



SAO TOME AND PRINCIPE

IFRC network mid-year report, January – June 2023

15 December 2023

IN SUPPORT OF THE SAO TOME AND PRINCIPE RED CROSS



5

National Society branches



32

National Society staff



320

National Society volunteers

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

in Swiss francs (CHF)

Total		Funding requirements		624,000
IFRC	Longer-term	Funding requirements		624,000

[Click here for more financial information](#)

IFRC NETWORK SUPPORTED ACTIVITIES

Multilateral Support

National Society

British Red Cross

Japanese Red Cross Society



Supported

Appeal numbers **MAAST002**

OVERALL PROGRESS

Context

Over the last decade, the country has made considerable progress in reducing maternal and infant mortality and malnutrition, and in improving maternal health. The progress in maternal and infant mortality is largely due to an increase in skilled birth attendance. Life expectancy at birth is 64 years. Significant progress has also been made in the fight against malaria – with record low incidence – and in reducing the prevalence of HIV/AIDS, which is now below 1.5 percent.

São Tomé and Príncipe have made excellent progress in the education sector, particularly primary education, and are close to achieving a primary completion rate of 97 percent. The desired universal coverage of secondary education is not yet there, although the authorities are committed to extending it across the country. With a combination of equatorial and tropical climates, and high rainfall, the archipelago has a relatively secure food and forestry context. This contrasts with an unhealthy urban environment. No cereal crops are grown on the islands, so São Tomé and Príncipe are heavily dependent on food imports and food availability is unpredictable. There are no deep-water ports and bad weather makes landing on the country's short airstrip difficult. The country is exposed to natural hazards such as floods and landslides, which affect crop development, restrict access to roads, and destroy houses and property.

Following the torrential rains and floods of late 2021 and early 2022, some people's livelihoods were destroyed, and bridges were wrecked or severely weakened. The floods also caused power outages and fuel shortages for several days. This disaster demonstrates the devastating impact that extreme weather events, which are becoming increasingly unpredictable and severe, can have on the country.

Sao Tome and Principe has had a multi-party, semi-presidential democratic system since independence, and has been a model of democratic transition of power in Central Africa. The government is led by the Independent Democratic Action (ADI) party, which won the last elections in September 2022.

IFRC NETWORK ACTION

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES



Climate and environment

The IFRC supports **the Sao Tome and Principe Red Cross** by sharing the seasonal and weekly weather forecasts and monthly climate watches produced for Central Africa by the Centre for Climate Application and Forecasting in Central Africa.

The National Society was supported to participate in the forum of Disaster Management Officers for Central African countries. It was also supported to participate in a conference on disaster risk reduction in Malabo in March 2023.

Further, National Society volunteers (Youth) were engaged for tree plantation and care (Climate action), with an aim to plant/take care of at least 100,000 trees in 2023.



Disasters and crises

The IFRC supported the Sao Tome and Principe Red Cross to participate in the forum of disaster management officers for Central African countries as well as the forum and monthly meetings of the community of practitioners of cash transfer assistance.

Technical support was also provided to the National Society for the preparation of reports (narrative and financial) for the floods operation that was being implemented in Sao Tomé and Príncipe through the IFRC's Disaster Response Emergency Fund (DREF).



Health and wellbeing

IFRC supported the National Society in preparing to respond quickly to epidemics and pandemics with community-based health and first aid care. This was carried out through the provision of continuous training on epidemic preparedness and response in communities, with funding support from the Japanese Red Cross Society.



Migration and displacement

No activities reported during this reporting period.



Power, values and inclusion

No activities reported during this reporting period.

ENABLING LOCAL ACTORS



Strategic and operational coordination

The São Tomé and Príncipe Red Cross continued its commitment to institutional strengthening and investing in its development. The National Society also continues to reinforce its decentralized and peripheral structures and expand its presence across districts of the country.

The IFRC continues to support the São Tomé and Príncipe Red Cross in strategic and operational coordination. The National Society has updated its unified country plan for the period covering 2024–2025, aligned with the IFRC Pan-Africa key initiatives and with active engagement of participating National Societies and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). IFRC continues to ensure membership coordination (quarterly calls) with the National Society on these. It supported the National Society to organize one COSNAC (Coordination des sociétés nationales de l'Afrique centrale) meeting and one sub-regional National Society leadership level meeting in 2023.

IFRC has also provided support to the São Tomé and Príncipe Red Cross (consortium lead National Society) for successful implementation of the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention - Saving Lives and Livelihoods programme. Participating National Societies and Sao Tome and Principe Red Cross have been engaged to scale-up one IFRC Pan-African initiative (Zero hunger) which also includes components of the other IFRC Pan-African initiatives. At least two National Societies have scaled up Zero Hunger and eight new proposals were developed in 2023.

IFRC provided operational coordination and support to the São Tomé and Príncipe Red Cross for readiness to respond/ Red Ready including flood season readiness, response teams, peer-to-peer support.



National Society development

The IFRC has been supporting the National Society through:

Governance:

- Provided technical support to the National Society to meet its statutory requirements and conditions.
- Provided technical support to the National Society regarding planning and participation in the upcoming Red Cross Red Crescent Pan-African Conference.
- Supported the National Society for their smooth annual general meetings and updating their critical policies.

Leadership and management:

- Organized one sub-regional event for National Society leadership peer-to-peer learning and sharing.
- Strengthened the COSNAC for peer-to-peer support at governance, management, and technical levels.

Through the support of the Japanese Red Cross, the IFRC supported the National Society in preparedness for response to epidemics and pandemics with community-based health and first aid care, by providing continuous training on epidemic preparedness and response in communities.



Humanitarian diplomacy

IFRC, in its humanitarian diplomatic plan to meet with key partners and ambassadors, visited the following institutions between January and June 2023: Minister of Health, Labour and Social Affairs, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Minister of Women's Right, Ambassadors of India, Nigeria, Portugal and Brazil, and the UN Resident Coordinator.



Accountability and agility (cross-cutting)

The IFRC has been working closely with the National Society and internally to implement planned activities in relation to accountability:

Trust:

- Increased trust, as a member National Society, in its International Federation through transparent and regular communication, informal updates, strategic coordination, calls, and periodical updates and reports.
- Risk management in IFRC's Yaoundé country cluster delegation as well as the National Society.
- Zero-tolerance for fraud and corruption.
- Increased number of volunteers and staff of National Society trained on key policies for accountability.
- 100 percent compliance with mandatory training/courses at the IFRC country cluster delegation level.

Agility and accountability:

- Diversified budget holders in the country cluster delegation.
- Reporting compliance - reduce overdue reports.
- Simplify procedures in the country cluster delegation and increase agility in administration, logistics, finance, human resources and deployments/travel.

Safeguarding:

- Maximum effort on the prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse – training in the National Society on protection from sexual exploitation and abuse.
- Increased understanding of safeguarding policies in IFRC country cluster delegation and the National Society.
- Organize in-depth onboarding process and follow-ups for new staff.
- Support the annual “Climate, values and trust” internal survey.
- Continue to enhance one effective team spirit (organize formal and informal events for enhancing positive team dynamics).

The IFRC continues to support the National Society by building the capacity of their staff in risk management. The IFRC also provides technical support to the National Society in the development of a risk register. The IFRC also supports in ensuring that each programme/project and operation develops a risk register and uses it for the effective management of the programme/project and operation.



The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) is the world's largest humanitarian network, with 191 National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and around 15 million volunteers. Our volunteers are present in communities before, during and after a crisis or disaster. We work in the most hard to reach and complex settings in the world, saving lives and promoting human dignity. We support communities to become stronger and more resilient places where people can live safe and healthy lives, and have opportunities to thrive.

DATA SCOPE AND LIMITATIONS

- **Timeframe and alignment:** The reporting timeframe for this overview is covering the period from 1 January to 30 June 2023. However, due to the diversity of the IFRC and differences in fiscal years, this coverage may not fully align for some National Societies. Mid-year reporting data may have been based on estimations, with plans to submit more robust numbers at the annual reporting stage.
- **Missing data and breakdowns:** National Societies have diverse data collection systems and processes that may not align with the standardized indicators. Data may not be available for some indicators, for some National Societies. This may lead to inconsistencies across different reporting tools as well as potential under or over-estimation of the efforts led by all.
- **Reporting bias:** The data informing this Federation-wide overview is self-reported by each National Society (or its designated support entity) and which is the owner and gatekeeper, and responsible for accuracy and updating. IFRC tries to triangulate the data provided by the National Societies with previous data and other data in the public domain.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- [IFRC Global Plan and Country Plans](#)
- [Subscribe for updates](#)
- [Donor response](#) on IFRC website
- [Live Disaster Response Emergency Fund \(DREF\) data](#)
- Operational information: [IFRC GO platform](#)
- National Society data: [IFRC Federation-wide Databank and Reporting System](#)

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