



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES

# WFP Sao Tome and Principe Country Brief June 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**

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Main Photo

Credit: WFP photographer

Caption: Food distribution to vulnerable schoolchildren.

## In Numbers

**USD 0.003 m** six months (June 2020 – November 2020) net funding requirements

## Operational Updates

- On the occasion of the celebration of the children's month, WFP has allocated USD 25,000 to support the Government through the national school feeding programme in its efforts to provide food assistance to the most vulnerable school aged children. With this budget, the Government has purchased cereals, pulses, oil, salt and milk to distribute to 5,000 vulnerable children in urgent need of food assistance in all districts of the country. The food distribution started on 16 June and is planned to continue until the end of the month. With the COVID-19 outbreak in the country, the schools remain closed and the school feeding programme remains suspended.
- Based on a Government request, WFP added a crisis response strategic outcome to the Country Strategic Plan (CSP). A CSP budget revision exercise was conducted in June to add the Crisis Response Strategic Outcome aiming to provide food assistance to the most vulnerable population, with a focus on vulnerable school aged children from July to September 2020, before the reopening of the school year. With this exercise, WFP is expecting to mobilize resources to support the Government to reduce the impact of the COVID-19 in the country, without leaving anyone behind.
- WFP has positively responded to a request from the Government of Brazil to provide logistics support for the acquisition of medicines to be donated to the Government of Sao Tome and Principe to face the COVID-19 outbreak and to reinforce the stock of medicines in the country. The handover ceremony of the 3,187 mt of medicines took place on 25 of June at the presence of the UN Resident Coordinator, the Ambassador of Brazil in STP and the Minister of Health.
- A total of 713 cases of COVID-19 were confirmed in the country during the month of June. However, due to great results achieved so far in terms of healthcare assistance and the reduction in the number of deaths, the President of the Republic has decided to suspend the state of emergency and declare the state of calamity until the middle of July. However, the schools remain closed and the school feeding programme remains suspended.

## 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

## Country Strategic Plan (2019-2024)

2020 Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
0.2 m	<b>0.2 m</b>	<b>0.003 m</b>

**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