



World Food Programme

SAVING
LIVES
CHANGING
LIVES

WFP Nicaragua Country Brief January 2021



Operational Context

Nicaragua has been experiencing economic decline due to constant socio-political crisis, which continues to place it as 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 some regions, up to 30 percent. Additionally, obesity and malnutrition are on the rise.

Nicaragua is vulnerable to recurrent natural disasters, ranking 21st in the World Risk Report (2019). 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 and is the primary source of livelihoods for 90 percent of the rural population. Women farmers face higher challenges to access agricultural markets due to the persistence of structural gender inequality in terms of participation in agricultural activities, land ownership and access to farming resources in rural areas. WFP supports the Government's Zero Hunger efforts by strengthening national social protection programmes, fostering disaster risk reduction and food security of smallholder farmers. WFP has been present in Nicaragua since 1971.



Population: **6.63 million**

2020 Human Development Index: **128 out of 189**

Income Level: **Lower middle**

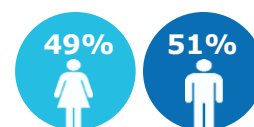
Chronic malnutrition: **17% of children between 6-59 months**

In Numbers

USD 68.4 million in total funding requirements

17 211 people assisted

January 2021



Operational Updates

- In January, WFP continued its emergency food distributions to help affected communities meet their basic food needs reaching over 17,000 people from the most affected communities in the North Caribbean Coast Autonomous Region (RACCN) post-Eta and Iota.
- To respond to the particular needs of children under six and pregnant and lactating women (PLW), WFP provided both beneficiary groups with fortified cereals. WFP facilitated a joint Lessons Learned exercise with WFP staff and authorities from the National System for Disaster Prevention, Mitigation, and Response (SINAPRED) and other local actors to improve both the ongoing and future emergency response.
- As part of the early recovery phase, WFP coordinated with national authorities and defined the content of livelihood activities including support through national programmes to reach 26,000 families through the delivery of seeds, agricultural inputs and farm animals.
- In January, WFP carried out with SINAPRED four seasonal livelihood consultations, with 150 participants, from various indigenous groups in the North and South Caribbean Coast Autonomous Region. As a result of the participatory exercise co-facilitated by WFP, national and local DRR institutions have a deeper understanding of the Atlantic Coast's livelihoods and what affected populations need of future interventions.

COVID-19 response

- As of late January, Nicaragua's Ministry of Health (MINSa) reported 6,073 positive COVID-19 cases and 169 fatalities. This month, WFP conducted three workshops on COVID-19 and preventive measures targeting WFP staff and WFP national partners in RACCN. Additionally, WFP continues promoting practices to reduce the risk of contagion and will purchase hygiene and protection kits for WFP beneficiaries.

Gender

- As part of its commitment to mainstream gender in all its activities, WFP continues integrating a gender analysis. In particular, in the seasonal livelihood consultation in the country's Caribbean Coast, WFP Nicaragua incorporated elements of Gender Analysis into the Seasonal Livelihood consultation exercise.

Contact info: Maria Victoria Tassano (Mariavictoria.tassano@wfp.org)

Country Director: Giorgia Testolin

Further information: www.wfp.org/countries/Nicaragua

Country Strategic Plan (2019-2023)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
68.4 million	55.7 million	3.1 million

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.

- As a result, WFP gathered first-hand information on men and women's livelihoods, the roles and responsibilities of men, women, adolescents and boys and girls and the topics of interest for men and women to improve their resilience capacity and reduce vulnerabilities that impact livelihoods.

Monitoring

- WFP has increased its number of field monitors to ensure distributions and other activities of the emergency response can be closely followed up. Field monitors and other technical staff have visited targeted communities, including schools and women centres during and after distributions to ensure WFP standards are met.

Challenges

- In the past, WFP has procured directly from local smallholder farmers. However, due to excessive rain, which led to low yields, smallholder farmers cannot meet WFP's demand. Further, WFP is experiencing long lead times of up to six months with international purchases. All of this is posing challenges for emergency response however, WFP is sourcing from local traders and seeking alternative solutions to ensure timely arrival.

Impact of Limited Funding

- In partnership with the Ministry of Women, WFP started identifying activities to fill the knowledge and infrastructure gaps to incorporate gender equality and women's empowerment into national programmes to contribute to the achievement of zero hunger. The implementation of these may require up to USD 180,000.

Donors

Canada, European Union, Germany, Japan, Government of Nicaragua, Luxembourg, Private Donors, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Switzerland, and UN CERF.