



World Food Programme

SAVING  
LIVES  
CHANGING  
LIVES

# WFP Nicaragua Country Brief July 2018



## Operational Context

Whilst Nicaragua has achieved sustained economic growth and human development in recent years, it continues to be a food deficit country (FAO 2016) and one of the poorest countries in Latin America. Undernourishment has improved, yet the prevalence of chronic undernutrition is 17 per cent and rates are higher in Madriz (30 per cent), Jinotega, and Nueva Segovia (28 per cent). Additionally, obesity and overweight are on the rise.

Nicaragua is vulnerable to recurrent natural disasters, ranking fourth in the Long-Term World Climate Risk Index (Germanwatch, 2016). Food insecurity is closely related to poverty, recurrent natural disasters and the effects of climate change.

Agriculture accounts for 17 per cent of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and is the main source of livelihoods for 90 per cent of the population, including women and men farmers. However, women farmers face greater challenges than men to access to agricultural markets due to the persistence of a gender gap in rural areas.

WFP supports the Government's Zero Hunger efforts by strengthening social safety nets, fostering disaster risk reduction and food security of smallholder farmers. WFP has been present in Nicaragua since 1971.



Population: **6.08 million**

2015 Human Development Index: **124 out of 188**

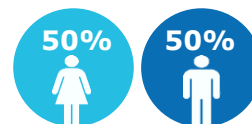
Income Level: **Lower middle**

Chronic malnutrition: **17% of children between 6-59 months**

## In Numbers

**US\$ 1.21 m** six months (August 2018-January 2019) net funding requirements, representing 12% of total

**164,200 people assisted**  
in July 2018



## Operational Updates

- WFP and the Ministry of Education reached 164,200 pre- and primary schoolchildren with school meals every day in some of the most remote and poorest communities in the Northern Autonomous Caribbean Coast (RACCN) and Jinotega.
- As a way to secure hot and nutritious school meals in remote areas, construction works to improve cooking facilities in two rural schools were finalized in July. To provide schools with a safe environment for food handling, facilities will also be equipped with proper cooking utensils and dining tables.
- To enhance national capacities towards delivering an efficient emergency response, WFP provided a Training of Trainers (ToT) on the Seasonal Livelihood Planning (SLP) methodology for staff of the National System for Prevention and Mitigation of Disasters (SINAPRED). Further, for the upcoming months, SINAPRED staff will receive training on telecommunication equipment and information management tools.
- WFP continues to support national efforts to update/produce drought management plans. Technical staff from SINAPRED participated in working sessions to validate the content of these plans. Additionally, WFP provided four mini servers to support the development of the multi-hazards map platform, an IT tool to collect and disseminate data on emergency prone locations and their vulnerable population.
- WFP continued to strengthen the capacities of its assisted farmers associated in farmer organizations (FOs), to promote climate resilience and access to formal agricultural markets. In July, WFP provided technical assistance and agricultural inputs for resilience building and diversification of production, delivering drought resistant vegetables seeds and establishing 15 small farming gardens.

**Contact info:** Maria Elena Velázquez ([mariaelena.velazquez@wfp.org](mailto:mariaelena.velazquez@wfp.org))

**Country Director:** Antonella D'Aprile

Further information: [www.wfp.org/countries/Nicaragua](http://www.wfp.org/countries/Nicaragua)

## Transitional Interim Country Strategic Plan (2018)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
XX.X m	XX.X m	XX.X m

### Strategic Result 1: Everyone has access to food

**Strategic Outcome 1:** Pre and Primary schoolchildren and persons living with HIV have access to adequate food and nutrition during 2018

**Focus area:** Root Causes

#### Activities:

- Provide school meals to pre and primary school children in targeted municipalities to incentivise access to the national school meals programme and increase access to food
- Provide food assistance to HIV patients

### Strategic Result 1: Everyone has access to food

**Strategic Outcome 4:** Shock affected populations have access to adequate and nutritious food after an emergency

**Focus area:** Crises Response

#### Activities:

- Scale-up school meals for schoolchildren in shock-affected areas
- Provide food assistance to shock-affected populations.

### Strategic Result 2: End Malnutrition

**Strategic Outcome 2:** Nutritionally vulnerable groups in the targeted areas meet their nutritional needs during 2018

**Focus area:** Root Causes

#### Activities:

- Provide food assistance to PLW/G and children aged 6-36 months to prevent malnutrition.

### Strategic Result 3: Smallholder Farmer Productivity

**Strategic Outcome 3:** Smallholder farmers in targeted departments increase their food security and access to markets all year round

**Focus area:** Resilience

#### Activities:

- Provide assistance to smallholder farmers to enhance access to formal markets, generating linkages with national social safety nets and empowering women.

### Strategic Result 5: Capacity Strengthening

**Strategic Outcome 5:** National institutions and programmes are strengthened to prevent and respond to shocks during 2018

**Focus area:** Resilience

#### Activities:

- Provide technical assistance to the government in disaster risk management, supporting national programmes

- Building on WFP's technical assistance on commercialization and productivity, 40 farmers organized through the COMPARE FO could sell a total of 81 mt of beans to Walmart Transnational Company, thus improving their access to formal markets. In addition, this farmer organization will also sell a total of 47 mt of beans to WFP, to support the School Meal distribution scheduled for September.
- With the aim of bridging the gender gap in rural areas of the country, WFP is implementing a Women Economic Empowerment Strategy to assist smallholder farmers, providing women with an additional technical assistance, inputs and promoting gender awareness. In July, WFP provided training and technical assistance to female farmers in financial administration, marketing and credit management as well as the use of pesticides.

## Challenges

- To continue support the implementation of the School Meal Programme, WFP is seeking the support of the donor community to close its current funding gap, guarantee full rations and avoid pipeline breaks in the upcoming months. WFP requires USD 550,000.
- Mother and Child Health activities have been severely underfunded since the beginning of the County Programme, despite resource mobilization efforts. Failing to provide assistance negatively impacts the status of nutritionally vulnerable groups. WFP is seeking USD 290,000 to cover current needs.

## Building smallholder farmers resilience: adopting climate-resilient agricultural practices

WFP supports smallholder farmers and subsistence farming families to strengthen their climate resilience and capacities to adapt to climate change. WFP has been fostering resilience, a new programmatic shift to increase food security and access to markets in the departments of Jinotega, Matagalpa, Estelí and Nueva Segovia.

During 2018, WFP has provided constructing tools and materials for the development of water harvesting systems, benefiting smallholder farmers with clean water for consumption and sustainable crop management throughout the year. Moreover, WFP has also provided agricultural inputs and equipment for the establishment of 30 community gardens, as a way to ensure homegrown nutritious and healthy food for farmers and their families. Both water harvesting and establishment of gardens are to be finalized in October.

## Donors

Canada, European Union, Japan, Nicaragua, Private Donors, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, and Switzerland.

## Monitoring

- With the second school meal distribution of the year completed and the third distribution of the year taking place in September, WFP's monitoring team is carrying out post distribution monitoring and following up on process indicators.