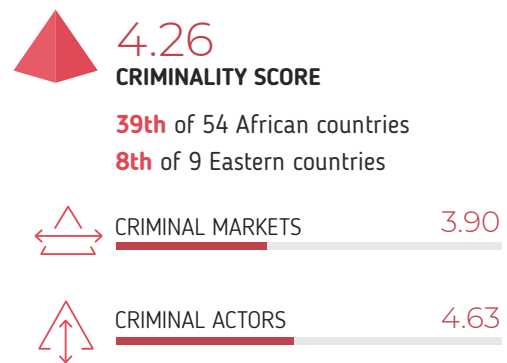
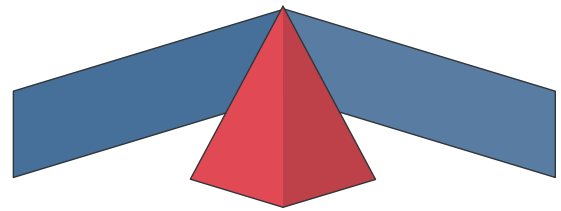


 ERITREA

Eritrea ranks 39th in the Index, with high scores for only a few criminal markets and criminal actors.

The involvement of **state-embedded actors** and **criminal networks** in **human trafficking**, **arms trafficking** and **human smuggling** are deemed to be major issues, exerting a significant to severe negative influence on society.

Eritrea is ranked as one of Africa's least-resilient countries, in 46th place, with only one indicator in the **resilience** component scoring above 3. The country's authoritarian regime, which many Eritreans perceive as a 'mafia organisation', lacks the political will to combat organised crime, in many cases participating in illicit activities itself. The absence of victim and witness support, press censorship and endemic corruption also play a part in the low resilience scores attributed by experts.



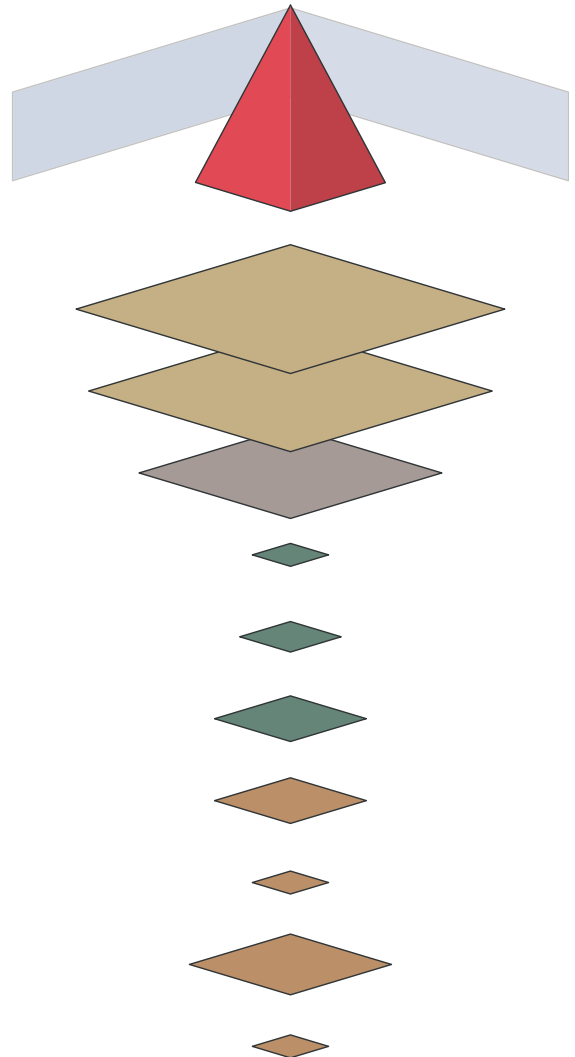
CRIMINALITY SCORE



CRIMINAL ACTORS	4.63
MAFIA STYLE GROUPS	1.0
CRIMINAL NETWORKS	5.5
STATE-EMBEDDED ACTORS	9.5
FOREIGN ACTORS	2.5



CRIMINAL MARKETS	3.90
HUMAN TRAFFICKING	8.5
HUMAN SMUGGLING	8.0
ARMS TRAFFICKING	6.0
FLORA CRIMES	1.5
FAUNA CRIMES	2.0
NON-RENEWABLE RESOURCES CRIMES	3.0
HEROIN TRADE	3.0
COCAINE TRADE	1.5
CANNABIS TRADE	4.0
SYNTHETIC DRUGS TRADE	1.5



Criminal Markets

The most significant criminal markets in Eritrea are **human smuggling** and **human trafficking**, which score 8 and 8.5, respectively, though **arms trafficking** is also deemed significant, with a score of 6. Eritrea's state policy of conscription has bred extensive resentment among the population, resulting in significant outmigration from the country.

Eritrea is among the countries with the highest prevalence of **human trafficking** in Africa. It also faces major **human-smuggling** challenges, as it is one of the largest refugee-producing countries in Africa, spawning some of the most sophisticated human-smuggling networks on the continent. The involvement of both criminal networks and state-embedded actors in human smuggling has been reported, as have high levels of abuse of vulnerable migrants, which have contributed to the high scores.



Eritrea scores poorly for **arms trafficking**, mainly because it is involved in arming terrorist/rebel groups, including as al-Shabaab, in the Horn of Africa, and facilitates shipments of weapons to neighbouring states. It is one of the most heavily armed countries in the region, though its recent emergence from isolation is likely to reduce its involvement in arms trafficking.

Experts give low scores to the illicit environmental markets, and do not see these as major issues in Eritrea. It has received a low score of 3 for **non-renewable-resource crimes**, because although gold is smuggled through country, it is usually in small amounts. Similarly, a low score has been given to **fauna crimes**. Although Massawa port is a shipping point for illegal ivory exports to Asia, poaching itself is not a major concern in Eritrea.

There are no high-value drugs markets for **cocaine, heroin** or **synthetic drugs**, though the **cannabis trade** scores 4, implying it has a moderately negative influence on some parts of society. Cannabis production has been reported in the country, but this is mostly for local use rather than for export, which explains the low score. However, it is worth noting that heroin is being trafficked through Eritrea, albeit in small amounts.

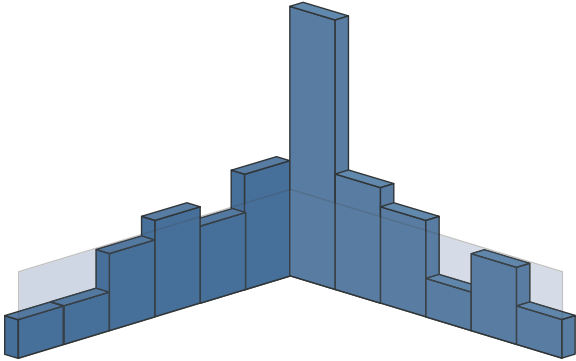
Criminal Actors

Eritrea's score of 9.5 reveals that the agents with the most influence in organised crime are **state-embedded actors**, with a severe and spreading negative influence in nearly all parts of society. Additionally, extensive **criminal networks** are judged as having significant influence due to their role in smuggling migrants out of Eritrea. They profit greatly from the mass exodus created by government policies of forced labour, charging high prices to transport migrants from the country. Moreover, migrants experience frequent abuse from state actors, and criminal and militia groups. An overlap exists between smuggling and trafficking, as Eritrean migrants are often vulnerable to being trafficked as they exit the country.

The influence of **foreign actors** and **mafia-style groups** is deemed to be limited, though some foreign traffickers are reported to operate along the Eritrea–Sudan border, kidnapping people and holding them for ransom.



RESILIENCE SCORE



<u>POLITICAL LEADERSHIP AND GOVERNANCE</u>	1.0
<u>GOVERNMENT TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY</u>	1.0
<u>INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION</u>	2.0
<u>NATIONAL POLICIES AND LAWS</u>	2.5
<u>JUDICIAL SYSTEM AND DETENTION</u>	2.0
<u>LAW ENFORCEMENT</u>	3.0
<u>TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY</u>	7.0
<u>ANTI-MONEY LAUNDERING</u>	3.0
<u>ECONOMIC REGULATORY ENVIRONMENT</u>	2.5
<u>VICTIM AND WITNESS SUPPORT</u>	1.0
<u>PREVENTION</u>	2.0
<u>NON-STATE ACTORS</u>	1.0

Eritrea ranks as one of the least-resilient states in Africa, in 46th place, with only one **resilience** indicator scoring above 3. Given that the government itself is known to take part in illicit activities, the lack of political will to address organised crime is unsurprising. Endemic corruption, a record of frequent human-rights violations and the

absence of press freedom all contribute to low scores in resilience categories. Only **territorial integrity** has a high score, achieving 7 because of the government's tight border controls and a shoot-to-kill policy. Nevertheless, reports indicate that military officials may be involved in contraband smuggling and extortion.

