

## Crisis response revision of Sao Tome and Principe country strategic plan (2019–2024) and corresponding budget increase

	Current	Change	Revised
<b>Duration</b>	<b>1 July 2019– 30 June 2024</b>	<b>No change</b>	<b>1 July 2019– 30 June 2024</b>
<b>Beneficiaries</b>		<b>5 000</b>	<b>5 000</b>
<i>(USD)</i>			
<b>Total cost</b>	<b>1 588 903</b>	<b>812 733</b>	<b>2 401 637</b>
Transfers	1 024 860	639 780	1 664 640
Implementation	195 020	30 750	225 770
Adjusted direct support costs	272 048	92 600	364 648
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>1 491 928</b>	<b>763 130</b>	<b>2 255 058</b>
Indirect support costs (6.5 percent)	96 975	49 603	146 579

Gender and age marker code\*: 3]

\* <http://gender.manuals.wfp.org/en/gender-toolkit/gender-in-programming/gender-and-age-marker/>.

### Rationale

1. Sao Tome and Principe (STP) is facing an unprecedented health, humanitarian and socioeconomic crisis triggered by the COVID-19 pandemic. While its full impact and long-term fallout is still unclear, the Government is anticipating that the impact of the pandemic on the lives of the most vulnerable, particularly women, children and elders will be severe.
2. The challenging geographical location, compounded by a weak health system (scarcity of medical equipment and supplies), weak agricultural system, economic crisis (the State Budget depends 97 percent on external aid) and considering that approximately 50 percent of food consumed internally is imported, in a worst case scenario these factors may lead to internal rupture of stocks of food and medical supplies. This risk is increased by the closure of air and sea borders that may last for several months depending on how the situation evolves.
3. The COVID-19 outbreak is leading to disruption of the physical health, economic and social life of people within the country. In fact, the overwhelming increase in the number of infected people<sup>1</sup> has resulted in a prompt confinement of the country and may lead to a strategic reinforcement of containment measures by the Government.

<sup>1</sup> Based on the WHO and Government Sitrep, between April 2020 and June 2020 the number of confirmed COVID-19 cases has increased from 4 to 713.

4. Having a population of approximately 200,000, the World Health Organization (WHO) estimates that at least 30 percent of the population could be exposed to COVID-19, with around 10,000 people needing hospital care and 1,500 needing intensive care that is not available at the hospitals. Additionally, WFP estimates indicate that 16,951 additional people will fall into food insecurity as a result of COVID-19, approximately 8 percent of the population
5. While children seem to be less vulnerable to the direct physical impact of the virus, with the closure of public and private schools, thousands of children in Sao Tome and Principe are at risk of having their health and nutrition severely impacted. In fact, the state of emergency declared effective from 20 March 2020 by the President of the Republic has not yet been suspended and since then all 209 schools in the country are closed, keeping more than 50,000 children and adolescents at home. With the closure of schools and the interruption of the school feeding programme, the vulnerable children are deprived of access to food and consequently their exposure to the risk of food insecurity has increased.
6. Therefore, the sudden closure of the 209 national schools as part of the crisis response plan adopted by the Government has resulted in social isolation, as well as a lack of food and daily hot meals for the youngest portion of the national society. WFP expects that this will lead to higher levels of stress for vulnerable girls and boys and their households, along with affecting children's concentration and will impact negatively on their health, education and development.
7. Aiming to minimize the socioeconomic impact caused by this outbreak, the Government has requested support from partners, including WFP, to implement the National Contingency Plan. WFP's support was requested in the area of food security and nutrition, including food assistance to vulnerable children during and after the pandemic.

## Changes

### Strategic orientation

8. The strategic orientation will change as the proposed revision will include a new crisis response strategic outcome.

### Strategic outcomes

9. With this revision, and under a crisis response strategic outcome 2: *"Crisis-affected populations including schoolchildren in targeted areas are able to meet their basic food and nutrition needs during and in the aftermath of crisis"*, WFP will provide support to the Government of Sao Tome and Principe in emergency response situations, and particularly support implementation of the national contingency plans aiming at reducing the socioeconomic impact of COVID-19 and any other crisis during the CSP period.

### Expected outputs

10. Strategic outcome 2 will be achieved through two outputs:
  - 3.1. Affected beneficiaries (tier 1) receive timely and adequate food (output category A1) to meet their food and nutrition requirements;
  - 3.2 Affected populations (tier 2) benefit from enhanced Government and partners' capacity, to ensure their safe and adequate access to food and nutrition (output category C).

### Key activity

**Activity 3: "Provide food and nutrition assistance to crisis-affected populations through in-kind transfers"**



11. Vulnerable schoolchildren from the Government-run school feeding programme will benefit from direct food assistance in the modality of take-home rations during the confinement and while the schools are closed.
12. WFP will provide assistance to the most vulnerable people during the COVID-19 pandemic and any other crisis, including to the poorest children and most affected by the confinement and isolation caused by the crisis.
13. In parallel, WFP will provide the National School Feeding and Health Programme (PNASE) with the necessary tools to ensure that the food is timely distributed to the beneficiaries and also to support PNASE to monitor the implementation of the planned activity.

#### **Modality**

14. In-kind.

#### **Partnerships**

15. Driven by the interest in adopting a multi-stakeholder approach and aiming to successfully achieve the proposed strategic outcome, the Sao Tome and Principe country office will be partnering with United Nations agencies, namely the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), local non-governmental organizations (NGOs), the private sector, along with involving civil society and academia. Leveraging on UNICEF and FAO expertise in the areas of children's health and food production respectively, WFP will establish partnerships with these United Nations agencies for a successful achievement of the strategic outcome, and to facilitate resource mobilization.
16. Additionally, the following Government partners will be involved in the implementation of the planned activity: the Ministry of Education and Higher Education (MEHE), PNASE, the District Chambers and, the Government of the Autonomous Region of Príncipe.

#### **Country office capacity**

17. In terms of country office capacity, an international consultant/Programme Policy Officer was hired to enhance the country office capacity to respond to the contextual and programmatic changes based on the Government needs, and to ensure an adequate scale-up of WFP operations in Sao Tome and Principe.

#### **Supply chain**

18. The food procurement and distribution will be delivered in coordination with the Government through the PNASE. This supply chain partnership will facilitate the distribution in case the crisis evolves to country lockdown. To that effect, WFP will conduct a preliminary assessment to update information about PNASE infrastructure and transport availability and will sign a field-level agreement (FLA) with PNASE to procure the food in local markets and distribute to the targeted beneficiaries with support from local authorities and community leaders. It is important to highlight that almost 50 percent of food consumed internally is imported and due to the closure of country borders, there is a risk of internal food shortages. As a mitigation measure WFP has provided financial support to the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Rural Development to do the agricultural and fisheries mapping and confirm the smallholders' production capacity and the necessary arrangements for strengthening local markets during and after the COVID-19 pandemic.



### **Monitoring and evaluation**

19. WFP will develop a specific monitoring and evaluation plan for emergency, in collaboration with the implementing partners and will establish specific roles and responsibilities to achieve the proposed outcome and the outputs. The plan will include budget estimates for each assessment, review, monitoring and evaluation activity.
20. Aiming to promote social distancing due to COVID-19, data will be collected remotely in collaboration with the Government and PNASE and will be based on pre-defined forms and surveys. WFP monitors will assist during food distributions and will undertake beneficiary remote monitoring as well as post-distribution monitoring. The local authorities/focal points and community leaders, in coordination with WFP monitors, will also play an important role to ensure the timely and quality monitoring of the planned activities. To that effect, credit and mobile phones will be distributed to the community focal points to facilitate communication.
21. In order to measure operational performance and maximize accountability, performance indicators and cross-cutting indicators, disaggregated by sex, age and category of vulnerability, will be established and the results and data collected will be entered and processed in WFP's programme management tool COMET.

### **Accountability to affected populations, protection risks, restrictions of gender and disabilities**

22. To avoid possible tension within the members of the communities where the food will be distributed, WFP will adopt a strategic vision, with the support of the Government and local authorities, by engaging community leaders in the distribution and sensitization processes, with a focus on women, children and the elderly.

### **Proposed transition/handover strategy**

23. After the crisis, the supported beneficiaries will be transferred to the National School Feeding and Health programme which is the national main food safety net. Once the children are back at school and PNASE is able to continue providing school meals, WFP will continue providing capacity strengthening support to PNASE for the sustainable implementation of the school feeding programme.

### **Risk management**

24. Due to the unpredictability of the evolution and duration of the COVID-19 crisis, fluctuation of food prices and the adoption of lockdown measures may affect the implementation of the planned activities both financially and operationally. WFP will engage the Government through PNASE in the supply chain process and will identify focal points in the selected areas with support from local authorities to monitor the implementation of the activities, together with the community leaders.
25. Moreover, WFP will conduct an assessment to measure the impact of food distribution on community tensions and acceptance, aiming to develop respective risk management and security measures.

### **Beneficiary analysis**

26. About 5,000 vulnerable schoolchildren from the Government-run school feeding programme were targeted by the Ministry of Education to receive take-home rations during the confinement and while the schools are closed.

27. In the context of COVID-19, it is estimated that in Sao Tome and Principe rural populations, especially children, women and the elderly, will be more exposed to the risk of food shortages. In fact, with fluctuation of market prices, rising unemployment and the need for social isolation imposed by the Government, it will be more difficult for the most vulnerable populations to have access to food at market prices. Food scarcity may have a negative and disproportionate effect on women's and girls' health outcomes during the crisis.
28. The identification of the beneficiaries will be based on school-aged children's household economy approach and official data provided by the Government.

<b>TABLE 1: DIRECT BENEFICIARIES BY STRATEGIC OUTCOME AND ACTIVITY</b>							
<b>Strategic outcome</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Period</b>	<b>Women (18+ years)</b>	<b>Men (18+ years)</b>	<b>Girls (0-18 years)</b>	<b>Boys (0-18 years)</b>	<b>Total</b>
1	1	Current	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	<b>N/A</b>
	3	Current	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	<b>N/A</b>
2	3	Current	-	-	-	-	-
		Increase	-	-	2 550	2 450	<b>5 000</b>
		Revised	-	-	2 550	2 450	<b>5 000</b>
<b>Total (without overlap)</b>		<b>Current</b>	-	-	-	-	-
		<b>Increase</b>	-	-	<b>2 550</b>	<b>2 450</b>	<b>5 000</b>
		<b>Revised</b>	-	-	<b>2 550</b>	<b>2 450</b>	<b>5 000</b>

#### **Transfer modality**

29. WFP plans to assist 5,000 vulnerable school-aged children during the crisis. WFP, in partnership with PNASE, will provide food assistance in the modality of in-kind food baskets to 5,000 schoolchildren in both rural and urban centres.

<b>TABLE 2: FOOD RATION (g/person/day) or CASH-BASED TRANSFER VALUE (USD/person/day) BY STRATEGIC OUTCOME AND ACTIVITY</b>		
	<b>Strategic outcome 2</b>	
	<b>Activity 3</b>	
<b>Beneficiary type</b>	<b>Schoolchildren</b>	<b>Households</b>
<b>Modality</b>	<b>Food</b>	<b>Food</b>
Cereals	160	
Pulses	40	
Oil	20	
Salt	3	
Sugar	3	
Super Cereal		
Super Cereal Plus		
Micronutrient powder		
Total kcal/day	1 270	
% kcal from protein	11.80	
Cash-based transfers (USD/person/day)		
Number of feeding days per year	90	

<b>TABLE 3: TOTAL FOOD/CASH-BASED TRANSFER REQUIREMENTS AND VALUE</b>						
<b>Food type/cash-based transfers</b>	<b>Current budget</b>		<b>Increase</b>		<b>Revised budget</b>	
	<b>Total (mt)</b>	<b>Total (USD)</b>	<b>Total (mt)</b>	<b>Total (USD)</b>	<b>Total (mt)</b>	<b>Total (USD)</b>
Cereals	0	0	360	396 000	360	396 000
Pulses	0	0	90	126 000	90	126 000
Oil and fats	0	0	45	67 500	45	67 500
Mixed and blended foods	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other	0	0	7	4 725	7	4 725
<b>Total (food)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>502</b>	<b>594 225</b>	<b>502</b>	<b>594 225</b>
Cash-based transfers		0		0		0
<b>Total (food and CBT value)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>502</b>	<b>594 225</b>	<b>502</b>	<b>594 225</b>

## Cost breakdown

30. This revision is reflecting a structural change to WFP operations in the country noting that a crisis response strategic outcome has been added to the country strategic plan. Under the crisis response strategic outcome, the food transfer modality was added to the CSP. The food transfer costs were calculated based on the number of targeted direct beneficiaries, the food market price and the supply chain and distribution costs. A large portion of the transfer costs will be allocated to food procurement and distribution.

<b>TABLE 4: COST BREAKDOWN OF THE REVISION ONLY (USD)</b>			
	<b>Strategic Result 5/ SDG Target 17.9</b>	<b>Strategic Result 1/ SDG Target 2.1</b>	<b>Total</b>
	<b>Strategic outcome 1</b>	<b>Strategic outcome 2</b>	
<b>Focus area</b>	<b>Root causes</b>	<b>Crisis response</b>	
Transfer	0	639 780	<b>639 780</b>
Implementation	0	30 750	<b>30 750</b>
Adjusted direct support costs			<b>92 600</b>
<b>Subtotal</b>			<b>763 130</b>
Indirect support costs (6.5 percent)			<b>49 603</b>
<b>Total</b>			<b>812 733</b>

<b>TABLE 5: OVERALL CSP COST BREAKDOWN, AFTER REVISION (USD)</b>			
	<b>Strategic Result 5/ SDG Target 17.9</b>	<b>Strategic Result 1/ SDG Target 2.1</b>	<b>Total</b>
	<b>Strategic outcome 1</b>	<b>Strategic outcome 2</b>	
<b>Focus area</b>	<b>Root causes</b>	<b>Crisis response</b>	
Transfer	1 024 860	639 780	<b>1 664 640</b>
Implementation	195 020	30 750	<b>225 770</b>
Adjusted direct support costs	231 732	132 916	<b>364 648</b>
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>1 451 612</b>	<b>803 446</b>	<b>2 255 058</b>
Indirect support costs (6.5 percent)	94 355	52 224	<b>146 579</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>1 545 967</b>	<b>855 670</b>	<b>2 401 637</b>