

# UNDP Eritrea Annual Report 2021



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# Acknowledgment

UNDP Eritrea acknowledges the Government of Eritrea, our development partners, civil society, and implementing partners, that continue to play a critical role in the quest and implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.

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

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# 2021 Overview

The State of Eritrea, with its capital, Asmara, is in the Horn of Africa region and borders Ethiopia in the South, Sudan in the West, Djibouti in the Southeast and the Red Sea in the Northeast and East. It includes the Dahlak archipelago and several of the Hanish islands in the Red Sea.



**Total land area - 124,000 km<sup>2</sup>**

**2,400km, length of Eritrea's coastline, including the archipelago of islands.**

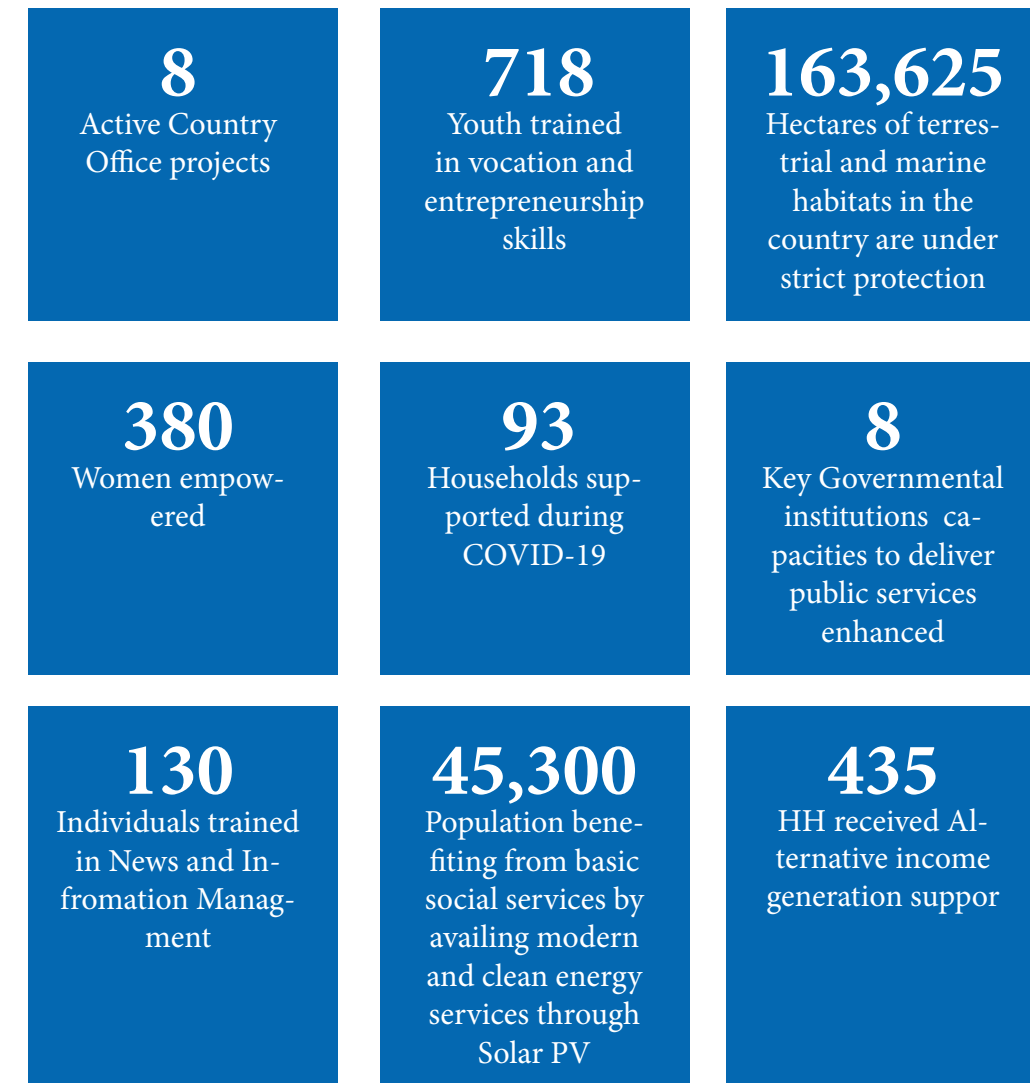
6 – number of ecological agro-ecological zones: moist and arid low-lands, semi-desert, moist and arid highlands, and sub-humid micro-catchment areas on the eastern escarpment. Altitude that ranges from 120 meters below sea level to over 3,000 meters above sea level.



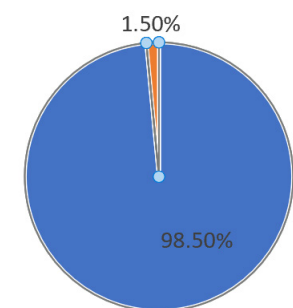
**Population - 3.65 million**

[Human Development Index](#) – in 2020, UNDP Eritrea launched the 2020 [Human Development Report: the next Frontier Development Indicators](#)

Country	HDI Value	HDI Rank	Life Expectancy	Gender Equality Score	Maternal Mortality Ratio	GNI per Capita (PPP USD) 2011
Eritrea	0.459	180	66.32 years	34.7	480 per 100,000 live births	1,610



**Programmatic Delivery in 2021**



■ Delivered ■ Undelivered

**Donors 2021**





# FOREWORD



***“The year 2021 was significant to UNDP as it marked the launch of the Strategic Plan (2022-25) that ushered in a new dispensation of a #Futuresmart UNDP.”***

**James Wakiaga**  
Resident Representative, UNDP Country Office in Eritrea

The year 2021 was significant to UNDP as it marked the launch of the [Strategic Plan \(2022-25\)](#) that ushered in a new dispensation of a [#Futuresmart UNDP](#). The Plan is bold and ambitious and provides a clear framework for the future of UNDP - working with countries to expand people's choices for a fairer, equitable and sustainable future.

The year was also significant for the development landscape in Eritrea. The UN finalized the [UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework \(UNSDCF\) \(2022-26\)](#) with the State of Eritrea. The UNDP Country Programme Document (CPD) (2022-26) was also approved by the Executive Board in New York in September 2021. Both documents are fully aligned to the national priorities of the Government and have been framed around the acceleration of the SDGs achievement by the 2030.

This annual report provides a snapshot of our achievements together with the Government of the State of Eritrea, sister agencies and development partners to foster national development agenda in several fronts. The partnership was anchored around our three CPD outcomes: sustainable natural resource management/resilience to climate change and disasters; capacity development; and inclusive growth and livelihoods. The highlights of this partnership and which you will read in the report, focused on strengthening the capability of the State to deliver public goods, promoting livelihoods,

and providing the youth with entrepreneurial skills, as well as, fostering climate action and promoting inclusive growth and sustainable development. Whilst implementation of our work was hampered by the COVID-19 pandemic, it has been a stark reminder of the imperative to build forward better. Our effort was directed towards enabling those in the informal sector to rebuild or restart businesses and recover better.

The signing of the Cooperation Framework (CF) (2022-26) and approval of the Country Programme Document (CPD) (2022-26) sends a good signal for a revitalized development cooperation with UN in 2022 and beyond. In playing our integrator role, UNDP will deepen its partnership with the Government and people of Eritrea to foster sustainable development anchored on the principle of Leaving No One behind (LNOB).

Once again, I would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank the esteemed Government of the State of Eritrea (GoSE), our partners, sister Agencies and foremost the indefatigable UNDP staff for the achievement of these results. We look forward to a brighter and promising future as we walk together in this journey!



# A Year in Stories



**International Women's Day  
UN Media Orientation**



**Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Awards**

**Welcoming Our new UN Resident Coordinator in Eritrea**



**UNDP training on "Reporting and Implementation of Eritrea's Regional and International obligations and commitments"**



**Graduation of 93 journalists from the Ministry of Information from 6-month long training**



**UN commemorated the 16 days of activism campaign**

**National Celebration of commemoration of COP26 in Eritrea**



**Panel discussion on the occasion of Global Week**



**In December 34 Women graduated from the Youth Employment and Skills Development Program in Zoba Anseba**



**International Volunteer day seminar conducted**



**Promoting sports for development: Cycling Competition conducted in Keren on the occasion of the International Youth day**



**UNDP Eritrea recognition from the Ministry of Justice**





# Responding to COVID 19

In 2021, the impact of the global COVID-19 pandemic continued to present multifaceted challenges to countries, impacting negatively on all sectors of their economies. The case of Eritrea is no exception. However, it is commendable to note that Eritrea has maintained among the lowest death and infection rates in Africa, with a high recovery rate, and minimal community transmission. The UNDP Eritrea Country Office acting in solidarity with the joint UN Eritrea COVID-19 offer, partnered with the Government in the fight against the pandemic to accelerate the reopening of the country and to enhance economic recovery and growth. UNDP's financial and technical assistance contributed in amplifying the advocacy drive on preventive measures and the provision of ICT and medical equipment helped strengthened the resilience of the healthcare system to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic and SDG 3.

## Safeguarding informal workers' livelihoods from the disruptive effects of COVID-19

UNDP strategically invested in building back the informal sector of the economy. In partnership with the National Confederation of Eritrean Workers, informal workers were trained in various entrepreneurial skills, supported financially and with productive assets which ensured livelihoods were restored and protected from the disruptive effects of the pandemic. The trainings enhanced the workers' productive capacities through the diversification and rebuilding of their productive base and assets.

The following were achieved:

**500,000** Nakfa invested in livelihood support to : **398** women who were rendered jobless due to the closure of business as a result of the COVID- 19 lock down measures.

**3,000** women who became jobless due to the closure of business as a result of the COVID-19 and socio economy problem in Anseba region were given livelihood building assets (Goats, sheep, cows etc) valued at Nakfa **5,000.00** each.

Reorganized two agricultural cooperatives by providing training to empower farmers in the Gash Barka region- Tokombia and Shambuko - **Nakfa 2,000,000.00**.



## Vaccine Duty of Care in the midst of COVID-19

Eritrea till date is said to be the only country on the African continent that is yet to roll out a COVID-19 vaccination campaign. Though the Government is not opposed to vaccination or immunization, the delay in rolling out of the National COVAX plan is underpinned by its strong principles of self-reliance, social justices, equity and fairness. The UN system continue to advocate for a nationwide COVAX plan for the country. However, as part of the UN system-wide COVID-19 vaccinations for UN personnel and their dependents, UNDP played an active engagement role lobbying the Office of the Resident Coordinator, the UN Country Team alongside UNDP's Regional and HQ Teams which facilitated a jointly coordinated approach of ensuring all UN personnel and their dependents in Eritrea were vaccinated.

120 UNDP personnel (Staff, dependents, and contractors) were vaccinated as a result of this exercise. This reinforced management commitment to the implementation of the People for 2030 agenda under the pillar "Take care of our People" and contributed to the overall staff well-being and a quicker recovery from the pandemic.

The UNDP Country Office continues to ensure all personnel work in a safe and healthy environment that contributes to their self-fulfillment and protects their dignity. At the height of the pandemic, Management ensured regular disinfection of the offices and compound and the provision of personal protective equipment's (masks and sanitizers) for staff and their dependents. In addition, shuttle services under strict COVID-19 protocols were provided for staff to allow smooth business continuity during the national lockdown. Augmenting the corporate measures of managing staff stress and improving wellbeing, UNDP in Eritrea on behalf of the UN system recruited a national stress counselor who provided to staff dedicated counseling and wellness sessions. Staff got to interact both through a one-on-one session with the stress counselor.

This significantly contributed to improved wellbeing of the staff thus contributing to the overall programme delivery and goals of the office.



# Strengthening Strategic Governance



Strategic governance remains critical. In 2021, UNDP continued its support to the People and Government of Eritrea in promoting inclusive governance and strengthening institutions for development effectiveness, transparency, and accountability. Priority areas included, improving service provision, civic participation, innovation, gender equality, respect for human rights and the rule of law; and consolidating peace.

In addition, the capacity of oversight institutions especially the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ministry of Justice to fulfill international commitments and increase engagement with regional and international development community was strengthened through the provision of tailored capacity strengthening trainings on Treaty Bodies and International Human Rights Instruments. Similarly, the staff of the Ministry of Information, some line ministries and departments also benefited in both institutional and human capacity building.

On economic governance, income generation and livelihood empowerment, the National Confederation of Eritrean Workers in collaboration with the National Union of Eritrean Youths and Students and the National Union of Eritrea Women provided various skills development training to youth, women and disadvantaged people in all six regions. This support contributes to enhanced productive capacities thus contributing to the economy's growth in both the informal and formal sectors.



# Income generation and livelihood

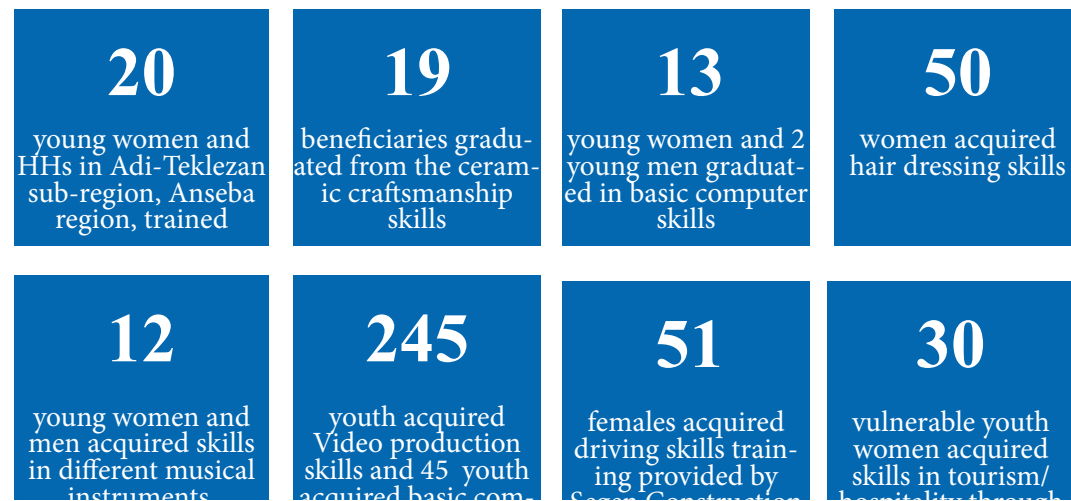
## empowerment

### Alternative income generation support for farmers

In a bid to respond to the slowdown of the economy and livelihoods especially in the informal sector due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, UNDP invested in increasing the productive capacities of farmers in alternative income generation schemes. In 2021, 640 farmer-beneficiaries received trainings on improved beekeeping and received modern beehives (two beehives each) to expand their livelihoods, 380 farmer households received a total of 9,500 chicks and materials for feeding and watering in addition to six months' supply of chicken feed and, 55 households received 14 heard of goats each.

### Trainings provided

Deriving from a community needs assessment report in the six administrative regions, 1,382 male and female youths, including people with disabilities and socially disadvantaged women completed various employable skills trainings in video shooting, beautification and body care, catering, pottery and musical instruments. These trainings were organized by NUEYS with financial and technical support of UNDP, 65% of the beneficiaries are women.



预览已结束，完整报告链接和二维码如下：

[https://www.yunbaogao.cn/report/index/report?reportId=5\\_31428](https://www.yunbaogao.cn/report/index/report?reportId=5_31428)



University of South Africa. This is a long-term strategy to produce a cadre of lawyers, legal professionals and human rights experts who will drive Eritrea's national development agenda.

### Training on mechanisms of International Humanitarian Law and Human rights treaties

UNDP in partnership with the Government of Eritrea provided tailored training for 20 youth (under-35) Government officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ministry of Justice. The training deepened their understanding and appreciation of International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights treaties.

The beneficiaries are now better equipped with the capacity to assert Eritrea's position on Regional and International obligations and commitments.

### First Voluntary National Review Training

The Government of the State of Eritrea has taken a bold step to participate in the SDGs Voluntary National Review process. With this commitment, the Government under the leadership of the Eritrea National Statistic Office, in partnership with UNDP, the Office of the UN Resident Coordinator (RCO) and with collaboration of UNECA and UNICEF organized the first workshop on Voluntary National Review (VNR) that brought together 27 participants from relevant Government Ministries, departments, Civil Society Organizations, and UN agencies.

The 2-day intensive workshop which produced, an "Action Plan" also provided a platform for knowledge sharing and understanding of the critical procedures that have to be followed for submission of Eritrea's first VNR. This bold step by the Government demonstrates the country's commitment towards the localized implementation of the SDGs and the full integration of the SDGs in the country's development priorities. UNDP is committed to continue to provide both technical and financial support in solidarity with the UN Country Team in Eritrea to accompany the National Statistics Office and the GoSE in this endeavor.

