



WFP Sao Tome and Principe Country Brief

Highlights

- Meetings were held with partners and potential donors to strengthen partnerships and seek opportunities for synergies.

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 (48%)	0

*December 2017 - May 2018

GENDER MARKER 1  **DEV 200295**

Managed by the Government since 2015, the daily meals for 46,000 children were provided to all public kindergartens, primary and secondary schools.

WFP continues to provide technical and financial assistance and support the Government's efforts to increase access to basic education through food and nutrition assistance as well as food security analysis tools and increase institutional and human capital development to strengthen its support to the Government in managing a school meals programme on its own. However, the programme continues to face critical funding gaps to ensure the daily meal to all kindergartens and schools.

The current Development project will end in December. The late mobilization of funds, did not enable the country office to carry out most of the activities programmed and recommended by decentralized evaluation and SABER in 2015-2016 respectively, however many important activities have been carried out to strengthen the capacity of PNASE personnel in some areas such as nutrition, management and the introduction of local products into the school feeding program.

WFP will continue to advocate for gender equality and indicators suggest a strong improvement in the area during the Development project implementation.

Main Credit: ©WFP/Celestino Cardoso

Photo Caption: Nutrition training for nurses, masters, teachers to improve of the children's nutritional status trough nutritional education in Agua Grande district.



November 2017

Operational Updates

- WFP continues to support capacity-strengthening initiatives, working with the Government to train staff in key ministries and departments.
- The first draft of the Partnership Action Plan of the country office has been submitted to the Regional Bureau for review and comments.
- The country office is actively preparing the launch of the ZHSR in close collaboration with the Prime Minister's office.

Challenges

- Country office continues to make a strong fund-raising campaign to help the government (through the PNASE) will take over the overall management of the school meals programme and its sustainability with success.

Partnerships

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

Country Background & Strategy



About half of the land area is devoted to farming, mainly 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 aged 6-59 months 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