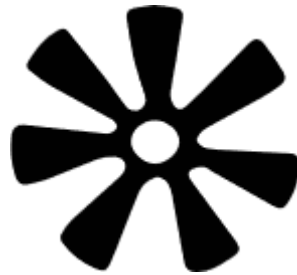


Knowledge Institutions in Africa and their development 1960-2020

São Tomé and Príncipe

Introduction

This report about the development of the knowledge institutions in São Tomé and Príncipe was made as part of the preparations for the AfricaKnows! Conference (2 December 2020 – 28 February 2021) in Leiden, and elsewhere, see www.africaknows.eu.



Reports like these can never be complete, and there might also be mistakes. Additions and corrections are welcome! Please send those to dietzaj@asc.leidenuniv.nl

Highlights

- 1 São Tomé and Príncipe's population increased from 64,000 in 1960, via 119,000 in 1990, to 219,000 in 2020.
- 2 São Tomé and Príncipe's literacy rate is 93% (15 years and older, 2018).
- 3 The so-called education index (used as part of the human development index) improved between 1990 (earlier data not available) and 2018: from .324 to .567 (it can vary between 0 and 1).
- 4 Regional inequality in education is low throughout the period, and has more or less remained the same. Regiao Centro has had the best position throughout the period, but did not improve the most, as that was Regiao Sul. Regiao do Principe had the smallest improvement.
- 5 The Mean Years of Schooling for adults improved between 1990 and 2018, from 2.88 years to 6.44 years. There is low regional inequality throughout the period.
- 6 The Expected Years of Schooling for children improved considerably: from 8.19 to 12.7 years. There is low regional inequality throughout the period.
- 7 São Tomé and Príncipe did not have any higher education institutions until 1996. Currently there are two tertiary knowledge institutions in São Tomé and Príncipe, presumably both public. There are probably around 25,000 student in São Tomé and Príncipe. It is likely that many travel to Angola for tertiary education.
- 8 São Tomé and Príncipe does not appear in the 4icu database.
- 9 São Tomé and Príncipe's think tanks: no information was found on operational think tanks.

- 10 Museums: São Tomé and Príncipe has five known museums and/or historical sites. All are located on the main island of São Tomé.

Part 1: The Story

São Tomé and Príncipe's demographic and education development

São Tomé and Príncipe, officially the Democratic Republic of São Tomé and Príncipe or República Democrática de São Tomé e Príncipe, is an island country in the Gulf of Guinea, off the western equatorial coast of Central Africa. It consists of two archipelagos around the main islands of São Tomé and Príncipe.

The, at that time, uninhabited islands were discovered by Portuguese explorers in the 15th century and further colonized and settled by the Portuguese throughout the 16th century. The economy thrived due to the rich soil and proximity to the equator which made the islands suitable for sugar, coffee and cocoa plantations. This plantation economy was dependant on African slave labour.

In the 1950s the Movement for the Liberation of São Tomé and Príncipe (MLSTP) was formed. In 1974, representatives of the new Portuguese government met with members of the MLSTP in order to work out an agreement for the transfer of sovereignty. On 12 July 1975, São Tomé and Príncipe achieved independence.

São Tomé and Príncipe's population increased from 64,000 in 1960 to 219,000 in the second half of 2020. In 1960, only 16% of the population lived in cities (only 10,000 people), while the urban population has increased to 74% or 162,000 people in 2020. São Tomé and Príncipe's largest city is São Tomé (population 53,000).

São Tomé and Príncipe's life expectancy increased from 50 years for males and 53 years for females in 1960 to 69 years for males and 74 years for females currently. The median age first decreased from 24.4 years in 1960 to 15.7 years in 1990 (lowest year). Since then, it started to increase and is presently 18.6 years. In 1960 an average woman gave birth to 6.2 live-born children, which increased to 6.5 in 1980. Since then, the fertility rate is decreasing and currently an average woman gives birth to 4.4 live-born children¹.

Literacy and enrolment

São Tomé and Príncipe's adult literacy rate is currently (2018) 93%: men 96% and women 90%. Of the youth (15-24 years old) 468 males and 430 females were regarded as illiterate in 2018. For the adult population as a whole these figures are 2,000 for males and 6,000 for females.

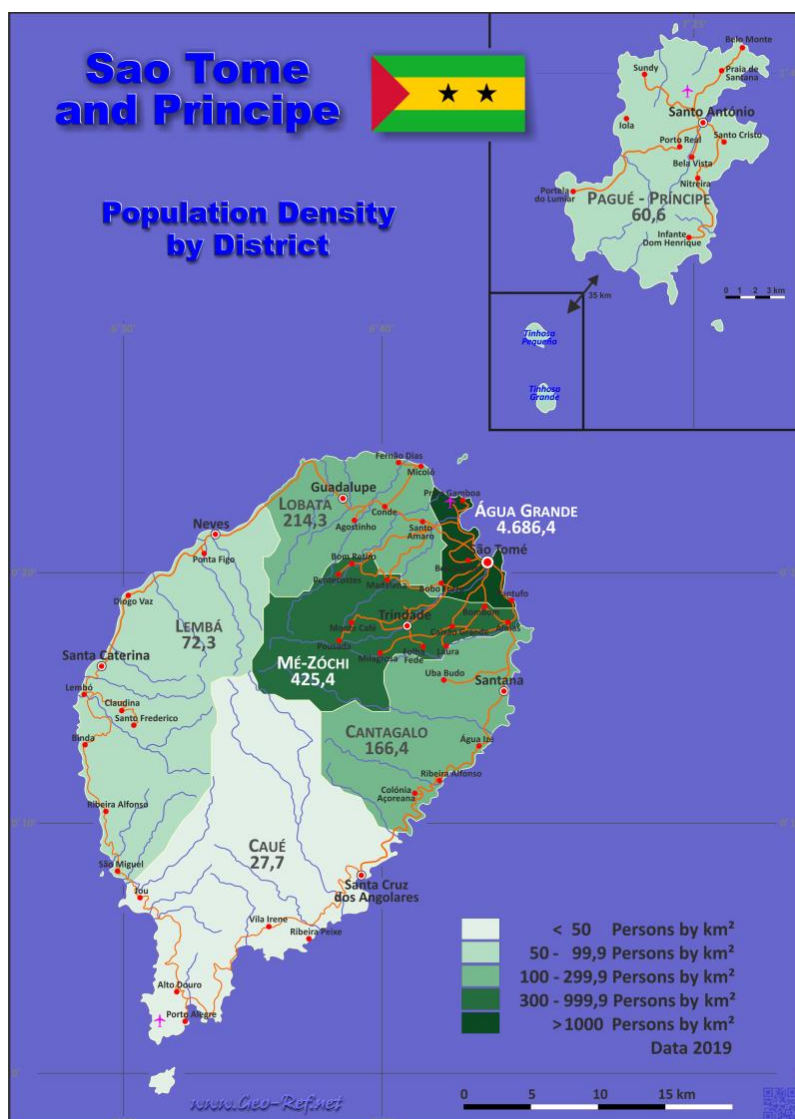
São Tomé and Príncipe's population of primary school age children (6-11 years) is about 36,000 children². Education is compulsory from age 6 to age 11 (6 years). Currently, 93% of

¹ <https://www.worldometers.info/world-population/sao-tome-and-principe-population/>

² <http://uis.unesco.org/en/country/st>

the primary school age group attend primary school. Children with the age to attend secondary school (12-17) are 31,000. 65% are attending secondary school according to the latest figures (2015): females 69% and males lagging behind at 62%. Finally, 18,000 people are in the age category to attend tertiary education (people between 18 and 22). Gross enrolment rates for tertiary education increased from 4% in 2010 to 13% in 2015, with females at 13.7%, and males at 13.1%. This would mean that there are about 25,000 students in São Tomé and Príncipe. It is likely that many students go to Angola for tertiary education.

At 964 km² São Tomé and Príncipe is the second smallest country of Africa (after the Seychelles). São Tomé and Príncipe's population is unevenly distributed. Density is >1000 per km² in Agua Grande (around the capital of São Tomé) and <50 km² in Caué.



Source: <http://www.geo-ref.net/en/stp.htm>

Regional differentiation of education results, 1990-2018

The information provided by the Globaldatalab about the subregional human development index, its components and its indicators (<https://globaldatalab.org/shdi>) provides data for

the period between 1990 and 2018, for four areas of São Tomé and Príncipe:

Regiao Centro = Agua Grande (including the city of Sao Tome) and Me Zoxi

Regiao do Principe = Principe

Regiao Norte = Lobata and Lemba

Regiao Sul = Cantagalo and Caue



Map: <https://www.worldatlas.com/r/w960-g80/upload/37/5f/bb/shutterstock-146218826.jpg>

The Globaldatalab provides data about the education index (one of the three indexes that together form the Human Development Index), and about two relevant indicators: mean years of schooling, showing the average education level of the adult population per region, and expected years of education, showing the expected number of years current children will attend schools. This only deals with the official, state-based, school system.

We present the data for the years 1990 (earliest year available), 2000, 2010, and 2018 (the latest year available at the moment). See tables 1-4 in part 2 ('the data').

Education index

The education index has improved in all of São Tomé and Príncipe’s regions between 1990 and 2018 (see table 1 in part 2). The fastest development took place in Regiao Sul. Regiao Centro (where the capital São Tomé is located) has had the best position throughout the period. The slowest development was in Regiao Principe.

Of course it matters how many people live in the various regions, and how that has developed over time. We compare 1990 with 2018. See table 2 in part 2.

The region with the highest population growth, Centro, scores highest on the index throughout the period. The region with the second highest population growth, Sul, has the fastest development. The region with the smallest population and lowest population growth, Principe, scores the lowest on the index.

Mean Years of Schooling for Adults

According to UNESCO, ‘Mean Years of Schooling’ is an indicator about the “average number of completed years of education of a country’s population aged 25 years and older, excluding years spent repeating individual grades”.³

The educational standard of the adult population of São Tomé and Príncipe has improved in all of the regions in the period 1990-2018 (see table 3 in part 2). Regional inequality has been consistently low throughout the period. Although Centro scores best in all years, this region did not see the biggest improvement, as that was in Principe. Sul and Norte score the lowest overall.

Expected years of education

UNDP defines the ‘expected years of schooling’ as the: “Number of years of schooling that a child of school entrance age can expect to receive if prevailing patterns of age-specific enrolment rates persist throughout the child’s life”.⁴

For São Tomé and Príncipe’s children educational prospects have improved in all of the regions (see table 4 in part 2). Regional inequality has been consistently low throughout the period. Although Centro and Principe score the highest in number of years, the biggest improvement was in Sul.

Historical Development of Private and Public Universities in São Tomé and Príncipe

São Tomé and Príncipe currently has 2 universities. One is public, the other probably private. It is likely that many students go to Angola for tertiary education.

Type	1960	1970	1980	1990	1995	2000	2005	2010	2015	2020
Public	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1
Private	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Total	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2

(Sources: see part 2)

³ <http://uis.unesco.org/en/glossary-term/mean-years-schooling>

⁴ <http://hdr.undp.org/en/content/expected-years-schooling-children-years>



Universidade de São Tomé e Príncipe⁵

Public Universities

São Tomé and Príncipe has at least one known public institution for tertiary education. São Tomé and Príncipe does not appear in the 4icu database.

The *University of São Tomé and Príncipe* (Portuguese: Universidade de São Tomé e Príncipe), USTP, is a public institution of higher education in São Tomé and Príncipe. It is the main institution dedicated to teaching, research and university extension of the country. It was established in 2014 by merging three older institutions of higher education: ISP (Instituto Superior Politécnico de São Tomé e Príncipe, founded in 1996), EFOPE (Escola de Formação de Professores e Educadores) and ICS (Instituto de Ciências de Saúde).



Private Universities

Very limited information was found on the *Universidade Lusíada de São Tomé e Príncipe*. One website was found where this university is indicated as being a private institution.

Regional distribution of São Tomé and Príncipe's Universities

Both universities are located in the capital São Tomé (Região Centro).

Think tanks and other knowledge institutions

The 2018 Global Go To Think Tank Index Report did not provide any information on think tanks in São Tomé and Príncipe. A further internet search also did not yield any information. UNESCO also does not provide any data about the number of researchers in the country, and where they work⁶.

⁵ Source: <http://www.intraafricapaxlusofona.org/index.php/parceria#ustp>

⁶ <http://uis.unesco.org/en/country/st?theme=science-technology-and-innovation>



Forte de São Sebastião⁷



Roça Água-Izé (former hospital complex)⁸

Museums in São Tomé and Príncipe

We found information on five museums and/or historical sites in São Tomé and Príncipe. It is unclear if all of the museums listed in table 8 in Part 2 are operational. All museum sites are located on the main island São Tomé.

⁷ Source: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/S%C3%A3o_Sebasti%C3%A3o_Museum

⁸ Source: <http://laerciomeirelles.blogspot.com/2018/05/sao-tome-e-principe-25-e-26-de-maio-de.html>

Part 2: the data

Table 1: São Tomé and Príncipe: Education index 1990-2018⁹

Region	1990	2000	2010	2018	2018/1990
Regiao Centro	0.343	0.427	0.482	0.594	1.73
Regiao do Principe	0.342	0.423	0.476	0.577	1.69
Regiao Norte	0.291	0.360	0.407	0.503	1.73
Regiao Sul	0.282	0.349	0.399	0.511	1.81
Total	0.324	0.402	0.455	0.567	1.75
Inequality	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	

Table 2: São Tomé and Príncipe: changes in regional population between 1990 and 2018; population numbers in millions

Region	1990	2000	2010	2018	2018/1990
Regiao Centro	0.07	0.09	0.11	0.14	2.00
Regiao do Principe	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	1.00
Regiao Norte	0.03	0.03	0.04	0.04	1.33
Regiao Sul	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.03	1.50
Total	0.12	0.14	0.18	0.21	

Table 3: São Tomé and Príncipe: Regional data for 'mean years of education

Region	1990	2000	2010	2018	2018/1990
Regiao Centro	3.15	4.61	5.33	7.00	2.22
Regiao do Principe	2.88	4.22	4.89	6.52	2.26
Regiao Norte	2.41	3.53	4.06	5.22	2.17
Regiao Sul	2.36	3.46	3.98	5.13	2.17
Total	2.88	4.21	4.87	6.44	2.24
Inequality	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.4	

Table 4: São Tomé and Príncipe: Regional data for 'expected years of education

Region	1990	2000	2010	2018	2018/1990
Regiao Centro	8.55	9.85	11.0	13.0	1.52
Regiao do Principe	8.84	10.2	11.3	13.0	1.47
Regiao Norte	7.58	8.73	9.79	11.9	1.57
Regiao Sul	7.31	8.42	9.59	12.3	1.68
Total	8.19	9.43	10.6	12.7	1.55
Inequality	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.1	

⁹ The HDI data, and its components go from 0 (worst level) to 1 (best level). We present the figures x 1000. The inequality figure is the highest value divided by the lowest value in a particular year.

Table 5: Public universities in São Tomé and Príncipe

University	Year of establishment	Location	Rank 4icu (2019)
Universidade de São Tomé e Príncipe (USTP)	1996 (Founded as 'Higher Polytechnic Institute of São Tomé and Príncipe' in 1996, acquired present title and status 2014)	São Tomé	Not referred

(Sources: Wikipedia: Universities, World Higher Education Database (https://www.whed.net/results_institutions.php); and the websites of the institutions, if available).

Table 6: Private Universities in São Tomé and Príncipe

University	Year of establishment	Location	Religious affiliation	Rank 4icu (2019)
Universidade Lusíada de São Tomé e Príncipe	Unknown	São Tomé	No	Not referred

Source: see table 5

Table 7: Regional distribution of universities in São Tomé and Príncipe

Provinces (and city)	Public	Private	Total	Number per million inhabitants
Regiao Centro	2	0	2	1.4
Regiao do Principe	0	0	0	0
Regiao Norte	0	0	0	0
Regiao Sul	0	0	0	0
Total	2	0	2	1.4

For the last column we used the population numbers as given in table 2.

Table 8: Museums in São Tomé and Príncipe

Museums	websites	Location

Knowledge institutions in Africa and their development 1960-2020: São Tomé and Príncipe

Forte de São Sebastião		São Tomé
Museu Nacional		São Tomé
Museu do Mar e da Pesca Artesanal		Morro Peixe
Museu Do Cafe		Monte Café
Roça Água-Izé (former plantation complex)		Água Izé

(Source: Google) Not included: cultural centres

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