

SÃO TOMÉ AND PRINCIPE

O TOME E PRINCIPAL

2025 IFRC network mid-year report, January – June

17 October 2025

IN SUPPORT OF SÃO TOMÉ AND PRINCIPE RED CROSS



5 National Society branches



5 National Society local units





32National Society staff

PEOPLE REACHED

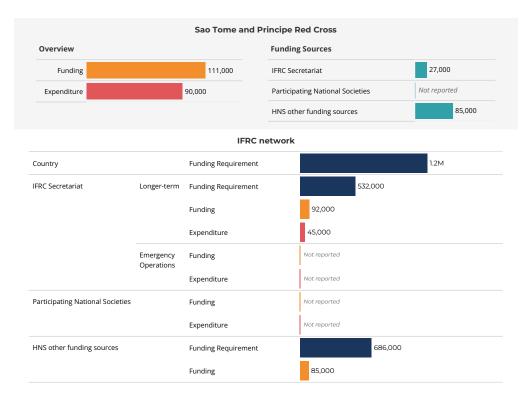
Health and wellbeing



10

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

in Swiss francs (CHF)

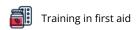


Appeal number MAAST002

*Information on data scope and limitations is available on the back page

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES





10

ENABLING FUNCTIONS



National Society development

✓ National Society has created and implemented youth engagement strategies

✓There is a National Society Development plan in place

Q1. OVERALL PERFORMANCE

Context

The Democratic Republic of Sao Tome and Principe is an island nation with a population of 224,472, located in the Gulf of Guinea, off the western equatorial coast of Central Africa. It comprises two main island, Sao Tome and Principe, along with several islets. These islands are situated between 225 and 250 kilometres from Gabon. The country gained independence in 1975 and was subsequently divided into sevens districts: six on Sao Tome (Agua Grande, Cantagalo, Caue, Lemba, Lobata, and Me-Zochi) and one on Principe (Pague).

According to World Food Programme (WFP) report, the GDP per capita in 2019 was approximately USD 2,001. Recent World Bank estimates indicate that about one-third of the population lives on less than 1.90 dollars a day and more than two-thirds are considered poor, using a poverty threshold of 3.20 dollars per day.

Over the past decade, Sao Tome and Principe have made progress in reducing maternal and infant mortality, malnutrition and improving maternal health. These improvements are largely attributed to increased skilled birth attendance. The life expectancy at birth is 64 years. The country has also made progress in combating malaria, achieving record low incidence rates and reduced the prevalence of HIV-AIDS to below 1.5 per cent.

In the education sector, the country has achieved progress, with primary education nearing a 97 per cent completion rate. However, universal coverage of secondary education has not yet been achieved, although the authorities are committed to expanding it nationwide. The archipelago enjoys a combination of equatorial and tropical climates with high rainfall, providing a relatively secure food and forestry context.

The archipelago enjoys a combination of equatorial and tropical climates with high rainfall, providing a relatively secure food and forestry context. However, the urban environment remains unhealthy. The country does not grow cereal crops and is heavily dependent on food imports, making food availability unpredictable. The lack of deep-water ports and the difficulty of landing on the short airstrip during bad weather further complicate the situation. São Tomé and Príncipe are also vulnerable to natural hazards such as floods and landslides, which can affect crop development, restrict road access, and damage homes and property.

The torrential rains and floods of late 2021 and early 2022 caused significant damage, destroying livelihoods, weakening or wrecking bridges, and leading to power outages and fuel shortages for several days. This disaster highlights the severe impact of increasingly unpredictable and extreme weather events on the country.

Key achievements

Climate and environment

In the first half of 2025, the Sao Tome and Principe Red Cross made progress in environmental sustainability and disaster preparedness. It installed a 20 KWP off-grid solar photovoltaic system at the Bobo Foro health centre, ensuring energy autonomy and uninterrupted health services. The National Society also led widespread tree-planting and environmental awareness campaigns under the Pan-Africa Tree Planting initiative, actively participated in the International Day of Forests, and contributed to the global Early Warnings for All initiative by strengthening national preparedness and response capacities. These efforts align with the SDGs and reinforce community resilience and climate action.

Disasters and crises

In this reporting period, the Sao Tome and Principe Red Cross strengthened its role in community resilience and emergency preparedness. Despite not having a formal emergency response team, it actively engaged its trained volunteer network in national efforts, including participation in a health emergency simulation led by the Ministry of Health and WHO. The National Society also collaborated with local authorities to map risks and develop flood prevention strategies, focusing on early warning systems, evacuation planning, and infrastructure reinforcement—key steps toward safeguarding vulnerable coastal and riverside communities.

Health and wellbeing

Between January and June 2025, the Sao Tome and Principe Red Cross reinforced its role as a health sector auxiliary, delivering direct support to vulnerable populations and advancing community health initiatives. Through its Elderly Care Centre, it ensured continued medical and nutritional assistance despite financial constraints. The National Society joined the National Health Emergency Team, contributing to SOP development and WHO-supported emergency simulations. Volunteers led malaria prevention cleanups, supported childhood vaccination campaigns with the Ministry of Health and GAVI, and expanded first aid training—certifying ten new trainers and updating modules to include disaster response and psychological support—benefiting community members.

Enabling local actors

In this reporting period, the Sao Tome and Principe Red Cross advanced its financial sustainability by continuing its collaboration with the Cape Verde Red Cross to modernize the National Totoloto—its primary income source—aiming to enhance efficiency and professionalism. It also played a key role in humanitarian diplomacy, facilitating the signing of the Legal Status Agreement between the Government and the IFRC, which formalized the IFRC's presence in the country. The National Society further strengthened its auxiliary role by supporting national vaccination campaigns and initiating dialogue with the ICRC to organize International Humanitarian Law (IHL) training sessions.

In its efforts to boost visibility and community engagement, the National Society aired radio broadcasts covering health, environment, and social issues and increased its digital outreach to attract volunteers and raise awareness. It upheld strong accountability standards, conducting training on fraud prevention, safeguarding and the prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA). New staff underwent comprehensive onboarding, and internal surveys and team-building activities were organized to foster a positive and transparent organizational culture.

Q2. CHANGES AND AMENDMENTS

In this reporting period, no changes or amendments were made by the National Society



The Sao Tome and Principe Red Cross regularly carries out awareness campaigns across communities. (Photo: IFRC)

Q3. MEASURING RESULTS OF THE IFRC **NETWORK ACTION**

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES



Climate and environment

Progress by the National Society against objectives

As part of its commitment to resilient and environmentally sustainable solutions, the Sao Tome and Principe Red Cross took an important step toward energy self-sufficiency with the installation of an off-grid solar photovoltaic system at its health centre in Bobo Foro, Me-Zochi district. This project involved the installation of 20 solar panels with a total capacity of 20 KWP and high durability lithium batteries, providing up to two days of energy autonomy even under low solar radiation conditions.

This initiative contributes to reducing the carbon footprint by replacing fossil energy sources with clean energy, strengthening community resilience by ensuring continuity of health services even during power outages, and promoting sustainable practices in line with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Alongside, the National Society actively participated in the International Day of Forests celebrations, promoting environmental education and raising awareness about the importance of forest preservation—a crucial measure for mitigating climate risks in the country.

The Sao Tome and Principe Red Cross participated in the global Early Warnings for All initiative, contributing under Pillar 4—preparedness and response capacities, to the national implementation of a multi-hazard early warning system.

Under the Pan-Africa Tree Planting initiative, as part of the forest conservation month celebrations, the volunteers of the National Society carried out a wide-reaching environmental awareness and tree-planting campaign across all communities in the districts of Sao Tome and Principe. This activity aimed to promote environmental awareness, encourage sustainable practices and reinforce the role of communities in protecting natural resources. During this initiative, various native species were planted, selected in coordination with forestry authorities, with a focus on preserving local biodiversity and restoring degraded areas.

IFRC network joint support

The IFRC supported the Sao Tome and Principe Red Cross in carrying out its tree-planting and environmental awareness campaign. IFRC support included technical advice on designing community-based awareness campaigns, promoting collaboration with government entities and ensuring alignment with broader environmental goals such as climate risk mitigation and resilience building. The support for the National Society also showcases IFRC's emphasis on nature-based solutions including reforestation and sustainable land management as practical actions towards building climate resilient communities.



For real-time information on emergencies, visit IFRC GO page Sao Tome and Principe

Progress by the National Society against objectives

During the first half of 2025, the Sao Tome and Principe Red Cross worked on reinforcing its commitment to strengthening community resilience in the face of multiple risks, both natural and health related. Although it does not yet have a formally structured emergency response team, the National Society maintains a network of trained and mobilizable volunteers, ready to act in critical situations. This group is part of the newly established National Health Emergency Team created by the Government, and in the first quarter of the year, three technicians participated in an emergency simulation exercise conducted by the Ministry of Health in partnership with the World Health Organization (WHO).

This experience enhanced the National Society's technical capacities and its readiness to respond to crises, directly contributing to the protection of communities.

The National Society has been working with local committees and district authorities to map risks and identify measures for flood prevention, one of the main hazards faced by the population, especially in coastal and riverside areas. Concrete preparedness actions are being explored at both institutional and community level, with the aim of implementing early warning mechanisms, evacuation routes and the strengthening of local infrastructure.

IFRC network joint support

The IFRC supported the Sao Tome and Principe Red Cross in strengthening its community resilience and disaster preparedness capacities in 2025. IFRC support contributed towards local risk reduction initiatives. The National society worked closely with local committees and authorities to map risks and plan flood prevention strategies in vulnerable coastal and riverside areas. These efforts drew IFRC technical assistance and tools such as the Enhanced Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment (eVCA) and the roadmap to community resilience. IFRC mechanisms such as the disaster response emergency fund (DREF) and the IFRC Emergency Appeal are utilized by the National Society in times of disasters and crises to effectively support those who face immediate needs during times of emergency.



Health and wellbeing

Progress by the National Society against objectives

During the first half of 2025, the Sao Tome and Principe Red Cross strengthened its role as an auxiliary to public authorities in the health sector, achieving progress in providing direct care to vulnerable populations, participating in national coordination mechanisms and promoting community health.

Through its Elderly Care Centre, the National Society continued to provide regular assistance to vulnerable elderly individuals, ensuring medical care, access to medication, nutritional support, and basic hygiene and sanitation conditions. Despite financial limitations that impacted the full operation of the Day Centre, the National Society maintained its firm commitment to the well-being of those most in need.

At the institutional level, the Sao Tome and Principe Red Cross formally joined the newly created National Health Emergency Team, coordinated by the Ministry of Health, actively contributing to the development of standard operating procedures (SOPs) and participating in practical emergency simulation trainings supported by the WHO.

At the community level, volunteers conducted two district-wide cleanup campaigns to prevent malaria, contributing to environmental health and risk reduction. The National Society also maintained collaboration with the Ministry of Health and GAVI, supporting social mobilization campaigns to increase the adherence of parents and caregivers to the national childhood vaccination plan, with a focus on children under five years of age.

In the area of first aid, the Sao Tome and Principe Red Cross conducted training and awareness sessions aimed at equipping communities with the skills needed for immediate response in emergency situations. Ten new trainers were certified, and community sessions were held in three districts, directly benefiting approximately 120 people. The training modules were also reviewed and updated to include components on disaster response and initial psychological support.

IFRC network joint support

The IFRC supported the Sao Tome and Principe Red Cross in strengthening its auxiliary role in health. IFRC supported the National Society in participating in the Ministry of Health-led National Health Emergency Team, where it contributed to developing standard operating procedures and took part in emergency simulations supported by WHO.

Furthermore, IFRC support enabled the National Society to continue delivering community-level services such as elderly care, first aid training, and health promotion. The National Society's Elderly Care Centre provided essential medical and hygiene services to vulnerable older persons—an activity encouraged under IFRC's life course and healthy ageing approach. The National Society also contributed to malaria prevention and childhood vaccination campaigns in coordination with the Ministry of Health and GAVI. These activities align with IFRC priorities to deliver evidencebased health care to vulnerable groups, scale up first aid training, support immunization uptake, and build community capacity for disease prevention and risk reduction.

ENABLING LOCAL ACTORS



Strategic and operational coordination

IFRC membership coordination

IFRC membership coordination involves working with National Societies to assess the humanitarian context, agree on common priorities and jointly develop common strategies. This includes addressing issues such as obtaining greater humanitarian acceptance and access, mobilizing funding and other resources, clarifying consistent public messaging, and monitoring progress. It also entails ensuring that strategies and programmes in support of people in need incorporate clarity of humanitarian action while linking with development assistance and contribute to reinforcing National Societies in their respective countries, including through their auxiliary role.

The Sao Tome and Principe Red Cross is part of four IFRC Pan-African initiatives focusing on Tree Planting and Care, Zero Hunger, Red Ready and National Society Development. These initiatives are reflected in the relevant sections of this plan. Participating National Societies provide support through the IFRC.

Movement coordination

The Sao Tome and Principe Red Cross ensures regular exchanges with the IFRC, the International Committee of the Red Cross and participating National Societies, for the alignment of support and action between Movement partners. In times of emergencies, closer coordination is organized. This is carried out in line with the Strengthening Movement Coordination and Cooperation (SMCC) principles, and the newly adopted Seville Agreement 2.0.

The ICRC provides support to the São Tomé and the Príncipe Red Cross from its Yaounde delegation. The ICRC's Yaoundé delegation promotes international humanitarian law, helps people displaced by violence, Restoring Family Links, visits detainees, and fosters the development of the region's National Societies.

External coordination

In line with its auxiliary role, the São Tomé and Príncipe Red Cross collaborates closely with the authorities in the country. The National Society is a member of the National Council for Disaster Prevention and Response, with which it works in the field of disaster risk management. It also collaborates with the Ministry of Health, (on malaria, HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis) the World Health Organization, the United Nations Children's Fund, the World Food Programme and other stakeholders. Activities will include providing information and sensitizing parents and guardians of children under five years of age to risks, among others.

As a small island nation, São Tomé and Príncipe has very few opportunities to work with international or national companies and organizations, although it does currently have a partnership with Companhia Santomense de Telecomunicações.



National Society development

Progress by the National Society against objectives

In terms of financial sustainability, the National Society's cooperation continued with the Cape Verde Red Cross to modernize the National Totoloto, the primary source of income for Sao Tome and Principe Red Cross, with the goal of making it more efficient and professionalized. As the National Lottery is the National Society's main source of income, it engaged in peer exchange and worked on modernization efforts to enhance operational efficiency.

IFRC network joint support

The IFRC provided support to the Sao Tome and Principe Red Cross under financial sustainability efforts. Its support included facilitating peer exchange, offering strategic advice, and supporting modernization efforts to enhance operational efficiency. This aligns with the IFRC's Financial Sustainability Framework and National Society development guidance, which emphasize strengthening income- generating mechanisms and diversifying funding streams for longterm viability. IFRC funding mechanisms such as the IFRC-ICRC National Society Investment Alliance (NSIA) and the IFRC Capacity Building Fund (CBF) are utilized for National Society development initiatives.



Progress by the National Society against objectives

The Sao Tome and Principe Red Cross has strengthened its auxiliary role with public authorities, consolidating its position as a strategic partner in nationally relevant actions. The National Society has been actively engaged in community mobilization for the prevention of vaccine-preventable diseases, working closely with the Ministry of Health and international partners, as part of efforts to increase vaccination coverage and reinforce public health.

The Sao Tome and Principe Red Cross achieved a significant milestone in humanitarian diplomacy with the signing of the Legal Status Agreement between the Government of Sao Tome and Principe and the IFRC in May 2025. This agreement establishes the legal basis for the formal presence of the IFRC in the country, recognizing its international legal personality and facilitating its humanitarian operations in São Tomé and Príncipe. The National Society took a proactive role in mediating between the Government and the IFRC, contributing directly to the successful negotiation and formalization of the Legal Status Agreement.

Under International Humanitarian Law (IHL), the National Society made initial contacts with the ICRC to organize training sessions in São Tomé, reinforcing its capacity to promote and disseminate IHL.

The National Society held two weekly radio programmes, totalling approximately 48 broadcasts in the semester, covering topics such as health, first aid, environment and social support. The Sao Tome and Principe Red Cross increased its activity on its digital platforms with regular posts about community activities, awareness campaigns and institutional actions, helping attract new volunteers and increase public acceptance.

IFRC network joint support

The IFRC supported the Sao Tome and Principe Red Cross in advancing its institutional engagement and financial sustainability by enabling its strategic positioning as an auxiliary to public authorities and as a credible humanitarian actor. IFRC guidance encouraged National Societies to enhance their influence and visibility by strengthening partnerships with government entities and international stakeholders. Through this lens, IFRC provided facilitation, technical backing, and convening support for the National Society's institutional meetings with key ministries such as Health, Labour, and Economy and with international agencies such as WHO, UNDP, and the Embassy of India.



Accountability and agility (cross-cutting)

Progress by the National Society against objectives

The Sao Tome and Principe Red Cross maintains zero-tolerance for fraud and corruption and has been training its volunteers and staff on key policies for accountability. Within this reporting period, initiatives undertaken by the National Society under accountability and agility included maximum effort on the prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA) by conducting training, increasing understand of safeguarding policies, organizing in-depth onboarding process and follow-ups for new staff, supporting the climate, values and trust internal surveys on an annual basis, and continuing to work towards enhancing team dynamics by organizing formal and informal events for staff.

IFRC network joint support

The IFRC provides both technical and financial assistance to the National Society in its efforts under accountability and agility.

Q4. AFFECTED PERSONS (PEOPLE REACHED)

See cover pages

Q5. PARTICIPATION AND ACCOUNTABILITY FOR AFFECTED PEOPLE - COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND ACCOUNTABILITY

See Strategic Priority on 'Values, power and inclusion' under Q3: MEASURING RESULTS OF THE IFRC NETWORK ACTION

Q6. RISK MANAGEMENT

This information is not available in Mid-Year Reports

Q7. EXIT STRATEGY AND SUSTAINABILITY

See Strategic Priorities or Enabling Local Actors, where relevant under Q3: MEASURING RESULTS OF THE IFRC **NETWORK ACTION**

Q8. LESSONS LEARNED

- Formalizing agreements strengthens institutional continuity. The signing of the Legal Status Agreement with the Government demonstrated that formal commitments ensure stability and recognition, even amidst changes in governmental structures
- Use traditional communication channels as they are effective in reaching remote areas. The radio programmes that were broadcast twice a week proved to be an efficient tool to bring the National Society close to rural communities and enhance institutional visibility
- Community campaigns foster participation and collective awareness. The clean-up campaigns for malaria prevention and tree planting activities reinforced National Society's connection with communities, strengthening volunteerism and environmental education
- Financial constraints call for strengthened humanitarian diplomacy and innovative financing. The suspension of social services due to lack of funds highlighted the need to reactivate institutional partnerships, such as with the Ministries of Health and Solidarity and to explore new revenue stream such as the modernization of the Totoloto

ANNEX 1. IFRC APPLICATION OF THE 8+3 REPORTING TEMPLATE

The IFRC network structures its result-based management along five Strategic priorities and four Enabling functions, developed based on the IFRC network's <u>Strategy 2030</u>:

IFRC network Strategic Priorities	IFRC network Enabling Functions
SP 1 - Climate and environment	EF 1- Strategic and operational coordination
SP 2 - Disasters and crises	EF 2 - National Society development
SP 3 - Health and wellbeing	EF 3 - Humanitarian diplomacy
SP 4 - Migration and displacement	EF 4 - Accountability and agility
SP 5 - Values, power and inclusion	

The Federation-wide results matrix provides a standard way for the IFRC network to measure its progress towards Strategy 2030 implementation and supports consistent quality of the IFRC network planning, monitoring and reporting. To further advance coherence in monitoring across the IFRC network, a Federation-wide Indicator Bank has been developed and integrated into the Federation-wide monitoring systems for emergencies and longer-term work, structured along the Federation-wide results matrix as well. Signatory of the Grand Bargain Agreement, the IFRC has committed to its monitoring and reporting standards through integration of the 8+3 reporting template contents into its results-based management approach. The following mapping demonstrate the way in which this report aligns with 8+3 reporting:

8+3 template	IFRC network Mid-Year Report (with variance in structure in red)
Core Questions	
1. Overall Performance	Overall Performance
2. Changes and Amendments	Changes and amendments
3. Measuring Results	Measuring Results
4. Affected Persons	Cover pages with indicators values
5. Participation & AAP	Under Q3 Strategic Priority 5: Values, power and inclusion – Community Engagement and Accountability
6. Risk management	Risk management
7. Exit Strategy and Sustainability	Under Q3 sub-sections by Strategic Priority/Enabling Function where relevant
8. Lessons Learned	Lessons learned
Additional Questions	
1. Value for Money/ Cost Effectiveness	Not included in mid-year reports
2. Visibility	Not included in mid-year reports
3. Coordination	Under Q3 Enabling Function 1: Strategic and operational coordination
4. Implementing Partners	Cross-cutting, with a focus on support to localization through the Q3 Enabling Functions 1 to 4
5. Activities or Steps Towards implementation	Cross-cutting in Q3 Strategic Priorities and Enabling Functions
6. Environment	Under Q3 Strategic Priority 1: Climate and environment



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 2025. However, due to the diversity of the IFRC and differences in fiscal years, this coverage may not fully align for some National Societies.
- Financial overview: This overview consolidates data reported by the National Society and its IFRC network partners, as well as data extracted from IFRC's financial systems. All reported figures should include the administrative and operational costs of the different entities. The financial data with a grey background is solely reported by the National Society, including the funding sources. Financial reporting is often times estimated depending on availability of financial figures, closing of financial periods and may be incomplete. 'Not reported' could sometimes mean 'not applicable'. Also note that funding requirements are already reflected in the published 2025 IFRC network country plan. The total funding requirements show what the IFRC network has sought to raise for the given year through different channels: funding through the IFRC, through participating National Societies as bilateral support and through the host National Society from non-IFRC network sources. All figures should include the administrative and operational costs of the different entities.
 - » Host National Society funding requirements not coming from IFRC network sources can comprise a variety of sources, as demonstrated when reporting on income in the IFRC Federation-wide Databank and Reporting System
 - » Participating National Society funding requirements for bilateral support are those validated by respective headquarters, and often represent mainly secured funding
 - » IFRC funding requirements comprise both what is sourced from the IFRC core budget and what is sought through emergency and thematic funding. This includes participating National Societies' multilateral support through IFRC, and all other IFRC sources of funding
- 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) 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.

Definitions:

- » Local units: ALL subdivisions of a National Society that coordinate and deliver services to people. These include ALL levels (provincial, state, city, district branches, sections or chapters, headquarters, and regional and intermediate offices, as well as community-based units)
- » Branches: A Branch has its roles, responsibilities and relationship with the National Headquarters defined through the National Society's Statutes, including the level of autonomy given, especially in the area of its legal status, mobilising local resources and building local partnerships, and the decisions it makes. It has a local-level decision-making mechanism through its Branch members, board and volunteers, equally defined through the National Society's Statutes

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- ST_Sao Tome and Principe MYR Financials.pdf
- IFRC network country plans
- Subscribe for updates
- Live Disaster Response Emergency Fund (DREF) data
- Operational information: IFRC GO platform
- National Society data: <u>IFRC Federation-wide Databank and Reporting System</u>
- Evaluations database

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