



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Nicaragua Country Brief July 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 (27.8 percent), 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, recurrent natural disasters and the effects of climate change.

Agriculture accounts for 17 per cent of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and is the primary 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 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**

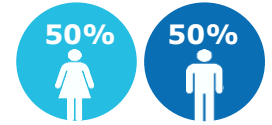
Income Level: **Lower middle**

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

In Numbers

USD 787 k six months net funding requirements

178,000 people assisted in July 2019



Operational Updates

- Under the School Feeding Programme, WFP and the Ministry of Education (PINE/MINED) reached 178,000 school children in some of the most remote and deprived communities in the Northern Autonomous Caribbean Coast (RACCN) and Jinotega. The programme ensures uninterrupted access to nutritious food and it's an incentive for children to stay in school.
- WFP concluded a workshop to strengthen the capabilities of the technical school feeding team, prioritizing topics such as Monitoring and Evaluation, Social Protection, Nutrition Sensitive Programs, and Reporting, among others.
- The WFP's Logistics Unit, in coordination with the National System for the Prevention, Mitigation and Attention of Disasters (SINAPRED), developed a training workshop on Supply Chain, Warehouse Management and Food Safety Management. The workshop focused on the level of preparation and ability to provide efficient and timely responses to any emergency, considering the recurrence of natural phenomena in the whole territory.
- WFP provided training to smallholder farmers in agronomic management for corn, beans and rice.
- WFP accompanied SINAPRED in the implementation of the "Livelihood Diagnosis for Seasonal Multi-hazard Planning" to provide government institutions with technical assistance in disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation. This diagnosis follows the Seasonal Livelihood Planning (SLP) methodology, which strengthens the design, planning and implementation of longer-term resilience-building programmes allowing for the reduction of vulnerability to food insecurity of populations prone to disasters.
- To strengthen the production capacities of smallholder farmers, WFP monitored the corn and bean plantation process in 5 farmer organizations to understand the production process and promote the use of grains for seeds and commercialization. WFP also monitored the production of biofortified beans, as part of a study on the "Impact of Consumption of Biofortified Beans on Children's Anaemia".

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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	787 k

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 and Nutrition

- To increase the sensibility to gender and nutrition into the School Feeding Programme, WFP provided training to the staff in the field offices and key partners, such as the Ministry of Education, the Centre for Studies of Caribbean Women at URACCAN and the Women’s Movement Nidia White. The training focused on promoting violence prevention actions within the framework of working with young facilitators and farmer organizations.

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 about USD 900,000 to preposition food stocks to be ready to assist populations at risk of food insecurity due to rainfall deficit in the Dry Corridor and other weather extreme conditions. These stocks would enable a fast response to sudden shocks.

Donors

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