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# UNDP ERITREA NEWSLETTER

## Special Edition



UNDP Staff in Asmara, Eritrea

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# Message from the Resident Representative

**W**elcome to our special edition of the UNDP Eritrea annual newsletter. In this special edition, we share with our partners and the public some of our stories from Eritrea.

From the beginning of this year, we embarked on a new Country Programme Document (CPD) and a new Strategic Partnership Cooperation Framework (SPCF) between the UN and The Government of the State of Eritrea. Both documents will guide our work until 2021.

In February 2017, we partnered with the Ministry of Education, Qhubeka, Eritrea Commission of Culture and Sports and the 50 mile Ride for Rwanda to bring 708 bicycles to students in Eritrea. This initiative is an education empowerment program in Eritrea that has been going on for 2 years.

Last year, UNDP celebrated its 50th anniversary and one of our partners, the Global Environment Facility (GEF) turned 25. It is also the year that all countries started the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). In Eritrea, UNDP's birthday was celebrated in Anseba region, where we visited some of our projects. This special edition presents a detailed coverage of the UNDP at 50 celebrations in Eritrea.

UNDP Eritrea supported both international and national events. One of the international event was the International Conference on Eritrean Studies (ICES) held in Asmara in Asmara, Eritrea on 20-22 July 2016. In collaboration with the National Union of Eritrean Youth and Students (NUEYS), we observed the International Youth Day (IYD) in Asmara on the 15th of July. In October we jointly marked the International Day for Eradication of Poverty and the World Food Day in Hamelmalo college of agriculture. We culminated the year by launching the Strategic Partnership Cooperation



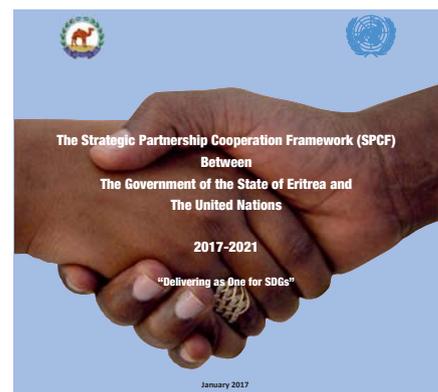
UNDP Eritrea RR promoting the SDGs to mark the 50th Anniversary

Framework (SPCF) 2017 – 2021 between the UN and the Government of the State of Eritrea.

In 2016, 1060 young people graduated from the Youth employment development skills project, some of who have gone ahead to start their own businesses. In line with our work to support gender equality and women empowerment, UNDP supported the National Union of Eritrean Women (NUEW) to conduct trainings on leadership. The climate change adaptation programme in Anseba region, yielded many results. Together with some of our partners, we visited Gebisi and Fiza villages to witness the impact of the grassroots interventions in Anseba region. Using solar powered irrigation, communities have been able to grow crops and breed dairy cattle.

From our success stories, you will connect with Eritrean people as we partner to spearhead soil and water conservation initiatives, mitigate and adapt to climate change, adopt the use of renewable energy and embrace sustainable land management practices and enhance improved livelihoods.

In 2017, I encourage each one of us to reflect on our successes and lessons learned in the previous years. We look forward to partnering in implementing the new CPD and SPCF.



SPCF Launch

# New UN Secretary General

## Biography

António Guterres, the ninth Secretary-General of the United Nations, took office on 1st January 2017.

Having witnessed the suffering of the most vulnerable people on earth, in refugee camps and in war zones, the Secretary-General is determined to make human dignity the core of his work, and to serve as a peace broker, a bridge-builder and a promoter of reform and innovation.

Prior to his appointment as Secretary-General, Mr. Guterres served as United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees from June 2005 to December 2015, heading one of the world's foremost humanitarian organizations during some of the most serious displacement crises in decades. The conflicts in Syria and Iraq, and the crises in South Sudan, the Central African Republic and Yemen, led to a huge rise in UNHCR's activities as the number of people displaced by conflict and persecution rose from 38 million in 2005 to over 60 million in 2015.

Before joining UNHCR, Mr. Guterres spent more than 20 years in government and public service. He served as prime minister of Portugal from 1995 to 2002, during which time he was heavily involved in the international effort to resolve the crisis in East Timor.

As president of the European Council in early 2000, he led the adoption of the Lisbon Agenda for growth and jobs, and co-chaired the first European Union-Africa summit. He was a member of the Portuguese Council of State from 1991 to 2002.

Mr. Guterres was elected to the Portuguese Parliament in 1976 where he served as a member for 17 years. During that time, he chaired the Parliamentary Committee for Economy, Finance and Planning, and later the



UN Secretary General, Mr. António Guterres

Parliamentary Committee for Territorial Administration, Municipalities and Environment. He was also leader of his party's parliamentary group.

From 1981 to 1983, Mr. Guterres was a member of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, where he chaired the Committee on Demography, Migration and Refugees.

For many years Mr. Guterres was active in the Socialist International, a worldwide organization of social democratic political parties. He was the group's vice-president from 1992 to 1999, co-chairing the African Committee and later the Development Committee. He served as President from

1999 until mid-2005. In addition, he founded the Portuguese Refugee Council as well as the Portuguese Consumers Association DECO, and served as president of the Centro de Acção Social Universitário, an association carrying out social development projects in poor neighbourhoods of Lisbon, in the early 1970s.

Source: <https://www.un.org/sg/en/content/sg/biography>

# A Continent of Hope

By António Guterres

**F**ar too often, the world views Africa through the prism of problems. When I look to Africa, I see a continent of hope, promise and vast potential.

I am committed to building on those strengths and establishing a higher platform of cooperation between the United Nations and the leaders and people of Africa. This is essential to advancing inclusive and sustainable development and deepening cooperation for peace and security.

That is the message I carried to the recent African Union Summit in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia -- my first major mission as United Nations Secretary-General.

Above all, I came in a spirit of profound solidarity and respect. I am convinced that the world has much to gain from African wisdom, ideas and solutions.

I also brought with me a deep sense of gratitude. Africa provides the majority of United Nations peacekeepers around the world. African nations are among the world's largest and most generous hosts of refugees. Africa includes some of the world's fastest growing economies.

The recent resolution of the political crisis in the Gambia once again demonstrated the power of African leadership and unity to overcome governance challenges and uphold democracy, human rights and the rule of law.

I left the Summit more convinced than ever that all of humanity will benefit by listening, learning and working with the people of Africa.

We have the plans in place to build a better future. The international community has entered the second year of implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, an all-out effort to tackle global poverty, inequality, instability and injustice. Africa has



UN Secretary General, Mr. António Guterres and former SG. Mr. Ban Ki-Moon

adopted its own complementary and ambitious plan: Agenda 2063.

For the people of Africa to fully benefit from these important efforts, these two agendas need to be strategically aligned.

It starts with prevention. Our world needs to move from managing crises to preventing them in the first place. We need to break the cycle of responding too late and too little.

Most of today's conflicts are internal, triggered by competition for power and resources, inequality, marginalization and sectarian divides. Often, they are inflamed by violent extremism or provide the fuel for it.

The United Nations is committed to working hand-in-hand with partners wherever conflict or the threat of conflict endangers stability and well-being.

But prevention goes far beyond focusing solely on conflict. The best means of prevention and the surest path to durable peace is inclusive and sustainable development.

We can speed progress by doing more to provide opportunities and hope to young people. More than three out of five Africans are under 35 years of age. Making the most of this tremendous

asset means more investment in education, training, decent work, and engaging young people in shaping their future.

We must also do our utmost to empower women so they can play a full role in sustainable development and sustainable peace. I am pleased that the African Union has consistently placed a special focus on gender equality and women's empowerment.

I have seen it again and again: When we empower women, we empower the world.

I travelled to Africa as a partner, friend and committed advocate for changing the narrative about this diverse and vital continent. Crises represent at best a partial view. But from a higher platform of cooperation, we can see the whole picture -- one that spotlights the enormous potential and remarkable success stories in every corner of the African continent.

With that perspective, I have no doubt we can win the battle for sustainable and inclusive development which are also the best weapons to prevent conflict and suffering, allowing Africa to shine even more vibrantly and inspire the world.

# NUEYS host a graduation ceremony for trainees in Keren

By Elizabeth Mwaniki

The National Union of Eritrean Youth and Students (NUEYS) held a graduation ceremony for its trainees from Anseba Region, after completing their four months training. The ceremony was held at Keren Hotel and 142 youths graduated with certification in Electric installation, photography and videography, computer skills, hair dressing and beauty and choreography.

During the graduation ceremony, Knut Felberg, Technical Advisor at UNDP acknowledged the wonderful collaboration between the communities, Region (Zoba) administration, donors and the Government of the State of Eritrea in equipping the youth with skills for work. Mr. Habte Gebregziabher, Programme specialist at UNDP encouraged the students to use the skills they had acquired to make their parents and country proud.

The Mayor of Keren, Mr. Zerzeghi Dawit also congratulated the graduates and added that the city administration was supportive to the trainees and urged them to use the skills they have learned to help themselves and others in their communities. He commended efforts by the government to include vocational training for youth in their policies.

The National Union of Eritrean Youth and Students (NUEYS) is equipping the youth with vocational skills to help them engage in economic activities and access employment. The trainings are facilitated through the UNDP supported skills development, employment and migration project in all the six regions of Eritrea and funded by Norway and Japan. In 2016, 1060 young people graduated from the Youth employment development skills project, some of who have gone ahead to start their own businesses. The training is still ongoing in all the six regions.

A committee of representatives from the National Union of Eritrean Women (NUEW), NUEYS, local administration, Ministry of labour and human welfare and the People's Front for Democracy and



Mayor of Keren, Mr. Zerzeghi Dawit presents a certificate to a graduate, while her mother congratulates her



Graduates following the proceedings



Mr. Knut Felberg presents a certificate to one of the graduates



A young lady weaving cloth at Halay Centre for Vocational Training in Asmara, Maekel

Justice (PFDJ), selects the beneficiaries. The selection criteria take into consideration; gender balance, youth from female headed households, youth who have been demobilized from the military service, internally displaced people and youth who have special needs.

The skills development, employment and migration project enhances the capacity

of various vocational training institutions and equip the youth with work skills.

# Eritrean Students receive 708 bicycles from Qhubeka

By Elizabeth Mwaniki

**Q**hubeka, a NGO based in South Africa, distributed 708 bicycles to Eritrean students, through the Qhubeka scholar mobility project. The 708 was an addition to 220 bicycles distributed via the same initiative in 2015. Excited students from various schools, parents, guardians and officials from the Government and the UN convened at the Eritrea Commission of culture and sports on 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2017 for the handover ceremony. The event was organized by Eritrea Ministry of Education and the Commission of culture and sports. UNDP played a facilitating role and linked Qhubeka with the government institutions concerned and community beneficiaries.



Students receive bikes from Qhubeka. Looking on is UNDP Deputy Resident Representative Ms. Rose Ssebatindira and Qhubeka's Henco Visser

The Qhubeka bikes for education empowerment program in Eritrea is partially funded by the annual 50 Mile Ride for Rwanda, a fundraising initiative organized by Team Rwanda Cycling aka Team Africa Rising, and partners. The fundraiser takes place in the USA and supports bikes for education and economic development in African countries. Through a telephone interview, Ms. Kimberly Coats, the Marketing Director of Team Rwanda Cycling and a key partner behind the success of this initiative, said that their priority is education (SDG 4) and this

initiative provides a good opportunity for students to invest more time in their studies. Team Rwanda Cycling chose to work with Qhubeka due to their involvement in professional cycling. Eritrea is the home of well-known cycling champions in Africa such as Daniel Teklehaimanit, Natnael Berhane, Mekseb Debesay and Merhawi Kudus.

In his opening remarks, Mr. Mehari Mengisteab, Director, office of the Minister (Education) said that the earlier consignment of 220 bicycles had helped

boost school attendance and enabled students to dedicate more time to their studies. He said that the 708 bicycles will be distributed equally to boys and girls in all the six Zobas (regions) of Eritrea.

On behalf of UNDP, Ms. Rose Ssebatindira, UNDP Deputy Resident Representative said that the success of the phase 1 of the scholar mobility project had prompted the second donation of 708 bicycles from the Qhubeka, Team Rwanda Cycling and other partners. She also added >>>>

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Some of the beneficiaries pose for a photo, accompanied by UNDP Deputy Resident Representative Ms. Rose Ssebatindira



Some of the youths assembling the bikes

# Government of the State of Eritrea and the United Nations launch the Strategic Partnership Cooperation Framework 2017-2021

By Elizabeth Mwaniki

The Government of the State of Eritrea and the United Nations launched the Strategic Partnership Cooperation Framework (SPCF) for 2017 to 2021 in Eritrea's capital, Asmara on 1st December 2016. At the same time the UN in Eritrea and partners commemorated the 71st anniversary of the United Nations. The event was held at the National Confederation of Eritrean Worker's Union and attended by Government officials, senior officials from the People's front for Democracy and Justice (PFDJ), Ambassadors and members of the diplomatic corps, UN staff, development partners and the media. In the statement read on behalf of the former UN Secretary General, Mr. Ban Ki-moon for UN Day, it was affirmed that in 2016, humanity entered the era of sustainability – with a global commitment to fulfil the promise of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

While delivering the opening remarks, UN Resident/Humanitarian Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative Ms. Christine N. Umutoni said that the new SPCF was scheduled to start on 1st January 2017 and is aligned to Eritrea's National Indicative Development Plan (NIDP). She also added that the SPCF makes reference to the Africa Union Agenda 2063 and the sustainable development goals (SDGs).

The key note speaker for the event was H.E. Berhane Habtemariam, Minister of Finance, who was representing H.E. Mr. Osman Saleh, Minister of Foreign Affairs. He attributed the success of SPCF 2013-2016 and achievement of some MDGs to the close collaboration



H.E. Berhane Habtemariam, Minister of Finance; Ms. Christine N. Umutoni, UN Resident/Humanitarian Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative; and Ms. Leila Gharagooloo-Pakkala, Regional UN Development Group focal person for Eritrea and UNICEF Regional Director for Eastern and Southern Africa during the SPCF Launch

between the Government and the UN. He also added that the results and challenges of the first SPCF 2013-2016 will be useful in informing the implementation of the next SPCF 2017-2021 and the implementation of the SDGs.

Ms. Leila Gharagooloo-Pakkala, Regional UN Development Group focal person for Eritrea and UNICEF Regional Director for Eastern and Southern Africa also graced the event. In her remarks, Ms. Pakkala said that her mission to Eritrea focused on discussing ways that the Regional Director's team can continue to support the work of the Government and the UN family, including the operationalization of the new SPCF 2017 – 2021. She commended the work of the UN in the country and the good collaboration with government and other partners in achieving tangible results.

Other speakers at the event included Mr. Afewerki Tesfai, Director, Office of the Minister, Ministry of National Development; and, Mr. Ibrahim Sambuli, UNFPA Representative.

Ms. Pelucy Ntambirweki, UNICEF Deputy Representative made a presentation of the SPCF.

The new SPCF commenced in January 2017 and will end in 2021. It has four strategic areas (pillars) for interventions and cooperation: 1) Basic social services; 2) Environmental sustainability, resilience and disaster risk management, 3) Public sector capacity development; 4) Inclusive growth, food security and sustainable livelihoods. The new SPCF is guided by the UN "Delivering as One" approach, ensuring a cohesive response to national development priorities. It was developed through a consultative and participatory process reinforcing the principles of aid effectiveness and mutual accountability.

The UN is committed to partnering with the Government of the State of Eritrea to implement the SPCF as a contribution to the achievement of national development priorities and the Sustainable Development Goals.

# International Day for the Eradication of Poverty marked in Eritrea

By: Peter Kamau

**O**n Sunday 16th October, the Government of the State of Eritrea, UNDP, FAO, other UN agencies, development partners and other stakeholders jointly celebrated the 2016 International Day for the Eradication of Poverty and the World Food Day at Hamelmalo Agricultural College (HAC), Zoba Anseba. The celebration presented an opportunity for the stakeholders to join hands and demonstrate the strong bonds of solidarity between people living in poverty and people from all walks of life through individual and shared commitments and action.

Approximately 200 guests attended the celebration. The guests were drawn from Senior Government Officials (Minister of Agriculture and Minister of Land, Water and Environment), The Governor of Anseba Region, Dean of Hamelmalo Agricultural College, Other senior government dignitaries, PFDJ officials, Diplomatic community, Heads of UN Agencies, National NGOs, Regional Authorities, Office of the President, Defence and local farmers.

Guests and participants were welcomed to the celebration by Mr. Ammanuel Negasi, Advisor to the Minister of Agriculture. In his welcoming remarks he reminded participants on the importance of the day and also confirmed the agenda of the day. Dr. Semere, Dean HAC, then gave a key note address where he gave a brief history of HAC and its role in delivery of academic and research outputs in the agricultural sector and development of Eritrea.

WHO Representative Dr. Josephine Namboze, delivered the speech for the commemoration of the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty 2016, on

behalf of the UN Resident Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative Ms. Christine N. Umutohi. In line with the theme of 2016 International Day for the Eradication of Poverty “Ending poverty in all its forms” Dr Namboze reiterated on the need to promote dialogue and understanding between people living in poverty and their communities. This will enable us to better understand the drivers and root causes of poverty and therefore support measures aimed at building a more equitable, sustainable and prosperous future for all.

UNDP is supporting the efforts of the Government of the State of Eritrea in key sectors aimed towards poverty eradication and livelihood improvement of Eritrean people. For instance, UNDP is supporting the installation of equipment and furniture for 14 laboratory facilities of Hamelmalo Agricultural College in order to ensure that the institutions is well-equipped with the necessarily laboratory facilities needed for teaching at the undergraduate and postgraduate programmes; enhance its capacity to carry out impact oriented research activities and hence improve the teaching and Learning Environment;



Guests follow proceedings during the ceremony

enhance relevant extension based outreach services in order to respond to the farmers’ needs in the agricultural sector which supports the livelihoods of the majority of Eritreans.

Ms. Ann Bu Thi, FAO representative then delivered the message of the FAO Executive Director for the World Food Day 2016. The Minister of Agriculture, H.E Mr. Arefaine Berhe then delivered a speech outlining the achievements made in Eritrea with respect to ensuring that food production and productivity.

At the end of the event, guests had a chance to tour the Hamelmalo Agricultural College premises where they had a chance to see projects that the institution is undertaking. During the tour, guests were able to interact with the college staff who explained about some of the research outputs and agricultural products that the institution has been able to generate •



Guests visiting the food processing exhibition



UNDP Banner on display

# International Youth Day celebration in Eritrea

By: Elizabeth Mwaniki

Youth from all the six regions of Eritrea convened in Asmara on the 12th of August, 2016 to commemorate the International Youth Day (IYD). The all-day event, which was observed for the first time in Eritrea, was organized by the National Union of Eritrean Youths (NUEYs) and supported by the United Nations Development Programme. The event was held under the theme “The road to 2030: Eradicating poverty in Eritrea” and focused on the role of young people in ensuring poverty eradication and achieving sustainable development through sustainable consumption and production.

While delivering welcoming remarks, NUEYS’ Chairperson Mr. Saleh Ahmedin said that it was exciting for Eritrea to be commemorating IYD for the first time. “We are here today not just for the sake of celebrating this day but also to learn from it.” He said. He also stressed on the important role played by Eritrean youth in nation building. “In Eritrea nothing has ever been achieved without the participation of the youth; the youth are committed and ready to support agenda 2030.”

UN Resident Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative Ms. Christine N. Umutoni, delivered the statement by the UN Secretary General, Mr. Ban

Ki-moon. The statement underscored the importance of empowering the youth and allowing access to resources, support and the space they need to create lasting change in the world. In her speech, Ms. Umutoni commended the Government of the State of Eritrea for recognizing the value of promoting and strengthening youth participation in various national projects. “Youth have carried the Eritrean flag high in prestigious championships such as Tour de France and Olympics, consequently inspiring other African nations.” She added.

Head of Political Affairs (PFDJ) and Presidential Advisor Mr. Yemane Gebreab recognized the contribution of youth in Eritrea’s independence and continued support in ensuring the country’s security, growth and development. “This is a country that became independent as a result of the sacrifice made by the youth and whose sovereignty has been defended by their sacrifice; it is a country that has been built by the effort and sweat of the youth who served this country for many years and whose essence is the dreams and aspirations of the young people.”

An insightful development seminar on Youth in Eritrea and Development was facilitated by Ambassador Tesfamichael Gherahtu. Ambassador Gheratu alluded that Eritrea youth leadership was

embedded on the intrinsic values of the national liberation for independence. Professor Abraham Kidane presented on youth and SDGs. He gave an overview of the SDGs and elaborated on their linkage to their predecessor, the MDGs.

In the afternoon public lecture papers were presented. Prof. Tadese Mehari’s, lecture focused on the role of education, while the lecture by Bereket Tsehaye focused on agriculture’s linkage to the economy. He focused on specific SDGs related to the topic. Ms. Rigat Tesfamichael from the National Union of Eritrean Women (NUEW) facilitated a lecture on gender perspectives on the national policies.

To recap all the presentations of the day, Mr. Weldyesus Elisa gave a brief on the topic “Can Eritrea eradicate poverty by 2030? focusing on job creation. Mr. Knut Felberg, UNDP technical advisor gave a broad overview of the UNDP project which focuses on Youth employment and skill development, focusing on its achievements and lessons learned. He highlighted the need to increase attention to ensure young people’s transition from school to jobs is made easy. Youth participants asked questions and made contributions to the discussion topics.

A colourful youth concert culminated the day. Youth from as far as Assab town and Debub region, draped in their traditional regalia graced the occasion with captivating music and dance.



Youth following proceedings of the IYD

Eritrea Youth Posing for a photo

# Ground breaking International Conference on Eritrean Studies held in Asmara

By Mansoor Mirza

Over 500 academics, policy-makers, journalists and diplomats from Eritrea and around the world attended the International Conference on Eritrean Studies (ICES), which was held in Asmara, Eritrea on 20-22 July 2016. The conference was jointly sponsored by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the State of Eritrea and the United Nations Development Programme in Eritrea.

This three-day international conference sought to expand international scholarship on Eritrea, strengthen academic links between Eritrea and international scholars and academic institutions as well as increase the provision and dissemination of high-class research and balanced information on Eritrea.

His Excellency Yemane Gebremeskel, Minister of Information for the State of Eritrea, opened the conference by welcoming participants and highlighting the importance of the event in furthering research and scholarship on Eritrean studies. In particular, he hoped that the



Participants follow proceedings at the conference

conference would “lay the ground for building and strengthening a structured network linking research centers in Government Ministries, institutions of tertiary education in the country, academics in the Diaspora and foreign research bodies interested in the region”.

In her welcome address, Dr Josephine Namboze, Representative for the World

Health Organisation in Eritrea speaking on behalf of the UN Eritrea Resident Coordinator, reminded participants that 2016 marked the 25th anniversary of Eritrea’s independence and that the international conference was being held at a timely and important moment.

The ICES in Asmara was organised by the Eritrean National Commission >>>>

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that 50 students had been trained and equipped with bicycle repair kits. “The bicycles that we handed over were assembled by the trainees, who will be part of a dedicated team of bicycle maintenance and repair experts throughout the 6 Zobas.”

One of the parents from Adi Gebru in Zoba Maekel said that the students have been facing difficulties with transportation to and from school. A delighted Lia Ogbazgi from Serejeka in Zoba Maekel noted the gender balance (SDG5) amongst the beneficiary students and commended the organizers and

partners for giving equal opportunities to boys and girls. She urged the students to work hard, so that in future, they can be part of the donor community, sending bicycles to other students in Africa.

Henco Visser, a Programme Manager at Qhubeka said that at Qhubeka, they believed that access to sustainable and affordable transport is the foundation that allows a connection to opportunities because bicycles help people to travel faster, further, carry more and access more options. With bicycles, people have faster access to healthcare and education facilities.

Students, representatives thanked Qhubeka and partners for the bicycles; UNDP and, the National Union of Eritrean Youth and Students (NUEYS) for covering their expenses while they undertook training in Asmara. Hopefully, this initiative could spread its wings in Eritrea, allowing youth centres for bicycle assembling and repair thus contributing to job creation (SDG8) and youth empowerment

# Fifty years of development, Eritrea celebrates UNDP's 50th anniversary

By Elizabeth Mwaniki

A ground-breaking celebration was held in Anseba, one of the six regions of Eritrea as the United Nation Development Programme (UNDP) Eritrea commemorated the organization's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. The two day event was planned in partnership with Zoba Anseba, the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) and the Ministry of Land, Water and Environment (MoLWE) and held on the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> of May 2016.

The event highlighted partnerships for development. In attendance were Government officials, representatives from the diplomatic missions in Eritrea (China, United Kingdom, Japan, USA and the European Union), media, representatives from the National Union of Eritrean Youth and Students (NUEYS), Habero community and UN officials.

The two-day event included field visits to some of UNDP projects in Anseba, one of the six regions of Eritrea. The field visit was an opportunity to showcase

UNDP in action through project sites tours and engagement with communities in Anseba region. One of the projects, the 'Youth employment skills project' is a nationwide project that has been empowering youth by equipping them with skills for work. The visit included a tour of the metal workshop, the wood workshop, display of finished products such as furniture (cupboards and tables) from the woodwork trainees; house fittings (doors and windows) from the metalwork trainees; and furnishings (flower pots and water jars) from the pottery class. Graduate trainees also gave personal testimonies on how the training has changed their lives. The project is implemented by NUEYS and it's supported by the Governments of Norway and Japan.

On the same day, guests visited Hamelmalo sub-region, one of the two sub-regions where the "Climate change adaptation programme in water and agriculture in Anseba region" is implemented. A water dam was constructed in Gebesi village and provides

water for small scale irrigation projects. Every household also gets a cow, 25 chicken and 2 beehives.

In the evening, the day culminated to a colourful ceremony at the Sarina Hotel in Keren. The ceremony focused on UNDP's achievements for the last 50 years. A video, 50 years of sustainable development, showing UNDP's evolutionary journey was screened. In line with the UNDP at 50 slogan; "forward looking" a video, connecting the dots for people & planet was screened, highlighting UNDP's role in spearheading the 2030 development agenda. Welcome remarks were made by Anseba Region Governor, Mr. Ali Mahmud. On development initiatives in the country, Hon. Mahmud said that since independence, the Government has worked with people and communities to improve their living conditions and boost food security.

While presenting her speech, the UN Resident/Humanitarian Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative, Ms. Christine N. Umutoni focused on UNDP achievements in Eritrea. She thanked the people of Anseba and Eritreans in general for the ownership of the projects the region. They are good stewards of UNDP resources, which is a great incentive for the organization's partners. "Sometimes we give them money for constructing one micro dam and they construct three micro dams." Said Ms. Umutoni.

One of the guests, former British Ambassador to Eritrea, H.E. Mr. David Ward said that he had witnessed how the communities were dealing with the challenges of climate change and how young people were tackling unemployment issues. "We have seen examples of true resilience and I am already impressed and I know that we are



The Governor of Anseba Region, gave a tour of one of the Climate Change Adaptation project sites

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Musashebah dam provides water for irrigation and livestock

- Development of a community-based early warning system to reduce climate risks and;
- Strengthening of agricultural extension services.

Celebrations kicked off with a ceremony at Aretey. The guests were welcomed by the administrator of Habero sub-region, Ms. Aisha Mohammed. On this occasion, Eritrea Minister for Agriculture, Hon. Arefaine Berhe commended the achievements of the climate change adaptation projects. “This community not only had food security issues but nutrition as well. The project has boosted livelihoods through the MIAP.” He said. His counterpart, Minister for Land, Water and Environment, Hon. Tesfai Gebreselassie highlighted the fact that the climate change adaptation project has addressed the social, economic and environment aspects of development in the region.

UNDP also partnered with the Ministry of Agriculture to commemorate the National Greening Day, which is observed on the 15th of May in Habero. It was led by Hon. Arefaine Berhe, Minister of Agriculture and guests and community members planted trees in observation of the greening day. To the surprise of many, guests were welcome by the early onset of rains, a good sign for the tree planting initiative. “Rain is a blessing, to sustain it, we have to plant trees.” Said Hon. Berhe.

To acknowledge existing partnership between UNDP and Anseba Region, Ms. Umutoni awarded gift certificates to community groups and the Anseba administration for their excellence and commitment to development work in the region.



Participants at UNDP50 event in Anseba Region, planting trees in Habero

just half way through the visit.” He said. “I want to thank UNDP for organizing this event as well as congratulate the organization on the occasion of their 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. UNDP has shown for over 50 years how we, who work for Governments around the world can achieve results if we work together to promote the prosperity and security of all people in the world. We have seen how we can work together in Eritrea and hope that the projects that we have seen today and those that we will see tomorrow will inspire more of similar nature.” He added.

On the 6<sup>th</sup> of May, participants visited the “Climate change adaptation programme in water and agriculture” in Habero sub-region, which is located 58 kilometres away from Keren town. The project is supported by Adaptation Fund (AF) and implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture, Anseba region. The community benefits from a Minimum Integrated Agricultural Package (MIAP) that includes:

- Construction of water harvesting facilities along River Anseba: Water diversion structures, water harvesting tanks, reservoirs and piping structures for irrigation;
- Undertaking soil erosion control measures (afforestation, hillside terracing and building check-dams);
- Integration of irrigation and climate-smart agricultural production technologies such as use of solar powered irrigation;
- Provision of drought-resistant and early maturing crops like sorghum and millet, fruit trees, forage and animal feeds. Research is supported by Hamelmalo Agricultural College;
- Provision of livelihood support systems (households received one dairy cow, 25 chicken and 2 beehives), and participation in rangeland management systems;

## UN support to the implementation of the UPR recommendations and human rights mainstreaming in Eritrea

By Habte Gebregziabher

The United Nations is supporting the Government of the State of Eritrea (GoSE) to implement the recommendations of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) process and human rights mainstreaming.

The Universal Periodic Review (UPR) is a unique process, which involves a periodic review of the human rights records of all 193 UN Member States. The UPR is a significant innovation of the Human Rights Council which is based on equal treatment for all countries. It provides an opportunity for all States to “peer review” each other and for States to declare what actions they have taken to improve the human rights situations in their countries and to overcome challenges to the enjoyment of human rights. The UPR also includes a sharing of best human rights practices around the globe.

The working group on the UPR for Eritrea adopted its report on 6th February 2014, at its 17th meeting detailing some two hundred recommendations for the GoSE to implement to improve the human rights situation in Eritrea. Four areas have been identified where the United Nations Country Team (UNCT) provides support to GoSE.

- I. Support in strengthening Eritrean institutions to engage and implement UPR recommendations.
- II. Support in mainstreaming human rights to identify and implement specific programmatic initiatives through which the UNCT can work with the GoSE to enhance efforts in mainstreaming human rights across GoSE’s line ministries.

- III. Support on advocacy of human rights specifically in the areas of building the GoSE’s capacities in strategic communications on human rights, report writing, research and monitoring and evaluation of human rights implementation across GoSE line ministries.
- IV. Greater coordination and information sharing between the UNCT and GoSE on human rights to ensure mainstreaming efforts remain effective and continuously reviewed through joint events, regular coordination meetings, external forums, roundtables and workshops.

**In this project, UNDP contributes to areas related to Liberties, Administration of Justice and support to people with disabilities.**

for Higher Education, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Research and Documentation Centre and the Eritrean Strategic Studies Centre. Preparations for the multi-disciplinary conference began in mid-2015 with the establishment of various committees responsible for content as well as the complex organisation and logistics of the conference.

Over three days, scholars and policy-makers presented research and policy papers on a wide range of cross-cutting themes including Eritrea’s foreign policy and regional relations, its post-independence national development, arts and culture, Eritrean history and archaeology and the origins and emergence of Eritrean nationalism.

After three days of robust and intense deliberations, the UN’s Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative, Ms. Christine N. Umutoni, addressed the closing ceremony and congratulated the conference organisers for a successful event and thanked participants “for sharing their knowledge and fascinating perspectives on Eritrea”, which she said had “enriched our appreciation of the country”. She supported the idea that the ICES be held regularly and pledged the UN’s continued support; noting that continuous dialogue and studies on the country are a good contribution to national policies and a major contributing factor to shaping the vision and development agenda of the country.

His Excellency Osman Saleh, Minister of Foreign Affairs for the State of Eritrea, closed the conference with a final address in which he thanked scholars for travelling, in many cases great distances, to attend the conference. He applauded the intellectual range of papers presented at the conference and underlined the importance of academic research in order to reveal fact-based evidence. He concluded by announcing that the Government of the State of Eritrea would support further conferences and initiatives like the ICES.

# Success Stories

## Coping with climate change in Eritrea



Crop under irrigation in Habero

By Elizabeth Mwaniki and Solomon Gebreyohannes

**T**he months of January and February are dry in Anseba, but one will not help notice an oasis in Fiza village around the banks of River Anseba. Here, the people are busy in their farms, some preparing the farms for planting, others transferring tomato seedlings from the nursery to the farms, while others are weeding and spraying the almost mature crops. The citrus trees are heavy with fruit, while the mango trees are flowering. At the edge of the farms, Holstein Friesian cattle are grazing, while their calves moo in a distance. A young girl is singing as she tends to a clutch of chicks. Everybody seems to be excited and preoccupied about one activity or another.

Two years ago, this place was different. It is one of the areas affected by drought, especially during the dry spells when River Anseba dries off. Many people are agro-pastoralists and move from one place to another in search of pasture and water for their livestock. Experts warned that climate change and variability are creating poverty traps for many rural

households, consequently thwarting efforts to build up assets and increase income. As a result, the climate change adaptation programme in water and agriculture in Anseba region was envisioned. With the support from UNDP and funding from the Adaptation Fund, the project is currently under implementation by the Ministry of Agriculture, Anseba region.

Initially, a baseline survey was conducted in collaboration with Hamelmalo Agriculture College. The survey findings established that the community were pastoralists who moved from one place another in search of pastures for their livestock. There were cases of malnutrition. The project site was chosen for its arable lands and proximity to River Anseba.

According to Ghebremeskel Tewolde, the project coordinator, the community has played a proactive role in the implementation of the project. There are village development committees that are in charge of identifying priorities, organizing and facilitating the project activities.

The climate change adaptation interventions include irrigation,

breeding dairy cattle and poultry, soil and water conservation, water harvesting, afforestation, introduction of drought tolerant crops and construction of weather stations. The project has also conducted various trainings for agriculture extension workers and the community.

At the time of the visit, Saleh Omar, one of the beneficiaries, was transplanting his tomato seedlings. “We are all excited about the project. I am already selling my lemons at the market. My cow gave birth and I milk eight litres in the morning and six litres in the evening. Once the tomatoes are ready, I will make more money”. He said.

The Director General of Anseba region, Gebreslasie Aradom said that the project interventions are unique and have resulted to admirable progress in Fiza village. “We are referring to it as the UNDP model. I have already asked the technical team to familiarize themselves with the project so that we can replicate it throughout the region.”

One of the most innovative aspect of the project is the construction of diversion structures on the seasonal river. During

the dry spells, the structures boost water recharge, ensuring constant water supply to the farms.

In three years, the project has yielded commendable results. 4 micro-dams constructed in Bashari, Nazet, Wazentet and Gebisie villages. As part of the integrated agricultural intervention, 50 dairy cows were bought and distributed to the farmers. Currently this number has risen to 81. Some of the farmers are milking up to 16 litres of milk per day. They are using cow dung in their farms and are growing vegetables that they sell at the local market. They are also planting moringa oleifera trees for nutrition and growing fodder for the cattle.

Though the project has made tremendous strides, it was not without challenges. Construction of the diversion structures on the river was sometimes challenging due to floods. In addition, access to resources and construction materials was delayed. The project has set up six weather monitoring stations.

To ensure sustainability, the project is helped the farmers to form a savings scheme. This will help the farmers to purchase farming inputs and spare parts for the water harvesting and irrigation system. The project also plans to have networking platform on climate change for all the stakeholders in the country.

## Highlights

- The project objective is to increase community resilience and adaptive capacity to climate change through an integrated water management and agriculture.
- The project provides a minimum integrated agricultural package: Construction of water harvesting facilities, implementation of soil erosion measures, irrigation, adoption of climate smart agriculture, provision of livelihood support systems, and development of community based early warning systems.
- The project is earmarked for replication in other areas of Anseba.



Crop under irrigation in Habero



A young farmer in Habero prepares land for crop cultivation

The State of Eritrea submitted its climate action plan to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in September 2015.

The State of Eritrea signed the Paris Agreement on the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change in April 2016.

# Sustainable land management practices in Serejeka curbs soil erosion, increases land productivity

By Elizabeth Mwaniki and Kibreab Gebremichael

**O**n the outskirts of Asmara in Eritrea, lies Serejeka sub-zoba (sub-region) which has 28 villages with about 11, 000 households. It is a vast ecosystem that was previously bare but is currently a bedrock of productivity. Severe land degradation caused by both natural and man-made practices such as overgrazing and deforestation had robbed the ecosystem of its ability to sustain itself and its inhabitants. Livestock roamed the hills and plains in search of pastures while the people desperately searched for wood to use in their households.

Since majority of the people depend on agriculture, population growth had contributed to unsustainable farming practices such as cultivation of marginal lands with steep slopes and shallow, easily eroded soils. This was compounded by insecurity of land tenure, since farmers were not committing to take care of the land and only to move to another piece of land after 5 or 7 years.

With the support of UNDP and the GEF, the Government of Eritrea initiated a pilot project to reclaim land productivity and enhance environmental protection while at the same time boosting agriculture and promoting forestry. The Sustainable Land Management (SLM) pilot project was started in 2009. The SLM work started in 5 villages with the aim of scaling up the project to the remaining villages. The initial phase focused on creating awareness on environmental issues and the SLM concept.

“At first we mobilized all the stakeholders; farmers, ministries of

agriculture, land, water and environment and the administrators.” Said Dawit Mebrahtu, SLM project site manager. The project team visited the villages and had meetings with the stakeholders and conducted trainings on SLM aspects. They set committees at the villages and ensured that the community felt that they owned the project. “The farmers had already seen some of the changes, for example, the bees had since deserted the hives since there were no trees and they could no longer harvest honey. They understood that if they adopted the new practices, it would improve the quality of their lives.” He added.

In 2010, afforestation began. They segmented the land into farming land, grazing land and forested land. The forested lands and grazing lands are communal. The committees have ensured that the communal lands are used appropriately. For example, the community members are not allowed to

graze in the forested lands, but they are allowed to cut the grass for their animals. That way, there is less pressure on the ecosystem and it’s able to revive itself.

Currently, most of the hills that were bare have been forested. The community has planted acacia, eucalyptus, bottle brush and olive trees. They cut grass to feed their cattle during the dry season and the bees have come back to the ecosystem. Wild animals such as antelopes have also come back to the forested lands. Farmers, especially women are given apple and avocado trees to plant on their farms.

As part of its contribution, the Government of Eritrea build Shimanegus dam. Farmers use the water for irrigation. They grow vegetables such as tomatoes, spinach, kale, potatoes, carrots, etc. and sell to the market, thus providing a reliable income for their families.



Afforestation through the SLM project in Serejeka.

One of the most significant aspects of this project is land distribution. Under the traditional land tenure system, farmland was redistributed every seven years, this discouraged farmers from undertaking activities that could boost land productivity. Currently the Government is promoting security of tenure by allocating long-term use (usufruct) to farming lands. According to Iyob Fesseha, a chief at Guritat village, people are now making more long term investments on the land, they have constructed terraces, built check dams and planted trees. Consequently, there is reduced soil erosion, increased fertility, improved water retention capacity, which will lead to increased productivity and production. “The crops are still in the fields and it looks promising, we look forward to a good harvest.” He added.

Another interesting pilot activity undertaken is on use of marginal lands that are not suitable for farming or grazing. The unproductive terrain has been allocated to farmers in each village for long term use as individual forest land. This measure, allows each farmer to own a small plot, plant tree species of their choice, harvest and sell products leading to increased personal income.

Abrehet Ghirmay is 43 and a mother of 5. She is a committee member of the land distribution initiative. She said that she had benefitted from the SLM project because previously she had been allocated 5 different pieces of land and it was time consuming to attend to each one of them since they were far apart. “I can proudly say that I have a piece of land that I can use for life and inherit to my offspring for the first time in my life. This year, am looking forward to a bountiful harvest of wheat and barley. I am confident that I can improve the productivity of my land and it will be a source of livelihood not just for me but my children too.” She said. Abrehet has managed to plant around 35 trees for commercial use and she plans to harvest in 2016. There is ready market for timber and wood. In fact, the electricity company in Eritrea buys poles from the farmers.

In 2016, Mr. Romadan a father of eight who depends on rain fed agriculture and micro irrigation for a living, said that he reaped 50 Kgs of potato, 100 Kgs finger



A parcel of treated land demonstrates increased productivity

millet, 150 Kgs barley, and 100 Kgs wheat from the ½ hectare of land he has owned through the SLM project.

So far the initiatives have been successful and the Government has decided to scale-up the project in the Central highland zone that has similar land tenure issues. Although people did not understand the concept of SLM at the beginning and were sceptical about some of its aspects like dividing land for different uses, they have since come to appreciate it. Some farmers preferred free range grazing and were of the opinion that dividing the land will deprive their livestock of feeds. “Now that we have been successful in Serejeka Sub-Zoba, the government is keen to replicate these initiatives in other parts of the country.” said Abraham Daniel, SLM Project Co-ordinator.

## SLM Highlights

- Serejeka sub-region is in Maekel Region of Eritrea and has 28 villages, consisting of about 11, 000 households.
- Population growth had contributed to unsustainable farming practices such as cultivation of marginal lands with steep slopes and shallow, easily eroded soils.
- Currently the Government is promoting security of tenure by allocating long-term use (usufruct) to farming lands.
- The Government has decided to scale-up the project in the central highland zone that has similar land tenure issueS.

# Eritrea farmers take stock of land rehabilitation initiatives in Serejeka

By: Freweini Negash

**F**or the last two and a half years, farmers from 28 villages of Serejeka sub-region in Maekel region (Zoba) of Eritrea have been undertaking initiatives to prevent land degradation and boost land productivity. The community based interventions have not only brought people together but have also resulted to increased forest cover and improved soil fertility on their farms.

The interventions are supported by the Small Grants Programme (SGP), which is funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and facilitated by the UNDP country office. The small grants programme partnered with the Government of Eritrea through the National Union of Eritrean Women, Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) and Zoba Maekel.

The community identified land degradation as one of the main problems facing farm productivity in the area. During the rainy season, there is massive soil erosion due to flash floods,

**“I produced 80 sacks of compost manure from my pit on the river bed. I borrowed all the donkeys in my village to be able to transport the compost to my home.”**

Says Mr. Gebrenegus Hzqiel (67), a resident of Deqipetros village in Serejeka.



Community members take part in environment conservation activities

consequently eroding the fertile soil and reducing the size of farmlands. Communities in these villages depend on crop farming and livestock rearing. The project introduced land rehabilitation initiatives such as; community based afforestation and composting.

The farmers attended a seven days training at Serejeka town, where they learned through demonstration how to make compost. Three demonstration pits were prepared in every village, teaching farmers on how to make compost manure.

Mr. Tekleberhan Gebrealak (65) a model farmer from Ebmbaderho village produced 25 sacks of organic compost from a pit in his compound. He prepared three pits, so that he can rotate production cycle for the entire year. Ms. Teberh Yohannes (52), a village

administrator from Beleza village, acknowledged the extension workers for sharing invaluable information and advocates that all farmers in her village to have a compost at their farms.

Mr. Mussie Eyob (55), Taereshi village administrator, said that diligent farmers have been practicing indigenous farming practices to enhance soil fertility of their farmlands; like directly applying animal dung and dumping wastes such as ashes and grass on their farms. He also observed that composting is an advantage to those farmers who do not have livestock since they can produce their own manure.

Besides composting, the community has undertaken soil and water conservation practices such as construction of terraces, check dams and planting over 70,000 drought resistant tree species.

# Environment and Development

## Ensuring sustainable development in Africa through climate-resilient and low carbon development pathways

By: Peter Kamau

For almost three decades now, the subject of climate change has increasingly taken the centre-stage in the sphere of international, national and sub-national development debate across the world. There is now an overwhelming scientific consensus that global warming is indeed happening and that climate change is a defining challenge of our time. Additionally, the human influence on the climate system and the impacts of climate change on human and natural systems is well documented. Studies show that continued emission of greenhouse gases will cause further warming and long-lasting changes in all components of the climate system. This will also lead to increasing the likelihood of severe, pervasive and irreversible impacts of the Earth's physical, socio-economic and ecological systems. Climate change is therefore threatening to reverse progress towards development through negatively impacting lives and livelihoods around the globe, either directly or as a compounding factor towards existing vulnerabilities.

To limit climate change risks, substantial and sustained reductions of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, together with enhanced adaptation and resilience is therefore urgently required without further delay. Failure to do this, climate change risks will continue to negatively affect development trajectories across the globe with economies and livelihood support systems in developing nations especially Sub-Saharan Africa being disproportionately affected. This is because many of the countries in the region have a low adaptive capacity characterized by undiversified economic structures and most importantly, the heavy reliance on rain-fed agriculture for the majority of their population.

Climate resilient and low carbon development pathways is rightly seen as an unavoidable step towards achieving the triple aim of economy-wide decarbonisation, poverty reduction and economic growth. This will avoid a lock into resource and emissions intensive economies in a carbon-constrained world while at the same time supporting the ability of socio-economic and environmental systems exposed to climate related hazards to be able to resist, absorb, accommodate and recover in a timely and efficient manner, including through the preservation and restoration of their essential basic structures and functions.

One of the key international instrument that provides a framework to support climate resilient and low carbon development pathways is the Paris Agreement which was adopted by Conference of Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in December 2015 and came into force

in November 2016. This agreement aims to strengthen the global response to the threat of climate change, in the context of sustainable development and efforts to eradicate poverty. The Paris agreement sets out a global action plan to put the world on track to avoid dangerous climate change by limiting global warming to well below 2°Celsius above pre-industrial levels and to pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase even further to 1.5°Celsius. Additionally, the agreement aims to strengthen the ability of countries to deal with the impacts of climate change while ensuring appropriate financial flows, a new technology and capacity building frameworks are put in place to support developing countries to adopt low greenhouse gas emissions and climate-resilient development pathways.

To achieve sustainable development ambitions including Agenda 2030 in the face changing climate, Africa needs to play an important role in transforming climate challenges into development opportunities. To this end, pursuing a low-carbon development pathway therefore offers a practical organizing framework for future development planning for Africa. This will ensure that critical sectors such as water, energy, agricultural systems, transport, health among others that are fundamental to the economy and human wellbeing are insulated from significant impacts of climate change.



Water harvesting initiatives have boosted food security in Eritrea

# Training

## Delivering as one

By: Kibreab Gebremichael

A training on Harmonized Approach to Cash Transer (HACT) was jointly organized by UNDP, UNFPA and UNICEF in collaboration with the Ministry of National Development. The training brought together Government and UN staff in two sessions for a period of two days. The training was opened by Ms. Rose Ssebatindira, UNDP Deputy Resident Representative, and Mr. Samson Berhane, Deputy officer in the department of National Authorizing Office, Ministry of National Development.

A total of 95 people participated in the training out of whom 71 were from 13 government institutions, involved in the implementation of UN supported projects as project coordinators.

In her opening remarks Ms. Ssebatindira commended the partnerships between the UN and the Implementing Partners (IPs), the efforts made the SPCF. Mr. Samson on his part said that the UN has rich experiences in development work and that it was a good opportunity to transfer that knowledge.

The objectives of the training were to:

- Enhance the IPs capacity on preparation of work plans and reporting on results;
- Create a deeper understanding on financial management and internal control framework and UN procurement procedures;
- Boost knowledge and skills on the application on HACT and its requirements; and
- Strengthen IPs skills on how to use Fund Authorization and Certification of Expenditure (FACE) form as a management and planning tool.

The training not only increased the awareness of the participants about UN policies and procedures but is



Implementing Partners attending a training



Implementing Partners attending a training



A training receives certification

also expected to speed up projects implementation and promote cooperation between the government and the UN agencies. This collaborated

training is cost effective in terms of money and time and is part of the future UN operational approach - delivering as one.

A training receives certification. ©UNDP/Eritrea/Mwaniki

# Eritrea Women set for Leadership and decision making

By Aster Ogbaslasie

The National Union of Eritrean Women (NUEW) convened a training for women representatives from all the six regions of Eritrea from the 16th to 25th September 2016 in Embatkala, Northern Red Sea region. The training on leadership and decision making in political and public offices, was supported by UNDP and facilitated by the Eritrea Centre of Organizational Excellence (ERCOE). The training aimed at reducing gender disparity gaps in leadership and management positions in the country.

NUEW has partnered with UN agencies in Eritrea (UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF, UNHCR and UNAIDS) to support the joint programme on equity and advancement of women. Specifically, UNDP has spearheaded support on strengthening human and institutional capacity development for NUEW. This year an extensive training programme and awareness campaign was rolled out in the six regions of Eritrea covering various topics such as early marriage; gender equality, mainstreaming, empowerment and leadership; and raised awareness about female genital mutilation and human rights.

The training held at Embatkala aimed at enhancing leadership and management skills of 150 women drawn from various management levels within the civil service. The training covered courses such as: Design of organizational operational plans; financial and assets management; conducting action research; result based management and tools for tracking project beneficiaries. The sessions were interactive and participants were given opportunities to ask questions and share their experiences. The Minister for Justice, Madam Fozia Hussein made a presentation on family law, following its amendment in 2015.

In addition, there were moderated discussions on women empowerment and gender equality in Eritrea. Some of the issues discussed include: The 5th CEDAW report, the Beijing +20 report, Civil Registration and Vital System report and the 2nd National Gender Action Plan. The participants' alluded that the CEDAW report provides blue prints for advocacy and performance tracking of the country's efforts in promoting and protecting gender equality. Participants

also discussed the national progress on gender equality in education and training of women, health, land, violence against women and achievement on eradication of harmful traditional practices.

In her closing remarks, NUEW President, Ms Tekea Tesfamichael noted that Eritrea is strong in community organization and women are visible in the country's development initiatives. She said that the training had equipped the participants with fresh skills and knowledge. She added that she was confident that the training will play a significant role in enhancing gender mainstreaming in the political, economic, environmental and social dimensions.



Participants making contribution to the discussions during the training



Participants of the gender training pose for a group picture

# Contributors



**Peter Kamau** - Programme Specialist, Inclusive and Sustainable Development Unit (ISDU).



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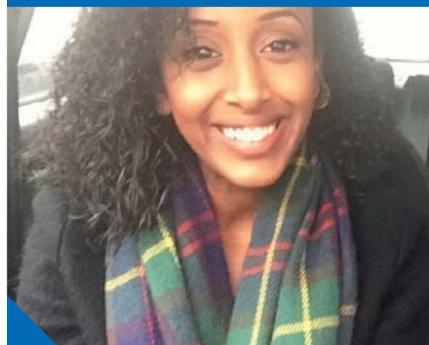


**Elizabeth Mwaniki** - Knowledge Management Officer, Programme Management Support Unit (PMSU).



**Habte Gebregziabher** – Programme Specialist, Strategic Governance Unit.

# Meet our Interns



**Selam Zeru**, a Sociology graduate with a background in technology start-ups, joins the UNDP Communications and Knowledge Management office for 3 months.

Her main focus is to learn as much as possible about UNDP processes, projects and communications practices, as well as building partnerships for development and diplomatic relations. This is her first time working in Eritrea, she also hopes to learn more about the current development prospects and progress of Eritrea as a nation."



**Filmon Haylu**, an IT graduate with a background in Information, Technology and Communication, joins UNDP IT department for 3 months.

He aspires to specialize in networking and expects to learn and gain hands on experience on IT field. He hopes to learn a lot from UNDP, a knowledge based organization and the UN at large.



## UNDP Country Programme 2017-2021

Supporting Eritrea's efforts to build an inclusive economy based on sustainable growth and greater resilience



Empowered lives.  
Resilient nations.

### PILLAR

### BUDGET

#### I. INCLUSIVE GROWTH AND LIVELIHOODS



**US\$ 33 million**

Provide upstream capacity building  
Support increased livelihood opportunities for vulnerable groups, through vocational training, micro grants and job placement

#### II. SUSTAINABLE NATURAL RESOURCE AND DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT



**US\$ 94 million**

Promote measures that improve resilience to climate change and increase disaster risk management capacities

#### III. ACCOUNTABLE INSTITUTIONS, PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION, AND SERVICE DELIVERY



**US\$ 16 million**

Improve delivery and access to quality public services, with a focus on unemployed youth and poor populations in rural areas

**TOTAL**

**US\$ 143 million**



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