



World Food Programme

SAVING
LIVES
CHANGING
LIVES

WFP Nicaragua Country Brief November 2019

In Numbers

182,000 m people assisted
in November 2019



**WFP
SAYS
NO to
GENDER
BASED
VIOLENCE**

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, creating gender awareness and women empowerment, providing food security of smallholder farmers and generating climate resilience for vulnerable populations. 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**

Operational Updates

- With the end of the school year approaching, WFP supported the last distribution of meals of 2019, working together with the Ministry of Education (PINE/MINED). During this month, WFP reached 182,000 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 ration included fortified rice, therefore providing an additional boost of micronutrient to these school boys and girls.
- WFP continued its effort to strengthen farmer organisations on good agricultural practices, plague management and harvest estimation in maize, beans, coffee, vegetables and cocoa throughout the country. This will serve farmers as learning mechanisms to increase their productive abilities.
- With the aim of strengthening the water access in the most vulnerable communities in the country, WFP established new water harvesting systems in three farmer organisations. These systems will allow farmers to obtain the necessary watering needs to increase their yields for the next harvesting season, thus, creating a more resilient population.
- Besides providing technical assistance to the female and male farmers, WFP is in the process of procuring a total of 260 MT of beans from a farmer organisation to support the School Feeding Programme. This purchase will allow both female and male smallholder farmers to increase their sales, incentivising their local economy, as well as providing school children with their daily meals. This purchase is expected to arrive within the last days of December 2019 and will be distributed at the beginning of 2020.

Country Strategic Plan (2019-2023)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
68.4 m	22.5 m	0.1 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.

- With the aim providing food assistance to populations affected by shocks, WFP accompanied the National System for Emergency and Disaster Prevention (SINAPRED) and other Government institutions in carrying out an assessment in the Dry Corridor of Nicaragua. The assessment served to understand the impact of the rainfall deficit experienced in the country in the last months. The information was collected from 29 municipalities located in the dry corridor of the Country and formed part of a regional initiative along with Guatemala, El Salvador and Honduras. Similarly, WFP

continued to provide SINAPRED with technical assistance in disaster risk reduction by carrying out a technical validation of its communication strategy, which aims at increasing people's awareness of risk and promoting behavioural change.

Challenges

- WFP Nicaragua is facing severe funding constraints to implement disaster risk reduction actions, all of which are crucial to promote food security in this multi-hazard country. These activities have been underfunded since the beginning of 2019 and WFP is in urgent need of support to be able to continue to strengthen information systems, promote risk awareness, and help strengthen preparedness and response capacities of vulnerable groups and populations at risk. The funding requirements for the next six months amount to USD 200,000 and there are currently no projections of funding for 2020.
- WFP is also looking for support to the school feeding programme, which is in urgent need of USD 825,000 for the next six months. In the absence of additional funding, WFP would need to reduce significantly the number of beneficiaries assisted, compromising their access to food and potentially impacting school attendance and retention.

Ending Gender-Based Violence

- During November, WFP joined the international community in the celebration of the UNiTE campaign, an initiative launched by the United Nations Secretary General to stop gender-based violence. As part of these efforts, WFP organised an activity with the United Nations agencies with presence in the country to generate awareness about the challenges affecting Nicaragua and the need to work together towards a country with equal opportunities for women, men, girls, and boys. WFP Nicaragua is strongly committed to gender equality, which it will continue to support throughout its country strategic plan with a Strategic Outcome dedicated to advancing gender equality and women empowerment for zero hunger.

Donors

European Union, Government of Nicaragua, Luxembourg, Switzerland, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Private Sector, Republic of Korea