



World Food Programme

SAVING
LIVES
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WFP Sao Tome and Principe

Country Brief

February 2019



Operational Context

In 2017, estimated GDP per capita in São Tomé and Príncipe amounted to around USD 1,785 U.S. dollars. However recent World Bank estimates show that about one-third of the population lives with less than USD 1.9 per day and more than two-thirds of the population is using 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 aged 6-59 months 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 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 reaches 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**

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

Income Level: **Lower middle**

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

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Main Photo

Credit: Photo courtesy of Achille Aka, WFP DCD/STP.

Caption: WFP RBD Regional Director with Ministers of Education and Health at the 4th African School feeding Day in Abidjan.

Further information: www.wfp.org/countries/sao-tome-and-principe

In Numbers

US\$0.1 m four months (March-July 2019) net funding requirements, representing 45% of total needs requirements.

Operational Updates

- On 1 February 2019, WFP Deputy Country Director and programme policy officer met with the new Minister of Foreign Affairs, Cooperation and Communities, Ms. Elsa de Barros Pinto, to brief her about the ongoing and foreseen activities of WFP in STP.
- On 14 February, WFP in Sao Tome held a meeting with the new coordinator (recently appointed) in the presence of the national programme of school feeding (PNASE) team for briefing purposes and to highlight urgent actions to be undertaken in the view of the end of the transitional country strategic plan (T-CSP) in June 2019.
- A high-level delegation from the Government composed by five officials and led by the Minister of Education (Ms. Julieta Rodrigues) and the Minister of Health (Mr. Edgar Neves), including the new PNASE's coordinator, the representant of the Minister of Finance and Blue Economy and the representant of the Minister of Agriculture attended the celebration of the African Day of School Feeding in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire. WFP Deputy Country Director in Sao Tome accompanied this delegation.
- The country office is completing the exercise 2018 of WFP annual country report for Sao Tome and Principe, with the support of WFP regional bureau in Dakar and WFP headquarters.

Partnerships

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

Monitoring

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

Challenges

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

Donors: Multilateral

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

Activities1: Provide technical assistance to the Government to design, finance and manage its national home-grown school meals programme:

- Provide financial support to PNAE for acquisition of a software for the integrated management of the school meals programme.
- Support the strengthening of PNAE by training cooks and improve their working space (furniture of complete cooks' uniforms, boots and others kitchen accessories).

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

- Strengthen the government capacity through South-South cooperation (study visit to Ivory Coast during the Continental celebration of the 4th Edition of the African Day of School Feeding) from 27/02 – 01/03 with a high-level delegation from STP.