

NEWSLETTER



UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME ERITREA

August - December
2025



UNDP Eritrea Country Office – Newsletter / August – December 2025

Celebrating 60 Years of Partnership: UNDP's Global Mission and its Enduring Impact in Eritrea



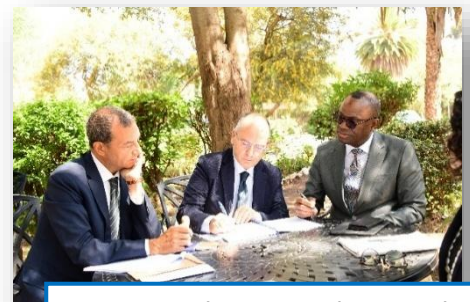
Ministry of Agriculture Receives 11,000 Date Palm Seedlings, Boosting UNDP-Supported Project



UNDP Regional Youth Innovation Exchange: Sharing Solutions, Forging



UNDP Appoints Cycling Star Biniam Ghirmay as National Goodwill Ambassador



New Partnership to Boost Climate-Resilient Farming in Eritrea

Celebrating 60 Years of Partnership: UNDP's Global Mission and its Enduring Impact in Eritrea

As the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) celebrates its 60th anniversary in 2025, it reflects on six decades of pioneering work to eradicate poverty, inequality, and climate change in over 170 nations. This global milestone underscores a commitment to innovative, lasting solutions for people and the planet.



In Eritrea, this anniversary honored a partnership spanning more than 30 years, beginning in 1992. To mark the occasion, UNDP Eritrea gathered personal reflections from its staff and produced a commemorative video chronicling key achievements, which was shared across UNDP's global platforms.

On 16 December 2025, UNDP Eritrea and key government partners convened for a one-day event to reflect on past successes and witness ongoing impact.



The day began at the Ministry of Information, where participants explored an advanced digitalization and archiving system.

The delegation then visited the community of Weki Zaghir in the Serejeka Subzone, where they observed tangible outcomes that showcase how local action, supported by national initiatives, drives sustainable development and strengthens community resilience. These visits powerfully illustrated how grassroots achievements align with national priorities and global goals.

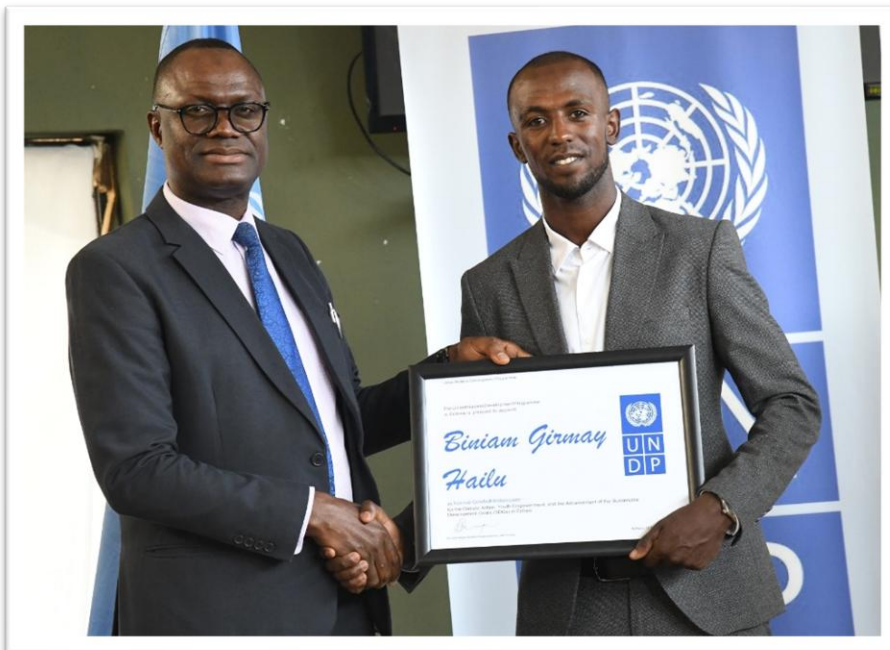


As UNDP turns 60, it reaffirms its commitment to evolve and innovate in the face of future challenges. This anniversary is more than a milestone—it is a renewed pledge. A promise reflected in every community project, every policy supported, and every individual empowered.

UNDP looks forward to deepening its enduring partnership with Eritrea, guided by the Sustainable Development Goals, to build a future of peace, dignity, and equality for all.

UNDP Appoints Cycling Star Biniam Ghirmay as National Goodwill Ambassador for Climate and Youth

12 August 2025, Asmara, Eritrea – In a powerful move to champion climate action and youth, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) has appointed Eritrean cycling champion Biniam Ghirmay as its newest National Goodwill Ambassador.



The 25-year-old history-maker, renowned for his groundbreaking victories in the Tour de France and Giro d'Italia, will leverage his platform and inspiring story to advocate for environmental sustainability, youth empowerment, and the role of sports in driving development.

The appointment ceremony in Hakose brought together government officials, UN leaders, and dignitaries, underscoring the significance of this partnership.

"Young people in Eritrea are creating inclusive, climate-resilient solutions," said Ghirmay. "We must ensure they are at the forefront of climate adaptability."

Mr. Pa Lamin Beyai, UNDP Resident Representative, praised the champion: "Biniam Ghirmay embodies the spirit of African youth. His influence will be instrumental in mobilising youth and advocating for environmental sustainability."

Ghirmay now joins a distinguished roster of UNDP advocates, including Nigerian artists Patoranking and Yemi Alade, signalling a strengthened alliance between African youth leaders and global efforts to forge a sustainable future.

Eritrea Launches Landmark Digital Customs System, Modernizing Trade

Eritrea has taken a major step toward economic modernization by launching ASYCUDA World, a modern digital customs management system developed by UNCTAD, with support from UNDP and international partners.



This milestone marks the culmination of a multi-year effort that began in early 2023 to replace the paper-based legacy system in use since 2007.

The new platform introduces automated processes that improve efficiency, transparency, and compliance with international standards. Designed to operate on a secure intranet, data exchange across all customs stations nationwide.

A core pillar of the initiative is national ownership and sustainability. Full transfer of the system's source code has empowered Eritrean IT experts to customize the platform to local needs.

This was supported by a 10-month capacity-building program launched in mid-2023 that trained over 100 customs officers, IT specialists, and private-sector clearing agents. The training focused on system administration, risk management, and digital clearance procedures.

The project also included infrastructure upgrades, such as installing servers and secure networking equipment across customs offices, ensuring reliable operations even in low-connectivity environments.

This digital transformation is expected to reduce clearance times, strengthen revenue collection, and support Eritrea's broader fiscal and trade reform agenda, positioning the country to better integrate into regional and global trade systems.

New Partnership to Boost Climate-Resilient Farming in Eritrea

On 8 October 2025, UNDP Eritrea, the Italian Embassy and the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation (AICS) signed the agreement for a new project: "Sustainable Smallholder Irrigated Agriculture in Arid and Semi-Arid Lands in Maekel, Anseba, and Gash Barka regions."



The signing marks a strategic expansion of UNDP's partnership with the Italian Government and represents a key milestone in mobilizing new donor support for climate adaptation and agricultural resilience in Eritrea.

The project will focus on introducing sustainable irrigation systems, promoting climate-smart agricultural techniques, and building the capacity of smallholder farmers in regions vulnerable to drought and land degradation. By enhancing water efficiency and crop productivity, the initiative aims to strengthen food security, improve livelihoods, and support communities in adapting to the impacts of climate change.



Aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals—particularly SDG 2 (Zero Hunger), SDG 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation), and SDG 13 (Climate Action)—this collaboration underscores a shared commitment

to fostering resilient, inclusive, and sustainable development for the people of Eritrea.

Ministry of Agriculture Receives 11,000 Date Palm Seedlings, Boosting UNDP-Supported Project

The Ministry of Agriculture of Eritrea welcomed a new shipment of 11,000 in vitro date palm plants in September 2025, marking another step forward in a nationwide project supported by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), IFAD, and FAO.



This delivery brings the total number of high-quality seedlings received since 2024 to 31,000. The initiative is a key part of ongoing efforts to strengthen and modernize Eritrea's agricultural sector by introducing resilient and productive plant varieties.

The Date Palm project aims to significantly boost the growth, yield, and sustainability of date production nationwide. By enhancing productivity, the initiative supports local farmers, promotes food security, and contributes to economic resilience.

Eritrea Commemorates International Poverty Day

On October 16, 2025, Eritrea marked International Day for the Eradication of Poverty and World Food Day with a joint event at Mai Nefhi Recreation Center under the theme: "Empowering Communities through Climate Action and Food Security." Led by the Ministry of Agriculture, the commemoration brought together government officials, UN agencies, development partners, and the diplomatic community to advocate for integrated solutions to hunger and poverty.



The event highlighted the strong link between food security and poverty eradication, emphasizing that climate resilience and community empowerment are key to sustainable development. In his keynote address, Mr. Tekleab Misgina, Director General of Regulatory Services at the Ministry of Agriculture, reaffirmed Eritrea's commitment to modernizing agriculture through advanced technologies, drought-resistant crops, and environmentally sustainable practices.

UNDP Resident Representative Dr. Pa Lamin Beyai stressed the need for integrated approaches, citing ongoing climate-resilient agricultural initiatives across the country.

The commemoration concluded with an agricultural exhibition showcasing local harvests, innovative farming techniques, and value-added products, alongside cultural performances that honored the resilience of farmers and communities.

This joint observance served as a powerful reminder that ending hunger and poverty requires shared vision, sustained action, and strong partnerships.

Advancing Evidence-Based Policy Through National Data

UNDP, in collaboration with UN partners, supported Eritrea's National Statistics Office (NSO) to advance the country's first Population and Health Survey in many years. This effort focuses on strengthening methodological rigor and national ownership through finalizing survey instruments, refining tabulation plans, and conducting stakeholder consultations.

To achieve comprehensive national coverage, UNDP provided critical logistical and field support, including vehicles, enabling teams to reach remote and underserved communities. The resulting data will be disaggregated by sex, age, and region, establishing a vital evidence base for national planning, SDG monitoring, and inclusive, gender-responsive policymaking.

This initiative marks a critical investment in data-driven decision-making, directly contributing to more equitable development outcomes across Eritrea.

UNDP Eritrea Staff Join Tree-Planting Drive for Climate Action and Team Spirit

On 05 September 2025, UNDP Eritrea staff came together for a special community-wide tree-planting activity as part of the UNDP People for 2030 initiative. The event, held in Biet Gherghis, was organized in partnership with the Forest and Wildlife Authority (FWLA) in the Maekel region, which generously donated seedlings and provided expert guidance.



In total, 240 seedlings of *Olea Africana* and *Gynophores procera* were planted, reinforcing UNDP's commitment to climate resilience, ecosystem restoration, and the Global Goals, particularly Climate Action (SDG13) and Life On Land (SDG15). Beyond its environmental impact, the activity provided a meaningful opportunity to strengthen team bonds while contributing to the local environment.

UNDP extends its sincere gratitude to the FWLA for its partnership in making this initiative a success.

UNDP Regional Youth Innovation Exchange: Sharing Solutions, Forging Futures

On 23 September 2025, youth innovators from Eritrea, Malawi, Tanzania, and Zambia came together for an inspiring online cross-learning session, facilitated by UNDP's Regional Service Centre for Africa (RSCA) and led by UNDP Eritrea. This dynamic exchange aimed to strengthen collaboration among young innovators in the Region.



Each country's youth focal person delivered a short presentation highlighting the key pillars, challenges, and successes of their national youth innovation ecosystems.

The session provided a platform for knowledge sharing, network building, and exploring opportunities to connect local innovators with pan-African networks—a critical step toward scaling impact and accelerating progress on the Global Goals.

From innovative prototypes to community-driven projects, participants showcased solutions addressing climate resilience, digital inclusion, and economic empowerment.

The exchange also set the stage for future collaboration, including partner showcases, crowdfunding campaigns, and cross-border knowledge sharing to ensure these innovations reach the communities that need them most.



UNDP Goodwill Ambassador Initiative in Action: Championing Youth Through Sport

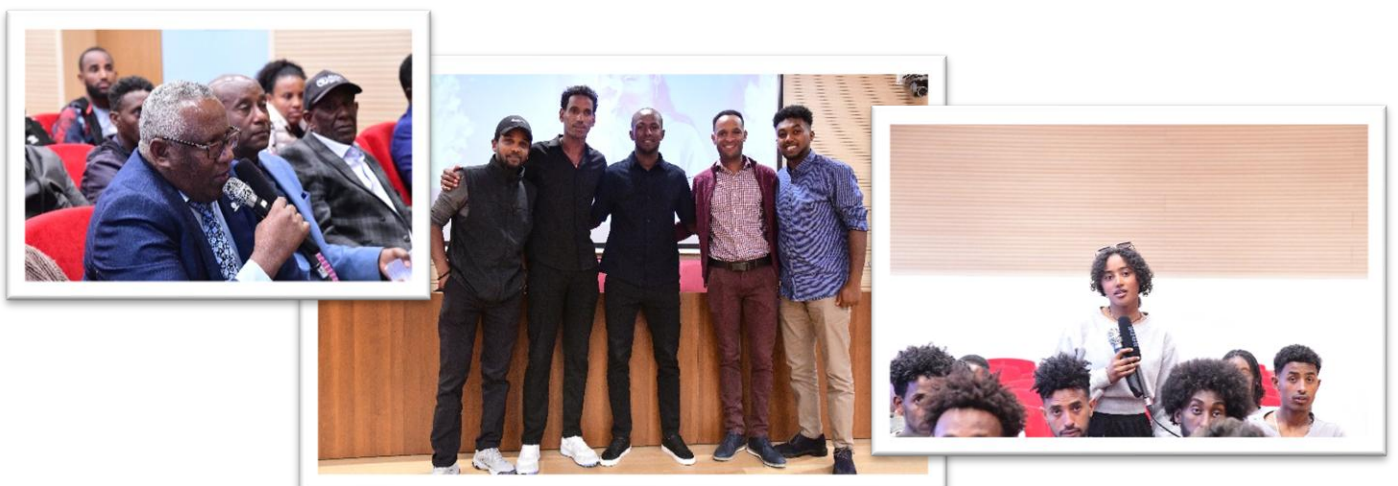
On 19 November 2025, the UNDP Goodwill Ambassador Initiative turned its powerful spotlight to youth empowerment in Eritrea. UNDP Eritrea, in close collaboration with the Sport Commission, hosted an inspiring dialogue titled “The Champion's Mindset: A Youth Dialogue on Sport, Nutrition, and Empowerment,” bringing together national icons and aspiring young athletes for a transformative exchange.



The event featured a distinguished panel including UNDP Goodwill Ambassador Biniam Girmay, alongside cycling legends Natnael Berhane and Daniel Teklehaimanot. Together, they shared powerful, personal insights on resilience, discipline, and harnessing the power of sport to build a future of purpose and excellence.

Complementing this dialogue, experts Huruy and Surafel provided valuable, actionable guidance on nutrition and wellness, equipping young athletes with the practical knowledge needed to optimize their performance and long-term health. Engaged participants, including promising cyclists and sport officials, explored how athletics can drive youth empowerment, social inclusion, and community development.

This event powerfully illustrated the unique value of the UNDP Goodwill Ambassador Initiative. By lending his voice and personal journey, Biniam Girmay helped bridge the gap between aspiration and achievement, transforming inspiration into tangible lessons for the next generation. His engagement amplifies UNDP’s mission, proving that local champions are essential catalysts for motivating youth, advocating for healthy lives, and driving sustainable development from the ground up.



PUBLICATIONS HIGHLIGHTS



Check out @UNDP_Eritrea latest op-ed on #Eritrea's journeys towards climate resilience and food security, empowering families and communities.
[A Resilient Eritrea- Community Action for Prosperous Future @UNDPAfrica](#)

Yemane G. Meskel @hawelti · Oct 22, 2025
 A Resilient #Eritrea - Community Action for a Prosperous Future; by UNDP Eritrea

"...Eritrea's journey stands as robust evidence of this principle. The nation has demonstrated strong leadership by investing in the bedrock of sustainability..."
[Show more](#)

OPINION & ANALYSIS



UNDP Eritrea @UNDP_Eritrea · Jan 9
 #Eritrea has launched its landmark digital customs system, ASYCUDA World, to modernize trade. This fully customizable platform replaces decades of paperwork, boosts revenue, and cuts clearance times.

The project features solar-powered servers, intranet-based operations, and
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UNDP Africa



LOCAL NEWS

UNDP CELEBRATES 60TH ANNIVERSARY, REINFORCES COMMITMENT TO ERITREA



The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Office in Eritrea recently marked the 60th anniversary of the organization's establishment, affirming its enduring partnership and future cooperation with the State of Eritrea.

To commemorate the occasion, members of the UNDP office conducted a site visit yesterday, December 16, 2025, to the Ministry of Information premises and the community-centered Weki afforestation enclosure.

During their visit to the Ministry of Information, the UNDP delegation was briefed on the Ministry's mission and previous programs, collaborative initiatives that have been implemented, and future areas identified for cooperation.

The delegation then proceeded to the Weki afforestation enclosure in the Serjeka Sub-Zone of the Central Region. This prominent, protected site is a key component of Eritrea's national efforts to combat land degradation, promote the natural regeneration of vegetation, and improve overall environmental stability through

soil and water conservation. The afforestation project launched its initial operational activities in 2013, following its commencement in 2010.

In remarks delivered at the event, Eng. Mebrahtu Eyasu, Director General of Water Resources at the Ministry of Land, Water and Environment (MLWE), noted that the commemoration underscores the importance of sustainability, sound ecosystem management, and human capacity development. He emphasized that these principles are fully aligned with Eritrea's collective national development vision.

Dr. Pa Lamin Beyai, UNDP Resident Representative in Eritrea, highlighted that the event—organized in celebration of UNDP's six decades of work—reaffirms the organization's commitment to strengthening partnerships, expanding community outreach, and supporting collaborative initiatives across various sectors. Dr. Beyai concluded by expressing the UNDP's continued readiness to support impactful development efforts in the country.



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UNDP APPOINTS CYCLING CHAMPION BINIAM GHIRMAY AS NATIONAL GOODWILL AMBASSADOR FOR CLIMATE ACTION AND YOUTH EMPOWERMENT

UNDP Appoints Cycling Champion Biniam Ghirmay as National Goodwill Ambassador for Climate Action and Youth Empowerment

AUGUST 12, 2025



12 August 2025, Asmara, Eritrea – The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) has appointed Biniam Ghirmay, a 25-year-old Eritrean cycling champion and trailblazer, as its newest National



MINISTRY OF INFORMATION

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Innovations for shaping a better future

By : Bana Negusse

Last Updated Oct 31, 2025



Last Friday, I had the pleasure of attending the Innovation Competition in Asmara, organized by the United Nations in Eritrea as part of the UN Day 2025 celebrations. The exhibition, hosted at Asmara Palace, highlighted themes of Climate Action, Energy, Agriculture, and Technology.

The competition featured nearly thirty submissions, covering topics from agriculture and food security to education, the economy, artificial intelligence, and...
 Innovators came from across the country, representing both men and women.
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Ministry of Information, Eritrea @shabait · Oct 18, 2025

Commemorating Global Priorities: A Unified Fight against Hunger and Poverty
 By : - Mussie Efreem

This week, the world observed two critical global events that are deeply intertwined: World Food Day and the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty. Both serve as reminders
[Show more](#)



SOCIAL MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS

You reposted
Biniam Girmay @GrmayeBiniam · Aug 14, 2025
 I am deeply honored to accept this appointment as UNDP Eritrea's Goodwill Ambassador. This is not just a personal honor, but a profound responsibility. As UNDP Goodwill Ambassador, I will strive to use my influence for the greater good, advocating for climate action and

UNDP Eritrea @UNDPERitrea · Aug 12, 2025
 BREAKING: Eritrean cycling champ Biniam Ghirmay joins @UNDP as the National Goodwill Ambassador for Climate Action and Youth Empowerment for Eritrea! 🌱

From making history at the Tour de France, Biniam is now championin...
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UN Development @UNDP
 Today, @UN Secretary-General @antonloguterres announced @alexanderdecroo as our new UNDP Administrator.
 We look forward to working together to help eradicate poverty, reduce inequalities and build resilience.
 Join us in wishing him a warm welcome! go.undp.org/IWq



UNDP Eritrea @UNDPERitrea
 Warmest seasonal greetings from the team at UNDP #Eritrea .



UNDP Eritrea @UNDPERitrea
 "Strong policy and health integration make #Eritrea a leader in the regional fight against FGM/C."
 #16DaysOfActivism
 #NoExcuse



UNDP Eritrea @UNDPERitrea
 Happy UN Day 2025!

A day to honor our shared commitment to global cooperation and sustainable development. Together, let's strive for a future where every voice is heard and every community thrives.
 #Eritrea
 @UNinEritrea



You reposted
UN Eritrea @UNinEritrea · Aug 20, 2025
 In 2024, #Eritrea restored 2,830 hectares of degraded land and scaled solar-powered water systems—combining ecosystem renewal with clean energy to strengthen climate resilience.

#ClimateAction
 #SDG13



You reposted
Nahla Valji @nahlav · Oct 22, 2025
 Today, in honor of #UNDAY80, #Eritrea hosted a first of its kind panel discussion on self-reliance and principled partnerships. Government, partners, academics, and UN colleagues gathered for an open and frank conversation—highlighting Eritrea's unique approach and commitment to Show more



VIDEOS

UNDP Eritrea
@UNDP_Eritrea

This commemorative video celebrates 60 years of UNDP's global mission through the lens of its enduring partnership in #Eritrea, established in 1992.

Focusing on collaborative achievements—from ecosystem restoration to community empowerment—the video showcases how this long-term partnership works hand in hand with the Government of Eritrea and the people, supporting national priorities to build resilience and foster inclusive growth.

Watch full video here - youtube.com/watch?v=Ep4e_s...

#UNDP60

UNDP Eritrea
@UNDP_Eritrea

What if the solution for clean cooking and climate action is already on the farm? 🌱

In Eritrea, farming communities are turning cow manure into a powerful resource. A simple biogas system provides families with clean fuel, reduces dependence on firewood, protects local forests, and creates organic fertilizer—all while capturing methane, a potent greenhouse gas.

This project in Merghida farm, which has been successfully replicated in Geremi village, shows how local, inclusive innovation builds healthier communities and a more sustainable future.

👉 Watch how it works here: youtube.com/watch?v=ukSS4I...

@GEF_SGP #CleanEnergy #ClimateAction #Eritrea #Biogas #SustainableAgriculture #RenewableEnergy #Inclusion #UNDP

UNDP Eritrea
@UNDP_Eritrea

UNDP #Eritrea staff joined hands for a special community wide tree-planting activity. This effort was carried out in partnership with and under the expert guidance of the Forest and Wildlife Authority in the Maekeel region.

Together, we planted 240 seedlings of Olea Africana, and Gynophores procera in the area of Biet Gherghis.

This initiative represents our commitment to supporting national goals for climate resilience and ecosystem restoration. It is a direct contribution to the #GlobalGoals, particularly #ClimateAction (SDG13) and #LifeOnLand (SDG15).

We extend our sincere gratitude to the Forest and Wildlife Authority in the Maekeel region for their invaluable partnership.

#UNDP_Eritrea #GreeningEritrea #TreePlanting #PartnershipsForTheGoals #SDGs #Sustainability #Peoplefor2030

UNDP Eritrea
@UNDP_Eritrea

Turning/Changing Farm Waste, Empowering Communities with organic fertilizer, clean and sustainable energy- This World Disability Day

In the village of Geremi, Serejeka sub region, Maekeel region #Eritrea, a remarkable project of biogas implemented by Eritrean National Disabled Veterans Association, a successful replicate of the UNDP SGP in Merghida Farm, Adi Keigh Sub region, Dehub region.

This initiative not only protects the environment but also empowers veterans and their families, showcasing resilience, innovation, and inclusion in action.

On #WorldDisabilityDay, we celebrate projects that drive opportunity and sustainability for all.

Hear directly from Dahab Hagos and Tesfu Berhe about how this biogas project is improving lives and paving the way for a greener future.

👉 Watch their story here below.

#Inclusion #CleanEnergy #Eritrea #UNDP #SGP #Biogas #ClimateAction #RenewableEnergy #ClimateAction #CommunityDevelopment

@UNDPAfrica @GEF_SGP

UNDP Eritrea
@UNDP_Eritrea

What does it take to build a champion's mindset?

Find out from the inspiring Youth Dialogue interviews featuring cycling veterans and UNDP Goodwill Ambassador, @GrmayBiniam!

Catch the highlights of the interview on @ERITV_Official's Open Mic segment below 👇
youtube.com/watch?v=4K_X-...

"Biniam's story, and the stories of Natnael and Daniel, are not just about winning races. They are masterclasses in showing what is possible with dedication and discipline. UNDP is proud to stand with you, and with our invaluable partners at the Commission of Culture and Sports and the #Eritrea National Cycling Federation, on this journey." @NashidaSattar

#ChampionsMindset
@UNDPAfrica
@GrmayBiniam
@Natnaelb2
@DanielTeklehai1

youtube.com/watch?v=4K_X-...
Professional Cyclists sharing their experience and advice to young cyclists

UNDP Eritrea @UNDP_Eritrea · Sep 30, 2025

🌱 From making history at the Tour de France to championing sustainable development, Biniam Girmay continues to inspire.

His journey now takes a powerful turn—advocating for climate action, youth empowerment, and the transformative power of sport as a @UNDP_Eritrea's Goodwill

Show more

TRT Afrika 📺 @trtafrika · Sep 30, 2025

Eritrean cycling sensation Biniam Girmay, who made history in 2024 at the Tour de France as the first Black African to claim a stage victory in the race, tells TRT Afrika about his next steps after being named UNDP Eritrea's Goodwill Ambassador, giving him a global platform

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To feature in the next edition, please contact:

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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).