



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES

# WFP Sao Tome and Principe Country Brief August 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 suffering from wasting.

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 August, a total of 896 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 0.14 m** six months (September 2020 – February 2021) net funding requirements

## Operational Updates

- As part of the Multi-Partner Trust Fund (MPTF) project, WFP, FAO, UN-HABITAT and ILO are collaborating with national actors to ensure the access of 540 vulnerable families to food and working conditions facilities during COVID-19 Pandemic. The proposed joint interventions seek to address the increase in food insecurity among the most vulnerable rural and peri-urban population, due to the disruptions caused to food systems by the COVID-19 pandemic and the restrictive measures taken by the Government to control its spread in Sao Tome and Principe.
- WFP is collaborating with the Ministry of Education, The National School Feeding and Health Programme (PNASE), UNICEF and other local actors to plan and support the re-openings of the national schools in September 2020.
- As part of its country capacity strengthening agenda, WFP collaborated with the PNASE on the revision of the school feeding law (2012) which is under final approval from the Ministry of Education.
- WFP is continuing providing support to the Ministry of Agriculture and the National Council for Food Security and Nutrition (CONSAN) to reinforce the institutional effectiveness and accountability of the country through the revision of the internal information management system and in collecting key data regarding the agriculture sector and its national workforce.
- A total of 896 cases of COVID-19 was confirmed in the country during the month of August. However, no deaths were reported by WHO and the Ministry of Health. The state of calamity declared by the President of the Republic at the end of the month of June is still in place.

## Partnerships

- The PNASE, the CONSAN and the National Centre for Supporting Smallholder Farmers (CADR) remain the WFP STP main partners.
- WFP is also partnering with UNICEF for the reopening of the schools, local and International NGOs and the African Development Bank for the database and information management system for the Ministry of Agriculture.

## Challenges

- Funds availability remains the main challenge for WFP STP. The CSP activity 1 and activity 2 remain underfunded.

## Donors

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

**Contact info:** Edna Peres ([edna.peres@wfp.org](mailto:edna.peres@wfp.org))

**Country Director:** Ronald Sibanda

Further information: [www.wfp.org/countries/sao-tome-and-principe](http://www.wfp.org/countries/sao-tome-and-principe)

**Main Photo**

**Credit:** Alessandro Valori

**Caption:** Humanitarian Air Service

## Country Strategic Plan (2019-2024)

2020 Total Requirements (in USD)	Allocated Contribution (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
<b>0.2 m</b>	<b>0.2 m</b>	<b>0.14 m</b>

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

**Strategic Result 1:** Access to food

**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.

**Strategic (Outcome 2):** Crisis-affected populations including school children in targeted areas are able to meet their basic food and nutrition needs during and in the aftermath of crisis.

**Focus area:** Root causes

**Focus area:** Crisis Response

### 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.

### Activities:

3. Provide food and nutrition assistance to crisis-affected populations through in-kind transfers.