

SAO TOME and PRINCIPE - Drought/Food Shortage

Date: Late 1983-early 1984

Location: Countrywide

No Dead: None reported

No. Affected: Entire population of 93,000; 40,500 seriously

Damage: Drought-induced crop losses resulted in food shortages and increased incidences of malnutrition

The Disaster

Drought conditions throughout 1983 caused crops to fail and led to severe food shortages in October and November of that year. The regions hardest hit by the drought were the east and northeast sections of Sao Tome and the central portion of Principe. Due to financial constraints, the government was unable to increase commercial cereal imports to meet the crisis.

Action Taken by the Government of Sao Tome and Principe (GSTP) and the Local Red Cross

To overcome the food shortfall, the GSTP sought help from the international community. The local Red Cross also made an appeal for medicines and vitamins for children whose health was affected by inadequate food supplies. The Sao Tome Red Cross distributed the medicines obtained through the appeal and also helped distribute food commodities provided by international donors. The GSTP also provided personnel to work with the Red Cross volunteers.

Assistance Provided by the United States Government

In response to the Red Cross appeal for medical assistance, the U.S. Ambassador on January 18, 1984 authorized up to \$25,000 in disaster assistance funds for the purchase of medicines and vitamins. A total of 98 boxes of antibiotics and vitamins, procured in part from a local pharmaceutical wholesaler and in part through the American Embassy in Bonn, Germany, were presented to the Sao Tome Red Cross. The cost including air transport totaled \$20,860.

The USG also contributed 1,440 MT of P.L. 480 Title II food commodities (700 MT of cornmeal, 200 MT of non-fat dry milk, 300 MT of rice, and 240 MT of vegetable oil) to a LORCS-sponsored food program. The cost of the food was \$519,800 and the ocean freight was \$303,400. In addition, 850 MT of rice and 300 MT of soy-fortified cornmeal (the latter diverted from stocks in Chad) were donated to the WFP program in Sao Tome. The food had a value of \$334,000 while the ocean freight cost \$96,500.

Total OFDA assistance.....	\$20,860
Total Food for Peace assistance.....	\$1,253,700
	TOTAL
	\$1,274,560

Assistance Provided by U.S. Voluntary Agencies

American National Red Cross - sent a delegate to help oversee the LORCS food program; approximate value, \$12,000.

	TOTAL	\$12,000
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Assistance Provided by the International Community

International Organizations

EEC - provided \$67,258 through LORCS.

LORCS - issued an appeal for 4,000 tons of foodstuffs to meet the needs of 40,500 persons and conducted the ensuing food program.

WFP - sponsored a six-month food aid project (2,000 tons of cornmeal and rice, valued at \$721,250) and provided \$20,000 to defray up to 50% of the cost of distribution in-country.

Voluntary Agencies

Denmark Red Cross - 500 tons of wheat, valued at \$127,840, through LORCS.

Germany, Fed. Rep. Red Cross - 24 tons of sugar, 43 tons of milk powder, and 287 tons of beans, valued at \$201,377, through LORCS; also sent two delegates.

Norway Red Cross - contributed two prefabricated houses, one Land Rover and spare parts, ten stretchers, miscellaneous relief supplies, and the services of a delegate, all valued at \$97,045. Food commodities (120 tons beans, 120 tons vegetable oil, 64 tons milk powder, and 12 tons sugar) and 40 tons of soap were also provided at a cost of \$404,090. Also made a cash donation of \$156,000.

Soviet Union - medical kits, medicines, and stretchers, valued at \$22,082.

Sweden Red Cross - gave an unspecified amount of vegetable oil, valued at \$8,636, and contributed \$12,455 for transport costs.

United Kingdom - two Land Rovers and spare parts valued at \$28,868.

TOTAL \$1,866,901