



Australia and São Tomé & Príncipe Cooperation

Australia's Direct Aid Program (DAP) has supported dozens of community development projects in São Tomé and Príncipe. The program supports organisations with expertise in education, health, water and sanitation, gender equality, disability inclusion, food security and human rights. It seeks to strengthen bilateral relations and contribute to sustainable development in local communities.

A range of projects funded between 2020-2025 highlight how our partnership with São Tomé and Príncipe can transform shared priorities into meaningful action.

Surfing adds value

The purchase of surfboards and equipment for a surfing course benefited more than 80 women and girls, enhancing their confidence, skills, and future tourism employment opportunities. This initiative was led by SOMA Surf, a local organization based in Santana, (Cantagalo District), which plays a key role in promoting inclusive sports and community development through surfing.



Less is More

Veterinários Sem Fronteiras Portugal carried out a sterilization and deworming campaign for pets, along with education and training programs, on Príncipe Island. The initiative benefited teachers, technicians, 400 students, and over 7,000 residents, helping to reduce the spread of veterinary diseases and strengthen local knowledge in animal care.

Health Education

ONGD Mundo A Sorrir implemented training programs and distributed hygiene kits to community health workers and primary school children, on Príncipe Island. The initiative strengthened oral health education, improved hygiene practices, and contributed to the promotion of healthier communities.



Bô Energia

WACT – We Are Changing Together implemented the “Bô Energia” project to support renewable briquette energy production, in the Lobata District of São Tomé. The initiative benefited local households and communities through collaboration with local and international partners. It helped reduce dependence on charcoal, promoted cleaner energy alternatives, and contributed to environmental sustainability.



Empreende Jovem

Programa das Nações Unidas para o Desenvolvimento (PNUD) in São Tomé city supported the construction of an accessibility ramp, improving access to an entrepreneurial space for people with mobility challenges. The initiative promoted inclusion and enabled broader participation in economic and social activities.



Soup House Improvement

The Shalon Fontes childcare centre received funding to develop the “Casa da Sopa” project, which included the construction of a kitchen and sanitation facilities. The initiative reached around 470 children in the Riboque district, in São Tomé, improving nutrition and hygiene conditions and contributing to better health and well-being.

Australia recognised the Democratic Republic of São Tomé and Príncipe in 1975 and established diplomatic relations in 2009. The Australian Ambassador in Lisbon was first granted non-resident accreditation to São Tomé and Príncipe in 2011, with regular visits and active bilateral cooperation.

Our countries share a strong connection to the ocean, promotion of the blue economy, commitment to the protection of the marine environment, and concerns about the impacts of climate change, particularly on Small Island Developing States.

Australia has long been a reliable partner to these states, recognising their vulnerability to external shocks and the complex economic, social and security challenges they face. Australia works collaboratively to address these issues as a member of the Pacific Islands Forum and as an associate observer of the Community of Portuguese Language Countries (CPLP).

Our countries share a commitment to an international system based on rules, norms and international law, and contribute actively to the work of the United Nations (UN). Australia and São Tomé and Príncipe have signed the Agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity beyond National Jurisdiction, the “BBNJ treaty”. The BBNJ treaty is a remarkable milestone in the protection of the world’s oceans and a historic achievement for the multilateral system.

