



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Sao Tome and Principe Country Brief July 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 July, a total of 870 COVID-19 cases was reported and 15 people died from the pandemic (WHO).

WFP has been present in Sao Tome and Principe since 1976.



Population: **215,056**

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 0.003 m six months (July 2020 – December 2020) net funding requirements

Operational Updates

- Aiming to reduce the risk of food insecurity and malnutrition among the most vulnerable population, during the month of July, WFP, in partnership with the Government of Sao Tome and Principe and the National School Feeding and Health Programme (PNASE), distributed 3,900 food baskets to vulnerable schoolchildren in all districts of Sao Tome island. The food distribution started on 16 June and is planned to continue during the months of August and September.
- The social impact of the COVID-19 pandemic was visible during the food distribution and was highlighted by the Minister of Education and the WFP Officer in Charge during their speech to the media. The Government estimates that the number of vulnerable children has drastically increased as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. The schools remain closed and the school feeding programme remains suspended.
- During the month of July, WFP played a leading role ensuring the logistical coordination of the Humanitarian flights to Sao Tome and Principe. Since the opening of the country borders to the humanitarian corridor, tons of medical supplies and equipment were transported to the country, along with humanitarian personnel, to support the Government's response to this COVID-19 pandemic.
- A total of 870 cases of COVID-19 (more than 157 new cases compared to previous month) were confirmed in the country during the month of July. The state of calamity declared by the President of the Republic at the end of the month of June is still in place.
- The UN agencies, including WFP, and other development partners initiated the COVID-19 socio-economic impact assessment (SEIA) in the country, aiming to collect and analyze data that will inform the UN recovery plan. Under this exercise, WFP is the leading agency in the area of food security and nutrition.

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

Support to WFP Sao Tome and Principe in 2020 has been provided by the UN COVID-19 Multi-Purpose Trust Fund.

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

Country Strategic Plan (2019-2024)

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

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

Strategic Outcome 1: 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:

1. 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.
2. 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