

World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES

CHANGING LIVES

Sao Tome and Principe Annual Country Report 2021

Country Strategic Plan 2019 - 2024

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Overview

The Democratic Republic of Sao Tome and Principe (STP) is a lower-middle-income island state situated in the Gulf of Guinea, off the western coast of Central Africa. The country consists of two main islands (Sao Tome and Principe), located about 140 km apart with a land area of just over 1,000 km.

As a small island developing state, the country faces various challenges. Due to its insularity and geographical location, Sao Tome and Principe is prone to climatic shocks and natural disasters and is vulnerable to market price fluctuation, which negatively impacts the subsistence conditions of its population and further increases their food insecurity.

In 2021, the COVID-19 pandemic continued to hit the country with devastating consequences for the economy and the livelihoods of the most vulnerable people, including women, children, the elderly, and people with disabilities. The Government requested assistance from humanitarian and development partners, including WFP, with a view to minimizing the socio-economic impact of the pandemic.

In this regard, WFP scaled up its operations under strategic outcome 2 which aimed to provide food and nutrition assistance to crisis-affected populations through in-kind transfers and increased its efforts to mobilize resources to assist 50,000 school-aged children nationwide. In May 2021, WFP signed a partnership agreement with Chellaram Foundation and received USD 700,000 to assist 25,000 schoolchildren. Through this contribution, WFP was able to distribute nutritious food in the form of alternative take-home rations, as well as hygiene kits (such as face masks and hand sanitizers) to 5,000 vulnerable school children (2,550 girls and 2,450 boys). This contribution also allowed WFP to procure and deliver 395 metric tons of food commodities to government warehouses for on-site school meals across 127 schools, including pre-schools and primary schools. On-site school feeding will start in January 2022 with the resumption of the National School Feeding and Health Program (PNASE) [1] and will benefit 20,000 school children for five months.

Despite pandemic-related challenges, WFP also contributed to strengthening the Government's capacity in the areas of home-grown school feeding (HGSF), smallholder farmers' access to markets, and the food security and nutrition of the population. To this end, WFP implemented innovative capacity strengthening initiatives, such as activating community school gardens to ensure the sustainability of the national school feeding programme, carrying out an agricultural assessment and territorial diagnosis to collect disaggregated data on smallholders' productivity and capacity needs, and on territorial characteristics to inform national development strategies and plans. In addition, WFP retrofitted Government warehouses to ensure that food commodities are stored in adequate conditions, and facilitated national dialogue on food security and nutrition through the National Council for Food Security and Nutrition (CONSAN) [2].

Contributing to Sustainable Development Goal 17 (Partnerships), WFP strengthened its existing partnerships and made progress towards new strategic partnerships with the private sector and non-traditional donors. In this regard, both capacity strengthening and emergency school feeding activities were implemented by WFP in close collaboration with various stakeholders, including the Chellaram Foundation, the African Development Bank, national government and public entities, the PNASE, the CONSAN, education directorates, as well as civil society organizations, including parents' associations.

The activities implemented by WFP in 2021 also contributed to improved gender equality outcomes, especially for schoolboys and schoolgirls. Notably, WFP's emergency school feeding intervention and the community school gardens targeted vulnerable boys and girls to mitigate the negative impact of the pandemic on their wellbeing through nutritious food.



Beneficiaries by Sex and Age Group



Beneficiaries by Residence Status



Beneficiaries by Programme Area



Beneficiaries by Modality



Total Food and CBT



Annual Food Transfer



Context and operations



As the second smallest and least populous country in Africa, the Republic of Sao Tome and Principe is located in the Gulf of Guinea and serves as home to over 215,000 Portuguese-speaking inhabitants.

The country's human development is above the average of Sub-Saharan Africa, ranking 143rd out of 189 countries in the Human Development Index (HDI), mainly due to progress achieved in the areas of health and education. Despite progress, the prevalence of stunting in children under five (11.7 percent) and wasting (4 percent) remains alarming [1].

Despite political stability and progress in human development, the country faces challenges typical of small island developing states (SIDS). Its insularity and remoteness, coupled with persistent socioeconomic factors, have a direct impact on the quality and standard of living of the population. Poverty levels are high [2], with one-third of the population living on less than the international poverty line of USD 1.9 per day, and more than two thirds living below the World Bank's poverty line of USD 3.2 per day [3]. Households headed by women are particularly affected as poverty is more prevalent among them than male-headed households. The unemployment rate in Sao Tome and Principe is also concerning at 8.4 percent, affecting more women than men [4].

Although agriculture is important for local livelihoods and represents a key potential for the countrys economy, it remains particularly fragile. The country's small-scale agricultural production is low in terms of volume, technologically inadequate, and heavily reliant on rainwater for irrigation. The country is also increasingly exposed to the effects of climate change, which could shorten rainy seasons and lengthen drought periods.

Sao Tome and Principe does not produce enough food to meet the needs of domestic consumption (approximately 50 percent of food consumed is imported), and food availability is highly unpredictable. This results in spikes in food prices and further increases the country's import for basic consumer commodities such as cereals, beans, oil, meat, dairy, and animal products. In addition, infrastructure and technology for food processing, conservation, and storage are unavailable [5]. Aggravated by the COVID-19 pandemic, these factors remain one of the key drivers of food insecurity in the country, where about 11 percent of people were forced to skip one meal a day, and 49 percent reported not having enough resources to buy food in 2021 [6].

The National School Feeding and Health Program (PNASE) is the main food safety net programme in Sao Tome and Principe, benefiting over 50,000 thousand children (approximately 25 percent of the population) aged 3-14 years. The PNASE plays an essential role in ensuring the food security and nutrition of schoolchildren, especially the most vulnerable, and improving national school enrolment and retention rates.

Despite the progress achieved in the education sector since 2012, the Government faces serious challenges to provide daily nutritious hot meals to students during the entire duration of the 180-day school year. The financial sustainability of the PNASE remains a concern, especially in the context of the current economic downturn and the COVID-19 pandemic.

In 2021, Sao Tome and Principe was severely hit by the second and third waves of the pandemic, exposing thousands of people - especially women, children, persons with disabilities, and the elderly - to higher risks of food insecurity and undernutrition, as well as loss of jobs and income. Prevention and containment measures by the Government included a nationwide vaccination campaign [7], school closures, and the suspension of the national school feeding programme. The Government addressed an urgent request to WFP in March 2021 to provide food assistance to vulnerable school children and ensure their food security and nutrition during and in the aftermath of the crisis.

In this regard, WFP reprioritized its planned activities and scaled up its operation by undertaking the second budget revision of its Country Strategic Plan (CSP) for Sao Tome and Principe (2019-2024). In May 2021, WFP signed a partnership agreement with the Chellaram Foundation to deliver emergency school feeding assistance to 25,000 children, with a focus on the most vulnerable boys and girls, through take-home rations and on-site distribution of meals.

Over the years, WFP has been repositioning itself as the Government's strategic partner in the areas of food security, health, nutrition, and education. In addition to its key role in contributing to SDG 2 (Zero Hunger) through crisis response (strategic outcome 2), WFP also contributed to SDG 17 through country capacity strengthening (strategic outcome 1) and supported the implementation of sustainable, gender-transformative, and nutrition-sensitive initiatives linked to school feeding, food security and nutrition, and smallholder farmers' access to markets.

As part of the CSP framework, WFP conducted in November 2021 the System Approach for Better Education Result (SABER) exercise to assess the progress achieved in national school feeding, identify challenges and gaps, and collect comprehensive data to inform the country's school feeding strategy and future programming by the Government, WFP and other humanitarian and development partners.

Risk Management

In 2021, the unpredictability of the evolution and duration of the COVID-19 pandemic increased existing risks identified under the WFP Country Strategic Plan 2019-2024.

The pandemic further limited the Government's financial capacity to fund WFP's CSP activities such as on-site school feeding, institutional capacity strengthening, and the emergency school feeding operation. To mitigate this risk, WFP invested in strategic partnerships with non-traditional donors, particularly the private sector donors, to mobilize financial resources for CSP activities and to secure multi-year funding for emergency food assistance.

In addition, the COVID-19 pandemic led WFP to scale up its operations to respond to the Government's needs, thus increasing the operational risks associated with the limited number and capacity of WFP personnel to implement the planned activities. To mitigate this risk, WFP invested in internal capacity building for its staff and recruited additional expertise to support the implementation of activities planned for 2021.

Partnerships

To successfully reach the objectives outlined in its Country Strategic Plan, WFP collaborated with various national and international stakeholders, both long-standing and new ones. In this respect, WFP developed a Partnerships Action Plan to guide its engagement with partners, including the Government of Sao Tome and Principe, the private sector, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), international financial institutions (IFIs), academia and other United Nations (UN) agencies.

Over the years, WFP has been positioning itself as the Government's partner of choice in the area of food security and nutrition, with a focus on school feeding and support to smallholder farmers. In 2021, WFP advocated with the Government, through the Ministry of Education, to support and join the international School Meals Coalition initiative [1], with the objective of improving the overall quality, efficiency and coverage of the country's school feeding programme and support its recovery from the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. In 2021, the Minister of Education and Higher Education committed to signing the declaration of commitment that has been submitted by WFP[1]. In addition, WFP in close collaboration with the National School Feeding and Health Program (PNASE), was able to provide emergency food assistance to vulnerable school-aged children through alternative take-home rations between August and October 2021.

WFP and the Government jointly organized various events and school feeding-related activities, such as the System Approach for Better Education Result (SABER) validation workshop, the launch of the agricultural assessment, and the presentation of the territorial diagnosis. As an active member of the development partners group created by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, and Rural Development (MOAFRD), WFP supported the development partners' coordination meetings organized by MOAFRD through participation and financing.

In 2021, WFP invested in strengthening partnerships with the private sector, aiming to mobilize multi-year financial resources for emergency food assistance interventions. In May 2021, WFP and Chellaram Foundation signed a partnership agreement to respond to the Government's request for support. Through this partnership, WFP received funding to implement its emergency school feeding activity, targeting a total of 25,000 vulnerable schoolchildren of whom 5,000 were assisted in 2021 with take-home rations during school closures. This contribution enabled WFP to reposition itself as one of the Government's main humanitarian partners in the country.

Furthermore, WFP established important partnerships with national and international NGOs in the area of institutional capacity strengthening linked to school feeding. In 2021, WFP signed an agreement with the international NGO Helpo and the national NGO ADAPPA for school garden activities, aimed at ensuring the sustainability of the national school feeding program, as well as ensuring the long-term food security of school-aged children.

WFP and the African Development Bank (AfDB), through the PRIAZA II Project, worked in close collaboration to co-finance the implementation of the agricultural assessment in Sao Tome and Principe and explored potential areas of collaboration to support smallholder farmers. WFP also engaged in a country-level stakeholder consultation carried out by the World Bank to support the Systematic Diagnosis of Sao Tome and Principe that will serve as the basis for the formulation of the World Bank's 6-year Partnership Framework in the country.

Through the WFP Centre of Excellence in Brazil, WFP engaged in a research and knowledge management project with the Pontifical Catholic University of Rio de Janeiro (PUC Rio) to generate evidence on how WFP responded to the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, particularly with regards to school feeding. This project covers multiple countries where WFP operates, and the report will be published in early 2022.

Importantly, 2021 was a year of remarkable progress in terms of coordination and partnerships with United Nations agencies. WFP and other UN agencies, under the coordination of the Resident Coordinator, contributed to the United Nations Development Assistance Framework 2017-2021 (UNDAF) annual report and to the 2021 United Nations Common Country Analysis (CCA). Moreover, WFP chaired the UN Communications Group and participated in the United Nations Country Team meetings throughout the year.

CSP Financial Overview

As a small island developing state (SIDS), Sao Tome and Principe faces various challenges such as high transport and connectivity costs, vulnerability to natural disasters and external shocks, and market price fluctuations. The COVID-19 pandemic further illustrated the country's vulnerability to shocks, as its socioeconomic impact was further aggravated in 2021 compared to the previous year. The Government of Sao Tome and Principe continued to be a key partner and donor to WFP's CSP despite the economic downturn aggravated by the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The impact of the pandemic worsened the already challenging funding environment in the country, particularly for development interventions, as the Government's and donors' focus was on responding to the health crisis. Despite these challenges, WFP was able to mobilize contributions from multilateral funds to provide capacity strengthening support to the Government, and secured funds from the private sector to scale up its operation and provide emergency food assistance to school-aged children.

In line with WFP's strategic outcome 2 (crisis response), and aimed at supporting the implementation of the national COVID-19 response plan, WFP scaled up its operation and conducted a second budget revision of its CSP, increasing its budget from USD 2.4 million to USD 8.2 million. The revised budget aimed to respond to the Government's appeal to provide on-site school meals to 50,000 schoolboys and schoolgirls. Moreover, the number of targeted vulnerable school children to receive alternative take-home rations during school closures was increased from 5,000 to 10,000. However, available resources, received from the Chellaram Foundation, allowed WFP to target 25,000 schoolchildren through on-site school feeding and alternative take-home rations (THR). In 2021, WFP reached 5,000 schoolchildren with THR, while the remaining funds will be utilized in 2022 when the on-site school feeding activity is completed.

As part of strategic outcome 1 (capacity strengthening support to the Government to implement the home-grown school feeding programme), WFP received multilateral allocations to implement the activities planned in collaboration with national partners and stakeholders.

In 2021, the CSP's annual needs-based plan of USD 1.6 million was funded at 80 percent, with 66 percent of available resources earmarked for strategic outcome 2 (crisis response), and 19 percent received for strategic outcome 1 (capacity strengthening). WFP's emergency school feeding intervention (activity 3) was funded at 77 percent, while its capacity strengthening efforts (activity 1 and 2) were funded at 88 percent.

Annual CSP Financial Overview by Strategic Outcome

	Needs Based Plan	Implementation Plan	Available Resources	Expenditure
01: [□] 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.	263,701.0	278,223.0	232,604.0	164,012.0
02: 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 crises.	1,075,443.0	0.0	828,130.0	302,238.0
Non strategic result and non strategic outcome specific	0.0	0.0	15,679.0	0.0
Total Direct Operational Cost	1,339,144.0	278,223.0	1,076,413.0	466,250.0
Direct Support Cost (DSC)	133,155.0	41,881.0	116,886.0	54,695.0
Total Direct Costs	1,472,299.0	320,104.0	1,193,299.0	520,945.0
Indirect Support Cost (ISC)	95,699.0	20,807.0	62,953.0	62,953.0
Grand Total	1,567,998.0	340,911.0	1,256,253.0	583,899.0

Programme performance

Strategic outcome 01:
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.





1 national NGO (ADAPPA) and 1 international NGO (Helpo) engaged in schools gardens activity

182 schools covered by the National School Feeding and Health Programme (PNASE) were **closed due to the COVID-19 pandemic** in Sao Tome and Principe





3 warehouses of the National School Feeding and Health Programme (PNASE) retrofitted with WFP support

1 agricultural assessment and 1 territorial diagnosis conducted by the Government in collaboration with WFP

Under strategic outcome 1, WFP aims to build an innovative, financially and socially sustainable home-grown school feeding model that generates positive impacts for the nutrition of school-aged children, education and the creation of markets for local farmers.

To this end, WFP planned a number of the country capacity strengthening activities to address challenges and needs identified by the National School Feeding and Health Programme (PNASE) regarding the national school feeding programme, as well as to increase smallholder farmers' productivity and enhance national food value chains.

In the first quarter of 2021, WFP and various national counterparts (PNASE; the Ministry of Education and Higher Education; the Ministry of Agriculture; Fisheries and Rural Development MoA; and the National Council for Food Security and Nutrition CONSAN), designed a resource-based action plan including priority activities for the year.

As part of CSP activity 1 (capacity strengthening to the Government in home-grown school feeding, as well as food security and nutrition policies and programmes), WFP strengthened the capacity of the PNASE to activate three community school gardens in Caue and in Lemba districts to produce fresh and nutritious products to diversify schools menus. To this end, WFP signed field-level agreements (FLAs) with local non-governmental organization (NGO) ADAPPA and with international NGO Helpo to strengthen the capacity of the school gardeners and monitor the project's implementation. Through this pilot, the community school gardens produced enough nutritious food to distribute to the schools in their districts.

In addition, WFP financed the retrofitting of PNASE warehouses and offices located in Cantagalo, Cauê and Lembá districts, to allow food to be stored and preserved in appropriate conditions for the national school feeding programme.

WFP and PNASE organized three awareness-raising activities targeting schoolchildren, parents and communities to underline the importance of consuming local products at home and in schools, and investing in school gardens as a way to diversify school meals. Flyers and stickers were distributed to schoolchildren and parents, and the events were also covered in the media for broad dissemination.

The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic resulted in the closure of schools in mid-February and September-October, resulting in the suspension of the school feeding programme. To mitigate the effects, WFP assisted 5,000 vulnerable children through alternative take-home rations during school closures.

As part of activity 2 (capacity strengthening and coordination support to the Government in local food value chains and smallholder agricultural markets), WFP supported the national Council for Food Security and Nutrition (CONSAN) by strengthening its institutional mandate through the organization of high-level meetings and workshops on food security and nutrition, and by formulating recommendations to inform national strategies and development plans in the areas of food security and nutrition. These participatory meetings enabled discussions between representatives of the Government and public entities, the national school feeding programme, the national nutrition programme, civil society and academia. In addition, WFP supported the creation of CONSAN's website to increase the visibility of its achievements and role as a national platform for dialogue and consultation on food security and nutrition.

In 2021, WFP also strengthened its strategic partnership with the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Rural Development, with a focus on information management system and data collection. To this end, WFP, in collaboration with the African Development Bank (AfDB) co-financed an agricultural assessment to collect data on local food production and smallholder capacity needs. Presented to the national counterparts and stakeholders in October 2021, the findings of the assessment highlighted the need for the permanent data collection on the agriculture sector and an agricultural census to define sectoral policies.

In addition, WFP provided technical and financial support to the MoA to conduct a territorial diagnosis to inform the development of the territorial sustainable development plan. The main recommendations of the report underlined the need to train a new generation of smallholder farmers in biological technology and rescue agroforestry systems through local food production.

The partnership between WFP and the MoA allowed, for the first time, the registry of the smallholder farmers in the data management system created in 2020 with WFP support. The registry aims to collect accurate and up-to-date data on smallholder's production and capacity needs and to monitor their activities. This innovative system will allow WFP and the Government to access reliable information for the design of smallholder market access interventions. WFP also donated IT materials to the MoA to facilitate data collection.

The capacity strengthening activities implemented in 2021 were fully funded with multilateral allocations received in January 2021. These funds allowed the WFP and its partners to plan and implement their activities in a timely manner.

The successive waves of COVID-19 in the country resulted in the postponement of certain planned capacity strengthening activities, including trainings planned for national partners, the support to PNASE's strategic plan formulation, and the revision of MoA policies. Consequently, some planned outputs were not achieved, while others were successfully achieved, such as the handover of three retrofitted infrastructures, and the delivery of materials and equipment to the PNASE.

The COVID-19 pandemic had a negative impact on achieving gender-sensitive results. Although the confinement measures imposed by the Government led to the postponement of certain activities, WFP was able to support the MoA in collecting sex and age-disaggregated data on local food production and smallholder capacity needs to inform the design of gender-sensitive national policies and strategies on smallholder productivity and access to markets.

In 2021 WFP continued to strengthen its strategic partnership with the Government and other partners. Partnerships with international and national NGOs were also reinforced through field-level agreements (FLAs). WFP also collaborated with other UN agencies in its efforts to support the MoA. To be implemented in 2022, a joint UN project for the promotion of local food value chains and equitable job opportunities through a sustainable agrifood industry was developed by WFP, the International Labour Organization, UN-Habitat and the United Nations Population Fund,

The engagement of the Government and national entities in the implementation of WFP's CSP activities continued to be essential for the national ownership of food and nutrition security programmes and policies in Sao Tome and Principe.

WFP GENDER AND AGE MARKER

CSP ACTIVITY	GAM MONITORING CODE
Provide capacity strengthening (including through South-South cooperation) to the Government in the design, management and coordination of an environmentally and socially sustainable, gender-transformative and nutrition-sensitive HGSM programme	0
Provide Ead and Strengthening and putrition policies and program the Government in providing incentives for sustainable and equitable local food value chains and stimulating smallholder agricultural markets	3

Strategic outcome 02: 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 crises.



5,000 vulnerable schoolchildren (51 percent girls) received alternative take-home rations between August and December 2021







5,000 hygiene kits distributed to 5,000 vulnerable school children nationwide

In 2021, the COVID-19 pandemic continued to trigger unprecedented health and socio-economic crises with negative consequences on the health and nutrition status of Santomean schoolchildren.

Following the second and third waves of the pandemic, the Government continued to implement several contingency measures, including the closure of the schools between mid-February to March and between September and October 2021, affecting nearly 50,000 school-aged children, 400 kitchen helpers, and various actors in the education and agriculture sectors. The impact was even more significant among the poorest and most vulnerable populations, especially women and children. The COVID-19 pandemic increased unemployment rates, especially among women, and compromised the economic situation, livelihoods, and food security of vulnerable households [1].

To minimize and contain the impact of the contingency measures on vulnerable households, the Government requested WFP to continue and increase its emergency food assistance starting 2020. In response, WFP scaled up its crisis response intervention and conducted a second budget revision between June and July 2021 to increase the number of planned beneficiaries under CSP activity 3 (provision of food and nutrition assistance to crisis-affected populations through in-kind transfers). In its revised budget, WFP planned to reach 50,000 school children (24,500 boys and 25,500 girls) through on-site school meals in all 186 schools of the country. The number of planned beneficiaries to receive alternative take-home ration was also increased from 5,000 to 10,000 (4,900 boys and 5,100 girls) compared to the previous year.

In 2021, WFP scaled up its advocacy efforts targeting traditional and non-traditional donors, In May, WFP signed an agreement with the Chellaram Foundation and received USD 700,000 for its emergency school feeding activity, including the procurement of hygiene kits (face masks and hand sanitizers) for schoolchildren. With this grant from Chellaram Foundation, WFP planned to assist only 50 percent of the total beneficiaries planned for 2021 under the CSP activity 3.

During the second and third quarters of 2021, WFP assisted 5,000 vulnerable schoolchildren (2,550 girls and 2,450 boys) in all 6 districts of Sao Tome and the Autonomous Region of Principe through alternative take-home rations (THR) when schools were closed and the school feeding programme suspended. These efforts were accompanied by the capacity strengthening of local suppliers and awareness-raising campaigns conducted by WFP and the PNASE on COVID-19 prevention measures, hygiene, and best nutritional practices.

With the surge of the third wave of COVID-19 pandemic in the second half of 2021, the Government faced logistical challenges that prevented the delivery of food to the remaining 20,000 schoolchildren from 127 schools for on-site school meals in the remaining part of the year. In addition, the closure of schools and the suspension of the school feeding programme resulted in the postponement of on-site school feeding to 2022. The procurement of 395 metric tons of food commodities was completed in December 2021 and the food was delivered to government warehouses the same month. Procured food was comprised of rice, pasta, pulses, vegetable oil, sugar, and salt and will be sufficient for 100 feeding days (five months), starting in January 2022.

The emergency school feeding activity was co-managed by the Government through the National School Feeding and Health Programme (PNASE) and WFP, in coordination with school directors and parents associations.

Gender and age were mainstreamed in the implementation of activities. The initiatives reinforced national efforts in maintaining a high retention rate during school closures, and high enrolment and school attendance rates of both girls and boys when schools were reopened. In addition, the alternative take-home rations have equally benefited vulnerable boys and girls aged 3-11 years.

Given the unpredictability of the pandemic, the fluctuation of food prices was identified as a potential financial risk that could have affected the procurement of food commodities for alternative take-home rations and on-site school meals. As a mitigation strategy, WFP managed the procurement of food commodities from local markets that were delivered to the PNASE warehouses and distributed to the THR beneficiaries. Direct procurement from WFP facilitated the purchase of quality products at a competitive market price.

WFP also supported PNASE in its advocacy to make food commodities available to serve the remaining 30,000 schoolchildren who were not covered by WFP due to funding constraints. The advocacy was successful and towards the end of 2021, the PNASE confirmed the availability of food to serve 30,000 school children in 2022. As such, all planned schoolchildren targeted by the national school feeding programme will be assisted with on-site school meals at least up to June 2022.

WFP GENDER AND AGE MARKER

CSP ACTIVITY	GAM MONITORING CODE
Provide food and nutrition assistance to crisis-affected populations through in-kind transfers	3

Cross-cutting results

Progress towards gender equality

Improved gender equality and women's empowerment among WFP-assisted population

The Constitution of Sao Tome and Principe establishes the principles of equality through which "all citizens are equal by the law, benefit from the same rights and are subject to the same duties, without distinction of social origin, race, sex, political tendency, religious beliefs or philosophical conviction", and enshrines special gender protection by establishing that "a woman is equal to a man in terms of rights and duties, being assured full participation in political, economic, social and cultural life".

Nevertheless, despite the gender protection by national laws, gender inequality is still prominent throughout the country, rooted in slowly changing social and cultural norms. Gender-based discrimination is a concern as men are often prioritized to occupy leading positions to the detriment of women.

In 2021, WFP contributed to reducing gender inequalities throughout its planned activities. The emergency school feeding intervention, implemented by WFP in close partnership with the Government, targeted both girls and boys through take-home rations, ensured food security and nutrition of the most vulnerable school-aged children during successive waves of COVID-19 resulting in school closures and the suspension of the national school feeding programme. The school feeding programme is the main food safety net in the country and contributes to the school retention of girls who usually stay at home, exposed to the risk of early pregnancy and early marriage.

In addition, through the 2030 Fund, WFP and the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, and Rural Development conducted the agricultural assessment on the capacity needs of men and women smallholders to inform a gender-sensitive integrated policy framework, as well as agricultural programmes and strategies. In addition, WFP also supported the establishment of a permanent information management and data collection system on smallholder farmers. Through these initiatives, the Government was able to collect disaggregated data on the agricultural productivity of rural men and women farmers. Furthermore, the data collected will also contribute to the achievement of WFP's strategic outcomes that mainstream gender equality and women's empowerment [1].

In 2021, WFP mobilized financial resources to implement gender-sensitive smallholder capacity strengthening activities. The resources mobilized in November 2021 through the SDG Fund will benefit targeted women and adolescent girls, by promoting the greater insertion of women of all ages in the agricultural production sector, creating jobs in the small-scale processing industry, and promoting market opportunities. WFP will continue to raise awareness of rural communities on gender-related issues such as gender-based violence, sexual and reproductive rights, early marriage and early pregnancy.

Protection and accountability to affected populations

Affected populations are able to benefit from WFP programmes in a manner that ensures and promotes their safety, dignity and integrity. Affected populations are able to hold WFP and partners accountable for meeting their hunger needs in a manner that reflects their views and preferences

Protection remains a priority for WFP in Sao Tome and Principe. Affected populations can benefit from WFP programmes in a manner that ensures and promotes their safety, dignity, and integrity and are able to hold WFP and partners accountable for meeting their needs in a manner that reflects their views and preferences.

In 2021, the COVID-19 pandemic continued to affect the lives of Santomean people, increasing the risk of food insecurity, undernutrition, and health issues, especially among the poorest and most vulnerable population, including women, children, the elderly and persons with disabilities. Due to the successive waves of COVID-19, the Government adopted various containment measures, including the closure of the schools and the suspension of the national school feeding programme, leaving over 50,000 school-aged children deprived of access to daily hot meals. To mitigate the risk of food insecurity and undernutrition among school-aged children, particularly the most vulnerable boys and girls, WFP, in close collaboration with the Ministry of Education and the National School Feeding and Health Programme (PNASE), delivered alternative take-home rations and hygiene kits (hand sanitizers and face masks) in Sao Tome island and in the Autonomous Region of Principe, between the months of August and October 2021. This assistance reached 5,000 vulnerable school children, targeted by the Ministry of Education's Social Protection Department based on pre-identified criteria.

With the support of the Government, local authorities and school staff, WFP sensitized communities on the assistance provided and the targeting approach used in order to avoid any possible tension within community members. Field monitoring reports showed that young children and children with disabilities were prioritized in the selection process. Furthermore, throughout its activities, WFP aimed at guaranteeing that vulnerable people, including those with disabilities, participated in and influenced decision-making processes. Food distributions were organized during daylight hours and in designated safe areas, mainly schools identified jointly by the PNASE, local education officers and WFP staff.

WFP also considered protection and accountability issues during the planning, design and implementation phases of assistance to selected, including through pre-assessment to identify and mitigate risks. Awareness-raising sessions on gender equality, protection and accountability principles were conducted by WFP staff and partners on a regular basis. Confidentiality, data protection, and privacy principles were strictly adhered to by WFP staff and partners to prevent unintentional harm to the assisted beneficiaries.

As part of community feedback mechanism (CFM), WFP ensured that beneficiaries were able to report complaints and provide feedback in a safe and dignified manner during distributions. Received feedback was integrated into programming, including distribution schedule adjustments. A comprehensive CFM (e.g. helpdesks, a toll-free hotline) is planned in the coming year.

Environment

Targeted communities benefit from WFP programmes in a manner that does not harm the environment

Sao Tome and Principe is a small island developing state (SIDS) located and is characterized by its insularity, exposure to environmental threats and effects of climate change. Despite these constraints, the soil and climate are favourable for agricultural production.

The small size, limited food production and exposure to frequent natural hazards negatively affect the food security of the population. In December 2021, the country was affected by heavy rains that caused floods resulting in the destruction of infrastructure, agricultural lands, houses, and roads, which aggravated the food insecurity of vulnerable households, particularly those living in remote areas.

In 2021, WFP supported the Government to attract investments to accelerate the development of the agricultural sector, including through the adoption of sustainable and environmentally friendly agricultural practices and techniques. In this vein, WFP supported the formulation of environmental protection policies under the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, and Rural Development. This policy support focused on wo main areas: promoting the participation of young people and women smallholders in agroecology and organic production, and the implementation of a certified and entirely organic agriculture at the national level in partnership with the Community of Portuguese Speaking Countries (CPLP).

In partnership with national and international non-governmental organizations, namely Helpo and ADAPPA [1], WFP continued to support school gardens in six districts of the country, training school gardeners and teachers in sustainable and ecological agricultural techniques and promoting the consumption of organic food free of pesticides and fertilizers.

Extra Section

School feeding helps to build The School We Want in Sao Tome and Principe

It is the morning of 8 September 2021, the International Literacy Day. The typical coolness of the end of 'Gravana' - the dry season in Sao Tome and Principe (STP) - is felt under the skin, in Trindade city, at the foot of the hill Monte Café.

The sports hall of Maria Manuela Margarido secondary school opens its gates and is rapidly filled with schoolchildren, pre-university students, teachers, parents and members of the community who came to celebrate the launch of the 2021/2022 school year. Representatives of civil society, United Nations agencies, government entities join the ceremony as well.

A big banner in the middle of the right aisle of the hall announces: A Escola Que Queremos (The School We Want). This motto reflects the spirit of the Santomean children coming back to school after long periods of confinement due to the COVID-19 pandemic. It had forced constant suspension of classes, while the lack of conditions for distance learning had affected education at all levels. The national school feeding programme, which feeds pre-school and primary school children with hot and nutritious meals, had been impacted as well: the provision of school meals could only take place during 60 percent of the planned days.

But now schools have reopened and the Minister of Education, Julieta Rodrigues, emphasizes in her speech at the ceremony: school feeding contributes to the physical and intellectual development of children. The Minister also thanks WFP for its technical and financial support to the national school feeding programme during the 2020/21 school year, which contributed to the delivery of dry food and hygiene materials to school canteens and the distribution of alternative take-home rations and hygiene kits (face masks and hand sanitizers) to the vulnerable schoolchildren attending pre-schools and primary schools in all districts of the country.

What kind of school do children want? A group of children goes on stage in a theatrical play and sings poetically after the Minister's speech: We want a school with opportunity and equality for all. In fact, the national school feeding programme in Sao Tome and Principe is the only source of hot meals for many school-aged boys and girls, and contributes to ensuring school retention and quality education for all. Indeed, the cost-benefit analysis of the National School Feeding and Health Programme (PNASE) carried out by WFP's Centre of Excellence Against Hunger in Brazil shows that the national school feeding program has a great and encouraging impact in the children's health, nutrition, education, and in fostering gender equality.

Bringing home life-saving food

A week after the launch of the new school year, WFP starts a new distribution cycle of take-home rations for school-aged children and their households to mitigate the social impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

This delivery is of great importance because it will ensure that vulnerable children have access to food and stay healthy, says Arlindo Capela, Coordinator of PNASE. We thank WFP for this support. With the increase in COVID-19 cases in Sao Tome and Principe, the food insecurity of vulnerable households also increased.

This support has been possible thanks to a USD 700,000 contribution from the Chellaram Foundation for emergency school feeding activities. It helped protect schoolchildren's food and nutrition security throughout 2021, during the closure of schools and the suspension of the national school feeding programme due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Changing children's lives for the better entails meeting their nutritional needs and stimulating their intellectual capacity, ensuring equal opportunities for a brighter future.

That is the kind of school WFP wants to see in Sao Tome and Principe: schools that provide meals to feed not only hungry stomachs, but also children's dreams of a bright future.

Data Notes

Overview

Programa Nacional de Alimentação e Saúde Escolar (PNASE)
 Conselho Nacional de Segurança Alimentar e Nutricional (CONSAN)

Context and Operations

[1] United Nations Development Programme. Human Development Reports: Human Development Indicators (http://hdr.undp.org/en/countries/profiles/STP).

[2] The 2017 Household Survey recorded the incidence of extreme poverty at 47 percent.

[3] Word Bank, https://www.worldbank.org/en/country/saotome/overview#1

[4] Socioeconomic Impact Assessment (SEIA) and Socioeconomic Response Plan (SERP) to COVID-19_UN_Sao Tome and Principe - March 2021

[5] Information collected during consultation undertaken between WFP and the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Rural Development in July 2021.

[6] Socioeconomic Impact Assessment (SEIA) and Socioeconomic Response Plan (SERP) to COVID-19_UN_Sao Tome and Principe - March 2021

[7] By December 2021, 146,219 people had been vaccinated, of which 88,102 with the first dose and 58,117 with the second dose - Ministry of Health of São Tomé and Príncipe.

Partnerships

[1] The School Meals Coalition is an emerging initiative of governments and a wide range of partners to drive actions that can urgently re-establish, improve and scale up food and education systems, support pandemic recovery and drive actions to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

CSP Financial Overview

[1]- CSP activity 1 was 47 percent funded ------NBP: \$200,225 and Available Resource: \$93,831

- CSP activity 2 was 218 percent funded ------NBP: \$63,476 and Available Resource: \$138,773
- CSP activity 3 was 77 percent funded -----NBP: \$1,075,443 and Available Resource: \$828,130

Strategic outcome 02

[1] Socioeconomic Impact Assessment (SEIA) and Socioeconomic Response Plan (SERP) to Covid-19_UN_Sao Tome and Principe - March 2021.

Progress towards gender equality

[1] National Institute of Statistics; Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Rural Development - Agricultural Assessment Report, 2021.

Environment

[1] ADAPPA - Ação Para o Desenvolvimento AgroPecuário e Proteção do Ambiente.



Reporting on beneficiary information in WFP's annual country reports

To produce estimates of the total number of unique beneficiaries WFP has assisted yearly, the data from all activities and transfer modalities must be adjusted to eliminate overlaps and add new beneficiaries. This exercise is based on WFP's understanding of the local context, partnerships and activities; the resulting adjusted totals are recorded in COMET. The process of calculating these adjusted totals follows the rules established during the activity planning stage, these rules can be amended to reflect new information that emerges once implementation begins.

The final estimated number of beneficiaries assisted in each country is validated by country offices and entered in COMET at the end of every year:

- the total number of beneficiaries, which is the sum of all direct beneficiaries reached under all country level activities, based on the adjusted totals that seek to eliminate overlap;
- the total number of beneficiaries receiving food transfers, cash-based transfers and commodity vouchers or capacity strengthening, the sum of all direct beneficiaries reached under the activities for each of these transfer modalities, based on the adjusted estimates that seek to eliminate overlap;
- the total number of beneficiaries assisted under each programme area, the sum of all direct beneficiaries reached under WFP's eight programme areas at the country level;
- the number of schoolchildren assisted under school-based programmes, the sum of all participants assisted under the school-based programmes, adjusted to exclude overlaps and activity supporters such as teachers and cooks.

Although WFP conducts quality assurance to provide beneficiary data which are as accurate as possible, numerous challenges remain regarding data collection, verification, entry and processing. Beneficiary numbers in ACRs should be considered "best estimates", subject to over- and under- estimation.

Figures and Indicators

Beneficiaries by Sex and Age Group

Beneficiary Category	Gender	Planned	Actual	% Actual vs. Planned
Total Beneficiaries	male	24,500	2,450	10%
	female	25,500	2,550	10%
	total	50,000	5,000	10%
By Age Group				
24-59 months	male	5,289	611	12%
	female	5,504	635	12%
	total	10,793	1,246	12%
5-11 years	male	19,211	1,839	10%
	female	19,996	1,915	10%
	total	39,207	3,754	10%

Beneficiaries by Residence Status

Residence Status	Planned	Actual	% Actual vs. Planned
Resident	50,000	5,000	10%

Beneficiaries by Programme Area

Programme Area	Planned	Actual	% Actual vs. Planned
School-Based Programmes	50,000	5,000	10%

Annual Food Transfer

Commodities	ties Planned Distribution (mt) Actual Distribution (mt)		% Actual vs. Planned				
Everyone has access to food							
Strategic Outcome: Strategic Outco	Strategic Outcome: Strategic Outcome 02						
Beans	111	0	0%				
Canned Pulses	0	10	-				
lodised Salt	7	1	9%				
Pasta	229	24	11%				
Rice	310	35	11%				
Sugar	15	1	9%				
Uht Milk	90	0	0%				
Vegetable Oil	18	5	27%				

Strategic Outcome and Output Results

Strategic Outcome 02: Crisis-affected populations including school children in targeted areas are able Crisis Response to meet their basic food and nutrition needs during and in the aftermath of crises.

	Output R	esults			
Activity 03: Provide food and nutrition as	sistance to crisis-affecte	d populations thro	ough in-kind transfe	ers.	
Detailed Indicator	Beneficiary Group	Sub Activity	Unit of measure	Planned	Actual
A.1: Beneficiaries receiving food transfers	Children (pre-primary)	School feeding (on-site)	Female Male Total	5,504 5,289 10,793	0 0 0
A.1: Beneficiaries receiving food transfers	Children (pre-primary)	School feeding (take-home rations)	Female Male Total	2,550 2,450 5,000	635 611 1,246
A.1: Beneficiaries receiving food transfers	Students (primary schools)	School feeding (on-site)	Female Male Total	19,996 19,211 39,207	0 0 0
A.1: Beneficiaries receiving food transfers	Students (primary schools)	School feeding (take-home rations)	Female Male Total	2,550 2,450 5,000	1,915 1,839 3,754
A.2: Food transfers			MT	781	77

Cover page photo © WFP/Jorcilina Correia

School-aged girl, beneficiary of the School Feeding Programme, attending a class in Sao Tome

World Food Programme

Financial Section

Financial information is taken from WFP's financial records which have been submitted to WFP's auditors.

S.Tome, Principe Country Portfolio Budget 2021 (2019-2024)

Annual Financial Overview for the period 1 January to 31 December 2021 (Amount in USD)

Annual CPB Overview



S.Tome, Principe Country Portfolio Budget 2021 (2019-2024)

Annual Financial Overview for the period 1 January to 31 December 2021 (Amount in USD)

Strategic Result	Strategic Outcome	Activity	Needs Based Plan	Implementation Plan	Available Resources	Expenditures
1	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 crises.	Provide food and nutrition assistance to crisis- affected populations through in-kind transfers.	1,075,443	0	828,130	302,238
Subtotal St Target 2.1)	rategic Result 1. Everyone has	access to food (SDG	1,075,443	0	828,130	302,238
5	The Government of Sao Tome and Principe has strengthened capacity to implement an environmentally and socially sustainable, gender- transformative and	Provide capacity strengthening (including through South-South cooperation) to the Government in the design, management and coordination of an environmentally and socially sustainable, gender-transformative and nutrition-sensitive HGSM programme and related food security and nutrition policies and programmes.	200,225	196,500	93,831	52,035
	smallholder-friendly home- grown school meals (HGSM) programme and related food security and nutrition policies and programmes nationwide by 2030.	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.	63,476	81,723	138,773	111,977
	rategic Result 5. Countries have nt the SDGs (SDG Target 17.9)	e strengthened capacity	263,701	278,223	232,604	164,012

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S.Tome, Principe Country Portfolio Budget 2021 (2019-2024)

Annual Financial Overview for the period 1 January to 31 December 2021 (Amount in USD)

Strategic Result	Strategic Outcome	Activity	Needs Based Plan	Implementation Plan	Available Resources	Expenditures
	Non SO Specific	Non Activity Specific	0	0	15,679	0
Subtotal Strate	egic Result		0	0	15,679	0
Total Direct Op	perational Cost		1,339,144	278,223	1,076,413	466,250
Direct Support	Cost (DSC)		133,155	41,881	116,886	54,695
Total Direct Co	osts		1,472,299	320,104	1,193,300	520,945
Indirect Suppo	rt Cost (ISC)		95,699	20,807	62,953	62,953
Grand Total			1,567,998	340,911	1,256,253	583,899

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Wannee Piyabongkarn Chief Contribution Accounting and Donor Financial Reporting Branch

Columns Definition

Needs Based Plan

Latest annual approved version of operational needs as of December of the reporting year. WFP's needs-based plans constitute an appeal for resources to implement operations which are designed based on needs assessments undertaken in collaboration with government counterparts and partners

Implementation Plan

Implementation Plan as of January of the reporting period which represents original operational prioritized needs taking into account funding forecasts of available resources and operational challenges

Available Resources

Unspent Balance of Resources carried forward, Allocated contribution in the current year, Advances and Other resources in the current year. It excludes contributions that are stipulated by donor for use in future years

Expenditures

Monetary value of goods and services received and recorded within the reporting year

S.Tome, Principe Country Portfolio Budget 2021 (2019-2024)

Cumulative Financial Overview as at 31 December 2021 (Amount in USD)

Cumulative CPB Overview



Allocated Resources Expenditures Balance of Resources

Code	Strategic Outcome				
SO 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.				
SO 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 crises.				
Code	Country Activity - Long Description				
SMP1	Provide capacity strengthening (including through South-South cooperation) to the Government in the design, management and coordination of an environmentally and socially sustainable, gender-transformative and nutrition- sensitive HGSM programme and related food security and nutrition policies and programmes.				
SMS1	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.				
URT1	Provide food and nutrition assistance to crisis-affected populations through in-kind transfers.				

S.Tome, Principe Country Portfolio Budget 2021 (2019-2024)

Cumulative Financial Overview as at 31 December 2021 (Amount in USD)

Strategic Result	Strategic Outcome	Activity	Needs Based Plan	Allocated Contributions	Advance and Allocation	Allocated Resources	Expenditures	Balance of Resources
1	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 crises.	Provide food and nutrition assistance to crisis- affected populations through in-kind transfers.	1,207,349	828,130	0	828,130	302,238	525,892
Subtotal Strategic Result 1. Everyone has access to food (SDG Target 2.1)		1,207,349	828,130	0	828,130	302,238	525,892	

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S.Tome, Principe Country Portfolio Budget 2021 (2019-2024)

Cumulative Financial Overview as at 31 December 2021 (Amount in USD)

Strategic Result	Strategic Outcome	Activity	Needs Based Plan	Allocated Contributions	Advance and Allocation	Allocated Resources	Expenditures	Balance of Resources
5	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.	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.	173,640	282,592	0	282,592	255,797	26,796
		Provide capacity strengthening (including through South-South cooperation) to the Government in the design, management and coordination of an environmentally and socially sustainable, gender-transformative and nutrition-sensitive HGSM programme and related food security and nutrition policies and programmes.	427,127	164,305	0	164,305	122,509	41,796
Subtotal Strategic Result 5. Countries have strengthened capacity to implement the SDGs (SDG Target 17.9)		600,767	446,898	0	446,898	378,306	68,592	

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S.Tome, Principe Country Portfolio Budget 2021 (2019-2024)

Cumulative Financial Overview as at 31 December 2021 (Amount in USD)

Strategic Result	Strategic Outcome	Activity	Needs Based Plan	Allocated Contributions	Advance and Allocation	Allocated Resources	Expenditures	Balance of Resources
	Non SO Specific	Non Activity Specific	0	15,679	0	15,679	0	15,679
Subtotal Strategic Result		0	15,679	0	15,679	0	15,679	
Total Direct Operational Cost			1,808,116	1,290,707	0	1,290,707	680,544	610,163
Direct Support Cost (DSC)		207,574	141,285	0	141,285	79,093	62,191	
Total Direct Costs		2,015,690	1,431,992	0	1,431,992	759,637	672,355	
Indirect Support Cost (ISC)		131,020	90,205		90,205	90,205	0	
Grand Total			2,146,709	1,522,197	0	1,522,197	849,843	672,355

This donor financial report is interim

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Wannee Piyabongkarn Chief Contribution Accounting and Donor Financial Reporting Branch Page 3 of 3

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Columns Definition

Needs Based Plan

Latest approved version of operational needs. WFP's needs-based plans constitute an appeal for resources to implement operations which are designed based on needs assessments undertaken in collaboration with government counterparts and partners

Allocated Contributions

Allocated contributions include confirmed contributions with exchange rate variations, multilateral contributions, miscellaneous income, resource transferred, cost recovery and other financial adjustments (e.g. refinancing). It excludes internal advance and allocation and contributions that are stipulated by donor for use in future years.

Advance and allocation

Internal advanced/allocated resources but not repaid. This includes different types of internal advance (Internal Project Lending or Macro-advance Financing) and allocation (Immediate Response Account)

Allocated Resources Sum of Allocated Contributions, Advance and Allocation

Expenditures

Cumulative monetary value of goods and services received and recorded within the reporting period

Balance of Resources Allocated Resources minus Expenditures