



WFP Sao Tome and Principe Country Brief

Highlights

- WFP is involved in an initiative to introduce local products in the school meals programme, in collaboration with the European Union, the Government and local and international non-governmental organizations (NGOs).
- WFP country office continues its advocacy efforts to mobilize resource to support the school meals programme.

WFP Assistance

Transitioning Towards a Nationally-Owned School Feeding and Health Programme in Sao Tome and Principe	Total Requirements (in USD)	Total Received (In USD)	6-Month Net Funding Requirements (In USD)
DEV 200295: (2012-2017)	5.7 m	2.7 m (47%)	0.2 m (100%)

*April - September 2017

Following the approval of a budget revision for an extension of the current Development project (until December 2017), WFP will continue to provide technical assistance to the Coordination Unit of the National School Feeding and Health Programme (PNASE) by gradually transferring the responsibility of providing daily hot meals to schoolchildren to the Government. WFP will also increase institutional and human capital development to strengthen its support to the Government in managing a school meals programme on its own.

To implement the recommendations of the decentralized evaluation and SABER exercise, the country office is engaging some embassies in Sao Tome and Principe to mobilize support for the school meals programme.

WFP partners with the European Union, the Government and national and international NGOs to introduce local products in the school meals programme.

Planned in the budget revision for this year, the country office expects to continue home-grown school meals activities and encourage the Government to integrate school meals in the social protection strategy.

Other forms of support can be quite interesting as "linking" school meals with local agriculture in the context of social protection or the social safety nets project of the Government.

The Development project contributes to Strategic Objective 4 "Reduce undernutrition and break the cycle of hunger", the objectives of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) 2017–2021 and the Government’s Poverty Reduction Policy Strategy which supports the Government's efforts to increase access to basic education through food and nutrition assistance. WFP will continue to advocate for gender equality and indicators suggest a strong improvement in the area in the course of the Development project implementation.

Main Credit: ©WFP/Celestino Cardoso
Photo Caption: Country Office’s retreat to prepare APP 2017.



Operational Updates

- The transition towards a nationally owned school meals programme continues as planned. In line with this goal, meetings with other partners and PNASE were organized. The Ministry of Education – through PNASE – will take over the management of the school meals programme. WFP continues to support capacity-strengthening initiatives, working with the Government to train staff in key ministries and departments. New forms of transfers in the school meals programme are envisaged in 2017, in line with the new objectives of the 2017–2021 UNDAF.
- Proposals for African Development Bank (ADB) through “India Technical Cooperation Trust Fund” include: i) funds to support strengthening human resources capacity of PNASE and other Government departments, and Zero Hunger Review Strategic; and ii) joint WFP/FAO proposal to support the current school meals operation.

Challenges

- The programme continues to face critical funding gaps which could put at risk the sustainability and successful implementation of a nationally owned school meals programme. Despite the funding constraints, the WFP country office is working to improve nutrition and the quality of school meals, through local purchases.

Partnerships

- The Ministry of Education remains the main cooperating partner for WFP. WFP is also partnering with, the European Union and local and international NGOs.

Country Background & Strategy



About half of the land area is devoted to farming, chiefly for export commodities.

In 2015, the country benefited from strong cacao production and plunging oil prices and GDP has grown by 4-5 percent in recent years.

Central to poverty reduction is education, where WFP assistance is concentrated.

In 2015, more than 60 percent of the population was estimated to be living below the national poverty line of USD 1.70 per person per day (more than 40 percent live on less than USD 1.25). The mortality rate for children under five was high, at 51 per thousand.

With Sao Tome heavily dependent on food imports, food availability is unpredictable: there is no deep sea port; in bad weather, landing is difficult on the country's one short airstrip. 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 has been present in Sao Tome and Principe since 1976.

Population: **178,739**

2015 Human Development Index:
143 out of 188

Income Level: **Lower middle**

Chronic malnutrition: **51% of children between 6-59 months**

Donors

Multilateral, Australia, Brazil, Sao Tome & Principe