



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Sao Tome and Principe Country Brief June - July - August 2022



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 2021/2022 Human Development Index value of 0.618 maintains the country in the medium human development category, ranking 138 out of 191 countries and above the Sub-Saharan Africa average by 0.071 points. According to the same Human Development Report, São Tomé and Príncipe has a Gender Inequality Index (GII) value of 0.907, ranking it 138 out of 191 countries in the 2021/2022 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. On 28 and 29 December 2021, and in March 2022, Sao Tome was hit by tropical storms of high intensity that destroyed more than 670 hectares of production. More than 1,500 producers are directly affected by this crisis, including 1,000 horticulture families and 500 livestock farmers and fishermen.

WFP assistance is focused on strengthening capacities of the Government to implement the national home-grown school feeding programme, facilitate smallholder farmers' access to markets and help save lives when a crisis erupts.

Population: **215,056**

2021 Human Development Index ranking: **138 out of 191 countries**

Income level: **lower middle**

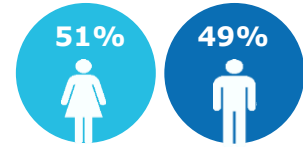
Chronic malnutrition: **17.2 percent of children aged 6-59 months**

In Numbers

154,100 mt of food assistance distributed

USD 0.4 m six-month (Aug-January 2023) net funding requirements

21,500 people assisted
June - August 2022



Operational Updates

- In June, the final month of school feeding assistance, 20,000 children (100 percent of all planned children) were reached with on-site school meals for 22 feeding days, totalling 105 out of 100 initially planned (105 percent of the total planned days) for the 2021/2022 school year.
- On 18th July, the Minister of Education and Higher Education, Mrs. Julieta Rodrigues, inaugurated a pigsty with a capacity for 70 pigs a year and a model community school garden at the National School Feeding and Health Program (PNASE) headquarters, thanks to a partnership with the Portuguese NGO Helpo and co-funding by Portuguese Cooperation and WFP as part of a project to boost the consumption of local products in school meals.
- In August, the Government delivered the first of three-month WFP-funded emergency food assistance and assets distribution to 1,500 households affected by the floods registered in December 2021 and March 2022. The assistance included food baskets consisting of rice, beans, pasta, oil, sugar and salt, and fishing materials. Estimated at USD 258,500, the emergency assistance will be completed by October 2022.
- On 30 August 2022, the new Law on the National School Feeding and Health Program (PNASE), drafted with WFP technical and financial support, was approved by the National Assembly. It will come into force after its promulgation by the President of the Republic.
- In August, WFP supported the National School Feeding and Health Program (PNASE)'s participation in the Portuguese Speaking Countries on School Feeding forum, organized by WFP Center of Excellence Against Hunger in Brazil. PNASE presentation highlighted the nutritious value of home-grown school feeding.

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Photo credit: © Jorcilina Correia/WFP

Photo caption: Officer-in-Charge delivers food basket to families affected by extreme climatic shocks and economic crisis

Country Strategic Plan (2017-2021)

2022 Total Requirements (in USD)	2022 Available Contributions (in USD)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
1.7 m	0.8 m	0.4 m

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-aged 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

Monitoring, Assessments and Communications

- Celebrating this year's World Humanitarian Day, the 19th of August, a WFP-commissioned report on its efforts to help save lives during Covid-19 pandemic was broadcasted on National Sao Tome and Principe Radio (RNSTP) and Santomean Public Television (TVS). The report is a WFP advocacy piece on its supply chain and emergency operations response to crisis. Additionally, a multimedia piece with statements from the Officer-in-Charge, Edna Peres, and Programme Associate, Celestino Cardoso, was shared through the official Facebook page of the United Nations in Sao Tome and Principe, for a further outreach of messaging on WFP readiness and commitment to saving lives in crisis.

Challenges

- WFP's funding situation continues to be challenging. The six-month net funding requirements for WFP's various activities amount to USD 0.4 million.
- São Tomé and Príncipe's economic situation worsened - as inflation rose, with the country's overreliance on imports for food, fertilizers, and fuels. According to the governor of the Central Bank of São Tomé and Príncipe, the country's net international reserves have been diluted in a recent public statement. As per IMF guidelines, the country must maintain foreign reserves to cover at least three months of imports. Sao Tome and Principe is currently unable to guarantee more than one month of imports.
- Parliamentary, municipal, and regional elections are scheduled to be held in São Tomé and Príncipe on 25 September 2022, following an electoral campaign from 10 to 23 September (14 days). During the electoral and post-electoral period, field operations might be lowered until the new Government takes office as Government is a key partner in its implementation.

Donors

Donors to WFP's CSP include the Government of Sao Tome and Principe, the SDG Joint Fund and other UN funds and agencies.