

Country Disease Outlook

Eritrea

August 2023



World Health
Organization

African Region

Background

The State of Eritrea is a country in the horn of Africa on the Red Sea. It is bordered by Djibouti, Ethiopia and Sudan. It is a low-income country with a population of 3.7 million (2022).

Key points

- ◆ Eritrea has a high burden of communicable and non-communicable disease (NCDs), with the latter making up 49% of deaths in 2019. However, there has been limited progress made against the NCD Progress Indicators.
- ◆ Eritrea improved its child survival rates between 2015 and 2021, however it is not yet meeting the SDG targets for neonatal or under-five mortality rates.
- ◆ Eritrea is endemic for three of the five of the NTDs amenable to preventive chemotherapy through mass drug administration (MDA). In 2020, 95% of the of the 462,227 people targeted were reached with MDA.
- ◆ Eritrea's vaccination coverage rates are already meeting the 90% target for vaccination in children, reaching 95% with both the third dose of DTP-containing vaccine and 93% with the first dose of measles-containing vaccine in 2021.

UHC/CN

Universal Health Coverage/Communicable
and Non-communicable Diseases
WHO Regional Office for Africa





Broad disease outlook

The country has a high burden of both communicable (such as malaria, tuberculosis, HIV/AIDS) and non-communicable disease (NCDs). The latter was estimated to have caused 49% of deaths in 2019.

Communicable diseases

Malaria

Malaria remains a public health problem in Eritrea with an estimated 92,898 cases in 2021 (with incidence rate of 25.7 cases per 1,000), resulting in 211 deaths. The malaria incidence rate has been increased between 2015-19, and while it has fallen since 2020, the country is not yet on track to meet the targets set by the Global Technical Strategy for Malaria.

Tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS

In 2021, incidence of tuberculosis for Eritrea was 74 cases per 100,000 people. The mortality rate of TB cases (all forms, excluding HIV coinfection) has decreased since 2015, going from 18 to 14 per 100,000 population in 2021. In contrast, the TB mortality rate among HIV-positive people has fallen from 1.9 to 0.71 in the same period.

Eritrea has not met the 95-95-95 goals:

- ▲ 82% of people living with HIV that know their status.
- ▲ 87% of people living with HIV who know their status are on treatment.
- ▲ 87% of people living with HIV and on treatment who are virally suppressed.

Approximately 8,775 people were receiving antiretroviral treatment in 2021.

Neglected tropical diseases

Eritrea was endemic for three of the five NTDs amenable to preventive chemotherapy through mass drug administration (MDA), namely lymphatic filariasis, schistosomiasis, and trachoma. In 2020, 437,401 of the 462,227 targeted (95%) were reached with MDA.

Other notable NTDs that remain endemic are leishmaniasis (cutaneous and visceral), taeniasis and cysticercosis, leprosy and rabies.

Non-communicable diseases

NCDs are a significant health problem in Eritrea. The age-standardised mortality rate across four major NCDs (Cardiovascular Disease, Chronic Respiratory Disease, Cancer and Diabetes) was high at 896 per 100,000 in males and 655 in females in 2021.

Eritrea has implemented initial efforts on the NCD targets, NCD policy and plan and tobacco advertising bans, however there is very limited progress against the remaining indicators. These include those relating to NCD guidelines, the remaining tobacco indicators, the majority of the alcohol indicators, salt policies, trans fats policies, marketing to children and physical activity awareness.

Childhood Immunization

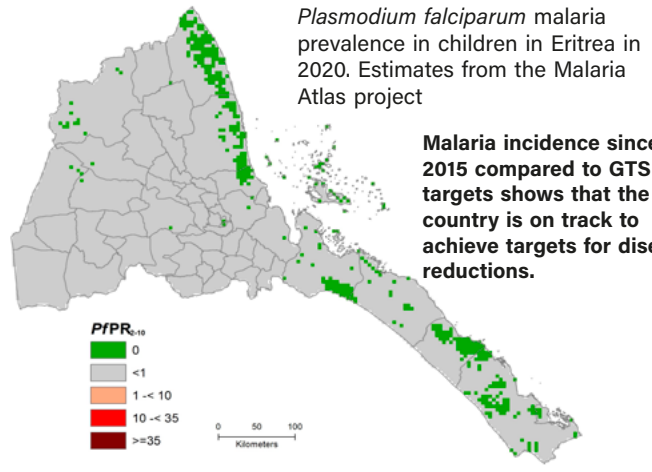
Eritrea's coverage rates of vaccination in children have historically been high and above the 90% target levels. In 2021, coverage for the third dose of DTP-containing vaccine was 95%, while the coverage rate for the first dose of measles vaccine was 93%. This resulted in an estimated 5,062 under-immunised children and 3,307 zero-dose children. While relatively low, Eritrea should still consider implementing strategies for catch-up vaccination.

Child survival

Based on the UN Inter-agency Group for Child Mortality Estimation (UN IGME) estimates, the under-5 mortality rate has fallen from 46 to 38 per 1,000 live births between 2015 and 2021, although it is still well above the SDG target of 25 per 1,000 live births. Similarly, the neonatal mortality rate decreased from 20 to 17 per 1,000 live births in the same period, remaining above the SDG target of 12.

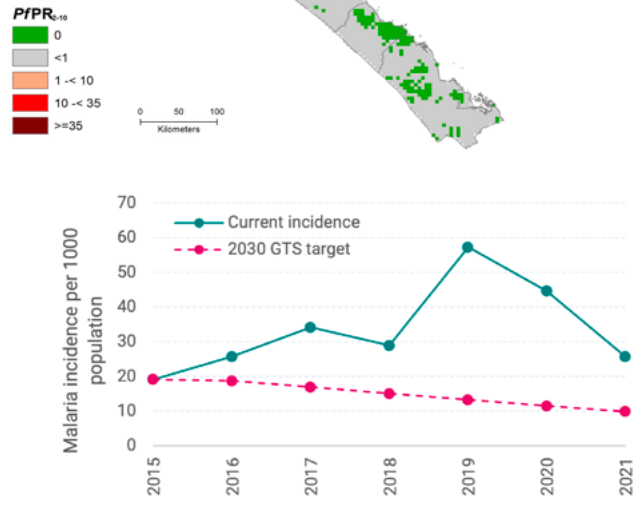
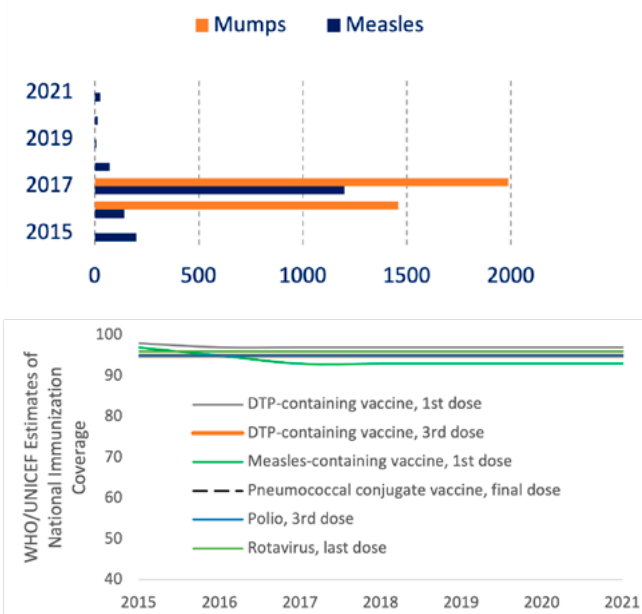
MALARIA

POPULATION AT RISK IN 2022	TOTAL MALARIA CASES IN 2021	TOTAL MALARIA DEATHS IN 2021
3.6 million people	92,898	211



Malaria incidence since 2015 compared to GTS targets shows that the country is on track to achieve targets for disease reductions.

EXPANDED PROGRAMME ON IMMUNIZATION IN CHILDREN

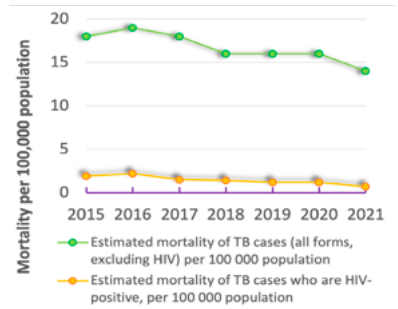
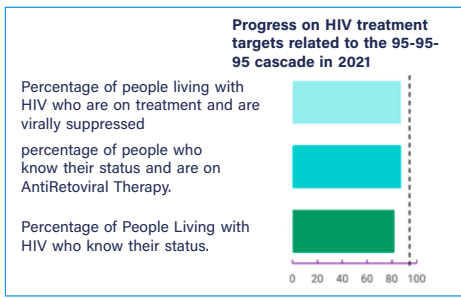


Zero dose children 3,037 **Under-immunized 5,062**

WUENIC estimates show that vaccination coverage has been >90% for most basic antigens. Although a few cases of measles were reported in 2021.

HIV AND TUBERCULOSIS

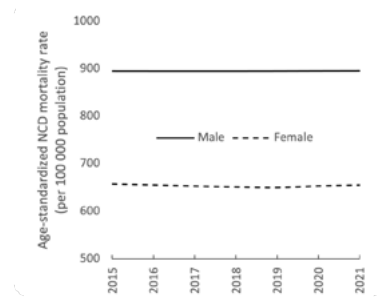
- 8,775** people receiving antiretroviral therapy in 2021
- 78%** TB cases
- 36%** of children (aged < 5 years) household contacts of bacteriologically-confirmed TB cases on preventive treatment
- <5%** Domestic funding for TB
- <5%** Domestic funding for HIV



- Indicator 1 - Targets
- Indicator 2 - CRV Mortality
- Indicator 3 - Surveys
- Indicator 4 - NCD policy and Plan
- Indicator 5A - Tobacco taxes
- Indicator 5B - Tobacco smoke free/polution
- Indicator 5C - Tobacco health warning
- Indicator 5D - Tobacco advertising ban
- Indicator 5E - Tobacco media campaign
- Indicator 6A - Alcohol availability
- Indicator 6B - Alcohol advertising restrictions
- Indicator 6C - Alcohol taxes
- Indicator 7A - Salt policies
- Indicator 7B - Trans fats policies
- Indicator 7C - Marketing to children
- Indicator 8 - Physical activity awareness
- Indicator 9 - NCD guidelines

NCD PROGRESS INDICATORS

- Achieved**
- Partially achieved**
- Not achieved/Unknown**



NEGLECTED TROPICAL DISEASES

- Endemic NTDS requiring Preventive Chemotherapy (PC)**
- Lymphatic filariasis
 - Schistosomiasis
 - Trachoma
- PC-NTDs treatment in 2021**
284,343 Million targeted for MDA
264,905 Million treated with MDA

- OTHER MAJOR NTDS**
- Leishmaniasis (cutaneous and visceral)
 - Taeniasis and cysticercosis
 - Leptosy
 - Rabies