# **NEWSLETTER**



UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME ERITREA

July-December **2023** 



UNDP Eritrea welcomes new Resident Representative Pa Lamin Beyai (PhD) on 21 September 2023

### **HIGHLIGHTS**



UNDP Eritrea welcomes new Resident Representative Pa Lamin Beyai (Ph.D.)

Joint commemoration held for International Day for the Eradication of Poverty and World Food Day 2023





International Youth Day 2023 celebrated in Eritrea

# UNDP Eritrea welcomes new Resident Representative



Pa Lamin Beyai (Ph.D.) was appointed UNDP Resident Representative in the State of Eritrea on 20 September 2023.

The new Resident Representative has over 29 years of technical, development management, and leadership experience, including over 24 years in the United Nations System.

On 21 September 2023, he was warmly welcomed by UNDP Staff in Eritrea to the UNDP Country Office in Asmara.

# UN in Eritrea marks 16 Days of Activism against GBV campaign

The UN Agencies in Eritrea marked the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence with an internal event at the UN Compound, including a fruitful session on the campaign and remarks by UN Resident Coordinator Aeneas Chapinga Chuma and UNFPA Representative for Eritrea Keita Ohashi, who is the UNCT Focal Point for Gender.

The campaign's main event was held under the leadership of the National Union of Eritrean Women (NUEW) on 8 December 2023 at the NUEW headquarters.



During the event, skilled Eritrean writers had an opportunity to present their papers on women's empowerment and gender equality.

The event was attended by NUEW President Tekea Tesfamicael, UN Agency personnel and government



officials. At the event, the UNDP Resident Representative in Eritrea reaffirmed UNDP's continued collaboration with the Government to gender support empowerment initiatives Eritrea gender mainstreaming and promoting equal opportunities. Our remarkable work in this area has been acknowledged by our Headquarters, leading to the award of a Bronze Certificate. We would like to dedicate the award to the Government, NUEW, and all our partners.

# Skills development enhanced for young Eritrean diplomats

As part of UNDP's ongoing partnership with Eritrea's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, in July 2023, 11 young diplomats completed a DELF A1 (Diplôme d'Etudes en Langue Française A1) course at the Alliance française d'Asmara.



The DELF A1 is a diploma granted by the French Ministry of Education that certifies skills in French at the A1 level of proficiency under the Common European Framework for Languages. By completing the course, these 11 young diplomats have advanced and developed their personal and professional French skills to be used in their future careers.

Their accomplishment of this important initial milestone was acclaimed by the Minister of Foreign Affairs, H.E. Osman Saleh Mohammed, who was present at the graduation ceremony, together with UN Resident Coordinator in Eritrea Aeneas Chapinga Chuma, UNDP Deputy Resident Representative Nashida Sattar and Muriel Soret, former Ambassador of France to Eritrea.

### Visible progress made on date production



The Joint Date Palm Initiative, launched in cooperation with the Government of the State of Eritrea, the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), and the International Fund for Agriculture Development (IFAD), aims to strengthen the date palm sector in Eritrea through the transfer of knowledge and technologies to Eritrean experts and farmers. Date palm cultivation has immense potential for expansion in the country. It represents an important opportunity to improve local communities' livelihoods by creating a value chain system. A robust date palm sector is also expected to contribute to key objectives, including food security, crop diversification, job creation, and gender and youth empowerment, while reducing emissions and acting as a carbon sink to reduce the impact of climate change.

In recent months, UNDP has continued contributing to capacity-building programmes by training more than 500 date palm researchers, planners and producers. It has also continued efforts towards strengthening the date palm sector by operationalizing the Date Palm Tissue Culture Laboratory,



(which now has a steady solar power system), establishing a packing house, and supporting the National Coordination Team through comprehensive technical support from an experienced international consultant. To increase future productivity, in alignment with the expansion plan to be achieved by 2030, 10,000 international date palm in vitro plants have recently been purchased.

## Young Eritrean diplomats trained in International Public Law

In line with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs capacity building plan, the Horn of Africa desk of the UN Departments of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs and Peace Operations (DPPA-DPO) Eastern Africa Division, in collaboration with the Office of the UN Resident Coordinator (RCO) and UNDP in Eritrea, conducted a training workshop on International Public Law in Asmara from 26 June to 7 July 2023. The 10-day training aimed to increase participants' understanding and enhance their abilities in navigating the legal framework governing international relations, encompassing international legal norms, institutions, and processes, and to provide guidance on peaceful dispute resolution.

Ambassador Negasi Sengal officially opened the training. The UN Resident Coordinator Aeneas Chapinga Chuma, and UNDP Deputy Resident Representative Nashida Sattar made remarks. The training was actively attended by 38 participants (of whom 18 were women), 23 young diplomats from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and 15 civil servants from the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Information, the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare, and the Ministry of Local Government.



In his opening remarks, Mr. Chuma commended the Government of the State of Eritrea for prioritizing human capital development on conflict prevention and resolution as one of the building blocks for growing peace and achieving sustainable development. He thanked the Government for providing the United Nations with the opportunity to engage with and contribute to co-creating Eritrea's vision for sustainable development.

# Strategic governance boosted through targeted training for government officials



The Ministry of Finance and National Development's Department of International Development Cooperation (MoFND-IDC), in collaboration with UNDP Eritrea, organized a virtual training on public policy comprised of four modules, which began on 31 July 2023 and ended on 22 September. The training was conducted by experienced instructors from the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy (LKYSPP), an autonomous graduate school under the National University of Singapore (NUS).

Established in 2004, LKYSPP is one of the best public policy schools in the world. Its parent university, NUS, is ranked the best in Asia and 11th in the world.

The overall objective of the training was to build capacity among the staff of MoFND-IDC and other government bodies in policy formulation and planning. The training was attended by 30 key government staff representing ten institutions: the Ministry of Finance and National Development, the Ministry of Agriculture, the Ministry of Marine Resources, the Ministry of Trade and Industry, the Ministry of Land, Water and Environment, the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Energy and Mines, the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare and the Ministry of Public Works. Out of the total 30 participants, 13.3% were female.

# Progress made towards rolling out GEF-UNDP projects in Eritrea

A significant development took place in early 2023 with the official lifting of the suspension of projects funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF), UNDP and the Government of the State of Eritrea: Project Information Management System (PIMS) 4633, Mainstreaming Climate Risk Considerations in Food Security and Integrated Water Resources Management in Tsilima Plain and Upper Catchment Area, and PIMS 5519 Restoring Degraded Forest Landscapes and Promoting Community-based, Sustainable and Integrated Natural Resource Management in the Rora Habab Plateau.



The suspension was lifted following a thorough review of project documents by independent consultants between June and September 2022, coupled with strategic recommendations from UNDP.

A preparedness plan was developed to ensure effective project implementation, fostering a mutually supportive environment between the Government of the State of Eritrea and UNDP. This laid the groundwork for the project's official launch. GEF identified multiple prerequisites to ensure effective implementation, including capacity-building for implementing partners and project management units, enhanced oversight capabilities at the Country Office, and comprehensive environmental and social safeguard assessments.



As a result, after the official opening and remarks by UNDP Deputy Resident Representative Nashida Sattar, a week-long preparedness workshop was held between 8 and 12 August 2023 to initiate project implementation by establishing necessary systems and capacities, fostering clarity in roles and addressing pre-launch requisites. Over 30 stakeholders took part under the lead of the Regional Technical Advisors, Tasila Banda and Muyeye Chambwera, the Regional Programme Support Officer, Francis Mbilima, and the Acting Director General for Environment of the Ministry of Land, Water and Environment, Kubrom Asmerom, in addition to the UNDP Country Office's Inclusive Sustainable Unit team. Sessions covered diverse topics such as management oversight, procurement procedures, environmental safeguards, and capacity-building strategies. Notably, fruitful high-level courtesy meetings were conducted between the UNDP team and key government figures, generating significant results in understanding the intricacies and expectations of GEF-funded projects.

The workshop concluded with consensus on crucial actions, including a common understanding of technical project requirements and the need to clarify roles and responsibilities and initiate capacity needs assessments. The engagement showcased a commitment to cooperation and understanding between all stakeholders.

### International Youth Day 2023 celebrated in Eritrea

In August and September 2023, activities and initiatives aimed at empowering Eritrean youth were undertaken to mark International Youth Day 2023. International Youth Day is a global awareness day highlighting the importance of engaging and empowering young people. It serves as a platform to recognize the contributions of young people, emphasizing the significance of supporting and nurturing the next generation.

Under the leadership of the National Union of Eritrean Youth and Students, in cooperation with UNDP, UNICEF, United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), and FAO, International Youth Day celebrations in Eritrea involved youth-led events, sports competitions, panel discussions and knowledge competitions that provided a platform for young people to showcase their talents, skills and ideas.

On 24 August 2023, a panel discussion on Green Skills for Youth: Towards a Sustainable World was held at the Junior Club in Asmara. During the panel discussion, UNDP Eritrea Programme Specialist Adam Habteab emphasized the importance of green skills for youth for sustainable development and discussed technical and institutional arrangements to realize this crucial developmental issue.



Activities organized by the National Union of Eritrean Youth and Students included a colorful tree planting on the outskirts of Asmara, with around 70 seedling trees planted by young people and UN staff.





The successful month-long celebration concluded in Nefast in the Northern Red Sea Region of Eritrea with several sports competitions, to encourage an active and healthy lifestyle among youth. International Youth Day celebrations are a testament to young individuals' incredible potential and power. They serve as reminders to society to invest in youth empowerment, creating opportunities for young people to thrive and contribute positively to their communities. International Youth Day recognises young people's achievements and aspirations, with a view to supporting their dreams and aspirations for a brighter future.

# SDG summit 2023 highlighted climate change, environment and innovation/digitalization



The 2023 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Summit took place from 18 to 19 September in New York. It began a new phase of accelerated progress towards meeting the SDGs, with high-level political guidance on transformative actions in the lead-up to 2030.

The SDG Summit 2023 provided a platform for countries to assess their progress in achieving the SDGs since their adoption in 2015. It is noteworthy that Eritrea was one of the very few countries that entered the UN SDGs period, having already achieved most of the health-related UN Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

This year in Asmara, the UN Country Office in Eritrea, in cooperation with UNDP, UNFPA, and UNICEF, organized a panel discussion on the SDGs with the National Union of Eritrean Youth and Students. The event, which was well attended by young Eritreans, aimed to educate participants on the SDGs and their targets, especially those on climate action (SDG 13), gender equality, and women's empowerment (SDG 5), and health and well-being (SDG 3). The discussion also served to showcase Eritrea's SDG implementation and achievements.

During the lively discussion, Nashida Sattar, UNDP Eritrea's Deputy Resident Representative, gave a presentation on climate change, the environment and innovation/digitalization, in which she highlighted the importance of innovation and digitalization as enablers for UNDP in the effort to achieve the SDGs.

# Joint commemoration held for International Day for the Eradication of Poverty and World Food Day 2023

On 17 October, under the themes of "Dignity for all in practice" and "Water is life, water is food: Leave no



one behind," a joint commemoration of the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty and World Food Day 2023 was hosted by the Ministry of Agriculture in collaboration with UNDP, FAO, and IFAD.

The event was held at the Undicismo Recreation Center in Embaderho, approximately 12 kilometers north of Asmara. In attendance were Ministers, government officials, members of the diplomatic community, and representatives of UN agencies.

In her remarks, the UNDP Eritrea's Deputy Resident Representative, Nashida Sattar, highlighted the importance of human dignity in commemorating the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty. Under the theme "Dignity for all in practice," the goal is to envision a world where no one is left behind.

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Ms. Sattar commended Eritrea's efforts to prioritize people and sustainable prosperity in its development programmes and policies. She recognized the country's ongoing initiatives to provide equal access to

socio-economic resources and opportunities, ensuring that all people can participate in the nation's political, social, cultural life. She acknowledged that more needs to be done to address the challenges eradicating poverty and strengthening the food system, climate resilience, clean water, and Ms. Sattar energy. highlighted UNDP's commitment to supporting Eritrea in these endeavours.

The colourful event ended with a recognition ceremony for winners of the UNDP Date Palm



Design Competition, launched in September 2023, and an award of certificates of appreciation to exemplary farmers for their outstanding contributions.

# Data for development improved through capacity-building

As part of UNDP Eritrea's effort to improve on data for development, between 2 and 25 October 2023, the National Statistics Office (NSO) organized a capacity-building training workshop on the application of



QGIS (Quantum Geographic Information System) and ODK (Open Data Kit).

The main aim of the training workshop was to raise the technical capacity of staff from NSO and other government institutions on the application of QGIS in spatial data collection, compilation, and analysis, as well as the use of ODK for data collection.

Geographic information system (GIS) applications such as ArcGIS and Quantum GIS (QGIS)

are important technologies that support the transformation of countries' censuses and sample Surveys to improve data collection, analysis and dissemination, enabling agencies to build accurate, authoritative and actionable data. NSO has previously used ArcGIS to collect and analyse spatial data. However, the decision was made to shift from ArcGIS to QGIS, which is more affordable and accessible since it is free and open source.

A total of 35 participants engaged in GIS-related work took part in the training workshop. Of these, the majority (22) were from NSO. The rest were drawn from the Ministry of Education (1), the Ministry of Health (1), the Ministry of Land, Water and Environment (1), the Ministry of Agriculture (1), the Eritrean Mapping and Information Center (1), the GIS and Statistics Departments of the six Regional Administration offices (6), the Ministry of Local Government (1) and the Ministry of Justice (1).



During the 21-day training, it was evident that integrating QGIS and ODK can streamline data collection and mapping processes. This can help ensure data accuracy and integrity, as well as enable the creation of insightful maps and reports vital for effective census and sample survey mapping for decision-making. This approach can also enhance the efficiency and accuracy of data collection, analysis, and visualization, contributing to more informed decision-making in various fields, including urban planning, public health, and environmental management.



On 17 November 2023, a training workshop on the financial analysis of investment projects, financed by UNDP Eritrea, was delivered by the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) to 15 professionals from the Ministry of Finance and National Development and the Ministry of Trade and Industry.

As part of the 2022–2023 work plan, the MoFND-IDC, with the support of UNDP, organized the training in Asmara to build capacity in the use of UNIDO's Computer Model for Feasibility Analysis and Reporting (COMFAR).

The Computer Model for Feasibility Analysis and Reporting is a tool developed by UNIDO for the financial and economic analysis of feasibility studies. This software helps to provide directions for business models and strategies, identify risk factors, ascertain the likelihood of project success, and increase project bankability. The tool helps to deliver high-quality pre-investment advice, which can lead to the development of bankable projects.

### Monitoring and evaluation field visit takes in Small Grant Programme projects

A team from the Small Grant Programme (SGP) National Steering Committee (NSC) made a monitoring and evaluation visit on 22 December 2023 to UNDP/GEF-SGP projects in the Eritrea Central Region.

The NSC members included representatives from the NUEW (1), the Ministry of Land, Water and Environment (3), the Ministry of Finance and National Development (1), the Ministry of Energy and Mines (1), the Forestry and Wildlife Authority (1) and the Ministry of Agriculture (1). The UNDP and SGP programme staff were also part of the mission. NSC members had the opportunity to visit GEF operational phase 6 (OP6) projects, which are in the final implementation phase, and to observe local communities



working at the project site. The team was able to meet all actors (stakeholders) of the projects. The NSC also visited completed projects from GEF operational phase 5 (OP5) to evaluate the impact of SGP community-based projects.

NSC members shared their views about the OP5 project, accomplished five years ago and has become a community-based protected area enclosure full of biodiversity and natural wealth. As a result of the permanent enclosure of 58 hectares, women's groups could produce honey and began to receive income from their work.

The visit was a good chance for the NSC to see the result of their contribution to the project's success; the NSC is the core element of SGP and provides a significant substantive contribution to and oversight of the programme, especially by developing SGP Country Programme Strategies and approving proposals from eligible candidates.

The OP5 project sites visited were in the villages of Embardae, Weki, and Quazien, and the project sites visited in their final phase were in the villages of Daero Paulos, Adi Raesi, Mesfinto, and Tsehaflam.

NUEW, the respective SGP grantees, and other stakeholders organized the visit. The team was accompanied by Ministry of Agriculture representatives, experts from different ministries, village administrators, and sub-region administrators.



### **SOCIAL MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS**

















Honored to present my credential letter to His Excellency Osman Saleh. Minister of Foreign Affairs of the State #Eritrea, this morning. I assured him of my commitment to work with the Gov. in achieving the #SDG especially noting Eritrea's commitment to social justice and #LNOB





Nashida Sattar, DRR @UNDPEr

"We collaborate with the GoSE to achieve the #SDGs focusing on income generation and environmental growth initiatives. One exciting project is date palm production which holds the potential for export and foreign currency earnings for #Eritrea"

### Development

Eritrea's Path to Sustainable Agriculture: Honoring World Food Day and the Fight Against Poverty













Ministry of Information, Eritrea 🤣

Eritrea participating at Global Climate Change Conference

senior Eritrean delegation led by Mr. Tesfay Gebreselasie, Minister of and, Water and Environment, is participating at the United Nations 28th

ilobal Climate Change Conference that was convened in Dubai on 30

leginning at the session from 1 December, deliberations regarding ractical political steps that should be taken to conduct sustained ction to save the planet from manmade climate change are being

resented in the presence of leaders and representatives of states and

finister Tesfay will make a remark during the occasion outlining the ritrean Government's position on tackling and reversing climate change. imilarly, on December 3, the Eritrean delegation will discuss Eritrea's

t the global conference that will convene until 12 December tens of nousands of leaders and representatives of states and Governments as

xperience mitigating the effects of climate change.

vell as experts from around the world are taking part.



Ministry of Information, Eritrea 🤣

Statement by H.E. Mr. Tesfai Ghebreselassie Sebhatu, Minister of Land, Water and Environment at UNFCCC- COP 28 - Dubai, UAE.





Ambassador of Finland, Mr. Pirkka Tapiola, Ambassador of Switzerland, Mr. Patrick Egloff, and UNDP Resident Representative, Mr. Pa Lamin Beyai, exchanging ideas on #Eri





Persons with disabilities are actors of change and possess unique knowledge and lived experiences of disability that others do not. On #IDPD and every day, let us work together for a better \$\mathbb{C}\$ that is inclusive, equitable and sustainable for everyone, everywl





Competition was held at the National Union of Eritrean Women HQ as part of the 16 days of Activism Campaign.

#### #Eritrea





### **Videos**















### **Publications**





Environment

Energy

Climate change

Climate adaptation

Disaster risk management

Food security

Natural resources management



implemented by the UNDP on behalf of the GEF partnership and is executed by the UNOPS.

Learn more on @UNDPEritrea Thematic Fact Sheet -Small Grant Programme -#Eritrea undp.org/eritrea/public...



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#### **Civil Society and NGOs:**

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National Board for Higher Education University of South Africa (UNISA)

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

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