

## Advancing resilience and sustainability in fragile and conflict-affected settings.

### GCCED Fragile States Portfolio 2026

#### Eritrea — Climate Adaptation in Arid Landscapes

**Snapshot:** Population ~3.7 million | GDP per capita ~US\$1,200 | Fragility context: Climate-vulnerable developing state | Region: Horn of Africa

#### Integrated Context

Eritrea's environmental conditions are defined by arid and semi-arid landscapes, where water scarcity and climate variability are central to both livelihoods and long-term development. Most rural households depend on rain-fed agriculture and livestock, making them particularly exposed to drought cycles and shifts in seasonal rainfall. In recent years, land degradation and deforestation have further reduced soil fertility and weakened the land's ability to retain moisture, increasing the vulnerability of already fragile farming systems.

Looking ahead, climate change is expected to intensify these challenges. Higher temperatures and more unpredictable rainfall patterns will likely reduce crop yields, place additional pressure on water resources, and increase the frequency of climate-related shocks. In this context, adaptation is not a single intervention but a set of practical, locally grounded measures—centered on improving water access, restoring degraded land, and strengthening the resilience of rural production systems.

At the same time, long-term progress will depend on strengthening environmental governance and investing in basic rural infrastructure. Supporting communities with the tools and systems to manage water and land more effectively will be critical to building resilience in Eritrea's dryland ecosystems.

#### Key Climate and Environmental Challenges

- Recurrent drought and increasing rainfall variability
- Land degradation, soil erosion, and declining soil fertility
- Limited water infrastructure and storage capacity
- Growing pressure on fragile, rain-dependent agricultural systems

#### GCCED Engagement Priorities

- Expanding community-based water harvesting and storage systems
- Promoting sustainable land restoration and soil management
- Supporting climate-adapted agriculture and resilient livelihoods
- Strengthening environmental governance and local capacity

#### Strategic Note

Eritrea's resilience pathway will depend on how effectively it manages water and land in a changing climate. Prioritizing practical, community-level solutions—while strengthening institutions and infrastructure—will be essential to sustaining rural livelihoods and stabilizing fragile dryland systems.

**SDG Alignment:** 2 • 6 • 13 • 15