

São Tomé and Príncipe Governance



REGIONAL CONTEXT

Governance performance place the country in a relatively average ranking compared to other sub-Saharan countries.

The country continues to suffer from a governance deficit.

PEFA analysis, 2019 - PFM reform is behind schedule on:

- developing transparency and accountability systems,
- decentralizing financial management to line ministries.
- State Budget information made available to the public became less comprehensive over the last 7 years

STeP is highly vulnerable because of:

- insularity,
- small market size,
- vulnerability to natural shocks and climate change,
- limited human capital,
- scarce tradable resources to generate sustainable and inclusive growth.

Political stability can also be an issue with the government's small coalition and the President from another party.

National policies: STeP's 2030 development agenda

GEOPOLITICAL CONTEXT AND RELEVANT SDGS



EU global Strategy towards Africa.

Portugal-São Tomé e Príncipe Strategic Cooperation Programme for the 2021-2025

Regional PALOP-TL Program COVID - 19 pandemic

TEAM EUROPE PROPOSAL

FOCUS ON THE FOLLOWING TWO PILLARS:

1. Modernisation and reform of the justice system.
2. Promotion of sound economic and financial governance (public sector accountability, rule of law and human rights promotion and protection).

DIGITAL GOVERNANCE (CROSS-CUTTING):

1. Improve public services access, transparency, and accountability
2. Enhance citizen protection by implementing and enforcing public services digitalisation (fight against corruption)

PFM GOVERNANCE:

- Awareness raising (taxes payment; budget information available to public).
- Capacity building to empower citizens in budget transparency, oversight, and scrutiny.
- Forum for Government and CSOs.
- Platform on participatory budgeting in water and sanitation incl. gender-sensitive budgeting.
- Broadening ownership to oversight institutions: the Parliament and the Supreme Audit Institutions.
- Policy dialogue.

JUSTICE SECTOR GOVERNANCE:

- Strengthening accountability, civilian participation, oversight, and control.
- Improving access to justice (support for most vulnerable, youth and women at risk of violence).
- Capacity building in the areas of justice and security.
- Promote independence of the judiciary

IMPLEMENTATION

Whole of Delegation approach • Consolidation of financial resources • Communication specialists
Continuous skills and capacity development • Communication and visibility guidelines
Multiannual strategic plans



MODALITIES/TOOLS

Policy dialogue
Budget support
Services (Technical Assistance),
works or supplies contracts
Twinning / Grants

COMMON AREAS OF INTERVENTION

Improvement of governance, consolidation of the rule of law and accountability of democratic institutions through:

1. support of reform and modernization of the judicial system;
2. accountability of agents of the judicial system and guaranteeing access to justice for all, while guaranteeing the right to a fair trial."

TRANSFORMATIONAL POTENTIAL

Strengthen State's capacity to improve governance by delivering services in a more efficient and transparent manner in the areas of Public Finance Management and Justice Reform.

Provide citizens with the tools to hold government accountable, and to keep youth and women engagement and digitalisation as cross-cutting topics.

Strengthen partnerships in digital transformation and governance, in line with the main priorities of the new EU global Strategy towards Africa.

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*This Team Europe Initiative is work in progress

**SDGs included based on a new JRC electronic text mining tool, which identifies SDGs (targets)