



# UNDP ERITREA



# 2022 ANNUAL REPORT





UNDP Eritrea acknowledges the Government of the State of Eritrea for taking ownership and providing leadership, as well as our development partners, civil society organizations, and our implementing partners, who continue to play critical roles in the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.

The support received and partnership contributes toward the delivery of our programmatic interventions and the results are captured in this report.

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# UNDP in 2022

Delivered  
**10  
MILLION**

Implemented  
**Projects  
13**

**8 Institutions**

Enhanced capacity/  
human resource

**Empowered 985**

women and youth

Provided direct  
economic assistance

730,000 Nakfa

Supporting resilience  
and encouraging  
adaptation

93,600

Households

Strengthen integrated  
natural resources

45,000

Hectares

Supported 5  
Young  
Innovators

# TOP SDGs contributed to

## CONNECTING THE SDGs

The Sustainable Development Goals provide a holistic blueprint for change – an integrated plan to end poverty, protect the planet, and ensure that all people enjoy lasting peace and prosperity.

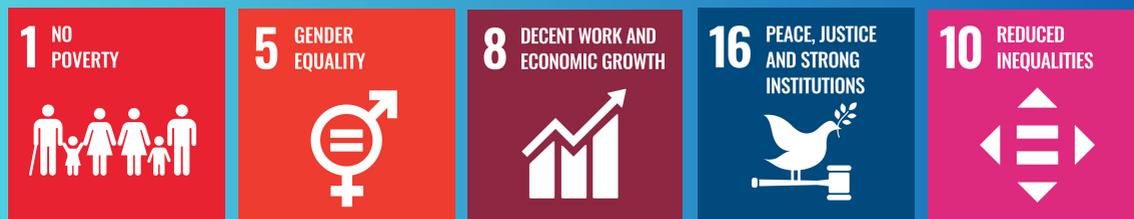
UNDP's role is to help governments and actors throughout society to power and accelerate their progress towards the Goals, while keeping the global vision intact and on track.

Combining the ambition of Agenda 2030 with the SDGs now demands a new kind of approach to development: the more disruptive we are, the more transformational the solutions will be.



## Strategic Governance

- Enhancing the capacities of key Governmental institutions to deliver public services;
- Youth skills development, employment creation and gender equality;
- Enhancing human and institutional capacity in the Justice Sector among others promoting human rights and the advancement of the UPR recommendations within the context or right to development;



## Inclusive and Sustainable Development

- Supporting the community with nature-based and homegrown environmentally resilient solutions for development;
- Supporting women's empowerment and gender equality;
- Promoting access to modern efficient, affordable, and sustainable renewable energy for rural communities;
- Promoting productive nutrition-sensitive and climate-smart agriculture;



# Foreword

**" LOOKING AHEAD, UNDP ERITREA WILL CONTINUE TO OFFER SUPPORT ON AREAS ALIGNED WITH NATIONAL PRIORITIES, GUIDED BY THE SIX SIGNATURE SOLUTIONS IN THE UNDP STRATEGIC PLAN AND THE RENEWED STRATEGIC OFFER IN AFRICA, AND WITH A STRONG COMMITMENT TO THE PRINCIPLES OF GENDER EQUALITY, LEAVING NO ONE BEHIND AND REACHING THOSE FURTHEST BEHIND FIRST. "**



It is my pleasure to present UNDP Eritrea's 2022 Annual Report, which captures the results of the strategic actions and programmatic interventions rolled out by the UNDP Eritrea Country Office in partnership with the Government of the State of Eritrea.

In 2022, UNDP Eritrea completed the first year of implementation of our Country Programme cycle (2022–2026). It is gratifying that UNDP Eritrea was able to deliver US\$8,054,942 in 2022 (a delivery rate of 100 percent), surpassing its target for the year. The Country Office also mobilized \$2,200,400.

UNDP and its sister agencies will continue to support Eritrea's development priorities, and UNDP Eritrea is proud to remain the country's partner of choice in promoting sustainable development and achieving Agenda 2030.

UNDP Eritrea has built successful and sustainable programmes by taking an approach that foregrounds and empowers local partnerships. We have ensured that the design and implementation of our projects and programmes is aligned with national priorities and international frameworks and responsive to the needs of beneficiary communities. Consultative approaches have been followed to promote new systems and practices aligned with national and local contexts and priorities, and we have sought out and obtained the active participation of public and private stakeholders, who have contributed technical experts, resources, labour and materials to our shared projects. UNDP Eritrea has worked to build capacity in local communities and ensured the involvement and engagement of communities and local experts in project planning, implementation, monitoring, review and evaluation.

One key step towards enhancing project effectiveness and efficiency has been adopting the national implementation modality. Strong partnerships have been established with central ministries, regional administrations, associations and donors. Collaboration between UNDP and other UN agencies has generally been good, though joint programmes could still be improved. The active participation and commitment of communities and partners at all levels has been critical to ensuring success and local ownership.

This collaborative approach has enabled UNDP Eritrea to achieve concrete results for the people of Eritrea. In 2022, we succeeded in strengthening the technical and managerial capacities of public institutions in order to improve public service delivery to meet the needs of the population in general and vulnerable groups in particular, as well as to assist Eritrea in meeting its international commitments. We helped to enhance gender equity through the implementation of various interventions, which enabled women beneficiaries to improve their income-generating skills; take on greater roles in community courts and village development committees; secure equal rights to land; and benefit from solar power and improved clean stoves, which eased their household burden.

With respect to human rights, UNDP Eritrea contributed to the continued engagement of the Government in the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) process, improved law enforcement agencies' capacity in the area of human rights, increased public access to the services of supported public institutions and brought court services closer to the rural population by strengthening community courts.

Our strategic interventions have enabled communities to conserve and sustainably use land resources, and to benefit from greater flow of ecosystem services, contributing to improved livelihoods and food security through improved better crop and livestock productivity and production. These interventions have also contributed to improving gender equality and women's empowerment through encouraging equitable and sustainable use of natural resources.

Also in 2022, Eritrea delivered its inaugural Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Voluntary National Review (VNR) at the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development in New York. The report, which was well received, contains the country's experiences, including successes, challenges and key takeaways in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.



Looking ahead, UNDP Eritrea will continue to offer support on areas aligned with national priorities, guided by the six signature solutions in the UNDP Strategic Plan and the Renewed Strategic Offer in Africa, and with a strong commitment to the principles of gender equality, leaving no one behind and reaching those furthest behind first. UNDP Eritrea will strengthen partnerships with diverse stakeholders across the SDGs, focusing investments in areas that have the potential to accelerate progress across multiple goals. The programme will support the Government's efforts to promote regional integration, brokering knowledge and technology through South-South and triangular cooperation to mobilize domestic resources, exploit alternative financing mechanisms and boost new sources of financing (public, private, domestic and international).

Congratulations are due to the County Office team, who selflessly continue to work in a complex development context to deliver the strong results highlighted in this Report, and as I depart Eritrea, I thank them for their work. Signing off for the last time as UNDP Resident Representative in Eritrea, I wish you the best years ahead, I trust you will enjoy reading this Annual Report, and I will appreciate your feedback on how our team can continue to improve the quality of our reports.

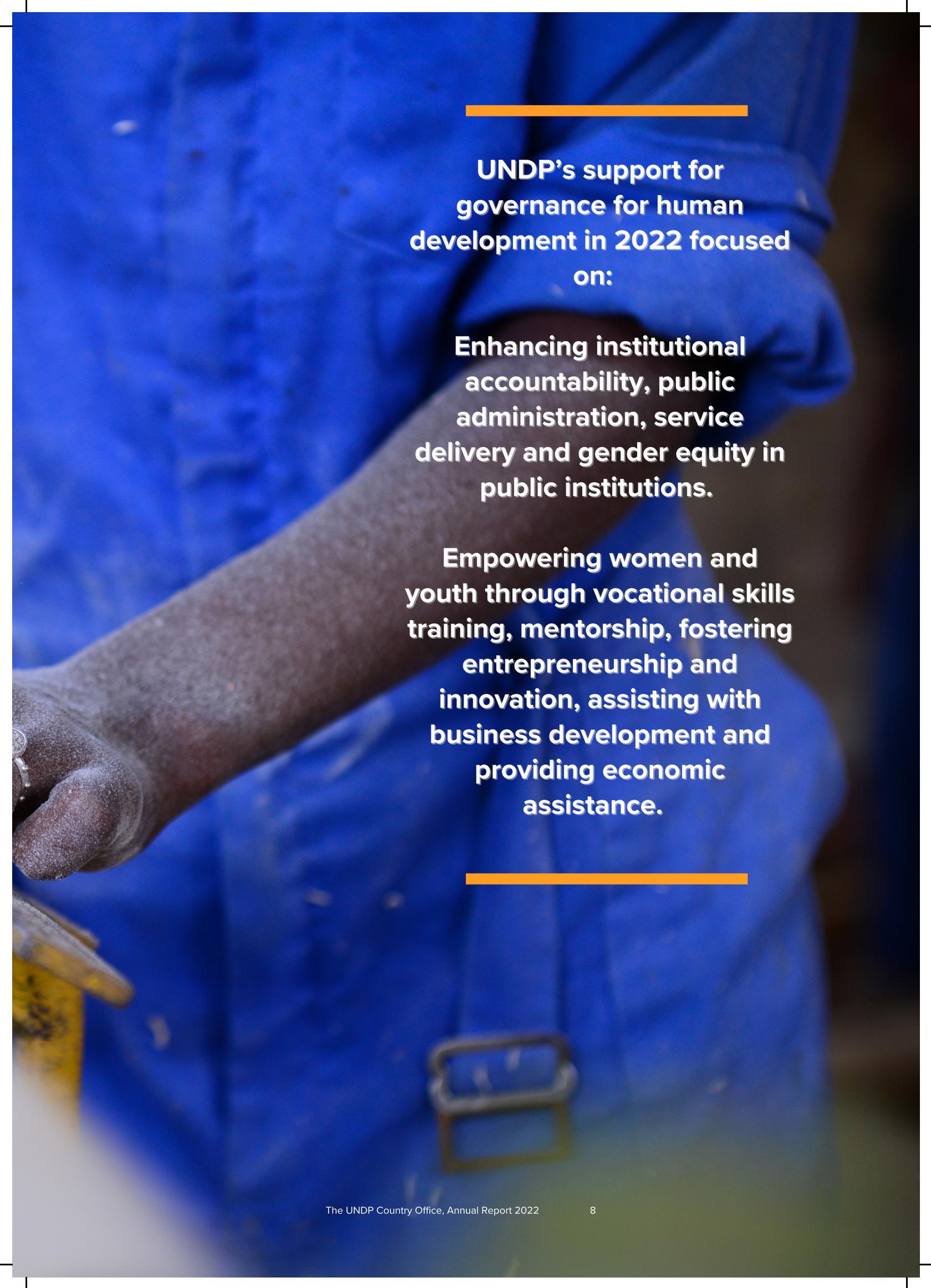
James Wakiaga





# GOOD GOVERNANCE FOR ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT

Supporting human development  
and well-being



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**UNDP's support for governance for human development in 2022 focused on:**

**Enhancing institutional accountability, public administration, service delivery and gender equity in public institutions.**

**Empowering women and youth through vocational skills training, mentorship, fostering entrepreneurship and innovation, assisting with business development and providing economic assistance.**

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## Enhancing institutions

UNDP in 2022 contributed to advances across a wide range of institutions in Eritrea, helping to build capacity and increase human resources towards improving accountability, service delivery and service quality.

**The Office of the Auditor General (OAG):** To improve audits and comply with international standards, UNDP supported OAG staff to enhance their skills on International Standards on Auditing, enabling them to conduct performance-based audits for 30 percent of audited public institutions.

A participatory gender awareness training was conducted for OAG staff, in which 120 staff members deepened their understanding on gender equality, the importance of gender mainstreaming and how everyone can contribute to enhancing gender equality. The OAG has made remarkable strides towards integrating gender equality into their office culture by drafting a Gender Policy and a Gender Equality Strategy and establishing a Gender Focal Team to coordinate further actions.

**The Ministry of Justice (MOJ):** UNDP worked with the MOJ to strengthen its human and institutional capacity in alignment with its strategic plan, which prioritizes human resource development through distance higher education, on-the-job training, improving professional and research capacity in the sector and ensuring public participation in improving access to justice. UNDP supported the enrolment of 93 staff (of whom 30 percent were women) from the judiciary, from the Office of the Prosecutor, and legal services to enrol on Master of Laws degrees at the University of South Africa.

From 6 to 10 June 2022, UNDP and the British Embassy in Eritrea convened a five-day dialogue in Asmara on International Law.

The main objective of the dialogue was to unpack several international law concepts with a view to understanding possible convergences and points of departure in relation to Eritrean contexts, beliefs and value systems. Other goals of the dialogue were to empower officials through building understanding of various international law standards, as well as to set a precedent for further internal dialogues and discussion on legal concepts, applicability and impact on justice services. The dialogue was attended by 50 officials from the MOJ across the country, representing a good cross-section of the Ministry's services, including judges from appeals and local courts, prosecutors, staff of the Office of the Attorney General, staff of Court Services and the Minister's Advisory team. This team is well positioned to engage on national policy issues.

UNDP also provided financial and advisory services in strengthening institutions to engage with and implement UPR recommendations in the follow-up process that led Eritrea to participate in the Human Rights Council in June 2022.

**The Ministry of Information (MOI):** UNDP invested in human resource development in the MOI as part of achieving UNDP's six signature solutions to the SDGs. As a result, through its human resource capacity enhancement programme for media staff, the MOI graduated 180 journalists in December 2022, of whom 73 are female. Also with UNDP support, the MOI succeeded in replacing its time-consuming and outdated analogue platform with a digital platform.

**Other organizations:** In partnership with the United Nations Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs, UNDP organized eight days of workshops on dispute resolution, mediation and negotiation for 28 young diplomats from the **Ministry of Foreign Affairs**, the **MOI** and the **People's Front for Democracy and Justice**.



In July 2022, UNDP Eritrea also supported the Government of Eritrea in delivering its first ever Voluntary National Review at the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) on Sustainable Development in New York.

The VNR was conducted as part of the HLPF's follow-up and review mechanisms, and it enabled Eritrea to present the progress it has made towards implementing the 2030 Agenda, to assist in knowledge sharing, peer learning and transparency.

Six volunteer diaspora professionals have been deployed in different ministries and organizations and are contributing in their respective areas of expertise. For example, the trade union, the **National Confederation of Eritrean Workers** (NCEW), and its stakeholders have been supported in creating a document management system and a food and beverage management system, as well as in testing and implementing a stock inventory system.

Other volunteers have helped the **Ministry of Foreign Affairs** by monitoring, assessing and analysing the latest social, economic and political developments and foreign relations experiences in global, regional and neighbouring countries. An audio-visual studio has been created for the **Ministry of Agriculture**, and an audio book has been created for the publishing company Hidri Publishers.

Technical capacity in the **National Union of Eritrean Youth and Students** (NUEYS) has been enhanced to encourage the production of animations, games, cartoons, poetry and movies with an Eritrean context for children and adults. And 15 young people (13 females and 2 males) have upgraded their skills on sound technology by attending courses twice a week for four months (June–September 2022).

## Empowering women and youth

UNDP has worked to **improve skills** and **provide economic support** to women and youth, in order to provide relief from the socio-economic stress created by the COVID-19 pandemic as well as by other natural and human-made causes. This has helped to lower the immediate threat of food and nutrition insecurity, especially for women and women-headed households.



**Skills development** has taken place across the country, and of the total beneficiaries, 60 percent were women and 70 percent were youth. With the support of UNDP, 60 women from Asmara upgraded their skills for three months in poultry, bee, livestock, fruit and vegetable production, small business administration and resource management. Another 60 vulnerable women affected by the impacts of HIV/AIDS from the town of Barentu and 40 from the town of Tokombia received skills in sewing and tailoring, while 30 others gained skills in basic computer applications. Some 50 women obtained skills in making mats and beaded beautification artifacts. In Massawa, 60 women received basic computer skills and 60 women are attending three-month courses to develop skills in modern cooking/food preparation. Training on leadership, management and gender issues was provided to 150 women workers from different enterprises. Of them, 60 were in Zoba Maekel, 30 in Northern Red Sea and 20 each in Zoba Anseba, Debub and Gash Barka.

Likewise, UNDP has provided **direct economic assistance** across Eritrea to help vulnerable groups improve their ability to engage in economic activities. Of the total beneficiaries, 65 percent were women and 60 percent were youth. Assets worth 3,000 nakfa (NFK), or around \$200, were provided to each of 150 vulnerable women from seven villages in the sub-zone of Laelay Gash to assist them with horticulture production, trade, livestock breeding, bee-keeping and transporting goods using animal-driven carts. A group of 80 Eritrean women, including refugees returned from Ethiopia resettled in the Gash Barka region, were assisted with 10,000 NFK (\$666) each. Each of 30 women who received skills in livestock production and small business management were given 5,000 NFK (\$333) as in-kind and cash business start-up support. Five farmer women's cooperatives (each comprising 10-15 women) in Tokombia were given skills in irrigation, and water wells are being dug, with almost 62 percent of the works completed.

Livelihood support ranging from 5,000 NFK to 10,000 NFK each was given to 50 women who lost their jobs due to the impacts of COVID-19. Further, 600 beehive boxes were distributed to 300 families; 150 donkeys with water jerricans were provided to 150 families; and 1,500 sheep and goats were shared among 100 families.

UNDP has also worked to support the Government in ensuring that women play a full and active role in the **conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity**. It has done this through i) ensuring women are involved in decision-making related to the implementation of project activities that increase women's resilience and income-generation capacity; ii) prioritizing women and youth's participation in capacity-building programmes; and iii) ensuring that project-generated information on community-supported agriculture and sustainable land, forestry and water management reaches women, the elderly, the youth and people with low or no literacy skills. UNDP supported 100 women in date palm production, date post-harvest handling and orientation on value chain and small-scale business management. UNDP Eritrea also helped to ensure women had access to solar power and improved clean stoves, to reduce the impact of household energy use on the environment and decrease women's household burden.

Moreover, UNDP has supported women's **decision-making rights and representation in the public sphere** by strengthening women's roles in community courts and village development committees and helping women to secure equal rights to land.

# UNDP Eritrea Future Smart



UN Regional Directors visited Eritrea as the government and UN launched new Cooperation Framework.



International Women's Day.



As part of the UNDP Eritrea programme in implementing the #Peoplefor2030 strategy, in 2022 the CO organized several family Days.



UNDP RR signing the Annual Work Plan during UN Day 2022.



World Environment Day celebrated in June 2022.



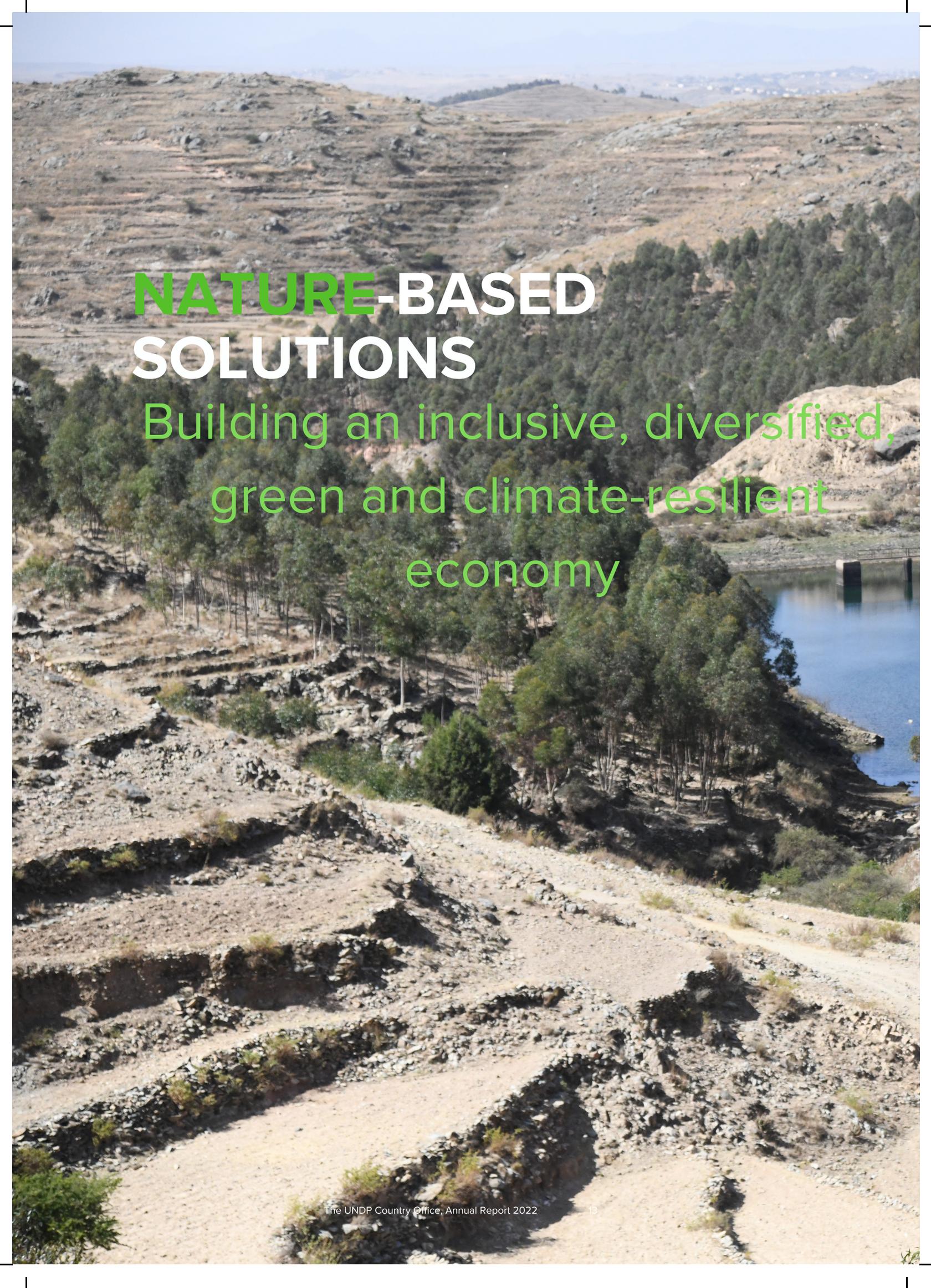
UNDP joined a Tree Planting exercise, as part of the 'Greening the Environment Initiative tied to the Eritrea Summer Programme.



During the International Youth Day 2022, UNDP convened a Youth Forum premised on SDGs.

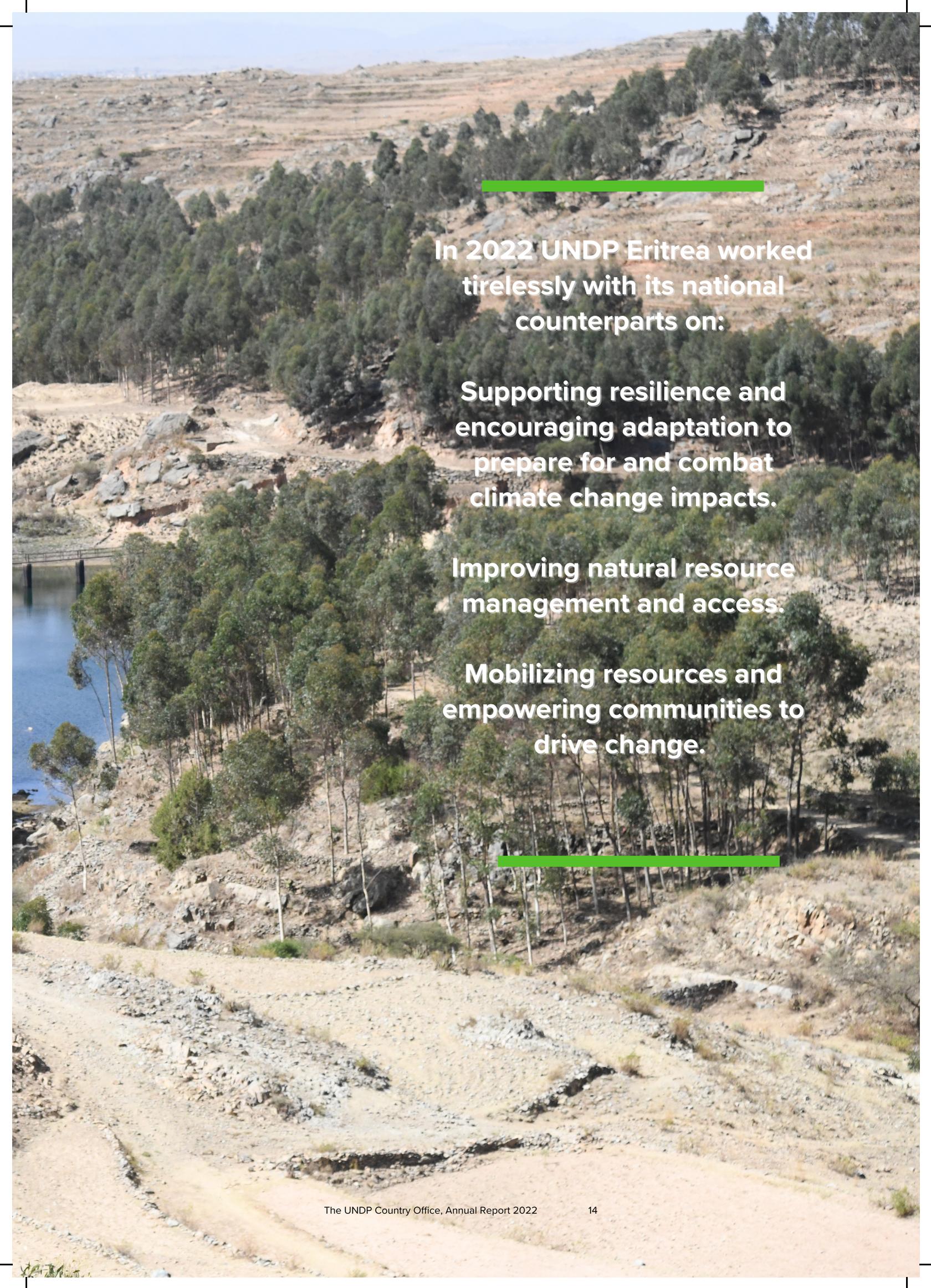


Eritrea National Launch of the Human Development Report.



# NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS

Building an inclusive, diversified,  
green and climate-resilient  
economy



**In 2022 UNDP Eritrea worked tirelessly with its national counterparts on:**

**Supporting resilience and encouraging adaptation to prepare for and combat climate change impacts.**

**Improving natural resource management and access.**

**Mobilizing resources and empowering communities to drive change.**

## Supporting resilience and encouraging adaptation

To tackle and prevent impacts from drought and climate change, UNDP provided support to the Government to strengthen the **social and economic resilience** of rural communities, including women and women-headed households, elderly people, people with disabilities and youth. As a result, about 27,000 households, including 60 percent of women-headed households, benefited financially from cash-for-work land restoration and conservation activities, while 4,500 households totalling about 21,600 people benefited from a food-for-work initiative. This scheme based on soil and water conservation allowed the restoration and conservation of 834 hectares of fragile environmental and natural resources to support food security and resilience in drought-affected areas.

In 60 rural communities, capacity was strengthened in **developing disaster and climate risk-informed inclusive community development plans** to achieve community-based resilience, while four sub-regional stakeholders were enabled to identify and manage disaster and climate risks and prepare for protecting people from disaster threats through **risk-informed planning and implementation**. Emergency preparedness capacity was enhanced in disaster-prone areas in the Northern and Southern Red Sea and Anseba regions. In addition to these enhanced capacities, UNDP supported the Ministry of Labour and Human Welfare in the establishment of a vulnerability database to collect, collate and analyse gender-disaggregated data about people with disabilities, single women-headed households and other vulnerable groups.



Date palm cultivation has great potential as alternative vegetation in Eritrea due to the favourable climate on the 1,200km-long coastline. UNDP is working with the Government to **leverage date palm cultivation** to improve the lives of the rural population in targeted areas by creating opportunities for income-generating activity, improving food security and acting as a carbon sink to reduce the impact of climate change. In 2022, UNDP helped to strengthen and fully operationalize the Tissue Culture Laboratory at the Ministry of Agriculture's National Agriculture Research Institute (NARI) by procuring equipment and providing technical expertise.

## Improving natural resource management and access to clean water

To better inform its natural resource management efforts, Eritrea, with the support of UNDP, is **strengthening its available environmental information** and database to enable informed decisions about improving the environment, integrating environmental considerations into key national policies and moving towards sustainability. In 2022, UNDP helped to build capacities to address key factors affecting biodiversity conservation in Eritrea's protected area systems, including by providing training on Geographic Information Systems, ecosystem management and habitat and biogas management for 350 field experts and extension workers. UNDP support has contributed to biodiversity conservation in these protected area systems, which showed positive trends in species populations at the site level.

UNDP has also supported the Government in strengthening **integrated natural resources management**, contributing to multiple environmental and societal benefits, including those related to the protection and sustainable use of biodiversity and climate change adaptation. In 2022, 45,000 hectares of landscapes and seascapes were put under improved ecosystem/biodiversity management through UNDP technical and financial support. This is expected to contribute to improved livestock and crop production, which cumulatively contributes to households' resilience. UNDP supported the Government's efforts to combat land and forest degradation in rural production landscapes and helped the Government to address the need for sustaining the flows of ecosystem services that underpin the productivity of agricultural and rangeland systems.

UNDP continued to ensure rural communities and households can benefit from greater flow of ecosystem services for livelihoods and food security. UNDP support included **strengthening participation and capacity-building of local communities**, especially women,

in the management of protected area systems and natural resources management for improved agriculture, livestock management and forest landscape restoration to support rural livelihoods.

Many rural villages in Eritrea has limited access to drinking water from improved water sources, leaving many people at risk from waterborne diseases. Access to water has a gender equity component: in rural Eritrea, women and girls are mainly responsible for fetching water required for domestic purposes. The time that women and young girls spend on domestic chores is significant and thus water infrastructure provision can potentially reduce women's and girls' time burden. UNDP continues to provide **support to improve water sources**, boosting rural livelihoods and fighting against waterborne diseases. In 2022, five villages in the Anseba and Gash Barka region were provided with access to safe drinking water. UNDP and the Government of Eritrea are committed, as a top priority, to ensure the availability of adequate and safe water services by 2030.



## Mobilizing resources and supporting community-based projects

In 2022, the UNDP Country Office initiated a **resource mobilization to support the Government in replicating renewable energy projects** in remote rural areas of the country. Under the framework of collaboration with UNDP and in line with the mandate given to the International Renewable Agency (IRENA), UNDP and the Government of Eritrea have begun engagement with IRENA. Support will include (i) technical assistance, including the assessment of the project concept and the problem it addresses, technical and financial soundness, risks, and risk mitigation plans, and (ii) financial matchmaking support with partners introducing renewable energy projects to the most appropriate potential funders. In addition, UNDP will work with the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) and other potential donors to mobilize additional resources for renewable energy to meet the unmet needs for energy in rural Eritrea.

Another key element of UNDP's resource mobilization against climate change is the **Small Grants Programme (SGP)**, a corporate programme of the Global Environment Facility (GEF) implemented by UNDP. SGP's motto is Local Action, Global Impact. It is tailored specifically to support communities acting through community-based organizations, associations, and civic societies.

SGP projects in Eritrea are expected to enclose 534 hectares of land for afforestation activities and permanent community enclosures. The projects incorporate activities **to protect, sustainably manage or restore natural ecosystems**, which address societal challenges such as land degradation, climate change, human health, food and water security effectively while also creating human well-being and biodiversity benefits

In 2022, the programme supported 19 community-based projects, targeting five types of nature-based solutions:

- Promotion of alternative energy sources, such as biogas and compost production to enhance community livelihoods (two projects)
- Restoration and rehabilitation of mangrove ecosystem in coastal areas (two projects)
- Community-based watershed management, promotion of Moringa Oleifera tree as part of a Minimum Integrated Household Agricultural Package (MIHAP), beekeeping and afforestation projects (12 projects)
- Community-based fishing development to improve livelihoods using fish aggregating devices (FADs) and stationary fish traps (three projects)
- Capacity-building of communities towards sound waste management (one project).

Some of the projects advanced well in 2022, while others experienced delays in project implementation, particularly the five seascape projects (on mangrove ecosystems and fishing development). To kick-start progress, a **stakeholders' inception workshop** was held, with the objective of initiating project activities, discussing coordination and collaboration with implementing partners, and identifying bottlenecks and potential ways forward. The workshop was facilitated by the Projects and Commissions Coordination Office at the Ministry of Marine Resources, in close consultation with representatives from the Ministry of Land, Water and Environment and the National Union of Eritrean Women. Possible solutions were thoroughly discussed in the workshop, and all seascape projects have now begun implementation. The two mangrove afforestation projects in Southern and Northern Red Sea are progressing particularly well: each has delineated their mangrove site and planted mangrove seeds on 20 hectares.



Sensitization meetings and capacity-building trainings for target beneficiaries have been carried out for some projects. For example, the Eritrean National War Disabled Veteran's Association is conducting one of the projects on alternative energy. In November and December 2022, it carried out promotional training for 300 farmers with disabilities caused by war, as well as for their families, in six regions of Eritrea. The interactive training sessions focused on the effects of climate change and, on low carbon energy sources such as biogas and compost production, and gave participants an opportunity to benefit from the lessons learned in other developing countries. To assist in the ongoing intervention, a biogas operational manual was developed using local languages and distributed to all participants as a reference for the long term.

The SGP programme pays special attention to ensuring the participation of all stakeholders, particularly women, who are vital to the success of environmental initiatives due to the critical role they play in managing natural resources at family and community levels. This also means that they can be the major agents of environmental management degradation. In rural Eritrea, women's day-to-day activities include homestead gardening, gathering wood and water, collecting or buying food, tending domestic animals, housekeeping, garbage disposal, manuring, pottery and caring for children. All these responsibilities are related to the environment in the sense that women have a particular and in-depth knowledge of their localities. Hence, the participation of all segments of society, including women, is crucial to the success of SGP projects.

# GENDER IN FOCUS

## Working towards gender-transformative change

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In 2022, UNDP Eritrea made leaps towards gender-transformative programming by:

**Building an enabling environment for working towards gender equality.**

**Increasing capacity and dedicated resources towards gender mainstreaming.**

**Assisting in external capacity-building towards gender equity.**

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## Strengthening the enabling environment

UNDP's new global Gender Equality Strategy (GES) was launched in 2022, providing direction on gender work and priorities for the next four years. The GES emphasizes the need to highlight gender equality as a cross-cutting priority in all UNDP programmes and activities by assigning sufficient resources towards gender work. It also stresses the need to strive for gender-transformative results, addressing the root causes of and system barriers to gender equality.

For UNDP Eritrea, the new global GES gave momentum to the **drafting of our own gender strategy and action plan for 2022–2025**. This strategy cements the objectives and mechanisms for gender mainstreaming in UNDP's work in Eritrea, engaging Country Office management, staff, strategic partners and donors to work towards gender equality and women's empowerment.

In 2022, the Country Office also made progress on its journey towards **Gender Equality Seal certification**, which allows the Country Office to benchmark and assess its gender mainstreaming efforts. The initial benchmark in 2021 stood at 16 percent compliance, or 6 out of 37 indicators achieved. During 2022, the dedicated Gender Focal Team (GFT) and all staff worked hard to place deliberate focus on gender equality, document gender work and allocate resources to gender mainstreaming efforts. For example, the Country Office engaged consultants to conduct professional gender analyses on two new projects in the portfolio on Inclusive, diversified, green and climate-resilient economy. Communications materials, strategies and social media posts were updated to be more gender-responsive. The Gender Equality Seal final assessment will be completed in 2023.

## Increasing capacity and adding resources

Country Office staff participated in a Gender Capacity Assessment to determine the gender understanding and training needs of our staff to implement capacity-building actions at the appropriate level of complexity. The need for gender training for colleagues was identified and highly requested; the most requested topics for training were unconscious bias, gender analysis and gender in operations. Nearly every respondent said they were familiar with UNDP's policies on Prevention of Sexual Exploitation, Abuse and Harassment (PSEAH) and knew where to access them. All respondents had either limited or good knowledge about how to explain basic gender concepts and how to apply them to their daily work. The use of gender markers and gender analysis were concepts that were unfamiliar to some staff.

Among the resources dedicated in 2022 to growing the Country Office gender capacity was the hiring of a Gender Analyst, who started work at UNDP Eritrea in August 2022 to provide further focus and coordination to the team's gender mainstreaming efforts. She is placed in the Gender and Human Rights Unit, together with the Human Rights and Gender Specialist at UNDP.

Although gender work must be a cross-cutting priority for everyone in the Country Office, coordination of efforts is needed to achieve transformative change and ensure that no one is left behind. This requires time, financial resources and enabling mechanisms, such as the Gender Equality Strategy, Gender Focal Team and the Gender Equality Seal.



## Collaborating with partners towards gender equity

In December 2022, the UNDP Eritrea Gender and Human Rights Unit conducted a **gender awareness training for the staff of the Office of the Auditor General (OAG)**. Around 120 staff members were trained on the basic principles and terminology of gender equality, gender socialization and the importance of striving for gender equality and women's empowerment in the workplace. The OAG has proven to be an exemplary partner in advocating for gender equality work. OAG management is fully committed to advancing the gender capacity and knowledge of their staff, as well as to flexible working arrangements and equal opportunities for career growth. Trainings such as the one conducted in December 2022 can act as a precursor for further collaboration between UNDP and government bodies on building gender expertise and resources for gender mainstreaming efforts.

Also in December 2022, the UNDP Gender Analyst conducted a **gender analysis training for the Basic Services Working Group** led by the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), a convener of the UN agencies and their focal points working on humanitarian response and activities in Eritrea.

Most UN agencies in Eritrea do not have a full-time gender specialist, which can result in gender aspects being overlooked, including the need to conduct a gender analysis in the design of interventions and projects.

The training focused on examples and guidance on how to conduct a basic gender analysis, highlighting the importance of mapping the needs of both women and men in crisis settings, asking the right questions to ensure that diverse voices are heard, and collecting disaggregated data.

An inter-agency group dedicated to human rights, gender equality and leaving no one behind (LNOB), the **Programming Principles Group**, was created in 2022 to coordinate related activities between the UN agencies based in Eritrea. The group has convened a few times so far, and it is crucial to ensure that the group upholds conversations and best practices around gender and human rights. Cross-agency and cross-sectoral events, reports, strategies and joint work plans require coordination between focal points to ensure a coherent picture and commitment to the common goal of leaving no one behind. Going into 2023 and beyond, UNDP will contribute to the common agenda to facilitate inter-agency work on gender and human rights.

The resources obtained and learning carried out in 2022 will bear fruit in the coming year by making UNDP Eritrea a certified champion of gender equality and women's empowerment. The Country Office will continue the dedicated work to build its gender knowledge and capacity in 2023.

# DIGITALIZATION

Advancing technology to deliver progress

In 2022, UNDP Eritrea helped Eritrea to move its technological capacity forward

by: Supporting young innovators to develop digital skills and solutions.

Partnering with industry to support advanced networking training.

## Supporting youth to develop digital solutions

In 2022, UNDP provided support to the National Union of Eritrean Youth and Students (NUEYS) in establishing Eritrea's National Youth Innovation and Entrepreneurship Hub, which will be a centre for strategic innovations and digital solutions for the country's development and programming. NUEYS was provided with IT hardware and accessories and support was given to install physical infrastructure in the project's headquarters. NUEYS was also provided with technical and financial support to develop and finalize a National Hub Operational Strategy for the project. The strategy will be fully implemented in 2023.

As part of UNDP's support for innovative technologies, **five young innovators were provided with financial and technical support** for their projects in 2022. The young innovators' proposals focused on:

- Producing low-power, low-cost educational computers
- Producing accessible, local-language-based visual OCR readers and software that translates text-to-speech and speech to text
- Helping people with hearing problems to communicate effectively with hearing people by using kinetic technology
- Building e-book distribution, writers' software and educational services in order to get e-books to the community in an easy, affordable and secure way
- Developing educational institution management systems and beginning projects to develop low-cost, high-quality paints from local materials.

## Establishing advanced training capacity

In 2022, the National Confederation of Eritrean Workers (NCEW) in collaboration with UNDP Eritrea supported Massawa Workers' Vocational Training Centre (MWVTC) in creating a programme to establish a Cisco **Networking Academy** in Eritrea.

In order to establish the academy, qualified instructors needed to be trained and certified in the Cisco networking programme. Accordingly, an advanced training programme was arranged for instructors from MWVTC, including courses on ITE (IT Essentials), CCNA v7 (Cisco Certified Network Assistant), DevNet Associate and CyberOps Associate. Six teachers took part in the training through Cisco's distance learning modality, and four successfully completed the course. The MWVTC now has the competent instructors needed to establish its own CISCO network academy, and has successfully established the academy under the name of Massawa Workers Vocational Training Centre Cisco Academy.

UNDP Eritrea partnered with NCEW and Cisco to sponsor the training, which began on 26 July 2021 and was completed in December 2022. UNDP lobbied and engaged Cisco, in line with its Environmental, Social and Governance commitments, to offer the training free of charge in order to enhance the country's development and connectivity. The intervention was implemented through UNDP, and will continue to develop new projects supporting strategic innovations and digitalization.

# OPERATION



## Team

UNDP Eritrea has an overall staffing capacity of 34 personnel: 31 UNDP staff, 2 National Personnel Service Agreement staff and 1 International UN Volunteer.

In line with one of the strategic focus areas of UNDP's People for 2030 strategy, Building Capabilities and Developing People, UNDP Eritrea in 2022 invested in developing and upskilling our people through:

- Facilitating a learning exchange in cooperation with the Regional Service Centre for Africa, which benefited 22 staff members.
- Delivering Certificate in Procurement & Supply Operations (CIPS) level II procurement training for 7 staff
- Organizing and providing training on pensions, delivered by the regional United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund office in Nairobi, to a total of 112 staff members from all the UN agencies represented in the Country Office.
- Deploying 2 staff members on detailed assignment, where they gained experience in leadership and working outside their duty station.



## Finance

The Finance Unit presided over a smooth transition to the new Enterprise Resource System, Quantum, from the older system, Atlas. The unit has worked to ensure that data clean-up is carried out on the former system in alignment with the timeline set by Headquarters.

Further, the Finance Unit has been monitoring key financial indicators and has taken the actions required to maintain the Country Office's ACCLAIM status in the Integrated Financial Dashboard (IFD).

# PARTNERS

UNDP Eritrea acknowledges the Government of the State of Eritrea; our development partners; and our implementing partners. Their partnership has been invaluable.

## Our Partners

Ministry of Finance and National Development;  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs;  
Ministry of Marine Resources;  
Ministry of Energy and Mines;  
Ministry Local Government;  
National Statistics Office;  
Ministry of Justice;  
Ministry of Health;  
Ministry of Education;  
Ministry of Land, Water and Environment;  
Ministry of Agriculture;  
Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare;  
Ministry of Information;  
Office of the Auditor General;

## Civil Society Organizations:

National Union of Eritrean Women;  
National Union of Eritrean Youth and Students;  
National Confederation of Eritrean Workers;

## Education Institutions:

University of South Africa (UNISA);

## UN Agencies

IOM, African Development Bank

## Donors

Global Environment Facility (GEF), Central Emergency, Response Fund (CERF), Norway;

<b>UNDP Resources</b>	
<b>Funding Window 1,200,000</b>	<b>CERF 1,000,400</b>
<b>Total 2,200,400</b>	



UNDP Country Office in Eritrea, continues to benefit from a strong partnership with the Government of the State of Eritrea (GoSE) and Development Partners (DPs) in supporting the GoSE implement the SDGs; UNDP works as an integral part of the UN system laying a solid foundation for Delivering as One (DAO).



**For more information and enquiries**

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