



UNDP ERITREA ANNUAL REPORT

2019



Acknowledgment

UNDP Eritrea acknowledges the Government of Eritrea, our development partners, civil society, and implementing partners, that play a critical role in the quest and implementation of sustainable development.

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

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INTRODUCTION

A word from the Resident Representative

I have the pleasure to present the 2019 Annual Report of UNDP Eritrea. This report is the first since the signing of the Ethio-Eritrea peace treaty in July, 2018 which marked an important and historic milestone in the development landscape of the Horn of Africa. The signing of the agreement laid the foundation for resumption of bilateral diplomatic relations and the strengthening of economic development, political cooperation and stability, thus creating a conducive environment for durable peace and sustainable development.

In 2019, UNDP made a stellar contribution to Eritrea's ambitious development agenda by investing US\$ 9 million in various fields of development. This partnership was anchored on national priorities espoused in the various national planning instruments, UNDP Country Programme Document (CPD) (2017-2021) and aligned to the Strategic Partnership Cooperation Framework (SPCF) (2017-2021). The support was framed around the three pillars of the CPD inter-alia, promoting inclusive growth and livelihoods; sustainable natural resource management, resilience to climate change and disasters; and capacity -building for accountable institutions, public administration and service delivery.

In the true spirit of partnership and cooperation, UNDP will continue to anchor its support based on the national ownership of the programmes that address the needs and aspirations of the people of Eritrea. The delivery of our programmes in 2019 was also made possible through a coalition of partnership with sister UN Agencies and development partners, including Global Environmental Facility (GEF), Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, Japan and European Union (EU).

I also acknowledge the leadership of the UN Resident Coordinator, Ms. Susan Ngongi and the entire Resident Coordinator Office (RCO) for



James Wakiaga, UNDP Resident Representative, Eritrea

providing leadership and coordination to UN Eritrea to deliver as one (DaO) in achieving development results for Eritrea.

Indeed, the success of our programmes could not have been possible without the full cooperation of Ministry of National Development (MND), our main government interlocutor, and I wish to salute H.E. Giorgis Tesfamichael and the staff of the Ministry for providing astute leadership and guidance during the implementation of the programmes.

We look forward to strengthening our partnership with the Government and people of Eritrea in the coming years by building on the developmental gains collectively achieved over the past years. The Nextgen UNDP will certainly remain a neutral broker and a partner of choice for Eritrea!

ERITREA

Country Presentation

Eritrea is located in the Horn of Africa region and borders the Republic of Sudan to the west and northwest, the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia to the south, the Republic of Djibouti to the southeast and the Red Sea to the East. It covers 122,000 square kilometers including the Dahlak Archipelago near Massawa and several Hanish Islands in the Red Sea. It is home to an estimated 3.5 million people according to the National Statistics Office (NSO) estimates of 2014.

The country's geography can be split into three major zones namely the lowlands in the west, the highlands in the central and northern regions and plains in the coastal region. Temperatures range from 17° Celsius (62.6° F) in the highlands to as high as 40° - 50° Celsius (100° F - 122° F).

In the highlands, Eritrea receives about 508 mm (20 inches) of rainfall annually while the eastern coastal areas receive the unpredictable, "little rains" (belg) during October to March as other areas get "main rains" (kiremti) from June to September.

The Eritrean economy is largely based on subsistence agriculture and pastoralism. Although arable land accounts for only 12 percent of land use, about 65 per cent of the country's population resides in rural areas and relies on crop and rain-fed agriculture, livestock and fisheries for employment and income.



UNDP, 25 years in Eritrea

In Eritrea, UNDP has been an important sustainable development partner and a champion for the past 25 years (1994 – 2019). Its accredited country office activities started with a Liaison Office in March 1992. In January 1994, the Liaison Office was upgraded into a fully-fledged country office after a successful UN-supervised referendum in 1993.

In 2019, in Eritrea the UNDP is celebrating 25 years of transformative service in partnership with the Government and the people of the State of Eritrea. Over the last 25 years, the UNDP has remained a trusted partner of choice and a dependable friend accompanying Government within the evolving contexts of national development priorities in the areas of capacity development, institutional strengthening, resettlement of internally displaced persons, and implemented Program for Refugee Reintegration and Rehabilitation of Resettlement Areas in Eritrea.



UNDP staff, first Liaison Office in March 1992, ©UNDP



3.5 million
Estimated population
(2010)



182 out of 189
Human Development Index
ranking (2019)
0.434
HDI value



65.9
Life expectancy
at birth
(2018 UNDP HDR)



5.0
Expected years
of schooling
(2018 UNDP HDR)



1,708
GNI per capita
(2011 PPP\$)

Between 2005 and 2018,

Eritrea's HDI value increased by **2.2%** from 0.424 to 0.434.

Between 1990 and 2018,

Life expectancy at birth increased by **16.4** years,

Mean years of schooling increased by **0.2** years,

Expected years of schooling increased by **1.2** years and

GNI per capita by about **90.7%**.

Sources: UNDP (2014); UNICEF (2014); World Bank (2013); GoSE EPHS (2010); UNDP HDR (2019).



UNDP's ERITREA : Contributions to the UN Cooperation Framework

From promoting Inclusive and Sustainable Development, to advancing effective governance, UNDP continues to support Eritrea's efforts to improve lives and strengthen national institution.

In the third year of implementing the UNDP Country Programme Document (CPD) for Eritrea 2017 - 2021, and the Strategic Partnership Cooperation Framework (SPCF) 2017 - 2021, UNDP's work in 2019 continued to advance Eritrea's development agenda towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

In 2019, leveraging on ongoing initiatives, UNDP's interventions were delivered within the four signature solutions of the principles of UNDP Strategic Plan (SP): keeping people out of poverty; consolidating governance for peaceful, just, and inclusive societies; supporting nature-based and homegrown environmental resilient solutions for development and women's empowerment and gender equality.

Our two key portfolios:

1. Inclusive and Sustainable Development portfolio promotes;

- Environment/Natural Resource Conservation;
- Food Security and Sustainable Livelihoods;
- Disaster Risk Management (DRM) & Resilience Building;
- Energy/ Renewable;

2. Strategic Governance portfolio focuses on;

- Youth employment and skills development;
- Enhancing Human and Institutional Capacity in the Justice Sector including human rights and advancement of the UPR;
- Enhancing the capacity of key Governmental Institutions to deliver public services;

SDGs Addressed



SDGs Addressed



Our work through the years focus on supporting the Eritrean Government's long-term development strategies, to achieve Sustainable Development Goals of the focus areas listed above.

Inclusive and Sustainable Development

Development can be achieved when lives' change is inclusive and sustainable.

Our work in this area in 2019 focused on supporting the Government of the State of Eritrea's strategies and programmes towards curbing the country's vulnerabilities to a range of environmental and food security challenges, including droughts, soil erosion, moisture stress, land and biodiversity degradation.

In addition to the medium and long-term environmental benefits to be gained from these actions in the form of enriched groundwater recharge, decreased soil erosion and improved soil fertility, improved crop and livestock productivity, households have also financially benefited from these activities through cash for work scheme.

Through UNDP's technical and financial support, a range of sustainable ecosystem-based natural resource conservation and land restoration measures were implemented: construction of 930.7Km hillside and on-farm terraces, and 7,880m3 of check-dams (115 units in number) and planting of 62,800 tree species. In addition, over 13,000 hectares of marine and terrestrial habitats were put under strict biodiversity protection and natural restoration.

Key partners

- Ministry of National Development;
- Ministry of Land, Water and Environment;
- Ministry of Agriculture
- Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare
- Ministry of Mines and Energy



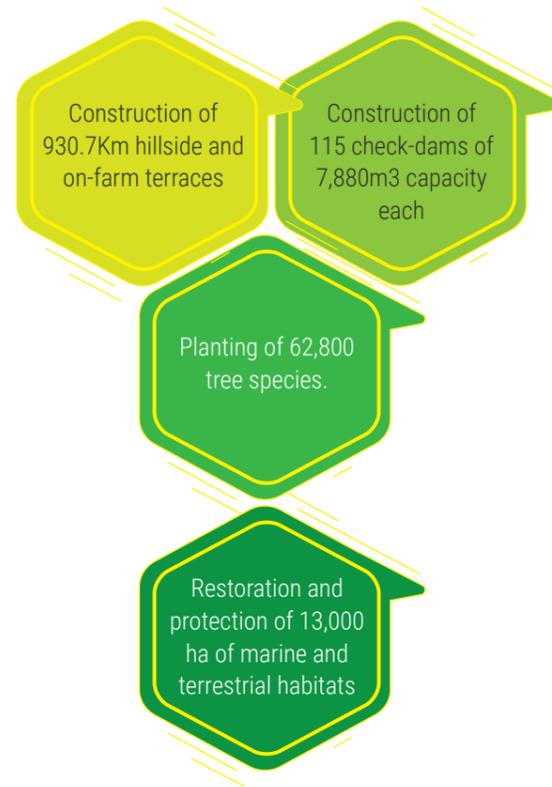




Improved food security and livelihood through sustainable environmental management

Through UNDP environment related support, 24,600 men and women (60% women) rural framers were supported with livelihoods investment during the year 2019.

This livelihood enhancement of targeted rural farming communities was realized through the implementation of a range of sustainable ecosystem-based natural resource conservation and land restoration measures that included:



Renewable energy - Solar PV Mini Grids for the Rural Towns of Areza and Maidma and 28 Surrounding Villages

Through UNDP and European Union jointly funded project, in 2019, around 500 households or about 2,500 people of sub-towns of Maidima and Areza have been able to access solar powered renewable energy following the installation of two photo-voltaic mini-grids of a combined 2.4 MW (Areza 1.25 MWp) and (Maidma 1 MWp).

Installation of power distribution system for the neighbouring 33 villages is estimated to be completed in June 2021. The overall objective of the project is to provide clean, affordable and sustainable supply of electricity for 8,000 households or 40,000 people in sub-towns of areza and Maidma and rural surrounding villages that are far from the national grid and have limited or no access to modern energy.

Moreover, over 500 small enterprises, 15 schools, 2 kindergartens, 2 community hospitals, and 5 health stations will benefit from the power system.

Access to reliable electricity will support wider economic growth and social development in the region. The project is also expected to have

beneficial impacts on the environment through reduced dependence by the local communities on traditional biomass fuels, reduction of kerosene use for home lighting and emission of greenhouse gases.

Main achievements

- Provision of power generation part of the Solar PV System of both stations (Maidima and Areza) and Power distribution Part of the Solar PV
- Domestic energy and clean water pumping provided for over 40,000 people, 513 small and medium enterprises, 80 community services, e.g. CBOs and administration offices; social services (15 schools (serving about 12,000 school age children) and 2 kindergartens (500 kids), 2 community hospitals (40,000 people), and 5 health stations (25,000 people).





Disaster Risk Management

UNDP, through the Disaster Risk Reduction programme, supported 120 rural vulnerable households to enhance their livelihood and avoid drought-induced shocks. Under this scheme, the targeted vulnerable families were provided with income generating support of their choice to build their resilience and to enable them to be self-supporting.

UNDP also supported 10 rural communities in the central highland to curb the negative impacts of recurrent drought through helping them build 36 check-dams and adopt climate-smart agricultural practices such as efficient water use, improved cultural practices, planting drought tolerant improved seeds and training.

This intervention is expected to have medium and long-term positive impact in terms of conservation of moisture, enriching ground water, and increasing crop and livestock productivity.

70 rural female headed households, affected by drought, were supported to enhance their livelihood and to build their resilience.

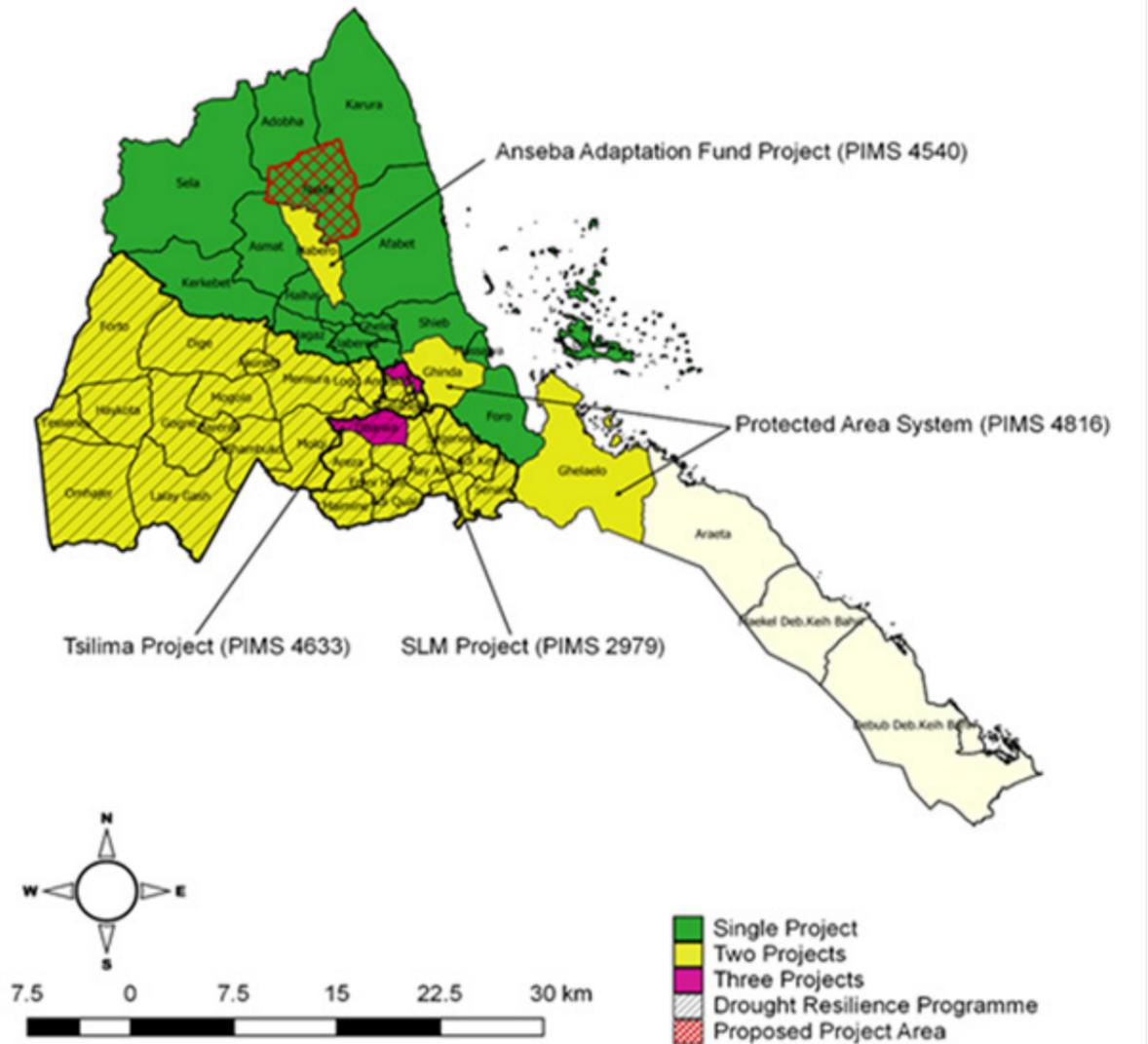
Main achievements:

- Increased water availability and accessibility to support agricultural production systems in the Anseba region;
- Enhanced crop and livestock productivity of farmers, leading to increased and better nutrition for households and increased income through the sales of fruits, vegetables, forage, milk, etc.;
- Rehabilitation and stabilization of degraded lands through soil and water conservation techniques as adaptation measure;
- Diversification of livelihoods to increase livelihood options and resilience to climate risks as an adaptation measure;
- Acquisition of skills through training on climate adaptation measures in the water, agriculture and forestry sectors.;
- Installation of meteorological stations as a necessary foundation for generating future climate data and providing climate information to farmers;

1,680 women headed households supported with energy efficient cooking stoves.
This resulted in reduced fuel consumption leading to decreased deforestation and a positive impact on women's health



Map indicating location of UNDP supported projects (Environment, Energy and Food Security) in Eritrea



Strategic Governance

Good governance is vital for achieving sustainable Development.

UNDP engagements in this area continue to deepen as it works with the Government of the State of Eritrea and non-state actors to create national capacities in priority areas that contribute towards the achievements of the SDGs and Eritrea's regional and international commitments.

In 2019, with UNDP support, the Government of the State of Eritrea enhanced its Public Financial Management and Auditing system, promoted decent working environment, enhanced effective and robust social dialogue and workers industrial skills, improved public awareness on various topics and increased knowledge on Eritrea situation, national capacity building of government ministries and institutions in various development sectors through transfer of knowledge of Eritrean professionals in the Diasporas.

Key partners

- Ministry of National Development
- National Statistics Office
- Ministry of Justice
- Ministry of Health
- Ministry of Education
- Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare
- Ministry of Information
- Office of the Auditor General
- National Union of Eritrean Youth and Students
- National Union of Eritrean Women
- National Confederation of Eritrean Workers
- National board for Higher Education

Capacity building to Visual Arts

The training, supported by three Eritrean Diaspora professionals sought to empower the film makers with knowledge, wider experience, thought, perspectives and new technology in film making.

In addition, a design model of studio construction for Audio Visual Institute of Eritrea has been delivered. Other beneficiaries of this project include the National Union of Eritrean Youth and Students who received support for design, documentation, ICT infrastructure, and data collection methodology, Advancement of social media plan and activities, upgrading youth skills, translating historical documents, consulting and assisting the Diaspora desk

86 filmmakers trained for 5 weeks on film making

32 women among those trained

Eritrean volunteer Diaspora professionals in the National Capacity Development

In 2019, UNDP has been supporting the Ministry of Health (MoH) to engage Eritrean volunteer diaspora professionals in the National Capacity Development to establish an Electronic Medical Record System (EMRS).

This has contributed to a significant improvement in patient record system, healthcare management, data warehousing, database administration and architecture. This process has seen the MoH transfer the paper-based medical records to a digital platform, Creating Database (DBA).

In addition, the provision of easy access to an automated, accurate and comprehensive medical records' system of patients has started playing a vital role in the provision of adequate health care services.

The EMR System has shown 95% progress in facilitating the implementation of health care services. The Ministry of Health also has shown great interest to continue with the new system that significantly avoids paperwork and improves efficiency. Training on the system was provided to MoH staff including doctors, nurse, interns, students, receptionists, thereby increasing their skills.





Enhancing Human and Institutional Capacity in the Justice Sector

UNDP is geared toward achieving quality service delivery in an accessible, efficient, expedient, accountable, and fair manner.

In 2019, UNDP supported the Ministry of Justice to initiate a process to build an accountable and responsive judicial system that would respond to the needs of the people by adopting modern management ethos.

One of its vision is to create an e-justice system and to re-engineer court proceedings, to guarantee a better and, more robust and strong judicial system that will ensure efficient allocation of resources and enable a more responsive and accountable management system.

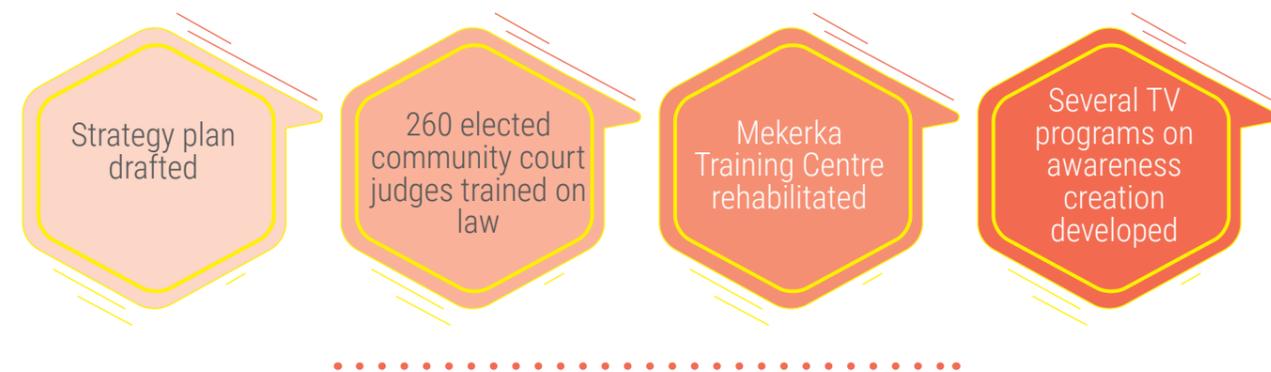
As part of its support to the Ministry of Justice, a capacity building program was initiated with the University of South Africa (UNISA).

The 4 years Programme provides:

a) short-term, fast-tracked course on specialized and leadership areas, some of which are tailored to the requirements as specified by the MoJ;

b) LLM/MBL courses, specifically designed as required and fast tracked;

The financial and advisory support provided to the Ministry of Justice focused on improving its human and institutional capacity. UNDP supported the MoJ in drafting the Strategy Plan, that provides training on national laws to the 260 newly elected community court judges, as well as the rehabilitation of the Mekerka Training center, and the development of a number of TV programs to create awareness on tangible issues that are most relevant to the lives of community members, all broadcasted on Eritrean TV.



Mainstreaming Human Rights and implementing the UPR recommendations

In 2018/2019, UNDP provided sustained financial and advisory support and technical assistance in strengthening Eritrea's key institutions to engage and implement the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) recommendations in the follow up process. The exercise led Eritrea to actively participate in the third cycle of the Universal Periodic Review, meaningfully engaging in the interactive dialogue about human rights. The commitment and willingness of the Government of the State of Eritrea to be pro-active in matters related to Human Rights Mechanisms allowed the country to apply and subsequently become a member of the UN Human Rights Council in January 2019.

It is to be noted that UNDP supported the Government of the State of Eritrea (GoSE) to prepare and present the 3rd Cycle UPR National Report (2014–2018) that focused on the implementation of the 92 accepted recommendations in the 2nd cycle UPR. It was spearheaded by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) in coordination with relevant ministries, institutions, national civic organizations and coordinated by a UPR National Coordinating Body (NCB). In accordance with the UPR report, 80 recommendations (85.87%) have been fully implemented whilst 12 recommendations (14.13%) have been partially implemented.

Capacity building

Public Audit in Eritrea

In 2019, UNDP continued to support the organizational and operational aspects of the OAG by developing its people's professional skills through the provision of up to date audit tools including audit manuals, equipment and software to enable efficient Public Financial Management (PFM) in Eritrea. The biennial work of 2019-2020, is part of a bigger plan that started in 2016 in which the Public Audit in Eritrea had already reached great achievements with the support of UNDP. During 2016-2018, some of the activities implemented were registration and examination of the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (ACCA) students, procurement of ICT equipment, and provision of training programs.

The biennial work plan of 2019-2020, is therefore a continuation of the already supported activities, with addition of various operations that have enabled the OAG to conform to the international standards in promoting good governance in the management of public resources.

Following this support from UNDP in building the capacity for OAG, there has been a significant improvement in coverage compared to previous years, resulting in a 30-40% reduction in the time taken to complete an audit, therefore increasing coverage by more than 100%. This improvement was as a result of the intensive trainings conducted and the introduction of policy in 2019 for strict control on audit budget time.

Capacity building for efficient public procurement

In 2019, 36 participants drawn from the UN and the Government of the State of Eritrea, including from Red Sea Corporation attended a 4-day training on Introductory Certificate in Public Procurement – CIPS, Accredited Level 2. The training sought to provide participants with a clear understanding of the principles of effective public procurement and thus served to enhance the capacity of the government to plan, implement and evaluate sourcing processes appropriate to the value/risk of the goods/service being procured.

Main achievements

- Provision of training facilities and various polices and guidelines;
- Increased professionals Accountancy body by 10% in Eritrea;
- Customizing and implementing of the AFOSAI-E manuals;
- Provide continuous training on audit working papers SAI support initiatives and in-house training;
- Installation of solar power supply in the OAG resulted in 57% cost saving on electric consumption.
- With the support of UNDP, the Office of the Auditor General (OAG) drafted an Audit Legislation in accordance to the requirement of the Lima declaration
- The OAG also developed Integrated Reporting template that can be used by Supreme Audit Institutions (SAI)
- Improve audit methodology through AFOSAI-E;
- Developed internal website and knowledge sharing data base;





Enhancing the Capacity of Public Mass Medias

UNDP supported the Ministry of Information to upgrade its institutional capacity within the department of Radio and Television with properly trained staff and adequate technological equipment. With UNDP's technical and financial support, the Ministry's of Information data collection and management capacity was increased by 40%, thus enabling the Ministry to develop targeted SDG awareness and advocacy programs.

Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women

In 2019, UNDP supported the Government of the State of Eritrea in the preparation and submission of the 6th CEDAW report. Various workshops at regional and national level were organized to create awareness on CEDAW preparation. Key activities included the commemoration of the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence under the theme, "Orange the World: Generation Equality Stands against Rape!" from 25 November to 10 December. The campaign created a platform in Eritrea to raise awareness about gender-based violence, challenge discriminatory attitudes and call for improved laws and services to end violence against women for good.



Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Implementation

17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)



In 2019, UNDP played a critical role, within the UN Country Team (UNCT), in operationalizing the coordination framework for SDG implementation.

In its capacity as the integrator and convener working with Government Ministries, other UN agencies, Embassies and a wide variety of development partners, UNDP remains a strong advocate and promoter of Agenda 2030 and the domestication of SDGs in Eritrea.

UNDP Eritrea's comparative advantage is its inclusivity approach and focus on the implementation of sustainable development particularly in the areas of Governance, Environment, Energy, Migration, Gender Equality and Women's Economic Empowerment, and Food Security.

Furthermore, UNDP as a convener, is able to bring together different development partners and stakeholders around a variety of topics and engages directly with many of these partners through the implementation of its diverse project portfolio.







UNDP Eritrea Operation and Coordination

United Nations Volunteers (UNV) in Eritrea

The United Nations Volunteers (UNV) continue to provide skilled human resource to United Nations agencies in Eritrea. The Human Resources in UNDP Eritrea continues to provide logistical support as the focal point in the recruitment and deployment of UNVs for all UN agencies.

In 2019, the Human Resource coordinated the recruitment of four International UNVs. In the same year, the International Volunteer Day was marked in collaboration with the NUEYS. The highlight of the day was the launching of a TV show about volunteerism and its contribution to accelerating the SDGs in the context of Agenda 2030.

De-linking

In 2019, the Office of the UN Resident Coordinator was successfully delinked from that of the UNDP Country Office in Eritrea. The process was hailed as exemplary by the OAI Audit Mission. It is to be noted that in May 2018 the UN General Assembly approved a set of changes for repositioning the UN development system. Up until then, the role of the Resident Coordinators (RCs) was combined with that of UNDP's Resident Representative.

UNDP remains resolute to continue to provide operational backbone support to ensure the effective and efficient functioning of the UN RC and RCO.

UNDP coordination within the UN family in Eritrea

The UNDP has continued to provide integral services and support for the effective functioning of the UN Common Service. In 2019, the Operations' Management Team (OMT) was chaired by the UNDP RR, which resulted in the implementation of the BOS.



Partnership in 2019

In 2019, UNDP Eritrea developed a Partnership and Communications Strategy & Action Plan (PCAP) to position itself strategically in partnerships building and resource mobilization in Eritrea.

As a result, the Country Office engaged with donors including the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the African Development Bank AfDB, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (UK), the People's Republic of China, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the Italian Republic to position itself well to mobilize more funds to support development projects in the country.

In the same year, the Country Office renewed its partnership with the European Union to support agriculture and job creation and strengthen the National Statistics Office projects for the upcoming five years. In addition, partnership with CERF (Central Emergency Response Fund) for restoring food security and agricultural livelihoods was strengthened.

UNDP in 2019, as part of its support to the Ministry of Justice, has initiated a capacity building programme, establishing a partnership with the University of South Africa (UNISA). UNDP in collaboration with UNISA developed a training plan, to promote various courses, LLM/MBL for 52 governmental staff from different Ministries and other offices.





Looking forward 2020

In 2020, the UNDP would commit to deliver a program portfolio of US \$15.4m, we would to achieve this by working closely with government, line ministries and departments and our key development partners to deepen trust and partnerships for resource mobilization and to deliver programme results in the following areas;

- Inclusive growth and livelihoods;
- Sustainable natural resource management, resilience to climate change and disasters; and
- Accountable institutions, public administration and service delivery.

UNDP will support south-south learning and knowledge sharing to gain exposure and build the requisite capacities of staff and national partners to be able to pilot innovative and technology driven solutions to accelerate the attainment of the SDGs.

Rated globally as the most transparent organization in 2020 (ATI), we will work to further enhance our operational effectiveness, efficiencies and agility; that will continue to keep UNDP Eritrea as the number one go to organization.

In line with the People Strategy for 2030, Management will invest in our staff creating a people centered environment, leveraging all learning opportunities to improve and upgrade our staff capacities and capabilities.

We will invest in streamlining tools and making more nimble our business and operational procedures.

UNDP, leveraging on its integrator role and convener role will continue to provide operational backbone support to the UN RC, RCO, UN agencies and other partners anchored on the principles of delivering as one.

Our 2019 Highlights

UNDP in Eritrea welcoming new Resident Representative and Deputy Resident Representative



Above: Mr. James Wakiaga (3rd left) is welcomed with a bouquet of flowers in (March, 2019). Mr. Wakiaga joined the UNDP Eritrea CO as the Resident Representative in April 2019.

Right – UNDP Deputy Resident Representative Mr. Louis Kuukpen



Launching of the Human Development Report 2019

UNDP Eritrea Country Office retreat in Massawa



Following the launch of the 2019 Human Development Report in Bogotá, Colombia, the UNDP Eritrea CO joined other COs in launching and introducing the HDR



In 2019, the UNDP CO conducted its annual staff retreat to review results of the GSS and finalize key priorities for the office. Measures to enhance staff motivation and welfare were key discussion points. A major outcome of the meeting was the establishment of a team to follow up on recommendations of the retreat. In addition, the recommendations and carry-over items from the previous GSS were included as regular items in the periodic Senior Management and General Staff Meetings



UNDP Youth Employment and Skills Development project in Keren



The project supports poverty and migration reduction by fostering employment opportunities through provision of vocational skills trainings and business start-up kits to vulnerable youths and women.

Visit by the UNDP resident Representative to the Asmara International Community School



In 2019, the UNDP RR paid a courtesy call to the Asmara International Community School at the invitation of invited the ICS to deliver a talk on the importance of reading for children and the positive impact it has on their personal development

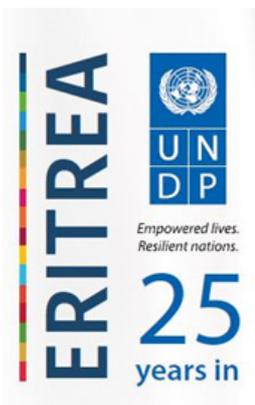


UN Day and Wellness day 2019



UN Day and Wellness day 2019 - colourful and cheerful commemoration, celebrated by all UN Agencies in Asmara, Eritrea.





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