



World Food Programme

SAVING  
LIVES  
CHANGING  
LIVES



## WFP Sao Tome and Principe Country Brief November 2018

**In Numbers** food assistance distributed

**US\$0.1 m** six months (December 2018-May 2019) net funding requirements, representing 40% of total needed for carrying out capacity strengthening activities (government-led Home-Grown School Meals programme and National Food Security and Nutrition related safety nets).

**WFP  
SAYS  
NO to  
GENDER  
BASED  
VIOLENCE**

### Operational Context

In 2017, estimated GDP per capita in São Tomé and Príncipe amounted to around USD 1.78 million. However, recent World Bank estimates show that about one-third of the population lives with less than USD1.9 per day and more than two-thirds of the population is under a poverty line of USD 3.2 per day.

In the past decades, the country has made considerable progress in reducing child mortality, malnutrition and improving maternal health, however, in 2014, it was estimated that 17.2 percent of children under the age of five were stunted (20.5 percent boys and 13.9 percent girls), 8.8 percent were underweight (10.6 percent boys and 6.9 percent girls), and 4 percent were wasted (4.7 percent boys and 3.3 percent girls) – MICS-2014.

Human Development Index value is 0.589 — which puts the country in the medium human development category, ranking 143<sup>rd</sup> out of 189 countries and above the Sub-Saharan Africa average.

With Sao Tome, heavily dependent on food imports, food availability is unpredictable: there is no deep-sea port, and, in bad weather, landing is difficult on the country's one short airstrip. In Addition, no cereals are cultivated on the island. The country is prone to natural disasters such as floods and landslides, which negatively affect crops and road access as well as destroy houses and household assets. WFP assistance is focused on education, which is central to the poverty reduction strategy. WFP technical assistance to school meals programme affects over 45,000 children (around 25 percent of total population) attending schools.

WFP has been present in Sao Tome and Principe since 1976.



Population: **197,700**

Income Level: **Lower middle**

2017 Human Development Index: **143 out of 189**

Chronic malnutrition: **31% of children between 6-59 months**

### Operational Updates

- WFP and FAO co-organized a food market and a public debate about food security and nutrition in Sao Tome and Principe on 1 November 2018. The event, covered by the media, counted with the participation of the Minister of Health, UN Resident Coordinator, the Director of the Minister of Education and representatives of other UN agencies. The opening speech was made by the Minister of Agriculture. This marked the World Food Day event initially planned for 16 October 2018 but postponed due to prevailing social-political situation linked to the elections.
- Between 12 and 17 November 2018, WFP co-organized together with other UN agencies, the activities for the celebration of UN week, including photographic and film exhibition, seminars and debates in secondary schools about the SDGs and the food market. The event counted with the participation of the UN Coordinator in Sao Tome, Ms. Zahira Virani, the Chiefs of agencies and staff. These activities were also planned in October but postponed for same reasons as above.
- Most activities planned with the participation of Government officials towards the end of November 2018 have been put on hold or re-scheduled until further notice with due regard to the prevailing political situation; the opposition gained the parliamentary majority (with a new President of National Assembly elected on 22 November 2018) resulting also in a change in Government leadership and composition.

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**Main Photo**

**Credit:** Celestino Cardoso/WFP

**Caption:** Food market for the celebration of the World Food Day

## Country Strategic Plan (2017-2021)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
0.3 m	0.2 m	0.1 m

**Strategic Result 5:** Developing countries have strengthened capacities to implement SDGs.

**Strategic Outcome1:** The Government of Sao Tomé and Príncipe has enhanced capacity to implement food security and nutrition focused safety nets nationwide.

*Focus area: Root causes*

**Activities 1:** Provide technical assistance to the Government to design, finance and manage its national home-grown school meals programme:

- Provide financial support to PNASE for acquisition of a software for the integrated management of the school meals programme.
- Support the strengthening of a communication programme for development (C4D) centred on school meals.
- Promote the formulation of a "UN Joint Agencies in STP

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**Activities 2:** Provide targeted technical assistance for hunger-focused cost analysis and evidence generation for improved programme.

## Monitoring

- The process of the acquisition of a software for integrated management and monitoring of the school meals programme is ongoing.

## Challenges

- Funds availability and resources mobilization for T-ICSP implementation.

## Partnerships

- The Ministry of Education through PNASE remains the main cooperating partner for WFP.
- WFP is also partnering with local and international NGOs.

**Donors:** Multilateral