

## = São Tomé and Príncipe at the 2012 Summer Olympics =

The African island nation of São Tomé and Príncipe competed at the 2012 Summer Olympic Games in London , United Kingdom from 27 July to 12 August 2012 . This was the nation 's fifth appearance at the Olympics since its debut in 1996 . Two track and field athletes , Christopher Lima da Costa and Lecabela Quaresma were selected to the team by wildcard places , without having qualified at any sporting event . Quaresma was selected as flag bearer for the opening and closing ceremonies . Neither of the two athletes progressed beyond the first round of their respective events .

## = = Background = =

São Tomé and Príncipe participated in five Summer Olympic games between its debut in the 1996 Summer Olympics in Atlanta and the 2012 Summer Olympics in London . The highest number of São Tomé and Príncipe athletes participating in a summer games is three in the 2008 games in Beijing , China . No São Tomé and Príncipe athlete has ever won a medal at the Olympics . Two track and field athletes from São Tomé and Príncipe were selected to compete in the London games : Christopher Lima da Costa in the men 's 100 m and Lecabela Quaresma in the women 's 100 m hurdles .

## = = Athletics = =

Christopher Lima da Costa was the only male athlete representing São Tomé and Príncipe at the London Olympics . He had not previously competed in any Olympic games . He competed in the men 's 100 metres race on August 4 , competing against six other athletes in the first heat . He finished the race in 11 @.@ 56 seconds ( his personal best ) , finishing last of the seven entrants . Kilakone Siphonexay of Laos placed directly ahead of da Costa ( 11 @.@ 30 seconds ) in a heat led by Bruno Rojas of Bolivia ( 10 @.@ 62 seconds ) . The Santomean athlete placed 73rd of the 75 athletes , and therefore did not advance to later rounds .

Lecabela Quaresma competed on behalf of São Tomé and Príncipe at the London Olympic games in the women 's 100 metre hurdles . Quaresma became affiliated with sports organizations in Portugal and was 22 years old at the time of her competition at the London Olympics . She had not previously competed at any Olympic games . Quaresma competed against seven other athletes in the second heat on August 6 . Quaresma finished the race in 14 @.@ 54 seconds , finishing last out of the six finishing athletes . She ranked behind Anastassiya Pilipenko of Kazakhstan ( 13 @.@ 77 seconds ) in a heat led by Beate Schrott of Austria ( 13 @.@ 09 seconds ) and Eline Berings of Belgium ( 13 @.@ 46 seconds ) . Of the 46 finishing athletes , Quaresma placed 42nd and did not advance to later rounds .

## Key

Note ? Ranks given for track events are within the athlete 's heat only