



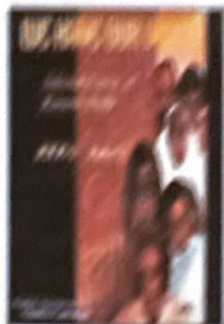
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PRESS RELEASE

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Government and UN Launch a Comprehensive Development Framework in Eritrea

"UNDAF" Eritrea (2002-2006) Aims at Bringing Coherence to UN Assistance



Asmara; The Government and the UN System in Eritrea today inaugurated a comprehensive UN cooperation framework called the "United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF)". The framework, formulated under the auspices of the Government of the State of Eritrea and the

United Nations Country Team, was launched today in the presence of Ministers, senior Government officials, diplomats, heads and staff of UN agencies, NGO representatives and the media, at Intercontinental Hotel in



Asmara. UNDAF, introduced for the first time in Eritrea, maps out the UN System's five-year strategy to support Eritrea's immediate and long-term goals in recovery and development. By bringing the cooperation programmes of the various agencies of the UN in a single framework, it aims at increasing the effectiveness and efficiency of the operations of the UN and brings greater synergy to its activities. The UNDAF is based on the Common Country Assessment (CCA) process, carried out in 2000, which identified the major development issues and challenges in the country. Both processes are key elements of the UN Reform Programme initiated by the Secretary-General in 1997.

Priority goals identified under the Eritrea UNDAF include: promoting democratic governance, access to quality basic social services, and pro-poor economic growth and sustainable livelihoods. These are anchored in a commitment of US\$ 119 million through UN system programmes over the next five years, in addition to resources to be mobilized.

Commenting on the launching of the UNDAF for Eritrea, the UN Resident/Humanitarian Coordinator, Mr. Simon Nhongo, said, "Considering that Eritrea became formally independent less than ten years ago and is just emerging from an egregious humanitarian crisis resulting from its border war with Ethiopia, today's launch of the UNDAF is a momentous achievement for both the Government of Eritrea and the UN System"

While clarifying that UNDAF was not a mechanism for coordinating the support of other development partners outside the UN system, Dr. Woldai Futur, Economic Advisor to the Government and Head of Macro Policy, International Cooperation and Economic Coordination, observed that "the process by which the UNDAF document has been developed is exemplary of an effective and focused approach to development."

The UNDAF is designed to support the Government's Transitional Economic Growth and Poverty Reduction Strategy of September 2001, and takes inspiration from the global development agenda embodied in the UN Millennium Development Goals.

Under UNDAF, the strategy of the UN system in Eritrea is to deliver assistance on two parallel tracks. One focuses on supporting national efforts to respond to the country's immediate needs for emergency humanitarian assistance and recovery, including support to internally displaced persons and returning refugees to resume their normal lives.

On the other track, the UN system will support the Government in the planning and implementation of its medium-to-long-term development programme to attain rapid, sustainable, pro-poor economic growth and reduction of poverty in an environmentally sound manner, led by a dynamic private sector based on the founding principles of Eritrea's constitution: participatory development, equitable economic growth, social justice and the rule of law.

Accordingly, UN agencies in Eritrea will undertake joint and collaborative programmes, common monitoring and evaluation and ensure transparent and accountable use of resources. Other strategies envisaged include encouraging the development of civil society, the empowerment of local authorities and communities, and promotion of the rights of women, men and children.

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