



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES

# WFP Sao Tome and Principe

## Country Brief

May 2019



### Operational Context

In 2017, estimated GDP per capita in São Tomé and Príncipe amounted to around USD 1,785. 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 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 feeding 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**

## In Numbers

**US\$0.1 m** six months (June-November 2019) net funding requirements

## Operational Updates

- From 20-24 May, the WFP budget and programming team in Sao Tome and Principe (STP) were trained in resource management and WFP Information Network and Global Systems (WINGS through technical assistance given by WFP country office in Yaoundé, Cameroon. The objective of the training was to improve the WFP's performance in programme and budgeting.
- From 27 to 31 May, the Country Director held courtesy meetings with the Prime Minister, the Minister of Education and Higher Education, the Minister of Finance, as well as the country's development partners, to discuss about WFP's presence in Sao Tome and announce the Country Strategic Plan at the Executive Board in 14 June. During his stay, the Country Director took the opportunity to visit some of the country's schools, including dining and food stores.

## Partnerships

- The Ministry of Education through the national programme of school feeding (PNASE) remains the main cooperating partner for WFP.
- WFP is also partnering with local and international NGOs.

## Monitoring

- On 2 May 2019, WFP initiated a training programme for the cooks on the optimization of the management of school canteens. The training is taking place in all districts of the country, including the Autonomous Region of Principe and will end during the month of June.

## Challenges

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

**Donors:** Multilateral

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**Country Director:** Abdoulaye Balde

**Main Photo**

**Credit:** WFP/Celestino Cardoso

**Caption:** Visit of the Country Director to the schools in Angolares District.

**Further information:** [www.wfp.org/countries/sao-tome-and-principe](http://www.wfp.org/countries/sao-tome-and-principe)

**Country Strategic Plan (2017-2021)**

2019 Total Requirement (in USD)	2019 Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
<b>0.3 m</b>	<b>0.2 m</b>	<b>0.1 m</b>

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

- Capacity strengthening of the human resources of PNASE and schools' canteens managers of Ministry of Education on M&E (Monitoring and Evaluation) and training cooks on basic nutrition and hygiene will take place in May and June.