



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Nicaragua Country Brief May 2019



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**

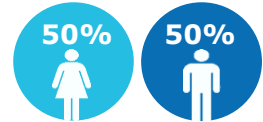
Income Level: **Lower middle**

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

In Numbers

USD 3.5 m six months net funding requirements

178,000 people assisted
in May 2019



Operational Updates

- Under the School Feeding Programme, WFP and the Ministry of Education (PINE/MINED) reached 178,000 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. The programme provides much needed support, guaranteeing uninterrupted access to nutritious food and at the same time providing incentives for children to stay in school.
- With the aim of enhancing the food supplies to the School Feeding Programme, WFP initiated rice fortification with the support of local partners. This effort is part of a nutrition-sensitive approach. By mid-June, WFP expects to obtain 1,000 bags of fortified rice, to be delivered to schools in August. WFP and PINE/MINED are jointly monitoring the fortification process at the production plant and preparing communication materials about the benefits of fortified rice to help raise awareness among parents of the importance of fortified foods.
- During May, WFP continued to strengthen capacities of farmers and their organizations. WFP helped coordinate sessions attended by farmer organizations and food suppliers to strengthen the farmer organizations' leverage in obtaining more competitive prices for their produce.
- To ensure that Nicaragua is ready to respond to emergencies, WFP trained technical staff of the National System for Disaster Prevention, Mitigation and Response (SINAPRED). The training focused on transferring tools for vulnerability assessment and mapping and the methodology used for Seasonal Livelihood Programming (SLP), a consultative process bringing together communities, government actors and partners to design integrated multi-sectorial operational plans, strengthen partnerships and opportunities for coordination.

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Country Strategic Plan (2019-2023)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
68.4 m	19.8 m	3.5 m

Strategic Result 1: Everyone has access to food

Strategic Outcome 1: People in targeted areas who are living in poverty or vulnerable to food insecurity have access to adequate nutritious food all year round by 2023.

Focus area: Resilience

Activities:

- Provide nutritious school meals to school boys and girls in targeted areas, complementing the national programme, and strengthen national nutrition and gender-sensitive social protection programmes that promote food security.

Strategic Result 1: Everyone has access to food

Strategic Outcome 4: Populations affected by shocks have access to adequate and nutritious food during and after an emergency

Focus area: Crisis response

Activities:

- Provide food assistance to populations affected by shocks.

Strategic Result 4: Sustainable Food Systems

Strategic Outcome 2: Vulnerable communities and smallholder farmers in targeted areas benefit from sustainable food systems and have strengthened capacities to cope with shocks, climate change and natural hazards by 2023.

Focus area: Resilience

Activities:

- Provide government institutions with technical assistance in disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation with a view to reducing the vulnerability to food insecurity of populations prone to disasters.
- Provide technical assistance to smallholder farmers in order to increase their resilience, improve their livelihoods and reduce their vulnerability to adverse climate events.

Strategic Result 5: Capacity Strengthening

Strategic Outcome 3: National institutions have improved capacities to advance gender equality and women's empowerment and to incorporate gender-transformative approaches into programmes, contributing to the achievement of zero hunger by 2023

Focus area: Root causes

Activities:

- Provide technical assistance to the Government in designing and implementing gender-transformative interventions for promoting gender equality and food security and nutrition.

- WFP continued to reinforce the capacities and methodologies used by the Government of Nicaragua for data collection in emergencies. These tools will allow for enhanced response to aid the recovery of families affected by excessive rainfall and floods during late 2018. These families will receive agricultural inputs.

Gender

- WFP is strongly committed to promoting gender equality and women empowerment in Nicaragua, as a prerequisite to achieve zero hunger. The Country Office has strengthened internal capacities in gender mainstreaming by participating in the Gender Transformative Programme (GTP). WFP Nicaragua will attend the Women Deliver 2019 Conference in June, where it will highlight its work to empower women farmers.
- WFP held a workshop for its technical staff on "Participatory gender analysis in the framework of the School Feeding Program". This workshop will help WFP staff identify the needs, interests, capacities and priorities of women, men, girls and boys.

Challenges

- WFP Nicaragua is facing severe funding constraints to implement disaster risk reduction activities in this multi-hazard country in partnership with SINAPRED. WFP currently requires USD 400,000.
- WFP is seeking further contributions of USD 856,000 to preposition food stocks in preparation for the hurricane season. These stocks would enable a fast response to sudden shocks.

Donors

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