



Nações Unidas
SÃO TOMÉ E PRÍNCIPE



UN NEWSLETTER

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THE UNITED NATIONS SECRETARY-GENERAL ANTÓNIO GUTERRES APPOINTED ERIC OVERVEST, AS THE UNITED NATIONS RESIDENT COORDINATOR IN SAO TOME AND PRINCIPE

Having assumed office on March 18 this year, Mr. Overvest has over 25 years of experience in international development, humanitarian affairs, peacebuilding, strategic coordination, and resource mobilization, acquired while holding leadership positions at the United Nations and externally across multiple regions. Within the Organization, he recently served as the Interim Resident Coordinator in Djibouti, after holding the position of Resident Coordinator in Algeria. During these missions, led the work of United Nations country teams in support of national responses to the COVID-19 crisis, as well as to accelerate the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. Prior to that, he was Senior Recovery Advisor in Iraq with UNDP, where he set up and managed the funding mechanism for the stabilization while mobilizing resources for immediate recovery.

Mr. Overvest holds a master's degree in economics, as well as a master's degree in French Linguistics from the Free University of Amsterdam, in the Netherlands.

He is fluent in English, French, Spanish, German, and Italian and has a working knowledge of Portuguese.



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**SUSTAINABLE
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PRESIDENTS OF SAO TOME E PRINCIPE AND LIBERIA ARE THE GUESTS AT THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH-LEVEL MEETING FOR BEING AN EXAMPLE OF PEACE

The United Nations Political Department and UNDP brought together the heads of state and foreign ministers of several countries to take stock of the United Nations' intervention in conflict prevention. Only two African presidents were invited to take the floor. Sao Tome and Principe and Liberia. The two countries were invited because they are considered successful cases in what concerns conflict prevention, in their relationship with the United Nations, and for the profile of the heads of state who symbolize a new generation of politicians of the African continent.

The President of the Republic spoke in English, but recalled that he did so because the Portuguese language is not yet official at the United Nations, he addressed his first greeting to the also Portuguese-speaking UN Secretary-General, António Guterres.

Carlos Vila Nova expressed that it is an honor for him and for the people of Sao Tome and Principe to participate in the event and that it is also a recognition of the commitment to peace in his country, internally, in the region, and in the world. He also emphasized that the more than 75 years of the United Nations should be celebrated. However, he reminded that it should be celebrated, but everyone should also reflect and act in the way that the founding principles of the United Nations could be fulfilled.

AFRICAN VACCINATION WEEK 2022

In the last week of April, African Vaccination Week was celebrated. The expanded vaccination program with UNICEF support took advantage of this occasion to travel to all communities in Sao Tome and Principe in order to vaccinate children and recover those who have missing or incomplete vaccination, to reinforce activities at the national level. Campaigns to reinforce routine vaccination were carried out at fixed posts and mobile brigades.

At the level of communication for behavior change, messages were intensified in the media, particularly on radio and television about the importance of vaccination and compliance with the vaccination schedule for the prevention of vaccine-preventable diseases and reducing morbidity and mortality.

The theme of this year's VHL 2022 was 'Long Life for All'.

It is important to emphasize that vaccination saves millions of lives each year, particularly children. This practice is widely recognized as one of the most effective ways to prevent disease and mortality, particularly infant mortality, and the least expensive in the world. However, there are still about 20 million children in the world today who are not vaccinated. With the pandemic of COVID19 that has been ravaging the world this number is increasing considerably.

PNASE AND WFP LAUNCH A CAMPAIGN FOR MORE LOCAL PRODUCTS IN SCHOOL FEEDING IN STP

The National School Food and Health Programme (PNASE), with support from the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP), launched in April, in the districts of Me-Zochi and Cantagalo, a campaign to increase the consumption of local products in the school meals that PNASE provides to about 50,000 pre-school and primary school children throughout the country.



Held during the months of April, May, and June in the districts of Mé- Zochi, Cantagalo, Caué, Lobata, Lembá, Água Grande, and in the Autonomous Region of Príncipe, the campaign also aimed to promote nutritional improvement in the diet of Santomean households through a more varied and balanced diet based on Santomean land and sea products and less dependent on imported foods.

FAO GENERAL DIRECTOR RECEIVES SAO TOME & PRINCIPE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

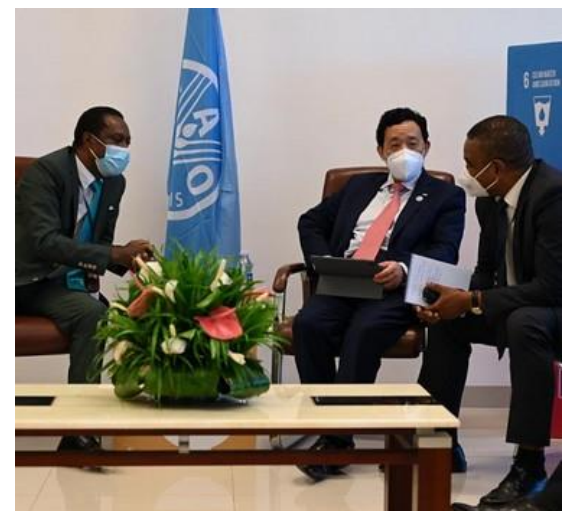
In the context of the thirty-second FAO Regional Conference for Africa held in Malabo from 11 to 14 April, the Santomean delegation led by the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Rural Development of Sao Tome and Principe, Francisco Ramos, was received by the Director-General of FAO, Mr. QU Dongyu.

Francisco Ramos took advantage of the meeting to thank for all the support that FAO has given to the country and referred to some actions that exemplify the cooperation between the parties.

In his turn, the FAO Director-General, encouraged the Minister so that through the "Hand in Hand" initiative, the country can create a brand of organic products that can be sold worldwide, and stressed that a bet must be made on the production and export of matabala, which in the short term may give good results.

POLITICS IN FEMALE

It was carried out for three days in the auditorium of the Lusíada University of Sao Tome and Principe, a training on "Female Politics" for women from different political parties. The objective of the training was to strengthen the women members so that they can present themselves internally as candidates in their parties and in this way be able to materialize the quota of 30% (foreseen in the law of the political parties) in the next elections on September 25th.



OPENING WORKSHOP FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NATIONAL TRAINING PLAN FOR THE ENERGY SECTOR FOR PLANNING AND MANAGING THE ENERGY TRANSITION

On January 25th, in the auditorium of the Public University of Sao Tome and Principe, the workshop implementation of the National Training Plan of the Energy Sector for planning and management of energy transition was held, which was attended by technicians from various national institutions.

This action is part of the activities of the Project "Promoting hydroelectric energy in a sustainable and climate-resilient through an approach that integrates land and forest management in Sao Tome and Principe" called "Projecto Energia", financed by GEF through UNDP, and implemented by the Directorate General of Natural Resources and Energy.

In this context, the "Energy Project", is carrying out the implementation of the National Energy Sector Training Plan for planning and management of energy transition through the Polytechnic Institute of Bragança.



INTEGRATED VACCINATION FAIRS AGAINST THE COVID-19

The Directorate of Health Care / Expanded Program on Vaccination, with technical and financial support from UNICEF organized the integrated fairs in favor of vaccination against covid-19 that took place in all districts of the country, including the Autonomous Region of Principe from May 14 to June 25. The aim of this initiative was to increase the percentage of the population completely vaccinated against COVID-19 and reach the national goal.

During the fairs, in addition to the vaccination against

covid-19, services such as growth control, the vaccine against covid-19, distribution of antiparasitic, mosquito nets for pregnant women and children under five years, Family Planning, Malaria testing, HIV testing, Birth Registration, and others were available.

One of the main objectives of these fairs is to increase the percentage of the population fully vaccinated from the current 41% to at least 60% by the end of June 2022.

WHO PROVIDES TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO THE GOVERNMENT IN RESPONSE TO THE DENGUE AND OTHER VECTOR-BORNE DISEASES EPIDEMIC IN SAO TOME AND PRINCIPE

The Ministry of Health with support from the World Health Organization concluded this week the entomological study of dengue transmission in the country.

Sao Tome and Principe has been facing a dengue epidemic since mid-April, and health services have already diagnosed 830 cases of the disease and 1 death.

The WHO together with national technicians were able to establish the distribution of breeders of *Aedes* mosquitoes and species potentially involved in the dengue epidemic as well as estimate entomological risk rates. This WHO mission to the country also aimed to define the best strategy to contain the outbreak of dengue in the country and strengthen the capacity of local entomologists on the risk factors and vectors of this disease.

The study confirmed the existence of two species of mosquitoes that transmit dengue in the country: *aedes aegypti* and *aedes albopictus*. Entomological risk rates were found to be higher than the levels according to the international classification, which confirms a high risk of dengue transmission in the country.

The WHO recommended taking preventive measures, such as keeping water storage containers closed at all times, washing animal troughs weekly, constantly changing the water in flower vases, and keeping containers or objects that can accumulate water away from rain, which implies the engagement of the community, municipalities, and all sectors responsible for hygiene, water, and sanitation.

The Minister of Health, Dr. Filomena Monteiro d'Alva, said that the results of this mission will allow the government to take a set of necessary actions and mobilize all stakeholders and sectors to better combat dengue and other vector-borne diseases such as malaria illnesses vectorial as malaria.

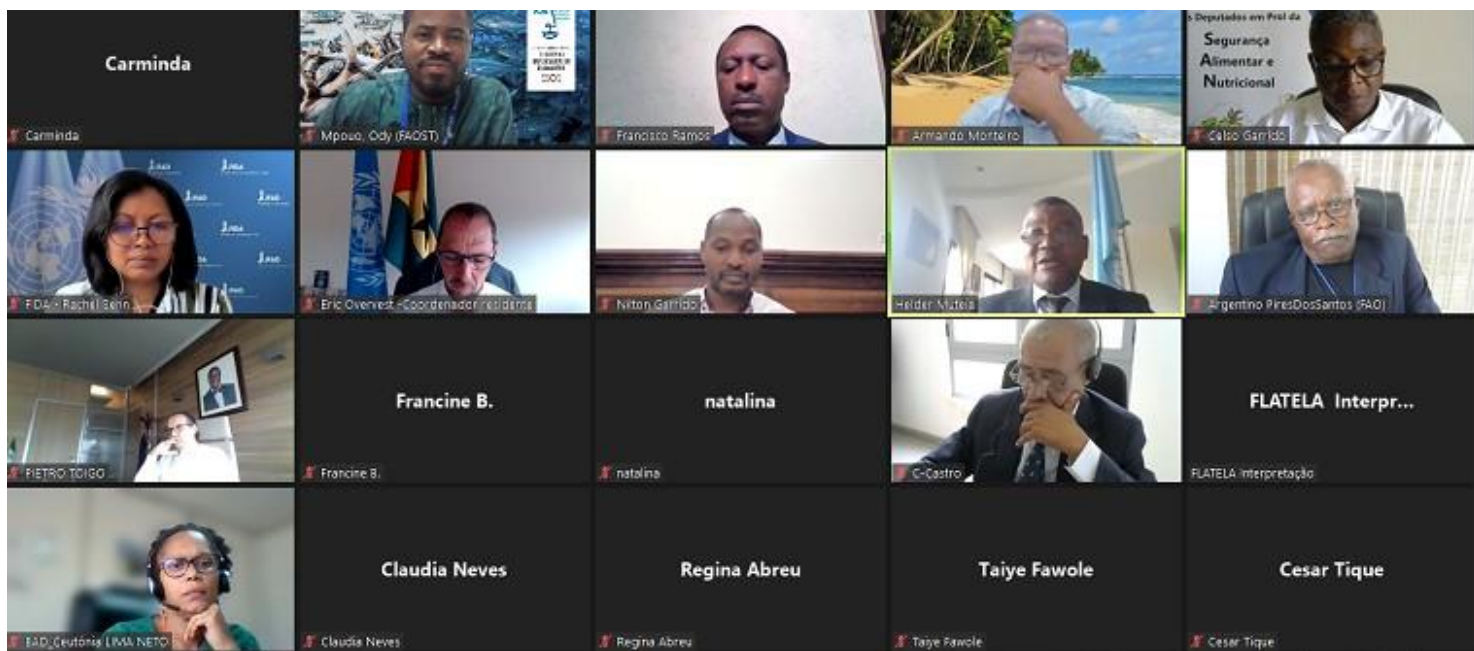


LAUNCH OF THE MONTH OF THE CHILD ON MAY 31 AT THE PALACE OF CONGRESSES



Under the slogan "Children first" let's eliminate all practices that hinder our development", Palácio dos Congressos hosted the central act of the launch of the month of the child. The event marked the beginning of activities allusive to the month of the child, highlighting June 1st, International Children's Day; June 12th, day of prevention and fight against child labor; June 16th, day of the African child.

DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS OF SAO TOME AND PRINCIPE'S AGRICULTURAL SECTOR MEET IN THEIR SEVENTH COORDINATION MEETING



The Development partners of the agricultural sector of Sao Tome and Principe met in their seventh coordination meeting. The meeting was chaired by the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Rural Development, Francisco Ramos.

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) Sub-Regional Coordinator for Central Africa and the Representative for Gabon and Sao Tome and Principe, Hélder Muteia stressed that Sao Tome and Principe is for FAO, a model of successful implementation of Sustainable Development programs, since there are currently more than fourteen projects under implementation, under the Country's Programming Framework, jointly agreed with the Government and other partners.

Currently, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), is Co-Chair of the Sao Tome and Principe Agricultural Sector Development Partners Group (GTSA- ACHA), having succeeded the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD).

DIGITAL DOBRA WAS LAUNCHED IN THE NATIONAL MARKET

Dobra Digital was launched on March 15 in the domestic market. DD is an electronic wallet that allows you to make payments for goods and services, as well as transfer money to your family and friends, without the need to have a bank account in Sao Tome and Principe. This is a project of the Sao Tomean company, Golfintech, and one of the 16 winners of the Innovation Competition launched in 2020 by UNDP and the Ministry of Youth, Sports and Entrepreneurship, within the scope of Empreende Jovem.

This project was born as a response to #COVID19 as it decreases the need for physical cash circulation and will allow to increase the amount and speed with which financial transactions are made in the country.

The application will be available for smartphones with Android and IOS operating systems, simply by downloading the application. For entities, access will have to be granted directly by Golfintech.



**DECADE
OF
ACTION**



UN RESIDENT COORDINATOR MAKES HIS FIRST OFFICIAL VISIT TO PRINCIPE ISLAND



The Resident Coordinator of the United Nations System in Sao Tome and Principe, Eric Overvest, made a 3-day visit to the island of Principe.

In the company of the President of the Regional Government, Filipe Nascimento, Eric Overvest, took contact on the ground with some priority projects such as the resettlement of the population of Sundry – Promised Land, the Regional Court, the Garbage Dump, the Quarry Facilities, the ruins of the fire of Ponta do Sol.

In his meetings with the President of the Regional Government and the President of the Regional Assembly, the UN System Coordinator talked about several issues, including the presence of the United Nations on the island of Príncipe, how to strengthen the relationship of UN agencies with the Government of the Autonomous Region, the challenges of double insularity, including logistical problems, human and financial resources were some of the findings made by Eric Overvest, who also recognized the great potential of the island UNESCO World Biosphere Reserve.

The UN Resident Coordinator also visited the Manuel Dias da Graça Hospital, the Regional Directorate of Environment, several schools and kindergartens and had meetings with the HBD Group and the civil society and NGOs.

This first visit to Príncipe had as main objective to know the challenges and opportunities that the Region presents taking into account the preparation of the new United Nations Cooperation Framework for Sao Tome and Principe for the years 2023 – 2027.

CLEAN ENERGY FOR ARP

The "Environmental and Social Impact Study for the Papagaio Hydroelectric Power Plant" was validated in the BISTP auditorium in the City of Santo António.

The preparation and consequent validation of this document is an important step to move forward in the process of rehabilitation and expansion of the old hydroelectric plant of the Papagaio river. The document was prepared by AGUALOGUS and validated by civil society, the private sector, and regional authorities.

The "Environmental and Social Impact Assessment for the Hydroelectric Power Plant of Papagaio" was produced in the framework of the Project "Promoting hydropower in a sustainable and climate resilient way through an approach that integrates land and forest management in Sao Tome and Principe" Energy Project and is funded by GEF through UNDP Sao Tome and Principe.

WFP AND MAPDR VISIT FAMILIES AFFECTED BY NATURAL DISASTERS IN THE COUNTRY



Under the funding agreement signed between the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) and the Ministry of Agriculture

to provide emergency assistance to farmers, fishers and breeders affected by the recent floods and food insecurity in Sao Tome and Principe (STP), a team

headed by staff from different sectors of the Ministry of Agriculture accompanied by WFP staff, visited over three days the districts of Cantagalo, Lembá and Caué with the aim of diagnosing the situation of vulnerable families affected by the December floods.

This is an estimated support of 258,500

258,500.00 to guarantee food security to 1,500 vulnerable families, through the delivery of food baskets and food production kits that will allow them to recover from the impact of the floods.

their recovery from the impact of the tropical storm that hit STP in December

December 2021 and the first months of 2022. This support is aligned to the results of the

Country Programming Framework (PCF) in Priority Area 3: Reducing hunger, malnutrition and resilience of populations and also to the WFP priorities for the country and the region

region: Commitment to end hunger by 2030 and strengthen capacity for climate change adaptation and resilience in Africa.



CELEBRATION OF THE FIRST YEAR OF THE “U-REPORT PLATFORM” IN SAO TOME E PRINCEPE

U-REPORT Sao Tome e Principe, marked May the first year of its existence promoting the engagement of teenagers and young people in all districts of the country.

Since its launch, the U-Report Sao Tome and Principe platform has already managed to sign up 6007 young people to make their voices heard.

U-Report is UNICEF's FREE social messaging tool that allows youth and adolescents to speak out about issues affecting them, in their communities. The platform has reached over 13 million U-Reporters worldwide.

To learn more, you can visit the U- Report Sao Tome and Principe page at:

<https://www.facebook.com/Ureportstp>

In Sao Tome and Principe, the platform already counts 6.085 U-reporters.





HELP REDUCE THE SPREAD OF COVID-19

WHO in collaboration with the British Embassy, the African Development Bank and the Ministry of Health completed a project to decentralize the diagnosis of Covid-19 in Sao Tome and Principe after the delivery of a new laboratory to the Cantagalo district health office.

The main goal of the project was to unclog the overburdened national laboratory, bringing diagnoses closer to the population and ultimately ensuring better control of the disease. The new GENEXPERT laboratory is located in the Cantagalo district and will serve the southern population of the country.

In 2021 a PCR machine was installed for the first time in the country, including the purchase of reagents and the training of staff. The PCR machine proved insufficient to meet the growing needs to confirm suspected cases of COVID-19, follow up positive cases, understand the true prevalence of COVID-19 infections, prevent spread to and from other countries by travelers, and meet the Government's major challenge of access to universal testing.

The UK, has again funded the purchase of the GENEXPERT machine and the training of 15 laboratory staff on the use of the new machine in March 2022. The African Development Bank has participated with funding for the expansion works of the laboratory infrastructure to enable the creation of better working space and also to secure infection prevention and control standards.

The testing capabilities through GeneXpert will not be limited to addressing the COVID-19 epidemic. GeneXpert technology is also applicable to the diagnosis of tuberculosis, HIV, Ebola and other infectious diseases.

CHILDREN AND YOUTH PARLIAMENT

On June 27 and 28, the National Assembly held the VI Ordinary Session of the Children and Youth Parliament 2022.

During two days, the child deputies had a challenging agenda until the approval of the draft resolution that sets the composition of specialized committees of the children and youth parliament, as well as the approval of the draft resolution that sets the cast and the powers of the specialized committees of the children and youth parliament.

Remember that the motto chosen this year is the role of youth in the preservation of values.



CANTAGALO ALREADY HAS POLE IN DISTRIBUTION IN FOOD SCHOOL

The person in charge of the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) Office in Sao Tome and Principe, Edna Peres, and the Coordinator of the National School Feeding and Health Programme (PNASE), Arlindo Capela, on behalf of the Minister of Education and Higher Education, inaugurated in March in Água Izé, Cantagalo district, one of three distribution centers for school feeding products rehabilitated with WFP funds.

WFP responded positively to the request from the Ministry of Education and Higher Education, through PNASE, to rehabilitate three PNASE district poles, located in Caué, Cantagalo and Lembá. "The PNASE school feeding distribution poles are a central point in the supply chain to schools as they ensure the link between the suppliers or market and the beneficiaries: the school, the children and the community," said WFP's Country Office Officer.



FAO SUPPORTS SAO TOME E PRINCIPE IN THE LAUNCHING OF THE NATIONAL BLUE

ECONOMY WEEK

The amphitheater of the Congress Palace, hosted the opening ceremony of the National Blue Economy Week in Sao Tome and Principe.

The event was presided at the highest level by the President of the Republic, Carlos Vila Nova, and is the result of a partnership between the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations - FAO, and the Santomean Government.

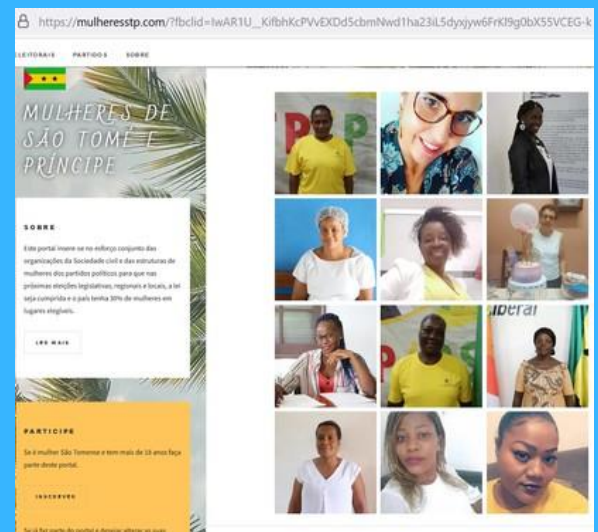
This week it is expected to obtain some results such as:

- A High-Level national awareness of public-private and civil society actors on the challenges of the Blue Economy and the Transition Strategy;
- Potential partnerships and support from partners to the funding of the Blue Economy National Investment Plan and the transition phase for capacity building of public and private actors, and improved governance are pre-identified (pre-engagement displayed and potential);
- Communication on FAO support to the Blue Economy is ensured and stakeholder engagement on current and future FAO interventions in relation to the Blue Economy is encouraged.

STP WOMEN'S PORTAL

The first Women's Portal of Sao Tome and Principe was launched. This portal is part of the joint effort of civil society organizations and women's structures of political parties so that in the next legislative, regional, and local elections, the law is complied with and the country has 30% of women in eligible seats.

The creation of this website is based on the advocacy work carried out by several civil society organizations, the Network of Women Parliamentarians and the National Institute for the Promotion of Gender Equality and Equity (INPG), through the awareness campaign on the slogan "It's Time to Change STP" held in 2021, in order to achieve equal rights and opportunities for Santomean women. Unfortunately, the idea still persists that in São Tome and Príncipe there are no competent women who can rise to decision-making positions, and the approval of the Parity Law would have little chance of succeeding.





FIRST INCUBATOR CENTRAL IN BUSINESS - REINA

It was inaugurated on the day 14 in March in 2022, the Incubator Central belonging to The Network National of Business Incubators and Accelerators in São Tomé and Príncipe (REINA). THE REINA, and in particular it is the Incubator Central. It is the fruit of a project undertaken by young entrepreneurs, implemented for the Ministry of Youth, Sport and Entrepreneurship in partnership with the United Nations Development Programme, UNDP. The network of Incubators and Accelerators aims to boost entrepreneurship and the private sector, with particular focus on youth, waiting to increase their contribution to the development of the country.

The ceremony in its opening was chaired by Your Excellency the Prime Minister, Jorge Bom Jesus, the Minister of Youth, Sport and Entrepreneurship, Vinícius Pina, and The Representative Resident of UNDP, Katarzyna Wawiernia. Also present were the agencies of the United Nations, the Diplomatic Corps accredited in the country, partners in cooperation, representatives of the private sector and young entrepreneurs.

With the rehabilitation of this building, a modern, innovative and attractive space was created, with specialized human resources and a portfolio of services adapted to the economic environment. It will provide a space for entrepreneurs to meet their needs.



UNICEF DELIVERS MEDICINES AND EQUIPMENT TO THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH

UNICEF delivered a batch of medicines and equipment to the Ministry of Health - São Tomé and Príncipe to ensure the continuity of maternal, newborn, and child health services and to support the care of eventual cases of illness. This happened on February 15, 2022, in Lembá, a district heavily hit by torrential rains on December 28th that caused landslides, deaths, and other incalculable damage.

The following were donated: antibiotics, antipyretics, various dewormers for infant and newborn health, and antiemetics for the prevention of anemia in pregnancy, thermometers, scales, stethoscopes, sphygmomanometers, equipment for aspiration of secretions and manual resuscitators, among other health supplements that will serve to improve the health care of children and mothers.

In addition to this donation, the Vaccination Program's Cold Chain was also contemplated, with the delivery of 9 solar panel refrigerators, a cold room with a storage capacity of 40,000 liters, and remote temperature monitors.

This action is part of the set of support that UNICEF has provided to the government, particularly in health, in such a critical moment caused by the pandemic of Covid-19.



CELEBRATION OF THE AFRICAN CHILD DAY



The first step was taken today with the laying of the first stone for the construction of the solar photovoltaic plant presided by the Prime Minister, Jorge Bom Jesus and the UNDP Resident Representative, Katarzyna Wawiernia.

Located in the same space as the Santo Amaro plant, the solar system will have an estimated capacity of 540kwp (kilowatt peak). This project is budgeted at around USD 690,000 funded by UNDP Sao Tome and Principe /GEF, through the Energy Project, which in addition to the installation costs also includes the training of a large EMAE team to maintain the PV plant, the supply of spare parts, and 2 years of maintenance service coverage.

It is important to mention that this plant is part of a joint project with the African Development Bank, which will build an additional 1.7 MWp in the southern part of the plant, and UNIDO, which with GEF resources is financing the works in the Switchgear Post that will allow to safely unite and inject into the national grid the output of the solar plants with the output of the current generating sets.

GOVERNMENT AND UN LAUNCH PROJECT TO VALUE LOCAL PRODUCTS AND PROMOTE THE WELL-BEING OF SANTOMEANS



The Government of Sao Tome and Principe and the United Nations (UN) representation in the country have officially launched, in the District of Cantagalo, the Joint UN Project to valorize local products and promote the sustainable well-being of Saotomeans.

The project aims to empower the Government to promote sustainable local food value chains, rural development and resilience by investing in an environmentally friendly agri-food industry and creating jobs for vulnerable working women and girls. Funded by the Sustainable Development Goals Joint Fund (SDG Joint Fund), the project is co implemented by four UN agencies: International Labor Organization (ILO), United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), United Nations Human Settlements Program (UN-HABITAT) and United Nations World Food Program (WFP).

SAO TOME AND PRINCIPE WILL BE ABLE TO GENERATE SOLAR ENERGY FOR ALL IN A FEW MONTHS WITH THE SUPPORT OF THE UN, BAD AND THE UNIDO



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FAO LAUNCHES EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE PROJECT FOR FARMING FAMILIES AFFECTED BY TROPICAL STORM AND FLOODING IN SAO TOME AND PRINCIPE

On December 28, 2021, Sao Tome and Principe was hit by a tropical storm, which caused several floods throughout the country. In response, the government requested technical assistance from the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) to develop an emergency project to help the flood-affected population. This project is the result of discussions between the FAO Sub-Regional Coordinator for Central Africa and the Representative for Gabon and Sao Tome and Principe, Helder Muteia, and the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Rural Development, H.E. Mr. Francisco Ramos.

The objective of this project will be to provide emergency assistance to 1,500 families affected by flooding and faced with food insecurity in the districts of Água Grande, Caué, Lembá, Lobata, Cantagalo, and Mé-Zóchi in Sao Tome and the RAP. It also aims to strengthen the resilience of vulnerable populations to natural disasters and food crises by restoring their livelihoods.



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