

SAVING
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Sao Tome and Principe Annual Country Report 2018

Country Strategic Plan

2018 - 2019

ACR Reading Guidance



World Food
Programme

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Summary

In 2018, WFP interventions focused on strengthening the Government of São Tome and Príncipe's capacities in implementing food security and nutrition centred safety nets nationwide, with emphasis given to the poorest and most vulnerable people. The assistance was directed towards the main government challenges and priorities such as education, fighting hunger and malnutrition, to contribute to achieving the Strategic Development Goal (SDG) 2 and SDG 17.

Building on lessons learnt from previous interventions, WFP supported joint resource mobilization initiatives and implementation of activities to promote an effective nationally-led school feeding programme. Gender was mainstreamed in the implementation of school feeding to contribute to the improvement of gender-related indicators and strengthen the position of women as decision makers in schools and communities.

WFP supported the implementation of the national school feeding and health programme (PNASE)[1] by advocating for the government's ownership and allocation of a national budget to the national school feeding programme. PNASE benefitted from WFP's technical support to provide assistance to 46,766 children attending primary schools and kindergartens (25 percent of the total population). The acquisition of a school feeding management software was launched and will be completed in 2019.

With the participation of the Brazil Centre of Excellence, the cost and benefit analysis of school feeding was launched in 2018. Furthermore, WFP funded the participation of two staff from PNASE and the National Nutrition Programme (PNN)[2] at the Global Forum on Child Nutrition in Tunisia.

Recognizing WFP as a valued partner and in an effort to promote a sustainable national school feeding policy countrywide, the Government pledged to fund USD 1 million for the school feeding component of the country strategic plan (CSP 2019-2024). WFP reaffirmed its commitment to help mobilize additional resources for the second major component of the CSP which targets support to smallholder farmers.

The National Council for Food Security and Nutrition (CONSAN)[3] organized its first meeting in July 2018 with WFP support. For the first time since the establishment of CONSAN in 2016, development partners and national authorities, including the Prime-Minister, the Ministers of Agriculture and Health and members of CONSAN had the opportunity to discuss challenges and areas of improvement in food security and nutrition.

WFP partnered with United Nations agencies and initiated a joint project with the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) to assist vulnerable schoolchildren, particularly girls and children living with HIV/AIDS. Together with the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), WFP co-organized a

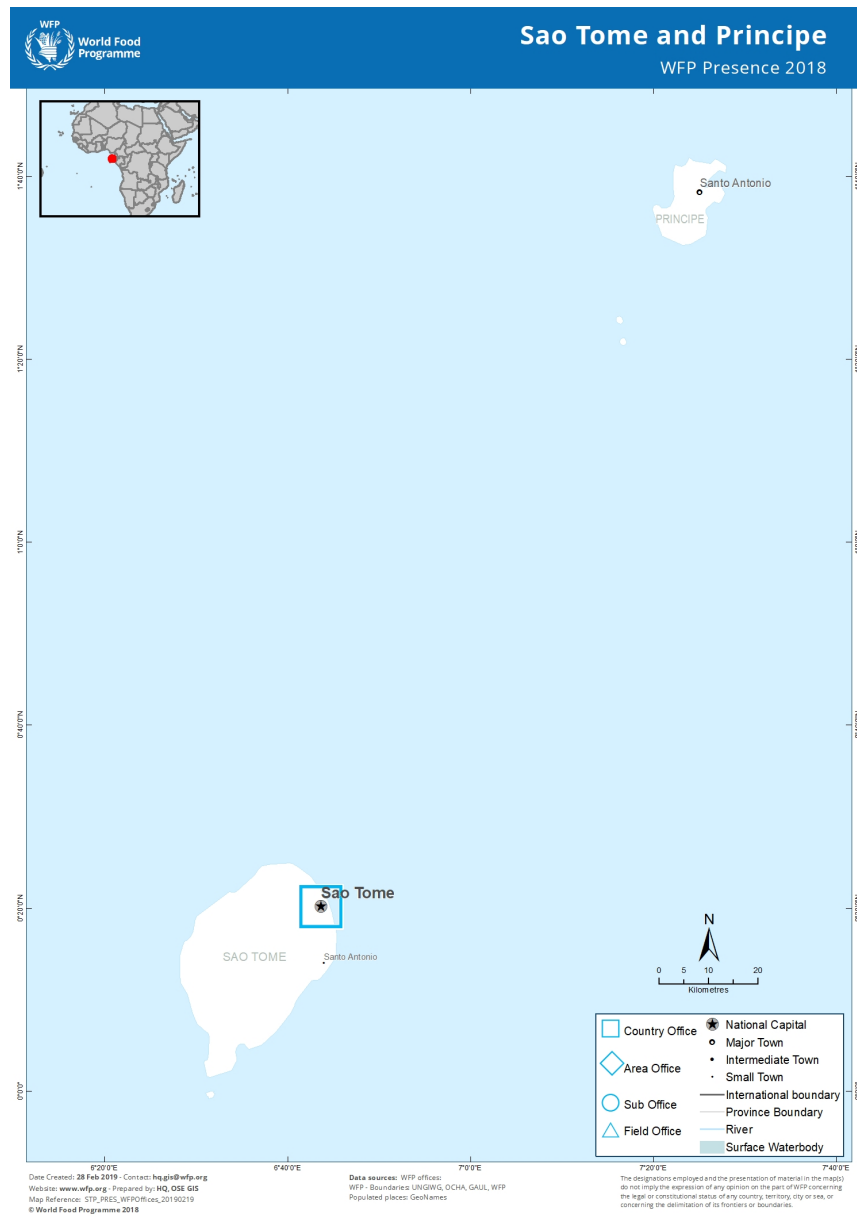
Zero Hunger event.

Throughout 2018, WFP faced challenges including funding constraints and delays in implementation. The legislative and municipal elections held in October 2018 and the appointment of the new Government and National Assembly led to the postponement of some planned activities. A high-level ministerial visit to Brazil planned for 2018 was deferred to 2019.

WFP assisted the Government in approving and launching officially its National Zero Hunger Strategic Review, which served as the basis to draft the CSP. The transitional interim CSP is extended until June 2019 pending the approval of the CSP.



Context and Operations



The Republic of São Tomé and Príncipe is a Portuguese speaking country, located in the Gulf of Guinea with a total surface area of 1,000 km² and a population of 197,700 (97,988 men and 99,712 women). São Tomé and Príncipe ranked 143 of 189 countries in the 2017 Human Development Index and continues to face serious challenges in eradicating extreme poverty and hunger.

Poverty rates remain alarming considering that about one-third of the population is living on less than USD 1.90 per day, while two-thirds are considered poor when applying a poverty line of USD 3.2 per day, with women at greater risk of poverty than men. Urban poverty is high compared to rural poverty resulting from limited employment opportunities, notably for young people and women (19.7 percent of women are unemployed against 9.3 of men). The country ranked 131 out of 160 countries in the Gender Inequality Index,[1] declining from 122 in 2015, underscoring substantial challenges with regards to the realization of gender equality and equitable development gains for women and men, boys and girls.

In São Tomé and Príncipe, 52 percent of the active population works in agriculture (57 percent men and 42 percent women). Half of the rural people acquired title deeds to their land and only one third of them are women.

Access to food remains a challenge, especially because of high unemployment rates and weak agriculture, fishing and livestock sectors, compounded by the effect of recurring natural disasters such as floods and landslides which prevent the production of sufficient food to meet the needs of the population. Reliance on food imports (particularly cereals, beans, oil, meat, dairy and other animal products) remains high, causing price fluctuation and contributing to high poverty rates.

Micronutrient deficiencies are of concern with 96 percent of preschool-age children and 18 percent of pregnant and lactating women and girls deficient in vitamin A. Among children aged 6-59 months, the rates of anemia are high (67.5 percent), and 17.2 percent are stunted. Furthermore, 8.8 percent are underweight and 4 percent wasted. Two third of households do not consume iodized salt and 37 percent of the population has insufficient zinc intake.

The Government integrated the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) into “São Tomé and Príncipe Transformation Agenda 2030: The country we need to build” and undertook a zero-hunger strategic review (ZHSR) from October 2017 to April 2018 with technical and financial support from WFP, resulting in a defined roadmap for achieving zero hunger by 2030.

Despite the government's efforts to manage the school feeding programme since 2016, its limited capacity impedes the autonomous implementation of the National School Feeding and Health Programme (PNASE), by integrating the

home-grown school feeding programme. The Government continues to count on WFP presence as a strategic partner in the area of school feeding. National authorities requested and endorsed the proposed portfolio and committed to fund USD 1 million for the country strategic plan (CSP 2019-2024) implementation.

WFP operations in São Tome and Principe focused on strengthening the government capacity, through PNASE, to autonomously implement the school feeding programme. WFP provided technical and financial support to PNASE in various areas related to food security and nutrition. However, legislative elections took place in October 2018, resulting in post-electoral tension and protests. The change of government affected the implementation of WFP activities scheduled for the last quarter of 2018.

The 2018-2019 transitional interim CSP initially ending in February 2019 will be extended until June 2019 pending the approval of the 2019-2024 CSP

Programme Performance - Resources for Results

School feeding is one of the main priorities of the Government of São Tome and Principe for achieving its sustainable development objectives. In 2018, WFP focused its assistance on capacity strengthening to help the country work towards ensuring schoolchildren access to a healthy and balance diet using local products to improve their nutritional status.

Despite no funding received in 2018, available resources carried over from 2017 covered 100 percent of the transitional interim country strategic plan activities. WFP could therefore achieve activities and provide technical and financial assistance to the Government.

If no external funding is received by 2019, WFP may not be able to continue providing technical and financial support for the Government to adequately implement sustainable food security and nutrition focused safety nets across the country.

WFP adopted a partnership-centred approach and worked in close collaboration with the host country, UN agencies (FAO and UNICEF) and NGOs, while engaging non-traditional donors and advocating for the Government to improve its resource mobilization strategy for school feeding.

The Government of São Tome and Principe committed to fund USD 1 million for the implementation of activity 1 of the CSP 2019-2024 to promote school feeding.



Programme Performance

Strategic Outcome 01

The Government of São Tomé and Príncipe has enhanced capacity to implement food security and nutrition focused safety nets nationwide.

This strategic outcome aimed to enhance the capacity of the Government to implement food security and nutrition focused safety nets nationwide.

WFP's interventions focused on supporting government institutions in the planning, implementation, and elaboration of policy reforms to strengthen social safety nets, such as income generation activities for smallholder farmers and education, health and nutrition services. The content of the capacity strengthening initiatives included national gender responsive policies and equality. Special attention was given to facilitate knowledge exchange among selected countries with similar experiences through South-South Cooperation. Interventions were centred towards capacity strengthening to enhance the Government's national home-grown school feeding programme and its capacity to provide tailored technical assistance for hunger-focused cost analyses and evidence generation for improved programme design.

Activities conducted in 2018 under this strategic outcome included support to the Government of São Tomé and Príncipe in developing a home-grown school feeding policy (with short, medium and long-term objectives) and advocating for its approval by the legislative branch of the Government. In addition, WFP promoted intersectoral coordination and school feeding partnerships and worked to strengthen synergies with line ministries (Ministries of Education, Agriculture, Health, Finance, Trade and Customs) and United Nations Agencies (FAO, IFAD, UNICEF) for a strategy for mobilizing financial resources for the National School Feeding and Health Programme (PNASE) and with non-governmental organizations for its implementation. Attention was given to supporting PNASE in monitoring school feeding programmes.

Funded by WFP and with technical support of a local university, 15 PNASE staffs - eight of whom were women - were trained in computer data management. The training aimed to help them strengthen their capacities to better utilize the forthcoming integrated school feeding management software. Additionally, WFP provided financial and technical support to PNASE to create a database for an integrated monitoring and evaluation system. This activity was partially implemented in 2018. Legislative and municipal elections held in October 2018 as well as the constitution of the new Government and the inauguration of the National Assembly led to the postponement of some of the planned activities.

WFP carried out a feasibility study on the cost of school feeding (imported and locally produced food, operational and supply chain costs) and to develop flexible modalities and menu compositions based on available budgets, demand

and food supply. The value added of local food purchases from smallholder farmers, including women, in relation to food imports will be analyzed.

In close partnership with the Rome-Based Agencies (RBA), the WFP Centre of Excellence against Hunger in Brazil, the Brazilian Cooperation Agency and the Ministries of Education, Agriculture and Health as well as NGOs, WFP led efforts to increase the participation of smallholder farmer organizations in national markets, including women's in national markets.

Support was provided to refine the decentralized home-grown school feeding model, which connects smallholder farmers and fishers to nutrition-sensitive school feeding programmes through the procurement of fresh, nutritious foods while expanding their market opportunities. With the support of the Centre of Excellence, WFP promoted knowledge exchange and study visits between São Tomé and Príncipe and countries with relevant and similar experiences in social safety nets with links and focus on school feeding.

The cost-benefit analysis of school feeding programme was conducted with the assistance of the Centre of Excellence in Brazil in 2018, and the final report will be released in the first quarter of 2019.

Under the Strategic Outcome 1, 67 percent of the output indicator targets were met, compared to 59 percent in 2017, which represents a 14 percent progress.



Cross-cutting Results

Progress towards gender equality

Improved gender equality and women's empowerment among WFP-assisted population

In São Tome and Principe, children and young people account for about 48 percent of the population. Almost two thirds of the population live below the poverty line, with women at greater risk of poverty than men (63 percent of men against 71.4 percent of women live below the poverty line). Men continue to lead the economic and the labour market and occupy the vast majority of political positions. With regards to the civil society, the role of women in relation to men remains subject to discrimination.

With 31.6 percent of children suffering from chronic malnutrition and a high prevalence of anemia reported among children and women (67.5 among children aged 6-59 months and 43 percent of women respectively), WFP aimed to ensure gender mainstreaming in the implementation of the school feeding programme. WFP, through the support provided to the National School Feeding and Health Programme (PNASE), contributed to the improvement of gender-related indicators in schools and communities.

WFP, together with other partners, supported the National Council for Food Security and Nutrition (CONSAN) to promote effective coordination of all stakeholders to achieve SDG 2 in São Tome and Principe and the integration of gender in ongoing food security and nutrition initiatives, particularly the small-scale producers access to market opportunities through national and local procurement platforms to sustain home-grown school feeding activities and sensitization campaigns for the consumption of local healthy products to reduce undernourishment and malnutrition rates, particularly among children and women.

WFP implemented a joint-activity with UNICEF and non-governmental organization Step Up to assist targeted vulnerable boys and girls and boys and girls with HIV/AIDS attending schools.

Protection

Affected populations are able to benefit from WFP programmes in a manner that ensures and promotes their safety, dignity and integrity

WFP's immediate and longer-term protection agenda include: (i) investing in institutional capacity for context and risk analysis; ii) incorporating protection concerns into programme tools and; iii) integrating protection objectives into the design and implementation of food assistance programmes.

In São Tome and Principe, the Government hold the primary responsibility to protect beneficiaries receiving food and nutrition assistance countrywide. WFP worked to ensure that safe and dignified solutions were mainstreamed in the implementation of food security and nutrition focused safety nets nationwide, with a special focus to gender responsive policies.

WFP encouraged national authorities to consider protection-related concerns during the development of a home-grown school feeding policy, gender responsive policies and in the implementation of school feeding activities.

Accountability to affected populations

Affected populations are able to hold WFP and partners accountable for meeting their hunger needs in a manner that reflects their views and preferences

WFP's policies and strategy promote a consultative and inclusive approach to ensure that beneficiaries assisted worldwide are involved in programme design and implementation to enhance their ownership and dignity. This approach aims to make sure that solutions identified by WFP and its partners are sustainable and correspond to the needs expressed by the population and national institutions benefitting from WFP expertise in food and nutrition assistance.

In São Tome and Principe, WFP centred its capacity strengthening interventions on enhancing the government's national home-grown school feeding programme and its capacity to provide tailored technical assistance for hunger-focused cost analyses and evidence generation for improved programme design. Financial and technical supports were provided to PNASE to create a database for an integrated monitoring and evaluation system.

First CONSAN meeting

Following the Community of Portuguese Language Speaking Countries (CPLP) regional strategy for food security and nutrition, the Government of São Tome and Principe decided to establish, in 2016, the National Council for Food Security and Nutrition (CONSAN) aiming to promote national multisectoral coordination on food security and nutrition.

The 22 members of CONSAN include the Prime Minister as Chairman, the Minister of Agriculture as Vice-Chairman, the President of the Autonomous Region of Príncipe and 19 other members, including other line ministers such as the Minister of Health and the Minister of Education as well as heads of respective ministerial departments involved, representatives of the National school Feeding and health programme (Programa Nacional de Alimentação e Saúde Escolar or PNASE), the National nutrition programme (Programa Nacional de Nutrição or PNN), non-governmental organizations and civil society.

Limited resources prevented CONSAN from implementing its activities, including organizing meetings to discuss issues and challenges in the area of food security and nutrition in São Tome and Principe.

The Zero Hunger Strategic Review (ZHSR) report was adopted by the Government of São Tome and Principe and formally launched in April 2018. Capitalizing on the fruitful momentum of the inclusive ZHSR technically and financially supported by WFP and in an effort to support the Government to achieve similar goals set under their own national development strategy entitled “Vision São Tome and Principe 2030: the country we need to build”[1] and other Government development programmes, WFP assisted CONSAN in reaffirming its coordinating role in the area of food security and nutrition. Technical guidance and financial support were provided in organizing the CONSAN’s very first meeting, enabling gender-informed discussions about school feeding, nutrition, food security, family agriculture and agroecology, as well as Cape Verde’s experience with HGSM and recommendations for discussion at the high-level meeting of CPLP heads of State held in Cape Verde in July 2018.

The event was chaired by the former Prime Minister who committed to allocate one vehicle after learning during that meeting that the PNN had none to carry out its activities.

This meeting was an opportune event for WFP to demonstrate its vital role in São Tome and Principe as an advisor, a convener and an enabler.



Figures and Indicators

Data Notes

Summary

Cover page photo © WFP/ Celestino Cardoso
Children having lunch at Ribeira Afonso school, Cantagalo District.

Explanatory notes:

- [1] Programa Nacional de Alimentação e Saúde Escolar
- [2] Programa Nacional de Nutrição
- [3] Conselho Nacional de Segurança Alimentar e Nutricional

Context and operations

- [1] United Nations Development Programme. 2018. Human Development Reports. Available at <http://hdr.undp.org/en/composite/GII>

Progress towards gender equality

- [1] United Nations Development Programme. 2018. Human Development Reports. Available at <http://hdr.undp.org/en/composite/GII>

First consan meeting

- [1] 2030 Transformation Agenda Sao Tome and Principe International Conference for Development Partners. 2015. Available at http://www.st.undp.org/content/dam/sao_tome_and_principe/docs/Centre%20de%20press/undp_st_GLAgenda_En.pdf.

Output Indicators

Detailed Indicator	Unit	Target Value	Actual Value	% Achieved
Strategic Result 5: Countries have strengthened capacity to implement the SDGs				
Strategic Outcome 01: The Government of São Tomé and Príncipe has enhanced capacity to implement food security and nutrition focused safety nets nationwide.				
Output C: Food insecure populations benefit from strengthened South-South Cooperation between São Tomé and Príncipe and selected countries in order to increase and protect their access to food.				
Act 02. 2. Provide targeted technical assistance for hunger-focused cost analysis and evidence generation for improved programme design to the Government				
Number of training sessions/workshop organized	training session	1.0	1.0	100.0
Number of people trained	individual	10.0	12.0	120.0
Output C: School children benefit from a sustainable national school feeding policy, strategy and programme in order to increase access to adequate nutritious food, improve health, and achieve better education results.				
Act 01. 1. Provide technical assistance to the Government to design, finance, and manage its national home grown school meals programme				
Number of capacity development activities provided for advocacy on School Feeding.	activity	1.0	1.0	100.0
Number of government/national partner staff receiving technical assistance and training	individual	10.0	15.0	150.0

Outcome Indicators

Target / Location	Modalities	Activities	Gender	Base Value	Latest Follow Up	Year End Target	CSP End Target	Date/Source/Mean of Collection
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World Food Programme

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Cover page photo © WFP/ Celestino Cardoso
Children having lunch at Ribeira Afonso school, Cantagalo District

<https://www1.wfp.org/countries/sao-tome-and-principe>

Annual Country Report - Donor Version

S.Tome,Principe Country Portfolio Budget 2018 (2018-2019)

Cumulative Financial Overview as at 31 December 2018 (Amount in USD)

Strategic Result	Strategic Outcome	Activity	Needs Based Plan	Allocated Contributions	Advance and Allocation	Allocated Resources	Expenditures	Balance of Resources
5	The Government of São Tomé and Príncipe has enhanced capacity to implement food security and nutrition focused safety nets nationwide.	2.Provide targeted technical assistance for hunger-focused cost analysis and evidence generation for improved programme design to the Government	60,283	154,220	0	154,220	28,726	125,494
		1.Provide technical assistance to the Government to design, finance, and manage its national home grown school meals programme	117,117	114,520	0	114,520	46,310	68,210
Subtotal Strategic Result 5. Countries have strengthened capacity to implement the SDGs (SDG Target 17.9)			177,400	268,740	0	268,740	75,036	193,704
Total Direct Operational Cost			177,400	268,740	0	268,740	75,036	193,704
Direct Support Cost (DSC)			16,237	23,677	0	23,677	21,148	2,529
Total Direct Costs			193,637	292,417	0	292,417	96,184	196,233
Indirect Support Cost (ISC)			12,586	20,469		20,469	20,469	0
Grand Total			206,223	312,887	0	312,887	116,654	196,233

Columns Definition

Needs Based Plan

Latest Approved Version of Needs Based Plan in USD

Allocated Contributions

Allocated contributions include confirmed contributions with exchange rate variations, multilateral allocations, miscellaneous income, resource transferred, cost recovery and other financial adjustments (e.g. refinancing); excludes: internal advances.

Advance and allocation:

Internal advanced/allocated resources but not repaid in USD.

This includes different types of internal advance (IPL or MAF) and allocation (IRA).

Allocated Resources

Sum of Allocated Contributions, Advance and Allocation

Expenditures

Cumulative monetary value of goods and services received up to the reporting period.

Balance of Resources

Allocated Resources minus Expenditures

Annual Country Report - Donor Version

S.Tome,Principe Country Portfolio Budget 2018 (2018-2019)

Annual Financial Overview for the period 1 January to 31 December 2018 (Amount in USD)

	Needs Based Plan	Implementation Plan*	Expenditures
S.Tome,Principe	206,223	169,205	97,587
<i>*Original Implementation Plan as per the Management Plan 2018</i>			