



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Sao Tome and Principe

Country Brief

May 2020



Operational Context

In 2019, the estimated GDP per capita in São Tomé and Príncipe (STP) amounted to around USD 2,001. 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.

Sao Tome and Principe confirmed its first case of COVID-19 on 6 April 2020. As of 31 May, a total of 483 COVID-19 cases was reported and 12 people died from the pandemic (STP Ministry of Health).

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

USD 0.5 m six months (June 2020 – November 2020) net funding requirements

Operational Updates

- Being an enabler of the global COVID-19 response, WFP was requested by the Government of Sao Tome and Principe to support the implementation of the National Contingency Plan, particularly in the areas of Education and Agriculture. Based on this request, WFP has provided financial and technical support to the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Rural Development to do the agricultural and fisheries mapping nationwide and support the local food production, aiming to ensure the food security of the population during and after the pandemic, with focus on vulnerable population.
- WFP is putting efforts to urgently reallocate resources and reprioritize programming and operational approaches to support the Government in its efforts to address the new reality. With the closure of schools, it is estimated that approximately 5,000 vulnerable children identified by the Government are in urgent need of food assistance and at risk of food insecurity.
- A total of 483 cases of COVID-19 were confirmed in the country during the month of May. The President of the Republic has extended the state of emergency until the beginning of June and the Government has strengthened the contingency measures in order to curb the spread of the virus.

Partnerships

- The National School Feeding and Health Programme (PNASE), the National Council for Food Security and Nutrition (CONSAN) and the National Centre for Supporting Smallholder Farmers (CADR) remain the WFP STP main partners.
- WFP is also partnering with two local and international NGOs.

Challenges

- Funds availability remains the main challenge for WFP STP.

Donors

UN Funds and Agencies

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Main Photo

Credit: WFP photographer

Caption: WFP Officer in Charge with vulnerable school children.

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

Country Strategic Plan (2019-2024)		
2019 Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Five Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
0.3 m	0.2 m	0.5 m

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