



World Food Programme



SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES

## Sao Tome & Principe WFP Country Brief June 2024

### Operational Context

Sao Tome and Principe, an isolated lower-middle-income island nation, grapples with high trade costs and climate vulnerabilities. In 2023, a 13 percent inflation rate impeded lower-income groups' access to nutritious food.

Despite local small-scale farming aiding food availability, over half of the country's food and fuel are imported, with high prices and shortages impacting infrastructure.

Progress has been made in reducing child mortality, malnutrition, and improving maternal health over the past decade, yet food insecurity remains. Statistics show 17 percent of the poorest population often skip meals due to financial constraints, and a high rate of anaemia persists among children aged 6-59 months at 59 percent.

The country is one of the few in Africa with universal school feeding coverage. WFP in Sao Tome and Principe focuses on strengthening government capacities, assisting the most vulnerable schoolchildren, supporting small farmers, and promoting local food value chains. In collaboration with the Portuguese Government, WFP has enhanced the nutrition of 3,475 girls and 3,833 boys by distributing animal protein. WFP also boosts the local economy and enriches school menus by purchasing and donating local farmers' produce.



Income Level: **Lower middle**

2023/2024 Human Development Report: **141 out of 193 countries**

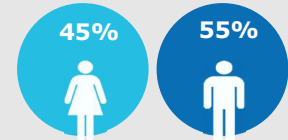
Population: **215.056**

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

## In Numbers

**US\$ 1.5 million** six-month (July 2024 – December 2024) net funding requirements

**6,695 people** in June 2024



### Operational Updates

- WFP Director for Cameroon and São Tomé and Príncipe along with high level authorities of the National Assembly, and the Ministry of Youth and Sports attended the national commemoration of the International Day of Children organized on 01 June in Água Grande in Almeirim. This event acknowledged children's comprehensive rights and WFP's continuous commitment to safeguarding their food security and nutrition.
- In June, WFP signed a partnership agreement with the Food and Nutrition Security Council (CONSAN), through the Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Development and Fisheries, to tackle the challenges of food insecurity and build a future where everyone can have access to nutritious and sufficient food. CONSAN is a dialogue platform that contributes directly to the Political Agenda to intensify activities and implement high-impact programmes. The funding of US\$ 80,000 will enable CONSAN to develop initiatives capable of strengthening local agricultural production, improving food distribution, and promoting nutritional education by enabling the consumption of local products in school canteens.
- In June, WFP supported the Ministry of Education, Culture and Sciences through PNASE to celebrate the International Day of the African Child with a fun and informative activity on the importance of healthy and nutritious school meals.
- In June, the Ambassador of the Netherlands visited PNASE at WFP's request to discuss institutional challenges, resources, and key cooperation areas. PNASE currently has a community garden with greenhouses to grow vegetables and a pigsty to raise animal protein, which has been distributed to various schools in the country to ensure that school menus are more nutritious. This initiative has been funded by the NGO HELPO and WFP.

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**Photo credit:** © Jorcilina Correia/WFP  
**Photo caption:** WFP and the Ministry of Education celebrate the International Day of the African Child

Country Strategic Plan (2024-2028)	
Total Requirements (US\$)	Total Received (US\$)
<b>15.3 million</b>	<b>1.4 million</b>
2024 Requirements (US\$)	Six-Month (July-December) Net Funding Requirements (in US\$)
<b>2.8 million</b>	<b>1.5 million</b>

**SDG target 1: Access to food**

**Strategic Outcome 1:** Crisis-affected populations in Sao Tome and Principe are able to meet their food and other essential needs, before, during and in the aftermath of emergencies and disasters.

**Focus area:** *Crisis response.*

**Activity 1:** Provide assistance to affected populations before, during and after crisis to meet their essential needs.

**SDG target 9: Capacity building**

**Strategic Outcome 2:** By 2030, the Government has strengthened capacity to deliver a sustainable school feeding programme as part of strengthened social protection and resilient food systems.

**Focus area:** *Resilience building*

**Activity 2:** Provide capacity strengthening support to the Government and stakeholders with the aim of enabling them to deliver a nutrition-sensitive and gender-sensitive green and sustainable home-grown school feeding programme.

**Activity 3:** Provide technical assistance to the Government and stakeholders to support food system actors with the aim of enabling them to increase local nutritious, green, and sustainable food production and access to markets, including schools.

**Activity 4:** Provide capacity strengthening to the Government and stakeholders with the aim of enabling them to improve emergency preparedness and response, anticipatory action, early warning, and shock-responsive social protection systems, with a climate resilient and environmentally sustainable approach.

**Donors**

Donors to WFP's CSP 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.

**Communication**

- The celebration of the Day of the African Child was a joint effort by WFP and PNAE to get the children not only to know more about their rights, but also to take an interest in issues related to the consumption of local products in schools. We chose the Mestre Antonio primary school, a model school at national level in terms of consumption of locally grown produce and because it is the only school at national level where school meals cover pupils up to the 9th grade. At this school, there are frequent exchanges between schools to plant crops in school gardens and the garden has produce that is used on the school's own menu and donated to schools that do not have gardens. The activity was a reinforcement of the consumption of local produce, with prizes for the children who knew our products and could talk about the dishes made with them. On the occasion, the Minister of Education, Culture and Sciences emphasised the importance of the date for African children, especially those from São Tomé, praised WFP's support for the use of local products in schools and congratulated the Mestre António school for the cultivation and consumption of its products –“ *We are here because this school is a school that we at the Ministry of Education call a Model School in terms of the consumption of local products*” - reads the Minister's message.

**Joint Activities**



Figure 1- Children eating bananas and leaf sauce made at school.

- As part of a joint project with UN agencies such as the WHO and UNDP, which aims to bring about improvements in different sectors of various schools, WFP accompanied the World Bank on a visit to three schools in the Agua Grande district, which were not covered by other projects, to assess their needs on the spot and join forces for improvements, especially in the kitchen. During the visit to the Almeirim, Dona Maria de Jesus and Patrice Lumumba schools, some interventions proved to be urgent: improving the water distribution system, improving the kitchen, and supplying kitchen utensils, bathrooms, etc.

**Challenges**

- WFP's funding situation remains critical; the level of underfunding stands at 84 percent for the next six months (July – December 2024).