



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Sao Tome and Principe Country Brief December 2020



Operational Context

In 2019, the estimated GDP per capita in São Tomé and Príncipe (STP) amounted to approximately 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 2019 Human Development Index value of 0.625 puts the country in the medium human development category, ranking 135 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 single 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.

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



Population: **215,056**

2019 Human Development Index:
135 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 (January 2021 – June 2021)
net funding requirements

Operational Updates

- As part of the back to school strategy co-implemented by WFP and UNICEF, over 20,000 schoolchildren from remote areas of Sao Tome and the Autonomous Region of Principe received school meals between October and December 2020. This food assistance intervention was financed by the Global partnership for Education (GPE) fund, in the total amount of USD 55,065.00, and aimed at ensuring food security and nutrition of school-aged boys and girls during the COVID-19 pandemic and their school enrolment and attendance after a long period of containment.
- Within the scope of the joint project signed between WFP and the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Rural Development in the area of statistics and database management system, WFP financed the creation of an innovative statistical database for the Ministry to keep track and monitor the local food production and to collect data from smallholder farmers. The database system was officially launched and presented to the Council of Ministers on 3 December 2020.
- On 02 December the Ministry of Health received a batch of medicines donated by the Government of Brazil to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic in the country. This operation has been facilitated by WFP, leveraging on its logistics experience and leading role in managing the humanitarian corridor.
- A total of 1,014 cases of COVID-19 cases (66 cases more compared to the previous month) was confirmed in the country for the month of December, with no deaths reported by WHO and the Ministry of Health. The state of alert was still in place.

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 WFP STP's main partners.
- WFP is also partnering with UNICEF for the reopening of the schools, local and International NGOs, namely HELPO and ADAPPA for the Multi-Partner Trust Fund Project 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. WFP's country capacity strengthening activities focused on implementing an innovative home-grown school feeding programme linked to smallholder farmers market remain underfunded.

Donors

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

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Main Photo

Credit: Jorcilina Correia

Caption: School children at school canteen

Country Strategic Plan (2019-2024)		
2020 Total Requirements (in USD)	Allocated Contribution (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
0.2 m	0.2 m	0.14 m

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.