

United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization
São Tomé and Príncipe
Governance and its Effects on Education

Governance and education go hand in hand; when one is unstable, so is the other. The problem then is to fix the one component that effects the other. The issue present is to fix the governments in order to further develop education in those nations. A country's government has full authority over the education system of a country and whether or not it succeeds. If a country does not put a lot of emphasis on the education system or at least the development of an education system, then there will be a fragile education system which is detrimental to the population. Factors that influence the education system are: political affiliation, the type of system in which the country governs itself, and religion. Under religion is where there are age gaps and gender gaps which influence the societal view of women trying to obtain an education. Sao Tome believes that in order to have a strong education system, there needs to be a strong and stable country. São Tomé and Príncipe recognizes this issue and is devoted to the improvement of all governments.

São Tomé and Príncipe is a small developing island country with a fragile economy which is why there is a desire for political stability. We joined the Global Partnership for Education in 2007 and was a supporter of the Education Strategic Plan which emphasized primary education.¹ In 2013, Sao Tome's fiscal agenda was geared towards focusing on health, education, and infrastructure which shows that the government is attempting on creating a stronger and stable political structure; however, due to the size of Sao Tome, these goals have been a challenge, but it is a challenge that has been worked towards. Sao Tome's government put in a mandatory education initiative in which children are required to go to primary school for at least six years. The government is also pushing for more women to go to school and has offered financial incentives to the children who have completed at least six years of education and has participated in a basic school curriculum.

São Tomé is dedicated to ensure government and an education system is of a good quality and provided to youths. We propose the implementation of a new education program, a resource management and distribution system, and the development of new transparency measures. These new developments will be necessary for the success of governments supporting education in their nations. A resource management and distribution system will be used to protect educational resources a nation has and can be given to schools. Resources such as textbooks can be updated every 5 years in order to maintain new and relevant information. Blackboards and solar powered Wi-Fi stations can be distributed using a ratio of thirty to one. Pencils and other writing utensils can be distributed amongst the all the students in each school in the region. Transparency measures will be needed to ensure the government is truly helping the population of their nation. These measures will make sure the government is treating the population equally, or very close to it, and that it will support the education system through funding and maintaining the quality of resources and the curriculum. A new education program is also a necessity. Not only in their nation, but war-torn areas also. We propose the implementation of an education program that can be split up into sectors and put into areas of conflict to make sure all generations of children are educated. Each sector will have the basic necessary items to educate groups of 40 children at a time. The program will also contain a new curriculum, training program, and learning assessments.

¹ <http://www.globalpartnership.org/country/sao-tome-and-principe>

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Preservation of World Heritage Sites

The preservation of world heritage sites is an especially disheartening issue that affects many people both physically and emotionally. The destruction of these sites are the result of both natural disasters and man-made ones. Heritage sites touch the lives of all generations and therefore creates lasting emotional devastation when the sites are destroyed. São Tomé and Príncipe is dedicated to solving this issue and putting forth all of its efforts.

São Tomé and Príncipe has already started on working towards finding solutions concerning climate change damage to cultural heritage sites. We have created the Commission for the Management of Disasters and the Ecological Observation Centre. That body will jump-start and notify national responses to climate change based on local information and strategic plans made by the national government. Sao Tome strongly believes that world heritage sites need to be preserved and needs to be protected. These sites are destroyed due to reasons that only profit the human race whether economically or politically.² As a small fiscally challenged island nation, Sao Tome has had to overcome a wide range of obstacles; however, one thing has always remained constant and it is the strong respect for heritage sites. This belief has led Sao Tome to ratify, sign, and adopt a convention that promises to protect and preserve world heritage sites.³ On July 25th 2006, Sao Tome finally adopted the Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage which in turn caused Sao Tome to become the 183rd country to adopt this convention.⁴ The Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage causes countries to understand and accept the dangers that destroy world heritage sites and protects world heritage sites that fall under natural features, natural sites, and geological and physiographical formations. Sao Tome strongly believes that adopting this convention was the first step in order to protect and preserve world heritage sites.

São Tome suggests the creation of a new selection process for World Heritage sites and the creation of a climate change organization which will focus its efforts on preventing climate change and addressing current problems as the result of climate change. This organization will pair up with the national government and its scientific sectors to ensure the safety of the cultural heritage sites from natural disasters and climate change. This is a necessity in order to ensure the protection of all cultural heritage sites. Natural disasters and climate change will damage all monuments and building of cultural value even if there were no man-made implications. Teaming up with a nation's scientific and environmental sector will help to further improve the safety through innovative technology and the use of São Tomé and Príncipe also suggests that each nation calls upon the government and their national security to help protect the sites from the effects of war and other man-made destruction.⁵ The use of government is also imperative to the protection of cultural heritage sites. The use of these defense measures provides a sense of national unity in the sense that they are all protecting something that is connected to the population,

² <http://www.worldbank.org/en/country/saotome/overview>

³ <https://store.eiu.com/product.aspx?pubid=230000823&pid=50000205&gid=230000823>

⁴ <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list>

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Supporting and Accomplishing Education 2030

Supporting and Accomplishing Education in 2030 is a pressing issue that the international community has begun to address. Within the past five years, the refugee crisis has displaced thousands of children resulting in the lack of education in those generations. The main focus of supporting and accomplishing education in 2030 is to ensure education to all people despite their political, social, and economic standings.

São Tomé and Príncipe is devoted to ensure a quality education in the year 2030. We have already made a São Tomé and Príncipe International Conference for Development Partners discussing the 2030 Transformation Agenda. This conference covered topics from the need for education support to political stability and economic growth.¹ São Tomé has been promoting education and its quality since the early 2000s. We joined the Global Partnership for Education in 2007 and was a supporter of the Education Strategic Plan which emphasized primary education.⁶ In 2012, São Tomé and Príncipe developed a second Education Sector Plan which was endorsed by several local education groups. We have received two grants resulting progress in the development of training programs and development of new preschool curriculum. These grants have contributed funds and finance towards assisting the country in improving the conveyance of basic education services that will focus solely greater access that is available to a greater multitude of people. Therefore, ameliorating local administration of services. These grants also provide advancement of the system of in-service teacher training in order to strengthen the management. The current GPE grant has led to progression in this in-service teaching program. As this program involves consultancies to evaluate the skills in which designated teachers possess, increasing feasibility and development has been accomplished through this organization.²

São Tomé recognizes the issues present with the current situation. Although we have already developed smaller scale programs, we suggest taking aspects of program that proved to be very successful and implement them in a larger scale program. These programs will go further in depth than the smaller scale programs and will have more funding because of the broad range it will cover. The program will cover components such as teacher training, the development of a stable curriculum that will be specific to the values of each region, a learning assessment system, and a management sector to monitor the progress and correct implementation of the new program. This will prove to be an effective solution because it will cover all the basic aspects of an education system which will be needed for efficient educating in the year 2030. Teacher training is an important aspect to cover because the youths being taught must have a qualified teacher to help them learn the new information being used in their future. A new stable curriculum is one of the most important aspects of the new program. We are aware of the cultural differences and values of each particular region; therefore, we propose several different curriculums that will not impose on a culture's values and beliefs in order to keep the youths educated and without government conflict. A newly developed learning assessment will be created in order to track the progress of the how well the program is working and how far the program has reached. Using the data, the program can be further improved upon if needed. The last component covered in the new program is a school board to monitor the education quality and effectiveness. This will help to implement and sustain the new education program.

⁶<http://www.unesco.org/new/en/education/themes/leading-the-international-agenda/education-for-all/sdg4-education-2030/>