

Existing rates of: **Wasting: 4%** **Stunting: 17.2%** **Proportion of population underweight: 8.8%**

Source: Government of Sao Tome And Principe (MICS,2014)











Strong Performance

- In São Tomé and Príncipe, the law gives women equal access to agricultural land as men and these rights are upheld in practice. This reduces women's vulnerability to hunger and undernutrition.
- São Tomé and Príncipe has introduced a multisectoral and multistakeholder policy coordination mechanism to support delivery of the National Nutrition Policy/Strategy.
- Policymakers in São Tomé and Príncipe benefit from regular nutrition surveys that are statistically representative at national level. The last survey was published in 2018.
- 96.8% of the population of São Tomé and Príncipe in 2017 has access to an improved drinking water source.
- In São Tomé and Príncipe 97.5% of women aged 15-49 were visited at least once during pregnancy by skilled health personnel in 2014.
- In São Tomé and Príncipe, constitutional protection of the right to social security is strong.
- Strong civil registration rates (95.2% in 2014) potentially enable children's access to critical public services such as health and education.


Areas for improvement

- Spending on agriculture (8.5% of public spending in 2016) is close to, yet not fully meeting government commitments set out in the African Union's Maputo Declaration (10% of public spending).
- São Tomé and Príncipe's spending in its health sector (10.8% of public spending in 2017) does not fully meet (15%) commitments set out in the Abuja Declaration.
- In São Tomé and Príncipe, the law does not give women equal economic rights as men, increasing women's vulnerability to hunger and undernutrition.
- São Tomé and Príncipe does not have a separate budget line for nutrition; this prevents transparency and accountability for spending.
- São Tomé and Príncipe does not yet have a National Nutrition Policy/Strategy.
- The Government of São Tomé and Príncipe has not enshrined the International Code of Marketing of Breastmilk Substitutes into domestic law.
- The Government of São Tomé and Príncipe does not promote complementary feeding practices and has achieved two high doses of vitamin A supplementation for only 32% of children in 2018.
- Weak access to improved sanitation facilities (43% in 2017) obstructs better hunger and nutrition outcomes.
- Social safety nets in São Tomé and Príncipe are basic and only cover few risks for a limited number of beneficiaries.

Hunger Reduction Commitment Index (HRCI)

Public spending	Score*	Year	HRCI Rank of 45
 Public spending on agriculture as share of total public spending ¹	8.5%	2016	13th
 Public spending on health as share of total public spending ²	10.8%	2017	7th
Policies			
 Access to land (security of tenure) ³	Moderate	2019	33rd
 Access to agricultural research and extension services ³	Moderate	2019	31st
 Civil registration system — coverage of live births	95.2%	2014	6th
 Functioning of social protection systems ³	Weak	2018	Joint 41st
Laws			
 Level of constitutional protection of the right to food ³	Moderate	2017	Joint 8th
 Equality of women's access to agricultural land (property rights) ⁴	In Law & Practice	2019	Joint 1st
 Equality of women's economic rights ⁴	Not in Law	2019	Joint 16th
 Constitutional right to social security (yes/no)	Yes	2013	Joint 1st













¹ Possible scores are:  <75% of agri. spending pledges (AU commitments set out in the Maputo Declaration)  >=75% & <100%  >=100%

² Possible scores are:  <75% of health spending pledges (AU commitments set out in the Abuja Declaration)  >=75% & <100%  >=100%

³ Possible scores are:  Very Weak/Weak  Moderate  Strong/Very Strong

⁴ Possible scores are:  Not in Law  In Law Not in Practice  In Law & Practice

Nutrition Commitment Index (NCI)

Public spending	Score*	Year	NCI Rank of 45
 Separate budget for nutrition (No/Sectoral only/Yes)	No	2019	Joint 39th
Policies			
 Vitamin A supplementation coverage for children	32%	2018	39th
 Government promotes complementary feeding (yes/no)	No	2018	Joint 42nd
 Population with access to an improved water source	96.8%	2017	5th
 Population with access to improved sanitation	43%	2017	14th
 Health care visits for pregnant women	97.5%	2014	9th
 Nutrition features in national development policy ¹	Moderate	2012-2016	29th
 National nutrition policy/strategy (yes/no)	No	2019	Joint 33rd
 Multisector and multistakeholder policy coordination (yes/no)	Yes	2019	Joint 1st
 Time bound nutrition targets (yes/no)	Yes	2019	Joint 1st
 National nutrition survey in last 3 years (yes/no)	Yes	2018	Joint 1st
Laws			
 ICMBMS [^] Enshrined in domestic law ²	Not Enshrined in Law	2019	Joint 33rd

¹ Possible scores are:  Very Weak/Weak  Moderate  Strong/Very Strong (Note: Performance relative to other countries).

² Possible scores are:  Not Enshrined in Law  Few/Many Aspects Enshrined  Fully enshrined.

[^] International Code of Marketing of Breastmilk Substitutes