



Labour Law and Workers' Rights in the Informal Economy: An Action Research Study on São Tomé and Príncipe

Fernando Mendes¹

¹ São Tomé and Príncipe Technical University

Published: 05 November 2009 | **Received:** 03 September 2009 | **Accepted:** 13 October 2009

Correspondence: fmendes@gmail.com

DOI: [10.5281/zenodo.18900371](https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.18900371)

Author notes

Fernando Mendes is affiliated with São Tomé and Príncipe Technical University and focuses on Law research in Africa.

Abstract

São Tomé and Príncipe is an archipelagic country in the Gulf of Guinea with a population engaged in both formal and informal sectors, where workers' rights are often marginalized. The study employs participatory action research involving interviews with community leaders, focus group discussions with workers, and a survey of businesses operating in the informal sector. Findings indicate that while there are legal provisions protecting formal sector workers' rights, they are frequently overlooked or violated in the informal economy. For instance, over 70% of surveyed businesses do not provide social security contributions to their employees. The study highlights significant gaps between law and practice regarding workers' rights in the informal economy, particularly concerning social security contributions. Recommendations include strengthening enforcement mechanisms for Labour Law compliance, prioritising social security contributions for informal sector workers, and enhancing worker awareness of their rights.

Keywords: *Geography, Africa, Informal, Economy, Action, Research, Laboratory*

ABSTRACT-ONLY PUBLICATION

This is an abstract-only publication. The complete research paper with full methodology, results, discussion, and references is available upon request.

✉ **REQUEST FULL PAPER**

Email: info@parj.africa

Request your copy of the full paper today!

SUBMIT YOUR RESEARCH

Are you a researcher in Africa? We welcome your submissions!

Join our community of African scholars and share your groundbreaking work.

Submit at: app.parj.africa



Scan to visit app.parj.africa

Open Access Scholarship from PARJ

Empowering African Research | Advancing Global Knowledge