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

Infrastructures

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
- Green, leafy vegetables
- Other vegetables
- Fruits
- Oil
- Salt
- Sugar

- Fish
- Meat
- Poultry

- Height measurement
- Dental cleaning/testing
- Menstrual hygiene
- Drinking water
- Water purification

FOOD SOURCES

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

COMPLEMENTARY ACTIVITIES

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

COMPLEMENTARY EDUCATION PROGRAMS

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

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

CHILDREN RECEIVING FOOD, 2020–2021

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School level</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th># Enrolled</th>
<th># Receiving food</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pre-school</td>
<td>18,652</td>
<td>10,439</td>
<td>10,439</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Primary school</td>
<td>36,133</td>
<td>37,111</td>
<td>37,111</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secondary school</td>
<td>31,968</td>
<td>25,875</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>86,753</td>
<td>73,425</td>
<td>47,550</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

COVERAGE: PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOL-AGE CHILDREN

Total number primary and secondary school-age children: 88,101

Receiving school food:

- Yes: 37,111
- No: 0
- Other: 54%

Food was also provided to some students in:

- Pre-schools
- Vocational/trade schools
- Other

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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

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

SUCCESSES 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 an 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).

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.
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?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School level</th>
<th># Students</th>
<th>% Girls</th>
<th>% Boys</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pre-school</td>
<td>10,439</td>
<td>52%</td>
<td>48%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Primary school</td>
<td>37,111</td>
<td>48%</td>
<td>52%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secondary school</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>47,550</strong></td>
<td><strong>49%</strong></td>
<td><strong>51%</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

FOOD AND BEVERAGE ITEMS:
- Grains, cereals
- Roots, tubers
- Legumes, pulses, nuts
- Fish
- Green, leafy vegetables
- Other vegetables
- Fruits
- Oil
- Fortified
- Salt
- Sugar
- Water

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.