



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES



WFP Sao Tome & Principe  
Country Brief  
September -December 2023

## Operational Context

In 2021, the estimated GDP per capita in São Tomé and Príncipe (STP) amounted to approximately USD 2,361.7. World Bank estimates in 2022 show that about 15.3 percent of the population lives with less than USD 1.15 per day while another 29 percent of the population is poor, living under a poverty line of USD 3.65 per day.

In the past decade, the country made considerable progress in reducing child mortality and malnutrition, and in improving maternal health. However, increasing food prices, the limited access to public services, and inadequate diets, pushed vulnerable groups into malnutrition, especially children of 5-11 years old. The anaemia rate among children under 5 years old in STP reached 59 percent in 2022. This rate diminished by as little as 3.2 percent from 2010 to 2022.

In 2022, WFP supported the Government in its emergency response, helping with the implementation of the national contingency plans to reduce the socioeconomic impact of COVID-19 pandemic, persistent energy shortages, the floods at end-2021 and early-2022, and a sharp increase in global food and fuel prices.

WFP focused on assisting the most vulnerable schoolchildren, supporting small holder farmers, and boosting local food value chains.



Income Level: **Lower middle**

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

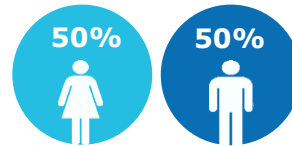
Population: **215.056**

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

## In Numbers

**US \$ 3 million** six-month (January 2024 – June 2024) net funding requirements

**7101 people assisted.**  
In December 2023



## Operational Updates

- In September, the Sao Tome operation received a WFP delegation for a high-level mission to advocate for greater ownership of the new strategic plan for the country. They had the opportunity to exchange various areas of collaboration and witnessed the impact of WFP interventions through their field visits. During their mission, they also engaged the United Nations Country Team (UNCT) to discuss how the UN could join efforts to optimise the use of resources.
- In October, WFP funded São Tomé and Príncipe's participation in the first global summit of the School Feeding Coalition. The School Feeding Coalition was launched at the United Nations Summit on Food Systems in 2021, to ensure universal and sustainable coverage of healthy and nutritious school meals by 2030. São Tomé and Príncipe was represented at the event by the Minister of Education, Culture and Sciences. The country's participation aimed to strengthen the Ministry's technical capacity to ensure the sustainability of the National Health and School Feeding Programme (PNASE).
- In November, WFP approved the 2024 – 2028 Country Strategic Plan, budgeted at USD 15.3 million, which aims to reach around 78,000 people (34 percent of the São Toméan population). Aligned with the United Nations' Cooperation and Sustainable Development Framework (2023-2027) in the country, the plan was officially endorsed by the Minister of Education, Culture and Sciences of São Tomé and Príncipe, representing the Government of São Tomé and Príncipe. This plan proposes a strategy to strengthen institutional capacity for school feeding based on local products and national food and nutritional security.
- In November, the joint SDG Fund project inaugurated the drainage and irrigation system for the Camavo agricultural fields. This system benefits around 60 farmers from this community Farmers' Association, covering an area of seven hectares, through a river water collection system, two tanks with a capacity of 10,000 and 80,000 litres of water respectively and a pump powered by solar panels.

**Photo credit:** © Jorcilina Correia/WFP

**Photo caption:** small producers benefiting from the joint SDG Fund project.

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## Country Strategic Plan (2019 – 2023)

12 Months Funding Requirements (in USD)	2023 Available Contributions (in USD)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
2.7 m	0.3 m	3 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 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 can 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

Funded, in partnership with the Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Development and Fisheries, the project is jointly implemented by ILO, UNFPA, UN-HABITAT and WFP, as leader agency on this project.

## Communication

- On 18 October, the WFP supported the Ministry of Education, Culture and Science in designing and delivering the country's message at the First Global Summit of the School Feeding Coalition in Paris as part of a partnership with the government aimed at strengthening the Ministry's technical capacity to ensure the sustainability of the National Health and School Feeding Programme (PNASE).
- In her speech, the minister praised the partnership with WFP and shared PNASE's experience in São Tomé and Príncipe in school feeding for pre-school and primary school children and spoke of expansion plans for secondary school students and increased consumption of locally sourced products in the school canteen.

## Challenges

- WFP's funding situation remains critical. At the transition year for a new Country Strategic Plan, the level of underfunding stands at 119 % for six months and 114% for 12 months-period.
- The WFP's funding situation remains critical. In the year of transition to a new National Strategic Plan, the level of underfunding is 119 per cent for six months and 114 per cent for the 12-month period. High staff turnover in our government and other partners has brought some constraints to the operation as donors are not fixed.

Donors to WFP's CSP 2019 -2023 include the Government of Sao Tome and Principe, the Portugal cooperation and other member states, the SDG Joint Fund, the Private Sector, and other UN funds and agencies.