



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Nicaragua Country Brief September 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 per cent), 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 rural 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**

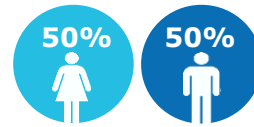
Income Level: **Lower middle**

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

In Numbers

USD 68.3 m total requirements

182,000 people assisted in September 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.
- During September, the Country Office received the visit of WFP Regional Director for Latin America and the Caribbean. The visit sought to strengthen institutional relations, reinforce partnerships, open communication channels and create donor confidence in WFP's institutional capacity.
- WFP supported over 360 smallholder farmers (41% women) by holding 6 assemblies in which farmer members could get informed about the financial and technical execution of the cooperative's operational plans and activities. The assemblies also served to provide information on the current situation of organisations as a form of accountability. Similarly, WFP supported 8 work sessions with 48 members (42% women) of the administrative councils and area managers. In the sessions, WFP made possible the understanding of credit policies and provided feedback on the flow of credit granting to producers by their cooperatives.
- In September, WFP participated in a presentation by the Nicaraguan Union of Corporate Social Responsibility uniRSE on "The Exchange of Experiences on Financing, Knowledge Generation and Work Interventions, Among Key Actors in the Integral Management of Disaster Risk." The objective of the presentation was to promote social responsibility across all humanitarian agencies, embassies and government institutions.
- WFP encouraged the use of new technologies and good agricultural practices to improve crop yields of smallholder farmers. WFP provided farmer organizations with 5 work sessions that benefited over 140 smallholder farmers (23% women), producers of coffee, cocoa, rice and maize.

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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) |
|----------------------------|----------------------------------|---|
| 68.3 m | 21.2 m | 5.4 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.

- In order to increase farmers resilience, improve their livelihoods and reduce their vulnerability to adverse climate events, WFP continued to distribute tools and equipment for production to smallholder farmers. In total 217 producers (53% women) of the organizations received assets from their cooperatives, with one organization completing the delivery of assets specifically to members of the Women Economic Empowerment Groups, thus, delivering a complete toolkit to 15 women. All assets were

delivered in the form of credit to capitalize organizations and reuse funds to benefit other producers through revolving funds.

- In September, the WFP logistics' team developed a workshop on good practices in storage management and product conservation for farmer organizations. The objective of the workshop was to strengthen the technical capacities of the participating organizations in order to minimize their product losses and its post-harvest quality. The workshop covered 20% women and 80% men.

Nutrition

- With the aim of measuring the advances of the fortified rice pilot in the nutrition of school children WFP and the Ministry of Education, designed the methodology of an acceptability survey. The survey will measure the fundamental aspects of consumption and acceptability of girls and boys in 4th, 5th and 6th grade, together with parents' perception of nutritional value. The survey will take place in October-November.

Gender

- WFP prepared and delivered a workshop to government technical staff focused on teaching techniques for adults, related to Gender and Nutrition within the framework of emergency and resilience. The workshop had a participation of 46% women and 54% men. The objective was to provide information on Recovery of Livelihoods and Productivity, keeping gender and nutrition sensitive approaches.

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 350,000
- WFP is also seeking further contributions of USD 600,000 to preposition food stocks to be ready to assist populations at risk of food insecurity.
- WFP has a funding gap of USD 200,000 for gender-transformative activities

Donors

European Union, Government of Nicaragua, Private Donors, Republic of Korea, Saudi Arabia, Luxembourg and Switzerland.