



SAVING
LIVES
CHANGING
LIVES

Sao Tome & Principe WFP Country Brief July-August 2024

In Numbers

US\$ 44,438 six-month (September 2024 – February 2025) net funding requirements

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**

Operational Updates

- In August, a delegation led by the Minister of Education, Culture and Sciences, Isabel Maria Abreu, accompanied by the PNAE Coordinator, Emanuel Montoia and the WFP Office Manager, Leon Victor Mushumba, travelled to Brazil to learn more about Brazilian school feeding programme. On the first day of the mission, the delegation visited World Food Program's (WFP) Centre of Excellence against Hunger's office in Brasilia, Brazil's capital, of, and held exchange presentations on how school feeding works in São Tomé and Príncipe and in Brazil, as well as some of the country's data. The National Education Development Fund (FNDE) also presented data on how the Brazilian National School Feeding Program (PNAE) works.
- During the following days, the delegation made field visits to the agro-ecological rural property of the Association of Family Farmers, and visited the EC Aguilhada rural school in São Sebastião, to see the school meals and children's lunches in situ. In addition, the delegation met the representatives of the Ministry of Education, the Brazilian Agency of Cooperation, the National Institute for Educational Studies, and Research (INEP), and the Institute of Brasilia. Discussions focused on various of areas of bilateral cooperation. Representative of Brazil committed to also send a delegation to the High CPLP School Meals Conference planned in December 2024.
- In August, WFP organised a mission to Príncipe Island, accompanied by the UK Ambassador. The purpose of this mission was to discuss governance priorities and challenges, visiting ongoing WFP-support initiatives, and explore potential areas for fostering partnerships within the cooperation framework between São Tomé and Príncipe and the UK. This visit follows the donor meeting held in Luanda earlier this year, attended by the Deputy Director and Representative for São Tomé and Príncipe and Cameroon, along with the Head of Office. The purpose of the meeting was to explain WFP's presence and activities in São Tomé and Príncipe, highlight past achievements and outline the future as articulated in the new Country Strategic Plan 2024 - 2028.

Contact info: Leonvictor Mushumba (leonvictor.mushumba@wfp.org)
Country Director: Gianluca Ferrera
Further information: <https://www.wfp.org/countries/sao-tome-and-principe>

Photo credit: © Ana Mascarenhas/WFP

Photo caption: WFP and the Ministry of Education in Brazil to know better the school feeding Programme

Country Strategic Plan (2024-2028)	
Total Requirements (US\$)	Total Received (US\$)
15.3 million	1.4 million
2024 Requirements (US\$)	Six-Month (September 2024-February 2025) Net Funding Requirements (in US\$)
2.8 million	44,438

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.

- In August, a WFP team, along with the NGO ADDAPA, visited the farmers of the Sampaio water community to monitor the progress of the harvest of the local produce harvest. This produce will supply the school feeding programme. This visit is part of the Brazilian government's contribution to the provision of school meals based on locally produced organic food to 6,700 schoolchildren in the districts of Lembá, Cantagalo and Lobata.

Communication

- In July, the Ministry of Health and Women's Rights through the National Institute for the Promotion of Gender Equality and Equity (INPG) requested WFP's support for an activity to celebrate "African Women's Day". On this occasion, a debate entitled "Family Budget Management" was held at the Portuguese Cultural Centre with the presence of the Ministers of Health and Education, the main aim of which was to bring women and men together to discuss issues related to women's financial empowerment.



Figure 1- WFP team at the celebration of African Women's Day at the Portuguese Cultural Centre.

Joint Activities

Uba Budo farmers take part in Gender and Entrepreneurship training as part of the joint project financed by the United Nations SDG Fund for Small Island Developing States, implemented in partnership with the Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Development and Fisheries by the following agencies: International Labour Organization, (ILO), United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT) and the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP). Given that the project aims to build an agro-industrial unit in Uba Budo capable of processing the food crops produced by the region's farmers, the training focused on empowering the women who will be managing the factory and enabling them to make better business decisions to increase their income-generating activities and opportunities.

Challenges

To ensure the long-term sustainability of the new Country Strategic Plan, it is crucial to secure consistent and reliable funding sources.

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.