

São Tomé and Príncipe



São Tomé and Príncipe joined the Coalition in November 2021 and submitted its [commitment](#) in February 2024 through the Ministry of Education, Culture and Science around the following areas: Financing, Institutional framework, Programme design and coverage, Evidence and data generation.

Achievements

As part of its commitment to extend school feeding through compulsory basic education (9th grade) by 2030, São Tomé and Príncipe has:

- In 2023–2024, extended the programme to the 3rd Cycle of Basic Education for the first time, covering a pilot school.
- In 2024–2025, provided meals to 7th grade students in five educational establishments, benefiting 503 students representing approximately 12% of the total number of 7th graders in the country.

The Government is working to mobilize financial and logistical resources to extend the program to additional lower secondary schools, demonstrating commitment to a universal programme by 2030. It is also working with the Ministry of Finance to implement a phased taxation scheme laid out in recent legislation that will help finance the programme.

Local contracting and procurement techniques are being explored to ensure that food served through the programme increasingly comes from national production. A concrete example was the acquisition of 4000 liters of local palm oil to integrate in school meals, a commitment to the value of traditional products that support the rural economy.

Collaboration with the organization Associação para o Desenvolvimento Agropecuário e Proteção do Ambiente (ADAPPA), which works directly with smallholder farmers in the production and distribution of local products, has ensured regular supply of food to schools in the districts of Cantagalo, Lobata and Lembá, strengthening the link between local agriculture and school feeding, promoting sustainable supply chains and boosting the local economy.

São Tomé and Príncipe contributed to sharing good practices and promoting South-South cooperation on school meals, including through hosting two events in December 2024: the III International Seminar on Good Practices on School Feeding in the Community of Portuguese-Speaking Countries (CPLP).

Next steps

The government identified challenges around the financial and strategic sustainability of the programme, the shift necessary to achieve universal coverage, inadequate infrastructure, the logistics and economics around integration of local products, and shifting eating habits toward more nutritious foods.

It welcomes technical and institutional support for creation of an autonomous management structure for the program; financial and logistical support to shift toward local products and to improve school infrastructure including environmentally sustainable solutions; and training to improve human resources and modernize the programme's management.

Highlights

- Mobilizing financial and logistical resources to extend the program to lower secondary schools, demonstrating commitment to a universal school meals programme by 2030.
- Exploring local contracting and procurement techniques to ensure that food served through the programme increasingly comes from national production.
- Contributed to sharing good practices through hosting events such as the III International Seminar on Good Practices on School Feeding in the Community of Portuguese-Speaking Countries (CPLP).