

PRESIDENT ISAIAS AFWERKI RETURNS HOME AFTER AFRICA CLIMATE SUMMIT



President Isaias Afwerki and his delegation have returned home yesterday morning following their participation in the Inaugural Africa Climate Summit held from September 4th to 6th in Nairobi.

The summit, attended by over 20 African leaders and heads of global and regional organizations, concluded with the adoption of a declaration that emphasized Africa's potential and determination to be a significant player in addressing global climate change.

During his address on September 5th, President Isaias reminded the gathering that Africa mobilizes its own resources rather than extend hands for handouts

that may aggravate the existing situation by inviting interferences and corrupt practices.

On the sidelines of the summit, President Isaias engaged in discussions with President William Ruto of the Republic of Kenya and other leaders from global and regional organizations. These talks centered on enhancing bilateral relations and addressing global and regional matters of mutual interest.

In his meeting with President William Ruto on September 7th in Nairobi, President Isaias had extensive talks covering various aspects of bilateral relations and shared global and regional concerns.

Furthermore, President Isaias had meetings on September 6th, including one with Mr. Achim Steiner, the Administrator of the

United Nations Development Program. During this meeting, President Isaias urged the UN to play a constructive role in resolving the conflict in Sudan, emphasizing the importance of consultations with neighboring countries.

In the discussion with the President of the Board of Afri Exim Bank, Dr. Benedikt Orman, both parties explored the possibility of Afri Exim Bank contributing to development projects in Eritrea. President Isaias also extended an invitation to Dr. Benedikt Orman to visit Eritrea.

Additionally, the conversation with Ms. Monica Juma, Adviser to President Ruto on Energy Security, focused on the development of

alternative energy sources such as wind, solar, and geothermal energy.

The Inaugural Africa Climate Summit, held from September 4th to 6th in Nairobi, concluded with the adoption of various resolutions and recommendations. During the concluding event, attended by more than 20 African leaders and representatives of the United Nations and African Union, President William Ruto of the Republic of Kenya expressed gratitude to the participants for their efforts in shaping the future of Africa. He emphasized the need to harness African resources in the fight against climate change, highlighting the significant ideas and proposals put forward during the summit.



EFFORTS TO COMBAT TREE LOCUST INVASION

The public and the Ministry of Agriculture are jointly intensifying their efforts to tackle the tree locust invasion, which has been identified in significant areas of the Shambuko sub-zone.

Mr. Hints Berhane, the representative of the agriculture office in the sub-zone, reported that extensive pesticide spraying is underway to effectively manage the tree locust invasion detected in all 15

administrative areas of the sub-zone.

Mr. Hints also urged the public to promptly notify the nearest agriculture office if they observe any signs of tree locust infestation in their areas.

Participants in these efforts have expressed their readiness to remain actively involved until the tree locust population is successfully brought under control.



EYE SURGERY COLLABORATIVE EFFORT AT BRHAN AINI HOSPITAL

Since November 3rd, a team of ophthalmologists from the 'Himalayan Cataract Project' has been actively conducting eye surgery at Brhan Aini Hospital.

Dr. Kahsai Fesehatsion, the Medical Director of Brhan Aini Hospital, has announced that this program, spanning one week, aims to perform eye surgery on approximately 1,400 patients.

Dr. Kahsai further emphasized that besides providing essential eye surgery to local citizens, this initiative fosters valuable knowledge exchange between Eritrean and Himalayan ophthalmology teams.

Dr. Mengis Baire, the program coordinator, disclosed that the 12-member Himalayan

ophthalmology team initiated eye surgery procedures on 1,400 Eritrean nationals in 2019. This year, they plan to perform cataract

and cornea surgeries on more than 1,420 patients, contributing to improving eye health and vision outcomes in the region.



Development

Discover Adi-Keyh Sub-Zone: A Gem of History, Nature, and Thriving Community in Southern Region

Habtom Tesfamichael

Adi-Keyh, 110 km to the south west of Asmara, is one of the 12 administrative districts of the Debub region. Nestled at an elevation of 2470 meters above sea level, it shares borders with Senafe in the north, May Ayni in the west, Segheneiti in the north, and Foro sub-zone in the east.

Adi-Keyh sub-zone is home to approximately 65 thousand residents, primarily comprised of Tigigna and Saho ethnic groups. Encompassing a total area of approximately 7161.45 km², the sub-zone boasts 7000 hectares of arable land dedicated to agriculture, along with an additional 2000 hectares designated as reserve areas. This mountainous region is a sight to behold.

Places at Adi-Keyh sub-zone that are situated at high altitude enjoy a moderate climate, with temperatures rarely exceeding 35°C, and rainfall ranging from 400 mm to over 700 mm during the rainy season. However, consistent rainfall remains elusive in most parts of the region. Over 82% of the population engage in farming, pastoralism, and related activities within the sub-zone. Maize, sorghum, and wheat are among the most commonly cultivated crops, while agro-pastoralists raise cattle, goats, sheep, and camels.

Adi-Keyh sub-zone is known

for its archaeological and historical sites, including Kohaito, Tekondae, Hishmele, Keskese, Der'a, Aba-Selama, and Mealewya. According to archaeological studies, in the 2nd century AD, the renowned Egyptian geographer Claudius Ptolemy made reference to an important ancient town named Koloe, indicating its significance during that era. Chronicles from centuries later reveal that Kohaito thrived until the 6th century AD. However, like Adulis and Metera, it experienced a sudden decline in the subsequent hundred years.

Situated at an impressive altitude of 2700 meters, Kohaito is believed to have served as a summer retreat for wealthy merchants from nearby towns. Traces of cultivated areas between the structures suggest that Kohaito was once a garden city. Its extensive ruins span approximately 2.5 km in width and 15 km in length, with 80 to 90% of the site remaining unexcavated.

the local language, this site has long been referred to as the "abode of the prestigious one."

About a kilometer north of the Mariam Wakiro ruins lies a tomb discovered in 1894, nicknamed "Meqabir Ghibtsi," or the Egyptian tomb, due to its impressive size. Facing east and overlooking the Hedamo valley, this rectangular tomb, constructed with large stone blocks, features two flower-shaped crosses carved on its interior walls.

Kohaito's greatest claim to fame is the Safira Dam, measuring 67 meters in length and 16 meters in depth. Constructed using large rectangular stone blocks, each approximately 1 meter by 0.5 meters, the dam's masonry is exquisitely dressed, contributing to its remarkable longevity. For over a thousand years, the dam served as the primary water source for the surrounding agricultural areas. This impressive engineering feat is



include stone houses, tombs, sphinx, and rock inscriptions. Hishmele, situated about 3 km north of Adi-Keyh, features ruins of buildings, cisterns, and terraced fields. The archaeological sites of Keskese, Der'a, Aba-Selama, and Mealewya further contribute to the historical richness of the sub-zone.

According to the administrator of the sub-zone, Mr. Habtay Tesfazghi, there are other unexcavated sites in the area. Domestic and international visitors come to this area for different reasons, including research and to visit historical sites. Some service rendering institutions are striving to be able to better utilize these resources for tourism. To improve their quality of service, the administration of the sub-zone, in cooperation with the Ministry of Tourism and others, organizes training and supervision.

As part of the Eritrean government's efforts to ensure the provision of basic social services and enhance the living standards of its people, various water reservoir infrastructures have been built, greatly contributing to water security of the sub-zone. Adi-Keyh town receives its water supply from the surrounding area through a well-integrated network of water lines. Today, the residents of Adi-Keyh have access to safe drinking water through a reliable and permanent pipe system. Additional storage tanks have also been constructed to ensure ample water supply at all times.

The water that reaches consumers is pumped from a source, which is around 10 km away, up to the hills of Adi-Keyh, from which it is distributed by gravity. Modern pumping equipment has been installed in all the boreholes, enabling the pumps to operate consistently throughout the year. Thanks to these improvements, there is generally no shortage of water supply, unless there is a power cut, which used to be a significant issue until 2018 when a new power plant replaced the old generators. In remote areas, potable water is provided through

generators, drills, manually-operated pumps, and solar energy.

The health services in Adi-Keyh sub-zone effectively meet the demands of the population and ensure their well-being. Foot medics serve the remaining areas, including villages located in the escarpments. However, there are plans underway to resettle these communities in a central location, allowing for easier access to basic social services. Currently, the sub-zone is served by two hospitals and four health centers. These healthcare facilities have made significant contributions to improving healthcare outcomes, reducing child and maternal mortality rates, raising people's awareness about the importance of public health, and addressing common health issues. Efforts are also being made to establish healthcare institutions in the local administrations that are situated far from existing healthcare facilities, aiming to provide healthcare within few KM radius.

Education is highly valued in Adi-Keyh, where there are 15 pre-schools, 21 elementary schools, nine junior schools, and three secondary schools. The number of students progressing to higher levels of education is steadily increasing.

Situated along the main route to Ethiopia through Senafe, Adi-Keyh enjoys a fairly good transportation service along the main road links, with Harat Transport Company providing permanent bus services. However, the local administrations located far from the main roads are connected through seasonal roads that are susceptible to damage during the rainy season. To overcome this challenge, communities along these roads often organize campaigns to renovate and maintain their road links, ensuring continued access to transportation services. Furthermore, the telecommunication coverage and mobile service users are on the rise in the sub-zone, facilitating improved connectivity.

While there are some areas where the electric grids have not yet been extended, the power supply problem in the sub-zone has been resolved with the installation of new power plants, putting an end to years of power shortage. Plans are in place to further expand the power supply network to the remaining administrative localities. The project to connect the sub-zone with the national grid is nearing completion and is expected to provide full service within the next few years. These efforts will significantly enhance the overall development and well-being of Adi-Keyh sub-zone and its residents.



A short walk from Kohaito leads to the edge of a vast canyon that drops dramatically, offering breathtaking views of the surrounding mountains, including Mt. Embasoira (3013m) to the south. Below, one can have a glimpse of terraced fields and the seemingly inaccessible Saho communities' settlement.

One of Kohaito's most significant ruins is the Temple of Mariam Wakiro, built on a rectangular shape atop a solid platform. It may have served as an early Christian church or even a pre-Christian temple. In

a testament to the advanced water management systems of ancient civilizations. According to a recent investigation, this water cistern dates back to around 1 Century AD and even before this period. On one of the walls inside the dam are some inscriptions in ancient Ge'ez, made up of 79 words, the longest yet found in Ge'ez.

In addition to Kohaito, Adi-Keyh sub-zone is home to other historical sites. Tekondae, located about five km south of Adi-Keyh town, is an ancient settlement with ruins that



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**Editor-In-Chief
Amanuel Mesfun**

**Asst. Editor-In-Chief
Sirak Habtemichael**

P.O.Box: 247
Tel: 11-41-14
Fax: 12-77-49
E-mail:
eritreaprofilemoi@gmail.com
Advertisement: 12-50-13

**Layout
Azmera Berhane
Marta Bedali**

OPINION

Perspectives on the Rash of Violence against Eritrean Communities

Bana Negusse

The past several weeks and months have seen a rash of violent attacks against Eritrean festivals in cities across the West. In a previous article published in *Eritrea Profile* ("Violence against Eritrean communities underscores abject failure and hypocrisy of the West" – 26 August 2023), I discussed several key points that are at the core of recent incidents, including the West's hypocrisy and cynicism throughout, how things will undoubtedly lead to greater xenophobia and racism, and that Eritreans have a history of resilience in the face of adversity.

In the following few paragraphs, I extend and build upon that earlier commentary by outlining a number of points that have largely been overlooked, but remain critically important to comprehensively understanding the deeply concerning pattern of violence, hate speech, and terror against peaceful Eritrean communities across the West.

Why now?

Eritrean festivals abroad boast a long, proud history dating back numerous decades. Held annually since the early 1970s, they have served as important platforms for Eritrean communities and friends worldwide to celebrate the country's rich history and heritage, share the nation's colorful culture and traditions, strengthen community bonds, and forge links with the homeland. Invariably, they have been peaceful, nonviolent, and friendly occasions. It is against this historical backdrop and context, however, that we now see violence. This naturally begs the question: why now and who are the main actors?

The driving forces behind the recent events are indeed the usual amalgamation of Eritrea's detractors.

The whole gamut of hostile policies and agendas of harassment against the country that they have feverishly pursued in the past two decades – military aggression through proxies; sanctions; strategic depopulation etc. - have not borne fruit. Eritrea has not "imploded from within, or collapsed from the external wars" that they have instigated.

Their efforts to portray Eritrea as a "pariah State" and ostracize it regionally and globally have also failed miserably. In tandem with the current international trend of increasingly substantive solidarity and alignment of policies in the Global South, Eritrea has managed to foster robust ties of bilateral cooperation with the countries in the region as well as with other major players in the global scene. These developments have increased their anguish driving them to ramp up their hostile agenda that includes, but is not limited to, fomenting violence at public events of Eritreans in the Diaspora with the ultimate aim of banning their activities and thereby sever their ties with the homeland.

Complicity, negligence, and a dereliction of duty

In the lead up to festivals across cities in Western countries, Eritrean community organizers not only obtained their necessary permits, but also warned authorities in their host communities about the threats and intimidation being directed their way by anti-Eritrea elements. Organizers also requested protection and the implementation of appropriate safety measures.

In many cases, however, their warnings and requests remained largely overlooked or went totally unheeded. This represents not only gross negligence and an extreme dereliction of duty on behalf of authorities, but also an utter failure on the part of states to fulfill their fundamental obligation to citizens of ensuring security and protection.

Furthermore, it is becoming increasingly apparent that some Western institutions and officials have played a supportive or facilitative role during recent events. These revelations help to shed critical light on the underlying motives of many Western states.

They cannot simply restrict or cancel Eritrean festivals, as doing so would be too flagrant and obvious of a violation of their public commitment to an array of high-minded values. Accordingly, it is presumed that orchestrating and stoking violence that degenerates into chaos will provide them with the necessary rationale to revoke permits or cancel events outright under the

veil of ensuring public order and security.

More broadly, Eritrean festivals are targeted because they promote cohesion within



Eritrean communities, strengthen Eritreans' ties and solidarity with the homeland, and ultimately reveal that the prevailing mainstream narrative of Eritrea is

abiding groups exercising their legally-protected rights should never be the targets of illegal threats, violence, and intimidation. Yet, Western authorities have



hollow and utterly groundless.

The proper response is not to capitulate or yield to intimidation and threats, but to resist them

Peaceful communities and law-

frequently revoked permits in response to attacks. This course of action has been taken instead of protecting peaceful communities from individuals and groups that encourage and advocate violence, condemning targeted harassment and rampant intimidation, and meeting violence with the full force of the law. This not only doubly punishes and victimizes peaceful communities, it also serves to appease those who express threats and perpetrate violence.

In the end, capitulating to perpetrators of violence, threats, and intimidation shows, yet again, that Western states' actual commitment to the values and ideals that they so loudly and persistently trumpet is weak and shallow. It is also a deeply flawed, enabling act that will lead to more violence and destruction.





Honoring the Icons of Eritrean Art

Simon Weldemichael

In November 2022, on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of the late singer Yemane Gebremichael (Barya), a group of young artists and fans came together to propose a program of remembrance. This idea gained rapid traction among individuals working in the arts and resonated with many Eritreans. Consequently, various lists were compiled to represent the artistic legacy of this legendary singer, and efforts were initiated to bring this idea to fruition. Some enthusiasts took the initiative further, advocating for the inclusion of all Eritrean artists, both living and deceased, who have made significant contributions to the development of Eritrea's national art. As this notion gained broader acceptance, a committee of volunteer artists was formed under the guidance of the Eritrean Musicians Association to draft a plan.

The draft was circulated among various partners, individuals, and institutions to gather fresh perspectives and feedback. As anticipated, constructive input flowed from different sources, including the Ministry of Information, the Research and Documentation Center, and the Commission of Culture and Sports. These government agencies pledged their support for the national program initiated by volunteers. With the multi-dimensional backing of individuals and institutions secured, the working committee redefined and elevated its program, now titled "Remembering Stars of Eritrean Art," to a higher and more comprehensive level. The necessary preparations have been made to create a memorial for the late singer and legend, Yemane Gebremichael (Barya).

Throughout its history, Eritrean society has produced numerous stars in various artistic fields who deserve respect and remembrance by future generations. Remembering and honoring those who dedicated their lives to the development of Eritrean art is a responsibility shared by every conscientious Eritrean citizen.

As part of the remembrance of the popular Yemane Gebremichael



(Barya), some of his songs have been selected and given to young artists for reinterpretation. Music professionals are meticulously studying his musical compositions, and information is being collected from his acquaintances and colleagues to serve as a source for his biography. A badge bearing the title "Stars of Eritrean Art" will be presented to the family of the remembered artist. Substantial effort has been invested in ensuring the quality of the remembrance program's content. Creativity in presentation and innovation in organization have been paramount considerations for the committee. Multiple avenues are also being explored to secure a reliable source of income for the program. The success of this volunteer-driven initiative hinges entirely on the participation and contributions of people both inside and outside Eritrea's borders. Every Eritrean has a responsibility to partake in remembering and honoring individuals who have led, defined, and represented us through their art.

Being remembered after death

has been a significant concern for humans throughout history, as almost everyone desires to leave a lasting legacy. No one wishes to fade from public memory; being forgotten is a severe posthumous fate. Beyond transforming a living artist like Yemane (Barya) into a memory, death also highlights their role and place in the society they represent. An individual's contributions during their lifetime, among other factors, determine whether they will be remembered or forgotten. Today, many are questioning and discussing to what extent our stars and heroes in various fields of life are remembered and honored. The enduring appeal of many artists' music showcases the timeless works of art they have created through their exceptional talents. The reason their songs are still in demand is because they left an indelible, unblemished, and everlasting musical legacy.

Yemane (Barya) rose to prominence in Eritrean art long before independence, as a young boy in the late 1960s and early 1970s. He gained fame rapidly upon releasing album recordings in 1985. His iconic status

transcended generations and borders through his recordings and live performances in many countries. He was also renowned for his unwavering commitment to humanitarian causes. By examining the unique political contexts in which Yemane and his contemporary artists and their music thrived, many argue that the passing of iconic stars serves as a reminder to reflect on the past and contemplate unrealized possibilities.

My colleague, author, and editor Efriem Habtetsion conducted an in-depth interview with artist Mohammed Osman, chairman of the Eritrean Association of Musicians, and artist Tewelde Gebrezgabhier regarding the program. The interview was published in Haddas Ertra, a Tigrigna newspaper. Artist Mohammed Osman explained the objective of "Remembering the Stars of Eritrean Art," stating that it is primarily to honor star artists who have made unique contributions to Eritrean art. He added, "Apart from that, we plan to establish a museum entirely dedicated to artists."

Artist Tewelde Gebrezgabhier emphasized that the program gained renewed momentum following the 25th-year memorial of the late Yemane (Barya). He stated, "We now believe that we should not wait 25 years to organize a memorial for our star artists." They jointly call upon people to contribute according to their means. As a volunteer initiative, individuals with material, financial, technical, and professional capabilities are encouraged to join hands in realizing the program.

The Eritrean Musicians Association has created and distributed a poster bearing the title "Remembering Stars in Eritrean Art." The poster succinctly conveys the program's intentions: "We commence our program 'Remembering Stars of Eritrea' with artist Yemane Gebremichael (Barya) to honor and pay tribute to those who have made significant and transcendent contributions to Eritrean art. We call upon all Eritrean nationals to contribute and participate in the development and continuity of the program."



SpotLight

Africa Climate Summit: Time for Tangible Action

Dr. Fikrejesus Amahazion

The first-ever African Climate Summit, held in Nairobi, concluded this week with the issuing of a historic declaration that called for an urgent restructuring of the way wealthier nations engage with the continent. The Nairobi Declaration also urged the international community to back a surge in renewable energy. Looking forward, the declaration will help to define the shared position of the African continent ahead of an upcoming United Nations climate conference in New York and the COP28 global climate talks scheduled for later this year. (COP28 refers to the 28th Conference of the Parties of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, scheduled for later this year in the United Arab Emirates.)

The landmark gathering, which began Monday and ended Wednesday and was co-hosted by the African Union and Kenyan Government, drew numerous African heads of state and government and tens of thousands more participants and delegates from around the world. Among the key themes of the breakthrough summit and its final declaration was the imperative to ensure that Africa be regarded as a potential source of solutions, rather than portrayed strictly as a host to problems. “Africa possesses both the potential and the ambition to be a vital component of the global solution to climate change,” states the final declaration, released on Wednesday.

While climate change and its impacts affect people everywhere, they disproportionately harm the poorest and the most vulnerable, especially women, children, the elderly, and persons living with disabilities. Moreover, the impacts of climate change are felt most by those people who are least responsible for rising carbon emissions and global temperatures – particularly those in Africa.

African countries are among the most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, experiencing the dire impacts of the climate crisis including withering drought, flooding, extreme weather temperatures, and rising sea levels. Last year, more than 7.5 million internal disaster displacements were registered on the continent, while millions of people continue to be impacted by an extreme hunger crisis in parts of East Africa – a crisis that



has been made worse by the repeated failure of rainy seasons.

Yet, even as the continent is especially vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, the gathering focused on the fact that Africa can also be a source of solutions. African countries boast abundant and diverse natural resources, youthful populations, critical minerals, and arable land, all of which offer numerous opportunities and vast potential to drive low-carbon green growth and spur climate action throughout the continent and the world. As stated by a Kenyan official: “We aim to start changing the conversation from Africa the victim of hunger, famine, and floods [to] an Africa that is willing and ready to attract capital that is timely, equitable and at scale to lead the world in tackling climate change.”

The declaration also shines a critical light on the need for the global community to fulfill its obligations and keep financial promises to fight climate change. Although African countries have been promised significant support over the years, comprehensive follow-up on commitments has been sorely lacking. A report released last year by the Climate Policy Initiative found that Africa has received about only 12 percent of the finance it needs to cope with climate impacts, and a 2022 United Nations report also estimated that the continent loses from \$US7bn to \$US15bn annually because of climate change. Moreover, past analyses have shown that some countries, such as the United States, the United Kingdom, and Canada, have fallen billions of dollars short of their “fair share” of climate funding for developing countries, while most climate financing actually goes to middle-income countries, rather than the poorest. Myriad reports also indicate that even greater funding than has yet been forthcoming is required

to help developing countries cut their greenhouse gas emissions and cope with the effects of climate breakdown.

Another significant point raised in the final declaration was the fundamental need to reform the global financial system that has left African nations paying 5 to 8 times more to borrow money than others, worsening the debt crisis for many. Proposals include increasing concessional lending, providing grace periods, and extending sovereign debt tenors, all of which would help could offer relief for indebted countries and result in the release of money that could be invested in renewable energy, conservation, and climate change adaptation. According to international organizations, many African countries are heavily burdened by annual debt servicing costs that are approximately the same amount as their climate financing requirements. What is more, a significant percentage of international climate finance is extended in the form of loans, rather than grants, which is a major difference that can push countries already trapped in debt into further misery.

The declaration, adopted unanimously, thus demonstrating the continent’s unwavering collective commitment and resolve, additionally calls for Africa’s vast mineral wealth to be processed on the continent, noting that, “decarbonizing the global economy is also an opportunity to contribute to equality and shared prosperity,” while also proposing a new “loss and damage” fund due to be established at COP28 and carbon taxes on sectors like fossil fuels, maritime transport, and aviation.

Eritrea’s participation at the Africa Climate Summit

Upon the invitation of Kenyan

President William Ruto, who served as the summit’s host, Eritrea’s President, Isaias Afwerki, accompanied by Osman Saleh, the country’s foreign minister, attended the summit in Kenya. On the margins of the summit, President Isaias conducted several meetings with leaders and representatives of countries and organizations.

During his address, President Isaias cautioned that “the gravity and urgency of the [climate change] situation will be downplayed only at our own, collective, peril,” and went on to urge that, “Africa mobilize its own resources rather than extend hands for handouts that may aggravate the existing situation by inviting interference and corrupt practices while mobilizing our own resources will be enabling and motivating creativity at the level of the continent.”

For Eritrea, a young, developing country, located in a region that is on the frontlines of the climate change crisis, the summit and many of the issues it raised were highly pertinent. The country is vulnerable to a number of climate-related hazards, such as recurrent droughts, flooding and storms, high winds (especially within coastal areas), locust swarms, and volcanic activity. Annual greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in the country remain relatively low and there are only small fluctuations per year. In 2018, GHG emissions were approximately 6.396 megatonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (Mt CO₂ eq.), about a 20.17 percent (or 1.073 Mt) increase from 2000 emissions and a slight decrease of 0.37 percent (or 0.0237 Mt) from 2015 emissions. Overall, the country accounts for among the smallest global shares of total global GHG emissions.

Notably, however, despite a range of different challenges, for years Eritrea has been making considerable efforts and investing

resources toward climate change mitigation and adaptation, risk reduction, and disaster rehabilitation. It has signed and ratified a number of international climate change agreements, established enclosures and protected areas, expanded sustainable irrigation schemes (including drip and sprinkler systems), and constructed hundreds of terraces, dams, and ponds. (The number of big and small dams has grown exponentially since the onset of independence, from 138 to 785 in 2021, with hundreds of millions of cubic meters of water impounded in reservoir structures nationwide.) As well, it has developed plans for the desalination of seawater for domestic and economic sectors, while households and communities nationwide, especially those in at-risk areas, also receive considerable support with adaptation strategies and technologies, helping to reduce vulnerability, strengthen resiliency, and secure livelihoods.

In addition to all of the above, renewable energy is being prioritized (which will help to minimize the dependence on unsustainable imported fossil fuels and reduce emissions from national power generation), while steps are actively being taken to improve energy efficiency and promote clean alternatives in transport, manufacturing, and household consumption.

One unique intervention has been the introduction of improved traditional stoves, locally known as “Adhanet”, which are energy efficient (decreasing consumption by 50 percent), minimize deforestation, and reduce safety and health hazards. Designed by the Ministry of Energy and Mines and distributed by the Ministry of Agriculture, approximately 170,000 of these units have been installed in households and communities nationwide since 1998. Additionally, a number of projects are in place to conserve, restore, and enhance natural areas, including regular nationwide afforestation campaigns involving the active participation of communities, students, and youth groups, as well as water and soil conservation programs.

While all of these efforts and initiatives are certainly significant, noteworthy, and much-needed, it is absolutely vital that Eritrea, along with other African countries that are bearing the brunt of the impact of climate change, continue to plow ahead to ensure a sustainable, green future and also receive tangible, concrete support. As stated in the Nairobi Declaration, “No country should ever have to choose between development aspirations and climate action.”



Vacancy Announcement # 001/23

Programme Analyst, RHCS

Job title:	Programme Analyst, RHCS
Level:	NOB
Position Number:	203483
Location:	Asmara, Eritrea
Full/Part time:	Full-Time
Fixed term/Temporary:	Temporary Appointment
Rotational/Non Rotational:	Non-Rotational
Duration:	3 months(with possible renewable of 9 months)

The Position:
The Programme Analyst, Reproductive Health Commodity Security (RHCS) contributes to the effective delivery of UNFPA activities in the areas of Maternal Health and Family Planning (FP). Under the direct supervision of the Assistant Representative, the Programme Analyst, contributes to the effective management of UNFPA programmes in support of national efforts to strengthen RHCS within existing programmes on maternal health, family planning, STI control, cervical cancer, etc.

How you can make a difference:
UNFPA is the lead UN agency for delivering a world where every pregnancy is wanted, every childbirth is safe and every young person’s potential is fulfilled. UNFPA’s new strategic plan (2022-2025), focuses on accelerating the achievement of the three transformative results: to end preventable maternal deaths; end unmet need for family planning; and end gender-based violence and harmful practices.

In a world where fundamental human rights are at risk, we need principled and ethical staff, who embody these international norms and standards, and who will defend them courageously and with full conviction.
UNFPA is seeking candidates that transform, inspire and deliver high impact and sustained results; we need staff who are transparent, exceptional in how they manage the resources entrusted to them and who commit to deliver excellence in programme results.

Job Purpose:
The Programme Analyst, RHCS works closely with other staff in the UNFPA Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH) unit to enhance RHCS initiatives. S/he analyses and assesses relevant political, social and economic trends and provides substantive inputs to UNFPA Country Office (CO) on HIV/AIDS and condom programming; including planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting. S/he is engaged in joint programming under the UN ‘Delivery as One’ umbrella and works closely with other SRH development partners.

S/he coordinates activities of related project staff and consultants, and ensures oversight of the work of Implementing Partners (IP) in close collaboration with operations staff, programme officers, and counterparts at the Regional Office and HQ as well as in other UN Organizations, technical staff in government ministries and civil society organizations to ensure successful implementation of UNFPA-supported programmes to enhance RHCS, including the management of supply chain systems.

Within the context of health system strengthening and financing, the Programme Analyst RHCS analyzes relevant political, social and economic environment and trends; provides substantive inputs for the formulation, management, monitoring and evaluation of a comprehensive RHCS programme related activities; contributes to CO’s efforts in advocacy, policy advice/dialogue and resource mobilization in support of RHCS; provides technical support and contributes to building the capacity of partners for the implementation of Country Programme activities. S/he facilitates the delivery of UNFPA’s programmes by monitoring results achieved against set targets. S/he facilitates the work of consultants, advisors, experts; establishes and maintains collaborative relationships with counterparts in government, multi-lateral and bilateral donor agencies and civil society to address emerging issues. S/he effectively influences counterparts from diverse backgrounds to jointly contribute to achieving UNFPA’s mandate. S/he plays a pivotal role in managing resources for RHCS from potential development partners. S/he is a substantive contributor to the SRH unit and overall UNFPA CO programme team.

Responsibilities:
The Programme Analyst, RHCS will be responsible for:

A. General Programming
In collaboration with Government counterparts and other partners contribute

substantively to the formulation and design of the country programme and its AWP’s in line with Government priorities and according to UNFPA programme policies and procedures. Ensure quality of programme/project design incorporating lessons learned, newly developed policies and best practices and establishing appropriate execution and monitoring mechanisms and systems.

Contribute to analysis and research of the political, social and economic situation in the country and preparation of substantive inputs to United Nations programming processes (Common Country Assessment [CCA], United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework [UNSDCF], Country Programme Development [CPD], as they relate to RHCS, including management supply chain systems;

Analyze and report on programme and project progress in terms of achieving results, using existing monitoring and evaluation tools and introducing new mechanisms and systems; identify constraints and resource deficiencies and recommend corrective action. Monitor projects expenditures and disbursements to ensure delivery is in line with approved project budgets and to realize targeted delivery levels.

Expedite and coordinate project implementation establishing collaborative relationships with executing agencies, experts, government counterparts and other UN agencies facilitating timely and efficient delivery of project inputs and addressing training needs of project personnel.

Help create and document knowledge about current and emerging trends and issues, by analyzing programmes, projects, strategies, approaches and ongoing experience for lessons learned, best practices, and shares with management for use in knowledge sharing and planning future strategies.

B. Technical Expertise/Management
Analyze and interpret the political, social and economic environment relevant to HIV/AIDS/GBV and identify opportunities for UNFPA assistance and intervention. Keep abreast with new policy developments and strategies by analyzing policy papers, strategy documents, national plans and development frameworks and prepares briefs and inputs for policy dialogue, technical assistance coordination and development frameworks.

Participate in relevant national and sub-national fora, enhancing UNFPA mandate on RHCS.

Ensure increased availability and use of technical information to improve data collection, analysis, and use; with special attention to recent developments in analysis of data from censuses, surveys, statistics, etc.

Create substantive knowledge of RHCS issues in the country, assesses technical assistance needs in these areas and advise on the suitability of programmes and related interventions to meet these needs.

Manage condom programming (monitors the status of condom availability and utilization, etc) in consultation with other national and international stakeholders, with a view to have a viable, sustainable, updated and responsive condom supply for HIV/AIDS prevention as part of Reproductive Health Commodity Security systems in the country

Contribute to strengthening of advocacy for RHCS in general and family planning in particular;

Contribute to development of appropriate RHCS communication strategies and corresponding materials

Advise the SRH team in order to ensure that the specific needs of RHCS are fully addressed.

C. Advocacy and Resource Mobilization and Funds Management
Assist advocacy and resource mobilization efforts of Country Office by preparing relevant documentation (i.e. project summaries, conference papers, speeches, donor profiles, and participating in donor meetings and public information events).

Develop factsheets, briefing materials, info graphics, and presentations for public information, advocacy and resource mobilization purposes.

Prepare relevant proposals with RHCS components and share information about UNFPA tools for co-financing and funding.

Build strong technical and programme multi-sectoral partnerships for advocacy for RHCS within the broader SRHR agenda through national institutions, networks, alliances and coalitions. Monitor and keep updates on existing and potential partnerships. Follow through and ensure that recommendations and action points agreed to are addressed.

Prepare and manage relevant budgets; Monitor expenditures to ensure delivery is in line with approved budgets and to realize targeted delivery levels and deliver timely and accurate reporting of financial information.

Manage assets that have been procured by the UNFPA and supplied to the implementing partners; ensuring that they are put to proper use.

Represent UNFPA at key events where required, with regard to UNFPA’s mandate.

D. General Support
Stand-in for other programme team members on selected functions as may be required.
Carry out any other duties as may be required by UNFPA leadership. Qualifications and Experience:

Education:
Masters Degree in health, population, demography, development, gender, supply chain and logistics, law and/or other related social science field.



Continued from page 6

- Knowledge and Experience:
- At least 2 years of increasingly responsible professional experience in the field of development and population activities;
 - Work experience in the field of Sexual and Reproductive Health is preferred.
 - Training in Supply Chain Management
 - Specialized knowledge and experience in RHCS is desired;
 - Experience in programme/ project management including experience in large multi-sector programmes;
 - Experience working with the Ministry of Health and Local Government is desirable.
 - Field experience is an asset;
 - Prior experience in the UN system is an asset
 - Demonstrated ability to work in a team

Languages:
Fluency in English; knowledge of other official UN languages, preferably Arabic is desirable.

Required Competencies:

- Values:**
- Exemplifying integrity,
 - Demonstrating commitment to UNFPA and the UN system,
 - Embracing cultural diversity,
 - Embracing change
- Core Competencies:**
- Achieving results,
 - Being accountable,
 - Developing and applying professional expertise/business acumen,
 - Thinking analytically and strategically,
 - Working in teams/managing ourselves, our relationships, and others
 - Communicating for impact

- Functional Skill Set:**
- Advocacy/Advancing a policy-oriented agenda
 - Leveraging the resources of national governments and partners/ building strategic alliances and partnerships
 - Internal and external communication and advocacy for results mobilisation
 - Delivering results-based programmes
 - Technical Understanding of the areas of work
 - Project Management
 - Managing financial processes
 - Proficiency in current office software applications

Compensation and Benefits:
This position offers an attractive remuneration package including a competitive net salary plus cost of living adjustment, rental subsidy, education grant, home leave, health insurance and other benefits as applicable.

DISCLAIMER:
UNFPA does not charge any application, processing, training, interviewing, testing or other fee in connection with the application or recruitment process. Fraudulent notices, letters or offers may be submitted to the UNFPA fraud hotline <http://www.unfpa.org/help/hotline.cfm>

* renewable based on good performance

HOW TO APPLY:

UNFPA has established an electronic application management system. Thus, UNFPA encourages all applicant to use this link [Programme Analyst, RHCS](#) to apply. But if you have difficulties to use this link , or no internet access, put your applications and P11 to the box available at the entry of the UN Compound. The TOR and P11(available at the gate of the compound) for ease reference.

Please attach a recent application letter, CV and copies of qualifications including telephone numbers in a sealed envelope addressed to:

UNFPA Representative
P.O. Box 5366
Asmara, Eritrea
Quote: Vacancy Announcement / Post Name and Number

Notice: All applications should be submitted within 10 working days after the date of announcement.

Notice: There is no application, processing or other fee at any stage of the application process. UNFPA does not solicit or screen for information in respect of HIV or AIDS and does not discriminate on the basis of HIV/AIDS status.

CANDIDATES SHOULD PROVIDE EVIDENCE OF COMPLETION/ EXEMPTION FROM NATIONAL SERVICE

Specific Procurement Notice

Invitation for Bids [IFB]	
IFB Number:	06.2/01/ OCBI/AfDB-DRSLP V/ AED/YT/23
Purchaser:	MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE
Project:	DROUGHT RESILIENCE AND SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOOD PROGRAM (DRSLP V) - ERITREA
PROGRAM	
Contract title:	PROCUREMENT OF PELLETED LAYER FEED
Country:	ERITREA
Grant No.:	5900155016104/2100155040575
Procurement Method: (International)	Open Competitive Bidding
OCBI / LCB No:	06.2/01/ OCBI/AfDB-DRSLP V/AED/ YT/23
Issued on:	09 September 2023

- The Ministry of Agriculture of the State of Eritrea has received financing from the African Development Bank Group hereinafter called the Bank toward the cost of the DROUGHT RESILIENCE AND SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOOD PROGRAM (DRSLP V) - ERITREA PROGRAM and intends to apply part of the proceeds toward payments under the contract¹for the supply of 660 MT of PELLETED LAYER FEED.
- The Ministry of Agriculture of the State of Eritrea now invites sealed Bids from eligible Bidders for 660MT of pelleted layer feed, in Asmara Eritrea Three months from the signing of the contract.
- Bidding will be conducted through the Open Competitive Bidding (International), (OCBI) method as specified in the Bank’s [Procurement Framework](#) dated October, 2015 and is open to all eligible bidders as defined in the Procurement Framework.
- Interested eligible Bidders may obtain further information from Ministry of Agriculture of the State of Eritrea, Yacob Tesfom, yacobtesfom@gmail.com and inspect the bidding document during office hours i.e. 08:00 to 15:00 hours at the address given below.
- The bidding document in English may be received by interested eligible Bidders upon the submission of a written application to the address below.
- Bids must be delivered to the address below on or before **10:30 a.m. 24 October 2023**. Electronic Bidding **will not** be permitted. Late Bids will be rejected. Bids will be publicly opened in the presence of the Bidders’ designated representatives and anyone who chooses to attend at the address below on **11:00 a.m. 24 October 2023**.
- All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security of **USD 7,000.00 or its equivalent in convertible currency**
- The address (es) referred to above is (are): Ministry of Agriculture of the State of Eritrea
Yacob Tesfom
Head Office, Gejeret, Sawa Street,
P.O. Box 1048,
Tel. 002911189266/002911180699,
Asmara, Eritrea
Email: yacobtesfom@gmail.com.



“A female can be Anything and Everything because the Sky is the limit...” Genet Suyum (Shigom)

Sabrina Solomon

Thank you for your time, Genet. Please introduce yourself.

Thank you for this opportunity. I go by Genet Suyum (Shigom), and was born and raised at a small village in Southern region. My parents were farmers, so I grew up working with and helping them in a variety of farm activities. As was the custom back then, my parents got me married at a young age. However, I was unable to settle down due to my dream to join my peers in the armed struggle for independence. So, I left my husband and joined the freedom fighters in 1976. I then took courses on First Aid and started working as a nurse in 1983. In 1988, I was assigned to the Department of Health and took a course in Nursing for about 8 months. I also stated writing scripts and essays on the experiences that females were going through during that period (the armed struggle). I’ve kept on writing after independence and have so far written a couple of books.

In your opinion, what role did the Eritrean independence struggle play in empowering females?

The society’s mindset during that time, which we grew up hearing, was that we, females, are inferior to men in every single way. But thanks to the struggle, we felt like we were born again. The struggle was a revolution to not only achieve independence but also to flush out the prejudices and male chauvinism. We cut our hairs and wore shorts just like the men and did everything they did. The struggle taught us that we are equal.

While doing your job as a nurse during the struggle, you were also writing, right?

Yes, indeed. The first book I’ve ever written was a story about myself -- all the ups and downs I went through, the loved ones I left behind and the education opportunity I threw away to just be able to participate in the



armed struggle. My first book was about a woman who decided

Eritrean women have done a great deal for their nation, both in the struggle for independence and in building the nation. Our guest today, Genet Suyum (Shigom), is but just one example. Genet is a veteran freedom fighter, an author, a nurse, and a mother of three and a grandmother of four.

to receive ideas from prolific writers such as Alemseged Tesfay and Solomon Tsehaye. The book was published in 1988, and I am thankful to the EPLF for the support I got to write the book.

I wrote a couple more

In 1988, I wrote a short story which I entered on a writing competition held at the time. The short story was nominated as one of the best in the competition. After the nomination, I wrote three more books. I have also contributed pieces for different publications.

When I wrote my first two books, I had never taken any courses related to book writing or literature. But in 1994, I was assigned to work at the Ministry of Information’s Newspaper Department, where I took a three-month course that has really helped me in writing books. I’ve also taken a four-month course given by the Department of Cultural Affairs.

If you loved writing so much, why did you shift back to nursing then?

When I was assigned to work at the Ministry of Information as a writer, the busy schedule was not really suitable for me because I had kids to raise. Also,



to run away from her husband before getting pregnant just to be able to fight for her rights. In writing the book, I was lucky

afterwards.

A book of a collection of short stories followed my first book.



at that time, when I heard about an opportunity to learn nursing, I grabbed it. After receiving a diploma in Nursing, I worked at Orotta Hospital for seven years. In 2004, I was assigned to the offices of the Ministry of Health and have been working there ever since.

As an empowered woman, what advice would you give young girls?

I was diagnosed with breast cancer three years ago. I can’t tell you the hard time I went through and the support I got from my peers from the independence struggle. As a female, I am strong. I know life is short and no one lives forever. And I won’t live forever either, but my works will. So keep your heads up and keep on working.

If we, as females, don’t work to tell our stories and experiences, who will do it for us? We need more females to work as journalists and writers to tell many hidden or forgotten stories. A female can be anything and everything. The sky is the limit and I surely can guarantee every single female that we have a lot more in us. We should read and work to make our nation strong. Nothing is impossible and being persistent and disciplined is a necessity. Thank you!

Any final remarks.

I am now writing a book that I want to publish very soon. It contains stories of hardships that people go through and social life in general.