

ANNUAL RESULTS REPORT 2025



UNITED NATIONS
ERITREA



ERITREA

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Foreword by the Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator

It is with sincere appreciation that I present the 2025 United Nations Country Team Results Report for Eritrea, a report that reflects, above all, the leadership, resilience and determination of the people and Government of the State of Eritrea. The achievements captured here are the product of a principled partnership grounded in mutual respect, national ownership and a shared commitment to dignity and opportunity for all.

In 2025, a mother in Dehub delivered triplets at Mendefera Referral Hospital, and all three survived. A pastoralist household kept its cattle alive through a drought that threatened years of accumulated livelihood. A girl in Gash-Barka sat at a computer for the first time and learned to type. A former practitioner of female genital mutilation (FGM) stood before her community and declared: “End it now.”

These are not isolated moments. They reflect the lived experience of a development trajectory that Eritrea is shaping steadily, on its own terms, driven by the aspirations of its people.

This report documents what the United Nations Country Team (UNCT) contributed to that trajectory in 2025, the fourth year of the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) 2022–2026. It is a report about results, and specifically, what changed in people’s lives.

Routine immunization coverage remained above 95 per cent. Skilled birth attendance rose from 81 to 85 per cent. More than 38,000 children with nutrition-related symptoms requiring therapeutic care recovered at cure rates meeting international standards.

Some 90,000 pastoralist households protected their livestock through vaccination and emergency feed support. A quarter of a million people gained access to more reliable, solar-powered water. Eritrea also submitted its third Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC), anchoring national commitments to climate-resilient, low-carbon development within a clear policy framework.

These results were not delivered by the United Nations. They were delivered by Eritrea, by health workers who sustained services through supply disruptions, by farmers who adopted new practices on difficult land, by community leaders who declared harmful practices over, and by public officials who, for the first time in a decade, designed a comprehensive National Development Plan. The UN’s role was to accompany these efforts, to strengthen the systems that make results sustainable, and to connect national priorities with global knowledge, norms, and available financing mechanisms.

2025 was not without difficulty. Regional instability and disruptions to Red Sea shipping created uncertainty for communities and supply chains, increased procurement costs, and delayed the delivery of essential goods. Persistent data gaps limited precision in targeting the most vulnerable. In addition, a constrained financing envelope, with USD 44.1 million available against requirements of USD 88.3 million, demanded careful prioritization. Despite these constraints, the results presented in this report demonstrate strong value for money, with meaningful progress achieved through modest resources, and highlight the potential for even more transformational impact with improved availability and utilization of funds.



The UN system’s collective contribution was most visible where agencies worked together. The joint programme on ending FGM is the clearest example: 992 villages, more than one-third of all villages in Eritrea, are now recognized as free from the practice, a result that required community engagement, clinical services, case management, and social norm change to advance in parallel, across multiple agencies and over multiple years. No single entity could have achieved this alone. This is the model the UNCT is committed to expanding—scaling integrated, multi-agency approaches that combine policy, services, community engagement, and systems strengthening to deliver sustainable results beyond the reach of any single agency

2026 is pivotal: the final year of the current framework and the foundation year of the next, which will be fully aligned with Eritrea’s National Development Plan 2026–2030. Our collective task is to close this cycle with integrity: to deliver on commitments made to document lessons

honestly, and to design the next framework based on evidence rather than assumption. The results in this report are the evidence.

I am grateful to the Government of Eritrea for its principled leadership of this partnership, to the UNCT, resident and non-resident agencies alike for their dedication to delivering as one, and to the Member States, global funds, and multilateral partners whose contributions made this work possible.

The people of Eritrea deserve a UN system that is clear about what it can and cannot do, rigorous in how it measures results, and genuinely committed to supporting a self-determined future. This report seeks to meet that standard.

Nahla Valji
United Nations Resident and
Humanitarian Coordinator in
Eritrea

UNCT Members



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In 2025, under the leadership of the Resident Coordinator, the 19-member United Nations Country Team (UNCT), comprising 9 resident and 10 non-resident agencies, delivered sustainable development priorities to Eritrea whilst advancing the objectives of UN Reform. The Country Team made specific efforts to facilitate visits to Eritrea by non-resident Agencies and by the UN senior leadership of the Secretary-General. The Country Team applied a One UN approach, supporting joint analysis, joint planning, and coordinated implementation, so that collective expertise was aligned behind the Cooperation Framework outcomes.

UNCT
Configuration
19
Entities
Delivering
as One



Resident
Agencies



Non-Resident
Agencies

Key Development Partners

Government Collaboration

Government ownership remained central to the UN's engagement in Eritrea in 2025. The UN worked closely with 11 key ministries to align United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) interventions with national development policy priorities. This ensured that technical assistance was embedded directly into national systems, in turn enabling the strengthening of national planning and service delivery institutions.



Key government partners included

- ▶ Ministry of Finance and National Development
- ▶ Ministry of Health
- ▶ Ministry of Agriculture
- ▶ Ministry of Land, Water, and Environment
- ▶ Ministry of Local Government
- ▶ Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare
- ▶ Ministry of Energy and Mines
- ▶ Ministry of Trade and Industry
- ▶ Ministry of Marine Resources
- ▶ Ministry of Information
- ▶ Ministry of Education
- ▶ National Statistics Office
- ▶ Customs Department
- ▶ National Commission for Higher Education

The UN Country Team in Eritrea thanks all UN Member States for their support of our work in 2025 and for their timely provision of assessed contributions, voluntary/extra-budgetary investments, and other contributions to the UN budget for all operations, which remain critical for the work of the United Nations worldwide.

The United Nations in Eritrea recognizes the contributions made by Eritrea's development partners to the following financing mechanisms. These enabled the delivery of life-saving and development interventions implemented in Eritrea over the past 12 months.

International Support and Development Partners

- African Development Bank (AfDB)
- Australian Committee for UNICEF Limited
- China SSTC - South-South and Triangular Cooperation
- European Union
- Fred Hollows Foundation
- Global Environment Facility (GEF)
- The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria (GFATM)
- Global Partnership for Education
- Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunisation (GAVI)
- Green Climate Fund (GCF)
- Government of Japan
- Irish Aid
- Italian Agency for Development Cooperation
- Multilateral Fund for Montreal Protocol
- United Kingdom Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office Prosperity Fund (FCDO)

Eritrea at a Glance



Population

(2025 est.)

Total Population

~**3.6** million

Population
under age 15

45%

Rural Population

65-57%

Urban Population

35-43%

Land Area

~**124,320** km²

Coastline

~**3,150** km
(including 350 islands)

Administrative Zoba/region

6 Zobas

Economic Indicators

GNI per capita
(PPP)

US\$2,029

Human Development
Index (HDI)

0.503

Access to Electricity

TOTAL

~**54%**

Urban
~**76%**

Rural
~**10%**

Health and Well-being

Life Expectancy at Birth

68.6 years

Total Fertility Rate (2025)

3.65 births per woman

Infant Mortality Rate

26 deaths per 1,000 births

Maternal Mortality Ratio (2025)

184 per 100,000 live births

Diphtheria–Pertussis–Tetanus
(third dose) (DTP3) Coverage

95%

Under Five Mortality Rate

35.4 per 1,000 live births

Education

Adult Literacy
Rate

76.6%

Male

82.39%

Female

65.45%

Youth Literacy Rate
(15-24 years)

93.25%

Male

94.55%

Female

91.91%

1 Key developments: Country and Regional Contexts

In 2025, Eritrea addressed persistent structural development challenges amid evolving regional conditions. Several crises in neighbouring countries, including conflict in Sudan, tensions in Ethiopia, and insecurity along the Red Sea maritime corridor, reshaped regional dynamics and heightened humanitarian and security pressures. Despite these challenges, developments during the year included improved external trade performance, continued economic activity, and expanded access to essential services. In parallel, the Government undertook a comprehensive national development planning process to define socio-economic priorities and articulate corresponding pathways for implementation.

Eritrea remained positively engaged regionally and internationally through active participation in AU, bilateral, and multilateral fora, renewed dialogue with the United States on trade, investment, and security, and new cooperation agreements with Italy. Engagement with the UN system also deepened across governance, data, climate, and resilience, alongside high-level dialogue with UN envoys on regional cooperation and Sudan, continued consultations with UNODC on anti-corruption ratification, and consideration of maritime agreements to strengthen transparency and safety.

Regional Geopolitics and Security Developments

The regional context grew more fragile in 2025. Several crises in neighbouring countries had direct implications for Eritrea's stability, border areas, and, in turn, for its development prospects.

- ▶ **Escalating tensions in the Horn of Africa** continued to influence the national security landscape, with relations between Eritrea and Ethiopia further deteriorating over the period. This evolving dynamic has heightened uncertainty, increasing the risk of potential instability, with broader implications for peace, development, and regional cooperation.
- ▶ **Conflict in Sudan:** The ongoing war in Sudan continued to generate cross-border population movements into Eritrea. While inflows remained relatively contained, they placed localised pressure on host communities, particularly in border zobas where health, WASH, and protection services are already constrained.

- ▶ **Withdrawal from the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), December 2025:** Eritrea formally withdrew from the Intergovernmental Authority on Development, citing concerns about the organization's effectiveness. While the move may create space for alternative bilateral and ad hoc partnerships, it reduces Eritrea's participation in the formal regional platform traditionally used for dialogue on peacebuilding, trade, climate resilience, and cross-border development cooperation, narrowing avenues for structured coordination at a time when the Horn of Africa faces complex, interconnected challenges.
- ▶ **Red Sea Shipping Disruptions and Corridor Instability:** Ongoing attacks on commercial vessels in the Red Sea, primarily attributed to Houthi-linked groups in Yemen, have resulted in oil spills and the release of hazardous cargo, increasing risks to the Red Sea marine environment. In the event of a major incident, the potential scale and severity of impacts could be considerably greater, raising concerns about Eritrea's coastal ecosystems and the livelihoods of communities dependent on fisheries, particularly where containment and national/regional response capacities are limited.

Macroeconomic Developments

Despite regional pressures, Eritrea's economy grew in 2025, driven primarily by mineral exports and supportive global commodity trends.

Economic Performance in 2025

- ▶ In 2025, Eritrea recorded a positive merchandise trade balance, driven mainly by mineral exports. Updated IMF estimates place exports at USD 806 million and imports at USD 483 million, resulting in a surplus of USD 322 million, despite a slowdown in export growth during the final quarter of the year.

- ▶ Recent macroeconomic performance demonstrates resilience, with GDP growth recorded at 2.8 per cent in 2024 and estimated at 3.1 per cent in 2025. According to UNDESA's World Economic Situation and Prospects, growth is projected to rise modestly to 3.4 per cent in 2026 and 3.5 per cent in 2027, highlighting a gradual upward trend that underscores the need for continued structural reforms and targeted investments to sustain momentum.

Fiscal and Financial Context

- ▶ Fiscal discipline contributed to a narrowing of the budget deficit.
- ▶ Public debt remains high and was estimated at around 211 per cent of GDP at end-2024. Approximately 80 per cent of Eritrea's public debt is held by domestic banks.¹
- ▶ Continued exclusion from the Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunication (SWIFT) global payments system constrained private-sector transactions and limited access to international finance.

Human Development and Social Indicators

Despite the challenging environment, sustained investments in primary health care, child survival, and essential services contributed to gradual improvements in social outcomes.

- ▶ **Life expectancy at birth reached 68.6 years**, up from 67.8 years in 2022, reflecting consistent improvement in health outcomes.
- ▶ **The Human Development Index (HDI) increased to 0.503**, from 0.493 in 2022, marking continued progress across health, education, and income dimensions, although Eritrea remains in the low human development category.²

¹ World Bank. *Eritrea: Macro Poverty Outlook, 2025*.

² United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). *Human Development Report 2025*

Outlook and Risks

At the start of 2026, prospects for economic growth in Eritrea were considered favourable. However, several risks will affect economic performance:

- ▶ Volatility in global commodity prices, including as a result of conflict in the Middle East
- ▶ Delays in major mining projects
- ▶ Limited access to external financing
- ▶ Unilateral coercive measures
- ▶ Heightened sub-regional insecurity

The UN's Strategic Role

Within this landscape of progress and vulnerability, the UNSDCF 2022–2026 continues to serve as the primary platform for coordinated support between the UN and Eritrea. The forthcoming NDP further aligns national priorities with the SDGs and the African Union Agenda 2063, emphasizing food security, water, energy, and infrastructure as the foundations for long-term resilience and self-reliance.

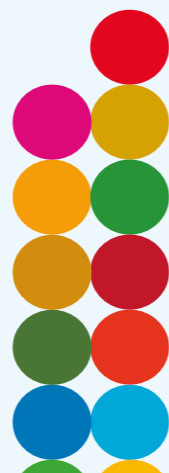
2. UN-Eritrea Partnership through the Cooperation Framework



2.1. OVERVIEW OF COOPERATION FRAMEWORK RESULTS

The year 2025 marks the penultimate year of the UNSDCF (CF) 2022–2026. CF results during the year were underpinned by stronger national planning and data systems but mitigated by troubling security dynamics in the Horn of Africa, and failed rain, which affected food production, food security, and family health.

National statistical and planning capacity was boosted with the completion of the **National Development Plan (2026–2030)**, fieldwork for the **EPHS 2025**, the restoration of **GDP estimates**, and preparatory work for the **Household Income and Expenditure Survey (HIES)** and the **Living Standards Measurement Study (LSMS)**. These achievements generate a more reliable evidence base for planning, monitoring, and policy development.



1

Outcome 1 – Equitable Access to Essential Social Services

Access to core social services (health, education, social safety nets) continued to improve. Routine immunization coverage remained high, maternal and child health services strengthened, early learning and primary education access expanded, and social protection and disability inclusion interventions reached vulnerable households.

2

Outcome 2 – Accountable and Effective institutions

Public institutions were bolstered with stronger capabilities for planning, use of data, and programme administration. The rollout of digital customs systems established the basis for improved import/export management. Communities adopted services and systems that protect more women and children from FGM and other forms of violence.

3

Outcome 3 – Inclusive and diversified livelihoods

Households benefited from the adoption of climate-smart farming practices, improved systems to protect the health of livestock, and from the diversification of rural and maritime livelihoods, including coastal aquaculture. Eritrean people secured increased access to productive inputs and practical skills that raise household incomes.

4

Outcome 4 – Climate-resilient, sustainable development

Environmental rehabilitation and climate-resilient infrastructure expanded through large-scale land restoration, solarization of water-supply systems (including for irrigation), improved access to drinking water and sanitation, and broader electricity access. Community engagement in hygiene, environmental stewardship, and climate-risk awareness supported stronger local resilience.

Delivering as One, and Leaving No One Behind

Across all four Outcomes, the UN Country Team prioritized the strengthening of national systems and the adoption of evidence-based and community-oriented models to deliver sustainable results at scale. Responding to calls from Government and from our funders, the UN has sought opportunities to “deliver development as one UN,” notably through joint agency programming.

In step with the national commitment to leave no one behind from Agenda 2030, the population segments prioritized through the CF were **women, girls, rural households, and coastal communities**. The UN programme continues to support national efforts to ensure **persons living with disabilities participate in national development activities**.

UN System Contribution

UN development assistance is made available to Eritrea in the following forms: **Capacity Development and Technical Assistance (41 per cent)**, **Direct Support and Service Delivery (22 per cent)**, and **Data Collection and Analysis (18 per cent)**.

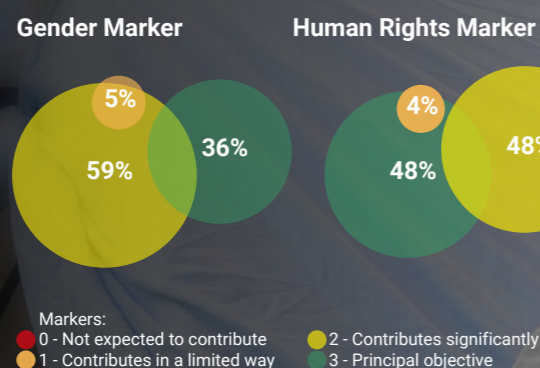
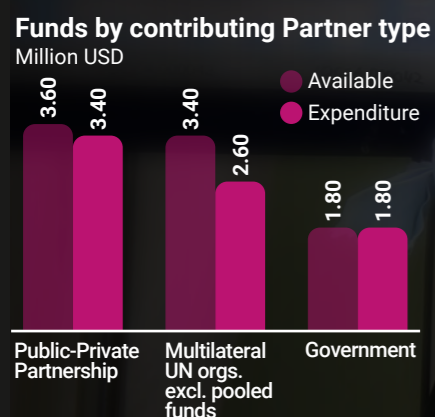
The remaining development services offered by the UN Development System, **Convening and Partnerships, Normative Support, Policy Advice and Thought Leadership**, and **Support Functions**, each accounted for roughly **five per cent** of interventions. This assistance has been deployed to advance the four principal Cooperation Framework Outcomes in Eritrea.

2.2. COOPERATION FRAMEWORK PRIORITIES, OUTCOMES, AND OUTPUTS

OUTCOME 1

Equitable Access to Essential Social Services

| | | | |
|--|--|---|------------------------------------|
| Total Budget Required USD 15.9 Million | Total Budget Available USD 8.8 Million | Total Expenditure USD 7.8 Million | Delivery Rate 89% |
|--|--|---|------------------------------------|



SDG SUPPORT

- 1 NO POVERTY
- 2 ZERO HUNGER
- 3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING
- 4 QUALITY EDUCATION
- 5 GENDER EQUALITY

National DTP3 coverage

>95%

among children under one year of age



Effective Vaccine Management (EVM)

80%

from 71% in 2021, as the cold chain for vaccines was strengthened through improved Effective Vaccine Management (EVM)



Facility-based births

85%

compared with 81 in 2024



Nutrition

312,269

children screened for nutrition-related symptoms. Including over 41,000 treated for conditions requiring therapeutic care, with a cure rate of 93.7%



Education

87,000

children received inclusive learning and early education support



Social Protection

~40,000

vulnerable children supported through education materials and psychosocial care



Disability inclusion

8,900

children with disabilities receiving assistive devices or rehabilitation through supported services



unicef
for every child



AGENCIES

Under Government leadership, the UN system supported the maintenance and extension of essential services for primary healthcare, nutrition, early learning, and social protection, with equity at the centre of every intervention. Programming was structured from the outset to reach those most likely to be left out: rural and remote households exposed to climate shocks, girls facing geographic and social barriers to education, children from low-income families, and persons with disabilities. The UN's support reinforced national systems and platforms through technical support, digital technology, and community outreach. Updated protocols for the care of newborn children and improved maternal nutrition were particularly important, alongside stronger information management systems for education and child protection.

The UN system's contribution here went beyond funding services; it connected Eritrea to global financing and technical knowledge that would otherwise have been inaccessible. Accredited implementing partnerships with global health and education funds require a technically credible, system-wide presence. The UN system provided that, while ensuring every investment was embedded in national platforms, the services would remain when UN support phases out. That is the difference between delivery and development.

Strengthened Policy and Standardization of Care Services

In 2025, Eritrea continued to strengthen policy, standards, and delivery platforms to improve access to high-quality services.

► Eritrea's introduction of a new **Digital Health Policy and Health Information and Communications Technology (ICT) Strategic Plan (2026–2030)** lays the foundation that will, in the future, enable health workers to make evidence-based decisions on reliable sources of locally-specific health information.

► Maternal health and care for newborn children have been improved through the administration of multiple **vitamins and nutritional supplements** to mothers and their babies. Supply chains for reproductive health goods were made more reliable, and **reproductive health** protocols were introduced to raise the standard of family planning services.

► Eritrea's health system can now detect outbreaks faster and respond before they spread. The establishment of the country's **first in-country genomic sequencing capacity**, with **15 national scientists trained**, means that Eritrea no longer needs to send samples abroad for analysis. Turnaround time for outbreak detection and antimicrobial resistance surveillance has been

reduced, giving public health authorities earlier warning and faster response capacity. The **Primary Health Care Strength Index rose to 32**, exceeding the national target, reflecting improvements in facility readiness, referral pathways, supply availability, and community-level delivery across the system.

These gains signal the generation of a **predictable, resilient, and nationally owned system of essential services**. Health, education and social protection services are central to Eritrea's new National Development Plan, and to the country's aspirations for economic growth and productive livelihoods.

Equitable Provision of Health Services

Health services were delivered to clients more equitably in 2025.

► **Routine childhood vaccination coverage remained high in 2025, saving children's lives. National Diphtheria–Pertussis–Tetanus third dose (DTP3) coverage among children less than a year old, the globally recognized benchmark for immunization system performance, remained above 95 per cent**, meaning that virtually every child under one year in Eritrea received full protection against diphtheria, pertussis, and tetanus. Dedicated outreach campaigns helped extend services to hard-to-reach and border areas.

► More than **160,000 children under two** received the full schedule of essential vaccines, and **44,500 adolescent girls** were vaccinated against the human papillomavirus (HPV) through expanded outreach services.

► For the first time, **newborns began receiving Hepatitis B protection within 24 hours of birth**, a critical intervention in a country where 3.1 per cent of pregnant women carry the virus, meaning thousands of children who would previously have been exposed to mother-to-child transmission are now protected from their first day of life.

► Cold chain resilience improved through solar refrigeration and supply-chain upgrades in **priority facilities**. This ensures vaccines can be stored safely even in remote areas and reduces waste/expiry. As a result, *Vaccine cold chain performance reached 80 per cent Effective Vaccine Management (EVM) score, up from 71 per cent in 2021, ensuring safe storage in remote areas.*

► **More women are surviving childbirth.** The share of births attended by skilled health personnel rose from **81 per cent in 2024 to 85 per cent in 2025** – meaning that in one year, approximately **4 per cent more of Eritrea's mothers** delivered with trained professionals present. In absolute terms, **66,505 facility deliveries** were attended by skilled health workers. Antenatal care coverage continues to improve. Between 2021 and 2025, first antenatal care (ANC1) attendance increased from 83 percent to 86 percent, while ANC4 attendance rose from 43.7 percent to 44.1 percent.

Eritrea Introduces Hepatitis-B Birth Dose to Protect Newborns from Day One

Eritrea has introduced the Hepatitis-B Birth Dose nationwide, giving newborns vital protection within the first 24 hours of life and reducing mother-to-child transmission in a country where Hepatitis B affects 3.1 per cent of pregnant women. The shift strengthens early survival, encourages mothers to give birth at health facilities with skilled health workers wherever possible, and further strengthens national immunization coverage.



Read more



► By 2025, cumulatively, 1,900 women and girls received care for obstetric fistula, a complication arising from obstructed or prolonged labour, which often leads to chronic incontinence, social exclusion, stigma, and economic hardship.

► Four ambulances enabled over **4,000 life-saving transfers of pregnant women, and around 9,000 women used Maternity Waiting Homes**, a locally sustained innovation to reach health facilities ahead of labour, reducing risks from obstructed or unattended delivery.

► **Power cuts no longer threaten newborn survival.** A solar-powered oxygen plant at Mendefera Referral Hospital ensures uninterrupted access to medical-grade oxygen for a catchment population of over one million people, supplying 65 health facilities and distributing over 30 cylinders daily. This has strengthened readiness for neonatal and adult emergencies and reinforced the resilience of the referral health system.

Eritrea Strengthens Public Health Preparedness

Eritrea reinforced national health security by establishing its **first in-country genomic sequencing capacity**. For the first time, national scientists can identify and monitor viruses and bacteria without sending samples abroad. This accelerates detection of outbreaks and analysis of antimicrobial resistance and takes the country closer towards self-reliance in its ability to respond to emerging health threats.

Genomic sequencing allows Eritrean specialists to track how pathogens evolve within the country, improving the speed and accuracy of response. Some **15 national specialists** are now equipped to follow genomic sequencing protocols, and to analyse and interpret genomic sequencing data. The introduction of genomic sequencing signals Eritrea's progress toward a more resilient, responsive, and self-reliant health system capable of protecting its population.

The UN supported development of this new capability by strengthening surveillance systems, improving national laboratory readiness, and helping establish the operating frameworks required for genomic data to inform real-time decision-making.



Discover the full story





Solar Energy Keeping Newborn Oxygen Flowing in Dehub

Resilient referral systems at Mendefera Referral Hospital are helping protect newborn survival.

At Mendefera Referral Hospital in Dehub, health workers remember when power cuts could turn routine care into a race against time. Frequent interruptions disrupted neonatal services and made oxygen supply unreliable, placing premature and critically ill newborns, and mothers with complications, at serious risk.

Tirhas Gebregergish came to the hospital to give birth safely and was blessed with triplets. “My babies are receiving specialized care from the nurses, and I am also well looked after... the doctors have ensured I can rest and recover without strain,” she says. For clinicians, reliability is as critical as clinical skill. Dr. Samson Abbay explains that when electricity failed, “critical treatment became difficult, and the care of vulnerable newborns was put at risk.” He adds, “Today, solar power has changed that reality.”

In partnership with the Ministry of Health, the UN supported a hybrid solar-powered system that keeps oxygen production running without interruption. The shift strengthened readiness for emergency obstetric and newborn care and enabled oxygen refilling for facilities beyond Mendefera. The system now serves a hospital catchment population of more than a million people, and supports oxygen supply for **65 additional health facilities, distributing more than 30 cylinders each day.**

Nationally, this investment contributes to stronger maternal and newborn systems. Of all births in Eritrea in 2025, some **85 per cent took place with a skilled healthcare practitioner in attendance.** By securing power and oxygen where they matter most, Mendefera Referral Hospital shows how resilient systems can deliver safer starts for newborns while allowing health teams to focus on care, not outages.

Child Nutrition

► Child nutrition services were delivered at scale. Of 312,269 children aged 6–59 months screened for nutrition-related symptoms, 41,299 were identified with nutrition-related symptoms requiring therapeutic care and received treatment. The cure rate was 94 per cent, meeting international Sphere standards for the provision of urgent medical assistance.

► **302,459 children** received Vitamin A supplementation, strengthening immunity against infection, while **173,661 caregivers** received counselling on infant and young child feeding, meaning the knowledge to prevent malnutrition is now embedded in nearly 174,000 households.

► Policy advances included government approval to transition from **iron-folic acid to multiple micronutrient supplements during pregnancy**, further advancing good nutritional practices in Eritrea.

► To support nutrition sustainability and improve diets under the *One Child, One Egg a Day* initiative, small-scale chicken coops were provided to female-headed households in four priority zobas, strengthening child nutrition and household resilience.

Education and Inclusion

Eritrea registered improvements in educational access and learning outcomes while continuing to work on educational quality and equity in provision. The UN supported government-led reforms and equity-focused interventions.

► **More children in school and staying there.** Pre-primary enrolment increased from 22.8 per cent in 2023 to 24.6 per cent in 2025, giving more young children the foundation they need to learn. Out-of-school rates fell at both primary and middle-school levels, from 18.8 to 16.8 per cent in primary education, and from 58.6 to 57.9 per cent at the middle-school level

► About **87 out of every 100 children who started school in Grade 1 progressed to Grade 5, with higher rates for girls** (about 89 out of 100) than for boys (about 85 out of 100).

► Early learning access and system capacity expanded. **Thousands more young children are learning in safe, equipped classrooms.** The construction of 61 pre-primary classrooms and the furnishing of 100 enabled 24,210 additional children to participate in early learning activities, significantly improving access to safe, inclusive, and age-appropriate learning environments.

► A national pre-primary teacher professionalization package supported the training of 4,624 teachers, with expected annual reach of about 134,096 children once they begin teaching in classrooms.

► Foundational learning and inclusion interventions, complementary education, girls’ incentives, materials in nine languages, and provision of remedial instruction for **450 teachers**, helped support **more than 63,000 learners**, with emphasis on underserved and nomadic communities.



From Daily Chores to Digital Skills

Across the vast, arid plains of Eritrea’s Gash Barka region, Nuuma Mohammed Saleh grew up in a pastoralist community where girls’ education was rarely prioritized. In Kerkebet, where villages lie scattered across long, rugged distances, going to school, especially for girls, often felt impossible. Computers in classrooms were unimaginable.

Today, everything looks different.

Nuuma now sits confidently in a solar-powered ICT classroom at Kerkebet Boarding and Middle School, her fingers moving carefully but surely across a keyboard. What once felt unreachable has become part of her daily life. “Before, I had never even seen a computer,” she says with a smile. “Now we are learning to use them, and it is incredible. Learning modern technology connects us to the world and gives us hope for the future of our community.”

Opened in 2022 by the Government of Eritrea, with joint support from the UN and financing from the Global Partnership for Education (GPE), Kerkebet Boarding School was created specifically to serve the dispersed Bedawit community. Its solar-powered ICT classrooms stand as a remarkable achievement in one of the country’s most remote regions. Since welcoming only five girls at its launch, the school has **expanded to over 400 students today, including more than 65 girls whose homes are in villages as far as 200 kilometres distant.**

Nuuma’s journey reflects a national commitment to equitable, self-reliant education. Girls who once faced distance and social barriers are now gaining digital skills, building confidence, and preparing for futures once far beyond imagination.



Social Protection and Disability Inclusion

► Social protection systems continued to provide a vital safety net for the most vulnerable, with government-led monthly cash support reaching nearly **250,000 people**, including the parents of **100,000 children**, enabling households to meet basic needs and cope with economic and climate shocks. The UN complemented these efforts by providing community-based support to **39,200 vulnerable children** through education materials, psychosocial care, and referral services. Nearly **9,000 children with disabilities** received UN-supported assistive devices and rehabilitation services, improving access to education, health services, and community participation.



From Survival to Stability: Income Generating Support Helping Children Thrive in Hagaz

Across Eritrea, many families face hardships that put children's well-being at risk. Poverty, disability, and social vulnerability can undermine a household's ability to provide stability and opportunity. In the Hagaz sub-zoba, these challenges once defined daily life for Sumaya Ali and her six children, four of whom have learning and developmental disabilities.

To respond to such risks, Eritrea's community-based social protection programme, supported by the UN in partnership with the Government, supports vulnerable households through income-generating activities that help families move beyond short-term assistance toward sustainable livelihoods. The approach focuses on strengthening self-reliance, dignity, and long-term security for children and caregivers alike.

Sumaya describes how this support changed her situation: **"As a mother of children with disabilities, I became a beneficiary of an income-generating assistance programme. I received three goats, two sheep, and a donkey."** With her livestock generating revenue, she adds, **"I am using this support effectively and earning a sustainable livelihood from the animals and their produce."**

With guidance from local committees and social workers, families are able to turn assistance into lasting progress, raising livestock, cultivating vegetables, producing honey, and building resilience. Sumaya reflects, **"Thanks to the support I received, my family is now better off and I am deeply grateful. I sincerely thank the government and its partners for helping me support and raise my family."**

Her experience reflects broader national progress. In 2025, **around 250,000 people accessed social protection and livelihood support**, strengthening household resilience and improving outcomes for children in vulnerable families.



OUTCOME 2

Accountable and Effective Institutions

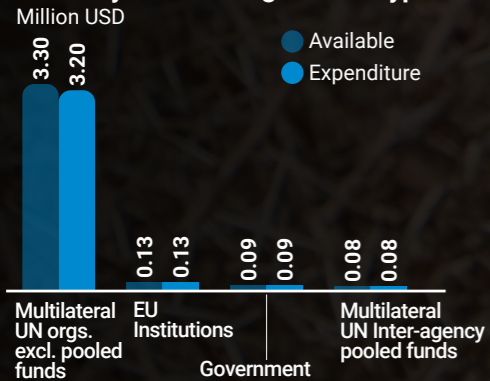
Total Budget Required
USD
6.7
Million

Total Budget Available
USD
3.6
Million

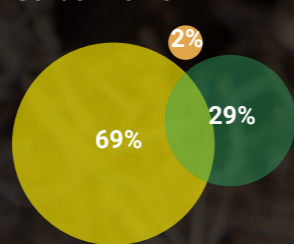
Total Expenditure
USD
3.5
Million

Delivery rate
97%

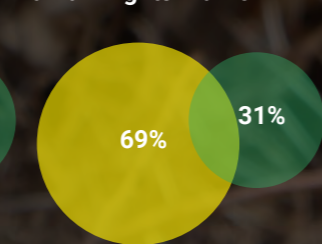
Funds by contributing Partner type



Gender Marker



Human Rights Marker



Markers:
 0 - Not expected to contribute
 1 - Contributes in a limited way
 2 - Contributes significantly
 3 - Principal objective

SDG SUPPORT

5 GENDER EQUALITY



9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE



16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS



17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS



Eritrea's National Development Plan (NDP) 2026–2030 completed

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS



Eritrea Population and Health Survey (EPHS) 2025 completed and GDP estimates restored via the 'value added' or production methodology



Digitalization and automation of Eritrea's customs management system



Social Norm Change

190

additional villages made public commitments to end FGM, bringing the total to 992 villages across more than one-third of all villages in Eritrea



AGENCIES

In 2025, Eritrea strengthened core governance systems for public service delivery, including data systems, planning processes, and administrative automation, alongside initial steps to enhance the protection of individual rights.

Disaggregated data investments improved the ability to identify and address disparities, helping expand equitable access to services and opportunities, particularly for women, youth, and vulnerable households. Community protection initiatives reached vulnerable children, and social protection measures supported households facing persistent risks. Deliberate efforts to increase women's participation in training, legal education, and planning, alongside youth engagement, helped broaden access to services and opportunities.

The UN system's contribution was to bring specialised capabilities into Eritrea's institutions and transfer them durably. Technical expertise from across the UN system enabled the restoration of GDP estimates using methods that national statisticians are now equipped to apply independently. The digital customs platform was introduced with Eritrea holding the source code, making the system fully nationally owned from the outset. This reflects the UN system's normative and technical role in strengthening national systems through embedded capacity development and institutional ownership.

Evidence-Based Planning, Policy, and Implementation

In 2025, Eritrea's public institutions became more evidence-driven, more digitally capable, and more protective of individual rights.

▶ A major milestone was the National Development Plan (NDP) 2026–2030 which gave the country its first integrated planning framework in more than a decade, a platform that aligns sector strategies with the SDGs and provides a results-based architecture for coordinated national implementation

▶ Eritrea introduced an integrated customs management system for international trade and transport operations in a modern automated environment. The introduction of the Automated System for Customs Data (ASYCUDA) World Customs Platform is a digital platform automating customs declarations, enabling digital record-keeping, and strengthening transparency in trade. One hundred customs officers, IT specialists, and clearing agents were trained to operate the system, enabling Eritrea to independently manage its trade data without external technical support and contributing to faster, more accurate movement of goods through ports and border posts. The system should make trade easier for entrepreneurs by reducing costs and waiting times. It also provides a strong platform for government revenue collection and administrative management.

▶ Government capacity for strategic economic and development planning was strengthened. Through coordinated UN system support and collaboration with leading global academic institutions, government entities advanced work on a comprehensive Industrial Policy and sector investment profiles, while also enhancing institutional competencies in futures thinking, national visioning, strategic financing, and investment prioritization. These gains improved readiness for evidence-based policy formulation, long-term planning, and strategic investment mobilization aligned with national priorities

Evidence-Informed Policy Making

In 2025, Eritrea strengthened its statistical systems, aiming to restore or renew missing datasets, and give officials the statistical and analytical skills to support evidence-informed decision-making.

▶ The EPHS 2025, the first national population and health survey in more than a decade, produced disaggregated data across all six zobas. From 2026, it will inform planning and policy on health, nutrition, reproductive health, and education.

▶ Preparations for the Household Income and Expenditure Survey (HIES) and the Living Standards Measurement Study (LSMS), covering poverty, consumption, and household welfare, are now underway. The National Statistics Office received infrastructure investments in digital systems and solar energy, improving its operational resilience and data management capacity.

▶ To re-establish credible national accounts, strengthen macroeconomic planning, and inform fiscal and investment policy, Eritrea restored national GDP estimates in 2025 using the value-added (production) methodology. This process was supported by macroeconomic expertise provided through a non-resident UN agency, which enabled national institutions to apply robust statistical methods for GDP estimation.



Eritrea Launches a Nationwide Digital Customs System

Eritrea has introduced a modern digital customs management platform, replacing decades-old, paper-based processes that slowed clearance and limited data accuracy. The shift addresses a long-standing national barrier: technological systems that constrain trade efficiency, transparency, and make it harder for the state to collect revenues. The transition to the Automated System for Customs Data (ASYCUDA) World system introduces a fully automated, customizable platform that supports Eritrea's broader economic reform agenda and reflects a commitment to self-reliant digitalization.

The UN supported this change through integrated technical assistance and capacity development, helping national institutions link technology, skills and implementation readiness. This support introduced a secure intranet system connecting all customs stations, powered by solar-backed central servers. National ownership for the long-term has been guaranteed with Eritrea's securing full access to the system's source code. Over a 10-month period, 100 customs officers, IT specialists and clearing agents were trained to manage, operate and adapt the platform, ensuring smooth adoption across the trade ecosystem.

The new system promises to reduce paperwork, improve data quality, cut clearance times and enhances transparency, directly strengthening revenue collection and improving the business environment. For Eritrea's wider economy, the platform marks a shift toward efficient, modern and self-managed trade systems that position the country to attract investment and support long-term growth.



Mama Meriam's Blade of Redemption

The sound of change echoes through the mountains of Hagaz sub-zone, where Meriam Mohammed Omar Ali, once a respected FGM practitioner in her community, now walks a different path. For decades, she was the woman mothers called upon. "I began performing FGM by first practicing on my own daughters. Word of my skills spread quickly, and before long, I became one of the most well-known FGM practitioners across the region," she says. What she believed was tradition, she later learned was harm.

Through community awareness efforts, she came to see the pain she had witnessed for years. "I have witnessed girls suffer during childbirth, menstruation, and even intimacy... I learned how Female Genital Mutilation causes lasting harm." Her realization reflects a national shift: Eritrea is seeing widespread community abandonment of FGM, with 190 additional villages making public commitments to end FGM in 2025, contributing to a cumulative transformation across regions.

Guided by growing national consensus and supported by the UN's integrated work on social norms, Meriam put down her blade. At a public gathering in Hagaz, she declared: "End FGM now." Today, her fourteen children have rejected the practice entirely. "I once believed FGM was the right thing to do... but I was wrong."

Now, whenever her community gathers, Meriam stands at the front. "Now, whenever I get the chance, I tell everyone, Stop FGM." Her voice, once associated with harm, now carries protection. Through her courage, Eritrea's daughters can grow up whole, unbroken, unscarred, and free.



Scan the QR code to watch Bisirat Teklay's story, a head nurse in Elaber, helping protect girls from FGM and child marriage.

Legal and Judicial Governance

▶ Robust, fair, and transparent legal and judicial institutions are essential for upholding the rule of law and protecting universally acknowledged rights. In 2025, Eritrea took concrete steps in this direction.

▶ One hundred legal professionals, including 28 women, now have the skills to draft legislation that is gender-responsive and aligned with international human rights standards. This is not an investment in a single law. It is an investment in Eritrea's institutional capacity to produce rights-aligned legislation over the long term, so that as the country's legal framework develops, it is built on foundations that protect the rights of all citizens, including women and girls.

Stronger Community and Institutional Action Reduced Risk for Girls

In 2025, communities extended protections for the rights of girls and women, notably by reducing the prevalence of FGM. More villages formally abandoned FGM; more care and service providers adopted 'survivor-centric' approaches; and digital case-management systems improved coordination between state agencies.

▶ **Girls are safer because communities have chosen to make them safer.** In 2025, **190 additional villages across three sub-zobas** made public commitments to end female genital mutilation (FGM), bringing the cumulative total to **992 villages, more than one-third of all villages in Eritrea**, recognized as free of the practice. This shift in social norms reflects years of sustained community engagement and is now reshaping the lives of girls and women across Eritrea. Sustaining this momentum and expanding coverage to remaining areas will require continued investment in community engagement, survivor-centred services, and large-scale social norm change.

▶ A local survey across 329 villages confirmed that **81.5 per cent reported no FGM among girls under five**, and **56.2 per cent reported none among girls under fifteen**. These are not just numbers, they represent a fundamental shift in social norms built over years of sustained community engagement.

▶ More children at risk are being identified and protected. **More than a quarter of a million girls under the age of 15** were reached through awareness efforts that helped create safer environments, while **9,886** children are now better protected by remaining in education in communities where FGM abandonment has been declared.

▶ Protection efforts were further strengthened through the introduction of the **Child Protection Information Management System (CPIMS)**, which enables children at risk of FGM, child marriage, and other harms to be systematically identified, referred, and followed up, ensuring they no longer fall through gaps in fragmented case management.



Strengthening National Capacity for Human Rights Reporting in Eritrea

Asmara, November 2025 - at the request and initiative of the Government of the State of Eritrea, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), in collaboration with the United Nations Country Team, convened a three-day technical workshop aimed at strengthening national capacity on human rights reporting and engagement with United Nations Mechanisms. The workshop brought together representatives from a range of ministries to deepen understanding of how States operationalize the reporting on human rights commitments in practice, with a particular focus on treaty body reporting, inter-ministerial coordination, National Mechanisms for Implementation Reporting and Follow-Up (NMIRF), and the effective use of national data systems. A key area of emphasis was Eritrea's ongoing preparation of its national report under the International Convention on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, reflecting a broader effort to enhance systematic, evidence-based reporting.

The workshop marked a constructive step toward strengthening institutional coherence and technical capacity in engaging with international human rights mechanisms. It highlighted the importance of practical coordination, and gradual improvement in reporting practices, and proposed continued strengthened engagement with OHCHR. The workshop set a foundation for more consistent and structured processes going forward, contributing to efforts aimed at aligning human rights commitments with broader development objectives.

High-Level Delegation Visits Eritrea to Witness Progress in Ending FGM

A high-level delegation supporting the UNFPA-UNICEF Joint Programme on the Elimination of Female Genital Mutilation visited Eritrea to observe national progress and engage with government authorities, development partners, and communities. Representing the European Union and the governments of Djibouti, Guinea-Bissau, Italy, Norway, Spain, and Sweden, alongside diplomats based in Asmara, the mission reviewed ongoing efforts and commended Eritrea's whole-of-society approach to ending the practice.



OUTCOME 3

Inclusive and Diversified Livelihoods

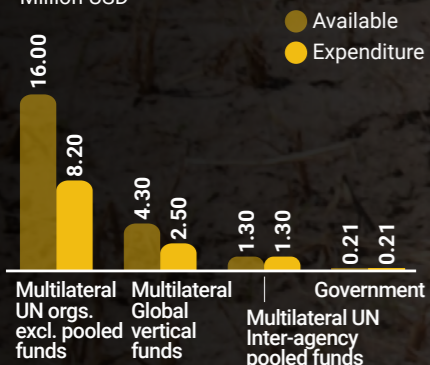
Total Budget Required
USD
55.7
Million

Total Budget Available
USD
21.8
Million

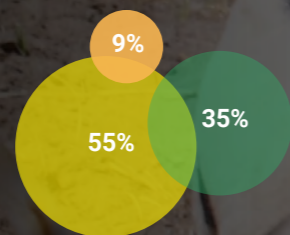
Total Expenditure
USD
12.2
Million

Delivery rate
56%

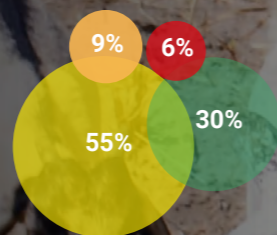
Funds by contributing Partner type
Million USD



Gender Marker



Human Rights Marker



Markers:
 0 - Not expected to contribute
 1 - Contributes in a limited way
 2 - Contributes significantly
 3 - Principal objective

SDG SUPPORT



Livelihood Protection

1.1

million livestock vaccinated, protecting the livelihoods of ~90,000 pastoralist households



Skills Development

15,000+

farmers, technicians, and youth learn new skills to boost productivity and incomes



Income Gains

22%

average income increase for 1,400 women-headed households engaged in poultry farming



Climate-Smart Agriculture

30,345

farming households adopted improved practices, enhancing productivity and sustainable land use across 3,678 hectares



Blue Economy

500

coastal households transitioned from wild fishing to structured aquaculture, with 63 per cent reporting improved access to markets, processing, and storage



AGENCIES

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

Eritrea is building diversified livelihoods and climate resilience in parallel, requiring work on both the supply side (productivity, skills, regulatory frameworks) and the demand side (markets, investment, value chains). In 2025, the UN system supported agricultural, livestock, and marine production across all these dimensions. Farming, herding, and fishing communities with high exposure to climate risks were prioritised, with community-based approaches ensuring that women and youth, who face the greatest barriers to productive inputs and knowledge, were reached.

Investments in people were accompanied by investments in systems and policy. Research and diagnostic facilities enhanced agricultural productivity and climate resilience. Regulatory reforms on refrigerant licensing and technician certification aligned growth with Eritrea's climate commitments. A national food control assessment modernised food safety standard, bringing Eritrean produce closer to international requirements and improving readiness for export markets.

The UN system's contribution spanned productivity, market access, regulatory reform, and investment promotion, working across all these simultaneously. That coordination produced a concrete outcome: Eritrea's appearance at a global investment forum with investor-ready commodity profiles, generating expressions of interest from financiers and private investors that earlier development cooperation had not reached.



Enabling Environment for Enterprise Development

National institutions are increasingly moving beyond their standard regulatory role to actively facilitate investment, promote research, boost productivity, and deepen markets.

► **Eritrea is attracting concrete agribusiness investment interest.** Two years of value chain analysis on banana, potato, and anchovy production created the foundation for two high-visibility investment events. The National Agribusiness Forum convened **220 stakeholders** from government, the private sector, academia, and the UN system to align around investment priorities. Eritrea then showcased these three commodities at the FAO Global Investment Forum in Rome, generating specific expressions of interest: the African Development Bank for financing; private investors from China for potato seed improvement; and investors from Spain and Malta for irrigation development and anchovy value chain expansion. These dialogues demonstrate Eritrea's growing readiness to engage new forms and sources of investment finance.

► Eritrea's agricultural research institute and national plant and animal health laboratory now run on solar power, and the difference is not incremental. Before, power cuts interrupted seed trials mid-cycle and compromised laboratory samples. Now, research runs continuously, year-round. Scientists can complete experiments they previously had to abandon. The result is a more productive national research system, capable of generating the evidence that climate-smart farming in Eritrea actually requires.

► A national food control system assessment of 18 national institutions resulted in Eritrea's first national food control policy, bringing Eritrean produce closer to international standards and improving readiness for export markets. Regulatory reforms on refrigerant product licensing and technician certification moved Eritrea toward more energy-efficient food cooling systems, in line with multilateral conventions on ozone layer protection.

Skills for Livelihoods

In 2025, thousands of Eritreans acquired the practical knowledge to take stronger positions in the blue and green economies and their associated value chains.

► More than **11,000 farmers and 1,600 households** improved their productivity and reduced losses through the adoption of certified planting materials, better pest control, and improved agronomic techniques. A total of **1,242 extension workers** were formally trained in crop and livestock development and programme management, equipping them to provide direct, sustained support to farming communities for years to come.

► The resilience of Eritrea's rural and coastal communities improved in measurable, concrete ways in 2025. Across agricultural and coastal programmes, **15,824 households (79,120 individuals)** improved their incomes, nutrition, and management of natural resources. Targeted households surpassed international nutrition benchmarks, achieving **108 per cent of the Minimum Dietary Diversity for Women (MDD-W)**. This outcome reflects not only

improved food access but also a meaningful shift toward higher dietary quality.

► Coastal communities now have more stable ways to earn a living. **500 coastal households** have transitioned from relying on increasingly unpredictable wild fishing to producing seaweed and sea cucumber through aquaculture, supported by a multispecies hatchery, laboratories, and water-filtration systems. Families can now earn more reliable incomes and are better placed to cope with seasonal fishing shocks. **63 per cent of these households** reported improved access to markets, processing facilities, and storage, the infrastructure that converts a harvest into income. The capacity of coastal communities to address the environmental impact of oil spills, and to protect their livelihoods from such threats, was also supported.

► **150 Eritreans (41 per cent women)** completed advanced diplomas and specialised courses in regulation, standardisation, and trade facilitation, equipping them to participate in Eritrea's green economic transition.

Access to Assets, Technology, and Infrastructure for Sustainable Livelihoods

Skills alone are not sufficient. In 2025, the Government, supported by the UN, improved rural livelihoods by expanding access to productive assets, enabling technologies, and rural infrastructure.

► **90,000 pastoralist households protected their core assets.** The vaccination of 1.1 million livestock, the primary productive asset of Eritrea's pastoralist communities, protected approximately **90,000 households** from the catastrophic losses that disease outbreaks can cause.

► When the delayed 2025 rainy season left grazing fields depleted, around 30 thousand households received emergency livestock feed, enabling their animals to survive the periods of pasture scarcity.

► **Women-headed households increased their incomes by 22 per cent.** Among **1,400 women-headed households** engaged in poultry production, average incomes increased by **22 per cent**, a result of linking skills training with productive assets (459,122 backyard chicken hatchlings were distributed) and market access

support. **1,179 women** acquired skills in nutrition, food processing, and small-scale catering, creating new revenue streams in the household care economy.

► **Post-harvest losses from migratory pests**, including desert locusts and quelea birds were reduced through strengthened pest surveillance and control measures. The deployment of over **50,000 litres of safe pesticides** and more than **2,000 sprayers** enabled timely and effective responses, helping safeguard agricultural production and rural livelihoods across affected areas.

► With the support of the UN, a desert locust control centre was established by the Ministry of Agriculture in Gadim Halib to house staff involved in control efforts and to enhance preparedness for future threats.

► In 2025, Eritrea's date palm sector made measurable progress, contributing to agricultural diversification, climate-resilient livelihoods, and improved food and nutrition security. Investments in technical capacity and innovation enhanced the production capacity of farmers in the Northern and Southern Red Sea regions. In parallel, the intervention strengthened value chain linkages, laying the groundwork for Eritrea's goal of a competitive date export sector by 2030.



New Skills, Growing Opportunities: Mrs. Tsedal Expands Her Beekeeping Venture

Mrs. Tsedal Ghebrehiwet is a mother of three and the head of her household in Adikznab village, Adi-Quala Sub-region of the Southern Region. She is also responsible for caring for her younger brother.

Ten years ago, Mrs. Tsedal tended just a couple of beehives, using basic honey production techniques. Then, in 2016, after lending a neighbour an unused frame hive as a favour, she received two colonies and another hive in return. Encouraged, she purchased a new hive and then received a small plot of land from the village administration to establish an apiary. In 2025, Mrs. Tsedal took part in a 30-day technical training for beekeepers. Through the training, she learned queen multiplication techniques, and how to share queen bees across colonies and apiaries.

Today, Mrs. Tsedal maintains ten strong and productive bee colonies and plans to expand further. She has been able to regenerate hives even after losing them to predators. As she explains, "Shortage of bee colonies will no longer be a problem to farmers as long as the knowledge we have acquired is retained." She adds, "With my colonies now stronger, I am confident that even the coming spring will yield a good honey harvest for the first time."

Her experience reflects how practical skills and knowledge sharing strengthens household income, nutrition, and resilience. In 2025, more than **15,000** people, including 1,400 women-headed households, received support from such initiatives in Eritrea, supported by the UN.

Timely Emergency Feed Helps Khadra

Before the delayed 2025 rainy season, when grazing fields had yet to recover, Khadra Wasi'e Berhanu feared the worst. At 40, as head of a six-member household in Tsaeda-Kristian village in the Central Region, she depended entirely on the three cows her family had worked for years to raise. Keeping them healthy through the drought was becoming impossible.

Across Eritrea, livestock-dependent households faced similar pressure. In 2025, **1.1 million livestock** were vaccinated, protecting around **90,000 pastoralist households**, from avoidable animal losses during periods of stress. These measures helped stabilize rural families who rely on livestock for food and income by reducing deaths caused by disease, even as feed conditions remained difficult. At the height of the dry spell, Khadra's family was among **28,514 households supported** through a UN CERF-funded emergency livestock intervention. Each received 50 kg of high-fibre feed for tier animals. Khadra carefully mixed a double handful into each cow's daily hay and grain. "We saw results almost immediately. As of the next day, each cow produced an extra litre of milk per day, and the calves improved as well. The economic impact on my family's livelihood was significant," she said.

For Khadra, the intervention was more than relief, it was stability. "Support like this is essential. It keeps our animals healthy and our families secure," she said. When emergency feed arrives on time, vulnerable households can protect their assets and strengthen their resilience ahead of the next climate shock.



OUTCOME 4

Climate-Resilient and Sustainable Environment

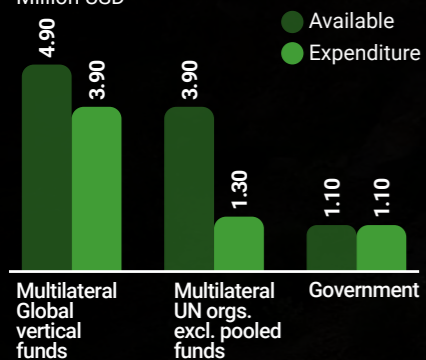
Total Budget Required
USD **10**
Million

Total Budget Available
USD **9.9**
Million

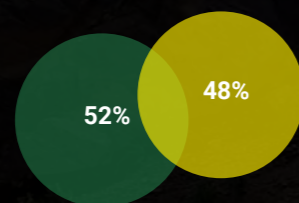
Total Expenditure
USD **6.3**
Million

Delivery rate
64%

Funds by contributing Partner type



Gender Marker



Human Rights Marker



Markers:
 ● 0 - Not expected to contribute
 ● 1 - Contributes in a limited way
 ● 2 - Contributes significantly
 ● 3 - Principal objective

SDG SUPPORT

6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION

7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY

13 CLIMATE ACTION

15 LIFE ON LAND

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS



Solar energy

507

water systems solarized, ensuring more reliable, safe water for ~250,000 people.



Land

1,505

ha of degraded land rehabilitated



Drinking water

62,160

people gained basic drinking water



Sanitation

47,360

gained access to basic sanitation; 17 villages verified Open Defecation Free.



Electricity

~100,000

people get access to reliable electricity supply.



AGENCIES

In 2025, Eritrea's communities, institutions, and ecosystems became measurably more resilient to climate change. Joint government-UN efforts prioritised those most exposed: rural and remote households dependent on unreliable water and energy, women bearing the heaviest burden of land degradation, and Coastal communities threatened by the potential reduction in ecosystem service flows and Red Sea instability. Women-led land restoration at scale, accounting for 70 per cent of participants in terrace and check dam construction across highland plateaus. Subnational institutions strengthened their governance of land, water, and coastal resources.

Eritrea also submitted its updated climate commitment (NDC 3.0) and a revised national biodiversity strategy and action plan (NBSAP 2026-2030) to enable the enhancement and/or implementation of its new commitments under the intergovernmentally agreed multilateral environmental agreements.

That coordination is the UN system's distinctive contribution, enabling Eritrea to advance its climate and biodiversity commitments under the UNFCCC, the Convention on Biological Diversity, and the Montreal Protocols, simultaneously, while delivering WASH infrastructure, land restoration, and renewable energy on the ground. In Eritrea's constrained financing environment, that breadth is not a luxury. It is what makes these commitments achievable.

Restoring Degraded Landscapes and Strengthening Community-led Resilience.

Resilience across highland, arid, and coastal ecosystems strengthened in 2025 through integrated landscape restoration interventions that combined ecosystem rehabilitation, water infrastructure recovery, and community-led climate-resilient livelihoods, while establishing the institutional foundations for large-scale expansion.

► Through the rehabilitation of **1,505.5 hectares of degraded land** and catchments, together with the

implementation of complementary structural soil and water conservation measures—including **12,405 m³ of check dams**, 955 m³ of ditches, 722.5 metres of drainage lines, and **52.38 km of terraces**—hydrological functioning across the treated catchments was measurably improved. These interventions enhanced surface water retention, reduced soil erosion, improved slope stability, and lowered the risk of flash flooding and gully erosion in climate-vulnerable areas.

► Water security and agricultural productivity improved through the rehabilitation of **12,495 metres of earth embankments** and the maintenance of diversion canals supporting spate irrigation across **5,528 hectares**, directly benefiting **4,799 farmers**. In coastal areas, two small dams with a combined capacity of **700,000 m³** expanded water availability for domestic use, irrigation-based horticulture, and livestock production, reducing pressure on fragile grazing lands and improving resilience to drought.

The Forest of Resilience: The Legacy of the Mountain of Women

How a mother of nine helped lead one of Eritrea's most powerful communities-driven environmental transformations.

At 7am, as the sun stretches over the Eritrean highlands, Wudasse Weldegerghis Zeweldi ties her netsela and steps into the morning. A decade ago, these same hills were barren. When she kneels today to plant a sapling, she remembers the stark contrast. "This was once a wasteland. Now, it's a vibrant ecosystem, teeming with life," she says.

The degradation of mountain area *Taba Hamadae* was reflective of a wider national challenge: eroded landscapes, shrinking biodiversity, and limited opportunities for rural women. Nationally, **2.4 million hectares** are affected by land degradation. In 2014, the Government designated *Taba Hamadae* area as protected, creating the foundation for restoration and community stewardship aligned with national environmental priorities. In 2025, the area is part of a total of 1,500 hectares of Eritrean land that has been rehabilitated.

With the UN providing support, the Afforestation Project mobilized local systems and women's leadership. The shift accelerated when Mrs. Teblets Weldegerima, the village leader, joined the women in the fields. "When we saw Mrs. Teblets, a leader we all admired, working side by side with us in the fields, it gave us strength," recalls Wudasse.

The results reshaped both land and lives. The women **restored 240 kilometres of terracing, planted 120,000 seedlings, and removed 170 termite mounds**. "The trucks would arrive with **6,000 saplings at a time**," Wudasse says. "Rain or scorching sun, we ensured every seedling was in the ground by sunset, our shared mission." **As 26 indigenous species and wildlife** returned, the women expanded into beekeeping and new income streams.

Today, Wudasse visits a thriving forest where tree trunks are already thicker than her arm. "When the wind moves the leaves," she whispers, "it sounds like our laughter from those days." The transformation shows how community-driven restoration, backed by national commitment and UN support, can build resilience, self-reliance, and a living legacy for future generations.



Discover the full story



► Community participation was central to delivery. **4,413 farmers, 70 per cent of them women**, engaged in land rehabilitation and soil and water conservation activities, strengthening inclusive access to productive land and ecosystem services. **30,345 households** adopted climate-resilient agricultural practices across **3,678 hectares**, improving soil health, water efficiency, and productivity. Capacity development embedded sustainability: extension workers, producers, and local institutions were trained in climate-resilient land and water management, reducing reliance on external technical support.

► Ecosystem-based adaptation was reinforced in coastal and rural areas through improved management of **284 hectares** and the establishment or rehabilitation of **495 hectares of mangroves**, supporting biodiversity, fisheries productivity, and household nutrition and incomes. Livelihood diversification and value-addition initiatives further strengthened resilience, particularly for women and coastal communities.

► At the systemic level, 2025 established the governance, technical, and institutional foundations for scale-up, enabling future rehabilitation of **165,000 hectares** of degraded land and improved management of **83,000 hectares** through enclosures. Integrated landscape and watershed planning frameworks strengthened alignment with Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM), Land Degradation Neutrality targets, and national climate adaptation priorities.

Policy Alignment with Global Frameworks

Eritrea's environmental governance advanced on three fronts in 2025, and in each case, the shift was not simply procedural but consequential for how climate and biodiversity commitments are embedded in national development.

► Eritrea submitted its **Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) 3.0** to the **United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)**, setting a clear national pathway for climate action by prioritizing climate adaptation across agriculture, water, forestry, marine resources, and health, while committing to an unconditional **8.6% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2030**—scaling up to 24.4% under a conditional mitigation scenario—through integrated action across the energy, land-use, transport, and waste management sectors. With UN system support, including on policy, data, and sectoral planning, the country is shifting from project-based efforts to system-wide climate transformation. Eritrea's climate commitments are being increasingly and substantively embedded in national planning architecture, not managed as a parallel environmental obligation.

► Eritrea has updated and submitted a **GBF-aligned National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) for 2026–2030** to the Convention on Biological Diversity Secretariat. The updated NBSAP strengthens the integration of biodiversity considerations into national development planning and sectoral policies, consistent with the Kunming–Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, thereby strengthening Eritrea's capacity to meet its obligations under CBD COP15 Decision 15/6.

► In parallel, Eritrea advanced its compliance with the **Montreal Protocol** by strengthening controls on harmful cooling chemicals, improving monitoring and enforcement systems, and expanding technical capacities in the Refrigeration and Air Conditioning sector. Eritrea has transitioned from foundational planning to a high-performing, climate-ready ozone protection regime, meaning that economic growth in the cooling sector will no longer come at the cost of ozone layer damage.

The Renewable Energy Transition in Eritrea

► Eritrea continued to expand access to electricity while ensuring energy production is cleaner on aggregate. Power was directed where it matters most to public goods infrastructure, including water systems for schools, clinics, and agricultural land. Approximately **100,000 people** were connected to the national grid, improving the continuity of services in **15 health facilities** and **124 schools** that previously relied solely on diesel generators, meaning that power cuts no longer interrupt learning or threaten the continuity of essential health services. The replacement of diesel-powered pumps with electric irrigation systems reduced production costs, making agricultural irrigation more affordable and strengthening the economic viability of smallholder farming.

Eritrea Submits Its NDC 3.0, Marking a Major Step in Climate Commitment

Eritrea submitted its **Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) 3.0** to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). The UNCT supported this shift through integrated policy advice, data strengthening, and coordinated sectoral planning. The NDC moves Eritrea from project-based action to systemic national change. In a restored highland catchment, new vegetation growth reflects the broader national transition. **Explore Eritrea's NDC 3.0 to learn how the country is charting a path toward climate-resilient, low-carbon development.**

Eritrea's Third Generation National Determined Contribution (NDC3.0) Ministry of Land Water and Environment

Safer Water, Improved Sanitation, and Stronger Risk Management

► Access to safe water and sanitation expanded significantly in 2025, and the systems delivering these services became more resilient to climate stress. **507 water systems were solarized**, delivering more reliable water services for around **250,000 people** and reducing dependence on diesel fuel in areas most exposed to drought and power instability.

► **More than 62,000 people** gained access to basic drinking water services, around **47,000 people** gained access to basic sanitation, and **17 villages** were verified as open-defecation-free (ODF), bringing the cumulative number of villages that have declared ODF status

nationwide to **2,643**, reducing exposure to waterborne disease and strengthening community resilience. Community dialogues in 761 villages reached more than 300,000 people, reinforcing hygiene practices and sustaining the behaviour change that makes infrastructure investments last.

► Behind these access numbers, national systems were strengthened. A nationwide **Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA)** was completed and publicly disclosed. **Environmental health indicators were integrated into District Health Information System 2 (DHIS2)**, a first for Eritrea, creating a replicable model for evidence-based WASH monitoring that gives national authorities a live tool to track progress and target gaps.

These system-level investments in safeguards, data, and sector coordination are what will allow water and sanitation gains to be sustained and scaled.

Catalytic Climate Finance for Scale

► A major financing milestone was secured in late 2025 through the African Development Bank Climate Action Window to support a multi-year climate-resilient WASH programme expected to benefit around 300,000 people. The indicative financing package totals about USD 15 million, including approximately USD 9.8 million from the African Development Bank, USD 3.0 million from UNICEF, and Government counterpart contributions of roughly USD 2.3 million.



Climate Resilient WASH Improving Daily Life for Women and Girls in Rural Eritrea

In the arid and drought-prone highlands of Sub-Zoba Debarwa, access to safe water once shaped every hour of the day for families in Bet Gebriel, Ansel, and Adi Oqbit. Long journeys, unsafe water sources with excess fluoride, and collection trips after dark exposed women and girls to exhaustion and risk. For Niyat Keshi Goitom, a Grade 11 student, fetching water meant hours away from school and home. “We used to travel for over three hours just to fetch water. The queues were long, and sometimes it would get dark before we returned home... we suffered a lot,” she recalls.

In response, the Government prioritized climate-resilient water systems. The UN supported the Bet Gebriel Climate-Resilient Water Supply System, delivering safe, reliable water to 1,341 residents through four public fountains designed for equitable access. Powered by solar energy, supported by an extensive pipeline network and groundwater recharge infrastructure, the system reduces dependence on unstable power and improves sustainable water usage for communities and livestock.

The impact is immediate and personal. “We have access to clean water just five minutes from our home... Life has become much simpler,” Niyat says. The time once lost to water collection is now used for study, household responsibilities, and care.

This local transformation reflects national progress. In 2025, Government-led WASH actions supported by the UN enabled **62,160 people to gain access to basic drinking water** and **47,360 people to access basic sanitation**, reinforcing resilience at scale. As climate pressures intensify, resilient WASH systems like Bet Gebriel's show how renewable energy, equitable design, and community ownership can secure essential services for the future.

Eritrea's Cycling Champion Appointed UNDP National Goodwill Ambassador for Climate Action

UNDP has appointed Eritrean cycling icon Biniam Ghirmay as its National Goodwill Ambassador for climate action, youth empowerment, and the transformative power of sports in advancing national, regional, and global development; recognising his global achievements, including historic Tour de France and Giro d'Italia stage wins, and his potential to mobilise youth for climate action. His role aligns with national efforts where young people are restoring degraded landscapes through nature-based solutions supported by UNDP's Climate Change Adaptation Programme. Eritrea's engagement in the Great Green Wall initiative further strengthens youth-led resilience. Ghirmay's visibility amplifies nationwide momentum toward climate-resilient development and empowered youth participation. Scan the QR code to dive deeper into Biniam's new role and Eritrea's youth-driven climate journey.



2.3. SUPPORT TO PARTNERSHIPS AND FINANCING THE 2030 AGENDA

By continuing to protect its trusted partnerships with both national policymakers and with traditional and non-traditional donors and development partners, the UN seeks to sustain a privileged position in the national development landscape. In so doing, the UN Country Team aims to deliver socio-economic development services that align to Eritrea's objectives, and which are also consistent with the commitments and values agreed multilaterally by all UN member states.

Partnership with the Government of Eritrea, particularly the Ministry of Finance and National Development, remained a central feature of the UN's development programme in Eritrea in 2025. Joint planning, annual performance reviews, and structured policy dialogue reinforced national ownership, whilst aligning the country's self-reliance agenda with relevant international standards and norms. Coordination with line ministries and the National Statistics Office improved data generation, sector planning, survey implementation, and monitoring of national priorities.

UN partnerships with other multilateral institutions expanded, particularly with the African Development Bank (AfDB). Through this collaboration, **UN supported the Government in preparing and aligning AfDB-financed operations**, particularly in the areas of water security, renewable energy, and climate resilience.

The Eritrea Development Partners Forum provides a platform to sustain dialogue, elevate national priorities, and promote alignment around high-impact areas, including with bilateral development partners who may have limited or reduced access to Eritrea.

The UN accompanied the Government in mobilising and deploying development financing made available through global funding mechanisms, including the Global Fund, Gavi, the Global Partnership for Education, the Global Environment Facility, the Green Climate Fund, and the Adaptation Fund. As an accredited implementing and technical partner, the UN supported national institutions to prepare, align, and operationalise investments financed through these funds, which Eritrea is entitled to access as a least developed country.

The financing profile for the UN Development System in Eritrea in 2025 continued to rely substantially on global/centrally held funding sources: specifically, of the resources available to the UN Country Team last year, 60 per cent came from core (or 'regular') resources allocated by UN Agency Headquarters to Agency operations at the country level. Resources from the 'Vertical Funds,' made available to Eritrea and then implemented by the UN, accounted for a further 21 per cent of UNCT country expenditure. Resources mobilized in support of Agencies locally (i.e., directly to Agencies in Eritrea) accounted for a relatively small share of the overall financing envelope.



2.4. RESULTS OF THE UN WORKING BETTER TOGETHER: UN COHERENCE, EFFECTIVENESS, AND EFFICIENCY

In 2025, the UN Country Team (UNCT) in Eritrea delivered more coordinated and coherent support across all sectors, ensuring that UN assistance remained closely aligned with Government priorities under the UNSDCF 2022–2026. Joint planning, joint implementation, and joint monitoring continued to guide the collective work of resident and non-resident agencies, supported by national leadership and a shared commitment to “Delivering as One.”

1 Efficiency gains through the Business Operations Strategy (BOS)

Operational efficiency across the United Nations Country Team continued to improve through the implementation of the shared **Business Operations Strategy (BOS)**. Since 2019, the adoption of common services and harmonized operational arrangements has resulted in **cumulative cost avoidance of USD 3.3 million**, representing expenditures that would otherwise have been incurred in the absence of system-wide efficiencies. In **2025 alone**, an estimated **USD 370,000 in costs were avoided**, reflecting ongoing gains from shared procurement, common services, and coordinated operational support. Joint vehicle fleet pooling has been identified as a priority action for 2026.

2 Whole-of-system delivery, including non-resident agencies

The UN Country Team (UNCT) in Asmara draws on expertise and capabilities from across the wider United Nations development system, exemplifying a whole-of-system approach to development delivery. Non-resident agencies provided targeted technical support that strengthened national capacities in high-priority areas aligned with national development priorities. The **United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA)** contributed expertise in macroeconomic modelling and advanced statistical methods, while the **United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)** supported trade facilitation and digital customs modernization, particularly through the rollout of the Automated System for Customs Data (ASYCUDA) World. In addition, the **United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF)** focused on strengthening agriculture value chains and farmer support systems, alongside advancing digital payments and financial infrastructure to improve financial inclusion. **UN Women** contributed to advancing women’s equality and rights through targeted policy advice and capacity-building interventions. Collectively, these contributions demonstrated the value of leveraging regional and global expertise to deliver integrated, high-impact support for national development priorities.

3 Joint Work plan (JWP) as the core instrument for coherence

The GoSE–UN Joint Work Plan (2024–2026), which operationalizes the Cooperation Framework, coordinates UN programmatic assistance across agencies. It provides a comprehensive register of agency interventions, in specific geographic locations, with associated baselines, milestones, and targets. The JWP ensures that all support is anchored in national priorities, reduces overlap between agencies, and strengthens accountability for annual delivery. Efforts to improve transparency continued, notably through continued efforts to reflect JWP data on the **UN information management platform for results reporting (UN INFO)**.

4 Multi-agency impact demonstrated through joint programming

Joint programming continued to contribute to measurable results, particularly in the area of harmful practices. The **UNFPA–UNICEF Joint Programme on FGM** supports the verified abandonment of FGM in **seventeen sub-zobas**. This was achieved through community engagement, service delivery, capacity strengthening, and systems-level reforms. The experience highlighted the effectiveness of integrated, multi-agency approaches and underscores the need for additional Joint Programmes to address cross-cutting challenges such as youth development, climate resilience, and social protection.

5 Communication coherence through the UN Communications Group (UNCG)

In 2025, joint communication through the UNCT’s Communications Group strengthened coherence by translating complex results into a single, credible narrative aligned with national priorities. Coordinated messaging around the Voluntary National Review positioned Eritrea’s progress in a way that supported policy dialogue and partnerships. Meanwhile, internal alignment through the annual retreat and staff leadership dialogue reinforced a shared “One UN” identity. United Nations Day activities provided a practical platform to engage youth and partners around results, innovation and the Sustainable Development Goals.



Self Reliance and Youth Driven Innovation UN Day

In the year that the UN turned 80, Eritrea’s 2025 UN Day events highlighted a central development challenge: building strong national systems while navigating global uncertainty and mounting pressures from climate change. A high-level panel on *Self-Reliance and Partnership: The Eritrean Experience and Its Global Relevance* brought together government leaders, diplomatic partners, and the UN to examine how Eritrea’s model, grounded in national ownership and dignity, aligns with global calls for more equitable, resilient development cooperation.

At Asmara Palace, youth innovation took the spotlight. The SDG Video Challenge **engaged 40 young creators** across the country, while the Youth Innovation Exhibition **showcased 27 prototypes** spanning engineering, clean energy, digital education, and climate-smart solutions, from an electric peanut decorticator through diabetes-prediction software to eco-bricks, seaweed-based bioplastics, and offline e-learning apps. A standout was *Akberet*, a vertical poultry cage designed by 23-year-old teacher Melika Even Zekarias and her father. The system is engineered to improve hygiene, reduce feed use, and boost egg production for urban households. Across both halls, it was clear that Eritrea’s next chapter will be driven by home-grown ideas and the young people bringing them to life.



2.5. EVALUATIONS AND LESSONS LEARNED

The independent evaluation of the UNSDCF 2022–2026 was completed in early 2026. It is an essential, and mandatory precursor to formulating the new CF for 2027–2031. The Evaluation confirmed that UN support in Eritrea remained highly relevant, well aligned with national priorities, and effective in delivering measurable development results, particularly in the social sectors and in climate-resilience programming. The evaluation noted that the UN system demonstrated strong adaptability to shocks, including drought, global commodity price volatility, and disruptions in the availability of essential supplies. This adaptability was enabled through continued support to climate-smart agriculture, expanded service delivery in remote areas, and the sustained alignment of interventions with Government-led systems.

Policy alignment with global frameworks

The evaluation identified several lessons with implications for the next Cooperation Framework:

► Balancing macro-economic growth and productivity alongside basic service delivery objectives:

While strong achievements were recorded in social sectors and the provision of essential services, transformative support for economic diversification, **micro, small and medium-sized enterprise (MSME)** development, and youth employment remained more limited due to resource gaps for the UN Cooperation Framework and constraints in the enabling environment.

► Funding gaps and expenditure performance:

Underfunding reduced the scale of interventions, and available budgets were not always executed to 100 per cent. However, where resources were available, and where budget execution rates were elevated, the development impacts achieved were substantial, particularly in climate-smart agriculture, WASH, drought-tolerant seed systems, and essential health services.

► Operating environment constraints:

Unilateral coercive measures and restrictions on foreign-exchange mechanisms slowed procurement, raised costs, and limited external financing flows. Over-compliance with such measures further delayed delivery, including by the UN.

► **Data-driven management:** Although national data systems improved significantly, gaps persist in several areas, notably disability data, sub-zoba population data, and some foundational learning indicators. These gaps continue to limit verification and precise targeting.

► **Remote-area service delivery:** High operational costs and complex logistics continue to challenge equitable delivery in remote locations, underscoring the need for sustained investment in mobile systems and community-based service platforms.

► **Coordination structures:** Strategic coordination under the UNCT was strong, but deeper multi-agency collaboration is needed at the output level to address multisector challenges that require unified programming.

Strategic Recommendations for the Next CF

The evaluation proposes the following priorities for the 2027–2031 Cooperation Framework:

► Continue to support the Government to make effective use of the Global Vertical Funds and to protect existing funding from core and regular resources, particularly by improving budget implementation. At the same time, broaden resource mobilization from bilateral and multilateral partners and support the transition **from funding to financing** by expanding access to private sector financing through practical risk-sharing and risk-reduction tools that encourage investment.

► **Position climate resilience and agricultural and food system productivity** as key drivers of inclusive economic growth, livelihoods, and long-term sustainability.

► Elevate **decent and productive employment**, particularly for youth and women, as a core strategic priority.

► Deepen the integration of **digitalization and data-based management** across all sectors.

► Establish **new Joint Programmes** to strengthen multi-agency delivery and address complex development challenges requiring coordinated approaches.



2.6. FINANCIAL OVERVIEW AND RESOURCE MOBILIZATION

In 2025, operations under the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) were carried out in a constrained resource environment, with available financing significantly below the level required to implement the full scope of the Framework. Total resource requirements for the year amounted to USD 88.3 million, of which USD 44.1 million was available, and USD 29.8 million was delivered, resulting in a budget execution rate of 68 per cent.

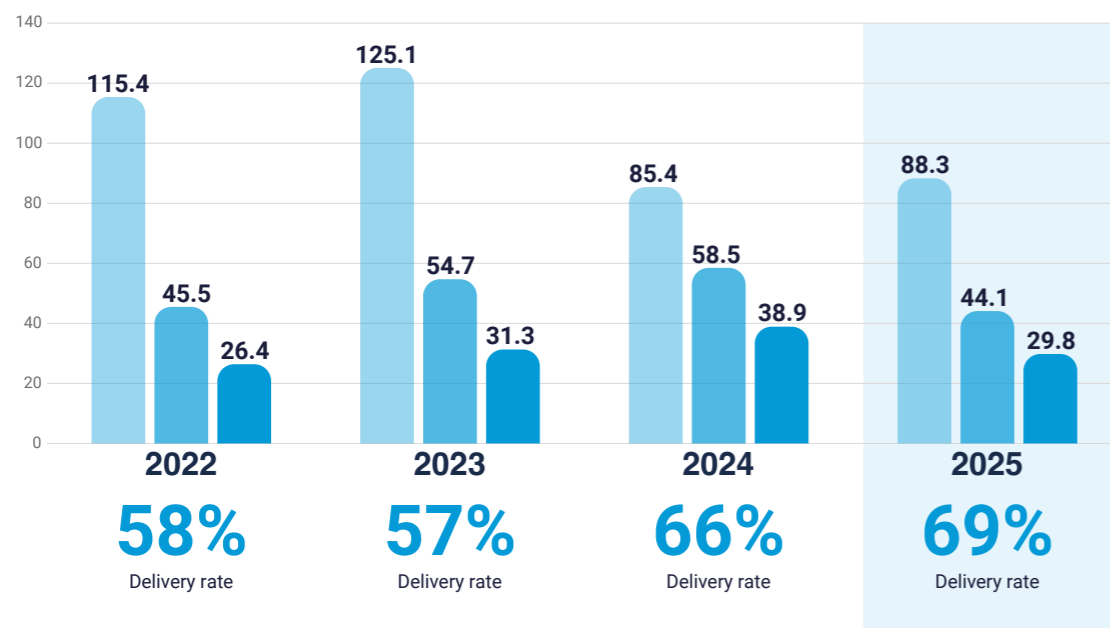
Over the Cooperation Framework cycle, delivery performance showed a steady upward trend, increasing from 58 per cent in 2022 to 68 per cent in 2025. This reflects overall improvements in programme execution, planning, and prioritization processes, and strengthened operational capacity supporting implementation.



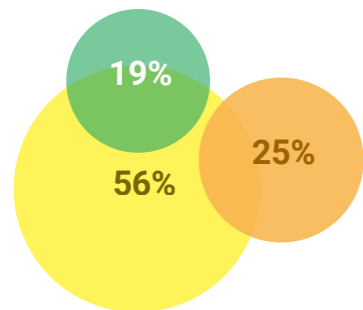
Funding trend 2022–2025

Total Available Resources (USD million)

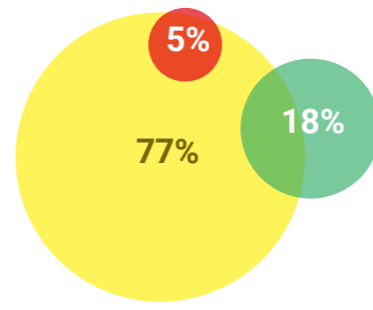
● Required ● Available ● Expenditure



Gender Marker



Human Rights Marker



Markers: 0 - Not expected to contribute ● 1 - Contributes in a limited way ● 2 - Contributes significantly ● 3 - Principal objective

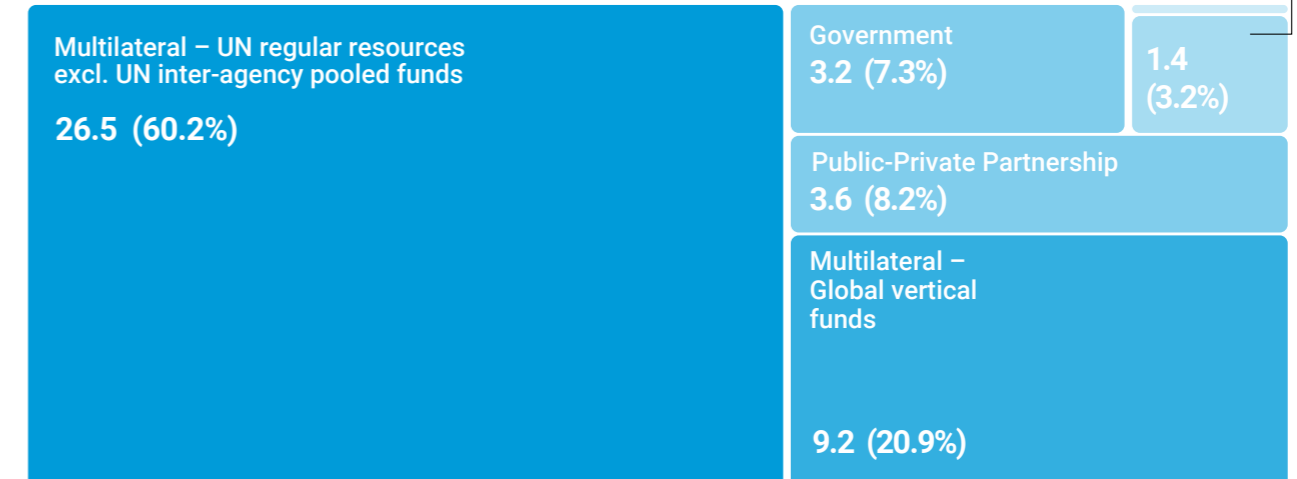
UN development assistance in Eritrea continued to rely predominantly on global sources of financing. Core and regular resources accounted for approximately 60 per cent of total available funding, while vertical funds contributed 21 per cent. Bilateral and locally mobilized resources represented only a small share of the overall envelope, reflecting the limited domestic donor presence and restricted access to traditional development finance channels.

Contributing Partners 2022–2025 USD million / %

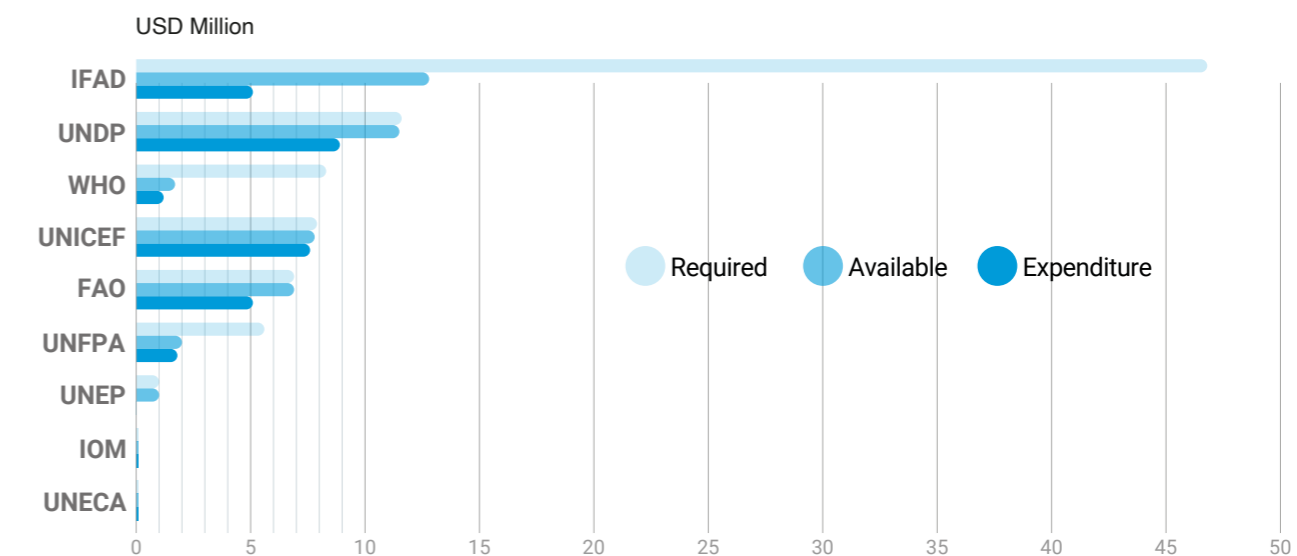
2022–2025



2025



Funds by Agency in 2025



3. UNCT Key Focus Areas for 2026

In 2026, the United Nations Country Team (UNCT) will conclude the current UNSDCF (2022–2026). It will also begin a transition toward the next Cooperation Framework. This will respond to the recommendations of the independent evaluation of the 2022–2026 CF and will align directly with the Government’s National Development Plan.

To operationalize these priorities, the UNCT will focus on the following areas:

1. Finalize and operationalize the new Cooperation Framework aligned with the Government’s NDP

The next UNSDCF will be structured around the priorities and results framework of the National Development Plan. Planning, results structures, and workstreams under the Cooperation Framework and the Joint Work Plan (JWP) will remain fully synchronized with national priorities, while allowing space for the adoption of relevant global norms and best practices.

2. Continue delivering programming through grant-based financing while laying the groundwork for diversified financing

Regular UN agency resources, global vertical funds, and bilateral or locally mobilized contributions, primarily in the form of grant financing, will continue to support the bulk of UN programming. In parallel, the new Cooperation Framework will enable exploration of longer-term pathways toward diversified financing, including blended approaches, private sector engagement, and catalytic investment aligned with Government priorities.

3. Expanding Joint Programming as a Core Delivery Modality

To strengthen inter-agency collaboration and reduce transaction costs, the UNCT will further embed joint programming as a core delivery modality under the Cooperation Framework. Future Joint Programmes will be closely aligned with Cooperation Framework outcomes, with Joint Work Plans reflecting a more focused and strategic set of outputs. Emphasis will be placed on collaborative interventions that draw on the distinct comparative advantages of different UN entities, streamline implementation, and enhance coherence, ensuring that collective UN action delivers higher-impact, integrated results rather than fragmented activities.

4. Address systemic procurement and import bottlenecks

Persistent delays in procurement and import processes have affected programme delivery and reduced utilization and execution rates. In 2026, the UNCT will work with national counterparts to address these bottlenecks, including the use of tools such as ASYCUDA World to improve import procedures, reduce administrative delays, and strengthen supply chain reliability. These efforts aim to enhance implementation efficiency across sectors.

5. Maintain strict alignment with the processes for which the UNCT is accountable

Implementation in 2026 will continue to be firmly anchored in standard UN Development System accountability processes. This includes adherence to the Cooperation Framework (CF), the Joint Work Plan (JWP), the Integrated Monitoring System (IMS), and the Business Operations Strategy (BOS). The UNCT will also align delivery of its entire programmatic and operational footprint with the Gender Equality and Women’s Rights Scorecard and the Disability Inclusion (DIS) Scorecard, ensuring transparency, consistency, and compliance across all programmatic and operational areas.

6. Strengthen national knowledge and engagement on international conventions and treaties

Building on capacity-building efforts already underway, the UNCT will continue to support increased national understanding of selected international conventions and treaties, including the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), anti-corruption conventions, and maritime treaties. Targeted training, policy dialogue, and technical assistance will support informed national consideration of potential accession or ratification processes, drawing on expertise from across the United Nations system.

Transition to the 2027–2031 Cooperation Framework

As the current UNSDCF (2022–2026) concludes, 2026 will be a pivotal year of consolidation and forward planning. The UNCT will safeguard gains in human development while laying the analytical foundation for the next Cooperation Framework. Leveraging evidence from the 2025 Eritrea Population and Health Survey (EPHS), the framework will align UN expertise and financing with National Development Plan priorities, focusing on measurable institutional performance and sustainable, system-level results.



Acronyms

| | | | |
|----------------|---|-------------------|--|
| AfCFTA | African Continental Free Trade Area | MoFND | Ministry of Finance and National Development |
| AfDB | African Development Bank | MSME | Micro, Small and Medium-sized Enterprise |
| ANC | Antenatal Care | NDC | Nationally Determined Contribution |
| ASYCUDA | Automated System for Customs Data | ODF | Open Defecation Free |
| BOS | Business Operations Strategy | OCHA | Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs |
| CERF | Central Emergency Response Fund | OHCHR | Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights |
| CPIMS | Child Protection Information Management System | PHC | Primary Health Care |
| DHIS2 | District Health Information System 2 | QCPR | Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review |
| DIS | Disability Inclusion | SDG / SDGs | Sustainable Development Goal(s) |
| DTP3 | Diphtheria–Pertussis–Tetanus (third dose) | SWIFT | Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunication |
| EPHS | Eritrea Population and Health Survey | UN | United Nations |
| EVM | Effective Vaccine Management | UN INFO | UN information management platform for results reporting |
| FAO | Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations | UNCG | United Nations Communications Group |
| FGM | Female Genital Mutilation | UNCT | United Nations Country Team |
| GAVI | Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunisation | UNCTAD | United Nations Conference on Trade and Development |
| GBF | Global Biodiversity Framework | UNDP | United Nations Development Programme |
| GCF | Green Climate Fund | UNECA | United Nations Economic Commission for Africa |
| GDP | Gross Domestic Product | UNEP | United Nations Environment Programme |
| GEF | Global Environment Facility | UNESCO | United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization |
| GEWE | Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment | UNFCCC | United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change |
| GNI | Gross National Income | UNFPA | United Nations Population Fund |
| GoSE | Government of the State of Eritrea | UNHCR | United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees |
| GPE | Global Partnership for Education | UNICEF | United Nations Children’s Fund |
| HDI | Human Development Index | UNIDO | United Nations Industrial Development Organization |
| HIES | Household Income and Expenditure Survey | UNODC | United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime |
| ICT | Information and Communications Technology | UNSDCF | United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework |
| IFAD | International Fund for Agricultural Development | WASH | Water, Sanitation and Hygiene |
| IGAD | Intergovernmental Authority on Development | WFP | World Food Programme |
| ILO | International Labour Organization | WHO | World Health Organization |
| IOM | International Organization for Migration | WTO | World Trade Organization |
| ITC | International Trade Centre | | |
| JWP | Joint Work Plan | | |
| LSMS | Living Standards Measurement Study | | |

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