



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Nicaragua Country Brief August 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**

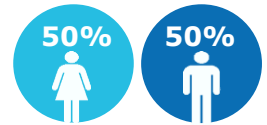
Income Level: **Lower middle**

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

In Numbers

US\$ 1.21 six months (August 2018-January 2019) net funding requirements

164,200 people assisted in August 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. In addition, WFP completed the construction of facilities in two rural schools to ensure proper preparation and storage of food for the school meal programme. These facilities directly benefit 300 schoolchildren in the northern region of the country.

- As a way to enhance national capacities towards delivering an efficient emergency response, WFP provided training and technical assistance to government officials to improve vulnerability analysis and the use of data collection tools. Moreover, WFP contributed to the implementation of a Seasonal Livelihood Programming (SLP) consultations in the department of Madriz. A total of 56 members of the National System for Disaster Prevention, Mitigation and Attention (SINAPRED) were trained on SLP methodologies and tools. Further, WFP delivered technological equipment for the improvement of the Operation Centres for Disasters (CODE) in five municipalities of the country's Dry Corridor. At these facilities, government staff monitors potential threats of natural phenomena that could negatively affect vulnerable communities.
- WFP continued to strengthen the capacities of its assisted farmers associated in farmer organizations (FOs), to promote climate resilience and improve their access to food. In August, WFP held workshops on crop management and production techniques for vegetables and cacao, which will serve to diversify farmers' production and increase their consumption of home-grown products. Female farmers of two farmer organizations received training on the effects of climate change on their harvests. The training modules, which were delivered at Universidad del Zamorano in Honduras, focused on agroforestry systems, crop management and polycultures.

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Transitional Interim Country Strategic Plan (2018)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
10.17 m	5.9 m	1.2 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

Monitoring

In August, WFP's monitoring team began to collect outcome data for the School Meal Programme. With the third distribution of the year taking place in September, the monitoring team is also planning its post distribution monitoring activities, which are expected to take place in the first week of October.

- To increase vulnerable populations' access to nutritious and adequate food, WFP and its partner INTA presented farmer organizations the harvest results of different varieties of bio-enriched beans. These varieties, harvested by WFP-assisted farmers, proved to be highly resistant to adverse weather conditions.
- 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 August, WFP, female farmers of two farmer organizations received training on the registration of production costs, basic accountability, and financial administration.

Challenges

- Mother and Child Health activities have been severely underfunded since the beginning of the Transitional Interim Country Strategic Plan in 2018. WFP is advocating with the donor community and partners to raise awareness on the importance of nutrition activities in Nicaragua as we approach the next programmatic cycle (2019-2023).

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 and adaptation to climate change among smallholder farmers, a programmatic shift to increase food security and foster sustainable food systems for beneficiaries located in the departments of Jinotega, Matagalpa, Estelí and Nueva Segovia. During 2018, WFP has provided construction 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. In August, WFP contributed to the construction of 25 wells and water retention structures, thus benefiting 288 families of 11 communities in the country's Dry Corridor. Moreover, WFP also delivered 2,000 forest plants for two communities of the municipality of Condega, Estelí, to enhance reforestation in targeted communities. WFP focusses its assistance on populations in the Dry Corridor, where over 65,000 people are highly vulnerable to food insecurity during the lean season.

Donors

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