

ERITREA

Capital

Asmara

Ethnic Groups

Tigrinya 50%, Tigre 30%, Saho 4%, Afar 4%, Kunama 4%, Bilen 3%, Hedareb/Beja 2%, Nara 2%, Rashaida 1%

Languages

Tigrinya (official), Arabic (official), English (official), Tigre, Kunama, Afar, other Cushitic languages

Religions

Eritrean Orthodox, Roman Catholic, Evangelical Lutheran, Sunni Muslim

Population

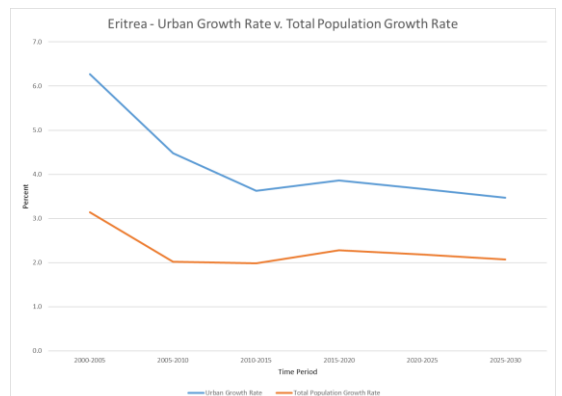
Total: 6.3 million
Median age: 20.3 years
Population growth rate: 1.08%
Urban: 43.3%
Rural 56.7%

Fertility

Birth rate: 26.72 births/1,000 population
Total fertility rate: 3.5 children born/woman
Sex ratio of population: 0.97 male(s)/female

Mortality

Death rate: 6.6 deaths/1,000 population
Life expectancy at birth: 67.19 years
Maternal mortality rate: 480 deaths/100,000 live births
Infant mortality rate: 40.63 deaths/1,000 live births



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Migration

Net migration rate: -9.38 migrants/1,000 population

Health

Current health expenditure: 4.1% of GDP

Physician density: 0.08 physicians/1,000 population

Adult obesity: 5%

Alcohol consumption per capita: 0.93 liters of pure alcohol

Education

Literacy: 76.6%

Population Distribution

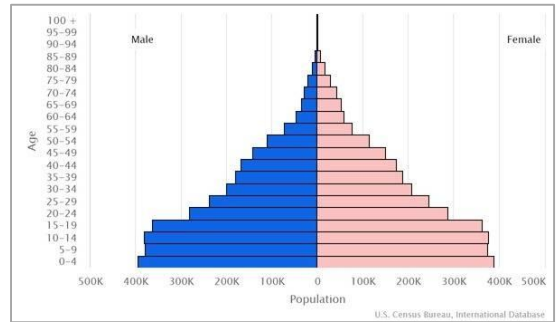
density is highest in the center of the country in and around the cities of Asmara (capital) and Keren; smaller settlements exist in the north and south

Demographic Profile

Eritrea is a persistently poor country that has made progress in some socioeconomic categories but not in others. Education and human capital formation are national priorities for facilitating economic development and eradicating poverty. To this end, Eritrea has made great strides in improving adult literacy – doubling the literacy rate over the last 20 years – in large part because of its successful adult education programs. The overall literacy rate was estimated to more than 75% in 2018; more work needs to be done to raise female literacy and school attendance among nomadic and rural communities. Subsistence farming fails to meet the needs of Eritrea's growing population because of repeated droughts, dwindling arable land, overgrazing, soil erosion, and a shortage of farmers due to conscription and displacement. The government's emphasis on spending on defense over agriculture and its lack of foreign exchange to import food also contribute to food insecurity.

Eritrea has been a leading refugee source country since at least the 1960s, when its 30-year war for independence from Ethiopia began. Since gaining independence in 1993, Eritreans have continued migrating to Sudan, Ethiopia, Yemen, Egypt, or Israel because of a lack of basic human rights or political freedom, educational and job opportunities, or to seek asylum because of militarization. Eritrea's large diaspora has been a source of vital remittances, funding its war for independence and providing 30% of the country's GDP annually since it became independent.

Age Structure



Population Distribution

