



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Country Name Country Brief Month July



Operational Context

In 2019, the estimated GDP per capita in São Tomé and Príncipe (STP) amounted to approximately USD 2,001. Recent World Bank estimates show that about one third of the population lives on less than USD 1.9 per day and more than two thirds of the population is poor, using a poverty line of USD 3.2 per day.

In the past decade, the country has made considerable progress in reducing child mortality and malnutrition, and in improving maternal health. However, in 2014, it was estimated that 17.2 percent of children aged 6-59 months were stunted, 8.8 percent were underweight, and 4 percent were suffering from wasting.

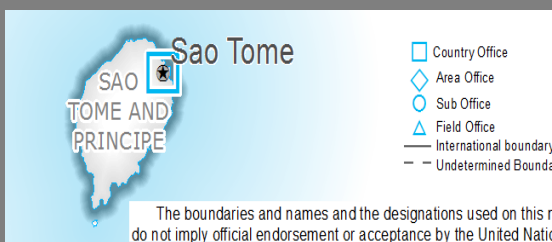
The 2019 Human Development Index value of 0.625 puts the country in the medium human development category, ranking 135 out of 189 countries and above the Sub-Saharan Africa average.

With Sao Tome 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.

WFP assistance is focused on strengthening capacities of the Government to implement the national sustainable home-grown school feeding programme, which reaches over 50,000 children attending schools (around 25 percent of total population) and facilitating smallholder farmers' access to markets.

Sao Tome and Principe confirmed its first case of COVID-19 on 6 April 2020

WFP has been present in Sao Tome and Principe since 1976.



In Numbers

USD 1 m six months (August 2021 – January 2022)
net funding requirements

Operational Updates

- WFP and the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Rural Development (MAPDR) signed a Plan for Technical and Financial Assistance (project document [PRODOC]) in 2020, an agreement which provides for the creation of a diagnosis of sustainable territorial systems, an agricultural survey among producers, and the development of a resource mobilization plan.
- Within the framework of the PRODOC, officials from the MAPDR and a WFP visited the Roça Saudade Community on 31 July to collect information for the creation of a resource mobilization plan to subsidize the MAPDR activities, particularly those developed in partnership with WFP. The team visited the greenhouse and water reservoir and conducted interviews with farmers. The need to secure funds for smallholder farmers' capacity strengthening through rural extension and the promotion of associations were also discussed.
- In July 2021, WFP, ILO, UNFPA and UN-HABITAT in Sao Tome received an approval for an allocation from the SDG FUND for Small Island Developing States (SIDS). The partners' objective is to enable the Government of Sao Tome and Principe to promote sustainable local food value chain, rural development and resilience through investment in an environmentally friendly agri-food industry and job creation for vulnerable women and girls' workers. In this regard, the representatives of the four agencies, as well as officials from the Ministry of Agriculture went to the community of Pinheira to meet farmers from the local cooperative and assess the land and resources available for the project's implementation. This project is in line with the UN COVID-19 socio-economic recovery plan (SERP), with the national development programmes and strategies (including the Zero Hunger Strategic Review). The final proposal should be delivered to the SDG Committee in late August. Work started to assess the area where the project should be implemented.
- WFP visited Diogo Vaz and Neves schools, where community school gardens are implemented to support several schools in the district. In addition to identifying the beneficiary schools, the team accompanied the NGO that is implementing the activity (Action for Agricultural Development and Protection of the Environment - ADAPPA) to understand the current situation of school gardens, identify the conditions and needs of schools and to name the main activities that will be developed to ensure that schools receive supply in a timely manner. This activity is funded by WFP to ensure that the meals offered by National School Feeding Programme (PNASE) are more nutritious and that schools can produce their own vegetables and fresh foods.

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Main photo: Credit: WFP/Jorcilina Correia

Caption: Cook and gardener work together to bring a nutritious meal to schoolchildren in Batepá in September 2020.

Population: 215,056

2019 Human Development Index: 135
out of 189

Income Level: Lower middle

Chronic malnutrition: 17.2% of children
between 6-59 months

WFP Country Strategy



Country Strategic Plan (2019-2024)

2021 Total Requirement (in USD)	2021 Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
1.6 m	1.04 m	1 m

*Six-month net funding requirements as of 17 August 2021.

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 SSC) 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 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.

Challenges

- Programme implementation during the COVID-19 pandemic continued to represent one of the major WFP challenges in Sao Tome and Principe in 2021. Some of the containment measures declared by the Government which affected the implementation of activities and WFP's capacity to organize in-person meetings with government counterparts, stakeholders and donors have been eased but not completely lifted. Schools are in holidays and on-site activities for school feeding will resume in September when schools reopen.
- The funding environment continued to be challenging and is another concern for WFP in STP that might affect the implementation of an innovative home-grown school feeding programme linked to smallholder farmers' market.

Partnerships

- PNASE, the National Council for Food Security and Nutrition (CONSAN) and the National Centre for Supporting Smallholder Farmers (CADR) remain WFP STP's main partners.
- WFP partnered with UNICEF for the reopening of schools, local and international NGOs, namely HELPO and ADAPPA for the Multi-Partner Trust Fund Project and the African Development Bank for the database and information management system for the Ministry of Agriculture

Donors

Top five donors to WFP Sao Tome and Principe CPB 2020-2024 include the Chellaram Foundation and the government of Sao Tome & Principe. Additional support has been provided by the UN COVID-19 Multi-Partner Trust Fund and the Global Partnership for Education Fund.