



WFP Sao Tome and Principe Country Brief

Highlights

- With support of Regional Bureau, the country office received approximately 75 percent of SRAC fund to carry out their priority activities approved by the budget revision

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	3 m (53%)	2.6 m (47%)

*July - December 2017

With the SRAC fund allocation, the country office is able to continue to provide technical assistance to the Coordination Unit of the National School Feeding and Health Programme (PNASE) to strengthen the national capacity to provide daily hot meals to schoolchildren.

Some priority activities were selected to strengthen the national capacity in technical assistance to support the country in determining the cost of school feeding, the market of local products, strengthen the government capacity through South-South cooperation; and capacity of the staff of PNASE through triangular cooperation. Training for the staff of PNASE and other Ministries on school meals in critical areas as logistics, local purchasing models, nutrition, monitoring and evaluation, advocacy and communication.

An external mission of a senior expert on School Feeding is also planned to support the Country office in a consultative process leading to the zero-hunger strategic review, and formulate a strategy document or action plan for the PNASE.

The Development project contributes to Strategic Objective 4 "Reduce undernutrition and break the cycle of hunger", the objectives of the United Nations

The Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) 2017–2021 and the Government Poverty Reduction Policy Strategy supports the Government 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: School meals in the Batepa's school in district of Me-Zochi.



June 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. Through PNASE, the Ministry of Education 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.
- With funding support from the Regional Bureau (Nutrition Unit), the Country Office – jointly with an NGO partner – will help PNASE and National Nutrition Programme (PNN) to continue implementing a nutritional school project including training in schools and some focused districts in-country.

Challenges

- 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