



World Food Programme

SAVING
LIVES
CHANGING
LIVES

WFP Nicaragua Country Brief June 2019



Operational Context

While 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 percent. Rates are higher in Madriz (30 percent), Jinotega, and Nueva Segovia (28 percent). 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, frequent natural disasters and the effects of climate change.

Agriculture accounts for 17 percent of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and is the main source of livelihoods for 90 percent of the population, including women and men farmers. However, women, farmers face greater challenges than men to access 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**

2018 Human Development Index: **124 out of 189**

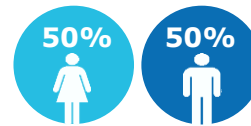
Income Level: **Lower middle**

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

In Numbers

USD 5.2 m six months net funding requirements

178,000 people assisted



Operational Updates

- Under the School Feeding Programme, WFP and the Ministry of Education (PINE/MINED) reached 178,000 pre- and primary school children 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.
- WFP continued to strengthen the capacities of its assisted farmers by providing training on production techniques, good farming practices and pest and crop management to improve their yields. All of this promotes economic and climate resilience.
- To mitigate the impacts of the looming crisis on food production and commercialization, WFP signed operational plans with fourteen farmer organizations for 2019 to implement activities on production recovery, marketing strategies, and smallholder capacities.
- WFP participated in a workshop on Unmanned Air Units in Humanitarian Aid in El Salvador to improve the mechanisms of providing the Government institutions with technical assistance in disaster risk reduction and climate adaptation.
- WFP worked together with UNICEF, the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) and the National System for the Prevention, Mitigation and Attention of Disasters (SINAPRED) on the design of a communication strategy for 2019 related to food insecurity activities.

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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	21 m	5.2 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 to reduce the vulnerability to food insecurity of populations prone to disasters.
- Provide technical assistance to smallholder farmers 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.

Gender

- WFP participated in the 2019 Women Deliver conference held in Vancouver, Canada. The Conference provided the opportunity to position WFP's work in favour of gender equality and the economic empowerment of women in humanitarian contexts, as well as the interconnections between education, nutrition, and girls' health to reach Zero Hunger.
- To address issues of leadership, assertive communication and conflict resolution, WFP, in coordination with the Centre for the Prevention of Violence (CEPREV) and the Union of Cooperatives Augusto Cesar Sandino, held a central workshop on the Violence Prevention Model for 25 young facilitators. These young facilitators will, in turn, replicate the training in cooperatives and communities.
- Within the framework of an inclusive work environment, WFP held the ORANGE day to promote awareness of the 50-year struggle of the LGBTIQ movement.
- Seven members of four cooperatives were trained on violence prevention to subsequently provide advice to other members and their families.

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 500,000.
- WFP is also seeking further contributions of USD 855,000 to preposition food stocks in preparation for the hurricane season. These stocks would enable a fast response to sudden shocks.
- WFP requires additional contributions of USD 1,980,000 to provide technical assistance to smallholder farmers to increase their resilience, improve their livelihoods and reduce their vulnerability to adverse climate change.

Donors

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

- In line with promoting linkages between farmer organizations and other players in the agricultural sector, WFP coordinated work sessions alongside the Mennonite Economic Development Associates (MEDA) to present a project to support small-scale farmers. This project focuses on using an E-Voucher system to provide discounts for agricultural technologies, which will allow farmer organizations to become more competitive.