WFP Sao Tome and Principe
Country Brief
April 2019

In Numbers

US$0.1 m five months (May-July 2019) net funding requirements, representing 90% of total needs requirements.

Operational Updates

- WFP in Sao Tome and Principe has concluded the Country Operations Management Plan (COMP) exercise which will be submitted for approval along with its CSP in June Executive Board session. Complementary to the CSP, the COMP presents a snapshot of a given year, including operational priorities with details such as beneficiaries, linkage of resources to results.
- WFP participated in the design, formulation and finalization of the joint project WFP/FAO/FIDA (International Fund for Agricultural Development) in direct support to 40 rural family enterprises to improve food and nutrition security in Sao Tome and Principe, and indirectly benefiting ¾ of total population.
- WFP concluded the preparation of a planned capacity strengthening of the human resources of PNASE (National Health and School Meals Programme) that will take place in May and June.
- From 22 - 28 April, the Deputy Country Director represented WFP in the African Vaccination Campaign promoted by the Government and WHO that took place in Sao Tomé with the presence of UN Resident Agencies, as well as of the country’s development partners.

Partnerships

- The Ministry of Education through PNASE remains the main cooperating partner for WFP.
- WFP is also partnering two with local and international NGOs.

Monitoring

- On 30 April 2019, the WFP in Sao Tome signed a field level agreement (FLA) with an electronic service provider- the TI SOFTWARE company for the acquisition of a software for the integrated management and monitoring of the school feeding programme.

Challenges

- Funds availability and resources mobilization for T-ICSP implementation.

Donors: Multilateral

Operational Context

In 2017, estimated GDP per capita in São Tomé and Principe amounted to around USD 1,785 U.S. dollars. However recent World Bank estimates show that about one-third of the population lives with less than USD 1.9 per day and more than two-thirds of the population is using a poverty line of USD 3.2 per day.

In the past decades, the country has made considerable progress in reducing child mortality, malnutrition and improving maternal health. However, in 2014, it was estimated that 17.2 percent of children aged 6-59 months were stunted (20.5 percent boys and 13.9 percent girls), 8.8 percent were underweight (10.6 percent boys and 6.9 percent girls), and 4 percent were wasted (4.7 percent boys and 3.3 percent girls) – MICS-2014.

Human Development Index value is 0.589 — which puts the country in the medium human development category, ranking 143 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 one short airstrip. In addition, no cereals are cultivated on the island. The country is prone to natural disasters such as floods and landslides, which negatively affect crops and road access as well as destroy houses and household assets. WFP assistance is focused on education, which is central to the poverty reduction strategy. WFP technical assistance to school meals programme reaches over 45,000 children (around 25 percent of total population) attending schools.

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

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Main PhotoCredit: WFP/Cipriano Semedo
Caption: Opening session of the joint workshop (WFP/FAO) to support a national consensus for a sustainable home-grown school feeding programme based on local commodities.
Further information: www.wfp.org/countries/sao-tome-and-principe
Strategic Outcome 1: The Government of Sao Tomé and Principe has enhanced capacity to implement food security and nutrition focused safety nets nationwide.

Focus area: Root causes

Activities 2: Provide targeted technical assistance for hunger-focused analysis and evidence generation for improved programme.

- Capacity strengthening of the human resources of PNASE and schools’ canteens managers of Ministry of Education on M&E (Monitoring and Evaluation) and training cooks on basic nutrition and hygiene will take place in May and June.