

Existing rates of: **Wasting:** 11.2% **Stunting:** 31.6% **Proportion of population underweight:** 14.4%

Source: Gov. of Sao Tome and Principe (DHS, 2008)





















Strong Performance

- Sao Tome and Principe has devised a National Nutrition Policy/Strategy.
- Policymakers in Sao Tome and Principe benefit from regular nutrition surveys that are statistically representative at national level. The last survey was published in 2014.
- 97% of the population of Sao Tome and Principe in 2012 has access to an improved drinking water source.
- In Sao Tome and Principe 97.9% of women aged 15-49 were visited at least once during pregnancy by skilled health personnel in 2009.
- In Sao Tome and Principe, constitutional protection of the right to social security is strong.

Areas for improvement

- Spending on agriculture (3.25% of public spending in 2014), does not meet government commitments set out in the African Union's Maputo Declaration (10% of public spending).
- Sao Tome and Principe's spending in its health sector (5.6% of public spending in 2012) does not fully meet (15%) commitments set out in the Abuja Declaration.
- In Sao Tome and Principe, the law gives women and men equal economic rights and equal legal access to agricultural land. However, these laws are not effectively enforced and discriminatory practices against women continue, increasing their vulnerability to hunger and undernutrition.
- Even though Sao Tome and Principe has developed a National Nutrition Policy/Strategy, clear time-bound nutrition targets and a multisectoral and multistakeholder policy coordination mechanism are still lacking.
- The Government of Sao Tome and Principe does not promote complementary feeding practices and has only achieved two high doses of vitamin A supplementation for 67% of children in 2013.
- Weak access to improved sanitation facilities (34.4% in 2012) obstructs better hunger and nutrition outcomes.
- Social safety nets in Sao Tome and Principe 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	 3.25%	2014	28th
 Public spending on health as share of total public spending ¹	 5.6%	2012	Joint 43rd
Policies			
 Access to land (security of tenure) ²	 Moderate	2013	32nd
 Access to agricultural research and extension services ²	 Moderate	2013	26th
 Civil registration system — coverage of live births	 75.1%	2008-2009	18th
 Functioning of social protection systems ²	 Weak	2014	Joint 38th
Laws			
 Level of constitutional protection of the right to food ²	 Moderate	2014	Joint 7th
 Equality of women's access to agricultural land (property rights) ³	 In Law, not in Practice	2013	Joint 1st
 Equality of women's economic rights ³	 In Law, not in Practice	2011	Joint 1st
 Constitution recognises the right to social security (yes/no)	 Yes	2006	Joint 1st

¹ Possible scores are:  <75% of agriculture (Maputo) and health (Abuja) spending pledges  >=75 % and <100%  >=100%




² Possible scores are:  Weak  Moderate  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)	 Sectoral only	2013	Joint 16th
Policies			
 Vitamin A supplementation coverage for children	 67%	2013	30th
 Government promotes complementary feeding (yes/no)	 No	2014	Joint 40th
 Population with access to an improved water source	 97%	2012	2nd
 Population with access to improved sanitation	 34.4%	2012	20th
 Health care visits for pregnant women	 97.9%	2009	5th
 Nutrition features in national development policy ¹	 Moderate	2012-2016	30th
 National Nutrition Policy/Strategy (yes/no)	 Yes	2013	Joint 1st
 Multisector and multistakeholder policy coordination (yes/no)	 No	2013	Joint 34th
 Time bound nutrition targets (yes/no)	 No	2014	Joint 32nd
 National nutrition survey in last 3 years (yes/no)	 Yes	2014	Joint 1st
Laws			
 ICMS [^] Enshrined in domestic law ²	 Voluntary Adoption	2008	Joint 32nd

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

² Possible scores are:  Not Enshrined in Law  Voluntary Adoption  Fully enshrined.

[^] International Code of Marketing of Breastmilk Substitutes