Aloe Energy

COUNTRY BRIEF · NOVEMBER 2026

São Tomé and Príncipe: grid and electricity access

Mission 300 compact country

85k
people live without night-time light, a proxy for no power

93%
of them live within 15 km of a power line

100
km of mapped and predicted power lines, all voltages

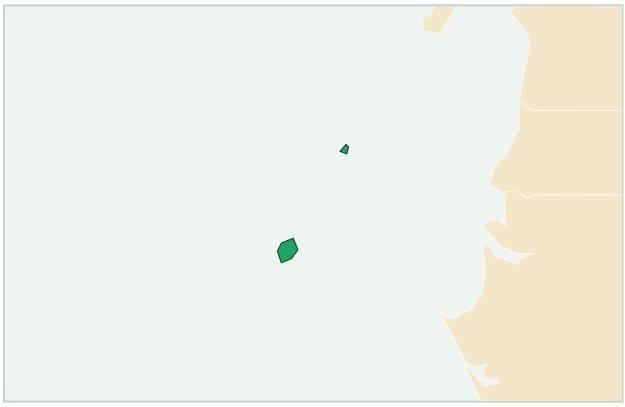
84%
electricity access, as stated in the compact (2024)

100%
access target in the Mission 300 compact (2030)

About 85,000 people in São Tomé and Príncipe live where satellites see no electric light at night, and 93% of them live within 15 km of a power line. This page brings together what our grid-edge screening and São Tomé and Príncipe's Mission 300 energy compact say about who still needs power, how close the grid is and what the country has committed to.

WHAT THIS MEANS

39,000 people without power live 2 to 15 km from a line: close enough to plan for the grid, too far for a quick connection.



NEAR THE GRID, NOT ON IT

About 85,000 people in São Tomé and Príncipe, roughly 44% of the population, live where satellites see no electric light at night. Of them, 93% live within 15 km of a mapped or predicted power line: 40,000 within 2 km, 39,000 2 to 15 km away, and 6,000 farther out. The largest group lives within 2 km of a line, so the main gap is last-mile connections and affordability, more than new lines.



Within 2 km of a line: **40,000** (47%) 2 to 15 km: **39,000** (46%)
More than 15 km: **6,000** (7%)

"Without night-time light" is a satellite proxy, not a measured access rate.

THE GRID TODAY

Gridfinder, which combines OpenStreetMap lines with medium-voltage lines predicted from night-time lights, maps about 130 km of existing and likely power lines in São Tomé and Príncipe. That includes lower-voltage distribution lines, so it is not comparable with the high-voltage totals on our grid-atlas country pages. We have not yet built a detailed grid atlas for this country.

People without night-time light, by distance to a line

Distance	Million people	Share
Within 2 km of a line	0.04	47%
2 to 15 km	0.04	46%
More than 15 km	0.01	7%
Total	**0.08**	**100%**

MISSION 300 COMPACT

São Tomé and Príncipe's Mission 300 energy compact commits to raising electricity access from 84% to 100% by 2030.

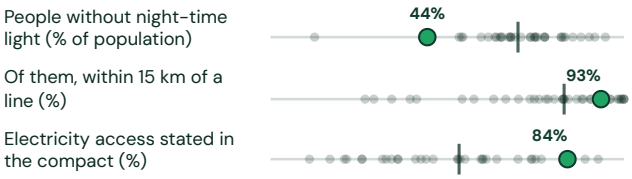
Electricity access

Now: **84%** (2024) Target: **100%** (2030)

Mission 300 energy compact

Commitment	Value
Clean cooking target	from 62% to 75% by 2030
Private investment sought	US$0.19 billion
Rules for mini-grids when the grid arrives	Mentioned only
E-waste commitment	No

HOW IT COMPARES



Each dot is one country with a page on aloeenergy.org; the line marks the median. Positions only, no ranking.

Sources: People and distance to the grid: WorldPop 2020 and gridfinder (CC BY 4.0); compact: the national Mission 300 energy compact.

Aloe Energy

The full page, with the interactive atlas, is at aloeenergy.org/countries/sao-tome-and-principe. The maps are free to view; the data behind them is available on request: brandon@aloeenergy.org. Aloe Energy is a not-for-profit initiative working at the grid edge in Sub-Saharan Africa.

Scan for the live page and map

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