

## Environmental sustainability eritrea

As Eritrea prepares to share the progress it has made in implementing the SDGs over the past year, we look back at how the UN country team in Eritrea has worked in partnership with the government to support these efforts and serve the needs of local communities over the last 12 months.

Here are 5 key contributions the UN country team in Eritrea, under the leadership of the UN Resident Coordinator Amakobe Sande, have made in advancing economic, social and environmental progress.

Climate change continues to pose wide-ranging challenges to food and nutrition security, water supply, public health, and wildlife across Eritrea. The UN has worked with national authorities to scale up mitigation and adaption measures, including an ambitious government-led tree planting and soil conservation programmes known as "terracing."

On the energy front, the UN's investment in clean energy benefitted 7,000 households in 33 villages, contributing to quality social services and livelihoods diversification for 45,300 inhabitants.

Improving access to safe drinking water has been a key priority for the UN in Eritrea, particularly in rural areas. Increasing access to water sources via public taps and safer public wells has been an important part of this.

Specifically, the UN has supported the rehabilitation, upgrading and new construction of eight community water supply systems, including 5 climate-resilient rural water supply systems in four "Zobas" (regions) in 2021.

Working together with the government, the UN country team has made significant progress in reducing poverty and strengthening food security in Eritrea, with a special focus on cash transfers to mitigate against COVID-19 and other shocks.

To enhance food and nutrition security the UN country team provided capacity-building support to the Ministry of Agriculture and worked directly with 5,000 smallholder farmers to help improve post-grain handling.

The UN also contributed to strengthened resilience against COVID-19 through income generating activities targeting poor and vulnerable people including women headed households.

The UN's support to strengthen health systems has provided 1.7 million women and children from hard-to-reach communities better access to health and nutrition services. The UN's partnership with the government helped expand coverage of other lifesaving health and nutrition interventions including the



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treatment of pneumonia, diarrhea, malaria, and acute malnutrition.

Treatment for TB, diabetes, hypertension and other chronic diseases is now freely accessible to everyone in Eritrea. Access to primary healthcare for vaccine preventable diseases is now at over 95 percent. Significant strides have also been taken towards the long term goal of eliminating TB, malaria and HIV/AIDS within the next ten years.

As the effects of the pandemic continue to play out, the UN team has helped the government mobilize \$8.7 million from the Global Fund to support its COVID-19 response.

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