



AUSTRIAN RED CROSS

ERITREA



AutRC project area:
Eritrea

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	Eritrea	Austria
Area in km ²	124,000	83,871
Population (millions)	4.8	8.3
Rural population in %	79	33
UNDP Human Development Index	165	14
Society		
Languages	Tigrinya, Arabic, English. The languages of the nine ethnic groups have equal status, but no official written version of these languages exists	German Regional languages: Slovenian, Croatian
Religions	50% Christian (mainly Orthodox, but also Roman Catholic and Protestant) 50% Sunni Muslim	73.6% Catholic, 4.7% Protestant, 4.2% Muslim, 2.2% Orthodox, 0.1% Jew, 12% without religious denomination
Health		
Life expectancy	59.2	79.9
Doctors per 10,000 inhabitants	<1	37
Infant mortality per 1,000 babies	43.3	4
Child malnutrition (< 5 years) in %	40	0
Adults with HIV/AIDS in %	1.3	0.2
Access to safe drinking water in %	60	100
Access to sanitary facilities in %	5	100
Education		
Literacy rates in %	58.6	~ 100
Economy		
Main export products	Cattle, millet, textiles, foodstuffs	Machines, automotive industry, paper, metal, iron, chemicals, textiles
GNP/capita/year in USD	626	37,370
% of the population living on < 1,25 USD/day	no data	0
Unemployment in %	no data	3.9
Inflation in %	18	3.2

Sources: UNDP United Nations Development Report 2009, German Federal Foreign Office, www.cia.gov, www.who.int



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Eritrea only gained independence in 1991 after a bloody 30-year civil war. The war left behind a young country with a completely destroyed economy and practically no infrastructure.

The lack of safe drinking water and the almost complete lack of sanitary facilities are further reasons for the catastrophic state of the population's health.

The Austrian Red Cross (AutRC) has been active in Eritrea since 2009 in a consortium with the Red Cross Societies of Denmark and the Netherlands and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies in a water and hygiene project.



Safe drinking water and hygiene

The population of 121 villages is trained in hygiene, maintenance of wells, and nutrition. Special attention is paid to women and their essential role within the household and provision of water. Together with all villagers "integrated water resource management (IWRM)" is planned – which means getting a comprehensive view of all kinds of water usage in the community, so that e.g. negative influences of excessive field irrigation can be

reduced to provide sufficient drinking water. A side effect of a strong involvement of the villages is improved disaster preparedness since Eritrea is frequently suffering from droughts and floods.



In 50 villages water supply is additionally improved through construction of wells, dams, spring protection and rain water tanks. 720 "model" latrines and waste pits for vulnerable households (mothers with children under the age of five, elderly/sick persons, people living with HIV/AIDS.) With the implementation of such "model" latrines and after successful hygiene training more villagers shall be able to build their own latrines. The project is in line with the priorities of authorities, who consider access to safe drinking water and hygiene as an essential factor for health and the poverty reduction.

Project duration 2009-2011
Cost for AutRC € 160,000

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