



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES

# WFP Sao Tome and Principe Country Brief October 2021



## 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. According to the same Human Development Report 2020, Sao Tome and Principe has a Gender Inequality Index (GII) value of 0.537, ranking it 133 out of 162 countries in the 2019 index.

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**

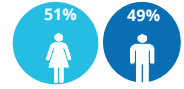
Income Level: **Lower middle**

Chronic malnutrition: **17.2% of children between 6-59 months**

## In Numbers

**USD 1.6 m** six months (November 2021 – April 2022) net funding requirements.

**50,000 people assisted**  
in October 2021



## Operational Updates

- Since 1976, WFP is supporting the implementation of school feeding in São Tomé and Príncipe either by direct implementation until 2015, or through capacity strengthening for the National School Feeding and Health Programme (PNASE) created in 2012. With the COVID-19 pandemic crisis, several borders were closed resulting in a serious food security problem in the country, especially in the most vulnerable families.
- In October, PNASE has completed refurbishing all its food distribution poles, with WFP funding. It will ensure the normalization of storage, management, and distribution of food stocks to schools, in required quantity, with quality and safety. PNASE food distribution poles will be handed over officially in November.
- On World Food Day – 16 October – jointly with the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Rural Development, WFP launched the Territorial Diagnosis of Family Farming in São Tomé and Príncipe. WFP funded the mapping of agricultural food systems and land management is the first study ever carried out in the country since its Independence, in 1975. It aims to understand the main family farming systems existing in Sao Tome and includes public policies to support farmers. The profiling of farmers and production in the country will allow an effective linkage with the PNASE through the establishment of a supply and value chain via schools and community gardens, as well as conditions for transportation, storage, and warehousing.
- To mark the World Food Day, WFP coordinated a series of events branded as [“World Food Day Rally”](#) which took place over a month. It started with the Territorial Diagnosis launch on WFD 2021, and was extended beyond with October, with the launch of new visual identity and website of the Food and Nutritional Security Council of São Tomé and Príncipe (CONSAN-STP), funded by WFP; and the presentation of the Agricultural Survey, jointly funded by WFP and the African Development Bank (AfDB). Both are scheduled for the first half of November.

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

**Main photo: Credit:** WFP/Jorcilina Correia

**Caption:** Educate and nourish a child takes more than teaching and giving meals at school. It takes also involve them in school gardening

## Country Strategic Plan (2019-2024)

2021 Total Requirement (in USD)	2021 Available Contributions (in USD)	Six Month (Jul- Dec) Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
1.6 m	1.2 m	1.6 m

\*Six-month net funding requirements as of 14 July 2021.

### 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:

- 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.

### Strategic Result 2: Access to food

**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:** *Crisis Response*

#### Activities:

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

## Challenges

- Programme implementation during the COVID-19 pandemic continues to represent one of the major WFP challenges in Sao Tome and Principe in 2021. To curb the third wave of COVID-19 pandemic, the Government of Sao Tome and Principe imposed a new State of Calamity on 18 September. It lasted until the end of October. Classes were suspended in public and private schools, for all levels of education, except for kindergartens. Families had to find ways to feed at home children benefiting from school meals. Since 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated the food and nutrition security in the country with 32,000 vulnerable families not certain on where their next meal might come from. With the reopening of schools on 6 October 2021, WFP will continue providing on-site meals to the schoolchildren registered under the National School Feeding Programme.
- The funding environment continues to be challenging and is another concern for WFP in Sao Tome that might affect the implementation of an innovative home-grown school feeding programme linked to smallholder farmers' market.

## Partnerships

- PNASE, CONSAN and the National Centre for Supporting Smallholder Farmers (CADR) remain WFP main partners in Sao Tome. Local non-governmental organisation (NGO) ADAPPA and the local branch of Portuguese humanitarian movement Helpo are the trusted implementing partners.

## Communication

- To celebrate the World Food Day, WFP brought together all its partners in one reportage featuring PNASE, CONSAN, Helpo, ADAPPA and WFP, addressing its messages and explaining how each one's work ensures "Our actions are our future. Better production, better nutrition, better environment, and a better life." WFP carried out the script, production, direction and placed in promotion airtime of public media Santomean Television (TVS) the footage. It was aired at prime time on the World Food Day and repeated several times in the following five days. The video was shared with wider national and lusophone media, along with [the Local News Release drafted by WFP headquarters, edited and issued locally.](#)
- On 20 October, a [News Release on WFP and Chellaram Foundation](#) partnering to support school-aged children in Sao Tome and Principe during COVID-19 pandemic was issued. The local version was shared weeks in advance with national and lusophone media.

## Donors

Donors to WFP Sao Tome and Principe in 2021 include the Government of Sao Tome and Principe and private donors.