

**Country Programme Evaluation Series**

# **Review of FAO's country programme in Eritrea**

**2017–2021**

**Management response**

Management response to the review of FAO's country programme in Eritrea 2017–2021					10/2022
Evaluation recommendation	Management response <b>Accepted,</b> <b>Partially accepted or</b> <b>Rejected</b>	Management plan			Further funding required (Y or N)
		Actions to be taken, and/or comments about partial acceptance or rejection	Responsible unit	Time frame	
<p><b>Recommendation 1.</b></p> <p><b>To FAO.</b></p> <p>FAO has harmonious relationships with the Ministry of Agriculture, the Ministry of Marine Resources, the Ministry of Land, Water and the Environment, the UN agencies and donors. It has neither coordination nor facilitation problems, which must continue, but there is room for improvement in the integration among projects and activities such as the beekeeping and the horticulture projects. There is a potential for FAO to increase its cooperation with the Ministry of Marine Resources and the Ministry of Land, Water and the Environment. Both ministries must be involved in the preparation of the next CPF.</p>	<b>Accepted</b>	N/A	Budget Holder	Continuous	Yes
<p><b>Recommendation 2.</b></p> <p><b>To FAO.</b></p> <p>In implementing livestock and animal health activities, transportation is a severe constraint faced by the NPCs in making field visits. If possible, FAO should keep some project vehicles for ministry staff associated with its projects until this constraint is resolved.</p>	<b>Partially accepted</b>	FAO Office in Eritrea has only three drivers, thus limited capacity to ensure the use of FAO vehicles to NPCs. However, there is a possibility to include the budget for transportation under the lead of FAO instead of including it into the LoA for ease of hiring rental cars. Sometimes it is also difficult to replace government's duties as such. However, it is acceptable in case-by-case basis for integrity. FAO can only provide support when the project is active.	Programme & Operations	Continuous	No

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<p><b>Recommendation 3.</b></p> <p><b>To the Ministry of Agriculture, the Ministry of Marine Resources, the Ministry of Land, Water and the Environment and FAO.</b></p> <p>Resource mobilization is weak, but the Ministry of Agriculture is willing to address this with FAO. The Ministry of Agriculture, the Ministry of Marine Resources, the Ministry of Land, Water and the Environment and FAO should mobilize resources together to focus more on Priority Area 1, Management of natural resources, as well as Priority Area 2, Improved Agriculture sector production, productivity and market access for enhanced food security and nutrition and Priority Area 3: Preparedness and response to natural threats and improved resilience. FAO is not a donor agency, but rather, it works with line ministries to mobilize resources. This should be clarified. In the next CPF, line ministries and FAO should approach both internal and external partners together to mobilize resources for programme design and implementation in order to safeguard the achievements attained in the current CPF.</p>	<b>Accepted</b>	Agreed	FAO & line ministries	Immediate and continuous	Yes
<p><b>Recommendation 4.</b></p> <p><b>To the Ministry of Agriculture, the Ministry of Marine Resources, the Ministry of Land, Water and the Environment and FAO.</b></p> <p>FAO is not input supplier; it is a knowledge organization that can capitalize on the best skills in the world and make them available to any country such as Eritrea. In addition, the private sector needs to be supported and strengthened to supply inputs such as chicks, selected</p>	<b>Accepted</b>	Agreed. However, FAO conditionally make interventions in humanitarian assistance and resilience building of livelihoods for vulnerable communities particularly in time of crisis.	FAO and implementing partners	Demand driven	Yes

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seeds, livestock and other commodities to the beneficiaries on a competitive tender basis as is the practice globally.					
<p><b>Recommendation 5.</b> <b>To the Ministry of Agriculture and FAO.</b></p> <p>The Ministry of Agriculture and FAO can partner to upscale the innovative agricultural technology being introduced such as composting (biofertilizer), liquid homemade pesticides from production up to regulatory policy development. Upscaling the successful production of dates into large-scale plantations (including dealing with their water supply needs) as well as encouraging value addition should be pursued in the next phase. Beekeeping is an opportune area to focus on value addition where FAO can implement interventions from start to finish and then hand them over to an apiary cooperative. Food safety capacity should be strengthened when increasing production.</p>	<b>Accepted</b>	Agreed.	FAO in collaboration with government	Continuous	Yes
<p><b>Recommendation 6.</b> <b>To FAO and the Ministry of Marine Resources.</b></p> <p>FAO should increase its work on raising awareness and enhancing understanding of food security, not only with respect to crop production, but also the development of animal production and fishery resources. (According to the Ministry of Marine Resources, that there is little coverage of fish in FAO pamphlets, brochures and photos, etc.) Eritrea has long been a net fish exporter, but there is enormous potential for growth, and with the investment already made in the fish laboratory, it can now consider exporting fish to the European Union. This needs to be</p>	<b>Accepted</b>	Agreed.	FAO and Marine Resources	Continuous	Yes

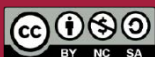
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studied in greater depth since it will improve nutrition and create jobs.					
<p><b>Recommendation 7.</b> <b>To the Ministry of Agriculture and FAO.</b></p> <p>The production of crops per hectare is very low (e.g. wheat 0.9 Mt). Notwithstanding the recurrent shortage of rains, if the yield doubles, so will the food production of the country, which will go far in meeting food security, the stated objective of the country. Therefore, in the next CPF, an ambitious, improved seed production component needs to be included. Considerable increases in yields using bio fertilizers have already been achieved. This needs to be expanded, and there is an opportunity for FAO to embark on this innovation in partnership with the Ministry of Agriculture. Since there are no private seed producers in Eritrea, unlike in many other countries, this is a challenge. The only possibility is to create seed farmers' cooperatives.</p>	<b>Accepted</b>	Yes, will include even in the Hand-in-Hand initiative. Actually, this needs to also be considered in the incoming CPF as an output.	FAO and implementing partners	2022–2026	Yes
<p><b>Recommendation 8.</b> <b>To the Ministry of Agriculture.</b></p> <p>The number of households for the distribution of chicks, currently at 30 000, should be upscaled in order to provide tens of thousands more vulnerable households. Those households participating in the MIHAP have maintained their birds and have advanced to second and third stages. This project can easily attract donor funds, or a revolving fund mechanism can be devised. The successful surveillance of animal diseases should also be scaled up several times of its current 30 000 animals during the emergency project cycle because this contributes</p>	<b>Accepted</b>	This is also to be linked with value addition development and is already prioritized in the government's strategic plans. This is also same as Recommendation 4.	FAO and implementing partners	2022–2026	Yes

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immensely to food and nutrition security and provides income to the farmers.					
<p><b>Recommendation 9.</b></p> <p><b>To FAO.</b></p> <p>The highly dedicated FAO personnel are not remunerated at par with other UN agencies, which harms their morale. However, even if the country office is small, their contribution to Eritrea's development is significant. Therefore, it is highly recommended that this is addressed in order to attract and maintain quality staff. Furthermore, the country office has exceptional challenges in procurement, which risks tarnishing its image. It is constrained by not being able to find suitable vendors in the country, if available purchases are expensive, and therefore is at times forced to make no cost extensions for projects. Special privilege should be granted to raise the FAOR's authorization limit of USD 100 000 to overcome the handicap.</p>	<b>Accepted</b>	Recently the FAOR's authorization has now increased to USD 200 000 and the level of authorization in procurement will be discussed with CSLP	FAOR / Administration	2022–2026	Yes
<p><b>Recommendation 10.</b></p> <p><b>To FAO, the Ministry of Agriculture.</b></p> <p>Agricultural statistics and information are essential for planning and decision-making in the agricultural development of the country. Thus, there is a need to collect timely agricultural statistics and establish a database through the collaborative work of the Ministry of Agriculture and FAO.</p>	<b>Accepted</b>	The Agricultural Census is underway through a joint programme between Ministry of Agriculture and FAO.  There is also the need for additional work aligned with the reporting against the SDGs.	FAO, Ministry of Agriculture, National Statistics Office (NSO)	2021–2024	Yes

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<p><b>Recommendation 11.</b> <b>To FAO, the Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of Land, Water and the Environment.</b></p> <p>The safeguarding and disposal of obsolete pesticides should continue and must be part of the next cycle of CPF 2022–2026. There is also a need to construct adequate chemical storage warehouses and treat those that were used for obsolete pesticides throughout the country. There is a need to construct landfill areas for obsolete dust and soil affected by the disposal of obsolete pesticides.</p>	Partially accepted	FAO would provide the technical knowledge however the construction of adequate chemical stores would require the mobilization of resources from donors	FAO, UNCT, GoSE	2022–2026	Yes

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