



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Nicaragua Country Brief

August 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, and 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 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 more significant 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**

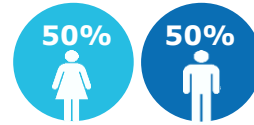
Income Level: **Lower middle**

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

In Numbers

USD 68.4 M total requirements

182,000 people assisted in August 2019



Operational Updates

- Under the School Feeding Programme, WFP and the Ministry of Education (PINE/MINED) reached 182,000 pre- and primary school children in some of the most remote and most impoverished communities in the Northern Autonomous Caribbean Coast (RACCN) and Jinotega.
- As part of its efforts to support vulnerable populations in the Dry Corridor during the lean season, WFP also supported the scale-up of the School Feeding Programme during August. This way, over 45,000 school children received a second meal at school.
- To promote farmers' access to formal markets and linkages between local food production and social protection programmes, WFP purchased 235 MT of beans and 9.7 MT of maize from its assisted farmer organizations for the school feeding programme.
- WFP trained smallholder to increase their resilience, improve their livelihoods and reduce their vulnerability to adverse events. The workshops focused on production, marketing, gender and governance and reached over 790 smallholder farmers, about 30% women and 70% men. The low participation of women in productive activities is characteristic in Nicaragua's rural areas, which WFP is seeking to address through gender-transformative activities.
- WFP's finance and administration team visited 14 farmer organizations to strengthen their financial management capacities.
- WFP supported the design and implementation of a baseline exercise for a response to shock-affected populations, strengthening the tools and instruments that the Ministry of Family, Community, Cooperative and Associative Economy (MEFCCA) can use for data collection after an emergency.
- WFP conducted a workshop on *Techniques for the Design of Gender-Focused Events in Comprehensive Risk Management* to SINAPRED technical staff to strengthen their capacities.

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WFP Country Strategy

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.

- WFP received representatives from the King Salman Humanitarian Aid & Relief Centre (KSrelief) who made an in-kind donation of 250 MT of dates for the School Feeding Programme. The KSrelief mission participated in a handover ceremony, held with the Ministry of Education. The dates serve as an essential complement to the school meals and are much appreciated by school boys and girls for their sweet taste.

Gender

- WFP staff facilitated 11 workshops on gender-sensitive topics, such as violence prevention, new masculinities and gender-based division of labour. The workshops covered 278 smallholder farmers – 45% women and 55% men – from different farmer organizations.
- To strengthen the capacities of the staff, WFP held a workshop on *Participatory Gender Analysis*. The workshop served to apply gender analysis tools in working with farmer organizations, allowing WFP staff to better plan and implement actions that consider the needs, interests and priorities of men, women, boys and girls who receive food assistance.

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 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.
- WFP has a funding gap of USD 190,000 for gender-transformative activities

Donors

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