



World Food Programme

SAVING
LIVES
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LIVES

WFP São Tomé and Príncipe Country Brief October 2022



Operational Context

In 2021, the estimated GDP per capita in São Tomé and Príncipe amounted to approximately USD 2,361.7. Recent World Bank estimates show that about 15 percent of the population lives on less than USD 1.15 per day while another 29 percent of the population is poor, using a poverty line of USD 3.65 per day.

In the past decade, the country has made considerable progress in reducing child mortality and malnutrition, and in improving maternal health. According to the 2021 Global Nutrition Report, Sao Tome and Principe has made progress to meet the target for stunting, with 11.7 percent of children under 5 years of age affected, which is lower than the average for the Africa region (30.7%). Sao Tome and Principe is also 'on course' for the target for wasting, with 4.1 percent of children under 5 years of age affected, which is lower than the average for the Africa region (6.0%). 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 São Tomé 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, São Tomé was hit by tropical storms of high intensity that destroyed more than 670 hectares of production, affecting more than 1,500 producers, including 1,000 horticulture families and 500 livestock farmers and fishermen. WFP's 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**

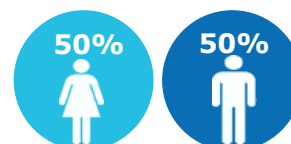
Chronic malnutrition: **17.2 percent of children aged 6-59 months**

In Numbers

No food assistance distributed

USD 2.3 million six-month (November 2022 - April 2023) net funding requirements

1,932 people assisted
in October 2022



Operational Updates

- In October, with the support of WFP, the Government initiated the last portion of the emergency assistance, aiming at livelihoods recovery, to the 1,500 households affected by the floods in December 2021 and March 2022. Technical teams from the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Rural Development (MAPDR) delivered pigs and chicken to 53 animal breeders in Cantagalo and Lembá districts; distributed seeds and agricultural inputs to 400 smallholder farmers in Me-Zochi, Cantagalo and Lobata districts; and assisted 30, smallholder farmers, with 18,600 vegetable plants, in the districts of Me-Zochi and Lobata. These activities were closely monitored by WFP.
- On 12 October, WFP hosted a meeting of the UN Rome-Based Agencies (RBAs) - WFP, IFAD, and FAO - to review a concept note aiming to help unlock the potential of home-grown school feeding to transform local food systems and support pandemic recovery, through South-South Collaboration and Triangular Cooperation. The RBAs agreed on full project proposal development and resource mobilization strategy.
- On 14 October, FAO and WFP delivered agricultural materials and horticultural plants to Agostinho Neto School, in Lobata district, in the presence of the Minister of Agriculture. In an act to mark the World Food Day celebrations, WFP offered 40 cassava cuttings and 400 sweet potato branches, to be cultivated at the school's community garden, ensuring fresh vegetables from farming to the table of schoolchildren in several schools of this district.
- On 31 October, the MAPDR facilitated a meeting with FAO and WFP, aiming at bridging both agencies' crisis responses, to ensure accurate beneficiary targeting and complementarity as WFP emergency assistance is on its end phase and FAO should initiate soon.

Contact info: Edna Peres (edna.peres@wfp.org)

Country Director: Wanja Kaaria

Further information: <https://www.wfp.org/countries/sao-tome-and-principe>

Photo credit: © Jorcilina Correia/WFP

Photo caption: On World Food Day WFP offered horticultural plants for the Agostinho School community garden

Country Strategic Plan (2017-2021)

2022 Total Requirements (in USD)	2022 Available Contributions (in USD)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
1.5 m	0.8 m	2.3 m

Strategic Result 5: Developing countries have strengthened capacities to implement SDGs

Strategic Outcome 1: The Government of São Tomé and Príncipe 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 SSTC) 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

Communications

- On 16 October, World Food Day, WFP participated in an agricultural fair organized by the MAPDR at São Tomé people's park. WFP supported the fair with visibility items, to strengthen the messaging on the vital role of local produce to counter the impact of the economic crisis due to COVID-19 pandemic and the conflict in Ukraine. On the same day, WFP joined FAO in a nutrition fair, organized by IFAD-funded Project to Support Marketing, Agricultural Productivity and Nutrition (COMPRAN). At this fair, where locally manufactured and transformed products were exhibited, WFP addressed to local media the message of enhancing the nutrition status of Santomeans through local food value chains and ensuring no one is left behind on the march to zero hunger.

Challenges

- WFP's funding situation worsened. The six-month net funding requirements for crisis response and government capacity strengthening now stand at USD 2.3 million, from USD 1.8 million in September.
- São Tomé and Príncipe's economic crisis hit a new low: the inflation rate hit a thirteen and half year high in September and the country's net reserves were not enough to cover 15 days of imports at the end of October. With national coffers almost empty, despite the International Monetary Fund (IMF)'s approval of the disbursement of USD 2.5 million at the end of October, the new government to be in force by mid-November should face extreme difficulties to counter rising inflation and heightened basic products prices. The annual inflation rate accelerated further to 21.9 percent in September 2022, from 19.5 percent in August 2022. It was the highest reading since January 2009. On a monthly basis, consumer prices inched up by 3.3 percent, the most since February 2008, after rising by 2.3 percent in the prior month, according to the Central Bank of São Tomé and Príncipe.

Donors

Donors to WFP Sao Tome and Principe in 2022 include the Government of São Tomé and Príncipe, the SDG Joint Fund and other UN funds and agencies.