

## SAO TOME AND PRINCIPE

### COUNTRY BRIEF

May 2026



#### KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- National School Feeding Manual launched to mark the African Day of School Feeding.
- In March, the installation of solar panels and kitchen equipment including electric pressure cookers and refrigerators started across schools in Sao Tome.
- WFP, as the Accredited Entity for the Green Climate Fund Project Preparation Facility, is leading studies and consultations to develop the full proposal.

#### SITUATION OVERVIEW

- Sao Tome and Principe, an isolated lower-middle-income island nation, grapples with high trade costs and climate vulnerabilities.
- Despite these economic challenges, the country graduated from the United Nations' Least Developed Countries (LDC) category in December 2024, becoming the eighth country to do so. This milestone reflects improvements in education, health, and per capita income.

- However, the transition presents risks, including potential reductions in external financial support.
- Progress has been made in reducing child mortality, malnutrition, and improving maternal health over the past decade, yet food insecurity remains.
- Although the country is one of the few in Africa with universal school feeding coverage, education challenges persist, affecting school enrolment and participation in the national school feeding programme. Of nearly 82,000 school-aged children, only 56 percent are enrolled and can benefit from school meals under the National School Meals and Health Programme (PNASE).
- 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 2025, WFP remained focused on supporting the Government to address the needs of the most vulnerable populations, particularly school-aged children, women, and smallholder farmers.

## OPERATIONAL UPDATES

### Capacity Strengthening support

#### School-Based Assistance

- In March, to commemorate the African Day of School Feeding, the Ministry of Education, WFP, IFAD's Project COMPRAN, and the National School Feeding and Health Program (PNASE) launched the School Feeding Manual for use in school canteens nationwide, benefitting 50,000 children.
- In April, WFP partnered with UNICEF to support the school feeding programme through the procurement of kitchen utensils for schools under the Green Infrastructure for Health and Education Project. During the same month, the installation of solar panels and kitchen equipment, including electric pressure cookers and refrigerators, began in schools across São Tomé as part of the project.
- In April, WFP met a SHELL delegation to present the Green Infrastructure for Health and Education Project in São Tomé and Príncipe. Funded by SHELL, the pilot delivers renewable energy solutions that improve school feeding, health services, and learning outcomes. Discussions covered progress and next steps, including school management committees and expansion to more schools.

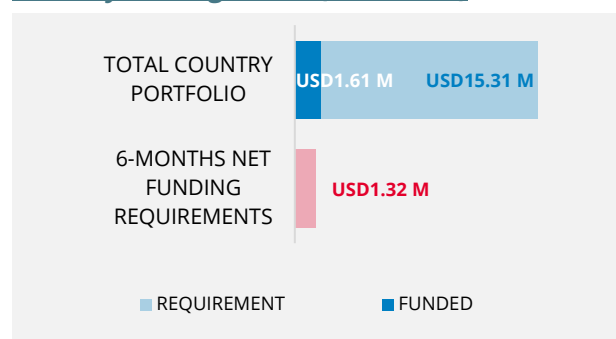


### Resilience and Livelihood Support

- Following the Country Director's high-level mission in February, WFP held a series of meetings with government officials and partners in March and April to begin planning the project *Strengthening the Climate Change Resilience of the Food System and Social Protection Network of São Tomé And Príncipe*.
- As the Accredited Entity for the Green Climate Fund Project Preparation Facility, WFP is leading studies and consultations to develop the full proposal. To launch engagement, the project coordinator met with the Minister of Education, the National School Feeding Programme Coordinator, other government officials, and UN agencies to discuss priorities and next steps for implementation.

## FUNDING OVERVIEW

### Country Strategic Plan (2024-2028)



### Donors

Donors to WFP's CSP include Portugal, Sao Tome and Principe, the United Kingdom, Private Sector, SDG Joint Fund and other UN funds and agencies.

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