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Country: Sao Tome and Principe

INITIATION PLAN

Project Title: Enhancement of Coordination for Recovery and Resilience-Building in Response of the Floods in December 2021

Implementing parties: UNDP

<p><b>Programme Period:</b> 4 Months</p> <p><b>Project Title:</b> Enhancement of Coordination for Recovery and Resilience-Building in Response of the Floods in December 2021</p> <p><b>Project ID:</b> _00142258_____</p> <p><b>Project Duration:</b> 20 Feb-20 June 4 Months</p> <p><b>Management Arrangement:</b> _DIM_____</p>	<p><b>Total Budget</b> <b>US\$ 50,000</b></p> <p><b>Allocated resources:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Government _____</li><li>• Regular (TRAC 1.1.3) <u>US\$ 50,000</u></li><li>• Other:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Donor _____</li><li>○ Donor _____</li><li>○ Donor _____</li></ul></li><li>• In kind contributions _____</li></ul> <p>Unfunded budget:</p>
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Agreed by: K. Haniema  
Katarzyna Wawiernia, Resident Representative

Date: 14/02/2020



## 1. SITUATION ANALYSIS

### a) Background

The island of Sao Tome was hit by heavy rains between the 28th and the 29th of December 2021, which caused flooding. The Government of Sao Tome & Principe (STP) has declared a state of calamity effective from 30 December 2021 and through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) called the Diplomatic Corps to inform of the situation and request international support, informing that a multisectoral task force was being set up to assess the situation and impact.

The STP Government formally requested immediate multi-sectoral international assistance in the areas of food security, emergency education, WASH, health, shelter and Non-Food Items (NFIs), logistical support as well as technical support to assess additional recovery and infrastructure needs. The STP Government particularly emphasized the gravity of damages inflicted on infrastructures, namely bridges and roads, and sought for international support to rehabilitate the damaged infrastructures.

In response to the government official request, a Rapid Needs Assessment was jointly conducted by OCHA and UNDP from 25 January to 4 February 2022 with UN agencies, NGOs, and the government institutions leading their respective sectors. At the initiative of the AfDB, a donor coordination group constituted of UN-RCO, UNDP, the World Bank, African Development Bank (AfDB), International Monetary Fund (IMF), and the European Union (EU) has also been set up. Several donor partners, particularly IFIs, have already expressed their interest in providing funds for the recovery and rehabilitation activities, though a detail technical assessment to estimate the required works and associated costs is required for them to initiate their funding process.

STP is facing increasing risk of natural disaster due to climate change. As presented in STP's Third National Communication to the United Nations Conventions on Climate Change (UNFCCC), submitted in 2019, climate projections indicate a tendency to increase the maximum precipitation in one day and the mean intensity of precipitation in the region. Further, in relation to climatic extremes of temperature in all the scenarios presented, climatic projections indicate warming, with increases in heat waves, on hot days, at maximum annual maximum temperatures and increasing annual minimum temperatures. Those projections are fully aligned with the events observed in recent years, including the December 2021 floods and expect a significant increase of population and infrastructure's exposure to extreme events and vulnerability, threatening-inter alia- agricultural production and the livelihood of urban and, in particular, rural population.

Back in 2011 the Government established a National Council for Disaster Prevention and Response (CONPREC) and created a Risk and Disaster Committee. However, these structures have never become properly operational as it became evident during the current floods.

It is therefore imperative to urgently enhance resilience and preparedness against emerging climate change risks in STP, which should be integrated into the recovery efforts of the current floods response to prevent secondary and additional damages from happening in the upcoming rainy seasons.

### b) Damages and Needs Assessed

According to the STP Government's institution responsible for disaster management (CONPREC) and OCHA's Situation Report No.1 on 5 January 2022, the main damages observed due to the heavy rains and subsequent floods include:

- The district of Água Grande reported several cases of collapse residential houses and three cases of flooding specifically in the localities of Pemá-Pemá, Vila Maria and Vila Dolores. In the locality of Boa Morte, a ten-year-old girl was dragged by the floods and lost her life.
- The District of Lobata registered landslides along the road that connects Guadalupe to the city of Neves. In the District of Lembá, landslides and floods were also registered in the proximity of the road tunnel that gives the sole access to Santa Catarina and in the locality of Ponte Samú where the preliminary data point to the disappearance of a baby. A case of flooding was also reported in the locality of Ribana where three bridges fell: namely Lembá Bridge, Paga Fogo Bridge and Brigoma Bridge. The Lembá district health centre was also affected by flooding and inundation.
- Broken bridges and landslides have left the Lembá district temporarily inaccessible and two other districts (Cantagalo and Mezochi) with limited access. Several communities are without access to drinking water due to the destruction of water pipes. Access to the international airport of São Tomé by road was also temporarily limited due to the flooding. Several houses and business facilities have been destroyed and some were washed away by floods, especially in the capital city centre. At least 2 deaths, 3 missing persons and one person with traumatic brain injury were reported.
- The productive plots most affected by the storm have been vegetables and food crops. Regarding rural infrastructures, the most important and urgent need relates to the Boa Esperança community where the access road is impassable and at risk of collapse. Rapid intervention with excavators is required to unblock the road and protect the section at risk of collapse. Concerns have been raised about the flow of products already available in the local market. The landslide in the Boa Esperança Community also caused fissures in the water reservoir and today the community is facing great difficulties in accessing water



Link: <https://www.unitar.org/maps/latest-maps>



A joint Rapid Needs Assessment by OCHA, REACH International, UN and UNDP conducted on 25 January-4 February 2022 provided a more granular overview of the flood-affected areas regarding key humanitarian and socio-economic conditions of local communities while also collecting the data and evidence on the most immediate needs. The assessment covers the sectors on Water & Sanitation, Health, Education, Agriculture, Protection, Livelihood, and Infrastructure.

The preliminary results of the Rapid Needs Assessment indicate that:

- Not many acute humanitarian needs were observed at the time of the assessment.
- On average, Lemba District sustained the most severe damages while all other districts registered damages to some extent.
- Most of the needs indicated by the communities already existed before the flood disaster but are likely to have been compounded now.
- Many of the damaged infrastructures remain unattended.
- Some of the infrastructure works require urgent response to prevent secondary disaster, such as clearing driftwoods/debris in the riverbed and restoration water treatment facility in Neves
- Close to 60% of the locations assessed reported loss of income or livelihoods to some extent (25% or more losses)
- The government coordination system capacity to respond to the emergency is extremely weak.

Although the Rapid Needs Assessment provides guiding information to prioritize the sectors to be supported in the immediate humanitarian response, it is necessary to conduct a recovery assessment to obtain in-depth data and analysis focusing on the recovery and resilience building needs.

## 2. JUSTIFICATION

The results of the Rapid Needs Assessment and other reports indicate that the recovery needs should be addressed not only in immediate humanitarian interventions but also in mid- and long-term strategies to build back better and foster resilience to future disaster risks.

To this end, a detailed technical assessment is required to identify socio-economic needs to promote recovery and resilience based on information obtained from the affected population and provide data and analysis for the decision-makers in the government in STP as well as partners for them to select the most suitable interventions for immediate and long-term recovery and resilience needs.

The Recovery and Resilience Assessment will provide evidence, data, and analysis to assess the extent of a disaster's impact on the country beyond individual humanitarian life-saving needs. The findings of this assessment are expected to provide the analytical basis to design an actionable and sustainable recovery plan that strengthen resilience and country preparedness for future disasters and, possibly, lead to mobilizing the necessary financial and technical resources to that end.

The Recovery and Resilience Assessment will identify multi-sectoral needs at individual, community, and national levels, integrating a number of different but interconnected perspectives needing support. This requires an inclusive and multi-stakeholder process to serve as a tool for planning, coordinating and managing the recovery and resilience building efforts.

Despite all efforts by the STP government to respond effectively to disaster situations, the recent flood has revealed significant challenges in coordination within the government as well as at other national and international partners levels, including the UN agencies, IFIs, and bilateral donors. As recommended in the Rapid Needs Assessment, a coordination mechanism led by the STP government with a wide range of

stakeholders should be strengthened not only to coordinate immediate humanitarian and recovery efforts but also conduct technical assessments and plan more systemic resilience and preparedness strategies and interventions.

### 3. PROJECT OUTPUTS AND ACTIVITIES

To main objective of this project proposal is to lay the foundation of a coordination mechanism on disaster response, recovery, and prevention in STP. To this end this project will provide support to the following critical areas:

- 1) Strengthen country-led assessments to initiate a medium to longer term recovery and resilience-building planning process;
- 2) Enhance the recovery response and resources mobilisation coordination through the creation of a platform to integrate the concerted efforts of the STP Government, UN system, IFIs, other participating international donors, NGOs/CSOs and other relevant stakeholders.

The proposed outputs and activities under this project are summarized below:

**Output 1: A government-led, multi-partner assessment of recovery and resilience-building needs is conducted to provide evidence-based data and analysis for the establishment of an overall strategic recovery and resilience plan.**

#### **Activities:**

- 1-1) Design assessment methodologies based on reviewing the past assessment results and by consulting key stakeholders
- 1-2) Conduct an assessment, including data collection, analysis, and compilation of the report.
- 1-3) Conduct a policy-dialogue workshop with the STP government and key stakeholders to share the assessment results and forge consensus on the recommendations for an overall strategic recovery and resilience-building development plan.

The Recovery and Resilience Assessment will be designed, building on the existing damage and needs assessments conducted by the UN, the STP governments and other partners and by adapting the established methodologies of the Post-Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA) or Household and Building Damage Assessment (HBDA) to the local context in STP.

Due to the limited fund availability, the assessment will focus on the priority sectors in terms of:

- Significance of the damage and losses caused by the floods;
- Importance for recovery and development process; and
- Vulnerabilities to the future disaster risks.

Reflecting the findings of the past assessments on the post-disaster situations and needs, the assessment may focus on the following three thematic areas:

- Economic recovery;
- Infrastructure; and
- Climate Change/Disaster Risk Adaptation.

The assessment results will identify:

- Needs for recovery and resilience-building,

- Recommended interventions based on the assessment results, and
- Cost estimation of each recommended intervention:

UNDP will support the STP government to take the lead in the conduct of this assessment, enhancing national capacity, and integrate the recovery and resilience needs findings into the government overall development planning and budgeting. In so doing, the assessment results will be shared within a wide range of stakeholders and used as evidence-based analytical tools to promote policy dialogues around the recovery and resilience-building strategy and plan.

In the assessment designing process, synergies and collaboration will be sought with partners who are planning to conduct a similar assessment in their focused sector with a view to integrating their assessment into a single Recovery and Resilience Assessment with harmonized methodologies. For example, the World Bank plans to conduct an in-depth technical and vulnerability risk assessment related to the transportation sector, which can be aligned with the Recovery and Resilience Assessment. Such coordination and consolidation of assessment activities will be undertaken through a common partner platform to be established as Output 2 of this project described below.

**Output 2: A common partner platform established with the STP government for partnerships and coordinated actions for recovery and resilience-building efforts.**

**Activities:**

- 2-1: Support the STP Government to design a common platform among partners for coordination of assessments and planning;
- 2-2: Provide technical assistance to the STP Government to operationalize and manage the common partner platform;
- 2-3: Provide technical assistance to the STP Government to design a reporting mechanism of the flood disaster response interventions;
- 2-4: Support the STP Government in technical and financial resources mobilisation to make such a platform/ response mechanism sustainable in the long term.

Within the overall guidance by UN Resident Coordinator in STP, UNDP will deploy a coordination expert to provide technical support to the STP Government and especially CONPREC to establish and operationalize a coordination and partnership platform to align different interventions towards the recovery and development strategies of the government and to marshal the technical and financial resources from both national and international partners to maximize their effectiveness towards achieving the desired goals.

Through this partnership platform, and wherever possible, UNDP will play a convener role in identifying partnership and resource mobilization opportunities to implement the recovery and resilience-building interventions identified by the Recovery and Resilience Assessment. The expert will also assist the STP Government in designing a reporting mechanism to regularly collect information on the flood response interventions, prevent duplication of the efforts, and promote synergies.

In so doing, the expert will also contribute to strategically position UNDP and the UN as partners of choice and contribute to mobilise financial resources for UNDP/UN led- programmatic interventions.

#### 4. PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT

This project will be managed through DIM modality in accordance with UNDP's rules and regulations and Programme and Operation Policies and Procedures (POPP). The project activities will be implemented in close collaboration with the UN RCO, STP Government and interested partners. The final report will be produced within 3 months after the end of implementation period.

USD50,000 will be provided from TRAC 3 Fund to kick-start the project activities for the assessment and coordination.

## 5. WORK PLAN BUDGET SHEET

EXPECTED OUTPUTS	PLANNED ACTIVITIES	Timeframe					RESPONSIBLE PARTY	PLANNED BUDGET		
		Feb 2022	Mar 2022	Apr 2022	May 2022	June 2022		Source of Fund	Budget Description	Amount (USD)
Output 1: Recovery & Resilience assessment conducted	Design assessment methodologies	X					UNDP, STP Govt	TRAC 1.1.3	72100 Contracting services 75300 Workshops / meetings 71600 Travel expenses 72200 Equipment and supply	20,000 2,000 2,000 1,000
	Conduct an assessment		X	X			UNDP, STP Govt, UN agencies			
	Conduct a policy-dialogue workshop based on the assessment results				X		UNDP, STP Govt			
Output 2: Coordination and Partnership Platform established	Design the structure and functions of a common partner platform	X					UNDP, STP Govt	TRAC 1.1.3	71300 Consultant 75300 Workshops / meetings	15,000 5,000
	Provide technical assistance to operationalize and manage the common partner platform.		X	X	X	X	UNDP, RCO			
	Design a reporting mechanism of the flood disaster responses	X	X	X	X	X	UNDP, STP Govt			
	Support the Government in resources and technical mobilisation		X	X	X	X	UNDP, STP Govt	TRAC 1.1.3		
Programme Management	Provide effective and efficient procurement and operation supports	X	X	X	X	X	UNDP	TRAC 1.1.3	72200 Equipment and supply 72400: Communication	2,500 2,500
									<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>50,000</b>