have increased access to inclusive, equitable and quality early learning and basic education	Ministry of Education	UNICEF
Outcome 4: By 2021, environmental and natural resources management is gender responsive, and sustainable, negating the impacts of ecosystem degradation, climate change, and strengthening community resilience to disasters	Ministry of Land, Water and Environment	UNDP
Outcome 5: By 2021, the population, including vulnerable groups, benefit from evidenced based planning and policy; accountable public institutions and systems that ensure human rights and equitable public service delivery	Ministry of National Development	UNDP
Outcome 6: By 2021 smallholder households have improved access to and utilisation of quality food and enhanced livelihood opportunities	Ministry of Agriculture	FAO
Outcome 7: By 2021, women, men, children and youth, including vulnerable groups and refugees, have improved gender equitable participation opportunities in economic, political, cultural and social development	National Union of Eritrean Women (NUEW)	UNFPA
Outcome 8: By 2021, vulnerable children, adolescents, young people, women and people with special needs, including refugees, are better protected and have the capacity to participate fully in economic, social and political development.	Ministry of Labour and Human Welfare	UNICEF

5. RESOURCES AND RESOURCE MOBILISATION STRATEGY

This section sets out the financial commitments of each of the UN system agencies, by outcomes, and the resource mobilization strategy, including reference to mechanisms, and the role of GoSE.

5.1 Required Resources by Pillar, Outcome and Contributing UN Agency

Indicative resources required for the implementation of the SPCF 2017-2021 as shown in Table 3 are estimated at USD 326,824,740 of which RR is USD 83,107,240 and OR is USD 243,717,500.

Table 3: Indicative Resources by Pillar and Outcome

Pillar	SPCF Outcomes	Indicative Resources (US\$'000)	Contributing UN agencies and amount (US\$)
Pillar 1: Basic Social Services	Outcome 1: By 2021, children under five, youth, women and other vulnerable groups including refugees, have improved access to and utilization of quality, integrated health and nutrition services for the achievement of universal health coverage (UHC) to safeguard healthy lives and promote well-being for all.	Total: 43,326.67 RR: 7,704.17 OR: 35,622.5	WHO: 13,617,500 UNFPA: 9,000,000 FAO: 400,000 UNAIDS: 200,000 UNHCR: 193,170 UNICEF: 19,916,000
	Outcome 2: By 2021, all people including refugees benefit from available and sustainable water, sanitation and hygiene services	Total: 14,606.14 RR: 1,986.14 OR: 12,620	UNICEF: 13,790,000 FAO: 200,000 UNHCR: 616,140
	Outcome 3: By 2021, children in vulnerable communities, including refugees have increased access to inclusive, equitable and quality early learning and basic education	Total: 31,027.238 RR: 1,385.238 OR: 29,642	UNICEF: 30,778,000 UNHCR: 249,238
Pillar 2: Environmental sustainability, resilience and disaster risk management	Outcome 4: By 2021, environmental and natural resources management is gender responsive, and sustainable, negating the impacts of ecosystem degradation, climate change, and strengthening community resilience to disasters	Total: 95,937.9 RR: 16,937.9 OR: 79,300	UNDP: 93,969,000 UNHCR: 348,900 IFAD: 300,000 OCHA: 20,000 FAO: 800,000 UNIDO: 500,000 UNEP: 300,000
Pillar 3: Public sector capacity development	Outcome 5: By 2021, the population, including vulnerable groups, benefit from evidenced-based planning and policy, accountable public institutions and systems that ensure human rights equitable public service delivery	Total: 23,020.67 RR: 10,920.67 OR: 12,100	UNDP: 15,983,000 UNICEF: 2,600,000 UNFPA: 2,200,000 UNHCR: 237,670 UNODC: 2,000,000
Pillar 4: Inclusive growth, food security and sustainable livelihoods	Outcome 6: By 2021 smallholder households have improved access to and utilisation of quality food and enhanced livelihood opportunities	Total: 62,464.69 RR: 33,314.69 OR: 28,950	FAO: 13,050,000 IFAD: 35,000,000 UNHCR: 5,314,690 UNIDO: 9,100,000
	Outcome 7: By 2021, women, men, children and youth, including vulnerable groups and refugees, have improved gender equitable opportunities to participate in economic, political, cultural and social development	Total: 48,490.29 RR: 9,287 OR: 39,203.29	UNDP: 32,983,000 UNICEF: 6,996,000 ILO: 3,250,000 UNIDO: 2,700,000 UNFPA: 2,400,000 FAO: 110,000 UNAIDS: 30,000 UNHCR: 20,950
	Outcome 8: By 2021, vulnerable children, adolescents, young people, women and people with special needs, including refugees, are better protected and have the capacity to participate fully in economic, social and political development.	Total: 7,650.93 RR: 1,371.43 OR: 6,279.5	UNICEF: 7,407,000 UNHCR: 243,930
	Total	326,824,740	326,824,740
	RR	83,107.24	83,107,240
	OR	243,717.50	243,717,500

5.2 Required Resources by UN Agency and Regular/Other Resources

Table 4: Outcomes Contributing to and Indicative Resources by UN Agency

UN Agency	Outcome contributing to:	Regular Resources (US\$'000)	Other Resources (US\$'000)	Total (US\$'000)
FAO	1, 2, 4, 6 & 7	3,710	10,850	14,560
IFAD	4&6	25,300	10,000	35,300
ILO	7	250	3,000	3,250
UN OCHA	4	20	0	20
UNAIDS	1 & 7	230	0	230
UNDP	4, 5&7	31,935	111,000	142,935
UNEP	4	300	0	300
UNFPA	1, 5&7	4,600	9,000	13,600
UNHCR	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7&8	7,224.688	0	7,224.688
UNICEF	1, 2, 3, 5, 7 & 8	5,952	75,535	81,487
UNIDO	4, 6 & 7	300	12,000	12,300
UNODC	5	1,000	1,000	2,000
WHO	1	2,285	11,332.5	13,617.5
	Total Funding	83,107.24	243,717.50	326,824.74

5.3. Resource Mobilization Strategy

Given the challenging global development-financing context, the GoSE and the UN will work together in advocating for funding for the implementation of the SPCF 2017-2021. Joint resource mobilisation and leveraging strategies will be flexible and programmatic, taking into account the importance of strengthening existing partnerships while increasingly tapping into innovative sources of funding and partnerships.

As such, UN Agencies will leverage resources both individually and in collaboration with each other in a coordinated manner to better contribute to the achievement of development results. There will be a Joint Resource Mobilisation Strategy for mobilisation of any additional required resources. The resource mobilisation strategy will be steered, supported and facilitated by the GoSE.

6. MONITORING AND EVALUATION

An SPCF 2017-2021 monitoring and evaluation (M&E) plan will be developed to further highlight the mechanisms and modalities for monitoring the achievement of outcomes contained in the Results and Resources Matrix. It will guide the regular and joint, GoSE and UN, collection of performance information allowing for evidence-based programme monitoring and decision-making on strategies and resources (both financial and technical) while reviewing and adjusting the assumptions made at the beginning of the programming period.

The Government and the UNCT will develop joint work plans for each outcome area, providing a common tool for SPCF 2017-2021 operationalization at output level. The joint work plans will provide an explicit link and interface between the individual UN agency programmes and Government. The joint work plans will also provide a common budgetary framework, where all planned and costed programme activities are presented, significantly facilitating reporting and joint resource mobilisation efforts

Monitoring and evaluation will be conducted jointly by all UN agencies through the Monitoring and Evaluation Group, further ensuring that the UN agencies remain accountable to the Government and to the people of Eritrea. Pillar Groups will meet at minimum three times yearly during the planning, mid-year and annual review stages. Annually, the Joint GoSE-UN SPCF Steering Committee co-chaired by the Ministry of National Development and the UN Resident Coordinator will convene and undertake an Annual Review, bringing together Chairs of all Pillar Groups, other UN Heads of Agencies, Heads of counterpart Ministries, and Development Partners. This review allows for stakeholders to jointly validate progress, address challenges and provide strategic orientations going forward. A joint mid-term review of the SPCF 2017-2021 will be conducted mid way through its implementation and a terminal evaluation will be commissioned at the end of the SPCF cycle to assess achievements, constraints, lessons learned and new opportunities for further collaboration.

The various UN agencies will earmark at least 5 per cent of resources for monitoring and evaluation and the multi-year research agenda. The research agenda and dissemination thereof, will be conducted in collaboration with United Nations agencies, the National Commission for Higher Education, the Ministry of Information, public universities and utilize South-South cooperation to facilitate the process of knowledge sharing.

7. SPCF 2017-2021 RESULTS AND RESOURCES FRAMEWORK

National Development Priority for Health and Nutrition: Improvement of health status, general wellbeing, longevity and economic productivity of all Eritreans										
SPCF Pillar 1: Basic Social Services										
Outcome	Indicators	Baseline ²⁴	Target	Means of Verification	UN Partners (National)	Medium Term Common Framework (USD)		To be mobilized (OR)	Budgetary	
						Total	Projected to be available (RR)			
Outcome 1: By 2021, children under five, youth, women and other vulnerable groups including refugees, have improved access to and utilization of quality, integrated health and nutrition services for the achievement of universal health coverage (UHC) to safeguard healthy lives and promote wellbeing for all at all.	1.1: Proportion of women of reproductive age (aged 15-49 years) who have their need for family planning satisfied with modern methods (contraceptive prevalence rate)	8.4%	20%	EPHS, MOH program reports, HMIS	MOH, MCOA, BIDHO Association, MOLG, MOI, MOE, ORA	43,326,670	7,704,170	35,622,500		
	1.2: Proportion of pregnant women who attended at least four ANC visits	32% (2015)	50%	HMIS, MOH program reports						
	1.3: Prevalence of HIV among 15-24 year old pregnant women attending ANC.	0.43%	0%	HMIS, ANC sentinel surveillance report, EPHS						
	1.4: % of people living with HIV accessing treatment	76%	90%	HMIS, MOH reports, EPHS						
	1.5: Proportion of deliveries attended by a skilled health personnel	32%	55%	HMIS, MOH studies and reports, EPHS						
	1.6: Proportion of a) mothers and b) new-borns receiving postnatal care within two days of childbirth	2.3%	10%	HMIS, MOH studies and reports, EPHS						
	1.7: % of women who received postpartum care after delivery by skilled health worker within seven days	13.3%	20%	HMIS, MOH studies and reports, EPHS						
	Participating Agencies: UN FAO, UNFPA, UNAIDS, UNICEF, UNHCR, WHO	1.8: Proportion of infants under 6 months exclusively breastfed	69%	85%	HMIS, MOH studies and reports, EPHS					
		1.9: Proportion of children 6-59 months received two doses of vitamin A supplementation per year	83%	90%	HMIS, MOH studies and reports, EPHS					

²⁴ To be updated with the results of EPHS, 2016.

National Development Priority for Health and Nutrition: Improvement of health status, general wellbeing, longevity and economic productivity of all Eritreans

SPCF Pillar 1: Basic Social Services

Outcome	Indicators	Baseline ²⁴	Target	Means of Verification	UN Partners (National)	Medium Term Common Budgetary Framework (USD)	
						Total	Projected to be available (RR)
	1.10. Proportion of 1 year-old children fully immunized	96%	98%	HMIS, EPI Coverage survey, post campaign reports, EPHS			
	1.11. Proportion of children 6-59 months with SAM enrolled in TFP	50%	65%	HMIS, MOH reports			
	1.12. % of children under 5 yrs. who slept under an insecticide treated net (ITN) the previous night	67.4%	75%	HMIS, MOH reports, EPHS			

National Development Priority for WASH: Sustained water supply and sanitation coverage to foster public health, human dignity, socioeconomic development and environmental protection									
SPCF Pillar 1: Basic Social Services									
Outcome	Indicators	Baseline	Target	Means of Verification	UN Partners (National)	Medium Term Common Budgetary Framework (USD)		To be mobilized (OR)	
						Total	Projected to be available (RR)		
Outcome 2: By 2021, all people including refugees benefit from available and sustainable water, sanitation and hygiene services. Participating UN Agencies: FAO, UNICEF, UNHCR,	2.1: Proportion of the population using an improved source of drinking water	57.9%	70%	MoLWE reports.	MoLWE, MoE, MoH	14,606,140	1,986,140	12,620,000	
	2.2: Proportion of the population practicing open defecation	70.7% (EPHS 2010)	50%	MoH reports, KAP Surveys, EPHS					
	2.3: Percentage of people who wash their hands with soap after defecation.	72% (MoH 2012)	92%	MoH reports, KAP Surveys					

National Development Priority for Basic Education: : (i) Ensure inclusive & equitable access to basic education; (ii) Improve the quality of basic education; and (iii) Enhance institutional capacity of the education sector.								
SPCF Pillar 1: Basic Social Services								
Outcome	Indicators	Baseline	Target	Means of Verification	UN Partners (National)	Medium Term Common Budgetary Framework (USD)		
						Total	Projected to be available (RR)	To be mobilized (OR)
Outcome 3: By 2021, children in vulnerable communities, including refugees have increased access to inclusive, equitable and quality early learning and basic education. Participating UN Agencies: UNICEF, UNHCR	3.1 Access: Adjusted Net Enrolment Rate (ANER) Enrolment rate for refugee children:	Pre-primary: 17% Primary: 82% Middle School: 67% Secondary: 48 Pre-primary: 100% Primary: 99% Middle School: 100% Secondary: 90%	Pre-primary: 30% Primary: 95% Middle School: 85% Secondary: 70% 100% 100% 100% 100%	MoE EMIS Reports (2020/2021)	MoE, MoND, MoH, MoLHW, NUEW, NUEY	31,027,238	1,385,238	29,642,000
	3.2 Quality: (MLA Scores)	Minimum Master Levels for Grade 3 and 5. Grade 3: 30%; Grade 5: 25% Desired Mastery Levels for Grade 3 and Grade 5. Grade 3: 11%; Grade 5: 8%	Targets (MML) Grade 3: 50%; Grade 5: 35% Targets (DML) Grade 3: 25%; Grade 5: 20%	MoE, EMIS Reports (2020/2021)				

National Development Priority for Environmental sustainability, resilience and disaster risk management: Sustainable environmental management								
SPCF Pillar 2: Environmental sustainability, resilience and disaster risk management:								
Outcome	Indicators	Baseline	Target	Means of Verification	UN Partners (National)	Medium Term Common Budgetary Framework (USD)		
						Total	Projected to be available (RR)	To be mobilized (OR)
Outcome 4: Environmental and natural resources management is gender responsive, and sustainable, negating the impacts of ecosystem degradation, climate change, and strengthening community resilience to disasters. Participating UN agencies: UNDP, UNHCR, UN OCHA, IFAD, UNIDO, UNEP	4.1: Total hectares of land managed sustainably under in-situ conservation, sustainable use and/or access and benefits sharing regime	411,600 ha (2015)	588,000 ha	MND, MoLWE, MoA, and MoLG, annual reports. Reports on international environmental conventions (UNCCD, UNFCCC & UNCBD) State of the Environment Report	MND, MoLG, MLWE, MoEM MoLHW, MoA, MOMR	95,937,900	16,637,900	79,300,300
	4.2: Economic loss from natural hazards as a proportion of gross domestic product	5% (2015)	2%	Ministry of Finance/annual report on national/regional economic assessment/status.				

National Development Priority for public sector capacity development: Human and institutional capacity to improve service delivery

SPCF Pillar 3: Public sector capacity development

Outcome	Indicators	Baseline	Target	Means of Verification	UN Partners (National)	Medium Term Common Budgetary Framework (USD)		
						Total	Projected to be available (RR)	To be mobilized (OR)
<p>Outcome 5: By 2021, the population, including vulnerable groups, benefit from evidenced-based planning and policy; accountable public institutions and systems that ensure human rights and equitable public service delivery.</p> <p>Participating UN Agencies: UNDP, UNFPA UNICEF, UNHCR, UN OCHA</p>	5.1: Level of public confidence in the delivery of basic services, disaggregated by sex, urban/rural and income groups	TBD	50% increase	MND and other institutions surveys	MND, NUEW, NUEYS, Auditor General, MOLHW, NCEW, MOI, MOFA	23,020,670	10,920,670	12,100,000
	5.2: Proportion of decision-making positions (executive, legislative and judicial) occupied by women at national level	26.7%	50% increase	NUEW Surveys and reports	NUEW and all other partner institutions and ministries			
	5.3: % of births registered	60%	80%	MND and other institutions surveys	MoH, MOLHW, MOLG, MOND, NUEW			

National Development Priority for food security and nutrition: Achieving food and nutrition security of the population									
SPCF Pillar 4: Inclusive growth, food security and sustainable livelihoods									
Outcome	Indicators	Baseline	Target	Means of Verification	UN Partners (National)	Medium Term Common Budgetary Framework (USD)		To be mobilized (OR)	
						Total	Projected to be available (RR)		
Outcome 6: By 2021 smallholder households have improved access to, and utilization of quality food and enhanced livelihood opportunities. Participating UN Agencies: FAO, UNHCR, IFAD, UNIDO	6.1 % of smallholder households using nutritious foods	TBD	20% increase	Impact assessment reports; reports from the Ministries of Agriculture, Marine Resources and Health	MoA; MoMR; MoH	62,464,690	33,314,690	28,950,000	
	6.2 % Annual increase in crop production and productivity	TBD	10% annual increase						

National Development Priority for Gender equality and youth empowerment: National Priority: Gender Equality: Building a society where women and men, girls and boys of diverse background share equal duties, enjoy equal opportunities and have equal rights to access benefits in all aspects of life.									
Youth: To cultivate & produce capable youths by promoting and strengthening youth in all aspects of national, regional, and international development processes.									
SPCF Pillar 4: Inclusive growth, food security and sustainable livelihoods									
Outcome	Indicators	Baseline	Target	Means of Verification	UN Partners (National)	Medium Term Common Budgetary Framework (USD)		To be mobilized (OR)	
						Total	Projected to be available (RR)		
<p>Outcome 7: By 2021, women, men, children and youth, including refugees, have improved gender equitable participation opportunities in economic, political, cultural and social development.</p> <p>Participating UN Agencies: UNDP, UNICEF, UNHCR, UNAIDS, FAO, UNIDO, ILO</p>	7.1: Employment rate (formal and informal), disaggregated by sex and urban/rural	Male: 63%; Female: 23%; Rural: 30.5% (61% Male; 10% Female); Urban: 43% (55% Male; 30% Female) (2010 EPHS):	Male: 85%; Female: 60%; Rural: 70%; Urban: 90%	Labour-force survey, African Development Bank (ADB)/World Bank reports EPHS, CEDAW, National reports and surveys	MIND, NUEW, NUEYS, MOLHW, MOH	48,490,290	9,287,000	39,203,290	
	7.2: Proportion of people living below the national poverty line, disaggregated rural/urban and gender	Baseline (2015): TBD	TBD	Unmet basic needs; SDG progress reports; ADB /World Bank reports					
	7.3: Percentage of women who own land.	32.2 % (2014)	TBD	National reports and surveys					
	7.4: Proportion of women aged 20-24 years who were married or in a union before age 15 and before age 18	13% (under 15) and 41% (under 18)	8% and 31%	National reports and surveys					
	7.5: Proportion of women to men in leadership and decision making positions in public institutions	26% (CEDAW 2014)	35%	National reports and surveys					
	7.6 FGM/C prevalence rate (girls under 5yrs. and girls under 15yrs)	12% (<5 yrs) 33% (15yrs)	7% (<5yrs) 21% (15yrs)	EPHS					

National Development Priority for social protection: To remove all forms of social and economic misgivings that cause disparities and hindrances to the welfare and realization of equal development opportunities by providing the disadvantaged and vulnerable sections of the Eritrean societies with immediate needs and support to build and sustain self-reliant happy livelihoods

Pillar 4: Inclusive growth, food security and sustainable livelihoods

Outcome	Indicators	Baseline	Target	Means of Verification	UN Partners (National)	Medium Term Common Budgetary Framework (USD)		
						Total	Projected to be available (RR)	To be mobilized (OR)
Outcome 8: By 2021, vulnerable children, adolescents, young people, women and people with special needs, including refugees, are better protected and have the capacity to participate fully in economic, social and political development.	8.1: No. of children, adolescents/young people and women, including refugees receiving social services	83,000	150,000	MoLHW monitoring reports	MLHW	7,650,930	1,371,430	6,279,500
	8.2: # of reported incidents of SGBV in refugee camps	TBD	TBD	UNHCR monitoring reports				
	8.3: % of POC with disabilities with access to services for their specific needs in refugee camps.	TBD	TBD	UNHCR monitoring reports				
	8.4: % of older persons with access to services for their specific needs in camps.	TBD	TBD	UNHCR monitoring reports				
	8.5: No. of targeted children who benefit from weapon related risk education	150,000	500,000	MoLHW, MoE monitoring reports				
	8.6: Availability of a functional social and child protection management of information system	0	1	MoLHW & UNICEF reports				
Participating UN Agencies: UNICEF & UNHCR								