

# Towards Sustainable, Inclusive, and Equitable Development: A Common Country Assessment of São Tomé e Príncipe and the Comparative Advantages of the United Nations



A background paper to inform the preparation of and  
prioritization for the 2017-2021 UNDAF

São Tomé, October 2015

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## **1. Introduction**

1. The purpose of this Common Country Assessment (CCA) and the scrutiny of UN comparative advantages is to serve as an umbrella under which the UN Country Team (UNCT) in the Democratic Republic of São Tomé e Príncipe (DRSTP) can make informed decisions to eventually prioritize with government and partners shared objectives to address key development challenges where UN action demonstrates an added value. The subsequent UN Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) 2017-2021 will determine how agreed development priorities will be collaboratively addressed within the UN family and with partners. This report aims to **contribute to national efforts at identifying key development challenges and their root causes** and areas for collaboration to achieve common development results.

2. The development of the UNDAF (2017-2021) is critical to embrace robust inter-agency collaboration. The CCA is an important step in the UNDAF process as it analyzes DRSTP's development situation and highlights key national strategic priorities. Informed by a rights-based approach to development, it identifies key socio-economic challenges facing the country while considering critical sustainable development issues, including the risks of natural disasters in a small island state. The report further recommends a limited set of strategic areas where the UN might demonstrate leverage in supporting national development priorities.

### **1.1 Methodology**

3. This report consists of **three components** essential for the preparation and development of the 2017-2021 UNDAF. **The first is a synthesis of country analyses which identifies key development challenges**, based on a review of selected studies, reports, surveys, and interviews which included, but were not limited to: the 2014 UNDAF Mid-term Review (MTR), the 2012-2016 National Poverty Reduction Strategy ENRP II, 2012 Population Census, MICS 2014, 2014 Ibrahim Index, 2014 UNDAF MTR, 2015 African Development Bank (AfDB) MTR, 2015 UNICEF Situation Analysis (draft 0), Global Fund and Global Environment Fund project reports, data from the national statistics office (INE), and other information gathered from sectorial policy papers, project reports and evaluations, and development partner contributions (see references in annex). Meetings were also held with key government senior officials and partners including: the Ministries of Economy (including the Departments of Planning and Statistics), Finance, and Foreign Affairs; UN agencies; African Development Bank (AfDB), bilateral donors (Portugal, Brasil, Taiwan) and civil society represented by the national federation of NGOs (FONG). **The second is the identification of the key root causes** of these challenges based on partner inputs, observations, and government validation. **The third are suggested comparative advantages of the UN system** to address these root causes within the dynamic development context in São Tomé e Príncipe.

4. **To validate initial report findings, conclusions, and recommendations**, a Country Assessment and Comparative Advantage all-day Verification Workshop was

held 24 September, 2015. Participation included the Ministries of Education, Agriculture, Environment, Justice, Economy, Finance, and Employment along with UNFPA, UNICEF, WFP, FAO, WHO, UNDP, ILO and FONG. A consensus was reached on a preliminary summary of key development challenges and their common root causes resulting in compromised development across sectors. These were considered as UN potential entry points for the formulation of the UNDAF. Further discussion with partners revealed advantages, disadvantages and different roles of partnerships with NGOS, private sector, foundations, bi-laterals and multilaterals. Specific implications for the UN family were articulated. Section 6 of this report highlights the conclusions from this partner workshop. The Resident Coordinator led the CCA process, with the active involvement of the UNCT, UN staff, and government. The report was written by, and partner workshop facilitated by, an independent consultant whose Terms of Reference (TOR) are attached as Annex 3.

## **1.2 The UNDAF Process: Background and Lessons Learned**

5. The United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) is a QCPR<sup>1</sup> mandatory strategic planning tool of the ECOSOC to be applied by UN agencies at country level. It ensures joint programming by all UN resident and non-resident agencies working in the country and provides government and the UN family with a common framework where agreed development priorities and outcomes are defined. Once the UNDAF document is completed, Country Program Documents (CPDs) are prepared by each agency and submitted to each respective governing body for endorsement.

6. The current UNDAF was formulated with government in 2011 for the period 2012-2016 and is comprised of four programme pillars in line with the PRSP/ENRP II (economic development, social services, governance, and environment) with common UN outcomes contributing to the achievement of national MDG targets. The evaluation of the current UNDAF is anticipated in 2016 and will provide further programmatic and operational lessons to inform the upcoming 2017-2021 UNDAF.

7. Globally, lessons learned from the evaluation reports of UNDAF processes globally reveal that aligning UNDAF priorities solely with government strategic frameworks and priorities can sometimes restrain the UN family from ensuring that it is critically assessing development challenges to ensure a human rights-based approach to programming. Therefore framing development work within larger international commitments, strategies, and standards is recommended to embrace a more global development framework. In this way the UN's human rights mandate and comparative advantages can be fully realized through strategic positioning for enhanced development results, aligned with other global and regional frameworks.

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<sup>1</sup> **Quadrennial** Comprehensive Policy Review, UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC).

## **2. The Development Context**

### **2.1 New Global Development Goals**

8. It is fortuitous that the timing for the preparation of the subsequent DRSTP UNDAF coincides with the General Assembly's newly agreed Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). These internationally negotiated SDGs replace the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), formulated to conclude in 2015. The SDGs recently adopted by the UN General Assembly in October, 2015 concluded with **4 overall development areas, 17 development goals, and 169 sub-goals targeted for the period 2016-2030**. UN member states have agreed to measure development gains in their respective countries and monitor collective progress over the next 15 years.

9. The significance of the alignment of the SDGs with the DRSTP development framework will be considered in the discussions to follow. In DRSTP, other international strategies and targets that help frame the development agenda include the 2014 SIDS Conference S.A.M.A.O Pathway and the Africa Union's 2014-2018 Strategy. Other international commitments include, but are not limited to: the Decent Work Agenda for Africa 2007-2015, the g7+ new support for fragile states 2013, the 2015 World Education Forum, 2015 21st session of the Conference of the Parties (COP) to the UNFCCC, and other relevant global processes and commitments. This dynamic development context and associated international commitments provide a much broader development framework and facilitate the alignment of the UN's work in São Tomé e Príncipe with global, regional, and national targets.

### **2.2 Development Financing**

10. With the downturn in overseas development assistance (ODA), it is important to note that the third international conference on **Financing for Development (FfD)** recently concluded in Addis Ababa whereby nation-states confirmed their commitment and intentions to achieve the proposed SDGs. It was estimated that some US\$135 billion in ODA will be required to meet these challenges<sup>2</sup>. Flows for development include philanthropy, remittances, South-South flows and other forms of official assistance and foreign direct investment. Together, these sources amount to nearly US\$ 1 trillion.

11. That said, the most substantial development spending happens at **national level** in the form of public resources where the largest potential is from private sector business, and finance and investment institutions. Financing development has significantly shifted from ODA-dependent to almost 75 percent financed by domestic revenues while the surge in foreign direct investment (FDI) continues to

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<sup>2</sup> Transforming Development Finance post 2015: Financing for Development: Multilateral development. Development Committee Discussion Note, 2015.

fuel growth. Illicit financial flows, however, have also increased<sup>3</sup>. The trajectory of development financing is the challenge that each country and the global community must support together, to finance and achieve the transformative vision of the SDGs. **The FfD recognizes that SDG attainment will require: increases in domestic revenues, as well as private sector business and finance; international public financing; international trade; debt and debt sustainability; science, technology, innovation and capacity development<sup>4</sup>.**

12. It is of particular interest that the UNDAF has an indicative resource framework and therefore new approaches to identify potential domestic resources, Overseas Development Assistance (ODA) and FDI will be of significant interest. Key strategic development partnerships have become even more essential, given the dynamic financing context, as concluded in Addis Ababa, and in support of SDG 17 – *to strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development*. **An UNDAF resource mobilization strategy is essential** within this context, especially when facing the revenue challenges in São Tomé e Príncipe at this time.

### **2.3 Partnership of Small Island Developing States: The S.A.M.O.A. Pathway**

13. The third international Small Island Developing States (SIDS) conference in Samoa concluded in September 2014, resulting in a reaffirmed commitment to sustained and sustainable, inclusive and equitable economic growth and poverty eradication. The unique challenges faced by the 52 SIDS are evidenced in the conference outcome (the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (S.A.M.O.A.) Pathway) and voiced need for UN support in specific action areas which include:

- sustainable tourism;
- climate change and disaster risk reduction;
- desertification;
- biodiversity;
- oceans/seas;
- waste and chemical management;
- sustainable energy and transport;
- sustainable consumption and production and;
- social sector development (health, education, water and sanitation, gender equality, culture, etc).

14. Mechanisms to address SIDS development challenges were identified as requiring **enhanced partnerships and trade through improved capacity, technology, data, monitoring and accountability**. Specifically, the UN was asked to support SIDS through ensured engagement with UN/ECOSOC initiatives and legislation for sustained development within the SIDS. These are therefore of major

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<sup>3</sup> ECA, “High Level Panel (HLP) on Illicit Financial Flows (IFF) from Africa” Information Note, 2012.

<sup>4</sup> Ffd Outcome Document, 2015.

significance to DRSTP.

## 2.4 Continental and Regional Strategies

15. At continental and regional levels, other frameworks help define cross-border development interests in Africa. The AU, NEPAD and the UNECA, for example, provide guidance, expertise, models, priorities, and strategies for Africa's continental and/or regional development. Such strategies can be sectorial and/or geographic (cross-border) and should be considered when applicable to the development context within São Tomé e Príncipe. The 2004 Ouagadougou AU Summit of Head of States and Government on Employment and Poverty, and the 2007-2015 Decent Work Agenda for Africa, for example, embrace the imperative of promoting an inclusive and job-rich growth through decent work in Africa as the best way out of poverty.

16. 2012 marked the first decade of the establishment of the African Union (AU) as the successor to the OAU. The 2014-2017 AU Commission (AUC) Strategic Plan provides space to play its facilitating role, especially with respect to **policy and strategy setting, coordination, catalyzing Africa's socio-economic and integration agenda, consensus building and advocacy, experience, and information sharing**<sup>5</sup>. The eight priority areas of the Commission, stipulated in the Strategic Plan, are:

- Human capacity development focusing on health, education, science, research, technology and innovation;
- Agriculture and agro processing;
- Inclusive economic development through industrialization, infrastructure development, agriculture and trade and investment;
- Peace, stability and good governance;
- Mainstreaming women and youth into all activities;
- Resource mobilization;
- Building a people-centered Union through active communication/branding;
- Strengthening the institutional capacity of the Union and all of its organs.

## 2.5 Member States and Requisite Results and Results Reporting

17. Further to these global financial and development commitments, member states are even more careful to accommodate their constituencies' interest in and necessity for **enhanced results reporting**. In some cases, there has been insistence to link results to the direct attribution of allocated resources. This has made it extremely difficult for some resource recipients, including some UN agencies and programmes, to fulfill their mandates for longer-term, sustainable development impact since these resources contribute to development results over a longer period, sometimes up to some 20 years.

18. The need for attribution results reporting can change how partners target and design development programming and calls attention to the need for more precise

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<sup>5</sup> African Union Commission Strategic Plan 2014-2017, AU 2013.

quantitative reporting on resource utilization and resulting development impact. After having discussed results reporting with OECD partners, the UN Development Group (UNDG), coordinated by WFP and UNDP, responded to this challenge by formulating **common UNDG results reporting principles**, which were adopted in 2012 across the UN development family.

## 2.6 Fit for Purpose

19. Given the demand for results and decreasing ODA, the UNDG has also undertaken new discussions to ensure its profile and assistance models are fit for purpose given development and financial contexts. The *Fit for Purpose* agenda is based on five principles: universality, integration, human rights, equality, and data for development<sup>6</sup>. These serve to put all countries on a level playing field to ensure that adherence to common international standards is equally relevant for all member states. The UNDG's Fit for Purpose agenda promotes monitoring and accountability as collective actions as the UN brings together the social, economic and environmental pillars of sustainable development. The agenda also places each UNDAF (and its streamlined Business Operations Strategy BOS) and more collaborative '**Delivering as One**' model as a minimum standard for the UN system taking common "tough stands" with governments to direct resource flows towards the most vulnerable.

## 2.7 Implications for the UN in DRSTP

20. The implications of global development agendas, when considering development priorities and partnerships in the new UNDAF, are not insignificant. There are six issues which should be carefully considered: 1. the UNDAF is a QCPR mandated process and key instrument to improve UN coherence and effectiveness using a delivering as one (DAO) approach; 2. development financing will continue to be a challenge during the next UNDAF period, especially regarding national revenues and increased national budget allocations for development results due to the overall global reduction in ODA; 3. UNDAF development results measurement will be more scrutinized, given global and bilateral results-reporting requirements; 4. south-south partnerships (both regional and global) will weigh more heavily into development planning, resourcing, and innovation; 5. given the new global commitment for 17 SDGs and 169 sub-goals, SDG monitoring and measurement mechanisms will become a vital interest at national level and; 6. the UN team will need to be able to: a. say "no" to development areas where it does not demonstrate a comparative advantage, especially given the plethora of new development actors; b. partner with government to enact the five fit for purpose principles and; c. embrace the tenets of the UNDG's Delivering as One/BOS approach to ensure strategic, collaborative, and measureable UN programming, with efficient and streamlined operations to ensure that it continues to be a viable and relevant development partner.

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<sup>6</sup> UN Fit for Purpose Agenda, UN Staff College 2014.



### **3. Overview of the National Context: Politics, Economics, Poverty**

21. DRSTP is an archipelago of just over 1,000 square kilometers in the Gulf of Guinea and has one of the smallest economies in Africa. With a per capita gross national income (GNI) of USD 1,310<sup>7</sup>, DRSTP is classified as a “medium” development country and a lower-middle income country. With a small and very young population of over 178,000 inhabitants<sup>8</sup>, over 61% are 25 years or younger, with a 2.5% population growth rate and a life expectancy of some 68.7 years. The country is divided into 2 provinces: São Tomé and the autonomous region of Príncipe. The provinces are further divided into seven districts, six on the island of São Tomé and one on the island of Príncipe.

22. The 2011 poverty survey, undertaken by UNDP and the National Institute of Statistics (INE), indicated that 49.6% of the population still remains below the poverty line, with some 15.9 percent living in extreme poverty. Poverty mostly affects women (71.3%) and rural populations, resulting in a trend towards urban migration. Situated in the most fragile region of the world in terms of human development (west and central Africa), DRSTP remains third in development achievements, just behind the larger neighboring countries of Gabon and Ghana<sup>9</sup>. In terms of the GINI, which measures domestic revenue distribution, DRSTP nearly approaches some European nations such as Spain and France<sup>10</sup>.

23. While independence was achieved in 1975, the country held its first free multi-party elections in 1991. However, frequent internal discord between political parties precipitated repeated changes in leadership and two failed coup attempts in 1995 and 2003<sup>11</sup>. The precarious political culture resulted in 16 back-to-back government changes in the past 24 years until successful legislative elections were held in October 2014, in which the Independent Democratic Action Party (ADI) maintained control of Parliament, winning 33 of 55 seats. Presidential elections are planned for 2016, and the potential for an uninterrupted four-year government term is anticipated for the first time.

24. Given its political volatility and environmental fragility, DRSTP is the latest African country to become a signatory of the New Deal for Engagement in Fragile States, joining the G7+, a voluntary association of countries affected by fragility. DRSTP thus has the opportunity to benefit from ‘Fragile to Fragile’ cooperation and peer learning from other member countries focusing on: **strengthening state capacity and establishing effective institutions; and the promotion of resilient societies by supporting inclusiveness and horizontal equality**<sup>12</sup>. DRSTP is also a member

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<sup>7</sup> African Development Bank, MTR of the CSP 2012-2016, 2015.

<sup>8</sup> INE, 2014.

<sup>9</sup> Situation Analysis of Children and Women in Sao Tome and Principe, UNICEF, 2015.

<sup>10</sup> World Bank, 2015.

<sup>11</sup> *ibid*

<sup>12</sup> *ibid*

of the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) and the Community of Portuguese Language Speaking Countries (CPLP).

25. DRSTP is in the process of implementing its 2012-2016 National Poverty Reduction Strategy PRSP/Estratégia Nacional para a Redução de Pobreza (ENRP II). The ENRP II provides a national framework for development priorities and its implementation was assessed in a 2014 mid-term review<sup>13</sup>. There are four major development pillars under the national plan: governance; social service delivery; economic growth; and social cohesion and protection. There are other sectorial strategies, policies, and plans that provide further details of government and partner development engagement during the 2012-2016 PRSP/ENRP II period.

26. In 2014, DRSTP ranked 142 of 186 countries in UNDP's global Human Development Index<sup>14</sup> (HDI) and has made some excellent progress on selected MDGs in education and health. Nonetheless, São Tomé e Príncipe is at a critical development crossroads finding itself with innumerable economic opportunities, demonstrated continued and steady growth, but with continued foreign debt and limited domestic resources. São Tomé e Príncipe has a favorable environment to fight poverty and significantly improve and stabilize social and economic well-being, facing a prosperous future **if certain steps for sustainable, inclusive and equitable development are ensured, including moving toward the attainment of the SDGs.**

27. As the country attempts to move from being a recipient of donor aid to a lower middle income country (MIC), and generator, funder, and manager of development results, development solutions are increasingly complex. AfDB, for example, is continuing to work with government on the development of a national development master plan, and economic developments will require a comprehensive look at legal frameworks including equitable implementation, monitoring, and reporting. DRSTP is positioning itself as a viable recipient of FDI if conditions can be put in place in the immediate future to gain investor trust in a viable, stable, and sustainably governed society.

28. DRSTP populations suffer from an insular limited internal market, poor purchasing power, and weak diversification of the economy (Sanguin, 2014<sup>15</sup>). The public sector is the main economic entity accounting for more than 80% of capital formation and GDP<sup>16</sup>. The weak capacity of government to mobilize internal resources has impeded efficient delivery of services, while the low level of salaries encourages the best employees to seek higher paying jobs outside the public sector or even outside the country. Unemployment, roughly estimated at some 13.6 percent, mostly impacts youth and women<sup>17</sup>. In 2013, the government made an effort to improve the

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<sup>13</sup> Relatório de Implementação do ENRP II, GoDRSTP 2014.

<sup>14</sup> Human Development Index, 2014.

<sup>15</sup> SITAN, UNICEF, 2015.

<sup>16</sup> *ibid*

<sup>17</sup> INE, 2014.

situation by increasing wages and salaries, rising public salaries to 9.3% of GDP. The government continues to offer free primary education, primary health care, and the right to social security benefits.

29. The population is largely engaged in self-subsistence family agriculture and thus not affiliated with broader markets or supply chains. Rural roads, ports, storage, industrial capacity, market access, and new agro-investments all remain challenges. Decentralization of decision-making, which aims to transfer greater autonomy to local and regional government agencies, has not met ambitions. Rural areas are still confronted with various inclusiveness challenges, among them access to sanitation, clean water, secondary schools and hospitals, confirming existent central and district disparities. Meanwhile, challenges linked to climate change are increasing, with agriculture affected by rising temperatures and a simultaneous decline in rainfall, while the country as a whole is threatened by rising sea levels and the erosion of coastal areas.

30. The Government has, over the past three years, made good progress in the country's macro-economic performance through the increased enforcement of tax compliance, simplifying customs procedures, and enforcing counter money-laundering and terrorism financing measures<sup>18</sup>. GDP growth averaged 4.5 percent in the period 2012- 2014<sup>19</sup>, through enhanced commerce, an increase in cacao production, and potential for increased foreign direct investment. Delayed prospects of oil exploration, a driving force in former development strategies, has led to a modification of the focus of national economic growth toward an enabling private sector business environment, and growth in tourism, agriculture, infrastructure, and other FDI opportunities.

31. Total revenue declined slightly to 31.9% of GDP in 2014, while during the same period total expenditure also declined to 38.9 percent. As a result, the overall fiscal deficit improved from 9 to 7 percent in 2014 and inflation was at a record low of 6 percent in 2014. DRSTP's medium-term economic program is supported by the IMF and a 2012 Extended Credit Facility (ECF) arrangement.<sup>20</sup> The 2015 African Economic Outlook lists the following three salient factors impacting continued development in Sao Tome e Príncipe: Real GDP growth increases to 4.9% in 2014, up from 4.0% in 2013, driven by improved agricultural production and services, and the trend is expected to continue into 2015 with growth projected to reach 5.1; DRSTP offers a potentially promising environment for political stability and enhanced investor confidence and; DRSTP faces spatial inclusion challenges due to rising sea levels caused by climate change and the lack of a national strategy to address territorial inequalities.

32. DRSTP still suffers from high foreign debt reaching some 73% of GDP<sup>21</sup>, affected

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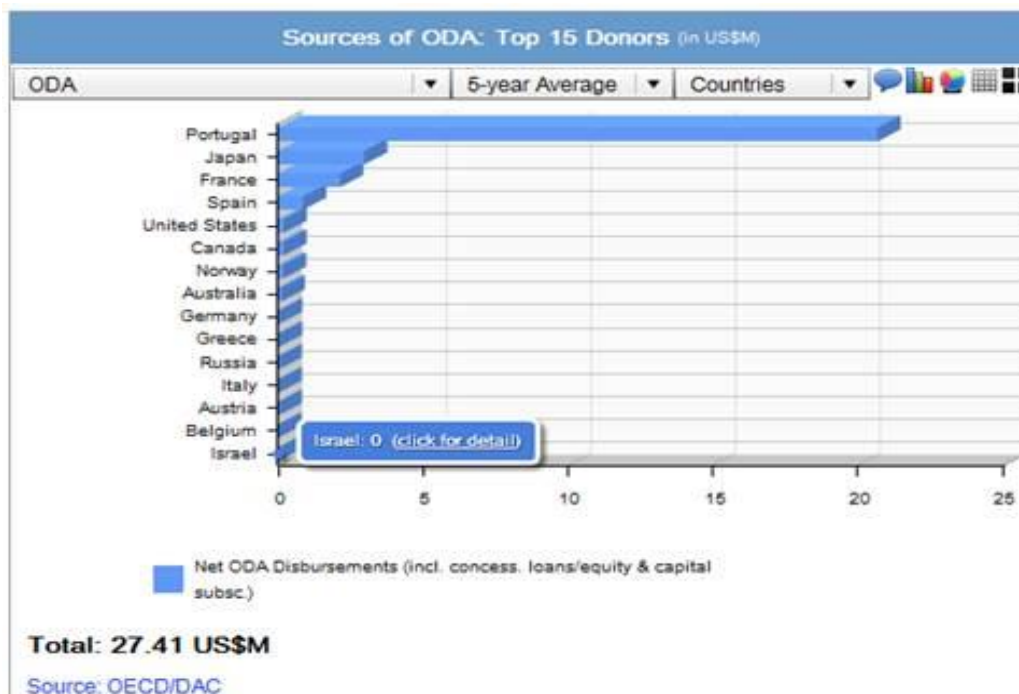
<sup>18</sup> Human Development Index, 2014.

<sup>19</sup> *ibid*

<sup>20</sup> *ibid*

<sup>21</sup> *ibid*

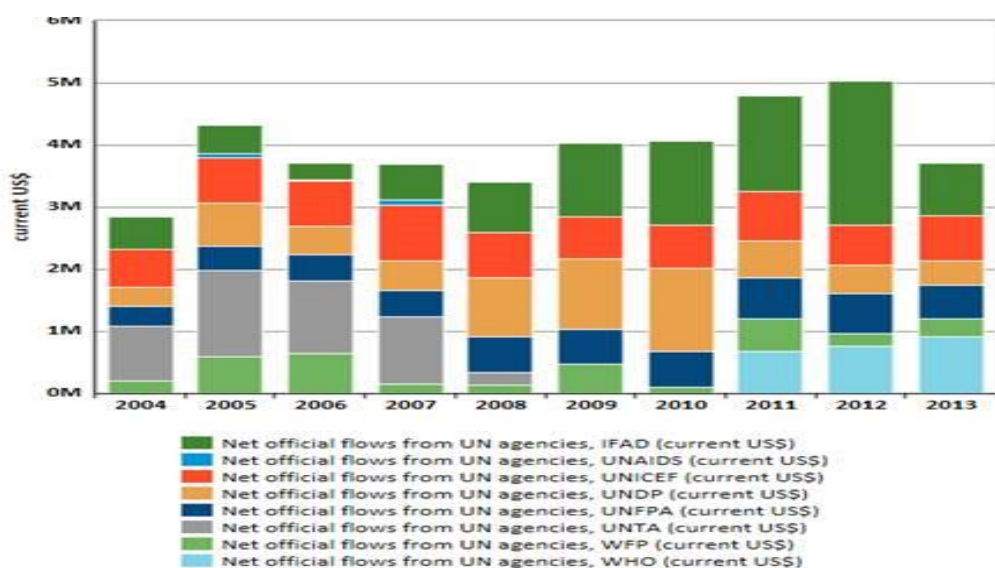
by weak external investment and the delayed delivery of projected economic gains from oil prospects. With nearly 92% of the national budget dependent on external ODA, São Tomé e Príncipe remains a non-diversified economy with few and small quantity exports, including cacao and coffee, and minor outlets for selected spices. Other agricultural development, including fisheries, has not as yet resulted in substantial commodity exports. Trade within the Central African Economic and Monetary Community (CEMAC) remains at just 2% of total trade and the European market (especially Portugal and the Netherlands) accounts for over 60% of imports and 45% of exports<sup>22</sup>. The 2014 Africa Economic Outlook reported that DRSTP ranked 166 of 189 countries in terms of an enabling business environment, an even lower score than 2012. Further, DRSTP rates 183 of 189 countries in contract fulfillment, and legal requirements for conducting business are exceedingly time consuming and expensive.



ODA Flows<sup>23</sup>

<sup>22</sup> AfDB MTR of CSP, 2015.

<sup>23</sup> OECD 2015.



UN Contributions<sup>24</sup>

#### **4. A Framework Aligning Global and National Development Targets**

33. From a UN member state and agency perspective, the new SDGs provide a more comprehensive framework to address these national development challenges. As a key custodian of these goals, the UN has a role to support the government and partners to attain national development targets, and for this reason, the SDGs help structure the framework for a country analysis of development challenges.

34. Considering the dynamics of increasing foreign interests and the speed and diversity of national development in São Tomé e Príncipe, mitigated risks and exploration of opportunities will unlock the potential for São Tomé e Príncipe to meet, or even surpass, the SDGs. The UN can be a key strategic partner in this regard, leveraging many global and domestic opportunities, in collaboration with government and partners.

35. In order to benefit from the current dynamism in global, regional and national development contexts, the following suggested development framework aligns global and national development goals so that national development challenges, their root causes, and possible solutions can be identified and measured against global targets. The table below utilizes the SDG's four development areas – Peace, Planet, People, and Prosperity - aligning DRSTP national development priorities with the new 17 SDGs and development targets of the AU, SIDS, and results from the DRSTP 2014 citizens' participation exercise, The World We Want in 2030<sup>25</sup>. The following development framework was presented to and endorsed by DRSTP government partners on 24 September, 2015, at the CCA Validation Workshop.

<sup>24</sup> World Bank, 2015

<sup>25</sup> The Country We Want, DRSTP, 2015.

## A Framework for Poverty Reduction, Sustainable Growth, and Development

2015 SDGS 4 Areas 17 Goals	SIDS 2014 Pathway	African Union Strategic Plan 2014-2018	DRSTP ENSP II National Development Priorities 2012-2016	DRSTP Citizenry 2030: The Country We Want 2014	UN and Partner identified development challenges 2012-2016
<b>Area 4.</b> <b>Productivity</b> <b>Prosperity:</b> <b>Inclusive</b> <b>Economic</b> <b>Growth</b>  (SDG 1, 2, 7, 8, 9, 12)	Economic Growth Food Security Transportation Production/Consumption Renewable Energy Agriculture and fisheries Tourism	Agriculture and agro processing  Inclusive eco- nomic develop- ment through industrialization, infrastructure development, agriculture , trade and in- vestment	Sustainable and integrated economic growth agriculture fisheries tourism infrastructure	Growth and Employment	Priv Sector Development Employment Food Security Agriculture Renewable Energy  With AfDB, EU, Brasil, Taiwan
<b>Area 3.</b> <b>Population:</b> <b>Human and</b> <b>Social Capital</b> <b>Equity,</b> <b>Quality and</b> <b>Protection</b>  (SDG 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 10, 11)	WASH Health Gender Equality Education Culture	Human capacity development focusing on health, education,  Mainstreaming women and youth into all activities	Human capital and delivery of basic social services Social protection Social Cohesion	Human development through capacity and access	Education Health Population Youth employment Nutrition Social Protection Gender Equality WASH Urbanization Data & Statistics  With WB, Portugal, Taiwan, Brasil
<b>Area 2.</b> <b>Planet</b> <b>Envir/Climate</b>  (SDG 13, 14, 15)	Oceans Waste Biodiversity Disaster management Climate Change	science, research, technology and innovation	Protection of sustainable agriculture and eco tourism Land/water use Climate	Values and Behaviors to respect, protect and preserve São Tomé e Príncipe	Natural Resources Management  Resilience and disaster risk reduction, early warning/monitoring
<b>Area 1.</b> <b>Peace Stability,</b> <b>Governance</b>  (SDG 16)	Peaceful societies and safe communities	Peace, stability and good governance	Good governance Public Administration Reform	Solid democratic state	Good governance Rule of Law Human rights, Justice Public Sector Reform Decentralization  With AfDB, WB, Portugal
<b>Partnerships</b>  (SDG 17)	With SIDS members	With AU for Re- source mobilization, people-centered active communi- cation/branding, institutional capacity		Collective thinking and actions as civil society	Global Convening Coordination Identification of potential global,regional human and financial resources Rights obligations with bearers and holders

## **5. A Synthesis of Challenges/Opportunities: São Tomé e Príncipe**

36. The above framework is purposefully designed as a results chain, utilizing the SDGs' four areas of development as sequential building blocks upon which development targets can be attained. The relevance of each area will be discussed below in order to understand the many development challenges in DRSTP based on an analysis of sectorial components.

### **5.1. Development Area 1:**

#### **Peace and Stability: Sustainable Governance, Inclusion, and Rule of Law**

37. DRSTP has experienced a precarious political culture over the past 40 years. However, within the 2012-2016 ENRP II, government has prioritized public institution reform and the reinforcement of good governance policies as one of four umbrella development pillars. It focuses on the stable functioning of the state apparatus and consolidation of state authority to address poverty and economic growth. The five-year plan calls for transparent and responsible management of public finances and the promotion of citizens' participation through enhanced access and information<sup>26</sup>.

38. The ENRP II priorities include: promotion of local governance, national defense, maritime regulatory frameworks, guarantee of public safety, electoral reform, improved and credible justice system, HR capacity building, efficiency, access to technology, and promotion of civil society engagement. In the 2014 mid-term review of the implementation of the ENRP, it was noted that the state has faced several obstacles to achieving these desired governance objectives. These have included, but have not been limited to, lack of domestic resources, national capacity, poor and slow bureaucratic practices, lack of the institutionalization of ENRP objectives within all Ministries, and diminished donor financing<sup>27</sup>.

39. DRSTP is a representative democracy which is unified in its defense of human rights (Art. 1 of the 2003 Constitution) with separation of powers. Legislative elections take place every four years, and presidential elections every five. The legislative branch, the national parliament, has five commissions. The island of Príncipe has its own provincial government and legislature. Since 1991, district governments manage their respective public services<sup>28</sup>. The legal basis for the judiciary (law 07/2010) organizes the system in two levels: the three lower court tribunals situated in Lembá, São Tomé, and Príncipe; and the Supreme Court in São Tomé as its highest court.

40. In the area of governance, the DRSTP constitution states that **justice** is a fundamental principle of a democratic state and that all citizens have the **right to protect**

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<sup>26</sup> ENRP II, 2012.

<sup>27</sup> MCR da ENRP II, DRSTP 2104.

<sup>28</sup> UNCIEF SITAN draft 0, 2015.

**their rights and liberties in a court of law**<sup>29</sup> to combat corruption and reestablish citizen confidence. In terms of safety and the rule of law, the country is ranked 12 of 52 countries in the 2014 Mo Ibrahim Index of African Governance, ninth in Africa, and first in Central Africa. In terms of freedom, political rights and civil liberties, the 2014 *Freedom in the World* report rated the country's status as free, and on a scale of 1 (best) to 7 (worst)<sup>30</sup>, São Tomé e Príncipe scored a 2. A slight improvement was also noted in Transparency International's 2014 *World Corruption Perception Index*, which ranked DRSTP 76 of 175 countries<sup>31</sup>.

41. With **high international ratings** of policies in place, which embrace and promote the rule of law and justice, the consistent turnover of government, faltering capacity of qualified personnel, and low domestic and FDI revenues have all led to a rather stagnant justice system which lacks the rigor and transparency noted in its own legal frameworks. Given the challenges of a small population in an insular island state, guaranteed justice has become nearly impossible, based on perceived nepotism and limited access and infrastructure across districts. This has created a mistrust by the population of the **nation's inability to implement its own rule of law**. The Legislative branch also lacks training, policy frameworks, needed technological and IT inputs, and infrastructure enhancements.

42. In addition, **investors remain skeptical** as good governance is essential if foreign investment is to be secured, especially concerning business, taxes, labour law, and land usage. While some statistics exist within different justice departments (ie police and local records), the compilation of a national justice legal index is not as yet developed and thus monitoring of transparency, frequency, legal rulings, access, and outcomes remain nascent at best. Notable sources of socio-political instability include recurrent allegations of financial irregularities in the public sector that negatively impact the relationship between the state and society.

43. Strengthening effective and legitimate institutions, and building an inclusive and resilient society will therefore underpin any partner engagement in the country<sup>32</sup>. The government's 2011 reform programme intended publishing justice statistics, budgets, and contracts to increase transparency and efficiency. But implementation of this programme has yet to be attained<sup>33</sup>. To secure political harmony and sustainability, **transparency and efficiencies of delivery of services, increased human resources, improved infrastructure, decreased backlog, equitable access, technological inputs and upgrades, and penal legislation**<sup>34</sup> would all be required.

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<sup>29</sup> Programa da reforma do sector da justiça 2016-2019, DRSTP 2015.

<sup>30</sup> African Economic Outlook, Sao Tome and Principe Summary 2015.

<sup>31</sup> *ibid*

<sup>32</sup> AfDB, 2015

<sup>33</sup> Programme da reforma do sector da justiça 2016-2019, DRSTP 2015.

<sup>34</sup> *ibid*



44. Another area of concern, especially witnessed in social sector statistics, is **decentralization** and equitable access and service delivery across districts. With decentralized governance mechanisms articulated in the Constitution, the capacity to ensure a decentralized model remains tenuous. Statistics reveal that some districts remain at a disadvantage to achieve social and economic goals. Additionally, despite legislation in recent years, inadequate support also hampers the ability of **non-governmental organizations (NGOs)** to participate more fully in decision making to ensure transparency.

45. Legally, the **news media** operate freely and government worked to improve transparency in management of public funds by making available key information, including the state budget and national statistics, which are published on DRSTP government websites.

46. May, 2016, will mark 25 years since the ratification of the Convention of the Rights of the Child by DRSTP, one of only 2 human rights international treaties signed by DRSTP. The 39 child rights embodied in the treaty are directed towards the nation's child population which has been estimated at 44.9%<sup>35</sup>. There is not a national **human rights** institute or other institution which disseminates rights information, monitors the DRSTP's human rights record based on international instruments, or measures rights compliance. Human rights challenges are compounded by the state's inability to provide **equitable legal access and services to all**, limited geographic coverage of infrastructure, slow and costly legal procedures, limited capacity, a nascent national registry, less transparent justice services, and low level of citizen awareness of legal rights.

## **5.2. Development Area 2:**

### **Planet demands for Resilience: Environmental protection and climatic shocks**

47. São Tomé and Príncipe is prone to **climate risks** due to its specific climatic, geographic, and socio-economic context, coastal and water management being particularly vulnerable. That said, São Tomé e Príncipe is on track to achieve environment-related MDGs. More than 97% of the population has access to clean water, and access to sanitation facilities improved to 34% by 2013<sup>36</sup>. DRSTP presented its second national communication on climate change at the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in Bonn in June 2014, although the communication has yet to be validated. The country also prepared a National Adaptation Programme of Action (NAPA) on climate change, which is awaiting funding. The NAPA is based on 22 urgent and immediate needs, including priorities for fisheries, agriculture, forestry, infrastructure, civil protection, health, energy, and water.

48. NAPA is designed to respond to the needs of the most vulnerable, especially artisanal fishers, farmers and women. Efforts are also underway to fight illegal

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<sup>35</sup> General Population Census, INE, 2012.

<sup>36</sup> African Economic Outlook 2015

deforestation. With support from Spain and the United States, the government initiated a plantation campaign to **combat desertification**. Forest guards are being equipped with tools to enable them to efficiently perform their duties, and community consultation on the impact of deforestation is being promoted.

49. The NAPA study has shown that there has been a significant variability of climatic patterns in the last decades with **rainfall decreasing** at a rate of 1,7 mm/year between 1951 and 2010. This reduction in rainfall will disturb the hydrological pattern by altering the rainfall/runoff ratio. Groundwater supply quality will be diminished due to the reduction of rainwater infiltration, thus decreasing the groundwater table.

50. Recent data shows that São Tomé e Príncipe's **annual temperatures have risen** by approximately 0.4°C between 1960 and 2006 and are expected to increase by between 0.8 and 2.4°C by 2060<sup>37</sup>. Hot nights and days are expected to continue to increase in frequency (there were not enough observations to calculate these changes from the historical record), whilst cold days and nights will become more rare. Statistically, significant trends indicate that March to May rainfall has been decreasing whilst heavy rainfall during the September to November period has been increasing<sup>38</sup>. NAPA concluded that though the current rainfall trend show a steady decrease, **this variability will be significantly exacerbated by climate change in coming decades with occurrence of extreme rainfall events**.

51. With episodes of heavy **rainfall** predicted to increase<sup>39</sup>, more frequent **flooding** will cause further **soil erosion**. Flooding also has the potential to damage infrastructure (e.g. roads, buildings, water supply infrastructure and housing), increase the spread of water-related diseases, damage or destroy crops, and incite landslides and rock falls. Climate change is likely to further enhance the frequency of severe weather associated with convective activity and augment **sea level rise, causing potential saltwater intrusion, coastal erosion, and the likelihood of flash floods**<sup>40</sup>.

52. Government institutions lack technical and management capacity, and the physical and financial resources to manage the anticipated changes. Rural populations have yet to adapt to and overcome worsening climatic conditions. DRSTP possesses inherent vulnerabilities as a **Small Island Developing State (SIDS)** (small land area, susceptibility to natural disasters, geographical isolation, limited natural resources and sensitive ecosystems). Further compounding the situation, are the existing unsustainable **community practices/norms** (such as deforestation and beach sand mining). Of particular concern are coastal communities and the negative impacts on

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<sup>37</sup> <http://country-profiles.geog.ox.ac.uk/>

<sup>38</sup> GEF, Project document, UNDP 2013

<sup>39</sup> *ibid*

<sup>40</sup> *ibid*

sectors such as agriculture and fisheries that are an important basis of rural livelihoods.

53. **DRSTP's ecosystems** are rich and diverse and capable of providing multiple services and resources. But they are also being significantly degraded. Ecosystem functions, especially water resource regulation, are threatened across the country due to land conversion for agriculture, forest degradation, over-exploitation of wildlife and other natural resources, erosion and bushfires, exacerbated by climate change and droughts. As stated by the Government and highlighted by several technical reports<sup>41</sup>, the country's water resources are highly vulnerable to climate change, and water flows in watersheds depend on a sustainable forest cover and on proper agricultural practices. Therefore, any development of new hydropower plants must be integrated with land-use planning and sustainable land and forestry management practices. Such an **integrated landscape approach** does not yet exist in DRSTP, although it has been strongly recommended by the program for Conservation and Rational Utilization of Forest Ecosystems in Central Africa (ECOFAC).

54. The latest FAO Forest Resources Assessment (FRA 2010) estimated that the land under tree cover is approximately 90% (90,900 ha), with high heterogeneity in quality and with various land uses. 40% of the country is **natural forest**, called "Ôbô". The Ôbo Natural Park covers 29,500 ha, and its management plan was validated in 2010 through the EU funded ECOFAC. Although the higher lands are not under pressure because of their difficult access, pressure is growing in the lowland forests in the buffer zone of the national park (which is not as yet well defined), as human penetration for **natural resources extraction** are more and more frequently observed.

55. 21% of the country is **secondary forest**, called "Capoeira". These lands are abandoned cocoa and coffee plantations. There are no **management plans** for these lands and thus the capoeira hosts illegal wood extraction, agricultural conversion and land use conflicts. Growing crops on these sloping lands, without measures against erosion, lead to soil degradation. Another 29% of the country is shade forest. These are productive lands (cacao and coffee) under tree cover. Many of them need to be rehabilitated with high quality tree plantations to improve production.

56. There are key underlying causes of land and forest degradation and deforestation. Illegal **cutting of trees** for wood construction (house, furniture, pontoon, etc.) and for firewood and charcoal production is one major cause. Although the law states that no tree in DRSTP can be cut without the authorization, the Department of Forests estimates that about **80% of the wood exploitation in the country is illegal**. As there is no management plan of forests (except for the protected area), forests are largely overharvested in some parts of the country. This

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<sup>41</sup> Examples Global Water Partnership (2010), Taiwanese cooperation (2012), National Ecological Management Plan for DRSTP (2009) and National Report on Biodiversity in DRSTP (2007).

unsustainable practice led to a depletion of timber stock in the forests of DRSTP (between 1989 and 1999, the forestry inventory shows a decrease of 6% of the volume of wood of the commercial species).

57. The North and North East of the country (**savannah ecosystem**) have been dramatically deforested from charcoal production, even in the protected area Praia das Conchas. This has a severe impact on the **agro-ecological production** system in this area. For instance, cacao can no longer be produced because of more frequent and dramatic droughts.

58. Following land reform initiated in 1993, extraction of high yielding timber trees for wood has been very widespread by those who have been assigned land under **reforma fundiaria (land reform)**. This land reform has had an important effect on the forest cover in the country. Moreover, many of landholdings remain unused and unoccupied, with the preference of many people to migrate to larger towns or at least to adjoining main roads.

59. Today, land privatization is leading to an increase in the number of small farms and the clearance of trees. This mainly affects secondary forests and areas surrounding the Ôbo National Park. Signs of harvesting for palm-wine production, hunting, and other extractive activities are becoming evident in the Monte Carmo area (Olmos and Turshak 2010). Penetrations of poor families in the buffer zone and in the national park are more and more common. They collect wood and non-forest products, which increase pressure on the ecosystems. Several large-scale agro-businesses are likely to result in **the loss of forest land**.

60. Every year smallholder farmers are clearing lands with fire before seeding maize. This practice seriously affects land ecosystems and causes soil erosion. According to the Ministry of Agriculture, about 1,000 ha are burned each year for that purpose, mostly in the Lobata district. Many crop fields are located in steep areas of the country. Soil erosion has been observed, as farmers usually do not use adequate cultivation techniques such as **terracing or tree plantations**.

61. In production areas, there is an **excessive and non-appropriate use of chemical fertilizers**, which contribute to the impoverishment of the country's arable lands. In general, farmers do not use basic agro-ecology techniques, such as compost, in order to manage the fertility of their soil. In a context of extreme poverty and economic degradation in the rural areas, many communities tend to rely on natural resources for their subsistence. Unsustainable activities in the rural areas include logging, charcoal burning, poaching, collection of medicinal plants, and intensive vegetable growing<sup>42</sup>.

62. The rate of forest degradation at the national level has not been estimated due to the absence of a complete forestry inventory. However, some forests (a sample of about 46,000 ha outside the protected areas) are threatened by degradation at an

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<sup>42</sup> *ibid*

annual rate of 1.27%. This is very high compared to the regional mean<sup>43</sup> and highlights the need for **sustainable forest management**. Although no official data exist to quantify soil erosion, stakeholders agree that soil loss is amongst the most serious environmental problem threatening the fragile ecological balance of the country.

63. There is limited detailed data for São Tomé e Príncipe on the projected **economic costs of climate change** and the additional costs and benefits of adaptation. Assessments of Africa and African countries facing similar challenges, however, indicate that the economic costs of climate change in Africa could equal an annual loss in GDP of 1.5-3% by 2030. In the long-term, these costs could increase rapidly to a loss of 10% of GDP by 2100. Accurate weather and climate information and forecasting are essential for planning and managing economic production and the provision of social services to manage climate change. Community agricultural planning, practices, information, and education are also essential to curtail practices which increase degradation.

64. **Resilience, Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR):** Climate change and inappropriate land use practices described above make communities prone to floods and landslides, which **negatively affect crops, fishing road access, and household assets**<sup>44</sup>. São Tomé e Príncipe's capacity to adapt to climate-related hazards must limit the negative impacts of climate change and address the country's socio-economic and developmental challenges effectively. For over 30 years, both the hydrology and meteorology departments have been struggling for resources to properly function. There has been a steady decline in infrastructure dedicated to monitoring the climate, hydrology, environment and severe weather (e.g. meteorological and hydrological observing stations, satellite receivers, and weather radar).

65. Since the 2008 floods, a Council for the Prevention and Response to Disasters (CONPREC) was established to be responsible for coordinating the issuance of early warnings. The Ministry of Public Works, Infrastructure, Natural Resources, Energy and Environment is responsible for the **coordination of environmental issues**, mainly through its Directorate General for Environment. It is also the coordinating body of several important institutions including the National Institute of Meteorology (NIM), the Directorate General of Natural Resources and Energy (DGNRE), the Directorate General for Environment (DGA), the Maritime and Port Institute (IMAP), Land Use Management Department (DLUM), among others.

66. Despite the organizational intent, **scientific and technical capabilities** required to effectively identify hazards and forecast their potential impacts on vulnerable communities remain weak. The country has suffered a prolonged period of re-

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<sup>43</sup> *ibid*

<sup>44</sup> WFP Standard Project report 2014.

source scarcity which has dilapidated the infrastructure at district and national levels. Buildings, housing, and meteorological services are in an extremely poor state of disrepair on both islands. Existing instrumentation is insufficient.

67. Currently the limited amount of information generated by the National Institute of Meteorology (NIM) is delivered to a restricted number of stakeholders, such as television and national radio via a recorded videotape. The information is not shared with end-users in a timely manner thus preventing necessary response mechanisms. This is troubling for remote communities of fishermen and other vulnerable groups who do not benefit in a timely manner from the **weather and climate information** collected by the NIM or the Hydrology Department.

68. While these challenges confirm the lack of an effective **Early Warning System (EWS)** at present, the Ministry of Public Works and Infrastructure, along with GEF partners, intends to: establish a functional network of meteorological and hydrological monitoring stations and associated infrastructure to better understand climatic changes; develop and disseminate tailored weather and climate information to decision makers in government, private sector, civil society, development partners and communities in all districts of the Island including the autonomous region of Príncipe (including colour-coded alerts – advisories, watches and warnings – for flood, drought, severe weather and agricultural stresses, integrated cost-benefit analyses and sector-specific risk and vulnerability maps); and integrate weather and climate information into national policies, annual workplans and local development including the National Policy for Disaster Preparedness and Management, and district development plans in priority communities of coastline villages of Neves, Santa Catarina, Malanza and Ribeira Afonso<sup>45</sup>.

69. EWS require **inter-ministerial coordination**, planning, and response. This would necessitate a central and local authority master plan. Government, private sector, and local communities must all be informed and work together to ensure preparedness and appropriate response through integrated sustainable management of the environment, climate change, and disaster risk reduction. Strengthened responses to disasters and risk management require collaboration between the Ministries of Public Works, Infrastructure, Natural Resources and Environment, Agriculture, Fisheries and Development, and Defense<sup>46</sup>. An effective EWS in São Tomé e Príncipe would require a strengthened weather, climate and hydrological monitoring network, improved infrastructures, skills and capacity to effectively produce accurate forecasts, enhanced capacity for warning issuing, dissemination and response, and the creation of environmental databases and national frameworks for data sharing to support sectorial development policies.

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<sup>45</sup> *ibid*

<sup>46</sup> GEF: Strengthening climate information and early warning systems in São Tomé and Príncipe for climate resilient development and adaptation to climate change, GEF, UNDP 2013.

70. EWS also benefits the poorer segments of society, those who do not necessarily benefit from large protective infrastructures<sup>47</sup>. Furthermore, improving the EWS provides benefits for long term planning and helps NHMS and other institutions build capacity to service other needs such as land use and **agricultural planning, coastal zone management, and natural resources management**. To allow DRSTP to better manage severe weather related disasters, food security and agricultural production, and make the socioeconomic development process less **vulnerable to climate-related risks**, it is essential to address key DRR issues.

71. The EWS situation has been sporadically improved by specifically targeted project interventions, such as: the SICLIMAD (System for Climatic Information and Sea to Support the Sustainable Development of São Tomé and Príncipe); the WB/UNDP joint project, Supporting Integrated and Comprehensive Approaches to Climate Change Adaptation in Africa: leadership, demonstration and capacity-building in São Tomé e Príncipe; the African Monitoring of the Environment for Sustainable Development (AMESD)<sup>48</sup> to improve use of satellite data; and the “Weather for all” initiative to improve weather station coverage<sup>49</sup>. Recently, the need for a systematic **improvement of the observation network** is recognized by the Global Climate Observing System (GCOS)<sup>50</sup> which in its reports to the UNFCCC notes that “Developing Countries have made only limited progress in filling gaps in their *in situ* observing networks, with some evidence of decline in some regions, and capacity building support remains small in relation to needs”. The installation of **new infrastructure** also requires several practical considerations: i) safety of the equipment; ii) power sources; iii) long term durability; iv) access for maintenance and v) transmission and archiving of data.

72. Challenges to improve the management of climate-related hazards include:

- hydro-meteorological **monitoring network and forecasting capacity** for NIM: technical skills of hydro-meteorological personnel (e.g. hydrologists, meteorologists and forecast technicians) to handle, analyze and produce sector-specific tailored forecasts and to package information in clearer and more understandable way is lacking;
- skilled and **sustainable institutional and human resources**: the few remaining well-trained forecasters in the country are unable to use their skills effectively and are often lured overseas or into more lucrative work. This has resulted in limited EWS human resources, especially technicians and IT specialists;
- strengthening the capacity of NIM and DGRNE to analyze the data and generate accurate forecast to be transmitted to those entities (CONPREC, Civil Protection) with mandate to issue warnings;
- efficient **delivery of climate information**: there is largely a weak institutional arrangements and absence of policy and legal frameworks to guide the provision of

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<sup>47</sup> ibid

<sup>48</sup> ibid

<sup>49</sup> ibid

<sup>50</sup> ibid

meteorological services, with limited appreciation and use of meteorological services by other sectors of the economy;

- **inter-sectorial coordination**, communication and data sharing leads to available climate, hydrological, agriculture and environmental data not being adequately combined and/or translated for key messages to be easily understood by users (eg CONPREC and the Civil Protection, Red Cross, Sea Coastal Guards, Fire Brigade, Police and the Army which are dispersed and acting independently);
- ability of stakeholders to **identify climate linked risks/vulnerabilities** to support decision making and sector planning. All the information required to assess vulnerability and calculate risks needs to be accessible, either through a central database/repository, or through distributed networks.
- advanced **workstations and GIS facilities** are lacking to allow systematic storage, integration and mainstreaming of climate and weather data to facilitate inter-institutional data sharing
- Government and local authorities lack adoption of a **master plan for land use** that protects the environment and facilitates rural development;
- **integration of environmental, disaster risk management, and climate change** sustainable management policies into development strategies and national development plans and interventions;
- Local governments and communities are familiar with and efficiently **use disaster risk management and climate change adaptation tools**;
- development of a **communication and institutional framework** for warning dissemination to end users including vulnerable communities.

#### Challenges to building and maintaining resilience in response to climate change

- Limited institutional and human technical capacity
- Information and database management
- Mainstreaming DRR into sectorial plans and strategies
- Effective Early Warning System
- Analysis of climate risks and opportunities and needed actions at local level
- Inter-sectorial coordination
- Limited infrastructure and equipment

### 5.3. Development Area 3:

#### Population: Human and Social Capital – Equity, Quality, and Protection

73. DRSTP ranks 142nd among 186 countries in UNDP's *2014 Human Development Report* placing the country in the category of *medium* human development. With a Human Development Index (HDI) of 0.558, it is **above the sub-Saharan African average** of 0.508. The resident **population** of DRSTP is just over 179,000 with a growth rate of nearly 2.5%. Its population is a proportionate 50/50 balance between men to women, with a young population (14-35 years) of approximately 38% or some 68,000 persons. The total percentage of those under 20 years of age accounts for 52% of the total population. Residency reveals a 67% urban and 33% rural population. The last poverty profile, undertaken in 2011, indicated that the



situation is improving, with 49.6% of the population living below the poverty line and 15.9% in extreme poverty, compared to 53.8% and 19.2% respectively in 2001<sup>51</sup>. **Poverty** affects mostly women (71.3%) and rural populations, resulting in urban migration trends. National **unemployment**, estimated at 13.6 percent, mostly impacts youth and women. According to the 2012 Housing and Population Census, youth unemployment stands at 23%, and 19.7% for women.

74. Substantial progress has been made in terms of **reproductive health**. However, it is essential to continue to strengthen the program of information, education and communication about family planning to prevent early pregnancies. While there is on an ongoing training programme for cardiology and nephrology funded by the EU, DRSTP is expected to face several challenges, notably the fact that health workers (doctors, nurses, midwives) are few due to the lack of training and a brain drain to Angola and Portugal. The EU also contributes to the training of midwives, anesthetists, and instruments to improve emergency obstetrics. Taiwan contributes to medical support at the central hospital. The emigration of health workers is related to poor salaries and conditions.

75. There are important challenges that the country faces in the area of **sexual and reproductive health**, which are related to the strengthening of the processes of communication, education and information for individual decisions about sexual health. Enhanced family planning is required for women who lack access to planning services<sup>52</sup>. Additionally, there is limited capacity for the care and prevention of domestic violence and gender-based violence, according to data from the 2009 Demographic and Health Survey. 34% of women reported being victims of some form of emotional abuse, or physical or sexual violence by their spouses (see gender discussion below).

76. According to the 2012 census, life expectancy has increased from 63.9 years in 2001 to 65.3. Child births have decreased from 4.7 in 2001 to 3.6 in 2012<sup>53</sup>. MICS 2014 indicates a slight simultaneous increase in contraceptive use to 40.6% versus 38.4%. While DRSTP will not reach its overall poverty, gender, and partnerships MDG targets, it will achieve objectives related to **primary education enrolment, infant mortality, HIV/AIDS prevalence, and malaria infections**.

77. As a result of the contribution of expanded information dissemination and health service availability, **infant mortality** has diminished from 45 to 38 deaths per 1000 since 2006, and **maternal mortality** also diminished from 158 to 79 deaths per 1000 in 2014, although short of the 2015 target of 62. Health professional assisted child births have increased from 79% to 91% in 2014. Pre-natal care has reached an estimated 98%<sup>54</sup>.

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<sup>51</sup> INE, 2012.

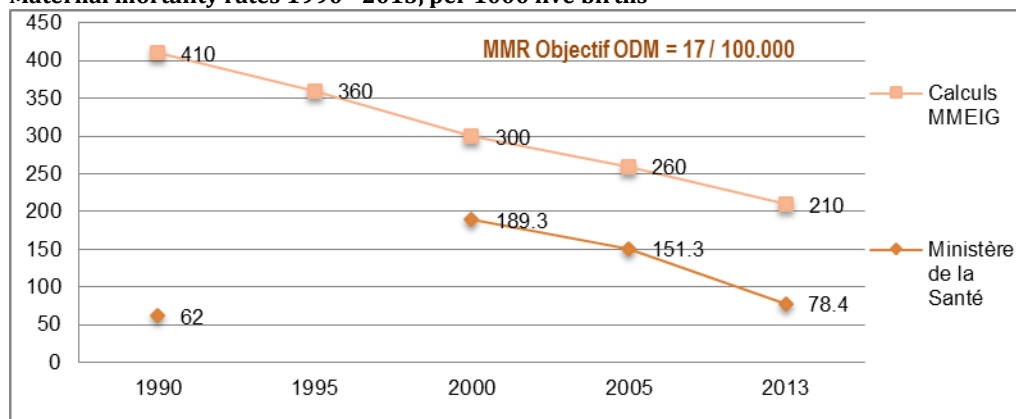
<sup>52</sup> UNFPA, 2015

<sup>53</sup> INE, 2012

<sup>54</sup> INE 2012.

78. DRSTP has realized great progress in the expansion of its **primary health network**, including the main hospital Ayres de Menezes in São Tomé and Manuel Quaresma Dias da Grace in Príncipe, six health centers, 27 rural health posts, and 21 community health centers. Overall coverage has been rated as acceptable (SITAN draft 0, UNICEF, 2015) and in 2012, 90-95% of the population lived within a one hour walk to some sort of medical services<sup>55</sup>. Nearly 89% of medical facilities offer maternal, infant, and family planning services. However, only 3 facilities offer obstetric care. Family planning faces socio/cultural barriers leading to over 27% unwanted pregnancies<sup>56</sup>.

**Maternal mortality rates 1990 - 2013, per 1000 live births**



Min Health<sup>57</sup>

79. The MICS 2014 confirms that while infant mortality decreases demonstrate health sector gains, **health provision** remains weak in the areas of treatment for diarrhea, malaria, and the provision of IRA antibiotics. Materials and service delivery within health facilities are not always adequate and health care providers are not always able to provide timely assistance, are poorly paid, and do not always have equipment needed for service delivery. Negligence, verbal abuse, and other service quality deficits have been reported in some departments<sup>58</sup>.

80. **Tuberculosis (TB), Malaria, and HIV/AIDS:** The DRSTP **TB mortality rate** was reported as 27 cases per 100,000 inhabitants in 1990 which decreased to 13 in 2000 and 7 cases in 2005. From 2006 onwards, there were fluctuations with 16 cases /100,000 inhabitants reported in 2012<sup>59</sup>. Tuberculosis control has shown progress towards achieving the MDG target 6C “to reduce the incidence of TB by 2015 compared to 1990”, which was met in São Tomé e Príncipe in 2012. The Stop TB Partnership target of halving TB mortality and TB prevalence in 2015 compared to their 1990 values was not achieved in 2012. The country is, however, on track to achieve that target. The Global Partnership for TB Plan objectives on raising the detection

<sup>55</sup> Sitan, UNICEF 2015.

<sup>56</sup> CCA Summary, UNFPA 2015.

<sup>57</sup> Ministry of Health, UN Maternal Mortality Estimations Interagency Group (MMEIG)

<sup>58</sup> *ibid*

<sup>59</sup> Global Fund Report, UNDP 2015.

rate to 70% or more, and a treatment success rate of 90% or more by 2015, have not been met, but the country is also on track to achieve this target<sup>60</sup>.

81. **Malaria cases** have declined since 1990, from 135/100,000, to 93/100,000 in 2012. Malaria transmission occurs throughout the year, with a peak incidence during the periods November-January and May-June. The number of malaria cases fell from over 30,000 cases in 2004 to some 9,261 cases in 2013. (World Malaria Report 2014). In recent years, malaria has become a hypo-endemic in DRSTP. This is the result of intensified and integrated implementation of key interventions, in particular:

- Indoor residual spraying
- Distribution of long-lasting insecticidal nets
- Larval control
- Management of the disease using artemisinin-based combination therapies
- Intermittent preventive treatment
- Behavior change communication

82. A large reduction in malaria cases was observed between 2005 and 2007, with fluctuations from 2009, particularly in those aged over 5, with a peak in the period 2012-2013. Conversely, a large reduction was seen between 2013 and 2014, after a new insecticide (Bendiocarb) was introduced. Using the same epidemiological monitoring system that was used in the World Malaria Report 2013, the NMCP recorded 1,754 cases in 2014: **a 81.4% reduction** from 2013 levels<sup>61</sup>.

83. The island of Príncipe is in a **malaria pre-elimination** phase, with a very low rate of malaria transmission. The epidemiological context described above involves overall measures on the country level with specific measures for the island of Príncipe<sup>62</sup>.

84. Recent data show that the annual incidence of malaria fell from 38.4 cases per 1,000 inhabitants in 2009 to 9.3 cases per 1,000 inhabitants in 2014. There has also been a clear reduction in malaria-linked morbidity and mortality, which fell from 14 per 100,000 deaths in 2009 to 0 (zero) deaths in 2014<sup>63</sup>. DRSTP has provided three free malaria services which have accounted for these gains: **distribution of insecticide infused bed nets, residential spraying, and treatment at health centers**<sup>64</sup>.

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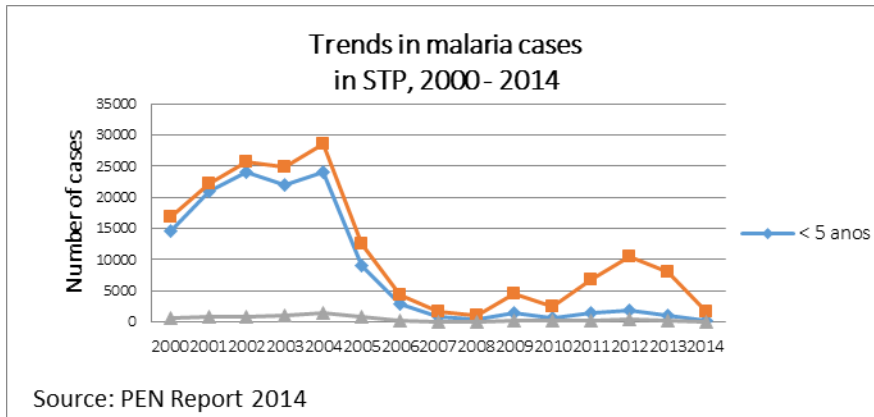
<sup>60</sup> *ibid*

<sup>61</sup> *ibid*

<sup>62</sup> Extract from Concept Note submitted to the Global Fund in April 2015

<sup>63</sup> UNDP Global Fund Report, 2015.

<sup>64</sup> Situation Analysis of Children and Women, UNICEF 2015.



UNDP Global Fund Report, 2015.

85. MICS 2014 revealed that the **HIV infection rate** in the 15-49 year age group (men and women) declined to .5% compared to the 2009 DHS which had previously revealed a higher male infection rate (1.7%) than female (1.3%). Infection rates are related to certain demographics whereby divorced or separated individuals have higher incidence (1.8% men, 1.2% women), 0.4% amongst married or individuals in relationships, and 0% among single women<sup>65</sup>. Condom use does result in decreases in infection rates, especially among adults with multiple partners. New infections continue, however, especially among youth and women. Sexually active individuals reported a condom use of slightly over 60%, differing between men (over 63%) and women (just over 54%)<sup>66</sup>.

86. According to the National Programme to Fight HIV/AIDS, new infections are most concentrated in specific groups (ie prisons and sex workers). 2013 brought in 120 new HIV cases and 118 in 2014. Medical support programmes have also increased for treatment which has lessened the social and economic impact of HIV/AIDS for patients and/orphans<sup>67</sup>.

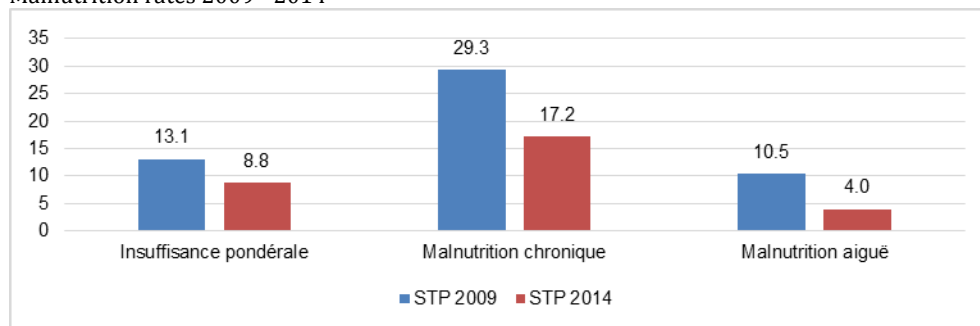
87. **Malnutrition** is generally measured by age to weight; size to age; and weight to size. DRSTP has made significant progress between 2009-2014 in acute and chronic malnutrition and DRSTP compares well to other west African states.

<sup>65</sup> Global Fund Report, UNDP, 2015.

<sup>66</sup> IDS, 2009.

<sup>67</sup> ENRP MTR, 2014.

Malnutrition rates 2009 - 2014



Source : IDS DRSTP 2008-2009, MICS 2014 2014, INS et ICF International (2012).

88. Causes of malnutrition are inadequate nutrients and illness often affiliated with **poverty, unemployment, education of the mother, and lack of social protection** (see annex for determinants of malnutrition in children 0-5 yrs<sup>68</sup>). More stable and economically sound families tend to demonstrate lower rates of malnutrition.

89. The National Feeding and Academic Health Programme (PNASE) began its implementation in 2012 financed by WFP and is now being transitioned to Government for implementation by 2016. **School feeding** is one of the components of successful DRSTP primary school enrolment rates.

90. Actions which would improve levels of malnutrition include: reduce unemployment, increase social protection mechanisms (both monetary and food allocations), implement the National Nutrition Policy, transition the school feeding programme, improve monitoring and evaluation mechanisms, enhance levels of nutrition education at all levels, including for political leaders, include **nutrition in national economic and social development policies**.

91. **Water and Sanitation:** Universal access to clean water and sanitation are important factors influencing the well-being of the population. Since diarrhea is a major leading cause of death among infants 0-5 years of age<sup>69</sup>, addressing clean water and sanitation is essential since diarrhea among children is more frequent in DRSTP than in west and central African countries.

92. The majority of Saotomenese have access to improved water sources (water source which is either in the house or residential garden, neighbor, public fountain, rain, or bottled water). This does not mean that these sources of water are always drinkable, as high rates of rural contaminated water are evident in DRSTP<sup>70</sup>. This is of concern since over **half the population gets its water from public fountains**

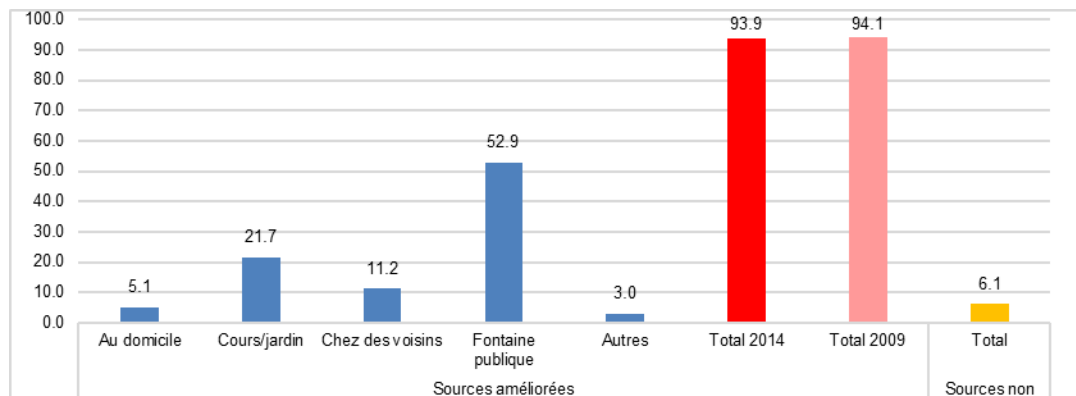
<sup>68</sup> Sitan UNICEF, 2015.

<sup>69</sup> MICS, 2014.

<sup>70</sup> MICS, 2014.

and no measureable increase in water access is evident since 2009. There is also a disparity in water access by region since urban centers are under the management of the Water and Electric Department (EMAE) while rural water is managed by respective districts which are impacted by resource shortages.

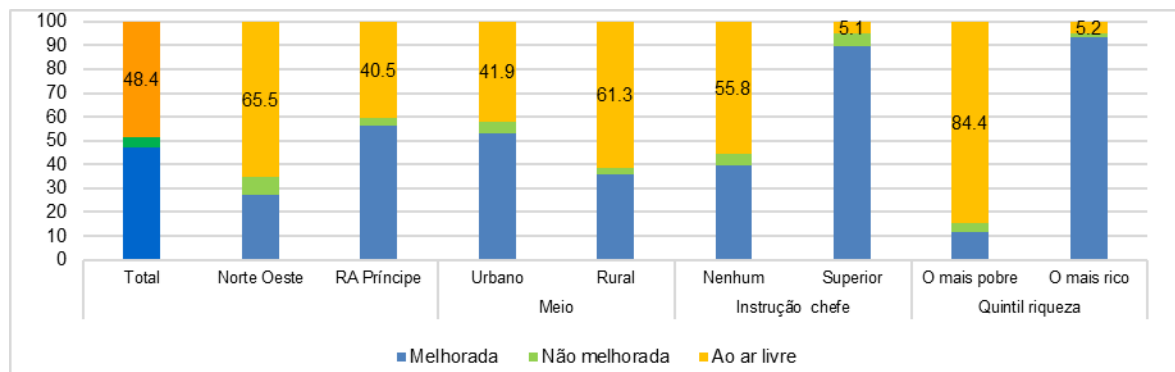
**Percentage of water access by source**



Source : MICS 2014 et IDS 2008-2009.

93. Regarding sanitation, progress has been slower than in other sectors. The graph below displays sanitation against socio-economic factors. In sum, 48% of the population has no sanitation (an improvement from 57.7% in 2009) affected mainly by level of income.

**Percentage of the population which uses different types of sanitation against socio-economic determinants**



Source : MICS 2014

94. EMAE manages 16 water systems covering some 100,000 residents. Only 8 of these are attached to a water treatment facility. While rural systems are remaining from the colonial period, these are in disrepair and EMAE does not have the resources to improve their systems, and district resources are limited for rural systems. As for sewerage, only 1 of 5 households has some form of sewerage system. 63.4% of households use a bucket for disposal<sup>71</sup>. This has implications for health, infant disease, and water source contamination. Once again, **economic levels and**

<sup>71</sup> 6,7% brûlent les déchets et 3,5% les jettent dans un fleuve ou en mer, 5,8% les enterrent, et 1,1% utilisent une autre méthode d'élimination.

**head of household education were noted as important indicators of positive sanitation practices.** There are few signs of community-managed water facilities.

95. **Social Protection:** Social cohesion is a pillar of the ENRP II and as such recognizes the need to: promote national identity and value cultural patrimony; guarantee gender equity and equality; provide services for vulnerable groups; and develop of youth and sports. UNICEF defines social protection (SP) as *public and private policies and programmes which aim to prevent, reduce, or eliminate economic and social vulnerabilities of poverty and deprivation*. DRSTP has been committed to the national policy and strategy for social protection. It aims to fight poverty by addressing **malnutrition, unemployment, and vulnerability**. The national Social Protection Law was passed in 2004, school feeding programme in 2010, and the importance given to social protection was described in the ENRP II. Social protection has been formulated based on UNICEF and WB SP models and the ILO social protection floor.

96. The focus of the social protection policy is **vulnerable families in extreme poverty** who do not have sufficient income to meet their needs. WFP has determined that the most affected families are those without access to a regular income thus being victims of food insecurity. **Malnutrition** affects 1 of 5 children under five, and 15% of the population do not seek medical assistance for illness, in part due to lack of resources. Other vulnerabilities include pre-school attendance at only 43.8%, some 15% of 6-11 year olds out of school, and some 53% of secondary school aged children out of school. Many parents state that school fees, uniforms, and food are the reason for withdrawing children from secondary schools<sup>72</sup>.

97. Further consideration for social protection include a 13.6% **unemployment** rate of those over 15 years of age, 9.3% men and an overwhelming 19.7% women. Among youth, the unemployment rate doubles to 23%. Nearly 30% of youth 15-24 years of age are neither employed nor in school. Of those who do have work, 72% still live in poverty. To attempt to remedy these social ills, government intends to provide the following support to its citizens administered by the Department of Social Protection and Solidarity (see social protection family and child mechanisms in the annex<sup>73</sup>):

- Pre-school feeding (ages 0-5)
- School feeding (ages 6-17)
- Reproductive health education for youth
- Monetary support for mothers of 3 or more children in school
- Supplementary food for anti-retroviral patients
- Roads construction programme for adults
- Pensions for the elderly

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<sup>72</sup> Política e Estratégia Nacional de Protecção Social, 2013.

<sup>73</sup> UNICEF, SITAN, 2015.

- Support to service providing NGOs

98. The National Social Security Institute (INSS) administers programs for employees of both private and public sectors covering worker rights such as **illness, maternity, professional risk, disability, age, and death**. That said, there are shortcomings. Pensions are very low, administrative costs are high, and financial constraints to resource full implementation of these programmes continue. The **system only covers 17% of the working population** and mainly those in public sector.

99. Implementation of the system remains a challenge, mostly due to a lack of public funding. DRSTP has yet to establish a code for the labour market, and lacks a labour tribunal to defend the interests of public workers. When work-related conflicts arise, extra-judiciary conflicts are often resolved by the Ministry of Labour, and in more serious cases, they have been transferred to the Ministry of Justice. The country also faces a critical need to improve the rules and regulations for the protection of child labour, as these are largely lacking. Support for private sector is only nascent with the assistance of ILO and UNDP, including the formulation of child labour laws. **Sustainability, capacity and resource commitments remain major obstacles**<sup>74</sup> to the realization of the DRSTP proposed full coverage of social protection programmes.

100. **Basic education gains** have been laudable. The rates of pre-school and secondary enrolment have doubled <sup>75</sup>. The country is on track to achieve universal primary education, the second of the eight Millennium Development Goals. In 2013, **primary school enrolment peaked at 96.4%**<sup>76</sup> while the literacy rate of individuals aged 15 years and older was 69.5%. Despite the country's macroeconomic challenges, education remained one of the key priority sectors in the 2014 budget, accounting for some 36% of expenditure. Access to basic education is free and mandatory through level 6. In some specific cases, the government provides financial assistance through the social protection programmes for poor families mentioned above so that all children can attend school. The ENRP II stresses the importance of quality education and professional training in key areas which support development. It targets 100% of child and youth to complete basic education and 100% access to basic quality health services.

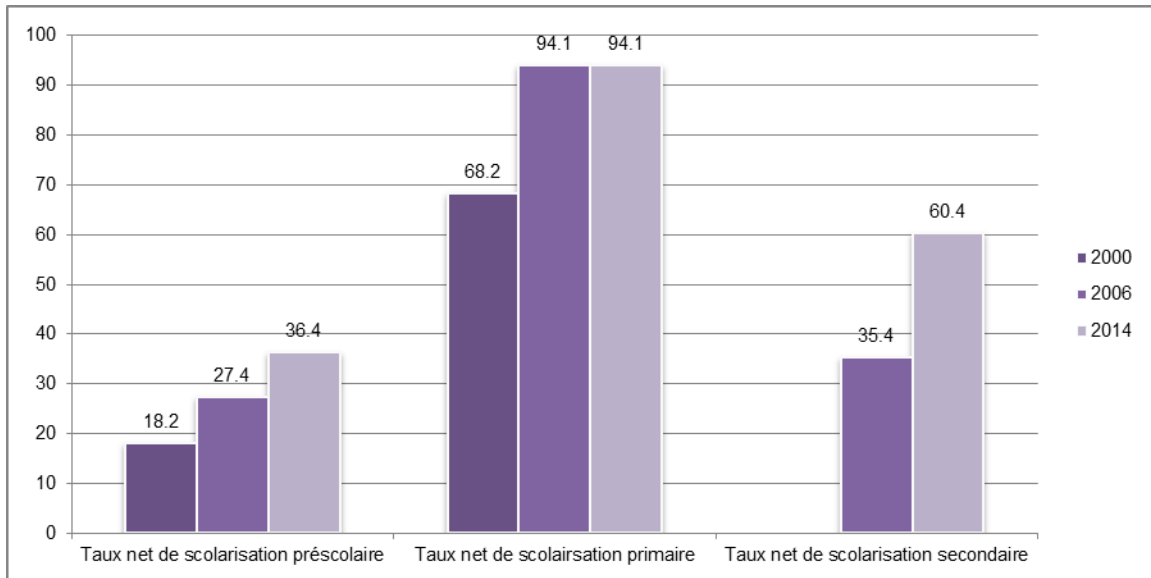
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<sup>74</sup> AFDB, 2015.

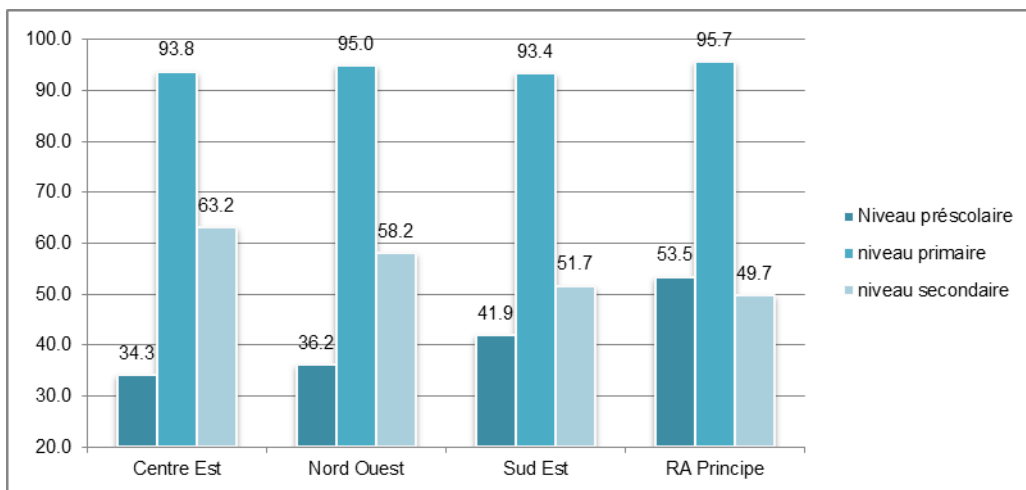
<sup>75</sup> MICS 2014.

<sup>76</sup> *ibid*



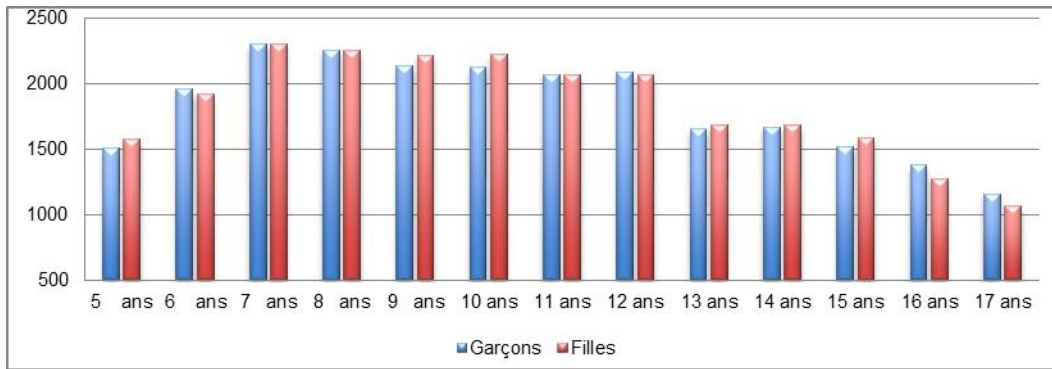


MICS, 2014.



UNCIEF Sitan draft 0, 2015.

101. While cultural norms affect continuation of girls in school (marriage, pregnancy, lack of academic opportunities, need for household support), DRSTP has maintained a balanced scorecard related to access and participation of girls. In addition, **91% of those entering primary school complete the sixth class**. 53% of those completing primary enter secondary school. Quality and access of education (class size, teacher capacity, access, materials) remain challenges to prepare students for secondary school and work. **Secondary school retention**, due to access and lack of linkages to employment opportunities, also remains a challenge witnessed by declining attendance numbers.



Source: IV Recensement Général de la Population (INE, 2012)

**102. Youth and employment:** The 38% of the resident population represented by youth (ages 14-35) is comprised by an approximate equal ratio of males to females. Over half of this population resides in urban areas (68%) and most of these in the two largest cities in the country. **28% are heads of family, 19% married (6.6% male vs 28% women) and approximately 50% are single<sup>77</sup>.**

103. Nearly 65% of the youth population have been engaged in some sort of academic instruction, 33% of these are currently enrolled, and 3% with no education at all. Nearly 96% of the youth population are literate, 57.8% having concluded basic education and 37% attended secondary school. There is a very low percentage of technical-professional education or higher (between .4-1.4%). Some 821 youth are in higher education courses mostly in law, economics, and management.

**104. Approximately 46.2% of the youth population are currently employed, 45.7% inactive, and only 8.2% in the process of looking for work.** Of the 46.2% who work, over 25% are in service or sales, 18% unskilled labor, 17% agriculture/fishing/cattle, 16% artisan, and only 1.2% in legislative, executive or management positions. Of employed youth in the service or commercial sector, women make up 40.1% and 9% men. As for unskilled labor, there is also a higher percentage of women (33.5%) to men (8.9%). The percentages of men working in agriculture, however, is greater than women<sup>78</sup>. Figures on unemployment may be inaccurate as the country has not conducted a comprehensive employment survey. There are large numbers of workers in the informal economy (over 60% of the labour force), and many are underemployed with no social protection. The real unemployment rate is most likely higher with regard to decent work principles<sup>79</sup>.

105. The lack of a work policy and youth work programs, combined with the difficulty of the state to realize market reforms, and the weak capacity of the private sector to offer employment opportunities, have made for a **difficult integration of youth into the employment market<sup>80</sup>**. DRSTP ratified 21 ILO labor related conven-

<sup>77</sup> INE, 2012.

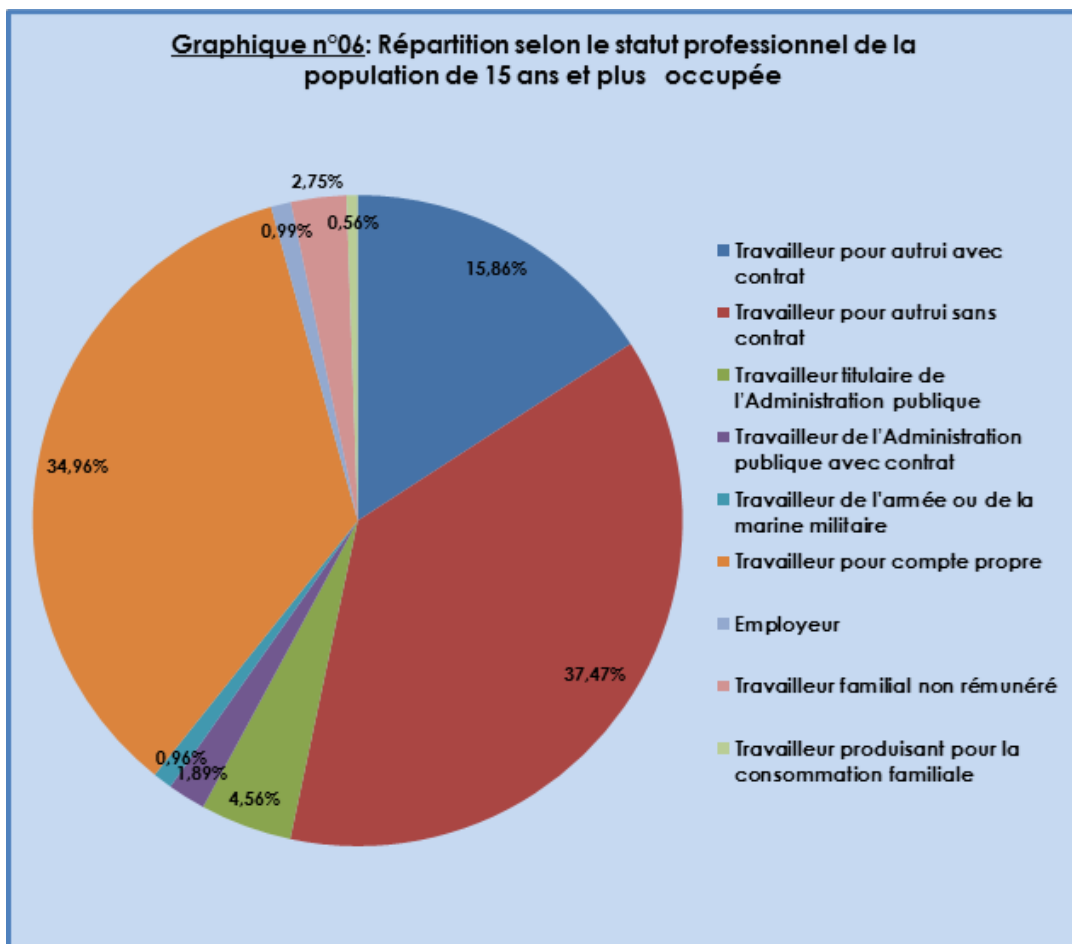
<sup>78</sup> ibid

<sup>79</sup> ILO, 2015.

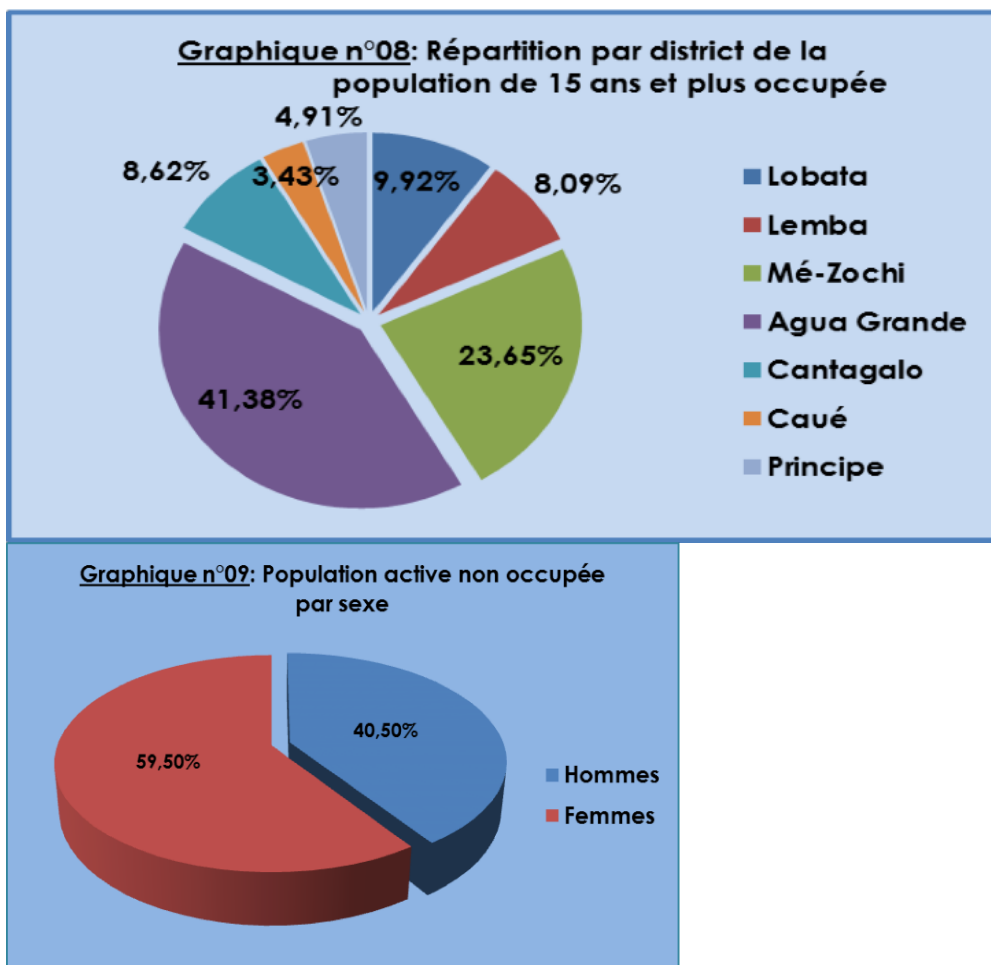
<sup>80</sup> Promotional bulletin of dignified work, ILO. 2013

tions, however, legislation has not accommodated these conventions within new labor laws or social protection mechanisms. There is a **decent work country programme** for 2013-2016 to apply international employment norms and promote dignified work opportunities for men and women. However, this program has yet to achieve all intended labor improvement goals.

106. The 2015 National Employment Policy Project (PNE), supported by ILO and UNDP, describes the employment environment as: **not offering sufficient job opportunities, especially for youth and women, consisting mostly of the informal sector; reduced secondary and technical/professional training opportunities; lack of a public-private partnership to bolster the linkage between worker organizations, public administration and private sector.** According to INE, the overall active population is 65,968, half of whom are working (15 years or older). Currently, over 70% of the working population is self-employed or non-contractual, and 65% of working individuals are in only 2 districts, Agua Grande and Me'Zochi. In 2014, the government approved a legal decree, *Programa Aposta Jovem*, that defines criteria for making credit available to youth. The three following tables from the 2015 PNE demonstrate national employment challenges.



PNE, UNPD/ILO, 2015.



107. To address the serious obstacles of unemployment for youth, the Government plans to achieve the objectives within the PNE to: develop private sector capacity; stimulate self-employment and entrepreneurship, especially among youth and women; reinforce technical and professional training opportunities; develop internships for unqualified youth; and improve the governance of the work sector in DRSTP.

108. **Gender equality issues** have been given special attention in recent policy documents, including the government's Poverty Reduction Strategy 2012-2016, although concrete policy steps toward mitigating gender imbalances are still lacking. The 2014 **Gender Development Index (GDI)** of UNDP's **Human Development Report** reveal DRSTP's global gender ranking as 115 of 187 countries.

109. There is a national gender action plan for 2013-2017. One-third of all households are headed by women, either single or living in "free union", with lower per-

capita consumption than households headed by men. The national unemployment rate among women is 19.7%, while it is 9.3% among men, according to the 2012 national housing and population census. DRSTP is nonetheless on track to achieve the third Millennium Development Goal of **promoting gender equality and empowering women**. The proportion of seats held by women in the national parliament has doubled, to 18% in 2014 from 9% in 2012. Overall literacy rates have reached 93% of men ages 15-49, and 85% of women. Despite these gains, **domestic gender violence** continues, due, at least in part, to limited availability of prevention and care. As revealed earlier, the 2009 demographic survey revealed an alarming 34% of women reporting emotional, physical, or sexual abuse by their spouses<sup>81</sup>.

110. The government is also partnering with non-governmental organizations to create jobs for women by supporting the processing of agriculture products, building the capacity of fisherwomen, and enhancing new techniques to lead value chain development. Although legislation that promotes equal rights such as property law, judicial system, marriage, access to economic activity, and opportunity to all citizens without discrimination on social, political, or religious grounds exists, much more is still required **to reduce gender disparities**. The AfDB plans to undertake a gender profile for the country that will build on the 2013-2017 government gender action plan.

#### **5.4 Development Area 4:**

##### **Prosperity and Productivity: Inclusive Economic Growth**

111. The performance of the **financial sector** in DRSTP has remained below expectations. The Central Bank's assessment of the sector concluded that the share of non-performing loans had reached 25% in December 2014 due to rapid credit expansion in the context of poor risk management and a weak lending culture. The assessment also reported that the performance of one commercial bank was below standard, and management control was temporarily taken over by the Central Bank. The remaining seven commercial banks were rated as satisfactory<sup>82</sup>.

112. Difficulties in providing collateral and the **high interest rates** charged by commercial banks (24% to 26%) continue to hinder access to financing for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). Efficient **domestic resource mobilization** is one of the government's key policy challenges. In an economy that is highly dependent on imports, the major source of revenue is through import taxes. It is important to note that the **tax system is regressive**, as the small number of enterprises cannot contribute significantly through tax payments. The bulk of the tax burden falls on public sector wages, which are already low. The majority of commercial banks had hoped to benefit from the country's expected but now delayed petroleum exploration. The banks will therefore need to adjust their strategies towards non-oil sectors in order to ensure the sustainability of their business models.

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<sup>81</sup> *ibid*

<sup>82</sup> African Economic Outlook, 2014.

113. The Ministry of Economy stresses the government's vision to combat poverty through prosperity, mostly through structural changes which embrace the private sector. **Private sector development** has not been prioritized by DRSTP in the past but its importance for economic sustainability is essential. With the need for further FDI, strengthening entrepreneurship and the overall business environment. DRSTP is considering: improvement to infrastructures for access to production including airport, electricity, ports, and roads; reduction in the cost of doing business in DRSTP through changes to legislative regulations; improvement to the judiciary re commerce protection; increase in credit access and a decrease in taxes; improvement in tourism opportunities linking DRSTP to neighboring countries; enhanced fisheries and agriculture production and diversification with products of added value; and coordination of partners across sectors to harness development players to avoid duplication and monitor and measure economic growth results<sup>83</sup>.

114. The country's **private sector** continues to be constrained by **inadequate strategic, legal, and regulatory frameworks and a weak judicial system and weak entrepreneurship skills**. The private sector is characterized by microenterprises which primarily focus on trade, construction, and tourism. The access and the cost of energy, transport, and **limited access to credit** are major obstacles. Weak institutional capacity and lack of business development services (BDS) are impeding efficient management, budget planning, and the utilization of limited public funds<sup>84</sup>.

115. DRSTP has made significant efforts to provide a more conducive environment to private investors. This progress is reflected in improvement in the country's World Bank's **Doing Business** ranking from 174 of 189 countries in 2011 to 153 in 2015<sup>85</sup>. The key achievements include the abolition of the minimum capital requirement for business entities to obtain commercial licenses, progress in construction permits, access to electricity, and technological upgrades in customs. DRSTP's biggest challenge will be to diversify the economy to ensure sustainable and inclusive growth while facing geographic differentiation, a small economy, political challenges, a nascent business environment, and a shortage of skilled labour.

116. The **agriculture** sector has faced major difficulties due to a lack of investment, appropriate applied research, and insufficient skilled labor needed to make plantations sustainable. A new agriculture policy aims to ensure food security and reduce imports by improving national production of food, and to restructure agricultural exports in order to increase export volumes and prices. Food production is dominated by cassava, corn, cocoyam and tomato. Almost all of the food production comes from private SMEs (some owned by women) and is not sufficient to meet domestic demand, leading to a deficit met through imports. The **food processing** sector remains underdeveloped. The **fisheries** sector is mainly artisanal but con-

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<sup>83</sup> Ministry of Economy, 2015.

<sup>84</sup> *ibid*

<sup>85</sup> *ibid*

tributes significantly to employment and food security, employing more than 23,000 people (of which 50% are women), providing 70% protein consumed nationally<sup>86</sup>.

117. As with other small island states, São Tomé e Príncipe shares the constraints of small internal markets, dependence on one or two exports (cacao in DRSTP), high rates of **imports** that cannot be produced internally, and vulnerability to external factors including climatic risks. This situation contributes to **increased vulnerability** of farming communities, whose main source of revenue is the erratic international market of cocoa, while other consumer goods have high prices beyond affordability<sup>87</sup>.

118. Agriculture, more particularly cocoa production, remains the main economic activity in the country, the biggest source of income for rural families, generating 70% of rural employment and about 80% of export revenues<sup>88</sup>. But despite its importance for the economy and community revenues, DRSTP's **agriculture is characterized by very low productivity** due mainly to the lack of good farming practices, deteriorating cocoa plants, poor agricultural support infrastructures (training and capacity building, research, irrigation schemes, rural markets, rural roads), the absence of efficient advisory support, and the failure of the agricultural inputs and markets. More than **80% of the population depends on agriculture** and/or fishing. Rural areas are still confronted with challenges including access to sanitation, clean water, schools and hospitals

119. The decentralization of decision making authority, which aims to transfer greater autonomy to local and regional government agencies, has yet to prove effective<sup>89</sup>. Deficiencies in the country's infrastructure limit its growth and trade potential. Shipping costs are estimated to be around 30 - 40% higher than in Libreville. **Limited accessibility and connectivity** translate into high transportation and communication costs. As an island state, DRSTP has access only to air and maritime transport for physical movement of goods and people, and ICT for digital connectivity. The majority of infrastructure programmes are largely financed through external assistance due to lack of domestic resources and institutional and technical capacity within local institutions.

120. **With movement toward cities to seek out greater opportunities and services, urbanization in DRSTP requires enhanced capacity, city/town revenue generation, land management law, urban and territorial planning, and a national urbanization strategy**<sup>90</sup>. To date, the country has urban expansion plans in place only in the city of Sao Tome, the northern sector between Gonga, Santo Amaro and the airport, and the capital district. A legal framework on **territorial management** has been prepared but is awaiting approval and publication. In 2015, the gov-

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<sup>86</sup> AfDB, 2015.

<sup>87</sup> GEF Project document, UNDP, 2013.

<sup>88</sup> *ibid*

<sup>89</sup> AfDB study on the cost of insularity in Sao Tome and Principe

<sup>90</sup> UN Habitat, 2015.

ernment envisages preparing a National Planning Scheme, with financial support from the AfDB, which expands the economic base across barriers of age, gender and geography through **investment in infrastructure** that will bring opportunities for the private sector, gender equality, and community participation.

121. The **public sector** is the main economic entity in DRSTP, accounting for more than 80% of capital formation and GDP. The weak capacity to mobilise internal resources has impeded efficient delivery of services, while the low level of salaries encourages the best employees to seek higher paying jobs outside the public sector. In the 2014 budget, the government set total wage-related expenses at STD 542 million and promised more supervision to avoid distortion, as agreed with the IMF<sup>91</sup>.

122. DRSTP faces a number of challenges to achieve **economic growth**. The small size of the domestic market and the limited rural income base constrain the expansion of the domestic market. The small domestic market makes it unattractive to large foreign investors. Additionally, the narrow export base makes the country vulnerable to shocks. In addition, DRSTP's **heavy dependence on importing essential goods** makes consumption vulnerable to external shocks as well<sup>92</sup>.

123. **Insularity limits economies of scale**, and exacerbates infrastructure (especially energy and transport) constraints on Príncipe Island. Due to DRSTP's geographic location, the islands are limited to only air and maritime transport options for physical movement of goods and people. Limited accessibility and connectivity translate into high transportation and communication costs, with costs on Príncipe estimated to be 30 -40 percent higher than on São Tomé<sup>93</sup>.

124. As illustrated earlier, DRSTP is endowed with dense forests, tree savannah, mountains, endemic animal and plant species and beautiful natural reservoir sites. The country has a rich wildlife and plant life (marlins, whales, dolphins, turtles and different variety of plants). DRSTP has two large natural parks, the Obô on the island of São Tomé, and the Natural Park of Principe. In 2012, UNESCO classified the island of Principe as a **World Biosphere Reserve**. **Development of infrastructure** is essential to promoting **eco-tourism**. All such development would require a stable source of energy.

125. The bulk of **electricity generation** is based on imported diesel, despite the fact that the country possesses several rivers that can be tapped to generate electricity from hydropower. Electricity generation in the country has been steadily increasing over the years to meet the growing needs. However, increasing thermal generation

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<sup>91</sup> ibid

<sup>92</sup> ibid

<sup>93</sup> ibid



capacity, despite the availability of an extensive network of rivers, has resulted in **only an 8% share in hydro power** of total electricity produced (2013).<sup>94</sup>

126. The need to shift electricity generation from utilising less imported fuel to relying on **locally-available resources** and small hydropower is a priority in government energy policy. Thus, the transformation of the energy sector to an economically viable and environmentally friendly system requires a comprehensive and multi-faceted approach in the design of the appropriate policy and planning frameworks, and incentives to fully **integrate renewable energy technologies** in a way that is climate resilient and minimizes negative impacts on ecosystems that supply its rivers<sup>95</sup>.

127. Electrical power in the country is provided by the Empresa de Agua e Electricidade (EMAE), a public-private company that is 51% owned by Government and the remaining 49% is jointly owned by the private sector. EMAE provides the generation, transmission, and distribution of electricity (and similar services related to potable water supply). EMAE's total installed generation capacity is 22.5 MW, consisting of **20.6 MW from diesel plants and a mere 1.92 MW from hydro plants**<sup>96</sup>.

128. Electricity from renewable sources of energy, including hydro, solar, and wind, represent **less than 10% of the total energy supplied in the country**. Just over half the population, 57% (World Bank, 2012) has access to electricity. Those without electricity rely on candlelight and kerosene for lighting, and on firewood and charcoal for cooking. Connecting new households to the grid remains a great challenge for EMAE due to insufficient generating capacity. Hence, the Government's interest to create the necessary environment to enable the private sector, both local and foreign, to invest in the hydropower electricity generation sector if the proper legal frameworks are put in place<sup>97</sup>.

129. Given the above economic issues, overall opportunities for economic diversification and growth through agriculture, fisheries, tourism, renewable energy, and the required infrastructures to support these, are salient. **The UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights** were endorsed by the UN Human Rights Council in 2011. They provide an entry point to **greater corporate accountability**, and São Tomé e Príncipe's use of the principles could assist in benchmarking standards and ensuring compliance for investors, communities, and the state. Additionally, the Voluntary Principles (VPs) on Security and Human Rights set out a framework for stakeholders in major investments (particularly in the primary extractives and energy sectors) to **provide security for operations while respecting human rights**. This platform brings together the government, private

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<sup>94</sup> GEF: Promotion of environmentally sustainable and climate-resilient grid/isolated grid-based hydroelectric electricity, UNDP 2015.

<sup>95</sup> *ibid*

<sup>96</sup> *ibid*

<sup>97</sup> *ibid*

companies and NGOs, to embrace a broader international network of best practices that can assist in developing measurable benchmarks and standards. Growth needs to be inclusive and benefit the greater majority of the country's citizens. Increased resources for infrastructure would broaden the tax base and generate employment.

130. **Balancing competing interests** is essential as expectations of revenues are high, and shifting authority to the provinces is a challenging political effort<sup>98</sup>. The demand for careful **governance is the cornerstone to promote inclusive growth**. The country's infrastructure of roads, telecommunications, ports, and electricity is inadequate to keep up with anticipated demands brought on by economic growth. Government must successfully manage the **many conflicting interests** of private sector, regional and local governments, and an under-employed young population.

131. More will need to be done to improve public financial management and strengthen the business environment. The development of a **nascent private sector, and regional partnerships with neighboring countries**, all show signs for a needed integrated strategy to maximize development impact and help build a vibrant business environment.

132. DRSTP has yet to give particular attention to **employment as an engine of growth**. Despite a growth rate above 6% between 2003 and 2006, the ENRP II indicated that during the same period, jobs created decreased. While the unemployment rate between 2003 and 2008 decreased from 15.1% to 13.9%, underemployment grew from 7.6% to 13%<sup>99</sup>.

133. **Planning and monitoring** business competitiveness must be done in conjunction with established benchmarks, such as the international statistics system. Job fairness, in terms of wages, gender balance, geographical incidence, and social protection benefits will require capacity to collect, maintain, interpret and correlate business statistics. Building a competitive, **skilled labour force** demands equitable and quality education to ensure skills attainment and access to employment and the avoidance of disparities.

134. The SDGs demonstrate that sustainable livelihoods, through inclusive employment, is a top global priority, linked to 6 of the 17 new SDG targets. It is therefore essential that thoughtful planning and policy decisions are made so that São Tomé e Príncipe can benefit from the many potentially prosperous and productive economic opportunities. Simultaneously, communities must ensure that the **cost of economic growth does not curtail their own potential for equitable access**, growth, and well-being. Natural resource industries, accelerated small business sector development, agribusiness and access to improved agricultural practices and supply chains for smallholders are essential to begin to address the many linkages between potential productivity and the availability of suitable employment.

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<sup>98</sup> *ibid*

<sup>99</sup> ILO, 2015.

## **6. Dimensions of compromised development:**

### **6.1 Root Causes of Development Deficits Evidenced by Partners**

135. A Country Assessment and Comparative Advantage Validation Workshop was held with 40 participants including the DRSTP Ministries of Economy, Finance, Justice, Defense, Agriculture, Education, and the departments of statistics and planning. The national federation of NGOs also attended along with UN staff. The CCA consultant revealed 7 crosscutting and underlying root causes which had been identified by partners during the study. Together, participants confirmed these and added an eighth transversal cause of development deficits in DRSTP, transparency. These 8 causes served to promote discussion, analysis and understanding of development challenges within the development framework proposed, given the geographical and environmental characteristics and vulnerabilities unique to DRSTP. **The identification of the underlying root causes of compromised development will inform future planning, programming and monitoring decisions during the prioritization process for the UNDAF.**

136. **Dimensions which deter development**, as confirmed by government, UN, and development partners, were:

1. **Political sustainability and continuity:** This first dimension for successful development refers to the need for an environment of sustainable political stability. Historically, DRSTP's perpetual political changes and precarious political culture can be traced as the cause for many of its development challenges. It embodies the political will or volition for stability that provides an enabling environment for national ownership and growth. Policies, for example, can be in place but not implemented because of lack of time in office, lack of enforcement capacity, poor accountability to citizens and partners, or lack of transparency or trust. Political stability and reconciliation were mentioned by partners as the first underlying root cause of compromised development.

2. **Transparency:** Transparency was added to the list of causes by workshop participants as a separate and unique underlying cause of development deficits. This was not only meant solely for government but for all stakeholders in the development process including donors, NGOs, bilateral and multilateral partners, and citizens. The need to promote transparency across all sectors, programmes, and staff was emphasized as key if trust and confidence among partners is to prevail.

3. **Partnerships and coordination:** Lack of strategic partnering or coordination, especially for multi-sectorial issues, leads to absent or fragmented coordination. There are three levels where partnerships and or coordination shortfalls were identified by partners: within government itself; between government and its citizens/civil society, private sector; and between government and external partners. Strategic partnerships are

doorways to other partners where potential resources can be matched and/or identified. Be they sectorial, economic, social, or humanitarian, achieving development is a joint global enterprise and depends on successful strategic partnering at national, regional, south/south, and global levels. Coordination of partners ensures the identification of gaps, avoidance of duplication, and joint advocacy for common development priorities, monitoring, reporting, resource mobilization, and SDG attainment.

**4. Citizenship and civil society participation:** In almost all areas of development interventions, partners mentioned the “missing” component of the DSTP citizens in development planning and decision making. This was echoed in the *World We Want in 2030* exercise conducted with community participation nationwide. Participation of citizenry helps instill national identity, pride and purpose in, and ownership of hope for a better future. This would include a culture of preservation, conservation, and participation across the islands including social service availability, jobs, justice, and the possibility of future prosperity. Local participation and ownership promote community will and responsibility, self-reliance, citizenship and space for the popular discourse to be heard. Local participation is based on habits, incentives and disincentives for societal and individual behavior. Lack of citizen participation can cause the invisibility of the most vulnerable (youth, women, children, disabled, rural populations) and can cause community stigma regarding poverty, gender, ethnicity, age, etc. **Social mobilization** is often needed to help inform and inspire with the potential use of local and/or religious leaders to leverage traditional knowledge for engagement and change. The lack of civilian engagement was noted by across sectors.

6. **Gathering and utilization of evidence:** Irregularities in data collection, and resource and capacity constraints in the National Statistics Institute, INE, continue to negatively impact the country’s development prospects. Evidence-based results are demanded by all investors and partners to help determine priorities, direction, nuance, lessons learned, data gaps, opportunities, trends, and security. Simply, evidence is essential for development decision-making, information dissemination, and resource mobilization. Evidence refers to gathering, analyzing and utilizing both quantitative and qualitative data to identify disparities, conduct analyses, and demonstrate results emanating from policies, laws, strategies or interventions. Evidence can demonstrate supply and demand, and become part of the national, regional or global repository of knowledge, leading to innovative approaches and technologies, south-south opportunities, and measurement of development gains and deficits across sectors. There is an urgent need for a concerted approach between the government and its sub-national agencies to support policy formulation through **systematic statistical data collection, analysis, dissemination, and utilization in decision making**. Despite its key role, the collection of statistics did not receive major funding in the government’s 2014 national budget, and a

significant investment is necessary. Lack of evidence-based results across all sectors described in this report was indicated by partners as having a negative impact on all development progress to date and will be especially important for SDG monitoring.

**6. Institutional or human technical and innovative sustainable capacity:** Capacity refers to human and/or institutional **ability to function efficiently** at all levels. Capacity gaps create unsustainable structures, institutions, and service delivery and/or the lack of planning for people's retention, mobility, skill development including behavior, attitudes and competencies. Capacity can be a government's (duty bearer's) ability to ensure or deliver rights, or a citizens' (rights holder) capacity to exercise their civic responsibilities and rights, or the inability or knowledge to demand rights, accountability or transparency. Lack of sustainable human or institutional ability curtails development even when other causes of deficiencies, including financial resources, have been addressed. Capacity gaps were identified by partners are key obstacles to development gains.

**7. National long-term vision and strategy:** Integrated long-term development plans, and strategies, either as a national vision and/or sectorial road map, utilizes the information of the previous 6 dimensions to ensure a just, sustainable, informed, measurable, and achievable development strategy. It will avoid exaggerated expectations yet instill a hunger for future gains. It plans for results and the evidence needed to demonstrate those results. It anticipates future investment based on goal attainment matched to investor interest, international measures, and resource availability. It provides a platform for hope in future development.

**8. Financial resources/revenues:** Since becoming a lower MIC, DRSTP's responsibilities have grown regarding its need to ensure a wider and transparent domestic revenue base. This would include tracking and accountability of available resources, under or misuse of resources, budget allocations, national revenue sources, financial management capacity, resource mobilization strategies and targets. Resources can refer to lobbying for increased fiscal space, equity in resource allocations or receipt of revenues, collection of information on allocation and public expenditures, FDI, ODA and financial mapping. Financial resources are mandatory to meet changes required to achieve development targets.

137. While all eight affirmed root causes of development challenges can be considered in different contexts, and should therefore be prioritized and weighted differently along with other indicators within each sector, the current data on development bottlenecks and challenges described in this report indicate that addressing the underlying causes of development challenges will focus future interventions in a systematic way to ensure bolstered future development effectiveness and impact.

## 7. Identifying UN Comparative Advantages

### How can the UN influence compromised development?

138. If root causes are identified within each development area, then how can these causes be addressed, and **does the UN demonstrate a comparative advantage** as a relevant partner? The CCA Validation Workshop asked this question of participants resulting in a list of differences between bilateralism, multilateralism, and civil society partners. The results of that discussion are summarized below<sup>100</sup>:

Bilateral Partners	Multilateral Partner	Civil Society Partners
<b>PROs:</b>  Specific targeted interventions  Punctual and direct  Short and medium term  Direct management of funds	<b>PROs</b>  More sustainable, transparent, and comprehensive (resource mobilization, strategy, coordination, reporting)  More rigorous evidence base	<b>PROs</b>  Closer to population,  Enter into local communities where bi/multilaterals cannot  Understand cultural and social norms
<b>CONs</b>  Less transparent and limited areas of intervention for geopolitical, economic, cultural or historic reasons	<b>CONs</b>  Bureaucratic, rigid, and slow	<b>CONs</b>  Restricted financial resources, capacity, accountability

### 7.1 Unique and Shared Comparative Advantages: The UN in DRSTP

139. Within the multilateral arena, participants also identified key UN **unique comparative advantages** and **others which are common or shared** with other development partners. Thus the UN might not always be best placed to deliver the most effective and efficient results, especially given strengths of development partners and the specific need for enhanced results reporting. In addition, the UN must consider the risks of both action and inaction in any development context, be it the primary partner or not.

<sup>100</sup> CCA Validation Workshop Meeting Note, 2015.

UN: Unique Advantages	UN: Shared Advantages	UN: Disadvantages
Sustainability of cooperation Emergency response Support without prejudice National interests are first Multiple areas of intervention Global credibility Joint resource mobilization No political or party interest Global data validity Expertise in areas of mandate Consensual decision making (intl conferences/conventions) Conflict resolution Programme management Interlocutor with partners Coordination	Drive for successful implementation Available resources or resource mobilization Capacity Building Technical Assistance Exchange of experiences among partners, south south Less risk if interventions are joint or shared with partners Shared principles and values	Must mobilize resources for programmes Excessive costs Excessive bureaucracy Number of different agency programmes

140. Within the UN family, should a unique or shared comparative advantage be ascertained, other considerations should follow, including the cost/benefit of joint or collaborative programmes, availability of resources, the roles and responsibilities of government and other partners in achieving identified results, and the process of and capacity for monitoring and results reporting. Additionally, UN agencies in São Tomé e Príncipe should consider **the following key questions:**

- Are there any of the underlying root causes of development deficiencies specific to **SIDS or LMICs** that the UN is not equipped to address?
- Can UN agencies remove their agency hats to ensure the best joint or **collaborative UN family response**?
- What are the **coordination** capacities and responsibilities of the UN?
- How can the UN identify and address the complex **inter-connectedness** of underlying issues in their next UNDAF formulation, monitoring, and measurement of development achievements?

- What are the internal UN needs for any **restructuring or programme refocus** to ensure that key causes are addressed in the next UNDAF/BOS?
- Have **lessons learned** from the previous UNDAF been fully integrated?
- Is the UN nimble positioned to response to **emergent** or unforeseen development challenges?

## 7.2 Conclusions

141. This internal paper comes at an opportune time, given anticipated political stability, the development of new national and partner development strategies, newly agreed international SDGs, commitment and strategies of SIDS and the AU, and affirmed principles for global development financing. Thus, the new UNDAF presents a unique opportunity for the UN to position itself as a key partner based on its identified unique and shared comparative advantages to address and monitor the underlying root causes of compromised national development to attain robust and inclusive economic growth and sustainable development in DRSTP. Such an approach will help inform the **prioritization of UN engagement in the upcoming UNDAF 2017-2021**.

142. How the UN approaches its interventions in the next UNDAF should be explicit, working towards the **eventual national ownership of all development results**. This includes working with government and other partners to advocate for increased national revenues and adjusting budget allocations to meet national development needs as a middle income country.

143. There are other advantages which the UN should not overlook. At **national level**, while UN coordination and collaborative planning are achieved through the UNDAF and common Business Operations Strategy (BOS), the UN must demonstrate additional value through **joint planning and possibly joint programmes, and joint targeting of development assistance by sector, by geographic region, by cause of development deficit, by resource allocation, by resource mobilization targeting, by theme, or by result**. The UN family must also re-organize and manage itself differently to facilitate collaborative programming, monitoring, and evidence-based reporting of common UNDAF results and embrace the UN fit for purpose agenda.

144. There are also risks. Joint implementation is taxing and therefore benefits must far outweigh the costs (human, financial, time, reputational) of joint implementation. Credibility will only be built if results delivery and reporting are secured. Other risks of joint actions include: not meeting financial targets in joint resource frameworks, even if they are indicative; not partnering with key donors on results definitions and reporting; not communicating joint UN results across development areas, agencies, sectors, or targeted causes of development deficits; inconsistent messaging and/or information among agencies and; ineffectual partnerships at central, district and local levels.



145. **At regional level**, the UN also has advantages. DRSTP is a member of **the UN Economic Commission for Africa (ECA)**, based in Addis Ababa, which offers a platform for membership discussion, research, and advocacy for action across the continent. The ECA is comprised of 53 African states and thus fosters cross-border dialogue and the prioritization of development goals. The ECA is a political and programmatic resource for the UN in São Tomé e Príncipe. Additionally, UN agencies, unlike most bilateral agents, have **regional offices**, where inter-agency technical expertise can be mobilized to assist in regional, sub-regional and country specific interventions. These assets are of extreme value in identifying south-south opportunities for São Tomé e Príncipe.

146. Finally, the UN is not an NGO, although it can often act as one at country level. In DRSTP, as the development context transitions, the number of development partners will continue to grow and thus the **global value** of the UN should not be minimized or compromised for the sake of undertaking a project. Embracing the fit for purpose agenda, the UN should focus its interventions, and leverage its global position and membership to take difficult decisions towards instilling accountability, national ownership, inclusion, equity, and lifting the lives of the most vulnerable in São Tomé e Príncipe.

## **8. Summary of Recommendations**

147. The many development gains and challenges compiled above reveal that while São Tomé e Príncipe has made **significant development gains in some areas, complex development challenges lie ahead**. They involve reaching beyond sectorial targets and specificities to grapple with the even more difficult and deep-rooted causes of development deficits and their inter-connectedness as identified by all partners. As a member of and together with the international community, São Tomé e Príncipe will need to move swiftly to protect its environmental assets and resilience, and ensure that a culture of stability and sustainability is promulgated nationally promoting inclusiveness, equity, and equality. There is no argument that maintaining development gains is essential, especially in education, health and HIV/AIDS, and further improvements need to be made for equitable and inclusive access across social sectors. If new inclusive economic growth is to bring communities out of poverty, children, women, and adolescents must especially be equipped to meet these challenges.

148. When and where the UN has a unique or shared comparative advantage to address development deficits and their underlying causes identified by partners, the following compiled findings should to be considered for possible UNDAF prioritization:

**149. Peace: Political sustainable and stability:**

**Public sector reform:** Capacity and capacity sustainability, infrastructures, administration, and coordination, monitoring, nationally shared vision, social dialogue;

**Justice:** Implementation and continuity of policy, equitable structures, infrastructure, delivery and monitoring systems; human rights adherence and monitoring, infrastructures, partnering with civil society, elaboration of data and measurement systems, capacity development, international standards, enhanced resources;

**Legislative:** Enhanced national parliament capacity and technology;

**Decentralization:** Authority to districts/local populations; overall integrity of government officials at all levels to boost public confidence and trust, capacity building, adherence to local legal frameworks;

**Human Rights:** Social rights and participation, adherence, and information to citizens.

**150. Planet: Environment Preservation, Resilience, and Climate Change:**

**Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR):** Measurement of contingency planning, technology, scenario planning, and capacity to ensure early warning systems EWS are in place and functioning down to district/local levels especially mitigating the impacts of floods, changing weather, and deforestation; actions to remedy soil protection, increased infrastructures, drainage, improved agricultural practices and remedies to charcoal production;

**Natural Resource Management:** Coordination of Ministries of Natural Resources and Energy, and Agriculture and Rural Development to plan for and monitor long term utilization and degradation of natural resources including both land and maritime legal frameworks, implementation of existing laws, capacity development;

**Climate change:** Impact and plan actions which mitigate risks including legislation of the National Adaptation to Climate Change (NAPA), adoption of International Conference Outcome of Climate Change and inter-ministerial and cross cutting advocacy for biodiversity, conservation and preservation including partnership with SIDS, scenario planning, participant of CSOs and local communities;

**Renewable energy:** Assessment of renewable resources including wind, hydro and solar and impact of distribution networks and infrastructures, overall costs savings to increase access for all populations, opportunities for investment, protection of eco-systems.

**151. Population - Equity, Quality, Protection:**

**Educational quality, equal access, retention and relevance to employment:**

While public primary enrolment rates are excellent (based at least in part to public expenditure for free elementary education and school feeding), **education quality, services for special needs groups, access and secondary school retention rates, and linkages between technical vocational education and training (TVET) and viable employment opportunities** is lacking, inter-ministerial coordination, evidence utilization, and education management at all levels;

**Health gain maintenance and quality of services:** Access and quality of delivery across districts, national health policy formulation, and planning for island economic changes (ie tourism and reduction of isolation) which could compromise health gains. The low rates in **malaria, tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS** need careful attention and social mobilization to protect gains and ensure a cultural norm of awareness and good practices to improve even further past health gains. **Reproductive health and social mobilization** are key to upholding health gains. Technology and capacity to ensure enhanced health partnerships and technological self-sufficiency are required;

**Social protection implementation:** Institutionalization of national social protection council, engagement of NGOs, national social protection policy implementation and budgeting, organic structural capacity, national registry consolidation, and implementation of social protection for all citizens to combat poverty, under-nutrition, unemployment, under-employment, and vulnerability;

**Child Protection:** Given the evidence of violence and abuse against children, pregnancy in adolescence, and child labor, child protection measures are essential. The national child protection policy and action plan are being finalized which will provide a solid basis for future action;

**Productively engaged youth:** Formulation of a permanent technical structure, a national coordination body for youth affairs, a culture of engagement and national pride of youth at local level, optimal employment rights and opportunities, development of entrepreneurial spirit and skills, utilization of youth statistics across sectors especially related to reproductive health, approval and implementation of national youth strategy;

**Gender equality:** Special attention in the areas of reproductive health, equality, equity, retention in education, high level public positions, managers, executives and members of parliament and productive engagement and employment. Disaggregated statistics and monitoring mechanisms, gender planning and budgeting are needed across all sectors;

**Nutrition:** Regarding young children and mothers who are in need of nutritional supplements and proteins for productive lives, monitoring of malnutrition, adoption of the global Zero Hunger initiative, transition of school feeding incorporating local purchase and enhanced nutritional inputs including fish protein;

**Housing:** Low cost (social) housing for youth and modest families;

**WASH:** Improved infrastructure especially improved sanitation, development of adequate sanitation policies and monitoring of access and utilization, especially regarding childhood diseases;

**Urbanization:** town/city revenue generation, land use management, territorial development plans, urbanization policy.

## **152. Productivity and Prosperity - Inclusive Economic Growth:**

This development area requires an enabling environment for business and economic growth. It demands an equal distribution of wealth based on the **capacity** to develop, implement, manage and monitor legal frameworks and finances across districts. Far-reaching **national strategies and action plans** are needed and the **evidence** to justify them to meet workplace employment skill requirements from

smallholder agriculture to large scale industrial undertakings. The formulation of new and innovative partnerships and coordination must ensure community, private sector, employee/employer, and industry engagement, relying on duty bearers and rights holders to be equally responsible for attaining equitable and inclusive prosperity. Evidence will lead to **investor confidence** in the DRSTP brand.

**Private Sector/SME Development:** Public private partnerships embraced and promoted, formulation of new national private sector database, adopted private sector strategy, enhanced management and accounting capacity, capital and credit for small and medium entrepreneurs, legal frameworks to protect and promote private sector investment and partnering;

**Food Security and Agriculture, Fisheries:** Continuity of a national agriculture policy, evidence gathering and statistics dissemination, info sharing, capacity building, project implementation, partner models, maritime legal frameworks, fishing and fishery capacity, food processing and conservation, SME training, national plan for local markets and exportation, local purchase and fish processing for protein inputs; agro-diversification, agro practice improvements and evidence building;

**Tourism:** DRSTP as a brand, infrastructure development, financial management and investment security, training of tourism cadre, biodiversity preservation, sport and maritime development, transport viability, infrastructure, eco-tourism marketing, private sector investment, legal frameworks;

**Regulatory standards and legal frameworks** for trade, land ownership and utility;

**Renewable Energy:** implementation of national plan for hydro projects to limit diesel generator/import use, environmental impact considerations, seasonal variability, solar/wind piloting, infrastructures, access to regular and affordable energy, job creation across districts;

**Infrastructure:** Infrastructure is needed across sectors as a means to improve access and as an opportunity for employment leading to inclusive economic growth.

154. One last note on possible UN interventions in development programming. As demonstrated in the global development framework, and reiterated by all partners as an underlying root cause of development deficits in DRSTP, **strategic partnerships** should not be sidelined, especially since **lack of partnering and coordination have been identified as key causes of development deficiencies**. The UN should consider its convening options and responsibilities with partners to ensure that the promotion of partnerships is leveraged in DRSTP to embrace a less isolationist approach to benefit from **south-south models, global norms and experience, and innovation and technology**.

155. Finally, when the UN family prioritizes its proposed areas of intervention for 2017-2021, the UNDAF indicative resource framework must be accompanied by a dynamic **resource mobilization strategy** that includes potential partner interests and available sources of revenue. The October 2015 DRSTP donor conference in London should serve as a basis for understanding national and donor interest, investment possibilities, constituency ODA trends, and financing constraints. The conference might also serve as a platform to initiate, reaffirm, or expand development partnerships.

## **Annex 1: Acronyms**

ADI	Democratic Action Party (ruling national political party)
AIDS	Acquired Human Immunodeficiency Syndrome
AU/C	African Union/Commission
DaO	Delivering as One
DHS	Demographic and Health Survey
DRR	Disaster Risk Reduction
DRSTP	Democratic Republic of São Tomé e Príncipe
ENRP II	Second National Poverty Reduction Strategy 2012-2016, DRSTP 2012.
FfD	Financing for Development
GF	Global Fund for Malaria, Tuberculosis, HIV/AIDS
GEF	Global Environment Fund
HDI	Human Development Index
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
IT	Information Technology
INE	National Statistics Institute
LMIC	Lower Middle Income Country
MDG	Millennium Development Goal
MIC	Middle Income Country
MICS	Multiple Index Cluster Study
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
SIDS	Small Island Developing States
SME	Small and Medium Enterprises
TVET	Technical and Vocational Educational Training
UNCT	United Nations Country Team
UNDAF	United Nations Development Assistance Framework
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
WASH	Water and Sanitation Hygiene

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**Annex 3 :**  
**TERMES DE REFERENCES POUR LE RECRUTEMENT DU CONSULTANT**  
**CHARGÉ DE LA FORMULATION DU BILAN COMMUN DE PAYS (CCA).**

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## **I- Contexte**

Au cours du dernier trimestre 2014, le pays a organisé des élections législatives, municipales et régionales libres et transparentes. Suite à ces élections le parti Action démocratique indépendante (ADI), a remporté 33 sièges (60%) des 55 sièges de l'Assemblée Nationale. Lui donnant ainsi une majorité écrasante. Avec l'installation des députés et la nomination du Premier Ministre, qui a formé son Gouvernement, le programme et la vision du Gouvernement pour les quatre prochaines années à venir de 2014 à 2018 a été adopté et publié.

Dans le cadre la coopération entre le Gouvernement et le Système des Nations Unies à São Tomé et Príncipe, le Gouvernement a sollicité au SNU la formulation d'un nouveau plan-cadre des Nations Unies pour l'assistance au Développement. Puisque l'actuel prendre fin en 2016 au même que la Stratégie nationale de Réduction de la Pauvreté (SNRP II).

En réponse au Gouvernement, l'équipe de pays des Nations Unies a, tout d'abord, élaboré la feuille de route, qui est la première étape du processus du CCA/UNDAF. Cette feuille de route a été approuvée par le Gouvernement. Au cours de la retraite conjointe Gouvernement et l'équipe de pays, il a été décidé la formulation d'un bilan Commun de pays (connu sous l'acronyme anglais CCA). Ce bilan Commun est la deuxième étape indispensable du processus d'UNDAF.

Ce CCA 2015 sera réalisé dans un contexte d'absence d'un plan national de développement précédé normalement d'une analyse de situation. Par ailleurs, le CCA est un instrument commun au système des Nations Unies (SNU) et sert à analyser la situation en matière de développement dans le pays et à identifier les problèmes clés de développement à la lumière de la fin des OMD et de leur translation vers les Objectifs du Développement Durables (ODDs), et d'autres objectifs de développement approuvés au niveau international, et des obligations découlant des traités.

Ce CCA sera le troisième que le pays va réaliser. Il permettra aussi de prendre en compte le nouveau statut du pays en termes de classification selon le revenu de la Banque Mondiale. A cet effet, est considéré comme un pays à revenu intermédiaire tranche inférieure depuis 2010. Tandis que la pauvreté, le chômage des jeunes sont des phénomènes qui pourront la tendance du développement si toutefois les causes profondes ne sont identifiées et remédiées.

## **II- Objectifs**

L'objectif général de la contribution analytique de l'équipe de pays est de renforcer les capacités analytiques nationales, les processus et les produits à des fins d'analyse, et de contribuer à la formulation d'objectifs et de priorités pour le développement de haute qualité dans l'UNDAF et le plan national pour le développement. Mais de façon spécifique, le CCA doit atteindre l'objectif suivant :

- ✓ Faire une analyse stratégique mettant en évidence les causes profondes de la pauvreté et autres défis du développement, et leurs conséquences sur la population,

notamment sur les groupes exclus tels que les femmes, les jeunes, les personnes handicapées, les personnes vivant avec le VIH/sida, etc.;

- ✓ Déterminer les insuffisances en matière de capacités des détenteurs de droits à faire valoir ceux-ci et de capacités des sujets d'obligations à remplir ces dernières ;
- ✓ Faire une analyse des opportunités visant à (et des obstacles à) la participation libre, active et significative à la gouvernance, aux processus et aux résultats relatifs au développement;
- ✓ Contribuer à la préparation du prochain cadre national de développement qui garantira le respect des priorités nationales prévues de l'agenda de développement post 2015 et la transition des OMD vers les ODDs et autres objectifs de développement approuvés au niveau international et les obligations découlant des traités ;
- ✓ Appuyer à l'élaboration de mesures et de capacités visant à la préparation en prévision des catastrophes ; le cas échéant, des plans d'atténuation, de redressement et de réhabilitation après une catastrophe naturelle, et à la planification de la transition de la phase de secours au développement ;
- ✓ Renforcer les capacités nationales à analyser et employer des données visant à l'établissement de priorités, notamment l'évaluation des risques et la vulnérabilité en ciblant les zones géographiques et les bénéficiaires, et en s'employant dans toute la mesure du possible à collecter des données précises sur populations vulnérables.

### **III- Produits Livrables**

Le consultant produira les trois éléments suivants :

- Un rapport d'analyse de la situation (desk review) ;
- Une version provisoire du document du CCA qui contient entre 30 et 35 pages sans les annexes, présente une synthèse des principales conclusions de l'analyse, et s'articule autour de trois sections, à savoir : Partie I Introduction, Partie II Analyse, Partie III Problèmes de développement prioritaires et causes profondes, et la partie IV Détermination des avantages comparatifs de l'équipe pays du Système des Nations Unies à São Tomé et Príncipe.
- Un document du CCA final intégrant les commentaires.

**La partie I** exposera le processus d'élaboration et la portée du Bilan Commun de Pays, ainsi que les efforts déployés pour garantir l'appropriation et la responsabilité nationale du processus, et la façon dont ce CCA apportera de la valeur ajoutée aux travaux d'analyse du pays et au cadre national de développement. Tandis que **la Partie II** abordera une analyse spécifique de la situation de développement dans le pays. Les principaux problèmes ou défis seront analysés pour mettre en évidence les tendances, les

disparités et les groupes de populations les plus touchées. Les progrès vers la réalisation des priorités nationales sont mis en relief, à la lumière des OMD et leur transition vers les ODDs et autres objectifs de développement approuvés au niveau international et des obligations découlant des traités. Par ailleurs il faudra noter que l'année 2015 est la date butoir pour les OMD et en septembre de cette année, les nouveaux objectifs qui succéderont aux OMD seront approuvés par l'ensemble des chefs d'Etat membres des nations Unies. Il est donc important de prendre en considération l'aspect de l'agenda de développement post 2015. L'analyse adopte une approche axée sur les droits de l'homme et s'attache à l'intégration des questions d'égalité entre les sexes pour : (i) Déterminer les problèmes prioritaires de développement et les exposer en termes de droits de l'homme liés entre eux et non respectés ; (ii) Mieux faire comprendre leurs causes ; et (iii) Identifier les individus et les groupes de la société qui doivent intervenir et les capacités dont ils ont besoin pour agir. **La partie III** du CCA traitera des problèmes prioritaires, d'après l'analyse de la partie II, et l'établissement des priorités sont orientée par les secteurs où l'équipe de pays peut apporter ses avantages comparatifs et changer réellement la situation. **Et Afin la dernière partie** examinera rapidement les activités normatives et opérationnelles menées par les agences au niveau national, ainsi que les compétences existantes dans le système des Nations Unies au sens large qui pourraient être adaptées au contexte national et définir clairement les rôles stratégiques relevant de la coopération avec les NU, sur la base des mandats du SNU adaptés au contexte national. Les avantages comparatifs seront analysés en particulier, en vue de contribuer à la réalisation des priorités nationales pour le développement. Les avantages comparatifs ne sont pas interprétés au sens du mandat de l'organisme ; il s'agit plutôt d'évaluer avec réalisme les compétences et la valeur ajoutée de l'équipe, en se fondant éventuellement sur les évaluations des organismes aux fins de dégager des pistes pour l'identification des domaines de coopération.

#### **IV- Méthode de travail**

Le consultant examinera les processus et les documents d'analyse, pour déterminer s'ils satisfont aux normes minimales de qualité. Il ne s'agit pas de critiquer le travail réalisé préalablement, mais de collaborer avec les parties prenantes au niveau national pour faire ressortir les insuffisances et les secteurs où l'appui de l'équipe de pays peut contribuer à la qualité et à la profondeur de l'analyse, en tenant compte en particulier de la situation des groupes exclus et vulnérables, ainsi que des traités et des instruments relatifs aux droits de l'homme.

Il va aussi s'appuyer sur l'ensemble le plus large possible des données, de produits et de processus à des fins d'analyse, y compris ceux émanant des organisations nationales et internationales de la société civile, ainsi que des commissions régionales et sous régionales pour lesquelles le pays est membre. L'équipe de pays et les partenaires évaluent quelle est la meilleure utilisation possible des ressources analytiques disponibles et déterminent en conséquence quelle sera la contribution analytique de l'équipe de pays.

## V- Durée de la Mission

La mission durera un mois à compter 20 Juillet au 19 Août 2015. La distribution des activités est présentée dans le chronogramme ci-dessous.

## VI- Chronogramme

Activités	Août		Septembre		
	27-31		1-28		
Arrivée du Consultant et présentation à l'équipe Pays					
Collecte des données et entretiens si nécessaires					
Analyse des Données					
Rédaction et proposition du Premier Daft					
Atelier de présentation avec la partie nationale					
CCA final					

## VII- Documentation

Un certain de de documents seront mis à la disposition du consultant. Ces documents sont entre autre :

- La Stratégie nationale de réduction de la pauvreté (SNRP II 2012-2016)
- L'UNDAF 2012-2016
- Le CCA 2010
- Autres documents sectoriels.

## VIII- Profile du Consultant

Diplôme de troisième cycle universitaire (BAC plus 5) en sciences sociales, Economie, Sociologie, Science politique ou équivalent.

Le Consultant doit avoir au moins 10 ans d'expérience professionnelle dans le domaine de la programmation stratégique, de l'évaluation et de formulation de projets et/ou programme. Il doit aussi disposer d'une expérience avérée à travailler avec le Système des nations Unies sur les aspects de cadre programmatique. Posséder une capacité solide d'analyse et de synthèse. Il doit avoir une bonne connaissance de l'outil informatique.

**Annex 4: Determinants of Malnutrition in Children 0-5 Years**  
(SITAN draft 0, UNICEF 2015)

	Déterminants	Description
Environnement adéquat	Normes sociales	Composition non adéquate de l'alimentation. Pratiques d'allaitement inadéquates (allaitement exclusif, utilisation du biberon, allaitement dans a première heure de vie) Certaine méfiance dans les recommandations du système de santé public. Mauvaises pratiques d'hygiène et assainissement. Aucune culture de partenariat et de participation de la société civile dans la gestion des politiques en particulier au niveau communautaire.
	Législation/Politiques	Lois et politiques relativement adéquates dans sa conception, mais avec un faible taux d'implémentation. Faible culture d'évaluation, transparence et de responsabilité mutuelle. Faible rôle de la société civile au niveau communautaire dans la conception et la gestion des politiques.
	Budget/Dépenses publiques	Dépendance d'aide externe pour les politiques. Il n'y a pas une ligne budgétaire accordée à la nutrition.
	Gestion/Coordination	Absence de culture d'évaluation, transparence et de responsabilité mutuelle. Faiblesse des institutions à tous les niveaux de l'Administration de l'Etat, dans la dotation et la formation du personnel et autres ressources. Capacités limitées du Ministère de la Santé et des Affaires Sociales pour coordonner les politiques en matière de nutrition Manque de coordination des nombreux acteurs publics et de la société civile qui travaillent en matière de nutrition, surtout au niveau des communautés
Provisions	Disponibilité des intrants	Faible dotation des ressources dans les services de santé décentralisés et dans l'Hôpital Central. Pas d'offre suffisante de paquets supplémentaires nutritionnels. Pas d'offre suffisante d'aliments au niveau du PNASE.
	Accès au service du personnel, installations et information adéquate	Insuffisance de spécialistes en matière de nutrition au niveau des districts. Personnel de santé non formé en matière de nutrition. Il y a seulement des services de nutrition à l'Hôpital central.
Demande	Accès financier	La dépendance des importations augmente le coût des aliments. Pourcentage élevé de familles vivant en dessous du seuil de pauvreté. Services de nutrition seulement à l'Hôpital central, élève le coût d'accès en raison du déplacement
	Pratiques et croyances sociales et culturelles	Les mères ne savent pas toujours comment repérer la malnutrition des enfants. Résistance à l'utiliser des latrines ou salles de bain publiques. Utilisation de formules pour remplacer le lait maternel dans les quintiles supérieurs. Faible autoproduction de denrées alimentaires, dépendance d'aliments achetés.
	Continuité d'utilisation	L'éloignement des centres de santé et de l'Hôpital Central complique la fréquentation régulière des services de nutrition.
Qualité	Qualité	Formation insuffisante du personnel de santé en matière de nutrition, Adhésion aux standards internationaux (paquet minimum, etc.), mais en pratique, manque de capacité pour sa mise en œuvre à grande échelle

**Annex 5: Social Protection Mechanisms benefitting children and families**  
(SITAN draft 0, UNICEF, 2015)

<b>Interventions publiques de protection sociale orientées aux familles et aux enfants à Sao Tomé et Principe</b>		
	<b>Orientées aux familles</b>	<b>Orientées aux enfants et aux adolescents</b>
<b>Transferts sociaux</b>		
Monétaires	Transferts monétaires contributifs (Pensions de retraite de l'INSS, contingences) Transferts non contributifs : Personnes âgées qui ont contribué partiellement Transferts non contributifs aux personnes avec des besoins spéciaux	Transferts monétaire conditionnés aux mères de famille "Maes carenciadas" Transferts monétaires aux enfants orphelins
En espèce	Programmes d'alimentation (cantines sociales) pour les personnes âgées « prato quente »	Programme National de l'Alimentation et Santé Scolaire Suppléments nutritionnels aux femmes enceintes
<b>Programmes d'appui à accéder aux services sociaux de base</b>		
À la santé		Programme des 1000 jours Gratuité dans les services de base pour les enfants de 0 à 5 ans Gratuité des services de santé reproductive pour les adolescents
À l'éducation	Programmes d'alphabétisation d'adultes	Programmes de transport scolaire gratuit
De génération de revenu	GIME Microcrédit aux femmes	
Autres		Campagnes d'enregistrement des naissances
<b>Services sociaux d'appui et de garde</b>		
		Centres pour les enfants en situation de rue Programmes d'éducation parentale (1000 jours) Crèches, jardins
<b>Législation et politiques pour l'équité et la non discrimination dans l'accès aux services et aux sources de revenu</b>		
Législation	Loi N° 7/04 cadre de la Protection sociale	
Politiques	Stratégie Nationale d'égalité et équité de genre Politique de Protection Sociale (pas encore approuvée par le gouvernement)	Stratégie d'éducation inclusive (2010) Stratégie de genre dans le secteur de l'éducation (2011) Politique d'Education (2012) vise à la suppression des couts dans le niveau préscolaire et secondaire Politique de Nutrition Plan d'action pour l'erradication du travail des enfants et liste des pires formes