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Further Information

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SPR Reading Guidance



Transitioning Towards a Nationally-Owned School Feeding and Health Programme in Sao Tome and Principe (2012-2017)
Standard Project Report 2017

World Food Programme in Sao Tome and Principe, Democratic Republic of (ST)



World Food Programme

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Country Context and WFP Objectives



Achievements at Country Level

In 2017, WFP continued to provide technical support to the Government of Sao Tome and Principe in implementing the national school meals programme. WFP supported 24 staff of the National School Feeding and Health Programme (PNASE) in the areas recommended by the 2016 Systems Approach for Better Education Results (SABER) workshop by strengthening their capacities in areas including data management and logistics. With financial support from WFP, trainings were delivered by local universities and local consultants to PNASE staff. PNASE promoted the participation of women within all trainings resulting in 420 women trained out of the total 481 participants.

With funding from the WFP Regional Bureau Nutrition Unit, WFP trained 93 teachers and headmasters, and 40 nurses and laboratory technicians in districts health centres and 324 chefs in public schools in six of the seven districts. Trainings were delivered in 26 primary schools, 24 kindergartens and within communities on key family practices related to food and nutrition such as the importance of nutrition and of maintaining healthy, balanced diets based on local products.

Within the framework of South-South Cooperation, WFP organized an educational trip for PNASE staff to Cape Verde in order to benefit from their experience with home-grown school feeding activities, as recommended by the SABER evaluation. Five nationals from Sao Tome and Principe, including three from PNASE and two from other ministries, participated in the visit.

WFP country office also supported the Government to launch its Zero Hunger Strategic Review and held discussions with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the World Bank and different

government officials in the country to explore partnerships opportunities and way of engaging in the potential activities of the Transitional-Interim Country Strategic Plan (T-ICSP).

Country Context and Response of the Government

Sao Tome and Principe is an island nation with a population of 199,910 (World Bank, 2016). Despite reaching a gross domestic product (GDP) per capita of USD 1,714 in 2016 (World Bank, 2016), the nation continues to experience financial and socio-economic difficulties. The economy is almost entirely based on cacao production, although the annual yield has decreased sharply in recent years. The island does not cultivate cereals, and fishing activities are limited due to the lack of adequate resources, including navigation and communication equipment. The country suffers stock shortages, particularly for cereals. Food availability and market stability, specifically in the peak of the rainy season, are unpredictable due to limited infrastructure and poor storage facilities. The country is heavily dependent on food imports, however availability is unpredictable as there is no deep-sea port and landing on the country's short airstrip is difficult in bad weather. In total, 23 percent of the GDP of Sao Tome and Principe is derived from the cacao and coffee crops that are currently affected by floods and landslides. The country is also prone to natural disasters which affect crops and road access as well as destroy houses and household assets.

The country ranks 142 out of 188 in the 2016 United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Human Development Index (HDI). The Second National Strategy for Poverty Reduction (2012–2016) revealed that 66 percent of the country's population, more than 160,000 people, are living in absolute poverty with the poverty threshold estimated at USD 1.70 per person, per day. Of the total population, 32.3 percent are living below the income poverty line with limited access to education, health facilities, drinking water and basic sanitation. The adult literacy rate for those aged 15 years and above is 74.9 percent.

The country's Gender Inequality Index stands at 0.524, placing it 122 out of 159 countries in the 2016 UNDP Human Development Report. When disaggregating the overall HDI by gender, women score 0.542 in contrast with 0.597 for men, resulting in a Gender Development Index value of 0.907. At the parliamentary level, only 18.2 percent of seats are held by women while, in terms of adult education, 30.8 percent of women across the country reached at least a secondary level of education compared to 44.8 percent of men.

Overall life expectancy in Sao Tome and Principe is 66.6 years, with one in eight children dying before they reach their fifth birthday (UNDP, 2016). According to the last Demographic and Health Survey (2008/09), chronic malnutrition among children aged 6-59 months was 29 percent. The global acute malnutrition (GAM) rate was 10 percent while moderate and severe stunting stood at 17.2 percent, both of which are considered "serious" levels of malnutrition by the World Health Organization (WHO).

To encourage enrolment, primary school education is free from grades 1 to 6. The gross enrolment rate for primary school is 114 percent and 85 percent for secondary school. Although progress has been made towards universal primary education, with a primary net enrolment rate at 96 percent and the primary completion rate at 104 percent, the country is yet to achieve global coverage for universal primary education (National Education Profile, World Bank, 2014).

Since the 2015/16 school year, the national school meals programme has been managed by the Government and targeted public kindergartens, primary and secondary schools, however the programme has continued to face critical funding gaps. The Government's National School Feeding and Health Programme (PNASE) will therefore continue to implement a Home Grown School Feeding Programme and other linkages between school meals and local agriculture in the context of social protection or the social safety nets projects of the Government. With the support of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the PNASE approved a National Strategic Plan for school meals promoting the introduction of local products to increase sustainability. Furthermore, with the support of FAO and through the PNASE, the Government produced a geographical agricultural map, to increase awareness of potential production of national products and the harvest seasons for supplying the national school meals programme.

WFP Objectives and Strategic Coordination

Development project 200295 focuses on capacity development and augmentation. Technical assistance and support is provided to the Coordination Unit of the government-led National School Feeding and Health Programme (PNASE). While the ownership of school meals provision has been transferred to the Government, WFP continues to strengthen the capacity of government officials in school meals management.

This project contributes to WFP Strategic Objective 4 “Reduce undernutrition and break the cycle of hunger”, and is in line with both the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) 2012–2016 and the Government's Poverty Reduction Policy Strategy. It aims to support the Government's efforts to increase access to basic education through food and nutrition assistance, provide food security analysis tools such as the Comprehensive Food Security and Vulnerability Analysis (CFSVA) and improve the overall gender balance.

A budget revision to extend this project for one year, until December 2017, was approved to ensure the Government acquires sufficient capacity to manage the national school meals programme without WFP assistance. WFP technical assistance to PNASE will ensure the gradual transition is completed with sustainability and success. In parallel, the Government has intensified its cooperation with the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the Brazilian Agency Cooperation for nutrition interventions and the promotion of local products, and in the construction and repair of school canteen infrastructure with the financial support of the African Development Bank (AfDB).

With a view to securing a national autonomous and sustainable school meals programme more focused on local production, WFP established a partnership with PNASE, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and the National Nutrition Programme to simultaneously improve the nutritional education of schoolchildren by introducing diverse products, such as greens, bananas, green beans and different tubers of the region, into the school meals programme.

Particular attention was given to girls in the schools, as well as women in the communities in recognition of the importance of the participation of women for changing meal habits and their influence over family meal habits in Sao Tome and Principe. Furthermore, the sensitisation of men in the community proved very important in this process.

WFP provided financial and technical support to ensure the successful launch of the Sao Tome and Principe Zero Hunger Strategic Review (ZHSR). To assist the Government in this activity, WFP convened and participated in several meetings with governmental ministries and other institutions, United Nations (UN) agencies, NGO, the private sector and other civil society associations. In addition, WFP successfully conducted several regional stakeholders consultations in all six districts of Sao Tome and the Autonomous Region of Principe. WFP utilised the preparation of the ZHSR to advocate for resources for the school meals programme and WFP's responses to national priorities.

With the collaboration of the FAO, WFP supported PNASE and the Government to improve the quality of school canteens by involving the agricultural sector. Furthermore, WFP collaborated with FAO and other UN agencies through participation in the UNDAF Coordination Group, participating in joint workshops to enhance inter-agency cooperation.

Country Resources and Results

Resources for Results

In July 2017, the country office received an allocation from the Strategic Resource Allocation Committee (SRAC) ensuring the country programme was 75 percent resourced. However, due to the timing of this allocation coinciding with the school holiday period from July–September, many of the country office's planned activities for the year did not take place. With a view to mobilizing resources, the country office held consultations with potential donor governments within the country including the governments of Portugal, China and Angola as well as with the African Development Bank (AfDB) and the World Bank. Furthermore, in November 2017, WFP appointed a Partnerships and Donor Relations focal point to improve the country office's fundraising strategy, particularly as the country office transitions into the Country Strategic Plan (CSP).

Despite funding constraints, the country office delivered four trainings to National School Feeding and Health Programme (PNASE) personnel and facilitated visits of PNASE personnel to various government ministries. Furthermore, WFP was able to organize an educational trip for PNASE staff to Cape Verde in order to promote South-South Cooperation and benefit from their experience with home-grown school feeding activities, as recommended by the Systems Approach for Better Education Results (SABER) evaluation. WFP also provided technical follow-ups with PNASE regarding the management, monitoring and implementation of the monitoring tools of the school meals programme, to ensure the successful transition of the programme to the Government in 2017.

WFP's nutritional activities provided training to 93 teachers and headmasters, 40 nurses and 324 chefs in public schools in six of the seven districts and was funded by the WFP Regional Bureau Nutrition Unit (a contribution of USD 20,064). Trainings were delivered in 26 primary schools, 24 kindergartens and within communities on key family practices related to food and nutrition such as the importance of nutrition and of maintaining healthy, balanced diets based on local products. With this funding, the country office trained nurses to carry out evaluations of children's anthropometric status, measuring the improvement of nutritional status of schoolchildren and in the community including monitoring haemoglobin levels of children aged 3-14 years.

The school meals programme has continually faced critical funding gaps since the Government began implementing the programme in September 2015. To ensure daily meals are delivered to all primary schools and kindergartens and to overcome this critical situation, the country office has focused on strengthening the Government to create its own fundraising policy. Moreover, WFP has sought to enhance the capacity of PNASE personnel and provide technical assistance to the Government in school meals management, including through the study trip to Cape Verde.

Implementation of Evaluation Recommendations and Lessons Learned

In October 2016, the Systems Approach for Better Education Results (SABER) evaluation was conducted by WFP to assess the strengths and weaknesses of the school meals policies and institutional capacities. The SABER assessment revealed that the overall National Capacity Index (NCI) in 2016 was at 2.5 (out of 5), the same value as 2014. WFP's activities in 2017 have been in line with the recommendations of SABER workshop and the decentralised evaluation carried out in 2016.

Given the results of the SABER assessment, and utilising the allocation of the Strategic Resource Allocation Committee (SRAC) in July 2017, WFP focused on strengthening the National School Feeding and Health Programme (PNASE) personnel's capacities in areas such as logistic issues, human resources management, data management and national bidding/purchasing. WFP organized trainings promoting the introduction of local products in school meals as recommended by the SABER exercises. WFP began an initiative to promote South-South Cooperation culminating in five national staff from PNASE and the ministries of education and agriculture visiting Cape Verde to learn from the experiences of home-grown school feeding activities there.

The late allocation of SRAC funding in 2017 meant that the country office did not accomplish gender activities planned for 2017. Although the trainings delivered did not focus on the WFP Gender Policy, PNASE promoted women's participation in all trainings resulting in women accounting for 87 percent of total participants (420 out of 481).

Most of the activities planned for 2017 will be carried out in 2018 in terms of strengthening national capacities.

Project Results

Activities and Operational Partnerships

Development project 200295 continued to focus on the capacity development and augmentation component, providing technical, material and financial assistance to the Coordination Unit of the National School Feeding and Health Programme (PNASE) to enable the Government to implement a more efficient, effective and quality school meals programme in Sao Tome and Principe.

The Ministry of Education, Culture, Science and Communication remains WFP's main operational partner together with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), with the objective to increase the use of local products, through enhanced participation of fishermen, fishmongers and smallholder farmers in the community.

Results

WFP trained 24 staff through the National School Feeding and Health Programme (PNASE) in identified areas based on the data received from the October 2016 Systems Approach for Better Education Results (SABER) evaluation. Trainings covered four main topics: logistics issues (port operation, stock control, international and local purchases, chain of commodities deliveries); human resources management; data management; and national bidding and purchasing.

In addition, 324 canteen chefs were trained through the National Nutritional Programme (PNN) – a nutrition project conducted jointly with PNASE and the international non-governmental organization (NGO) Helpo. This project contributed towards improving the nutritional status of children in assisted schools in rural areas through nutritional education, and continued to promote the use of local products in school meals.

Within the framework of South-South Cooperation, five Sao Tome and Principe nationals from PNASE (3), Ministry of Education, Culture, Science and Communication (1) and Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (1) undertook a study visit to Cape Verde to learn from their experience in Home Grown School Feeding. The country office expects that the experience in Cape Verde and the recommendations from this visit could be used to strengthen the Government's school meals programme in Sao Tome and Principe.

WFP also supported the Government in launching its Zero Hunger Strategic Review, which will enable the formulation of the Country Strategic Plan scheduled to be presented at the WFP Executive Board in February 2019.

Performance Monitoring

The National School Feeding and Health Programme (PNASE) handled all monitoring of food distribution to school canteens in 2017, financed by WFP. The performance data will be reflected in the official report from the Ministry of Education, Culture, Science and Communication during the first quarter of 2018.

WFP's financial support for PNASE, to be continued in 2018, provides technical support, including the acquisition of a software for integrated management, and monitoring of the school meals programme. Furthermore, the monitoring of the study visit to Cape Verde, conducted by five nationals of different ministries within the framework of South-South cooperation, will be provided within an evaluation report of the trip's outcomes.

Progress Towards Gender Equality

The ratio of girls to boys enrolled in primary school increased from 1.04 in 2015 to 1.12 in 2016 (Ministry of Education, 2016). The National School Feeding and Health Programme (PNASE) has been working with Parent-Teacher Associations to develop action plans to improve girls' attendance in school and to encourage the parents of the rural community to enrol their girls in school.

Women's participation in the training events supported by WFP increased from 73 percent in 2016 to 82 percent in 2017. Trainings were extended to women teachers, headmasters, nurses and cooks in public schools, in accordance with their occupations. Participants received trainings on logistics issues, human resources management, data management, national bidding/purchasing and nutrition education in introducing local products in

school meals programme as well as how to promote good eating habits among schoolchildren.

WFP engaged with the National Gender Equality and Promotion Institute in awareness campaigns for the National Women's Days and the Orange Campaign "16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence", to promote gender equity in Sao Tome and Principe.

Story Worth Telling

In the agricultural community of Agua Izé of Cantagalo district, there is a small agricultural cooperative, composed of women and men of this community, that faced many challenges due to the few numbers of associates. The members of the communities did not have confidence in the development of the cooperative due to the low purchasing power.

In this community, there is also a school with 464 students and a kindergarten with 118 children. However, its distance from the city centre makes it difficult for members of the community to sell their production because they need to pay for transport which costs a lot of money compared to the small profit they make.

In February 2017, during a joint visit of the National School Feeding and Health Programme (PNASE) and WFP, a meeting was organized with the members of the cooperative who also have their children in the school and kindergarten. The objective of the meeting was to ask the community to participate in the production process of their children's school meals by selling part of the cooperative's production to supply the school's canteen at a lower price compared to what they normally sell in the city market.

After several negotiations with the members of the cooperative, the proposal was accepted at the lowest price on the market. The contribution of parents during the school year was used to buy the cooperative's products that are delivered to the school canteens. In fact, in Sao Tome and Principe, parents also contribute with a small amount of money during the school year in order to support the school canteens.

As of today, the cooperative has increased the number of its members, its production and its sales volume which resulted in a higher income for the cooperative's family members. In addition to that, the community's school canteen uses more local products produced within the community.

Figures and Indicators

Data Notes

Cover page photo © WFP/ Celestino Cardoso

Children of Yo Grande primary school in the district of Cauê (the poorest district of the country), beneficiaries of national school meals programme, have lunch.

Project Indicators

Outcome Indicators

Outcome	Project End Target	Base Value	Previous Follow-up	Latest Follow-up
SO4 Reduce undernutrition and break the intergenerational cycle of hunger				
Increased equitable access to and utilization of education				
Retention rate in WFP-assisted primary schools				
<i>S.TOME AND PRINCIPE, Project End Target: 2016.12, Base value: 2012.01, Secondary data</i>	=85.00	81.00	-	-
Retention rate (girls) in WFP-assisted primary schools				
<i>S.TOME AND PRINCIPE, Project End Target: 2016.12, Base value: 2011.11, Secondary data</i>	=85.00	80.00	-	-
Retention rate (boys) in WFP-assisted primary schools				
<i>S.TOME AND PRINCIPE, Project End Target: 2016.12, Base value: 2011.11, Secondary data</i>	=85.00	81.00	-	-
Enrolment: Average annual rate of change in number of children enrolled in WFP-assisted primary schools				
<i>S.TOME AND PRINCIPE, Project End Target: 2016.12, Base value: 2012.11, Secondary data</i>	=6.00	3.60	-	-
Enrolment (girls): Average annual rate of change in number of girls enrolled in WFP-assisted primary schools				
<i>S.TOME AND PRINCIPE, Project End Target: 2016.12, Base value: 2011.11, Secondary data</i>	=6.00	3.60	-	-
Enrolment (boys): Average annual rate of change in number of boys enrolled in WFP-assisted primary schools				
<i>S.TOME AND PRINCIPE, Project End Target: 2016.12, Base value: 2011.11, Secondary data, MoE</i>	=6.00	3.40	-	-
Attendance rate (girls) in WFP-assisted primary schools				
<i>S.TOME AND PRINCIPE, Project End Target: 2016.12, Base value: 2012.01, Secondary data</i>	=90.00	80.00	-	-

Outcome	Project End Target	Base Value	Previous Follow-up	Latest Follow-up
Attendance rate (boys) in WFP-assisted primary schools				
<i>S.TOME AND PRINCIPE, Project End Target: 2016.12, Base value: 2012.01, Secondary data</i>	=90.00	82.00	-	-
Pass rate (girls) in WFP-assisted primary schools				
<i>S.TOME AND PRINCIPE, Project End Target: 2016.12, Base value: 2012.01, Secondary data</i>	=90.00	71.00	-	-
Pass rate (boys) in WFP-assisted primary schools				
<i>S.TOME AND PRINCIPE, Project End Target: 2016.12, Base value: 2012.01, Secondary data</i>	=90.00	71.00	-	-
Gender ratio: ratio of girls to boys enrolled in WFP-assisted primary schools				
<i>S.TOME AND PRINCIPE, Project End Target: 2016.12, Base value: 2011.11, Secondary data</i>	=1.00	0.95	-	-
Ownership and capacity strengthened to reduce undernutrition and increase access to education at regional, national and community levels				
NCI: School Feeding National Capacity Index				
<i>S.TOME AND PRINCIPE, Project End Target: 2016.12, Base value: 2011.04, WFP survey, Previous Follow-up: 2016.12, Joint survey, Joint workshop, WFP partners</i>	=3.40	2.20	2.50	-

Gender Indicators

Cross-cutting Indicators	Project End Target	Base Value	Previous Follow-up	Latest Follow-up
Proportion of women beneficiaries in leadership positions of project management committees				
<i>SAO TOME AND PRINCIPE, School Feeding, Project End Target: 2016.12, Base value: 2014.10, Previous Follow-up: 2016.12</i>	=70.00	69.00	60.00	-
Proportion of women project management committee members trained on modalities of food, cash, or voucher distribution				
<i>SAO TOME AND PRINCIPE, School Feeding, Project End Target: 2016.12, Base value: 2014.10, Previous Follow-up: 2016.12</i>	=70.00	45.00	57.00	-

Protection and Accountability to Affected Populations Indicators

Cross-cutting Indicators	Project End Target	Base Value	Previous Follow-up	Latest Follow-up
Proportion of assisted people (men) informed about the programme (who is included, what people will receive, where people can complain)				
<i>SAO TOME AND PRINCIPE, School Feeding, Project End Target: 2016.12</i>	=100.00	-	-	-
Proportion of assisted people (men) who do not experience safety problems travelling to, from and/or at WFP programme site				
<i>SAO TOME AND PRINCIPE, School Feeding, Project End Target: 2016.12</i>	=100.00	-	-	-

Cross-cutting Indicators	Project End Target	Base Value	Previous Follow-up	Latest Follow-up
Proportion of assisted people (women) informed about the programme (who is included, what people will receive, where people can complain)				
SAO TOME AND PRINCIPE, School Feeding, Project End Target: 2016.12	=90.00	-	-	-
Proportion of assisted people (women) who do not experience safety problems travelling to, from and/or at WFP programme sites				
SAO TOME AND PRINCIPE, School Feeding, Project End Target: 2016.12	=100.00	-	-	-
Proportion of assisted people informed about the programme (who is included, what people will receive, where people can complain)				
SAO TOME AND PRINCIPE, School Feeding, Project End Target: 2016.12	=90.00	-	-	-
Proportion of assisted people who do not experience safety problems travelling to, from and/or at WFP programme site				
SAO TOME AND PRINCIPE, School Feeding, Project End Target: 2016.12	=100.00	-	-	-

Partnership Indicators

Cross-cutting Indicators	Project End Target	Latest Follow-up
Amount of complementary funds provided to the project by partners (including NGOs, civil society, private sector organizations, international financial institutions and regional development banks)		
SAO TOME AND PRINCIPE, School Feeding, Project End Target: 2016.12	=267,070.00	-
Number of partner organizations that provide complementary inputs and services		
SAO TOME AND PRINCIPE, School Feeding, Project End Target: 2016.12	=9.00	-
Proportion of project activities implemented with the engagement of complementary partners		
SAO TOME AND PRINCIPE, School Feeding, Project End Target: 2016.12	=100.00	-