

Sao Tome and Principe

Update on the context and situation of children

Sao Tome and Principe (STP) is a lower middle-income country (LMIC) with a USD 2,168 GNI per capita and a 0.625 Human Development Index in 2019 (ranked 135 out of 189 countries) (UNDP 2020). STP is a democratic republic with centralized-State government. In 2021, a highly contested two-round presidential elections were held and the candidate supported by the opposition won. The election outcomes were peacefully accepted by other candidates, who committed to work together with the new president, showcasing the country's transition to democracy. The country's GDP grew from an estimated US\$197 million in 2010 to US\$473 million 2020[1]. In 2020, STP's GDP grew by 3.1%, despite disruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic [2]. This growth has been supported in part by higher public expenditures allocated to COVID-19 relief and financed largely by international aid, thus increasing the public debt to 104.9% of the GDP (10 percentage points in one year).[3]

STP remains a country reliant on low-productivity activities in the primary sector, particularly in agriculture and fisheries, and in small informal commerce (World Bank 2020). In 2020, the unemployment rate increased to 20% (from 13% in 2019), where low-income and marginalised individuals and households suffered in higher proportions the impact from COVID-19, as they have no financial savings to cope with rising prices for consumer goods (World Bank 2020). The country's poverty rates are higher compared to similar countries—with about one-quarter of the population living on less than \$1.90 per day before the COVID-19 pandemic, 80% higher than the average rate in LMICs. Unemployment and low labour force participation, especially among women and youth, further contributes to a high risk of poverty (World Bank 2020). To respond to this challenge, in 2021, UNICEF continued advocating for the design and started implementation of non-formal education training packages for adolescent's to better prepare them for the job market.

In STP, 32.3% of children lived in monetary poverty by the first half of 2021, and 26.5% in multidimensional poverty in 2021 (UNICEF WCARO 2020). In this regard, UNICEF supported the Government's improved coordination and cross-sectorial collaboration, through the strengthening of the National Council of Social Protection (CNPS) and ensuring reliable evidence is available for decision making so that the most vulnerable children are covered. Considering that in 2018, the country budgeted less than 0.65% of GDP to social protection, well below the African regional average of 1.2%, UNICEF in partnership with the Ministry of Planning and Finance is working to elaborate a Budget Brief in 2022, aimed at fostering increased public budget allocation in social areas. It is noteworthy that with the rollout of temporary COVID-19 interventions, a higher spending in social protection was reflected in 2020 – 21 (1.3% and 1.5% respectively) (World Bank, 2021).

Violence against children (VAC) continues to be a serious problem in Sao Tome and Principe. Despite efforts by UNICEF and partners to raise awareness on the negative impact on child development, 70% of children are exposed to psychological aggression, while 1 in 7 experience severe physical punishment (MICS 2019). A protocol for care and follow-up for children and adolescents' victims of violence, sexual abuse, mistreatment, neglect and abandonment was developed and approved by the government with UNICEF support in 2021, contributing to an improved quality and more comprehensive response to VAC. UNICEF is also investing on ensuring linkages between social protection and a multisectoral care system (prevention and case management).

In terms of education, despite the significant progress made in terms of access and teachers' skills, the learning crisis is still a challenge, where 38.4% of students lack the necessary skills in reading and 35.8% in calculation. In addition, lower secondary education completion rate continues low (60%) (INE, 2020). To overcome this situation, UNICEF supported the Government and mobilized partnerships to initiate a pilot experience, using digital resources and differentiated teaching

approaches to improve reading skills with a focus on early years and with a view of increasing lower secondary completion rate.

High rates of childhood anemia exacerbate the effects of malnutrition and undernutrition among children under five in STP, where 12% are stunted, 5% are wasted (INE, 2020). This can be partially attributed to the low access to clean water and sanitation where only 40% of households have access to improved sanitation and about 20% are deprived of access to water. UNICEF started to support the Ministry of health to develop a Health Promotion Strategy and evaluate the implementation of the National Strategy of Environmental Sanitation.

In addition, considering that in 2022, STP will transition towards a self-sustained financing of immunization scheme, in collaboration with UNICEF STP and its supply division, technical and logistical support was provided resulting on effective cold chain management and compliance of government commitments on vaccine financing.

In 2021 STP suffered a second and third wave of COVID-19, accounting for 2,836 new infections and 41 deaths. UNICEF, WHO and key partners supported the Ministry of Health (MoH) on planning, preparation and equitable delivery of COVID-19 vaccinations. The country received a total of 394.620 through bilateral donations and COVAX of which 130,637 have been administered.

During this year, MoH with UNICEF and partners support achieved great milestones on routine immunization programme reaching 96% coverage of DTP+Hib+Hep3 and on Mother to Newborn Transmission (TMN) reaching zero transmission in 2021.

Lastly to highlight that 65% of STP population is urban and it is projected to reach 70% in 2030. While rural sanitation has been the focus of UNICEF current Country Programme 2017-2021, urban sanitation appears now as imminent priority[4] for UNICEF new country programme starting in 2023.

[1] São Tomé and Príncipe Economic Outlook | African Development Bank - Building today, a better Africa tomorrow (afdb.org)

[2] Ibid.

[3] Ibid.

[4] UN DESA, United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs extracted from WCAR Representatives orientation programme - socioeconomic context - slides

Major contributions and drivers of results

In 2021, UNICEF STP continued supporting the national multi-sectoral COVID-19 response, whilst sustaining critical programme interventions for transforming children's lives, in alignment with STP Government Programme, and the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF). Despite a challenging environment, results were achieved in all goal areas of the UNICEF Strategic Plan, aligned with the SDGs and the priorities of the UNICEF Gender Action Plan. 2021 was also a key year for the development of National Development Plan III and the new UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF).

Every Child Survives and Thrives

UNICEF STP is committed to sustain **Key Result for children** in the area of **immunization**. With WHO and GAVI, the Vaccine Alliance, UNICEF contributed to health systems strengthening resulting on cold chain improvement (under COVAX) by acquiring special transport and critical equipment for vaccines storage (increasing storage capacity from 4,856 to 9,786 liters) and enhancing health staff capacity on cold chain management and maintenance. This interventions have indirectly benefited routine immunization programme, reflected by the achieved 96% target of DTP-Hib-Hep3 coverage. Lastly, the CO with assistance from UNICEF Supply Division supported the country for vaccine co-financing, putting the country on a trajectory towards vaccines financial sustainability .

STP as part of the COVAX and with WHO, GAVI, WB and UNICEF support, developed a National COVID-19 Vaccine Deployment Plan targeting 70% of the adult population (150,227 inhabitants) by April 2022. The vaccination campaign started in March 2021 and by the end of the year 36% of the targeted population was fully immunized (target April 2022). UNICEF is hiring a consultant that will support MoH to accelerate results towards the attainment of the Plan targets while providing capacity building.

In addition, and to mitigate secondary impacts of COVID, UNICEF supported the regular supply of essential medicines, mainly antibiotics, ORS+Zinc and folic acid contributing to the **continuity of health services during COVID** with a focus on maternal, neonatal and child health care. Consequently all health units in country continued offering Integrated Management of Neonatal and Child Illnesses (IMNCI) and the number of children with pneumonia treated with antibiotics increased (from 1290 in 2020 to 1635 in 2021).

In relation to **Prevention of Maternal to Child Transmission (PMTCT)**, in 2021, the country recorded zero vertical transmission. This success can be partially attributed to the Study on HIV Epidemiological situation supported by UNICEF, who provided reliable data and evidence, necessary to update and enhance the national guidelines on PMTCT. The later provided the CO with a good practice to be replicated in other areas such as Child Protection and WASH.

UNICEF supported MoH on updating the national breastfeeding policy and implementing the Baby Friendly Hospital Initiative (BFHI) in the six hospitals in country with the aim of ensuring adequate newborn **nutrition** through breastfeeding exclusivity. However, MoH has serious constraints due to limited human resources capacity, lack of funding and absence of partnerships in nutrition.

Every child lives in a safe and clean environment

UNICEF STP intervention in WASH focused on **ending open defecation as key result for children**, prioritizing community-led total sanitation program approach (CLTS). Unfortunately, the adherence has been weak. In STP 66.9% of children are deprived in the Sanitation dimension and half of the population (42.7% urban and 51,1% rural) practice open defecation. In 2021 only two more communities (525 people out of a target of 3675), were declared free of open defecation (ODF). To reach the target on reducing the proportion of population practicing open defecation, a secondary analysis of MICS will be conducted to identify who are those practicing open defecation and redesign our response. Based on the findings, UNICEF will implement a Knowledge, Attitudes and Practices Study to explore perceptions and attitudes of caregivers and adolescents towards ODF to develop a well-tailored to the context Social Behaviour Change (SBCC) strategy, including development of compelling and contextually appropriate messaging and linking UNICEF initiatives with adolescents and youth for them to act as agents of transformation. A Budget and Policy Brief will be developed in coordination with the Ministry of Planning and Finance and Ministry of Water and Sanitation, with special focus on ODF aiming to influence adequate budget allocations.

In the context of COVID-19 response, UNICEF has partnered with USAID and AFD to foster **hygiene promotion and handwashing** in schools, health center facilities (HCF) and communities. UNICEF installed 96 improved and permanent handwashing devices (benefiting 45% of all schools and 18% of all HCF) and 28 mobile handwashing devices in 11 CLTS communities. Among the main challenges identified in this intervention is ensuring sustainability of the infrastructure and foster the regular use of the infrastructure. Sensibilization and adequate governance structure at decentralized level will be a focus for next year to address this challenge.

Every Child Learns

In 2021, UNICEF focused on **Equitable and Sustainable Access to Education as key result for**

children. UNICEF advocated and provided technical support to the Ministry of Education (MEES) to advance policy reforms such as the Decentralized Preschool Framework and the Framework Law for Special Education. These reforms resulted on the approval of a regulatory framework for inclusive education (including capacity building for teachers) and the development of Pre-School Education Framework (QIPE) that clearly define roles and responsibilities within pedagogical structures and their learning needs. These efforts will contribute to accelerate the reduction of the percentage of out-of-school children in secondary school (11.6% in 2014 to 6.5% in 2019).

Lower secondary education completion rate remains low (60%). To overcome this situation, and achieve the established target at regional level, UNICEF (i) *conducted a secondary analyses of education data*, the MICS6-Eagle, to identify and analyze what are the equity and quality bottlenecks preventing better secondary retention; (ii) supported the *implementation of the Minimum Quality Standards Guide* for improvement of learning outcomes (38.4% of students lack the necessary skills in reading and 35.8% in calculation), and enhancement of management practices and quality of the school environment (including a mapping of Violence Against Children (VAC) in schools); (iii) *initiated a modelling experience, using digital resources and differentiated teaching models* to improve reading skills particularly in the early years through the promotion of reading, hence increasing the lower secondary completion rate; and (iv) *provided technical advice to implement the Girl empowerment and quality education for all – PEREQT*, a four-years project funded by World Bank.

To promote equity in primary and lower-secondary schools, UNICEF supported the improved access to education through the provision of aiding devices and materials and capacity building of 357 teachers and school staff, benefiting 23 children with disabilities.

UNICEF also supported the Directorate of Social Protection to implement the Parental Education Programme (PEP) contributing to the capacity building of 189 frontline workers countrywide in the education, health, and social protection sector on positive parental practice for the most vulnerable families. From education programme perspective, further efforts will be invested in the following years to ensure PEP provides tools for better home environment for learning (access to reading material and caregivers support for its use) and improves equity and quality of the early childhood education for better learning outcomes and retention rates in secondary education. Finally, UNICEF provided technical and financial support to the MEES to ensure the effective implementation of the Education Response Plan to COVID-19, equipping 93 schools with handwashing points (previously mentioned) benefiting 25,439 children and distributed 7,500 hygiene kits to safely return to school. UNICEF also trained 321 education staff countrywide on measures for the prevention and maintenance of hand washing devices. UNICEF intense advocacy with MEES (including teachers' unions) and MoH achieved a high vaccination coverage (101% of first dose and 50% fully immunized).

Every Child is Protected from Violence

UNICEF is fully engaged towards **Protection of Children from Violence as key result for children.** Cases of VAC continue to be high and have increased with the COVID-19 pandemic, despite efforts by UNICEF to raise awareness of its negative impact on child development. Considering the lack of administrative data in VAC in the country, UNICEF STP, with support from the Data & Analytics Unit conducted a Secondary Analyses of VAC based on MICS6, providing analytical evidence on widespread social tolerance for physical and psychological violence, and a common lack of knowledge and willingness among caregivers to adopt non-violent methods of discipline. Also, UNICEF focused on the strengthening of administrative VAC data to assess the quantity of child victims who accessed services and the justice system. With the evidence, UNICEF has started joint advocacy campaigns, alongside UNDP and other development partners, to change strategies to a more a cross-sectorial approach, which tackles the social behaviors (as a preventive measure) and fosters the strengthening of the case management systems (as a response measure).

In 2021, UNICEF's efforts to reduce violence against children has focused on the response to VAC, considering the raising rates of violence as an emergency. In this regard, UNICEF contribution has been twofold: a) high-level advocacy and technical support to Ministry of Justice, to develop and adopt a multisectoral protocol for VAC management, which provides a promising opportunity for effective coordination to ensure cases of children victims of violence are properly managed across relevant entry points: health, social workers or justice/law enforcement services. This protocol was informed by evidence from improved data, allowing the Government to define key entry points and interventions; b) technical support for system strengthening to Directorate of Social Protection, Solidarity and Family (DPSSF), through the provision and capacity building of human resources. UNICEF supported the with 27 young trainees, who receive training on psychosocial support to victims of violence, mental health, and data collection for case management. With an enhanced workforce, DPSSF was able to the 11 communities' part of the Community-led total sanitation multisectoral programme (CLTS), and the beneficiaries of the Vulnerable Families Cash Transfer programme, successfully identifying 113 vulnerable children at risk or victims of violence have been identified and received adequate support and follow-up.

In 2022, UNICEF will focus on high-level advocacy, through evidence to develop Budget and Policy Brief to influence domestic funds allocation and policy development and implementation and will increase the focus on preventive intervention with a view of changing social behaviors.

UNICEF commitment on **Universal Birth Registration continues as key result for children**. The latest MICS6 confirms the positive trend towards universal birth registration in STP with an increase from 69.7% in 2000 to 98.6% in 2019. In other to achieve a 100% target UNICEF under the PEP program raised community awareness on the importance of birth registration among the most vulnerable families. UNICEF is advocating to ensure flexibilization of Government's processes in cases of missed or inexistent documentation, however not progress has been achieved yet on this regard.

Every Child has an equitable chance in life

UNICEF and development partners have continued supporting the Ministry of Labour to expand and improve Social Protection (SP) programme to counteract negative copying mechanisms. Despite these efforts overall coverage remains low, serving only around 5,000 poor and vulnerable households, representing less than 25 % of total target (WB 2021). UNICEF provided technical support to Government by (i) *generating and analyzing evidence on child poverty and vulnerability, and the impact of SP programmes*, to measure effectiveness and identify gaps in SP coverage. In 2021, UNICEF supported government to validate MICS6 results, through national workshops giving emphasis to children related data from an equity perspective. UNICEF also contributed to the UN Socioeconomic Impact Assessment (SEIA) and Socioeconomic Response Plan (SERP) to COVID-19, providing clear path to respond to the identified need to establish responsive and scalable SP system; (ii) *influencing a coordinated national dialogue to translate the SP Strategic objectives into frameworks, laws and policies*.

UNICEF contributed to the strengthening of national-level coordination mechanisms between ministries that oversee SP, with focus on the enhancement of the National Council of Social Protection (CNPS) as the unique and cross-sectorial institution with the mandate to coordinate different actors involved in the national SP system and ensure their roles and responsibilities are clear; (iii) *advocating for appropriate financing for integrated SP systems* to function effectively. Considering that currently only 1,5 % of state budget is allocated to SP, UNICEF will support on the development of budget briefs in 2022, to advocate for increased budget allocation in social programmes; (iv) *promoting a case management approach by incorporating child-related data in social and beneficiary registries for cross-referrals and social care*.

Adolescents – ensuring every adolescent and youth have opportunities to succeed

In 2021 UNICEF continued to support the Ministry of Youth, Sports and Entrepreneurship (MJDE) to increase the offer of learning opportunities to adolescents, targeting out-of-school adolescents. UNICEF provided technical expertise to design and implement the life skills training, reaching 1,000 adolescents (100% of 2021 target). During the training the adolescents engaged in various actions implemented at community level, including awareness-raising sessions on waste collection in communities and public debates on topics such as alcohol consumption, early pregnancy, sexual exploitation and abuse, climate change, youth employment, etc. The trainings were organized across the 12 Youth Interaction Centers (CIJs) revitalized in 2020 and 2021 by UNICEF, providing safe environment for peers' interactions having the potential to ensure a constructive, committed adolescent population and ultimately a prosperous nation.

In 2021, UNICEF STP also launched U-Report empowering the current 2,500 subscribers to engage with and speak out on issues that matter to them. U-Report failed to reach even half of his goal due to a glitch in the programme that made it inaccessible for 45 days. STP need to learn more from other countries to anticipate these challenges and quickly respond to them.

UNICEF continued investing in the “HABILITA-TE” traineeship programme, aimed at engaging youth in the social sector, and endorse their roles as agents of change in their communities. On the other hand, the programme provides a learning component in which youth gain professional experience in different areas, such as entrepreneurship. In 2021, the programme counted with 28 youth which worked for 12 months at the CIJs in three districts and received work material and tools as well as a monthly allowance (around \$160).

UNICEF joint forces with UNDP and ILO through MJDE, to design and deliver training of 200 adolescents and youth in menstrual health, sexual education, life skills and engaged youth in innovative income-generation activities, in partnership with civil society (the elaboration of reusable hand-sewn and machine-sewn sanitary towels).

UN Collaboration and Other Partnerships

In 2021, UNICEF leveraged partnerships with Government, civil society, donors, UN and private sector, to scale up country's key results for children, expanding partnership opportunities emerged during COVID-19 in 2020. UNICEF focused on advocacy and resource mobilization to influence government and development partners to invest in health system strengthening, quality education improvement, development of cross-sectorial strategies against VAC and equitable and sustainable WASH infrastructure. UNICEF joined forces with partners to advocate for a safe reopening of schools during COVID-19.

To ensure continuous health care to all children and COVID-19 vaccination, UNICEF collaborated with WHO to strengthen the health system at central and district level and to upscale efforts on Risk Communication and Community Engagement and vaccine communication, as well as to gather reliable evidence on WASH in health center increasing funds allocation for WASH infrastructure, UNICEF mobilized resources from USAID to build capacities on cold-chain management and to improve the data collection through the DHIS2. Also with USAID and WB, UNICEF will continue supporting MoH for the smooth transition towards vaccine independence. Finally, UNICEF continued enhancing partnerships with USAID, AFD and GPE, demonstrating its comparative advantage in coordinating WASH interventions in schools.

To reduce educational inequalities, and ensure continued learning during the pandemic, UNICEF advocated to provide children and adolescents learning opportunities through distance learning. UNICEF mobilized resources and partners to implement a pilot initiative on digital learning. Foundations (Millennium and Akelius), and companies (Microsoft) have been engaged to transfer knowledge and technology such as IT equipment and learning platforms; and funding from World Bank and GPE is being leveraged to scale up the pilot to the national level. UNICEF is leading the partner coordination of the LEG, headed by the Ministry of Education. In this role, UNICEF influenced the maximization of the use of resources in education, promoting coordination and synergies. Finally, World Bank and UNICEF signed a Memorandum of Understanding to support

the implementation of the four-year national programme to improve the quality of pre-primary school.

To address the increased levels of VAC, UNICEF leveraged resources to improve the quality of social and child protection services, from Joint SDG Fund, MPTF, World Bank and Allianz. UNICEF engaged with key ministries, civil society, UN agencies, and private sector to implement the parental education programme as key multi-sectorial strategy to address violence, by promoting positive parenting and fostering a cross-sectorial care system. UNICEF, through PEP will continue supporting the World-Bank funded cash transfer to vulnerable families, for the next five-years phase.

Finally, UNICEF positioned as the lead agency for joint programming at UNCT. Expanding on the UNICEF lead role for the Joint SDG Fund/MPTF in 2020, the CO led joint resource mobilization efforts, including organization of consultative meetings with beneficiaries to design joint project proposals, ensuring alignment with UNDAF. UNICEF is also engaging UN agencies in partner/donor meetings to ensure coherent planning and funds mobilization, leveraging agencies' comparative advantage.

Lessons Learned and Innovations

Evidence-based Advocacy:

Evidence has demonstrated to be key for effective advocacy and strategic planning. In 2020, UNICEF supported government to conduct an Epidemiological Study of HIV Transmission which findings were used in 2021 to update policies and guidelines on mother-to-child transmission (PMTCT). The update of the guidelines, based on reliable evidence, lead to improved and harmonized processes which contributed to achieve the milestone of 0 vertical transmission in 2021. Based on this success and considering the challenges faced to successfully advocate for the update the National Child Protection Policy and its Action Plan 2016-2017, UNICEF STP, with HQ support, conducted a Secondary Analysis of MICS6 on child protection. The results will be used in 2022 as advocacy entry points to encourage an analytical revision of the outdated national action plan for child protection and to inform programming and strategic directions in the new UNICEF Country Programme.

The country felt short from achieving results in Ending Open Defecation (ODF) and Nutrition. In relation to ODF, regardless of UNICEF investments on community-led total sanitation program approach (CLTS), adherence has been weak and only two more communities were declared ODF in 2021. To have better understanding of the root causes and find adequate solutions, UNICEF will implement a Knowledge, Attitudes and Practices Study on VAC and ODF as well as a SBCC strategy as previously mentioned. Development of Budget and Policy Brief for both, WASH and VAC will lead to enhanced evidence-based advocacy to influence effective interventions and funds allocations in these areas.

Systems strengthening to leave no one behind:

Results on cold chain improvement and vaccine co-financing commitments can be partially attributed to UNICEF focus on having a clear and realistic costed plan for immunization and adequate capacity building of health staff. Leveraging on these good practices and to achieve the 100% DTP-Hib-Heb3 coverage while ensuring compliance of the vaccine schedule (Percentage of children 12-23 months fully immunized decreased from 66% in 2019 to 41.5% in 2021), UNICEF will invest on evidence-based planning, using routine information systems (DHIS2) to identify where the most vulnerable are and ensuring that limited budget is strategically allocated to implement effective interventions. This approach will be also applied in Child Protection in relation to Birth Registration interventions using administrative data to identify where the 1,6% of children not registered are.

On this regard, UNICEF STP is advocating and providing technical support to strengthen and foster the regular update and analysis of administrative data, as key source of information that can be

readily accessed and used to complement large-scale surveys. In 2021, the case management to respond to children victim of violence, haven't succeed in creating an operational multi-sectorial referral system. One of the causes is the lack of coordination among sectors at the district and central level, due to the lack of integrated information systems. In 2022, UNICEF will focus to foster a multisectoral utilization of administrative data, with a focus on VAC. Ensuring that information retrieved from cases that were identified, reported, registered, and handled by authorities, or by service providers from different sectors is properly integrated, UNICEF and counterparts will understand whether services are effectively delivered, where the constraints are and plan adequate solutions. As such, UNICEF will continue its support to ensure VAC data regularity, completeness, and reliability across sectors, as well as promoting its use to influence programme planning and budget allocations.

Constraints have been identified in the area of nutrition due to limited human resources capacity, lack of funding and absence of partnerships. Considering the structural lack of capacities, a more integrated approach centered on child survival and development with the potential to integrate nutrition into health and into education programmes, could address these constraints.

The relevance of innovation and digital technology to increase learning opportunities for all:

With COVID-19, the fragilities of the education sector (poor infrastructure, overcrowded classrooms and inadequate pedagogical content and low learning outcomes, especially among the poorest) have been exacerbated and those more vulnerable have been negatively more affected. This has provided an opportunity to rethink strategies that can make the system more resilient, which is key, given the country context. UNICEF is supporting the Government to define the national strategy for the development of the Digital Learning Program through a pilot intervention in the island of Principe. In this regard, UNICEF has been developing strategic partnerships to implement the pilot that will introduce the Learning Passport as a national digital learning platform and will include a comprehensive blended/hybrid teaching approach, combining traditional face-to-face teaching and digital tools accessible to both children and teachers.

Leveraging on the important investment UNICEF did in providing IT equipment and improving internet connectivity within social protection in 2021, UNICEF supported social protection to deliver online trainings for social workers as alternative to the in-presence trainings. However, the social workers engagement in such trainings hasn't been high and the expected training objectives were not met. Among the identified challenges, was the limited digital literacy and outdated training methodology among the social workers and the social protections experts. In 2022, UNICEF STP with support of Mozambique Country Office, will implement a 100-hour blended remote training for case management and psychosocial support. The blended modality offers social workers the opportunity to reach mentors and peers to clarify doubts and exchange knowledge on daily work experiences at any time. Before the training, the participants will receive an introductory course on how to use the eLearning platform and how to obtain informatic support when needed. Mentors will be identified in country (Government, partners and UNICEF specialists in child protection case management) to support the learning process, monitor case management in practice and respond doubts.