

# São Tomé and Príncipe Program Summary

Sao Tome & Principe’s program is focused on improving its performance on the Fiscal Policy indicator. The program will strengthen administration and enforcement in tax and customs, as well as reduce administrative barriers to starting a business.

## *Program Highlights*

- ★ Under the Voluntary Compliance with Tax Laws component, reviews of current tax forms and declarations were completed in 2008. New tax forms including registration forms will be completed by the end of the 2009 fiscal year.
- ★ A training class on procedures to implement the Code of Tax Procedures was conducted in the spring of 2009.
- ★ 30 additional debts were referred to the Enforcement Collection Section, bringing the total to 50 debts. Approximately half of the 50 debts referred have been settled, leaving half to be seized or result in sale of property.
- ★ As part of the program’s enforcement of tax obligations component, the development of a procedural manual for enforced collection processes of seizure and sale of property is underway
- ★ New user-friendly and standardized forms and procedures for auditing were developed and reviewed by the audit department. The forms have been finalized.
- ★ Phase I of the implementation of the Automated System of Custom Data (ASYCUDA) system was completed. The remaining activities are expected to be completed in the upcoming months.
- ★ To improve the business environment, a “one stop shop” draft was prepared by the government of Sao Tome and Principe. The draft decree is expected to reduce the time to start a business to 63 days or less, and significantly reduce the cost to start a business.

### **Threshold Status**

Status.....Implementation, Year 1

### **Threshold Information**

Total Amount.....\$8.66 million

Agreement Signed.....November 9, 2007

### **Country Information**

Population.....156,523

GNI Per Capita Income.....\$780