



UNITED NATIONS  
ERITREA



# 2021 UN Annual Results Report

## UN Eritrea





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## Foreword by the Resident Coordinator

This 2021 report marks the end of the Strategic Partnership Cooperation Framework (SPCF) between the Government of the State of Eritrea (GOSE) and the United Nations (UN) for the period 2017–2021. It captures the joint efforts of 16 Agencies, Funds and Programmes in support of the development aspirations of the Government and its people with valued support from several of our Development Partners. In the course of implementing the SPCF, far-reaching changes were brought about by the reform of the UN Development System (UNDS) in resolution A/RES/72/279 of 31st May 2018. Eritrea, together with other member states at the UN General Assembly, adopted the most ambitious and comprehensive change process of the UNDS since the 1960s, with unprecedented, unanimous support from Member States and reforms that apply universally to all entities of the UNDS and all UN Country Teams globally.

At the core of the reforms of the UNDS was the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda and finding new ways of working to achieve it, ranging from the establishment of a reinvigorated, independent office of a Resident Coordinator, with new generation UN Country Teams, better placed to deliver shared results through re-designed country instruments: accountability systems, administrative arrangements, and budgetary practices. The reform aimed to reposition the UNDS system with a stronger, better-defined collective identity as a trusted, reliable, cohesive, accountable, and effective partner to Member States in the 2030 Agenda. The objective of the reform was to yield a UNDS that is more integrated, more focused on delivery on the ground, with clearer internal and external accountability for contributions to national needs, and with capacities, skillsets and resources better aligned to the 2030 Agenda.

As Eritrea concluded its pre-reform SPCF whose last year of results are encapsulated in this report, it also embarked on the development of a post-reform inspired United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (herein referred to as the “Cooperation Framework”) for the period 2022-2026. Embedded firmly in Eritrea’s National Charter and Government-defined sector priorities, and using the SDGs as its reference, the new Cooperation Framework which was signed on the 20th of December 2021 and launched on the 25th of January 2022, aligns to the ambitious vision of Eritrea in the above-mentioned resolution and more strongly reflects the UNDS’ contributions in the country as well as the configuration of UN assets inside and outside the country to deliver for the people of Eritrea.

This Annual Results Report (ARR) is therefore presented to highlight the achievements and the challenges of 2021, but it goes further to reflect on useful lessons and experiences from implementation of the last SPCF which were invaluable in shaping a new era of cooperation with the GoSE in the new Cooperation Framework. During the period under review, Eritrea achieved notable but mixed results in advancing economic, social, and environmental progress. Strong progress was achieved in SDG 2 on nutrition; SDG 3 on health and wellbeing; SDG 4 on access to quality education; SDG 5 on gender equality and on SDG 6 on clean water and sanitation. The country also continued to make commendable progress in climate action (SDG 13) through strong

adaptation and mitigation measures. Notwithstanding these notable achievements, Eritrea faced compounding macro-economic challenges coupled with a fluid geo-political context from which it needs to re-emerge and build back better.

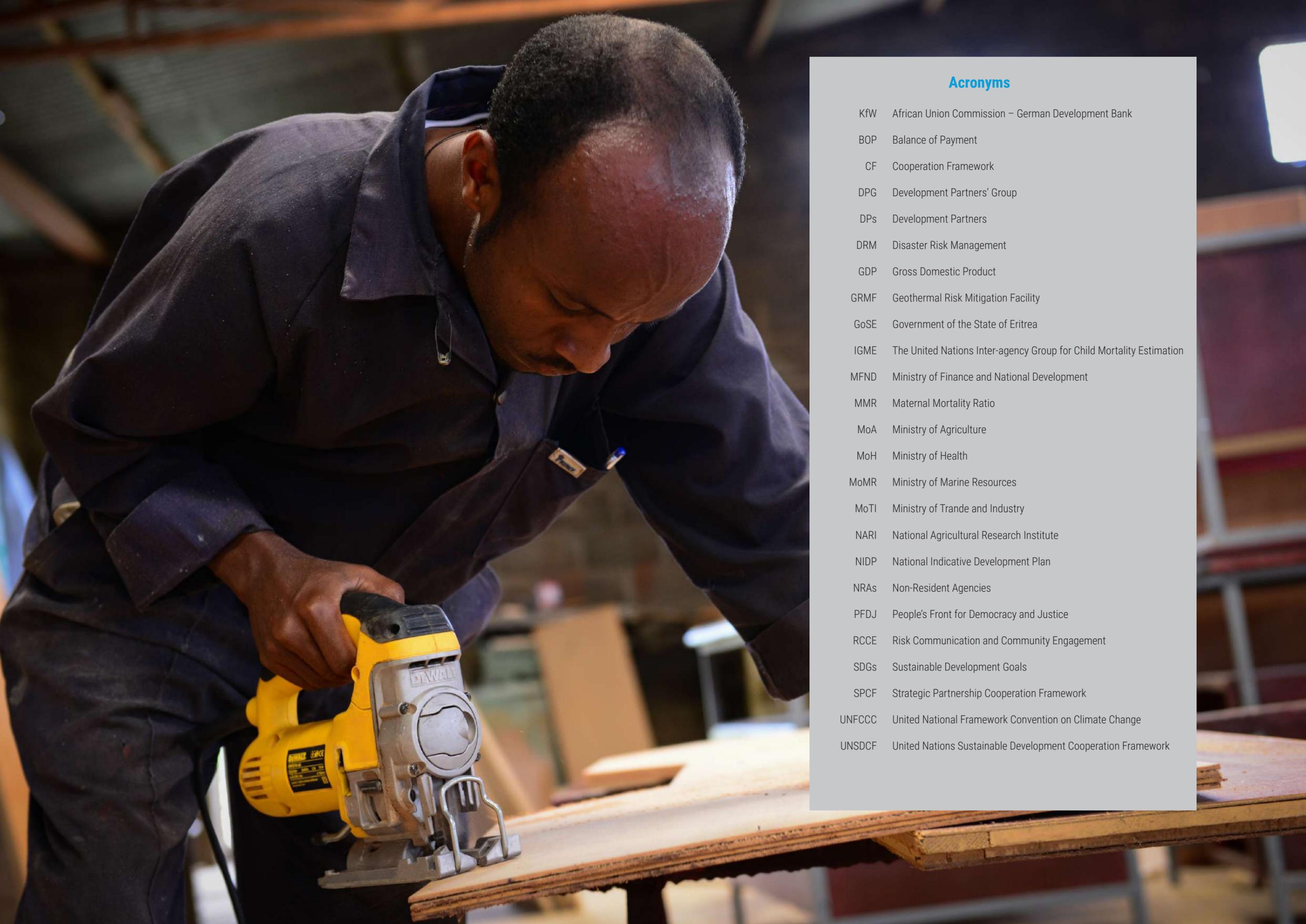
Notable challenges in relation to the 2017-2021 SPCF were:

1. The COVID-19 pandemic with far reaching socio-economic impacts.
2. Unilateral economic sanctions with implications for growth and development.
3. Overreliance on primary commodities, minerals and base metals thus exposing the country to exogenous shocks in international markets.
4. Locust infestations, with resultant impacts on food and nutrition security.
5. Climate change and its effects on economic activities and livelihoods.
6. Multidimensional poverty particularly affecting female-headed households in rural areas.

The pandemic highlighted inextricable links among health, social, and economic sectors. While the Government made concerted efforts in 2020 and 2021 through strict lockdown measures to contain the pandemic, the pandemic’s challenges linger on, impacting progress in many social and economic areas. Therefore, concerted efforts are being targeted by Government at recovery and building forward better by identifying strategic levers and entry points for transformation that can accelerate socio-economic progress in Eritrea.

These challenges remain a top priority for advocacy, strategic intervention, and joint programming by the UN system in its partnership with Government. The signing of a new Cooperation Framework (2022-2026) marks an important opportunity for a renewed and re-invigorated strategic partnership with the Government under the able leadership of the Ministry of Finance and National Development. Important lessons have been learnt about needing to fast track the delivery of our partnership programmes. With less than 10 years left to 2030, the pressure to accelerate action and demonstrate results for the country and its people is ever more pressing. The United Nations re-affirms its commitment to ensure collective accountability for results, leveraging its country-based, regional, and international assets which it puts at the full disposal of the country, as it counts on Government for support for more optimal delivery, and development partners for continued support, so that together, we can accelerate progress on the SDGs and commit to leave no one behind.

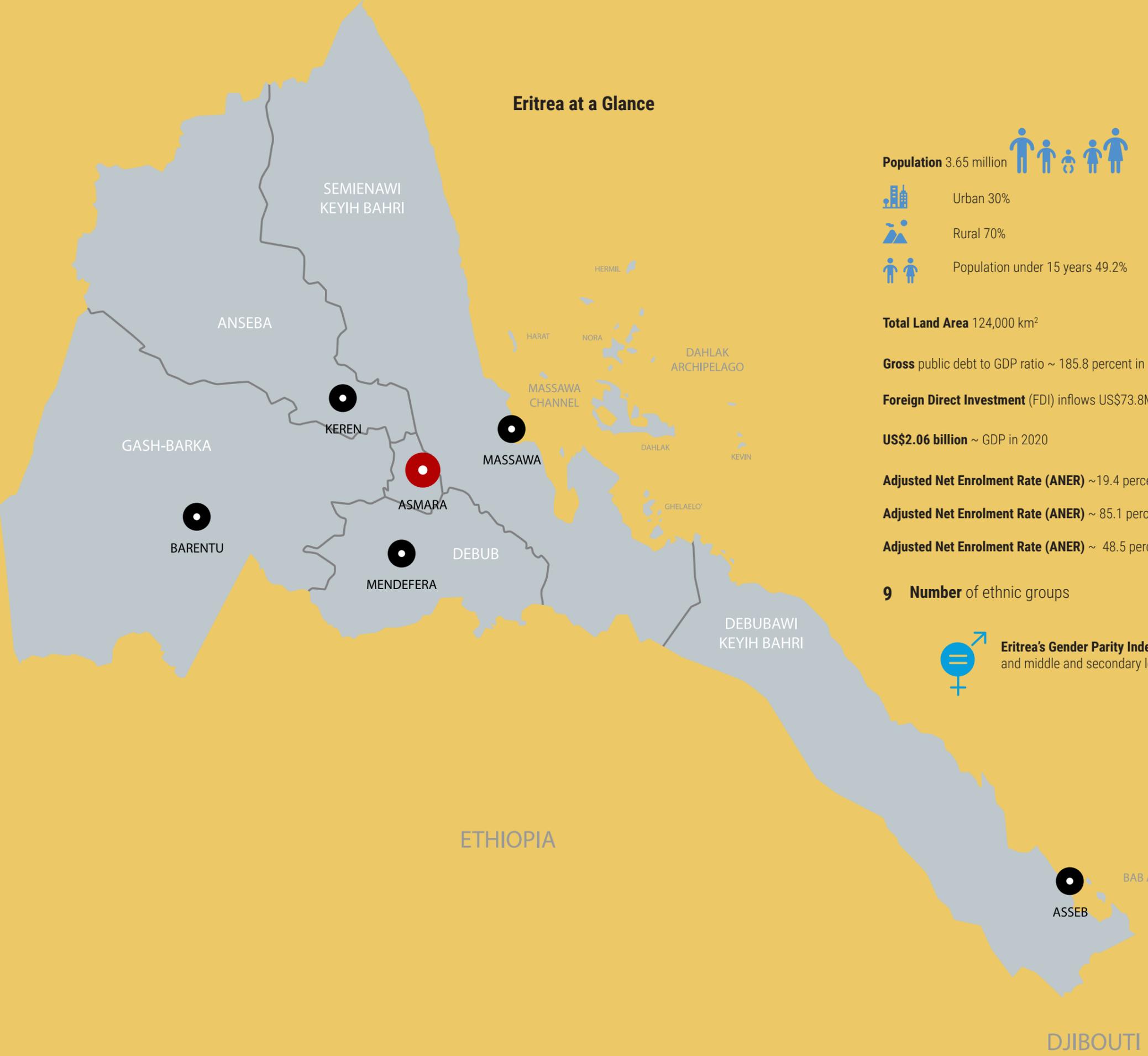
**H.E. Amakobe Sande**  
UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator



## Acronyms

KfW	African Union Commission – German Development Bank
BOP	Balance of Payment
CF	Cooperation Framework
DPG	Development Partners' Group
DPs	Development Partners
DRM	Disaster Risk Management
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GRMF	Geothermal Risk Mitigation Facility
GoSE	Government of the State of Eritrea
IGME	The United Nations Inter-agency Group for Child Mortality Estimation
MFND	Ministry of Finance and National Development
MMR	Maternal Mortality Ratio
MoA	Ministry of Agriculture
MoH	Ministry of Health
MoMR	Ministry of Marine Resources
MoTI	Ministry of Trade and Industry
NARI	National Agricultural Research Institute
NIDP	National Indicative Development Plan
NRAs	Non-Resident Agencies
PFDJ	People's Front for Democracy and Justice
RCCE	Risk Communication and Community Engagement
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SPCF	Strategic Partnership Cooperation Framework
UNFCCC	United National Framework Convention on Climate Change
UNSDCF	United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework

# Eritrea at a Glance



**Population** 3.65 million 

 Urban 30%

 Rural 70%

 Population under 15 years 49.2%

- Total Land Area** 124,000 km<sup>2</sup>
- Gross public debt to GDP ratio** ~ 185.8 percent in 2020
- Foreign Direct Investment (FDI)** inflows US\$73.8M in 2021
- US\$2.06 billion** ~ GDP in 2020
- Adjusted Net Enrolment Rate (ANER)** ~19.4 percent in 2020/2021 for pre-primary
- Adjusted Net Enrolment Rate (ANER)** ~ 85.1 percent for primary level
- Adjusted Net Enrolment Rate (ANER)** ~ 48.5 percent for secondary school

**9** Number of ethnic groups

 **Eritrea's Gender Parity Index (GPI)** ~ 0.86 and 0.8 for elementary and middle and secondary levels respectively in 2020



## UN Country Team in Eritrea

The UN family in Eritrea comprises of the following resident and non-resident Agencies, Funds and Programmes.

In addition to existing agencies for the SPCF 2017 - 2021, the following agencies IOM, ECA, UN Habitat, OHCHR, and ITC will be joining implementation for the Cooperation Framework 2022 - 2026.

### Resident Agencies



### Non Resident Agencies

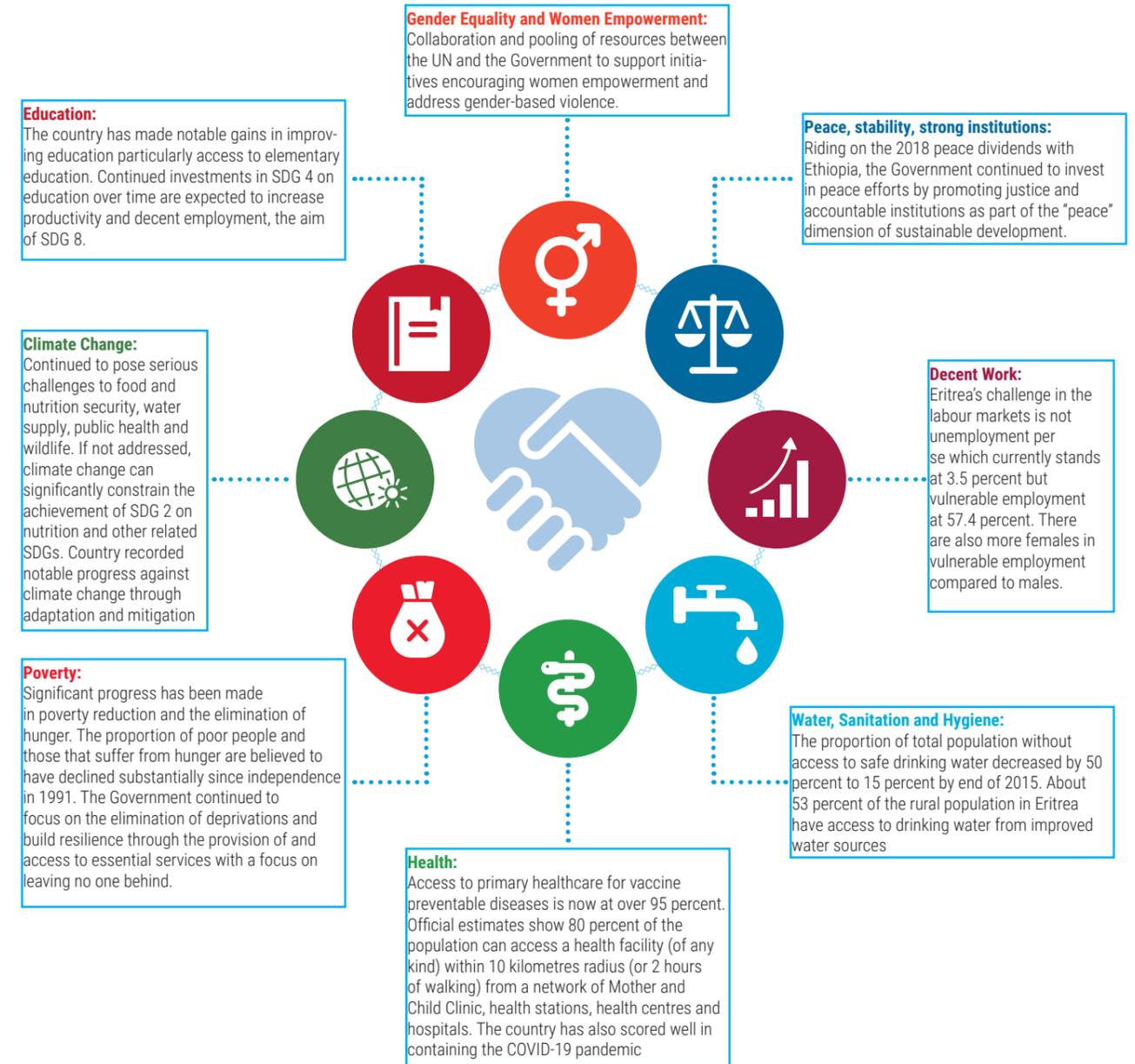




## Key development partners of the UN development system in the country

The Eritrea Development Partners Forum (EDPF) is chaired by the UN Resident Coordinator. It is an information exchange and coordination platform with bilateral and multilateral partners which has helped improve the effectiveness and impact of

the UN's work in Eritrea in 2020 and following the COVID-19 pandemic. In 2021, in addition to the UN's core resources for funding projects, the UN in Eritrea received additional support targeted towards the following activities:



In 2021, the UN worked closely with the Government of the State of Eritrea and Development Partners to implement the Strategic Partnership Cooperation Framework 2017-2021. The following agencies continue to support the work of development in Eritrea.



The Arab Republic of Egypt



The Netherlands



The Kingdom of Sweden



The MasterCard Foundation



The French Republic



Federal Republic of Germany



GAVI the Vaccine Initiative



The Italian Republic



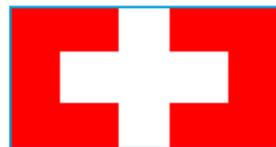
The Republic of Ireland



Japan



The Republic of South Africa



The Swiss Confederation



The United Arab Emirates



Republic of Turkey



The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia



The United Kingdom



The United States of America



People's Republic of China



African Development Bank



The European Union





## CHAPTER 1

### Key developments in the country and regional context

The East African region shows strong resilience, thanks to a shift away from heavy reliance on primary commodities to greater diversification<sup>1</sup>. In 2021, the region's real GDP growth was projected at 3.0 percent while in 2022 it is expected to post a marginal increase to stand at 5.6 percent reflecting steady recovery in economic activities. However, the weak recovery of the United States, Japan, the United Kingdom and China (Africa's major trading partners) and Africa's fiscal policy trilemma (balancing trade-offs between pressing development-spending needs, containing public debt, and mounting resistance to tax revenue mobilization<sup>2</sup>) could have implications for the region's own steady pick up as exports might be subdued in the short to medium-term.

Eritrea's GDP grew by 2.4 percent to stand at US\$2.06 billion<sup>3</sup> in 2020, up from US\$2.01 billion in 2015. Real GDP growth for 2021 was forecast at 5.7 per cent in 2021 before tipping to 3.7 percent in 2022 on account of the COVID-19 pandemic on economic activities. These low growth levels do not bode well for SDG attainment. In 2020 Eritrea's estimated merchandise imports outstripped exports by US\$420 million leading to a negative trade balance in the balance of payment (BOP) accounts. As a proportion of total exports, agriculture raw materials took a lion's share at 35 percent, all food items at 22 percent and ores and minerals at 16 percent. The top five export destinations for Eritrea in 2020 were China (US\$210 million), India (US\$115 million), United Arab Emirates (US\$ 85 million), Singapore (US\$27 million) and Greece (US\$16 million). Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) inflows increased from US\$49.3 million in 2015 to US\$73.8 million in 2021 largely going into capital-intensive extractive sectors of mining, which has a low employment elasticity. Although the country has a long coastal line, its liner shipping connectivity index stood at a paltry 4.36<sup>4</sup> compared to Morocco at 67, South Africa at 37.4 and Kenya at 14.9.

#### Challenges and Downside Risks

Although unilateral sanctions were imposed on Eritrea by the US Government in 2021, in the short to medium term, this is unlikely to change the country's trade composition with its major trading partners particularly China and India. However, as noted in Iran and Zimbabwe, unilateral sanctions lead to low or no capital flows and a dip in foreign direct investments. Empirical

evidence elsewhere shows a shrinking effect of sanctions on FDI due to the expectation of higher risks and lower profits for investors caused by trade or investment restrictions. For Eritrea, low FDI imply a low base for economic growth and by extrapolation limited scope for decent and productive jobs (SDG 8) that are essential to meet SDG 1 and SDG 2. In the medium to long term, the ratcheting effects of sanctions could be felt on key economic sectors compounding the already dire unemployment levels and income vulnerability at national and household levels. Another significant challenge emanates from ongoing regional peace and security dynamics. Although the country is enjoying relative peace, the evolving geopolitics in the region especially the conflict in Northern Ethiopia, political instability in Sudan and pockets of rebellion in Somalia have ramifications on Eritrea and the UN's work in general. On its part, the UN continued to advocate for dialogue as a sustainable tool for peacebuilding in the Horn of Africa.

Debt overhang was a challenge during the SPCF period. However, gross public debt to GDP ratio declined from 202.5 percent in 2017 to 185.8 percent of GDP in 2020 but remains a concern. External debt service as a percent of exports was quite significant jumping from 11.8 percent in 2017 to 12.5 percent in 2020. The country's fiscal space is constrained by large public debts and therefore poses serious challenges to macroeconomic management and economic growth. The other major challenge is the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic on the economy and the risk on exacerbating inequalities. While developed countries have made strides to roll out COVID-19 vaccines as part of a global strategy for economic recovery, this is not the case in many African countries where access, equity and sustainability are not guaranteed.

Specifically, the pandemic could dilute Eritrea's resilience to withstand external shocks thus heightening the downside risk to the country's economic performance. While Eritrea has had strong containment measures, the key downside risks to socio-economic development include a potential surge in community transmission and hospitalization due to new variants. If not contained, this could delay full economic recovery and cut into current and future growth prospects. The absence of a national vaccine programme to insulate the population from loss of productivity arising from illness is a threat to economic growth.

Although this was a short-term response, sight was not lost of the long-term strategic imperative to strengthen institutional capacity to withstand similar shocks in future. Social protection was broadened and deepened to go beyond mere protection, prevention and promotion to a transformative and investment approach that increases communities' resilience to recover from shocks with a focus on leaving no one behind.

1. [https://www.afdb.org/sites/default/files/2021/03/09/aeo\\_2021\\_-\\_chap1\\_-\\_en.pdf](https://www.afdb.org/sites/default/files/2021/03/09/aeo_2021_-_chap1_-_en.pdf)

2. <https://www.imf.org/en/Publications/REO/SSA/Issues/2021/10/21/regional-economic-outlook-for-sub-saharan-africa-october-2021#:~:text=Sub-Saharan%20Africa's%20economy%20is, recovery%20relative%20to%20other%20regions.>

3. <https://unctadstat.unctad.org/CountryProfile/GeneralProfile/en-GB/232/index.html>

4. <https://unctad.org/news/unctad-maritime-connectivity-indicators-review-critique-and-proposal>



## CHAPTER 2

### UN development system support to national development priorities through the Cooperation Framework

#### 2.1. Overview of Cooperation Framework Results

The Strategic Partnership Cooperation (SPCF) 2017-2021 was the fourth strategic medium-term cooperation framework between the United Nations and Eritrea. It outlined the collective vision and shared response of the United Nations agencies in Eritrea to the National Indicative Development Plan (NIDP) 2014-2018 and attempted to respond directly to the goals of the National Charter of the People's Front for Democracy and Justice (PFDJ) to advance Eritrea's sustainable development agenda and to the achievement of the SDGs.

The SPCF identified the following four broad strategic pillars:



Basic social services



Environmental stability, resilience, and disaster risk management



Public sector capacity development and



Inclusive growth, food security and sustainable livelihoods.

Notwithstanding data challenges which would more compellingly capture achievements, Eritrea achieved notable but mixed results in advancing economic, social, and environmental progress. Strong progress was achieved in SDGs 2 on nutrition, 3 on health and wellbeing, 4 on access to quality education, 5 on gender equality and 6 on clean water and sanitation. There was marked progress on SDG 13 on climate action.



Health and Wellbeing

The country registered appreciable gains in controlling communicable diseases, especially malaria, tuberculosis, and HIV and AIDS. Between 1998 and 2019, Eritrea recorded progress in controlling malaria, reducing the incidence rate from 157 to 25.6 cases per 1000 people per year (SPCF Evaluation Report, 2022). During the period under review, Malaria-specific deaths declined significantly in all ages, posting a 99 percent decrease from 404 deaths in 1998 to 3 deaths in 2019. TB incidences were reduced from 108 per

100,000 in 2016 to 89 per 100,000 in 2018 while deaths from TB declined from 19 to 16 per 100,000 in the same period.

Through a multi-sector response, HIV prevalence was curtailed by half from 2005 through 2019, dropping from 1.1 percent to 0.6 percent, with incidence declining from 0.43 percent per 1000 people to 0.11 percent. According to official estimates, HIV-related mortality declined from 1,400 deaths in 2005 to 310 in 2019 or 9 out of every 100,000 people (CF, 2021). Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR) fell from 486 deaths per 100,000 live births in 2010 to 380 per 100,000 live births in 2015/16.

This represents an appreciable decline of 46.9 percent over a period of eight years. However, the current figure is still above Africa's average of 210 deaths per 100,000 live births which warrants further interventions. The drop in MMR is on account of increased access to basic emergency obstetric care in all 258 national health facilities across the country. Delivery assisted by skilled personnel in health facilities has increased from 55 percent in 2015 to 70 percent in 2019. However, access to and utilization of available skilled birth attendance services is hampered by several factors including social and cultural practices, religious beliefs, inadequate skilled health personnel, long distances to the nearest health facilities and low production of midwives by the existing training institutions (SPCF Evaluation Report, 2022).

In 2021, the Government in partnership with the UN, expanded coverage of lifesaving health and nutrition interventions including the treatment of pneumonia, diarrhea, malaria, acute malnutrition, as well as micronutrient supplementation while maintaining the quality of interventions in the context of COVID-19. To prevent anaemia, the Government reached 85,519 clients with Iron Folic Acid (IFA) in 2019 while in 2020 that number increased by 8.7 percent to stand at 92,990 clients (SPCF Evaluation Report, 2022). Notwithstanding these achievements, following the COVID-19 pandemic, the nutrition situation in Eritrea worsened—reflecting challenges in access to nutritious and healthy foods by vulnerable groups.

As part of rolling out primary healthcare, Eritrea scored notable progress in immunisation rates against vaccine preventable diseases achieving a staggering rate of over 95 percent. Consequently, this had the added benefit of improving neonatal and child health across the country. Official estimates show 80 percent of the population can access a health facility (of any

kind) within 10 kilometres radius (or 2 hours of walking) from a network of Mother and Child Clinic, health stations, health centres and hospitals (SPCF Evaluation Report, 2022).

The country scored success in containing the spread of COVID-19 soon after the first case was reported in 2020. Strict lockdown measures were imposed including shutting down the public transport sector, schools, eateries, and places of entertainment which helped to keep the numbers in check. However, following the easing of lockdown measures in 2021, the country witnessed an appreciable increase in community transmission. In comparative terms, infection rates and deaths remain relatively low in Eritrea.

As of February 2022, the total confirmed COVID-19 cases stood at 9689 with 9572 recoveries and 103 confirmed deaths. Data shows differentiated impacts on the population with the older ones (71 to 80) being more at risk relative to the other cohorts. According to the World Health Organization, deaths for the less than 50 years of age were recorded at 3, while between 50 and 60 years were recorded as 10, between 61 and 70 were 18, between 71 and 80 were 44 and 81 to 110 were recorded at 19.



### Education

The country has made notable gains in improving education particularly access to elementary education. However, access to pre-primary education remains low and is largely within the urban areas. The adjusted net enrolment rate (ANER) at primary level of education increased slightly from 83.5 percent in 2019 to 83.7 percent in 2020 (CF, 2021). The Ministry of Education reopened schools in 2021 after 12 months of closure after putting in place COVID-19 prevention measures thus enabling the re-enrolment of 670,897 children (309,279 girls)<sup>5</sup>. Continued investments in SDG 4 on education over time are expected to increase productivity and decent employment, the aim of SDG 8.



### Poverty

Significant progress has been made in poverty reduction and the elimination of hunger. The proportion of poor people and those that suffer from hunger are believed to have declined substantially since independence in 1991 (CF, 2021). The Government continued to focus on the elimination of deprivations and build resilience through the provision of and access to essential services (health, education, water, sanitation, and social protection) with a focus on leaving no one behind. Special focus was placed on cash transfers to mitigate against COVID-19 and other related shocks.



### Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

Data show that the proportion of total population without access to safe drinking water decreased by 50 percent to 15 percent by end of 2015 (CF, 2021). About 53 percent of the rural population in Eritrea have access to drinking water from improved water sources – primarily public taps (36 percent) and protected public wells (13 percent). Of the remaining 47 percent, 22 percent depend on unprotected public wells and 24 percent on surface water.

### Decent Work

Eritrea's challenge in the labour markets is not unemployment per se which currently stands at 3.5 percent but vulnerable employment at 57.4 percent. Females in urban areas have a slightly higher representation in vulnerable employment at 69.4 percent relative to their rural counterparts at 68.8 percent. There are also more females in vulnerable employment compared to males. In Eritrea, vulnerable employment particularly for casual and domestic workers and the self-employed is less likely to have formal work arrangements and is therefore more likely to have challenges with decent working conditions that include social security and paid leave.



### Climate Resilience and Environmental Sustainability

During the period under review, climate change continued to pose challenges to food and nutrition security, water supply, public health, and wildlife. Climate change has wider ranging impacts on agriculture and food security through extreme weather events as well as long-term warming and shifts in precipitation. If not addressed, climate change can significantly constrain the achievement of SDG 2 on nutrition and other related SDGs. Coastal resources and fragile ecosystems are also major concerns about the changing climate. Those most likely to be affected are those least able to cope such as subsistence farmers, spate and irrigated well farmers, pastoralists, the rural poor, small-scale traders, urban and semi-urban poor, artisanal fishermen and island inhabitants.

Women are affected differently and more severely by climate change, including through its impacts on agriculture, during extreme weather events and through induced migration. However, the country recorded notable progress against climate change through adaptation and mitigation. At a local scale, the Government has an ambitious annual tree planting programme coupled with terracing as part of adaptation and mitigation measures.



### Peace, Stability, and Strong Institutions

Regional political instability can accelerate risk and crisis, and fuel tensions, human conflicts, and human migration. Riding on the 2018 peace dividends with Ethiopia, the Government continued to invest in peace efforts by promoting justice and accountable institutions as part of the "peace" dimension of sustainable development. The 2030 Agenda recognizes that building institutions is vital for development and peace. It is only through transparent, effective, accountable, and inclusive institutions that Eritrea will galvanize its progress in socio-economic development.



### Gender

While gender equality and empowerment have received the Government's proactive support since independence, challenges persist. Gender inequality and discrimination affect women's and girls' access to services and in employment. However, several regulations have been developed to secure the rights of women and girls, including positive discrimination systems. The Government recognises that women's empowerment is fundamental to sustainable development with some progress being made also in the areas of harmful traditional and cultural practices such as child marriage and Female Genital Mutilation.

These rights for women and girls require further consolidation. Notably, parity between boys and girls in primary education has been achieved and gender disparities in secondary education enrolment have been reduced. In 2020, Eritrea's Gender Parity Index (GPI) was 0.86 and 0.8 for elementary and middle and secondary levels respectively (CF, 2021).

### Development Challenges

Notwithstanding the notable progress posted in socio-economic development, Eritrea is facing a number of compounding challenges which could reverse any gains in development made over the past couple of years. Specifically, the following were notable challenges that impacted stronger progress in the 2017-2021 SPCF period:

1. Unilateral economic sanctions with implications for growth and development.
2. Overreliance on primary commodities, minerals and base metals thus exposing the country to exogenous shocks in international markets.
3. Frequent locust infestations with resultant impacts on food and nutrition security
4. Climate change and its effects on economic activities and livelihoods.
5. Multidimensional poverty and malnutrition particularly affecting female-headed households in rural areas.

Due to these challenges, it is anticipated that several categories of people are at risk of being left behind. These include female-headed households, people living in hard-to-reach places, the urban poor, persons with disabilities, people with chronic illnesses, the elderly, and people in vulnerable employment. More specifically targeted programmes will be required to cushion these groups from negative impacts while addressing an inclusive and sustainable macro-economic recovery. The new Cooperation Framework takes this into account through two overarching pillars of engagement with the GoSE and its partners:

1. **Human development and wellbeing and**
2. **Inclusive, diversified and climate resilient economy.**

The two pillars have four outcome areas:

1. **People:** Equitable access to quality essential social services
2. **Peace:** Enabling accountable and efficient Institutions
3. **Prosperity:** Strengthening livelihoods security through, inclusive and diversified economic options; and
4. **Planet:** Building climate resilient, sustainable environment and natural resources

This will be achieved through "partnerships" with Government and its development cooperation partners with an emphasis has been placed on bridging the gap between urban and rural areas in the provision of public social services underpinned by strengthening public institutions and provision of social protection to the vulnerable. In addition, the country remains resolute, in line with the principles of self-reliance, social justice and equality to provide people-centred development with expected improvements in living standards while safeguarding the environment and its resources.

5. <https://reliefweb.int/report/eritrea/unicef-eritrea-humanitarian-situation-report-end-year-2021>



## 2.2 SPCF priorities, outcomes, and outputs

### Pillar 1: Basic social services

#### 3 Outcomes

Pillar	1. Health and Nutrition	2. WASH	3. Basic Education
1	 43.3M Requirement 45.0M Funded 104%	 14.6M Requirement 14.7M Funded 101%	 31.0M Requirement 35.3M Funded 114%

#### Contributions to the SDGs

Under this pillar, the following SDGs were targeted



#### Contributing Agencies

The following agencies contributed to Pillar 1



**Outcome 1 - Health and Nutrition: By 2021, children under five, youth, women and other vulnerable groups including refugees, have improved access to, and utilization of quality, integrated health, and nutrition services for the achievement of universal health coverage (UHC) to safeguard healthy lives and promote well-being for all.**



Significant progress has been made in facility and community-based integrated high-impact maternal, new-born child and adolescent health interventions, including immunization, nutrition, HIV and AIDS and non-communicable diseases, among others. In 2021 the Eritrea UN Joint Team (UNJT) effectively provided financial and technical support to the national HIV and AIDS response, ensuring that activities implemented are fully aligned to the ENSP VI (2021-2026).

With the roll-out of the new Global AIDS Strategy and the Political Declaration in June 2021, the UNJT provided strategic guidance to the Government to ensure the alignment of national strategies to the 2025 targets of the Global AIDS strategy. With the UN support, government commitment and the Global Fund support among others, the multi-sectoral response of HIV has been successful in reducing HIV related infections and deaths. Between 2005 and 2019, HIV prevalence was nearly halved, dropping from 1.1 percent to 0.6 percent, with incidence declining from 0.43 percent per 1000 people to 0.11 percent.

During the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, the UN Joint Team on HIV and AIDS successfully supported the country to develop and advocate for a proposal for the COVID-19 Response Mechanism (C19RM) which led to an additional award from the Global Fund, for funding worth US\$ 8,678,154 of additional investments to address targeted areas of health

outcome indicators. Significant progress has been made in facility and community-based integrated high-impact maternal, new-born child and adolescent health interventions, including immunization, nutrition, HIV and AIDS and non-communicable diseases, among others. Additionally, the under-five mortality rate has steadily declined over the years from 153/1,000 live births in 1990 to 39/1,000 in 2020 according to the United Nations Inter-agency Group for Child Mortality Estimation (IGME 2021)<sup>6</sup>, towards the target of 25 per 1,000 live births by 2030, according to the most recent UN and World Bank IGME estimates.

The UN strengthened the Government's capacity and community-based systems to apply innovative service delivery methods, throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, thus sustaining uptake of antenatal care (ANC) and delivery services as well as maintaining high immunization coverage of 85 percent of children accessing three doses of DTP / Penta containing vaccine at the end of 2021 and access to high impact preventive services (96% of girls and boys 6-59 months received two annual doses of vitamin A supplementation). The UN also supported the strengthening of capacity for the treatment of obstetric fistula which resulted in the treatment of 202 fistula survivors enabling their reintegration in the community with dignity (between 2018 and 2021).

Additionally, the UN supported the development of the Health System Strategic Development Plan (HSSDP) III Reproductive Maternal, Newborn, Child and Adolescent Health and Nutrition and Healthy Aging Strategic Plan. This contribution to strengthening policy is expected to even further facilitate programme delivery and impact. The UN also contributed to the review of the national Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE) strategic plan, leading to the improvement of reporting template to include key pillars on accountability for affected populations. Community dialogue and participation was also strengthened during the COVID-19 pandemic resulting in a better response in messaging and behaviour change. Policy orientation was also strengthened through the support offered to the MoH in the development of the Cervical Cancer Prevention, Control and Management guideline.

<sup>6</sup> United Nations Inter-Agency Group for Child Mortality Estimation (UN IGME), 'Levels & Trends in Child Mortality: Report 2021, Estimates developed by the United Nations Inter-Agency Group for Child Mortality Estimation', United Nations Children's Fund, New York, 2021.

**Outcome 2 - Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH): By 2021, all people, including refugees, benefit from available and sustainable water, sanitation, and hygiene services.**



During the last two years of the reporting period, access to water and sanitation increased from the 57.9 percent (EPHS, 2010) to 60.65 percent by 2021, contributing to the resulting emphasis on infection prevention and control. Similarly, the proportion of the population practicing open defecation dropped to a new low (30% against a target of 32%), setting Eritrea on the path toward achieving its goal of being open-defecation-free (ODF) in 2022. Government institutional capacity was built through training in infection prevention and control (IPC), water safety planning, database management and supply chain management to enhance and strengthen monitoring, reporting and data management as well as sustainability checks to ensure sustainable implementation of climate-resilient water supply interventions.

The UN supported the rehabilitation, upgrading and new construction of eight community water supply systems, including 5 climate-resilient rural water supply systems in four Zobas in 2021. This resulted in 10,489 people (4719 males, 5770 females) gaining access to safe drinking water, against a 2021 target of 20,000 with 62% of the rural population using an improved source of drinking water (meeting the target of 61%), an increase from 56 percent in 2018. Additionally, access to safe sanitation for 672 students was enhanced through the construction of one gender-segregated school WASH facility comprising 12 cubicles (three accessible for disabled students), thus contributing to the principle of leaving no one behind.

**Outcome 3: Basic education: By 2021, children in vulnerable communities, including refugees, have increased access to inclusive, equitable and quality early learning and basic education.**



**Quality: Adjusted Net Enrolment Rate (ANER)**

With the support of the UN, at pre-primary level, the Adjusted Net Enrolment Rate (ANER) has increased from 17 percent at the baseline to 19.4 percent as per 2020/2021, while the ANER at primary level increased by 3.1% from 82% at the baseline to 85.1% as per the Education Management Information System (EMIS). The ANER at secondary school level marginally increased from 48 percent to 48.5 percent.

**Quality: Minimum Learning Achievement (MLA) Scores**

With continued support from the UN and increased efforts made by the Government, significant improvements in the minimum learning achievement scores have been accomplished between the baseline year of 2015 and 2018 (as per 2018 data). For Grade 3, the target of 50 percent has almost been met with an increase from 30% in the baseline year to 46.1% in 2018. For Grade 5 the target of 35% has been exceeded with an increase from 25% in the baseline year to 37.6 percent in 2018.



## Pillar 2: Environmental sustainability, resilience and disaster risk management

### 1 Outcome

2



4. Environment,  
Resilience & DRM

95.9M Requirement  
85.2M Funded

89%



### Contributing Agencies





**Outcome 4: Environment, Resilience and DRM\*: By 2021, environmental and natural resources management is gender responsive and sustainable, negating the impacts of ecosystem degradation, climate change, and strengthening community resilience to disaster.**

**Resilience and Emergency Preparedness for Desert Locust Control and Management.**

2021 saw great success recorded in the control and management of the desert locust infestation that affected Eritrea alongside other countries in the Horn of Africa region. The response saw more than 850,000 ha of land surveyed and around 104,000 hectares of land treated mainly through efficient organizational arrangements. Consequently, around 23,876 households' livelihoods were safeguarded. As part of the response, the UN supported 9,500 pastoralists and agro-pastoralists households whose pastureland was destroyed by the desert locusts.

This resulted in the surveillance of 500,000 hectares and treatment of 70,000 ha of land and the protection of the lives of 35,000 cattle and 120,000 small ruminants. The UN's partnership with GoSE also led to strengthened national capacities in desert locust monitoring, rapid response and safety in pesticide use. The training of 7000 farmers and 450 agricultural extension staff on post-harvest handling boosted livestock nutrition and supported livestock production, leading to improvements in household food supply and nutrition. In addition, the protection of cropping areas and pastureland helped to contribute towards increased food security and assisted in the recovery livelihoods that were affected by desert-locust.

**Foot-and-Mouth Disease**

Eritrea has also recorded an outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease and brucellosis. To respond to these outbreaks, 18,479 farmers were trained on basic good hygiene practices to promote good animal husbandry. Additionally, 25 Animal Health and laboratory personnel were trained on basic FMD and Brucellosis diagnostic techniques. This resulted in the diagnosis and vaccination of 373,094 cattle, sheep and goats against Brucellosis, the collection of data on the current status of the FMD and Brucellosis diseases in five zones and the collection of more than 10,000 samples for screening and confirmatory diagnosis. Other interventions included the provision of basic laboratory equipment and reagents to the National Animal and Plant Health Laboratory (NAPHL) and FMD and Brucellosis vaccines to enhance response to the outbreak.

The United Nations has been collaboratively working with the Government of Eritrea to achieve environmental sustainability and strengthening communities' resilience to the adverse impacts of climate change. Through this support, significant areas have been managed sustainably and used wisely by local communities under locally designed benefit-sharing regime to improve their livelihoods. During the SPCF cycle, 163,625 hectares of land and marine habitat were put under strict protection, and 7,750 hectares of land were put under sustainable forest management.

Additionally, 11, 0755 hectares of protected area are under improved land management. All the interventions were implemented under the full ownership of the government and full participation of local communities through local governance structures. In the Areza and Maidma areas, the UN partnered with the Government and the European Union to support two solar PV mini-grid energy projects with generation capacity of 1.25 MW and 1 MW respectively. By 2021, the project connected 33 surrounding villages to these two isolated Solar PV mini-grid systems providing access to electricity to 4,060 households corresponding to a population of 18,270.

In addition, about 15,000 people are estimated to have made better use of social services like health and education now powered with energy around the clock. Livelihoods activities were also developed or better enhanced with availability of solar power signifying the integrated nature of the solutions created by these projects and the importance of energy as a catalyst for social and economic transformation. Seven thousand rural and semi-urban households in Maidima-Areza sub-towns in 33 villages, corresponding to a population of around 45,300 have benefitted from this project.



**Umbrella Programme for National Communication to the UNFCCC, GEF Funded project**

The UN extended its support to the Ministry of Land, Water and Environment of the State of Eritrea to produce the Third National Communication to the UNFCCC. The third national communication was finalized in December 2021 and was posted to the UNFCCC website.

**Umbrella Programme for Biennial Update Report to the United National Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) GEF Funded project**

This project was meant to provide support to thirty-nine (39) Least Developed Countries (LDCs) including Eritrea and Small Islands Developing States (SIDS) to prepare and submit good quality initial biennial update reports to the UNFCCC that comply with the convention's reporting obligation. The Biannual update report intervention was finalized and submitted by the Ministry of Land, Water and Environment of the State of Eritrea in December 2021 and has been posted to the UNFCCC website. Eritrea continues to fulfil its international obligation on climate reporting as evidenced by the periodic

reporting to the UNFCCC.

**Alid Geothermal Prospect**

The UN is supporting the Government in the sustenance and the development of the large untapped geothermal resource. So far, the implementation plan has been developed, and youth who will be involved in the implementation of the project were trained. Another key result is that additional resources were mobilized for geothermal prospecting. The results of the study will provide information on location of target sites for drilling and will minimize the risk of drilling dry wells while maximizing the chance of productive wells. The project will assist Eritrea in preparing a proposal for financial support from the Geothermal Risk Mitigation Facility (GRMF) of the African Union Commission – German Development Bank (KfW) for subsequent drilling.

Pillar 3: Public sector capacity development

1 outcome

3



5. Capacity Development

23.3M Requirement  
33.6M Funded

144%

Target SDGs



Contributing Agencies



**Outcome 5: Capacity development: By population, including vulnerable groups, benefits from evidence-based planning and policy; accountable public institutions and systems ensure human rights and equitable public service delivery.**

**Technical assistance/Capacity Development**

The UN signed an agreement for provision of technical assistance in boat design, fish stock assessment, aquaculture, and marine biodiversity management. This is expected to contribute to job creation thus enhancing management of marine resources and income generation. Training in quality management system under the International Organization for Standardization and International Electrotechnical Commission (ISO/IEC) 17025 for testing and calibration of laboratories was provided to the laboratory staff of the quality chemical labs (QCL) and standard operating procedures (SOPs) in microbiology, chemistry and quality management system was drafted by the QCL team.

This is expected to enhance quality management of agricultural chemicals that have environmental impacts. The improved capacity has enhanced watershed characterisations leading to informed investment in soil and water conservation as well as irrigation development. Improved capacity of the MoA Zoba experts on GIS has enabled the updating and production of land cover and land use maps which are being used to assist in informed planning and monitoring of natural resource use, management, and conservation in six Zobas. Capacity at the Ministry of Agriculture and Zoba is strengthened because of training given to a total of 313 staff on application of modern metrological and hygrometry procedures and data management as well as through supply of 115 rain gauges.

This has led to improved forecasting of weather events and targeted policy interventions. Capacity development in agricultural strategic information system has contributed to improving capacity of MoA and Zobas in collection, management and dissemination of weather data for informed decision making both by policy makers as well as farmers regarding crop calendar as well as overall farm management planning. Under this output, the UN partnered with the Government to benefit an estimated 11,370 households (HH) or 56,850 individuals through improved ecosystem, engagement and income generation.

The UN supported the National Union of Eritrean Youth and Students (NUEYS) to enhance technical, vocational and entrepreneurship skills, which enhanced their capacities to support sustainable youth employment opportunities and alternative income generation schemes.

The capacity of the Government to respond to environmental challenges was strengthened through the support to develop

policy, strategies, and institutional frameworks on biodiversity conservation and climate change efforts. The UN also supported the strengthening and revitalization of the national Environmental Database and Information centre to generate a wide variety of environmental data and information to support and facilitate policy and decision-making processes at various levels.

Additionally, the capacity of the Office of the Auditor General on accountability and the Ministry of Justice were strengthened to enhance service delivery through human and institutional capacity strengthening and digitization of the courts systems, resulting in efficiency of service delivery.

Further, the UN supported the Ministry of Information to migrate from the analogue to the digital platform resulting in significant changes in news and information management thus improving efficiency and productivity. Other areas of capacity support included technical assistance and advisory services to the Government to prepare its first Voluntary National Review (VNR) report which has enhanced the national authority's ability to report on its international obligations on SDGs. In addition, the UN strengthened the capacity of the Government to ensure business continuity during the COVID-19 pandemic which ensured continued delivery of essential services.

**Integrated Agricultural Production**

Support by the United Nations resulted in the production of better-quality seeds distributed to farmers that will guarantee quality foods for both human beings and animals thus enhancing livelihoods. A total of 170,203 HHs or 850,980 were reached through improved access to and use of appropriate technologies, infrastructure and services for enhanced productivity. The improved production as well as results on impact/outcome indicators are being consolidated as part of the NAP end line surveys and PCR.

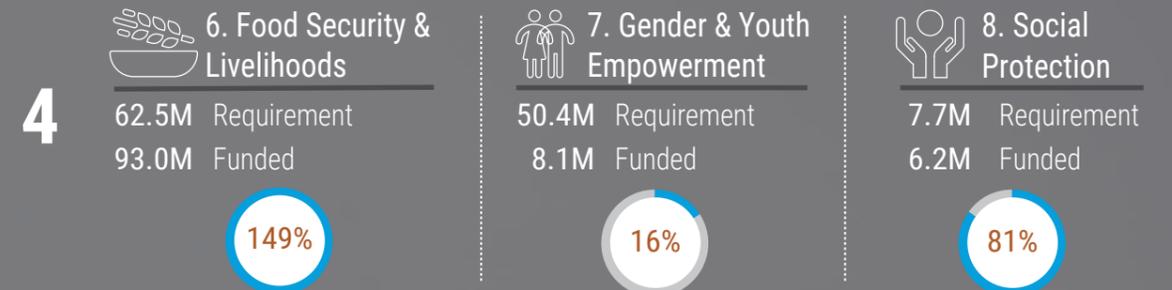
Under the Fisheries Resources Management Program (FRMP), a total of 7255 HHs or 36275 persons were reached through improved access to and use of appropriate technologies, infrastructure and services for enhanced productivity. This resulted in improved public sector capacity development for enhanced livelihoods.





## Pillar 4 Inclusive growth, food security and sustainable livelihoods

### 3 Outcomes



### Target SDGs



### Contributing Agencies





**Outcome 6: Food security and livelihoods: By 2021, smallholder households have improved access to, and utilisation of quality food and enhanced livelihood opportunities**

With the support of the United Nations, food and nutrition security has been enhanced through the identification of needs and gaps in terms of nutrition and food security. The establishment of a Technical Working Group to back up the formerly established Technical Committee for Nutrition and Food Security is also seen as a step towards enhancing nutrition and food security in Eritrea.

Additionally, the UN supported a programme on improving grain post-harvest handling. As a result, the capacity of agricultural extension staff of the MoA and smallholder farmers on improved grain post-harvest handling and storage was strengthened. Additionally, storage materials (800 silos, 16,800 hermetic bags and 3000 tarpaulins) were distributed to 5000 beneficiary farmers in four regions of Maekel, Debub, Anseba and Gash-barka further contributing to enhancing safe storage of food to contribute to food security.

The UN also supported and strengthened resilience against COVID-19 through income generating activities targeting poor and vulnerable people including women headed households. This resulted in improved livelihoods for poor and vulnerable community including women headed households.



**Outcome 7: By 2021, women, men, children, and youth, including refugees, have improved gender equitable participation opportunities in economic, political, cultural, and social development.**

In 2021, there was an 80 percent increase in the prevention and elimination of child marriage and female genital mutilation (FGM) across 13 sub-Zobas compared to the baseline of 20% in 2018. Partnerships with the MoLSW, the National union of Eritrean Women (NUEW) and MoH, along with strengthened partnerships with United Nations (UN) agencies, made it possible to deliver women and child protection results in Eritrea.

Consequently the government was supported in preparing and presenting the 6th CEDAW report in due time thus its capacity to adhere to international conventions, protocols and declarations was enhanced. The UN also support enhanced community mobilization in the elimination of FGM as evidenced by mapping assessment. This support resulted in some communities declaring being FGM free as evidenced by the steep decline in the practice among children aged under 5 years and under 15 years in some of the Zobas.

**Outcome 8: By 2021, vulnerable children, adolescents, young people, women, and people with special needs, including refugees, are better protected and have the capacity to participate fully in economic, social, and political development.**

The UN supported the extension of social protection services in form of social assistance (cash and in-kind support) to vulnerable families, particularly women headed households and households hosting orphans and children living with disabilities, thus, contributing to the safeguarding and improving of livelihoods. The UN's support enhanced access to education through the 'Donkey for School' initiative where over 150 donkeys were provided to children with mobility disabilities to ensure their access to school. The 'Donkey for School' initiative resulted in increased school enrolment, reduced dropouts, and improved attendance, which in turn led to improved academic performance and contributed the principle of leaving no one behind. In addition, provision of donkeys for income generation for vulnerable families improved their livelihoods options, providing a social safety net for them and strengthening resilience.

The UN's support enhanced community-based initiatives to provide social assistance (cash and food) to 8,908 vulnerable families benefitting 17,106 children (including 4,550 children living with disabilities). This contributed to strengthened livelihoods, improved access to education, prevention of social stigma and building of resilience during COVID-19 pandemic. The UN also contributed to strengthening capacity of the social service workforce to provide quality child protection and social protection services with referral support. The UN contributed



to the strengthening of training manuals on injury prevention, mine risk education and violence against children. This was disseminated in mine-risk communities and provided critical, life-saving information to over 125,000 children and caregivers (48 females) who are at risk of land mine exposure and different forms of violence. This strengthened the knowledge base, and no land mine incident was reported in 2021.



### 2.3 Support to Partnerships and Financing the 2030 Agenda

The year 2021 was a transition year between the end of the 2017-2021 Cooperation framework and the development of the next 2022-2026 Cooperation Framework. The UNCT focused on the expansion of the partnership base through the involvement of existing or long-standing partners and mobilization of additional ones. The SPCF target was to provide an effective coordination platform utilizing the presence of embassies and missions in Asmara but ensuring to bring onboard those with a mandate to cover Eritrea from other neighboring countries or from their respective capitals.

The Eritrea Partners' Development Forum chaired by the Resident Coordinator, which was meant to meet quarterly, met even more regularly in 2021 because of the need to get strong coordinated action around a response to COVID-19. The Forum also provided an important opportunity for discussions on development of the new Cooperation Framework as well as the new Country Programming Documents for UNDP, UNICEF and UNFPA and to exchange views on engaging constructively on

the myriad of challenges that faced Eritrea in 2021 including those such as sanctions and the regional geo-politics. Membership of the EDPF increased from 15 embassies and missions to 21, representing both resident and non-resident members. Furthermore, towards the financing of the 2030 agenda, the UNCT worked to enhance collaboration between the UN family and International Financial Institutions. Given currently limitations in the engagement of the IMF and the World Bank, the partnership is limited to information sharing but is more active with the African Development Bank which has a portfolio of programmes and with whom collaboration and coordination will be even further strengthened in the new Cooperation Framework period.

### 2.4. Results of the UN working more and better together: UN coherence, effectiveness, and efficiency

In December 2017, the UN Secretary-General (SG) issued a proposal to reposition the United Nations Development System and included a requirement for all UN Country Teams (UNCTs) to comply with an improved Business Operations Strategies (BOS) by 2021. Accordingly, Eritrea's BOS 2.0, which focuses on establishing common operations services at the country level to support implementation of the UN programmatic mandate in a more efficient and cost-effective manner, was signed off on 24 July 2020 and Eritrea was among the first African countries that transitioned their BOS to the online platform. Eritrea's BOS is focused and structured under four service lines: Administration and facilities management; Human Resources, Finance, and information and communication technology (ICT).

It is expected to achieve a cost avoidance of US\$ 387,000 per year by eliminating duplication, leveraging the common bargaining power of the UN and maximizing economies of scale. As part of the administration and facilities management which makes up 80% of the expected cost avoidance, the BOS working group established common long-term agreements on different operational activities such as printing and procurement of UN publications, vehicle rentals, travel, security, clearing and forwarding, accommodation and conference

facilities, and other operational services. As a result, the team enhanced operational efficiency by streamlining and reducing the processing time and responding to programmatic needs on time. Moreover, the Human Resources working group was able to contribute towards creating a conducive and motivating working environment at a lower cost by organizing common trainings such as supervisory skills training, Results Based Management, Chartered Institute of Procurement and Supplies (CIPS) training (level 2-4) Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) training; procurement of outdoor gym equipment (as part of enhancing staff wellbeing and wellness) and the hiring of a stress counselor who provides counselling services and briefing sessions on staff wellness. The HR working group was also able to coordinate joint recruitment panels, develop a common roster for consultants and is therefore expected to achieve a cost avoidance of USD 58,000 per year.

The Harmonized Approach to Cash Transfer (HACT) working group, as part of the BOS, was also able to establish common long-term agreements (LTA) for Harmonized Approach to Cash Transfers (HACT) assurance activities and also conducted common Micro assessment for all implementing partners. By engaging a reputable service provider and enhancing knowledge and experience sharing among the different participating agencies, the team was able to enhance the quality of its

### BOS 2.0 Eritrea Efficiency Projections



assurance activities thus reducing the financial risk. The information and communications technology (ICT) working group is undertaking two important initiatives: establishment of a common solar system for all the UN agencies in the UN compound and establishment of a common internet connectivity platform for all UN agencies. The establishment of common solar enables agencies to use solar energy as their main source of energy and contributes towards environmental greening and sustainability by reducing gas emission. It also helps agencies to reduce their operating and maintenance costs and enhances long-term predictability of utility bills. Furthermore, this innovative technology also tackles major obstacles related

to power outages and electricity shortage in Asmara. The establishment of common internet connectivity involves the introduction of new O3B technology which is expected to enhance the quality of the internet connectivity and will also reduce the total overall cost. In addition to enhancing the quality of the internet connective, this common service initiative will also enable agencies to have a backup link and ensure business continuity.

## 2.5. Evaluations and Lessons Learned

Evaluations provide organisations and institutions a standard process to learn, grow, and adapt to their constantly changing internal and external environment. The summative end-term evaluation of the SPCF 2017-21 was concluded in December 2021 but the findings were not validated until March 2022. The evaluation reviewed and assessed all aspects of the SPCF to ascertain the extent of contribution to development goals in Eritrea as well as learn from the process of planning, implementation, and collaboration over the same period.

UN Agencies such as UNDP, UNICEF, UNFPA, IFAD and FAO also conducted final evaluations of their respective Country Programme Documents to inform their new country programmes for the period 2022-2026. As a meta-evaluation, the evaluation maintained that the SPCF 2017-2021 espouses the principle of Delivering as One and its four pillars and interlinked outcomes supported the effective implementation of the SDGs in Eritrea. More specifically, the interventions cumulatively contributed to encouraging progress in all the eight outcome areas. The following were lessons drawn from the evaluation based on key evaluation questions around effectiveness, coherence, and sustainability in the way the CF was designed and implemented. It also throws light on some important points to keep in mind for future programme implementation.

The SPCF 2017-21 focused largely on high-priority development interventions with greater reach and efforts. It is, therefore, important not to view coherence and effectiveness of outcomes in isolation: Coherence of the pillars and outcomes of SPCF alone is not enough; clear ground or enabling conditions are needed for the implementation of SPCF. For effective and efficient implementation of the country program, a coherent approach and an enabling partner coordination mechanism accompanied by inbuilt flexibility to allow UN agency engagement with implementing partners at sub-national level is imperative. There are early pointers to sustainability, but this cannot be guaranteed overtime.

The act of involving beneficiary communities in most programmes and projects as observed in the evaluation from prioritization to design, implementation and management explains the strong element of sustainability in most outcomes of the CF. However, sustainability in terms of financing may appear difficult in some areas of intervention such as immunization. The operating environment was the arbiter of the extent of implementation of the UN programming principles. Although programmes were guided by the principles of human rights-based approach, gender equality, environmental sustainability, with results-based management, and capacity development,

the depth to which they were integrated particularly in programme implementation and reporting depended on the internal capacities in those areas as well as the scope availed by the operating environment.

Going forward, the following are imperative:

1. Joint Programming must be the basis for delivering as one and resource mobilization. For the joint programming approach to work, all the partners must be committed to the principles of delivering as one with a common resource mobilization strategy, cash transfer and reporting system to avoid fragmentation and duplication of efforts and high transaction costs.
2. A well-articulated results and resources framework with clear baselines, targets and indicators of achievement must be used to as the basis of effective tracking of activities and results and assessment of performance at different levels.
3. Commitment and adherence to a well-structured governance arrangement is critical for the effective, efficient, and sustainable implementation of the next UNSDCF.
4. Continuing high level advocacy and dialogue with the political leadership is important for building confidence and sustaining trust between government and development partners.

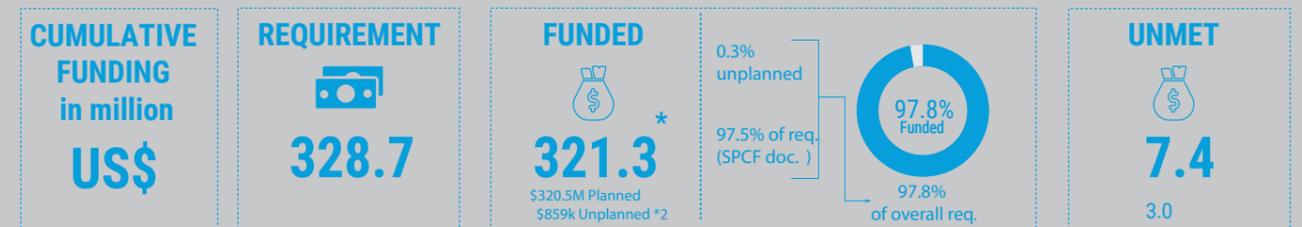
The SPCF as a programme carries relevant priorities, outcomes, and projects. The main concern has not been what was included; it was rather what was not, and it would be critical for those to be investigated or picked up in the next programme cycle.



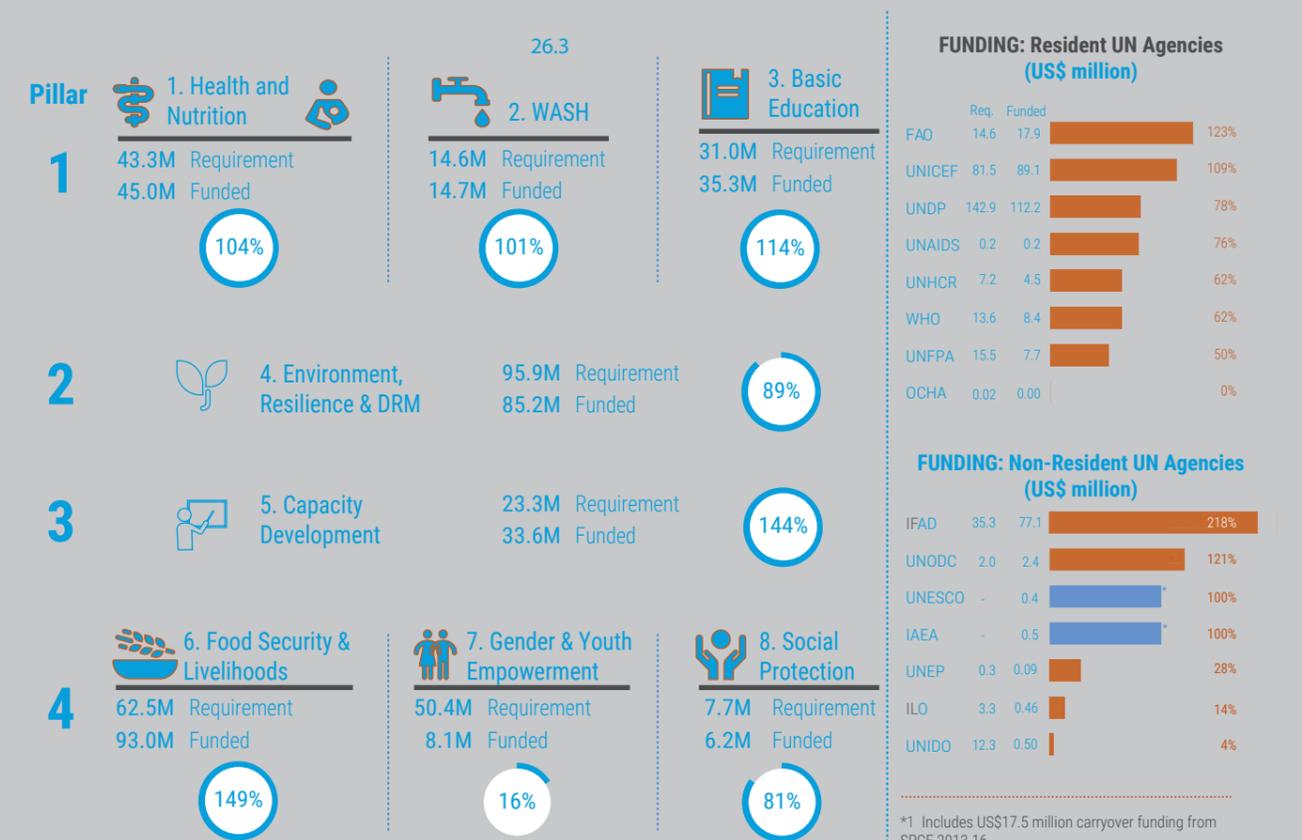
## 2.6 Financial and Resource Mobilization Overview 2021

2021 is the final year of the implementation of the SPCF 2017-2021. This financing overview covers both 2021 and the cumulative funding status of the five years. By the end of the final reporting year, the funding level has reached 97.8%.

### CUMULATIVE FUNDING in million US\$ 2017 - 2021



### REQUIREMENTS AND FUNDING BY SPCF OUTCOME AREA (US\$ million)

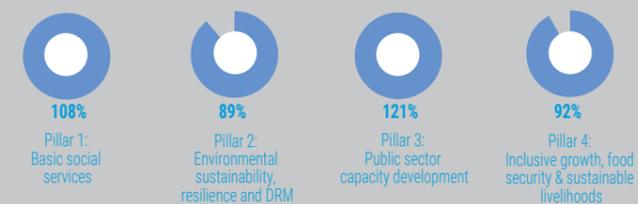


\*1 Includes US\$17.5 million carryover funding from SPCF 2013-16.

\*2 Unplanned = funding mobilized for programmes that had not been registered as part of the initial SPCF total requirement (UNESCO, & IAEA).

Minor variations in figures and percentages are due to rounding off. Requirements are for the entire period of 2017-2021 and funding figures are cumulative from 1 January 2017 up to 31 December 2021.

#### FUNDING BY PILLAR (US\$ million)



Creation date: 10 Jan. 2022

[www.unocha.org](http://www.unocha.org) [www.reliefweb.int/country/eri](http://www.reliefweb.int/country/eri)

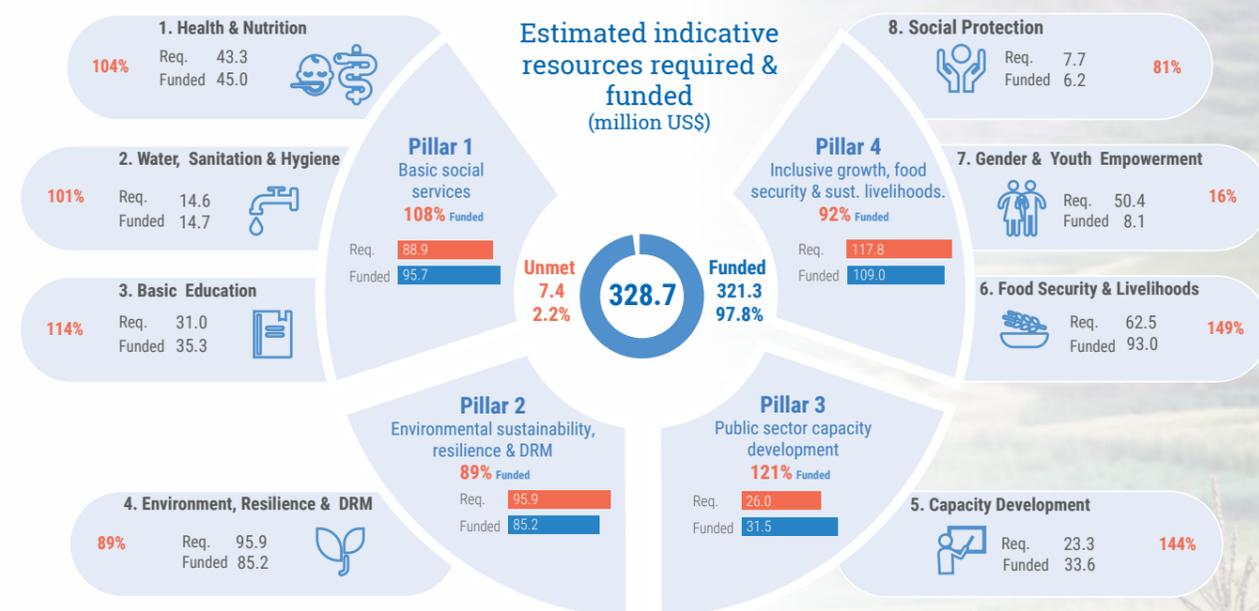
Sources: UN agencies. Feedback: [och@eritrea.un.org](mailto:och@eritrea.un.org)

Produced by: UNOCHA Eritrea

## The Strategic Partnership Cooperation Framework (SPCF) Between The Government of the State of Eritrea and the United Nations 2017-2021.

### End of cycle cumulative funding mobilized

The Strategic Partnership Cooperation Framework (SPCF) 2017-2021 is the fourth strategic medium-term cooperation framework for Eritrea. It outlines the collective vision and shared response of United Nations agencies in Eritrea to the National Indicative Development Plan (NIDP) 2014-2018 and responds directly to the goals of the National Charter of the People's Front for Democracy and Justice (PFDJ) to advance Eritrea's sustainable development agenda and to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Below are the requirements and funding of the SPCF 2017 - 2021, as of 31 December 2021.



### "Delivering as One for the SDGs"

1. Health and Nutrition: By 2021, children under five, youth, women and other vulnerable groups including refugees, have improved access to and utilization of quality, integrated health and nutrition services for the achievement of universal health coverage (UHC) to safeguard healthy lives and promote well-being for all.

2. Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH): By 2021, all people, including refugees, benefit from available and sustainable water, sanitation and hygiene services.

3. Basic Education: By 2021, children in vulnerable communities, including refugees, have increased access to inclusive, equitable and quality early learning and basic education.

4. Environment, Resilience and DRM: By 2021, environmental and natural resources management is gender responsive and sustainable, negating the impacts of ecosystem degradation, climate change, and strengthening community resilience to disaster.

5. Capacity Development: By 2021, the population, including vulnerable groups, benefits from evidence-based planning and policy, accountable public institutions and systems that ensure human rights and equitable public service delivery.

6. Food Security and Livelihoods: By 2021, smallholder households have improved access to, and utilisation of quality food and enhanced livelihood opportunities.

7. Gender and Youth Empowerment: By 2021, women, men, children and youth, including vulnerable groups and refugees, have improved gender equitable opportunities to participate in economic, political, cultural and social development.

8. Social Protection: By 2021, vulnerable children, adolescents, young people with special needs, including refugees, are better protected and have the capacity to participate fully in economic, social and political development.



## CHAPTER 3 UNCT key focus for next year

The United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) becomes the centrepiece of UN Reform at the country level and remains the overarching framework for supporting the implementation of the Government's National priorities and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The UN Country Team in Eritrea will continue its partnership with the Government and Development Partners to build forward better on the two-overarching pillar of the new Cooperation Framework (2022-2026), building on the lessons learnt in the previous SPCF and responding to new global and regional challenges. In line with the results framework for the new Cooperation Framework that was signed off by Government and agreed upon outcomes:

1. The UN system will continue to work to strengthen the Government's capacity to plan for and deliver equitable essential basic health services, as the country recovers from the COVID-19 pandemic, while continuing advocacy for the rollout of a national COVID-19 vaccination programme that upholds Government's concerns for equity and sustainability. The UN will also work with Government to help it attain several its elimination targets.
2. The UN will also continue to enhance human and institutional capacity development in the Ministry of Finance and National Development to propel coordinated development planning, budgeting, monitoring, evaluation, resource mobilization and utilization. The UN will also work with MFND to develop a blueprint for a more systematic approach to capacity development across different government ministries and institutions.
3. The UN will also further focus its support to strengthening resilience and economic transformation with a primary focus on the country's mainstay (agriculture) but expanding to other areas to enable diversified, inclusive and sustainable livelihoods.
4. The UN will work with Government consolidate its positive climate action strategies, ensuring that community's benefit from climate resilient, sustainable environment and natural resources management.

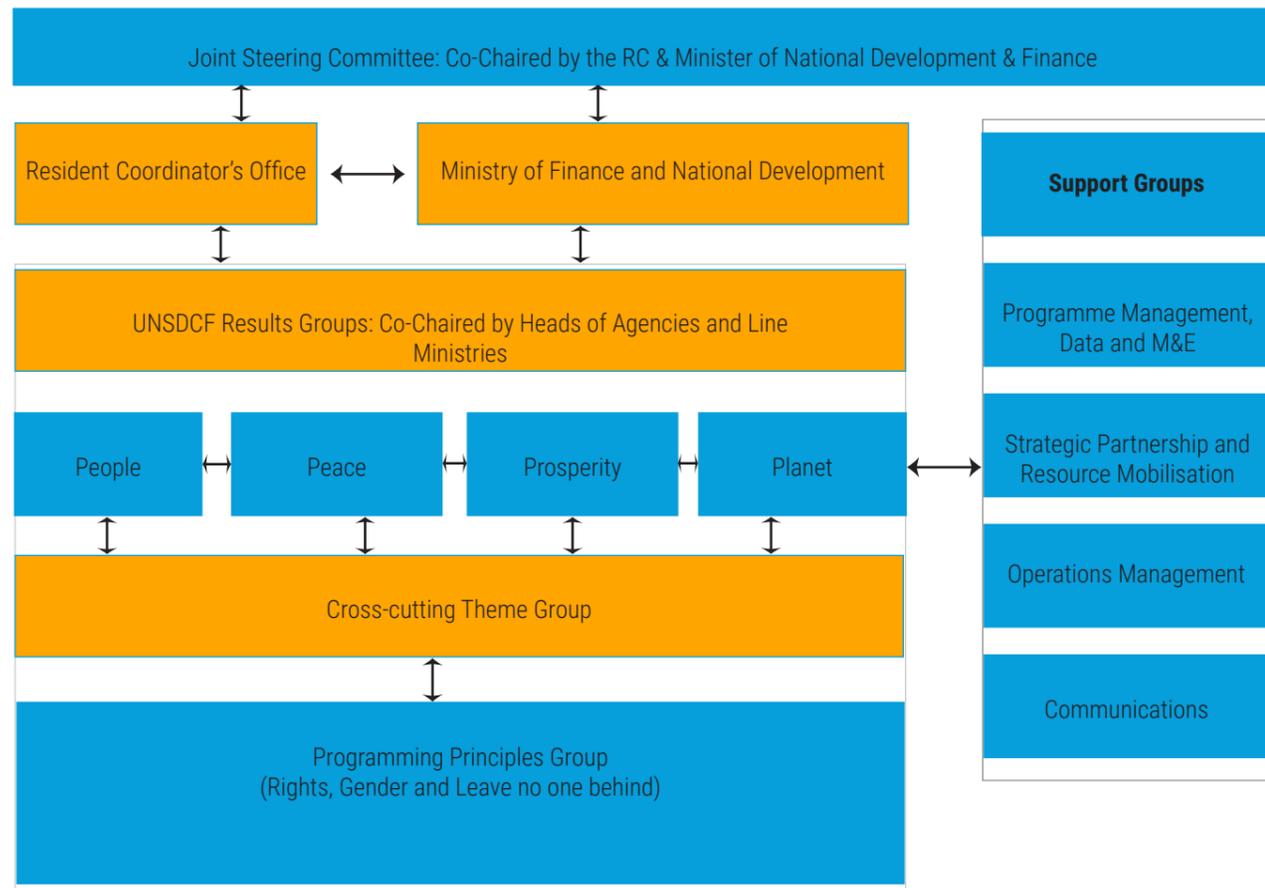
To engender accountability in the delivery of key outcomes and impacts under the new Cooperation Framework, the UN Development System in Eritrea has organized itself around the four outcomes outlined above to ensure closer coordination: leveraging of individual agency mandates against joint and coherent approaches with sectors and undertaking joint programming and resource mobilization. To ensure accountability for the UN's programming principles, a group on "Rights, Gender and Leaving No One Behind) has also been established as a peer review platform for strengthening activities in this area while also leading the system on supporting Government of treaty bodies monitoring and reporting in the areas of the Universal

Period Review, the Convention of the Rights of Children; the Convention of the Elimination of all Discrimination Against Women and on the various score-card exercises for gender, youth, disability and prevention of sexual harassment and exploitation. The implementation of the Cooperation Framework will be anchored under Results Groups. The operationalization of these RGs, categorized under key outcome areas will be through the implementation of joint multi-year workplans. At the highest level, a Joint CF Steering Committee co-chaired by a senior officer of the Ministry of Finance and National Development and the Resident Coordinator will provide oversight on the implementation of the Cooperation Framework.

Strengthening partnerships and engaging with Government on how the UN mobilizes resources in a politically challenged environment with sanctions; the global geo-politics and regional dynamics in the Horn of Africa is going to pre-occupy the UN in 2022 and beyond. In line with the need to enhance business continuity, the UN Country Team will continue to implement the BOS 2.0, which was initially launched in 2021. It is estimated that additional resources will be avoided, over and above the more than US\$1.5 million which was realized by the end 2021.

Finally, both Government and the UN agree on the need to pick up the pace and scale of programmes that meet the development needs of the people of Eritrea and the macro-economic vision that the Government has set out to build back better from the challenges of the past 2 years. A joint Regional Director's mission at the beginning of 2022 reaffirmed new optimism and a re-invigorated partnership commitment on accelerating action on the integrated and indivisible agenda of the SDGs with less than 10 years to go before the 2030 deadline.

## UNSDCF 2022-2026 Joint Steering Committee





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*Design and Layout: William Sila (UNDP and Resident Coordinator's Office, Eritrea)*

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