



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Sao Tome and Principe Country Brief November 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. 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.



Population: **215,056**

2019 Human Development Index: **135 out of 189**

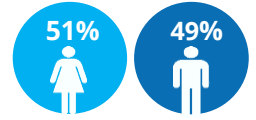
Income Level: **Lower middle**

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

In Numbers

USD 1.9 m six months (November 2021 – April 2022) net funding requirements.

50,000 people assisted
in November 2021



Operational Updates

- In November, WFP assisted 50,000 school-aged children and their families. As the school feeding programme will resume in January 2022, WFP and PNASE (National School Feeding and Health Programme) decided to distribute take-home rations, under the emergency food assistance, to mitigate the social and economic effects of COVID-19. This assistance, thus, includes children enrolled in the home-grown school feeding programme, kindergarten children and their families.
- In November, a USD 1 million contribution from the SDG Joint Fund was confirmed and will be received in 2022. The fund will be divided among four UN agencies, which will be implementing partners of the project: WFP, UN-HABITAT, UNFPA and ILO. WFP, along with the three UN agencies, will be implementing a project to promote local food value chains and equitable job opportunities through a sustainable agri-food industry in the country. The pilot will be implemented in a community reflecting the broader problems presented for the small-scale agricultural sector: Uba Budo. The project will run for 24 months, from 1st January 2022 to 31 December 2023.
- On 9th November, the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Rural Development (MAPDR) presented the Agricultural Production Survey 2021, a study prepared in collaboration with the National Institute of Statistics (INE) and financed by WFP and the African Development Bank (AfDB). Together with the Territorial Diagnosis launched on World Food Day 2021 and with the support of the farmer registration system in São Tomé and Príncipe, they are useful tools for building better agricultural policies and provide data to inform adequate planning of government actions.
- On 22 November, the Minister of Education and Higher Education, PNASE and partners validated a WFP assessment of national capacities and framework for a sustainable Home-Grown School Feeding programme in the country. A methodology developed by the World Bank in close collaboration with WFP and the Partnership for Child and Development (PCD), the study SABER – SF (Systematic Approach to Better Education Outcomes – School Feeding) seeks to produce data and information on the education sector. The field work of this exercise was held throughout November and was based on extensive consultation with PNASE stakeholders - through interviews and visits to schools in all districts.

Main photo: Credit: WFP/Jorcilina Correia

Caption: Investing in school feeding means investing in gender equality, if girls and boys have equal access to education as well as food.

Contact info: Edna Peres (edna.peres@wfp.org) & Yasmin WAKIMOTO (Yasmin.wakimoto@wfp.org)
Country Director: Wanja Kaaria

Country Strategic Plan (2019-2024)		
2021 Total Requirement (in USD)	2021 Available Contributions (in USD)	Six Month (Nov- Apr) Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
1.6 m	1.3 m	1.9 m

*Six-month net funding requirements as of 18 October 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 challenges for WFP in Sao Tome and Principe in 2021. Since 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated the food and nutrition insecurity in the country with 32,000 vulnerable families not certain of how they will get their next meal. With the reopening of schools on 6 October 2021, WFP continues to support the Government to provide on-site meals to the schoolchildren registered under the National School Feeding Programme.
- The funding situation continues to be challenging with USD 1.9 million urgently needed to ensure the implementation of innovative home-grown school feeding programme for the next six months. The main objective of WFP’s home-grown school feeding programmes is to link a food-based programme, such as school feeding, with local agricultural production.

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 WFP trusted implementing partners in Sao Tome and Principe.
- On 23rd November, the WFP country office in Sao Tome and Principe delivered ICT equipment, in the framework of strengthening institutional capacities of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Rural Development (MAPDR) for agricultural survey data collection – under the Technical and Financial Assistance Plan (PRODOC), signed in 2020 by WFP and MAPDR. It established the basis for the creation of a diagnosis of sustainable territorial systems, an agricultural survey among producers, and the development of resources mobilization plan for the Ministry.

Communication

- In December, WFP organised in the SABER-SF study validation workshop, and emphasized the need for PNASE (National School Feeding and Health Programme) to strengthen its resourcing, institutional capacity and knowledge, advocating for its integration into the School Feeding Coalition.
- To mark the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence, the Country Office contributed to awareness raising efforts through social media activities ([Instagram](#); [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#)) targeting its local and global audiences.

Donors

Donors to WFP Sao Tome and Principe in 2021 include the Government of Sao Tome and Principe and Chellaram Foundation.