

SCHOOL MEAL/FEEDING PROGRAM(S)

School year: 2020–2021

- National School Food and Health Program
(Programa Nacional de Alimentação e Saúde Escolar – PNASE)

Lead Agency: Ministry of Education

NATIONAL LAWS, POLICIES, AND STANDARDS

- National school feeding policy
- Nutrition
- Food safety
- Health
- Agriculture
- Private sector involvement

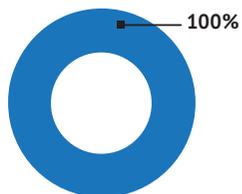
Line item in the national budget...

- Yes No No response

BUDGET

Total: USD 41,123

- Government: USD 41,123
- International donors*: USD 0
- Private sector: USD 0
- Other donors: USD 0



Includes funding from the United States Department of Agriculture Yes No No response

*International donations by United Nations agencies or non-governmental organizations often represent funding from multiple donors.

INFRASTRUCTURE

All schools in São Tomé and Príncipe have kitchens, most have electricity and piped water, and some have clean water, flush toilets, and dedicated eating spaces/cafeterias. School meals/snacks are prepared on school grounds, and the school kitchens are generally equipped with storage facilities and either charcoal/wood stoves or gas stoves.

SPECIAL NOTES

Some population and enrollment numbers from the UNESCO Institute of Statistics (UIS) were used to complete this report.

MEALS/SNACKS/MODALITY

- Breakfast
- Lunch
- Dinner
- Snacks
- Take-home rations
- Other

- Grains, cereals
- Roots, tubers
- Legumes, pulses, nuts
- Dairy products
- Eggs
- Meat
- Poultry
- Fish
- Green, leafy vegetables
- Other vegetables
- Fruits
- Oil
- Salt
- Sugar

- Dairy milk
- Yogurt drink
- Fruit juice
- Tea
- Water
- Other

Prohibited food items: None

FOOD SOURCES

- Purchased (domestic)
- Purchased (foreign)
- In-kind (domestic)
- In-kind (foreign)

COMPLEMENTARY ACTIVITIES

- Handwashing with soap
- Height measurement
- Weight measurement
- Testing for anemia
- Deworming treatment
- Eye testing/eyeglasses
- Hearing testing/treatment
- Dental cleaning/testing
- Menstrual hygiene
- Drinking water
- Water purification

COMPLEMENTARY EDUCATION PROGRAMS

- Food and nutrition
- Agriculture
- Hygiene
- Health
- Reproductive health
- HIV prevention
- Physical education

The checked items were provided in most or all participating schools.



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DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF

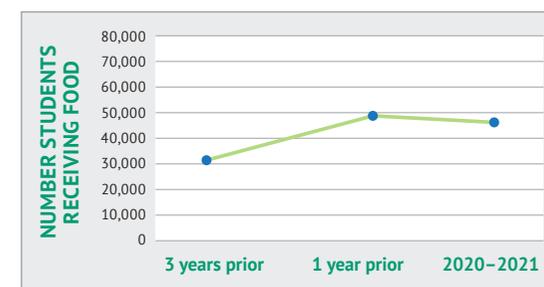
São Tomé and Príncipe



SCHOOL MEAL PROGRAMS

CHILDREN RECEIVING FOOD, 2020–2021

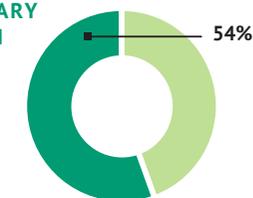
School level	Total	# Enrolled	# Receiving food
Pre-school	18,652	10,439	10,439
Primary school	36,133	37,111	37,111
Secondary school	31,968	25,875	0
Total	86,753	73,425	47,550



COVERAGE: PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOL-AGE CHILDREN

Total number primary and secondary school-age children: 68,101

Receiving school food: 37,111



Food was also provided to some students in...

- Pre-schools
- Vocational/trade schools
- Other

NUTRITION

School feeding program(s) included/involved the following:

- Fortified foods
- Bio-fortified foods
- Micronutrient supplements
- Nutritionists involved
- Special training for cooks/caterers in nutrition
- Objective to meet nutritional goals**
- Objective to reduce obesity

Food items fortified/biofortified:

Not applicable

Micronutrients:

Not applicable

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Efforts to prevent or mitigate overweight/obesity include nutritional requirements for food baskets (menus) and food and nutrition education offered in schools. Foods produced in school gardens are alternately consumed by the students or sold.

STUDIES CONDUCTED

Cost/Benefit study of school meals.

RESEARCH NEEDED

Studies of the creation of the PNASE fund and the regulation of school feeding-related laws.

AGRICULTURE, EMPLOYMENT, AND COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

Jobs created by school feeding programs*

- 454** Cooks and food preparers
Transporters
Off-site processors
Food packagers and handlers
Monitoring
Food service management
Safety and quality inspectors
Other

**If blank, no response was provided.*

Farmers were involved with the school feeding program(s)...

- Yes No No response

Other private sector (for profit) actors were involved...

- Yes No No response

There was a focus on creating jobs or leadership or income-generating opportunities for...

- Women** Other groups
 Youth No response

There was community engagement (by parents or others) in the school feeding program(s)...

- Yes No No response

Were there links between food banks and the school feeding program(s)?

- Yes No There are no food banks in this country.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Competitive procedures are followed to secure contracts for the school feeding program, and small farmers/small farmer organizations/small companies are able to successfully compete. Students' families pay a partial price for the meals/snacks and also contribute some food items, and parents' committees support the management of school meals/snacks.

CONTACTS: SÃO TOMÉ AND PRÍNCIPE

Agency: Ministry of Education, PNASE

Website: www.mecc.gov.st

SUCCESSSES AND CHALLENGES

Recent successes related to school feeding in São Tomé and Príncipe include an increase in program visibility and an increase in community participation and parental involvement in school feeding. Challenges include and insufficient budget for school feeding that only covers about 20% of the program's real costs. This negatively impacts the sustainability of the school feeding program. Other challenges include the low coverage of school days on which food is served, a lack of utensils, and a need for greater menu diversity that is inclusive of local products.

EMERGENCIES/COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Schools in São Tomé and Príncipe were closed but operating remotely in some months during the 2020–2021 school year. The COVID-19 pandemic resulted in a reduction in the number of students fed, the frequency of school feeding, and the level of food basket diversity. There have also been changes in how meals/snacks are served in schools (e.g., with fewer children eating together at the same time).

NATIONAL SCHOOL FOOD AND HEALTH PROGRAM

PROGRAMA NACIONAL DE ALIMENTAÇÃO E SAÚDE ESCOLAR – PNASE

Lead implementer(s): Ministry of Education

OBJECTIVES:

- To meet educational goals
- To meet nutritional and/or health goals

MODALITIES OF PROVIDING STUDENTS WITH FOOD:

- In-school snacks

FREQUENCY AND DURATION:

- 5 days per week during the school year

TARGETING:

Universal (pre-school and primary school)

HOW MANY STUDENTS RECEIVED SCHOOL FOOD IN 2020–2021 SCHOOL YEAR?

School level	# Students	% Girls	% Boys
Pre-school	10,439	52%	48%
Primary school	37,111	48%	52%
Secondary school	0	–	–
Total	47,550	49%	51%

FOOD AND BEVERAGE ITEMS:

Grains, cereals	Green, leafy vegetables	Salt
Roots, tubers	Other vegetables	Sugar
Legumes, pulses, nuts	Fruits	Water
Fish	Oil	

* fortified

FOOD SOURCES:

100% Purchased (domestic)	0% In-kind (domestic)
0% Purchased (foreign)	0% In-kind (foreign)

If blank, no response was provided.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

The National School Food and Health Program began in 2010. In the 2020–2021 school year, the program operated in 194 schools.

