



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Sao Tome and Principe

Country Brief

December 2019



Operational Context

In 2019, the estimated GDP per capita in São Tomé and Príncipe amounted to around USD 2,040 and recent World Bank estimates show that about one-third of the population lives on less than USD 1.9 per day, and more than two-thirds of the population is poor, using a poverty line of USD 3.2 per day.

In the past decade, the country has made considerable progress in reducing child mortality and malnutrition, and in improving maternal health. However, in 2014, it was estimated that 17.2 percent of children aged 6-59 months were stunted, 8.8 percent were underweight, and 4 percent were wasted.

The 2018 Human Development Index value of 0.609 puts the country in the medium human development category, ranking 137 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 hazards such as floods and landslides, which negatively affect crop development and road access as well as destroy houses and household assets.

WFP assistance is focused on strengthening capacities of the Government to implement the national sustainable home-grown school feeding programme, which reaches over 50,000 children attending schools (around 25 percent of total population) and facilitating smallholder farmers' access to markets. WFP has been present in Sao Tome and Principe since 1976.



Population: 197,700

2018 Human Development Index: 137 out of 189

Income Level: Lower middle

Chronic malnutrition: 17.2% of children between 6-59 months

In Numbers

US\$ 37,154 six months (January 2020 – June 2020) net funding requirements

Operational Updates

- As part of capacity strengthening efforts to the Government, WFP is providing technical support to the Ministry of Education with a legal consultant to revise the National School Feeding and Health Programme (PNASE) Law, which will be concluded by February 2020. This represents an important step for the Government in developing and implementing an innovative home-grown school feeding programme in the country.
- WFP facilitated the Minister of Education and Higher Education's participation at the Global Child Nutrition Forum (GCNF) in Cambodia, from 2 to 6 December. For the first time, a member of STP Government attended the GCNF and shared the country experience, lessons learned and expectations of the implementation of the school feeding programme.
- In line with WFP's Country Strategic Plan (CSP 2019-2024) in Sao Tome and Principe, WFP signed an agreement (FLA) with the National Council for Food Security and Nutrition (CONSAN) on 2 December 2019, valid for one month, to strengthen coordination and synergies in food security and nutrition. Through this FLA, WFP aims to support the rehabilitation of CONSAN's premises, enabling it to have an adequate and furnished office to organize regular meetings and working group sessions with partners.
- On 2 December 2019, WFP STP signed an agreement (FLA) with the Ministry of Agriculture through the Centre of Support to Smallholder Farmers and for Rural Development (CADR), to strengthen its operational capacities. Within the scope of this FLA, two training sessions were provided to CADR personnel, on the supply chain management of equipment and work tools which would help smallholder farmers improve their farming activities.

Partnerships

- The National School Feeding and Health Programme (PNASE), the National Council for Food Security and Nutrition (CONSAN) and the Centre of Support to Smallholder Farmers and for Rural Development (CADR) remain the WFP's main partners in Sao Tome and Principe.
- WFP is also partnering with two local and international NGOs to implement the CSP activities.

Challenges

- Funds availability remains the main challenge for WFP to implement planned activities at scale in STP.

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Main Photo

Credit: WFP/Isabel Santos

Caption: Children playing after leaving school for the day.

Country Strategic Plan (2019-2024)

2019 Total Requirement (in USD)	2019 Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
0.3 m	0.2 m	37,154

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

Strategic Outcome1: The Government of Sao Tome and Principe has strengthened capacity to implement an environmentally and socially sustainable, gender-transformative and smallholder-friendly home-grown school meals (HGSM) programme and related food security and nutrition policies and programmes nationwide by 2030.

Focus area: *Root causes*

Activities:

- Provide capacity strengthening (including through SSC) to the Government in the design, management and coordination of an environmentally and socially sustainable, gender-transformative and nutrition-sensitive HGSM programme and related FS&N policies and programmes.
- Provide capacity strengthening and coordination support to the Government in providing incentives for sustainable and equitable local food value chains and stimulating smallholder agricultural markets.