

SIGNIFICANCE OF STRENGTHENING ORGANIZATIONS IN DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS



Strengthening organizations, especially youth organizations, makes a significant contribution to the overall progress of development programs. The remark was made by Ambassador Abdella Musa, Minister of Local Government, at a meeting conducted in the port city of Massawa on 4 and 5 July to review activities in the Northern Red Sea Region in the first half of 2026.

Minister Abdella, noting that nurturing competent youth who adhere to the noble values of the People's Front and their society is a national task that requires integrated effort, said encouraging results are being recorded in this regard and called for intensified effort to achieve better outcomes.

At the meeting, reports were presented on the strengths and

challenges encountered in activities implemented so far in agriculture, potable water supply, social services, line ministries, associations, and other areas.

The meeting also conducted extensive discussions on the reports presented and adopted various recommendations, including addressing potable water shortages in some areas, introducing and expanding renewable energy to curb deforestation, ensuring the timely completion of educational facilities under construction, as well as renovating old educational and health facilities.

Noting that encouraging development activities have so far been implemented, Mr. Kibrom Andemichael, Managing Director of the Northern Red Sea Region,

stressed the importance of preserving the achievements registered and addressing the challenges encountered.

ASMARA HOSTS WORKSHOP ON INTANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGE PROTECTION

A workshop aimed at the implementation of the 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage, as well as the preparation of nomination files, was organized in Asmara on 6 and 7 July. The workshop was organized in collaboration with the Commission of Culture and Sports, the UNESCO Office for Eastern Africa, and the Government of Japan.

The workshop was attended by experts and representatives of culture from the regions, the National Museum, researchers of intangible heritage, as well as members of the Commission of Culture and Sports.

At the workshop, briefings supported with practical examples were provided focusing on the basic concepts and principles of the 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage, Eritrea's experience in the research,

documentation, and safeguarding of intangible heritage, identifying and documenting heritage that needs urgent safeguarding measures, the preparation of nomination files for inscription by UNESCO, as well as the participation of society in the effort.

Underlining that the preservation and transfer of intangible heritage to the Eritrean people, beyond its historical significance, had a significant role in bringing about national independence and in the nation-building process, Ambassador Zemed Tekle, Commissioner of Culture and Sports, said that strong efforts are being exerted to properly study and document intangible heritage and transfer it to generations.

Mr. Hideaki Matsuo, Ambassador of Japan to Eritrea, indicating the richness and diversity of Eritrea's cultural heritage, expressed his country's

readiness to support efforts in that regard.

The workshop was moderated by Ms. Judith Ogana, representative of the UNESCO Office for Eastern Africa, and Dr. Lovemore Mazibuko, a 2003 Convention expert.

Ms. Nahla Valji, UN Resident Coordinator in Eritrea, commending Eritrea's efforts in the documentation and transfer of cultural heritage, expressed UNESCO's readiness to extend the necessary support in training, experience sharing, and practical investment in the sector.

Since Eritrea signed the 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage in 2011, various training programs have been organized, over 50 intangible heritage elements have been included in the national document, and the country has participated in various forums of the convention.

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF 'REVOLUTION' SCHOOL

The Golden Jubilee, marking the 50th anniversary of the establishment of the 'Revolution' School, was celebrated in Toronto, Canada, on 3 and 4 July under the theme "Vibrant Commemoration: New Impetus for Nation Building".

Underlining that the Revolution School, beyond providing academic education, played a significant role in nurturing national consciousness and heroism, love of country and people, as well as in producing competent youth, Mr. Ayub Abdelalim, Eritrea's Consul General in Canada, congratulated all those who had been members of the school.

The program featured a candlelight vigil in remembrance of martyrs who sacrificed their lives for their country and people, a photo exhibition reflecting the school's history and journey, as well as cultural and artistic

performances.

Mr. Alemseged Tesfay, a former veteran teacher at the school, author, and researcher, provided a virtual briefing regarding the history of the school in various historical stages.

Mr. Woldu Fitwi, chairman of the coordinating committee of the school, expressed gratitude for the contribution of organizations and nationals in Toronto, as well as to those who came from all regions of Canada and the US to participate in the program.

Ms. Azieb Solomon, representing former students of the Revolution School, provided a briefing on the history of the school as well as the strong vision that the EPLF had in the education sector.

Representatives of the Eritrean community, the National Union of Eritrean Women, and PFDJ delivered messages of solidarity.



SpotLight

Sawa: A Site of Human Metamorphosis

By: Mussie Efriem

Long before its contemporary establishment, the soil of Sawa was steeped in a profound legacy of warrior culture and tribal prestige. The area's heritage is deeply intertwined with the ancient Beja tribes—nomadic pastoralists renowned throughout history for their fierce independence and strategic mastery of the semi-arid lowlands. For centuries, these vast plains served as a natural arena where the traditions of elite warriors were forged and passed down through generations.

According to the rich oral histories preserved in the Bidawyet language, the very name "Sawa" traces its etymology back to the Sawaebe. This dominant and powerful ancient tribe once dwelt in these expanses and their environs. The Sawaebe established a legacy of strength and resilience that permanently defined the geographic landscape. Historically utilized as a strategic base and training ground to repel external invaders, Sawa's modern identity remains deeply anchored in this historical past.

Today, within the sun-drenched plains of Eritrea's Gash-Barka region, Sawa is synonymous with modern national service and the ultimate forging ground for the nation's youth. This narrative

continued seamlessly through the decades of the Eritrean armed struggle, during which the area served as a crucial strategic bastion for liberation forces from the earliest days of the revolution. By anchoring today's training center in this historic soil, Sawa directly bridges Eritrea's contemporary sovereignty with both its revolutionary milestones and an age-old tradition of resistance.

Following independence, Sawa embraced its duty to serve as a crucible for new generations—a foundational institution tasked with producing disciplined, mature citizens. In the early 1990s, the freshly liberated nation launched this grand vision on a

effectively serving as the nation's great equalizer. Through a shared journey marked by rigorous discipline, persistence, and collective endurance, individuals from vastly different backgrounds are forged into a unified national community.

Yet, far beyond the confines of military drills, Sawa is also a thriving incubator of youth culture and artistic expression. It is a place where new skills are acquired, raw talent is discovered, and a unique genre of "Sawa jokes" is born. In reality, it is an unforgettable cultural space where lifelong bonds are cemented—making it as much a sanctuary of laughter and camaraderie as it is a pillar of national service.



rugged, untouched terrain. To those pioneering early rounds of trainees, Sawa was a vast expanse of makeshift tents and bamboo huts erected by their own hands, functioning purely as a military training camp. Today, those early outposts have evolved into a well-structured, modern town fully furnished with essential social services, paved streets, an airport, medical facilities, and comprehensive electrical and water networks.

Its ultimate institutional evolution occurred in 2003, when it transitioned from a purely military facility into a massive educational epicenter. This shift consolidated the nation's entire 12th-grade secondary school curriculum and vocational training centers within its modernized perimeter.

Beyond its profound historical and revolutionary weight, Sawa has spent the past decades evolving into the definitive melting pot of Eritrean youth. Every year, it brings together a diverse mosaic of young men and women from every ethnic group, region, subzone, and socioeconomic background,

At the heart of this academic transformation is the Warsay Yikealo Secondary School, which brings together all 12th-grade students from every subzone and the remotest corners of Eritrea. Walking onto this massive campus, students are suddenly compelled to look at themselves in a completely new light. Surrounded by thousands of peers who represent the full academic and cultural spectrum of the nation, the school becomes a powerful mirror for self-assessment. It is an environment that strips away local comfort zones, challenging students to



track their own progress, evaluate their standing, and actively level up their capabilities.

In this intense, cooperative, yet highly competitive atmosphere, the drive to pass the national matriculation exam transforms from an individual chore into a collective pursuit of excellence. Furthermore, rather than relying solely on solitary study, the environment enables students to tap into a rich, diverse pool of knowledge through peer education programs and informal group discussions.

Beyond the formal curriculum, Sawa serves as a vibrant, living archive of Eritrea's rich linguistic diversity. For anyone with an enthusiasm for languages, it is the ultimate immersive classroom; within the barracks, nine distinct languages mingle daily under one roof. Even for the less linguistically inclined, it is nearly impossible to leave without carrying away at least the fundamental greetings and idioms of cultures outside their own mother tongue.

Yet, this exposure goes far deeper than mere words. Living shoulder to shoulder allows students to truly internalize the diverse ways of life, social manners, and unique character traits that define the Eritrean people. Ultimately, this intense communal living acts as an inner

mirror. By reflecting one's actions against a vast, collective tapestry of human behavior, Sawa forces individuals to confront their own character—revealing hidden strengths, testing resilience, and laying bare personal limitations.

On a behavioral level, the institution serves as a critical mechanism for internalizing core human discipline and for building routines. The highly structured daily schedule enforces habits of immediate accountability, beginning with early rising, maintaining personal quarters, and performing civic sanitation duties, and integrating physical conditioning before the morning meal, thereby establishing a healthy physiological routine that supports long-term wellness, even post-service.

This domestic immersion functions as a practical curriculum in self-management. By requiring participants to independently execute all domestic chores and maintain operational self-sufficiency without external support, the training center effectively cultivates comprehensive self-reliance. Consequently, graduates are equipped not just with civic awareness but with the foundational life skills necessary for independent adulthood.

By the time the year draws to a close, while the collective bonds formed in the barracks are undeniable, the most significant shift occurs within the quiet spaces of the individual soul. The young person who ultimately steps off the plains of Sawa is fundamentally different from the one who arrived. Measured by any standard, their internal landscape has shifted. They return to civilian life possessing a mature clarity and a quiet inner strength, forever altered by a year that transformed their personal character.

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Bridging Distance to Save Lives

Bana Negusse

Maternity waiting homes (MWHs) are among the simplest innovations in maternal healthcare, yet they have consistently proven to be among the most effective. By providing pregnant women with a safe place to stay near a health facility before labor begins, these residences help overcome one of the greatest barriers to safe childbirth: timely access to skilled care. Known by various names – including maternity waiting areas, mothers' shelters, and antenatal villages – the concept has been implemented for decades across many countries. Regardless of terminology, their purpose has remained the same: to ensure that geography, distance, or limited transportation do not prevent women from accessing lifesaving maternal and newborn health services when they need them most.

One of the countries that illustrates the value of this approach is Eritrea. Recognizing that women living in remote and geographically isolated communities often faced significant challenges reaching

designed to resemble local homes, the residences provide a safe, welcoming, and culturally familiar environment where women can stay during the weeks leading up to childbirth and, when needed, throughout the early postpartum period. Residents have regular access to skilled healthcare providers for antenatal, delivery, and postnatal care, ensuring continuity of services across pregnancy, childbirth, and recovery. They also receive nutritional support, including screening and treatment for conditions such as anemia, alongside practical health education on nutrition, breastfeeding, newborn care, birth preparedness, and recognizing danger signs during pregnancy.

Notably, in malaria-endemic regions, healthcare personnel provide preventive antimalarial treatment and distribute insecticide-treated mosquito nets to protect both mothers and their babies. Following delivery, women can continue to recover in a safe environment while receiving follow-up care and guidance on self-care and caring for



waiting homes reflect a combination of strong national leadership, carefully targeted international cooperation, and active community participation. The Government has placed maternal and newborn health at the center of its public health agenda, integrating MWHs into the national healthcare system as a practical solution for improving access to skilled delivery services. This commitment has been reinforced through close collaboration with a small number of valued international partners, whose financial and technical support has complemented national priorities while preserving national ownership. Equally important has been the involvement of local communities. Community participation in the design, construction, and day-to-day operation of the homes has fostered a sense of ownership, strengthened public trust, and helped ensure the program's long-term sustainability.

The impact of these efforts is reflected in Eritrea's remarkable maternal and child health achievements. The country's maternal mortality ratio has declined from an estimated 998 deaths per 100,000 live births in 1990 – which

was once among the highest in the world – to fewer than 200 today, representing a reduction of more than 80 percent. Child survival has improved just as dramatically. Since independence, under-five mortality has fallen by approximately 75 percent, with an average annual rate of decline approaching 4.5 percent, placing Eritrea among the strongest performers globally. While these gains are the product of numerous complementary health interventions, maternity waiting homes have played an important role by improving timely access to skilled obstetric care, reducing treatment delays, and increasing the likelihood that women deliver safely under the supervision of trained health professionals.

Beyond their direct health benefits, maternity waiting homes also reflect broader principles of equality, inclusion, and social justice. By offering free and universally accessible services, they reduce longstanding disparities between urban and rural populations and lessen the financial, logistical, and geographic obstacles that too often prevent women from obtaining skilled maternal care. In doing so, they help ensure that access to safe childbirth is determined not by where a woman lives, but by her healthcare needs.

This commitment is firmly aligned with internationally recognized human rights standards. Article 12 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights recognizes every person's right to the highest attainable standard of health, including measures to reduce infant mortality and promote healthy child development. Likewise,

Article 12 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women calls upon states to guarantee equal access to healthcare services and appropriate care throughout pregnancy, childbirth, and the postnatal period. These same principles are reinforced by the Sustainable Development Goals, which prioritize universal access to sexual and reproductive healthcare and the elimination of inequalities that limit access to essential health services.

Viewed through this broader lens, Eritrea's maternity waiting homes represent far more than residential facilities located near health centers. They embody a long-term investment in healthier families, stronger communities, and a more resilient healthcare system. By connecting women with skilled care before, during, and after childbirth, they promote safer pregnancies while affirming every mother's right to receive healthcare with dignity, respect, and equal opportunity.

Although they often operate quietly and without widespread attention, maternity waiting homes remain one of the pillars of Eritrea's progress in maternal and child health. Their success demonstrates that relatively simple, community-centered interventions, supported by strong government leadership, constructive international partnerships, and active community participation, can produce profound and lasting public health gains. More than places of temporary residence, these homes embody Eritrea's enduring commitment to ensuring that no woman is disadvantaged by where she lives when seeking safe motherhood services.



health facilities during labor, the country introduced maternity waiting homes in 2007. Since then, these facilities have become an integral part of Eritrea's maternal and newborn healthcare system, strengthening the continuum of care from pregnancy through childbirth and the postpartum period.

Today, more than 50 maternity waiting homes operate across the country, representing a cornerstone of Eritrea's maternal healthcare system. Their expansion has significantly improved access to skilled birth services, transformed maternal health outcomes, and helped reduce reliance on unsafe home deliveries, particularly among women living in remote and hard-to-reach communities. Situated adjacent to health facilities and

their newborns. At the same time, the shared experience of staying together fosters emotional support and a sense of community among women who often face similar circumstances.

The success and continued expansion of Eritrea's maternity





Harnessing Eritrean Gastronomy: A path to Self-reliance and Eco-tourism

By: Irdi Issaias

For Eritreans, cuisine is far more than just food or a collection of recipes - it is culture, tradition, and identity. It is a deeply social act that brings people together, transcending the physical act of eating. The communal sharing of food is a vital aspect of Eritrean culture, fostering a profound sense of connection and togetherness that goes beyond mere sustenance. From the visitors' viewpoint, local culinary traditions play an immense role in shaping the overall destination experience.

As the modern world grapples with cultural homogenization and the health crises driven by industrialized fast food, prioritizing indigenous flavors is essential. By championing our culinary roots over globalized fast food, we can preserve a unique Eritrean identity and offer the authentic experiences that contemporary travelers increasingly seek. Gastronomy is, therefore, a vital strategic asset for sustainable tourism development.

The variety, flavors, aromas, and traditions of food act as a direct corridor for cultural exchange. Research indicates that for many travelers, the quality of local food is often the most significant metric of a successful trip and a dominant topic of conversation. To gain a deeper understanding of Eritrea's culinary landscape, it is essential to identify and distinguish between various cuisine styles that shape household, national, and international dining experiences.

Household Cuisine is the bedrock of our culture, characterized by traditional preparation methods at home using fresh local ingredients to meet individual family needs. Eritrean cuisine balances a rich variety of vegetarian and non-vegetarian options, ranging from fiery hot sauce to mild vegetable stew. Our vegetarian stew options are incredibly robust, featuring Hamli, Ades, Shiro, Hilbet, Aliche, and Silsi. Simple to prepare at home, these Eritrean dishes feature

fresh, locally-sourced organic ingredients.

Fundamentally, the entire culinary ecosystem reflects the diverse customs of Eritrea's nine ethnic groups. For instance, Ga'at (porridge) remains a unifying cultural thread across all groups, even if specific ingredients or aesthetic designs vary by region. Our regional food culture offers remarkable depth. In the Gash Barka region, for example, the 'Bedawyet' popular cuisine beautifully reflects a traditional pastoral lifestyle and the environment. A standout dish is 'Teasela'—flavorful goat meat fried on hot pebbles—which is widely available to visitors in restaurants across towns like Tesennei, Goluj, and Kerkebet.

When diverse regional kitchens collectively present these authentic dishes, they form our National Cuisine. Found across our hotels and restaurants, national cuisine elevates household traditions to meet commercial and international standards.

Eritrean culinary traditions is renowned for its extraordinary natural preservation methods, developed over generations, which allow traditional dishes to remain fresh for extended periods without the need for chemical preservatives or refrigeration. A classic example is 'Tobno', a traditional Afar dish made from meat, sorghum or barley, and dates, which can last up to six months without any added preservatives. This traditional dish has been carried by travelers embarking on long pilgrimages to Mecca in animal skins. Just two servings provide enough calories for an entire day of travel. It is also highly valued for its ability to aid in the recovery of patients, helping them regain physical strength quickly.

Continuously growing



and becoming more popular, International cuisine is currently often associated with "Fast Food". This is due in part to the increasing globalization of food production and preparation. Raw materials and methods from all corners of the world are being integrated, transforming national culinary styles, improving preparation methods, and incorporating new technologies and services into food preparation.

While the global tourism market is increasingly fixated on artificially branded 'organic' products, many of our traditional dishes remain remarkably authentic, organically grown, and reasonably priced. This is not a marketing gimmick; it is our reality. In a world where chemical preservatives, radiation, genetic modification, and long-distance transportation have compromised the freshness and quality of food, our commitment to seasonal, chemical-free products offers a compelling competitive advantage.

In many parts of the world, harmful pesticides and fertilizers contaminate soil and put public health at risk. In Eritrea, the use of such chemicals is strictly regulated. Relying on heavy industrial processing or fast-food imports in tourist hubs is a counterproductive strategy that alters the natural flavors, sweetness, and nutritional integrity of food. By contrast, offering pure, traditional dishes positions Eritrea as a premier destination for 'wellness' and eco-tourism.

In several notable national events and entertainment venues in our country, a widespread practice has emerged, prioritizing to offer imported food and beverage over fresh, locally sourced options. However, this practice requires strict regulation to protect Eritrean local industries. By doing so, our domestic culinary industry will flourish, contributing to national

economic growth. Moreover, this will enable visitors to enjoy authentic Eritrean cuisine, enhancing our country's reputation as a culinary destination.

By offering traditional dishes to visitors, we can also foster a deeper understanding and appreciation of our cultural heritage among international guests. This helps visitors connect with the local cuisine and culinary traditions on a personal level, creating a mutually respectful and beneficial relationship between hosts and guests.

Relying on internationally sourced and industrially processed foods is not a sustainable strategy for tourism development, as it can result in our tourism earnings leaving the country quickly, undermining the growth of local businesses and the economic benefits of tourism. In contrast, investing in a local food system directly fosters a sense of self-reliance. By shifting our focus to supporting local farmers, we can create a dynamic economic loop that recirculates resources within the Eritrean economy.

This approach minimizes 'economic leakage,' maximizes profits within our borders, and encourages the growth of national small and medium-sized service providers. Earning true economic dignity lies in harnessing the bounty of our own soil. Export-ready products like powdered pepper, spiced clarified butter, dried seafood, and preserved legumes offer a unique chance to showcase Eritrea's distinct flavors on the global stage, while also creating a lucrative economic opportunity for our nation.

By promoting our traditional cuisine and hospitality as a distinct tourism attraction, we can build demand and establish Eritrea as a premier culinary destination. To achieve this, we must invest in effective marketing and promotion to raise awareness and drive interest in our local food, while also educating visitors about its cultural and nutritional significance.

To ensure the long-term survival of Eritrea's unique culinary identity, it is essential that health and agriculture institutions, as well as tourism industry work together to implement proactive measures. To achieve this, they must collaborate

closely with culinary experts to research, document, and inventory traditional regional recipes and ingredients. This collaborative effort will help maintain high standards of hospitality, ensuring that visitors experience authentic Eritrean cuisine and culture.

To unlock the full potential of Eritrea's gastronomic sector and foster a deeper appreciation for its rich culinary heritage, hospitality staff should embark on comprehensive culinary training programs that explore the professional aspects of traditional Eritrean cuisine. This training will equip them with authentic traditional cooking techniques and hospitality skills as well as a profound understanding of the cultural, environmental, and safety nuances that underpin Eritrea's food heritage.

To further strengthen the national food culture of Eritrea, two additional initiatives must be prioritized: hosting vibrant national food festivals and fostering a strong diaspora ambassadorship. National food festivals will boost local awareness of Eritrea's food culture and showcase traditional recipes. The Eritrean diaspora can also play a key role in shaping the country's global culinary identity by promoting its unique flavors and cooking techniques abroad through various means, including opening cultural restaurants abroad, publishing cookbooks, and creating digital content.

UNESCO recognizes culinary heritage through its "Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity" listings. Some of the most notable UNESCO-listed foods and culinary traditions include Washoku (Japan), Kimjang (South Korea), Couscous (Algeria, Mauritania, Morocco, and Tunisia), Baguette (France), and Neapolitan pizza (Italy). As Eritreans, it is essential that we take advantage of this opportunity to preserve and promote our national culinary traditions and practices.

Our kitchen is the lifeblood of our culinary tourism, and its preservation is a matter of paramount importance for the growth of sustainable tourism. By fiercely defending our '100% organic' status and resisting the homogenization of our traditional cuisine, we safeguard the authenticity and vitality of our culinary heritage. This ensures that our cultural identity remains vibrant, healthy, and rooted in the unique traditions of Eritrea.



OPINION

Cultivating a Culture of Reading: Investing in Eritrea's Future

Kidanemariam Feday

Throughout its history Eritrea has demonstrated that national progress is achieved through clear vision, resilience, self-reliance, and collective effort. From expanding educational opportunities to strengthening communities, the nation has repeatedly shown what can be accomplished when people work together toward a shared goal. Now we need to engage in another national mission that calls for that same spirit: cultivating a culture of reading that empowers every child, strengthens every community, and shapes Eritrea's future.

Reading is far more than an activity performed to achieve literacy. It is the foundation of critical thinking, creativity, innovation, responsible citizenship, and lifelong learning. Nations that value reading have informed citizens and resilient communities, and they produce skilled professionals and capable leaders. Investment in reading is, therefore, an investment in human capital, economic growth, national unity, and sustainable development.

Eritrea has already laid important foundations. The Ministry of Education (MoE) has continued expanding access to education while promoting literacy across the country. The Research and Documentation Center has enriched national intellectual life through book exhibitions, educational seminars, and the promotion of Eritrean publications. Schools organize reading activities, teachers encourage reading outside the classroom while parents, writers, volunteers, and community organizations continue to nurture learning in many ways. These achievements deserve recognition and demonstrate that we are not being asked to start from scratch. The challenge facing us has to do with how to strengthen, coordinate, and expand the valuable interventions that have thus far been made into a sustained national movement.

Our goal should not be limited to organizing campaigns to promote reading because campaigns eventually come to an end and, as a result, the habit of reading may not take root. Our focus should instead be on establishing reading as a culture because cultures endure. We must cultivate a society that engages in reading as a natural part of family life, community engagement, national identity and lifelong learning.

The culture of reading begins long



before a child can read independently. It begins when a young child hears a bedtime story, turns the pages of a picture book, sings traditional songs, listens to grandparents' stories, or enters a preschool or kindergarten where curiosity and imagination are encouraged. By the time children enter primary school, they should have already learned to associate books with discovery, joy, and possibility. For this reason, investment in preschool and kindergarten education should become one of the cornerstones of Eritrea's reading culture.

Imagine a child in a remote Eritrean village who spends the day helping the family with farming or herding livestock before walking to school. At home, there may be no books or, at best, few books for the child, limiting opportunities for reading. Our responsibility is to ensure that every child, regardless of where he/she lives, should have access to books.

Every elementary school should aspire to establish a reading corner while larger schools should have functional libraries. The community facilities in the country-- including youth centers, women's association buildings, community halls, and cultural centers--can be used to set up reading spaces with modest investment. The Commission for Sport and Culture can play an important role by promoting literary festivals, storytelling events, book fairs, and community reading activities that celebrate books as an essential part of Eritrea's cultural heritage.

Parents remain a child's first ever teachers. Every parent can encourage curiosity by reading aloud, telling stories, allocating time for learning, and celebrating children's questions. Every teacher can inspire students by making books a source of exploration rather than simply examination. Colleges, retired educators, professionals, and

members of the national service can strengthen literacy by mentoring young readers, supporting libraries, and volunteering in community reading programs.

A reading culture also depends on a vibrant national publishing ecosystem. Eritrea's rich oral traditions, history, folktales and songs should inspire children's books in all national languages. Supporting writers, illustrators, translators, publishers, and local printing presses will ensure that children grow up reading stories that reflect their own communities while preserving the country's rich linguistic and cultural heritage.

Technology should complement, not replace, books. Radio, television, and digital platforms can promote storytelling, book reviews, reading competitions, and discussions that inspire curiosity, particularly among young people. Reading should become visible, respected, and celebrated throughout society.

Building a reading culture is not solely the responsibility of the MoE. It is a shared national mission. The MoE provides leadership but success depends equally on the Research and Documentation Center, the Commission for Sport and Culture, schools, families,

youth and women's organizations, religious institutions, higher education institutions, the media, the private sector, the Eritrean diaspora, and local communities. Every institution has a unique contribution to make; together they form a national ecosystem that nurtures lifelong learning.

International cooperation can further complement this national endeavor. Multilateral organizations with expertise in literacy, early childhood education, teacher development, children's publishing, school libraries, and educational planning can provide technical assistance, capacity building, and, where appropriate, financial support. Such cooperation should reinforce Eritrea's priorities, strengthen national institutions, and build sustainable local capacity.

A coordinated national program should establish measurable goals. Within five years, Eritrea could aim to provide reading corners in every elementary school, expand community libraries, publish more children's books in national languages, strengthen preschool education, organize annual reading festivals and competitions, and establish reading clubs across the country. Progress should be measured, celebrated, and

continuously improved because what is measured is more likely to be achieved.

Most importantly, we should recognize that reading is not an end in itself. It is a means to an end. Reading inspires farmers to adopt improved agricultural practices, health workers to access new knowledge, entrepreneurs to seize new opportunities, engineers and technicians to master emerging technologies, and citizens to participate thoughtfully in national development. A nation that reads continuously learns, adapts, innovates, and prospers.

Of course, a reading culture is not built overnight. It is cultivated patiently—one child, one family, one classroom, one library, and one community at a time. Yet when these small efforts are united by a shared national vision, they become a powerful force for transformation.

The greatest legacy we can leave for future generations is not only better schools or more libraries but a society in which learning is cherished, curiosity is encouraged, and reading becomes a lifelong habit. Such a culture cannot be created by the government alone. It is nurtured every day by parents, teachers, communities, and institutions that believe the future of Eritrea is written in the minds of its children.

Every Eritrean can become part of this journey. Every story shared with a child, every book donated, every reading corner established, every volunteer who inspires a young reader, and every institution that opens its doors to learning brings us one step closer to our shared vision. The journey begins with every child. By cultivating a reading culture today, we invest in a stronger, wiser, more innovative, and more prosperous Eritrea tomorrow.





VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

VA/01/2026



The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) office in Asmara invites qualified applicants (Eritrean) for the following vacant post:

Job Code Title:Health Manager, UN Clinic Physician

Classified Grade:NOC

Duty Station:Asmara

Organizational Context

UNDP Eritrea hosts the UN Clinic in Asmara, providing primary health care, emergency response, occupational health services, medical clearances, and health risk mitigation for UN staff, eligible dependents, UN Volunteers, and mission personnel.

The Health Manager, UN Health Manager is part of the UN common services of the UN country team in Eritrea and administered by UNDP.

The Health Manager will attend to the UN Clinic on a full-time basis and provide medical services to staff members and their dependents. In addition, he/she will facilitate medical evacuations in consultation with the Division of Healthcare Management and Occupational Safety and Health (DHMOSH). The Health Manager is responsible for the day-to-day running of the UN Clinic and he/she manages the UN Clinic staff and physical assets (equipment and inventories), ensures consistent delivery of high-quality medical services to the UNCT. The Health Manager, UN Physician will also be responsible for medical examinations of staff and dependents.

Key Duties and Accountabilities

Under the overall management of the UNDP Resident Representative, and the technical supervision of DHMOSH, the Health Manager, UN Clinic Physician/Health manager, will provide clinical services including medical consultations and emergency care, and supervise the work of the UN Clinic staff. The incumbent will promote proactive occupational health policies and best practices and procedures in the medical services under the supervision of DHMOSH with the objective of optimizing the health and well-being of UN staff in Eritrea.

1. Clinical Duties:

- Respond to acute emergencies in line with international protocols such as advanced trauma life support management and advanced cardiac life support or Pre- Hospital Trauma life support
- Be able to do triage, primary stabilization and keep a critically ill patient alive in a casualty stabilization centre for up to 48 hours.
- Undertake day-to-day clinical duties, e.g. walk-in clinic, pre-placement and periodic medical examinations and immunizations.
- Provide health education.
- Participate in addressing work environment and occupational health issues.
- Undertake medical examinations for UNDP and UN Agencies international and local staff and dependents.
- Diagnose and recommend treatment to all staff visiting the UN Clinic daily.
- Be on call during and outside office hours to observe and treat emergencies in the UN Clinic. Undertake house calls when required.
- Attend to medical emergencies and arrange for hospital appointments and transportation when needed.
- Recommend medical evacuation when required and work with partners to ensure operational support.

2. Medical Administrative Duties:

- Liaise with other clinic in Eritrea and host-nation medical facilities.
- Follow the United Nations established policies and procedures regarding medical clearances, sick leave and medical evacuations.
- Responsible for all paperwork and reporting procedures for medical evacuations in line with UN Rules and procedures.
- Ensure proper follow up on all cases.
- Application of terms of reference in UNDP Personnel/Administration manuals for rules and regulations regarding UN Clinic operations
- Responsible for establishing good relations with reliable hospitals, private medical facilities and blood banks.
- Ensure that proper medical records are kept in a strictly confidential manner.
- Provide evaluation from the clinical point of view of problematic claims for medical insurance.

3. Supervisory Administration:

- Manages day-to-day mission medical support operations by ensuring availability of medical supplies and proper functioning of medical equipment.
- Ensures appropriate training programs are implemented in order to maintain and develop the medical capabilities (e.g. health education, HIV/AIDS program, first aid and CPR).
- Support the process involved in the clinical diagnosis and management of HIV infection including Voluntary Confidential Counselling and Testing, HIV diagnosis, and where applicable prescription of antiretroviral medication and the coordination of referral of UN personnel to Centre of Excellence or other health facilities with expertise in the

management of HIV/AIDS.

- The UN Clinic Physician/ Health manager is required to participate in all training and other continuing medical education organized by DHMOSH on HIV/AID management and implementation of HIV PEP program within UN missions and duty stations.
 - Manage day-to-day mission medical support operations by ensuring availability of supplies and proper functioning of medical equipment.
 - Ensure that appropriate training programs are implemented in order to maintain and develop the medical capabilities (e.g. health education, HIV/AIDS prevention, first aid and CPR, etc).
 - Responsible for regular reporting on UN Clinic activities, medical facilities available locally and other statistical information as may be required.
 - Responsible for the supervision and distribution of work for the nurse(s) and other staff of the UN Clinic.
4. Advisory, liaison, and representation.
- Oversees workplace health and medical service communication products and liaison/outreach with external actors.
 - Briefs and advises senior management on all healthcare matters relevant to the workplace, including health policies, business continuity, enterprise risk management, and representation at crisis response and related bodies.
 - Represents the medical service on health and medical entitlements matters before the UN judicial system and UN investigative bodies.
 - Ensures effective occupational health representation at the local occupational health and safety committee.

5. As a member of the coordination team of UN Cares Activities:

- Planning and organization of training of focal points and peer educators.
- Arranging the dissemination of UN policies on HIV/AIDS.

6. Emergency Medical Response:

- Participate in drills and mass casualty exercise organized by the ASMT/UNDSS at the area level.
- Arrange for briefings and information releases to staff at large on health-related issues.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS

Education

To be considered for the position, individuals should meet at least one of the below criteria:

- Advanced university degree (Master’s degree or equivalent) in medicine from an accredited university and currently licensed to practice within home country or another national jurisdiction. or
- A first-level university degree (Bachelor’s degree) in the above field in combination with an additional two years of qualifying experience will be given due consideration in lieu of the advanced university degree.
- Valid certification in Advanced Trauma Life support, Advanced Cardiac Life Support oR Pre-hospital trauma life support is required.
- Certification in HIV care or VCCT is desirable.

Experience, Knowledge and Skills:

- Minimum 5 years (with Master’s degree) or 7 years (with Bachelor’s degree) of relevant experience and practice in general medicine in developing countries or countries in conflict, of which at least two years in Trauma and Emergency care.
- Residency and/or internship in one of the medical specialties preferably internal medicine or family medicine is required.
- Two years of experience in the occupational health field is highly desirable.
- Two years of managerial experience in the medical field, including budgeting, supervisory responsibilities and resource management are required.
- Previous UN medical system/international medical experience with priority in international tasks is highly desirable.
- Experience in the usage of computers and office software packages (MS Word, Excel, etc.) is required.
- Excellent command of written and spoken English is required.
- Fluency in the local language of the duty station is required for local staff.

Other

- Qualified female candidates are especially encouraged to apply.

Application Procedure

- Qualified candidates are requested to apply online via this website: https://jobs.undp.org/cj_view_jobs.cfm
- The application must contain a) Cover letter and b) Curriculum Vitae.
- Copy of document indicating exemption from/completion of national service should be uploaded.
- Applicants can visit the UNDP information centre to apply on the job site.

Closing Date: 20 July 2026

UNDP is committed to achieving workforce diversity in terms of gender, nationality and culture. Individuals from minority groups, indigenous groups and persons with disabilities are equally encouraged to apply. All applications will be treated with the strictest confidence.

UNDP does not tolerate sexual exploitation and abuse, any kind of harassment, including sexual harassment, and discrimination. All selected candidates will, therefore, undergo rigorous reference and background checks.

(Only Short-Listed Candidates will be contacted).



厄特四川矿产建设有限公司

ERITREA-SICHUAN MINERAL CONSTRUCTION CORP. LTD.

Vacancy Announcement

Eritrea Sichuan Mineral Construction CORP. LTD. (ESMC) is inviting applicants for the following position for Asmara project sites.

Position: Mineral Processing Engineer

Department: Commercial

Number Required: 01

Contract Type: Definite

Place of Work: ESMC Sites

Major Duties and Responsibilities

- ❖ Execute the full metallurgical accounting cycle for the processing plant, including daily, weekly, and monthly reconciliation of metal production, grade, recovery, and material losses across all process circuits.
- ❖ Validate and analyses metallurgical data from plant operations, laboratory assays, and inventory management systems to identify variances between planned and actual performance and conduct root-cause analysis for significant deviations.
- ❖ Conduct mass balance audits of plant operations to identify process bottlenecks, material losses, and inefficiencies, and recommend targeted process modifications to improve flow stability and recovery.
- ❖ Design, plan, and execute comprehensive bench-scale metallurgical test work programs, with a core focus on flotation test work (including rougher, scavenger, cleaner, and regrind circuit optimization).
- ❖ Lead and support the commissioning and start-up of new mineral processing plants, major process modifications.
- ❖ And other instruction given by line Manager/ immediate supervisor.

Qualification and Other Skills

Formal Education, Certifications or Equivalents	❖ Bachelor's degree or above
Working Experience – Nature & Length	❖ Minimum two-year experience in mineral processing
Leadership Experience – Nature & length of time	❖ Leadership in Mineral Processing circuit design.
Other skills and abilities	❖ AutoCAD ❖ Microsoft Office

Position: Equipment Engineer

Department: Procurement

Number Required: 01

Contract Type: Definite

Place of Work: ESMC Sites

Major Duties and Responsibilities

- ❖ Troubleshooting & Root Cause Analysis: Diagnose complex mechanical, electrical, and control system failures. Lead Root Cause Analysis (RCA) to permanently resolve recurring equipment issues.
- ❖ Preventative Maintenance (PM): Develop and implement PM plans and schedules to extend asset lifespan and prevent unexpected production halts.
- ❖ Performance Monitoring: Set up Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) and utilize machine data and network solutions to monitor tool health and operational efficiency.
- ❖ Documentation & Compliance: Maintain equipment manuals, maintenance logs, and standard operating procedures (SOPs) to ensure strict adherence to industry and safety regulations.

- ❖ Vendor Collaboration: Coordinate with external equipment suppliers, contractors, and vendors to resolve escalations and procure spare parts efficiently.
- ❖ And other instruction given by line Manager/ immediate supervisor.

Qualification and Other Skills

Formal Education, Certifications or Equivalents	❖ Bachelor's degree majoring in Equipment/ Mechanical engineering
Working Experience – Nature & Length	❖ Minim 5 years of equipment engineering experience
Leadership Experience – Nature & length of time	3 years of team leadership experience
Other skills and abilities	❖ AutoCAD ❖ Microsoft Office

General Information and Other Requirement

- ❖ Place of Work: ESMC Sites
- ❖ Salary: As per Company salary scale

Additional Requirement for Nationals:

- ❖ Having fulfilled his/ her National Service Obligation and Provide evidence of Release Paper from Ministry of Defense.
- ❖ Present Clearance from current/ last employer or Unemployment card from Labor office.
- ❖ Testimonial documents to be attached (CV, work experience credential, a copy of your National Identity card etc.)
- ❖ Only shortlisted applicants will be considered as potential candidates for an interview.
- ❖ Application documents will not be returned to sender.
- ❖ All applications should be sent through the post office.
- ❖ Deadline for application; 05 days from the date of publication on the newspapers

Address: Please mail your application to;

Eritrea Sichuan Mineral Construction CORP. LTD
(ESMC)
P.O. Box. 4832 Asmara, Eritrea

Required to send a copy of their application to the following address

Mineral Resources Management, Department of Mines
P.O. Box. 272
Asmara, Eritrea

Note to Non-Eritrean applicants:

Please send a copy of your application to
Aliens Employment permits Affairs,
P.O. Box 7940 Asmara, Eritrea

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to the public that the shareholders of **Santa Famiglia Pasta Manufacturing P.L.C**, on their Extraordinary Meeting held on the 18th day of June 2026 have resolved that;

Senait Asfha, be and is hereby appointed as Co-Manager of the Company for unlimited period of time to act jointly or severally with the existing manager effective as of 18th day of June 2026.

Santa Famiglia Pasta Manufacturing P.L.C



Empowering Female Leaders through Action and Education in Keren Subzone

By: Luwam Kahsay H.

Please introduce yourselves and your roles within the organization.

Luwam: My name is Luwam Yirgalem. I am a teacher at Megarh School in the Keren subzone and currently serve as the Chairwoman of the Women Youth Workers Organization.

Zara: My name is Zara Ahferom. I work at the Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare. I joined the organization a year and a half ago and currently head the Commission of Social and Economic Programs.

Sesina: My name is Sesina Eshetu. I work at the Ministry of Transport and Communications branch in the Keren subzone and have been a member of the organization for just over a year.

Tell us about the origins and structure of your organization.

Luwam: Our organization was established in October 2018 under the umbrella of the National Union of Eritrean Youth and Students (NUEYS) by 50 young working women aged 18 to 40. We are structured around five commissions responsible for administration, research, social and economic programs, and political affairs. Monthly, quarterly, and annual plans systematically guide our activities.

Following our second general assembly last year, 34 representatives were elected from various public and private institutions. Driven by this institutional outreach, our organization has grown rapidly and now boasts nearly 1,700 members.

One of our major initiatives is organizing educational seminars for secondary school students during national holidays and summer programs. While initially designed for young women, we expanded the program to include young men following positive feedback from school administrations. To date, we have reached 1,746 students across six locations, covering vital topics such as civic politics, technology, health, academic success, the responsible use of cosmetics, and sexual abuse awareness.

What drives the core mission and vision of your work?

Zara: Our mission is to sup-

Driven by a shared vision, a dynamic group of young women is making a meaningful impact in the Keren subzone through workplace research, youth mentorship, and community outreach. As members of the Women Youth Workers Organization, they are actively promoting women's leadership while fostering social responsibility and community service.

In this interview, three of the organization's leaders share their journey, achievements, and vision for the future.

port the personal and professional development of young working women and high school students. We organize seminars that strengthen political, historical, economic, and social awareness, frequently inviting experienced professionals or drawing directly on the specialized expertise of our own members.

Beyond these seminars, we encourage continuous learning and collaboration through specialized clubs focused on books, art, and the environment. Our book club has been exceptionally active, bringing members together weekly to analyze literature, exchange perspectives, and learn from one another. These diverse activities prepare women to step up as confident leaders in both their workplaces and wider communities.

Has the Study and Research Commission carried out any significant studies?

Luwam: Yes. One of our first major studies, conducted in 2020, examined the critical importance of workplace day-care facilities. Despite the immense challenges of conducting fieldwork during the COVID-19 pandemic, our findings successfully motivated several local workplaces to establish day-care centers for their female employees. Seeing those recom-



mendations translated into concrete action made the effort incredibly worthwhile.

The commission also continually studies the systemic challenges that limit women's professional advancement so we can develop practical solutions. For instance, an important study conducted by one of our former

members across all nine subzones of the region explored why women remain underrepresented in senior leadership. The data revealed that the leadership gap begins as early as secondary school, reinforcing just how vital it is to mentor young women long before they enter the workforce.

Could you share some of your community initiatives?

Sesina: Community service is one of our absolute core values, and we contribute in any way we can. Recently, we volunteered at the school for children with intellectual and developmental disabilities in Keren. We also helped paint commercial kiosks owned by disabled women and female freedom fighters to support their businesses.

On September 1, as a gesture of solidarity, we joined local sanitation workers and took over their cleaning duties for the day. Furthermore, we collaborate with local cultural groups every year to organize artistic programs for Independence Day and Martyrs' Day, and we actively participate in International Women's Day events on March 8.

How has the community responded to your efforts?

Luwam: The community's response has been incredibly encouraging. One of our greatest motivators is hearing young women specifically request additional seminars because they find the sessions so practical and inspiring.

Zara: One experience that stands out was our seminar on maternal and child health. Many

women in attendance told us they finally felt comfortable discussing deeply personal health concerns they had never shared before. Creating that safe, supportive

come a better version of myself—as a mother, a professional, and an active member of my community.

Sesina: This experience has



space was profoundly rewarding.

Sesina: I will never forget our visit to two disabled female freedom fighters who were introduced to us through the Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare. One was Christian and the other Muslim, yet they lived together in remarkable harmony, sharing a bond forged when they sacrificed so much for our country's liberation. What we did for them was a small gesture, but their gratitude and pure joy left a lasting impression on all of us.

What challenges does the organization face, and how do you overcome them?

Zara: Balancing our intensive responsibilities as government employees with organizational work can be highly demanding. Additionally, some of our members have childcare responsibilities that make regular participation difficult. Yet, rather than discouraging us, navigating these challenges has sharpened our time management, commitment, and leadership skills.

Luwam: These challenges have also reinforced our deep culture of teamwork. Every member feels a personal responsibility for the success of our initiatives. Because we actively support and step in for one another, no program has ever failed due to a member's unexpected absence.

How has this journey shaped you personally?

Zara: It has pushed me to be-

completely shifted my mindset. It taught me that meaningful change must begin within the individual before it can effectively influence wider society.

Luwam: It continues to stretch me both personally and professionally, challenging me to grow more capable and resilient each day.

What final message would you like to leave for other young women?

Zara: Never allow marriage, motherhood, or difficult circumstances to dictate the boundaries of your ambitions. Keep investing in yourself so that your journey becomes a blueprint that encourages others.

Luwam: Personal growth begins the moment you decide to change. Do not allow fear or self-doubt to write your future. Family responsibilities certainly require sacrifice, but with effective self-management, professional success and personal fulfillment can absolutely go hand in hand.

Sesina: Overturning old mindsets is often the hardest task, but it is also the most critical. The future is shaped by the ideas we choose to embrace today. By strengthening ourselves and our organization, we strengthen our communities and help build a better society.

Thank you for your time, ladies.