

SAVING
LIVES

CHANGING
LIVES



Nicaragua Annual Country Report 2020

Country Strategic Plan
2019 - 2023



World Food
Programme

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2020 Overview

Nicaragua was headed towards its third year of economic recession, when it saw the outbreak of the COVID-19 in 2020. The health crisis that shook the globe brought new risks for the Nicaraguan people, whose capacity to cope was already strained by years of economic contraction and climatic shocks. Additionally, two major hurricanes generated devastating impacts for indigenous populations in the Northern Caribbean Coast Autonomous Region (RACCN), disrupting livelihoods, and affecting smallholder farmers' food production across the country.

Against this challenging context, WFP rapidly responded, increasing its reach to assist over 326,000 beneficiaries with in-kind food assistance, 24 percent more than planned. Additionally, WFP capacity strengthening activities benefited 7,750 people, including smallholder farmers, vulnerable families in peri-urban areas, and members of national institutions. Activities focused on ensuring that the most vulnerable people had access to nutritious food, but also ensuring national institutions, farmers organisations and individuals increased their capacity to respond to emergencies and opportunities for development, therefore supporting the country on its way to reach Sustainable Development Goals 2 and 17.

As schools remained open, WFP provided school meals to about 183,400 children, in over 2,000 educational centres across some of the most vulnerable communities in RACCN and Jinotega, complementing the national school feeding programme. WFP worked with the Ministry of Education to introduce biosecurity protocols along the supply chain and delivered hygiene supplies and personal protection equipment to all stakeholders involved in the process. The programme was instrumental to ensure that children received nutritious meals and to alleviate the burden at home, whilst incentivising them to stay in school. Despite a decrease in attendance due to COVID-19, retention increased, a great achievement in the current context.

WFP also supported over 4,780 smallholder farmers, 40 percent women, associated in 20 farmer organisations, surpassing the target of supporting 4,500 by 2023. Whilst women's participation remained a challenge, it was higher than in 2019 thanks to efforts to address the gender gap. WFP adjusted its activities in consultation with the farmer organisations to prioritise food production and help farmers cope with the raising agricultural prices and credit restrictions, so that they could meet their food needs. As a result, farmers established 1,716 hectares of staple crops and their food consumption remained stable compared to 2019, despite multiple shocks.

Additionally, WFP continued its capacity strengthening efforts with national institutions. WFP achieved an important landmark, establishing the first-ever operational plan with the Ministry of Women, marking the beginning of this strategic partnership. This generated an important opportunity to promote gender-transformative actions and a strong gender lens in the pathway towards zero hunger. Similarly, WFP continued to promote disaster risk reduction and emergency preparedness, increasing the number of partners' staff receiving technical assistance in disaster risk management and climate change adaptation from 99 in 2019 to 188 in 2020, despite the challenges of COVID-19. The actions focused on three pillars: evaluating emergency preparedness' capacities at the municipal level; strengthening information management to increase the populations' risk awareness; and transferring livelihood planning tools, setting the foundations for more effective risk management in the future.

Finally, following the devastating impacts of Hurricanes Eta and Iota, WFP rapidly scaled up operations and started delivering in-kind food assistance within 72 hours, after Eta's landfall. WFP worked in strong coordination with the National System for Disaster Prevention, Mitigation and Response (SINARED), complementing the Government's food basket at shelters and communities, and provided logistics and telecommunications support that was essential for the responding institutions. As of the end of the year, over 190,000 people in over 200 communities were assisted, which was an enormous logistical feat given that many were remote communities only accessible by boats. Moving forward, the response plan includes the expansion of the School Feeding Programme as a response to the shock, take-home rations delivered at schools for family members, and early recovery/livelihoods support.

WFP's 2020 results were only possible thanks to strengthened relations with local authorities and partners, the coordination with United Nations Agencies, and the reliable support of the donor community. Although 2020 started with funding constraints, the end of the year showed a very positive funding outlook.



326,021

Total Beneficiaries in 2020

Estimated number of persons with disabilities: 33,407 (50% Female, 50% Male)

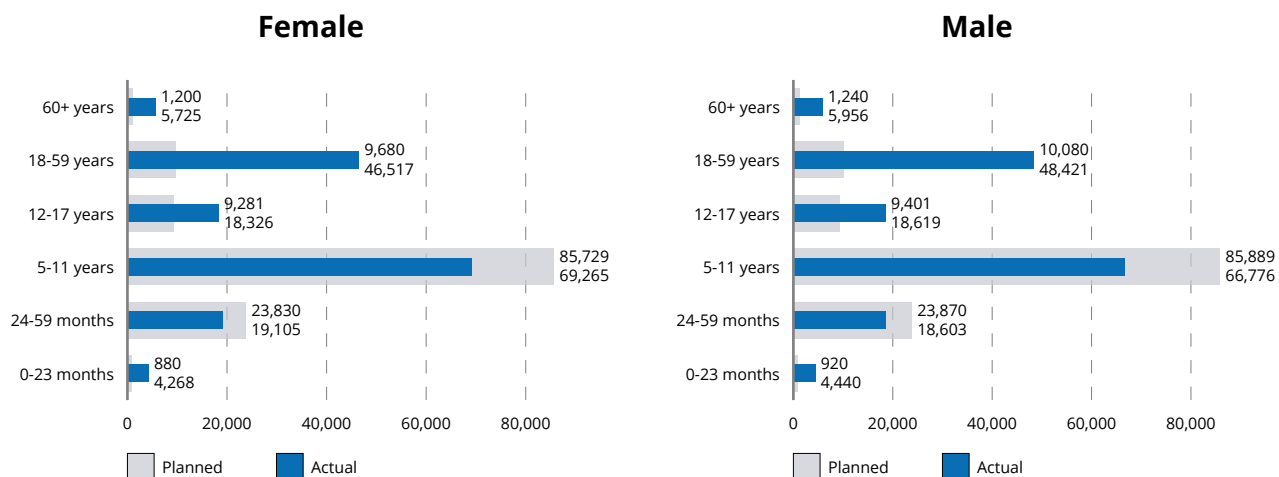


50% female

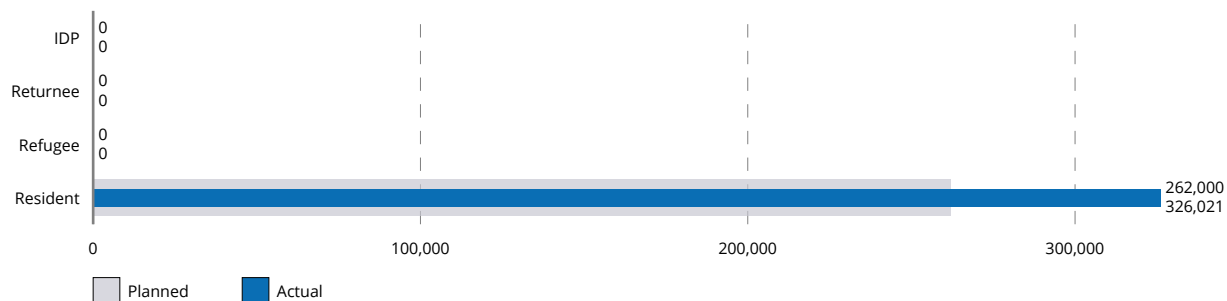


50% male

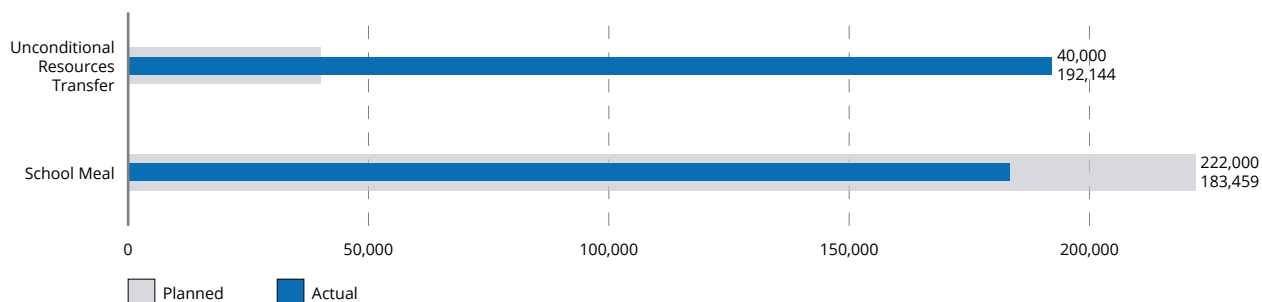
Beneficiaries by Sex and Age Group



Beneficiaries by Residence Status



Beneficiaries by Programme Area

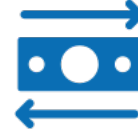


Total Food and CBT



4,737 mt

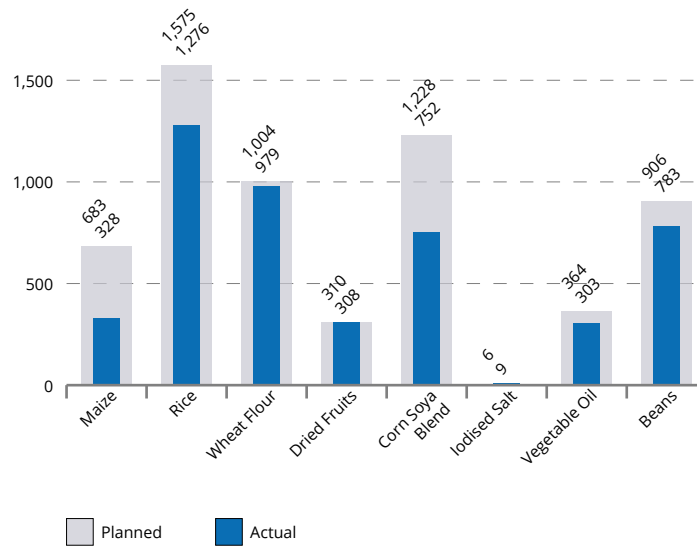
total actual food transferred in 2020
of 6,076 mt total planned



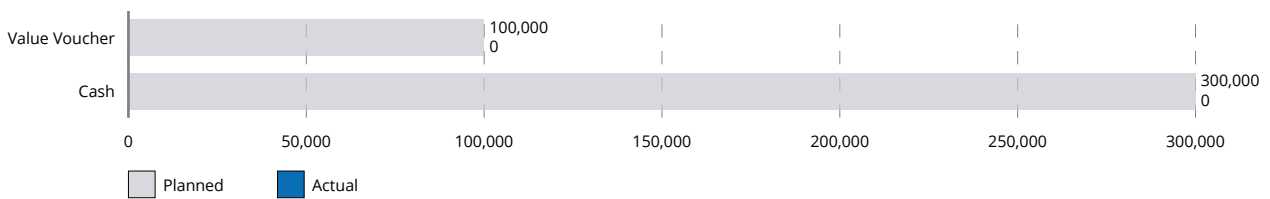
US\$ 0

total actual cash transferred in 2020
of \$US 400,000 total planned

Annual Food Transfer



Annual Cash Based Transfer and Commodity Voucher



Context and operations & COVID-19 response



In 2020, Nicaragua faced its third year of economic recession, with the economy expected to contract to -6.3 percent [1] and poverty to increase to up to 53 percent [2]. The already fragile situation was exacerbated by the COVID-19 crisis, which reduced trade, paralyzed tourism, and impacted commerce, negatively affecting the job market, with unemployment reaching 6.2 percent, equivalent to 202,000 people. The measures adopted by neighbouring countries also had a negative impact in the flow of remittances, affecting around a fourth of households in the bottom 40 percent for whom remittances account for 20 percent of their income [3]. Additionally, the prices of agricultural inputs



increased, agricultural credits reduced, and there was a decrease in consumer demand of staple grains, affecting the sustainability of food systems, and making smallholder farmers increasingly prone to shocks. Of note, rural areas are home to almost half of the population and have the highest poverty rates.

All these factors posed a risk to the food security of the most vulnerable, as food insecurity is primarily driven by socioeconomic factors, such as limited employment, low incomes, and poverty. This year, the Ministry of Health conducted a nutritional census at the school level that revealed that the national average of acute malnutrition among children aged 0-6 and 7-14 years was 4.6 percent and 3.2 percent, respectively, lower than in previous years [4]. However, in 61 and 69 out of 153 municipalities, acute malnutrition among children aged 0-6 and 7-14 years, respectively, surpassed the national average.

This year, Nicaragua was also hit by climatic shocks. In August, excessive rainfall in the Northern Atlantic Caribbean Coast Region (RACCN) caused severe flooding, affecting livelihoods in indigenous territories. This situation was aggravated by two major hurricanes. Eta made its landfall as a Category 4 hurricane on November 2 with winds of up to 240 km/hour, severely impacting indigenous communities. Two weeks later, Category-5 Iota hit the same area, but with greater force, washing away what little infrastructure and livelihoods remained. The Government estimated that three million people were exposed to both events and at least 300,000 people in RACCN and northern areas were in need of assistance. The events also influenced the conditions of crops in RACCN, Jinotega and Nueva Segovia, as the excessive humidity affected staple grains. To mitigate these impacts, WFP rapidly adjusted its activities with smallholder farmers to support them during the following planting cycle.

WFP's activities were key to help alleviate immediate needs, whilst sustaining the development gains of the past years. WFP quickly scaled up emergency operations to provide life-saving assistance to vulnerable populations in hurricane-affected areas and enhanced its logistics capacity to support national efforts and partners, ensuring that basic needs were met. At the same time, WFP continued to advance the development and resilience-building agenda set in the Country Strategic Plan (CSP). Through its four Strategic Outcomes, the CSP seeks to tackle the underpinning causes of hunger, including gender-based constraints that negatively impact women's opportunities, and to ensure that vulnerable groups have access to food:

- Strategic Outcome 1 supports vulnerable groups to promote their access to nutritious food through social protection programmes, mainly school feeding, in some of the poorest areas;
- Strategic Outcome 2 assists smallholder farmers, boosting their resilience to climatic and economic shocks; and strengthens national institutions' disaster risk reduction capacities;
- Strategic Outcome 3 seeks to strengthen the capacity of national institutions to promote gender equality and women's empowerment for zero hunger; and
- Strategic Outcome 4 delivers food assistance to shock-affected populations when emergencies strike, helping them meet their basic food requirements.

COVID-19 Response

Nicaragua was one of the last countries in the region to report COVID-19 cases and closed the year with 6,046 confirmed cases and 165 fatalities, according to the Ministry of Health. Unlike its neighbouring countries, the Government did not adopt lockdown measures; instead, preventive actions included house visits, information and awareness campaigns and sanitation of public spaces. The socioeconomic impacts were far-reaching and deeply felt by vulnerable groups, including those assisted by WFP. The pandemic also triggered increased gender-based violence. Compared to 2019, there were 71 femicides (8 more than in 2019) and 115 femicide attempts.

WFP worked to support the most vulnerable and supported the Government of Nicaragua in its response to the pandemic through its existing programmatic framework. WFP's response focused on: i) sustaining ongoing activities, prioritising actions that responded to the needs of COVID-19 context and adjusting implementation mechanisms; ii) providing technical assistance to the Government to promote shock-responsive social protection; and iii) working with UN agencies for a coordinated response.

Sustaining operations was crucial to strengthen the resilience of communities, stimulate agricultural circuits, and provide a safety net through social protection programmes, which provide stability. WFP worked with the Ministry of Education to design a take-home ration strategy for school feeding. This was not implemented as schools remained opened and instead WFP assisted its national partner in the design and implementation of biosecurity protocols throughout the supply chain, from the warehouse to the schools. This included gradual food deliveries, use of personal protection equipment, and following hygiene protocols. WFP also provided supplies to all stakeholders involved, including water containers, disinfecting mats, alcohol, and hygiene items. For smallholder farmers, WFP prioritised food production rather than the transformative actions originally planned, so that they could continue to meet their food



needs during these harsh times. As for the collaboration with UN agencies, a joint contingency plan was designed to support national institutions in the first months of the pandemic. The agencies supported information campaigns, hygiene kits in schools, and medical supplies.

Finally, at the Government's request and with the support of existing and new partners, including international financial institutions, WFP also started preparing to scale up operations in 2021 to support national efforts during the recovery phase through service provision for the implementation of a nationwide emergency agricultural programme for smallholder farmers impacted by the pandemic.

Risk Management

In 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic brought unprecedented challenges and new risks. WFP updated its risk registry, reflecting how the health crisis could impact key aspects, such as the safety of beneficiaries, supply chains, the resourcing situation, and monitoring activities, amongst others. Mitigation actions were developed accordingly and implemented during the year. These included suspending part of in-person activities and instead promoting technological solutions so that these could continue remotely. To do so, WFP's expert staff provided training and support to smallholder farmer organisations and government partners to make these working modalities possible.

For all other activities, WFP designed and implemented biosecurity protocols and distributed hygiene supplies and personal protection equipment to partners and beneficiaries. With the support of its nutrition specialist, WFP produced communications and didactic material on COVID-19 prevention for schools, national institutions, and farmers' organisations. These also established linkages between food security, nutrition, and COVID-19. As part of its emergency response to the hurricanes, WFP provided masks, gloves, alcohol, and hygiene items to around 65 shelters and produced and disseminated posters on hygiene and COVID-19 preventive measures in Spanish and indigenous languages.

WFP also revised and adapted its field monitoring processes, placing the wellbeing of beneficiaries and staff as the top priority, in line with its protection policy and duty of care. This included reducing the size of the sample, avoiding the most remote areas, prioritising sites in closer proximity to the main road and introducing the use of remote surveys instead of in-person surveys. Thus, WFP was able to continue with its monitoring exercises to evaluate operational progress.

Additionally, to ensure the continuation of activities, WFP activated its business continuity plan in 2020. This included a series of measures to mitigate risk, including telecommuting arrangements and shifting where possible to remote work modalities.

Partnerships

Thanks to the generous support of the donor community, extensive efforts conducted locally, and with advocacy support at the regional and global level, WFP was able to secure all the needed resources for its operations. Engagement with long-standing donors and new partners was extremely positive, with donors such as Germany and Japan becoming the largest contributors for the emergency response as of late 2020. WFP significantly increased its engagement with International Financial Institutions (IFIs). WFP has been exploring opportunities to support the government's development agenda through partnership with such institutions since 2018. This year, WFP significantly advanced negotiations for USD 18.7 million with the International Monetary Fund (IMF), where WFP would serve as an implementing partner for a loan provided by the IMF to the Government of Nicaragua. Additionally, WFP, the Government of Nicaragua and the Inter-American Development Bank started exploring the possibility of joining efforts to respond to the impacts of hurricanes Eta and Iota. These partnerships are expected to materialise in 2021 with the confirmation of the projects and the signature of the agreements.

Due to the impact of the pandemic, an active dialogue unfolded between UN Agencies and the Government to implement the UN COVID-19 Response and Recovery Multi-Partner Trust Fund (MPTF) in Nicaragua, leading to the joint-formulation and latter submission of a WFP-UNICEF proposal for USD 1 million to strengthen the Educational System pre and post COVID-19 involving the Ministry of Education. This partnership will put Nicaragua a step closer to quality education (SDG 4) and clean water and sanitation (SDG 6) in rural public schools and offered an excellent opportunity to strengthen inter-agency coordination.

WFP also led the coordination of the Technical Group for Emergencies (UNETE) in the face of the emergencies caused by heavy rains in August and the two hurricanes in November 2020, opening the possibility for stronger collaboration between United Nations Agencies. WHO, UNICEF and WFP received funds from the United Nations Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) which, jointly with contributions from other donors, allowed for a swift start of the response. Parallely, all UN agencies in Nicaragua, under the coordination of OCHA and the Inter-Agency Technical Coordinator, worked on a Flash Appeal which covers the entirety of the UN Response. WFP leads the Food Security and participates in the Early Recovery and Livelihoods Sector, including joint projects with FAO. This is the first Flash Appeal in Nicaragua in 10 years. WFP also helped facilitate a collaboration between the UNETE Group and the European Copernicus Programme, which provided specialized mapping services using the most recent satellite images for the mapping and estimation of damages caused by the emergencies. The exercise laid the foundation for continued collaboration with the European Union and the European Commission Humanitarian Aid Office (ECHO) in Nicaragua.

The Gender Group, within the Framework of Human Rights and Interculturality, is a coordination and collaboration body between UN Agencies in Nicaragua. This group is made up of the gender focal points or gender specialists within each of the agencies, including the United Nations Organisation for Food and Agriculture (FAO), the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), WFP, the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) and the International Labour Organization (ILO). During 2020, the group had an exchange of experiences to strengthen alliances and designed the UNETE campaign to end violence against women with the aim of making visible the situation of vulnerability that women, adolescents and girls experience when they are victims of gender-based violence in the context of the pandemic.

WFP also held discussions with different international organisations such as the Inter-American Center of Tax Administrations (CIAT), the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), FAO, UNIDO, *Fundación Padre Fabre* and Harvestplus to share relevant information on interventions in Nicaragua such as climate change, production, resilience and risk management with smallholder farmers. The COVID-19 pandemic limited the ability to continue with the discussions, and coordination resumed at the end of the year in platforms such as the Donor Roundtable and the Inter-Agency Group on Value Chains.



CSP Financial Overview

WFP was well resourced thanks to the support of long-standing donors, the private sector and new partners. A significant portion of the funding originated from a long-term contribution from the European Commission, which is intended to last until 2024. Additionally, WFP received most resources in the second half of the year, part of which must be spent in 2021, explaining why the available resources were higher than the expenditures. The emergency response, prompted by the hurricanes in November, also generated a drastic increase in needs that was not reflected in the original needs-based plan requiring a budget revision.

The contributions were well distributed across the CSP, except for Activity 2, which fell short of its requirements. This activity has been systematically underfunded since the beginning of the CSP, despite strong advocacy and resource mobilisation efforts. Therefore, WFP prioritised actions, in consultation with its partner, the National System for Disaster Prevention, Mitigation and Response (SINAPRED). The timing of the contributions also posed challenges for Strategic Outcome 1 during the first semester. To prevent pipeline breaks, WFP filled the immediate requirements with the support of multilateral contributions, allocated through internal processes. Out of the total funding in 2020, about 10 percent was multilateral and the rest directed contributions.









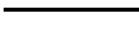
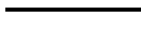

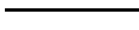








2020 was marked by a series of challenges, including constraints generated by the pandemic and climatic shocks, which affected food prices and supply in local markets, particularly from smallholder farmer food production, having implications for WFP's food procurement processes. Nonetheless, WFP managed to mitigate this through alternative implementing mechanisms, using technological solutions and mitigation actions, resulting in sound implementation of the planned activities.

Donors continued to increase their commitment to multi-year funding. The trend in favour of sustained commitments over a longer timeframe is key for enabling a more adequate and effective implementation, as predictable resources allow for better planning and continuation of activities in the coming years, particularly those related to capacity strengthening, which enable sustained investments for transformative approaches, maximising resources for results.

In 2020, the European Commission continued to be WFP's largest donor, with a second long-term contribution to support resilience-building efforts in the Dry Corridor. WFP also continued to benefit from the sustained support of other trusted partners and reliable donors, including Luxembourg, the Republic of Korea, Switzerland, and private donors. Luxembourg's support was key to cover part of the funding requirements of Activity 2, making it the only donor with direct contributions towards disaster risk reduction. In addition to sustaining these valuable partnerships, the country office also renewed its alliance with Canada, with a multi-year contribution for smallholder farmers and gender activities. Similarly, WFP expanded its partnership with the Federation of Russia, who provided its first contribution towards smallholder farmers and school feeding. WFP also received in-kind contributions from the Government of Nicaragua and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia towards the school feeding programme. Finally, during November, the United Nations Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF), Germany, and Japan, became the largest donors for the emergency response, prompted by hurricanes Eta and Iota. These extreme events generated an opportunity to join efforts with these new partners to support affected populations. The country office started a budget revision at the end of the year to reflect this increase in needs.

To promote adequate levels of funding and continued strengthening of partnerships, WFP followed its Partnerships Action Plan and held extensive consultations with existing and potential donors, as well as other members of the international community. This was combined with efforts at the regional and capital level to increase advocacy and awareness. This allowed WFP to identify new opportunities for collaboration.

Annual CSP Financial Overview by Strategic Outcome

	Needs Based Plan	Implementation Plan	Available Resources	Expenditure
01: People in targeted areas who are living in poverty and/or are vulnerable to food insecurity have access to adequate nutritious food all year round by 2023	 6,293,670	 4,833,702	 9,708,316	 4,366,706
02: 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	 4,222,387	 3,194,401	 14,280,264	 2,055,306
03: 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	 359,637	 386,646	 750,376	 183,385
04: Populations affected by shocks have access to adequate and nutritious food during and after an emergency	 1,372,787	 4,074	 11,645,818	 2,984,681
Total:	 12,248,481	 8,418,823	 36,384,774	 9,590,078

The annual financial figures presented in this table are aggregated at Strategic Outcome level. The full presentation of the annual financial overview for the CSP, including breakdown of financial figures by activity, resources not yet allocated to a specific Strategic Outcome, Direct Support Costs and Indirect Support Costs are available in the Annual Financial Overview for the period 01 January to 31 December 2020.

Programme Performance

Strategic outcome 01: People in targeted areas who are living in poverty and/or are vulnerable to food insecurity have access to adequate nutritious food all year round by 2023



Inadequate access to nutritious food is amongst the main drivers of food insecurity in Nicaragua. Strategic Outcome 1 supports the country's national school feeding programme (PINE-MINED), the country's largest social protection programme, to ensure schoolchildren have access to at least one nutritious meal per day. The school feeding programme, primarily run by the Government, targets more than one million children countrywide. However, since the communities in the North Caribbean Region (RACCN) and the department of Jinotega, predominantly indigenous, are difficult to reach due to limited infrastructure, the Ministry of Education requests WFP's support in this region. WFP also provides technical assistance to PINE-MINED with the aim of strengthening the quality of the school feeding programme and promoting nutrition and gender-sensitive approaches.

In 2020, WFP's main activity under this Strategic Outcome was delivering nutritious balanced meals to pre-, primary and secondary schoolboys and girls. WFP assisted over 183,400 children from over 2,000 educational centres, (51 percent girls) who attend school on weekdays (93 percent) and older children who attend classes on Saturdays under a special modality called "Primary" and "Secondary at Distance." Since there are beneficiaries from two main age groups, the rations vary, as daily caloric requirements increase by age, whilst the baskets are comprised of the same food items from at least four food groups. Children aged 12 to 17 years old, benefit from meals that provide them with 1,556 kcal/day whilst the meal supplied to younger children aged 3 to 11 years old provides 605 kcal/day. Besides directly benefiting boys and girls who may otherwise not have a daily meal secured, WFP also indirectly benefits the children's families alleviating part of the food burden of the vulnerable households. Since parents, teachers, school principals, and some community leaders are part of the school feeding committees and participate in the reception, transport, storage and preparation of these nutritious meal, this larger group benefits from increased awareness on nutrition.

Distributions to schools typically take place three times per year in coordination with the Ministry of Education and each covers a period of approximately 60 school days, therefore ensuring an uninterrupted food supply. This system was designed in such manner to reduce logistics costs and maximize efficiencies. Yet, in 2020 the distributions were adjusted as the lower attendance during the peak of the pandemic (May-July) resulted in more food availability in the second half of the year. Therefore, the last food distribution was adjusted to avoid overburdening storage capacity in schools. Overall, WFP distributed 10 percent more food as it assisted two percent more educational centres compared to the previous year, surpassing its 2020 goal and ensuring that schools had food during the entire school year. Given this food delivery schedule, it is critical for WFP to receive funds in a timely manner to ensure distributions are not fragmented. In 2020, Strategic Outcome 1 was fully funded; yet most resources were confirmed during the second half of the year. WFP Nicaragua received multilateral funding for USD 1.3 million and internally allocated it to cover funding gaps and avoid pipeline breaks in the first half of the year.

Apart from the delivery of meals, WFP also provided technical assistance to support the Ministry of Education, in line with its goal of enhancing the quality of the national programme. The capacity strengthening plan, included the

implementation of a broader COVID-19 recovery and response school-based interventions with UNICEF. This could only be partially implemented as this national institution was strained by the pandemic which resulted in the delay of some activities that will be implemented in 2021. Despite these challenges, WFP helped train over 300 members of the School Feeding Committees including schoolteachers, in coordination with PINE-MINED. These training focused on their responsibilities, quality standards and ways of determining food volumes per WFP rations. Furthermore, since planned in-person trainings were suspended, WFP and PINE-MINED started to design e-learning resources such as short videoclips to educate technical staff and members of the school garden committees on linkages between climate change and resilience and food security and nutrition. In 2020, MINED was better equipped to design e-learning resources due to the joint project supported by WFP and UNICEF in response to COVID-19, which included support to improve MINED's technological abilities and information and communication technologies. Other infrastructure activities that aimed at improving school kitchens and establishing water harvesting systems were temporarily postponed, but quickly resumed at the end of the year, in consultation with the donor.

Importantly, WFP also continued to advance efforts to promote nutrition sensitive actions, which are key to tackle some of the underpinning causes of malnutrition in Nicaragua, where the double burden of malnutrition has become an increasing health problem. Promoting healthy nutritional habits from an early age is therefore much needed to reach food and nutrition security by 2030. In line with this commitment, during 2020, WFP advocated with PINE-MINED for the development of a strategy aimed at promoting social behavioural change. Coordination efforts started to conduct a formative study as a starting point for the development of such strategy. Although this could not move forward this year in the context of the pandemic, the coordination of the study is expected to resume in 2021, together with a plan to develop a digital platform to share knowledge on nutrition amongst the educational community. Additionally, intended to promote the production and use of fortified food in the future, WFP shared with the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Health that there was a high rate of acceptability of the fortified rice from the educational community that participated in the rice fortification pilot, completed in 2019.

School meals serve for multiple purposes, seeking not only to ensure access to nutritious food, but also contributing towards educational indicators, such as better enrolment, attendance, and retention rates. According to this year's monitoring activities, dropout, and retention rates in 2020, improved by one percentage point compared to 2019, despite the challenges of the COVID-19 crisis. When disaggregating results, WFP observed fewer girls dropping out of schools. However, school attendance was irregular throughout the year, plummeting during the peak of the pandemic. Following the confirmation of the first COVID-19 case in Nicaragua, WFP's field staff observed that some families abstained from sending their sons and daughters to school. Based on WFP's visits, attendance decreased between May and July 2020, during the peak of the pandemic. Whilst attendance fluctuated, a key achievement was that children remained in school in geographical areas where children dropping-out of the education system is a frequent challenge. The incentive provided by the meals are therefore crucial to continue to encourage educational indicators.

Gender and age considerations were well integrated into the implementation of Strategic Outcome 1, as evidenced by WFP's Gender and Age Marker code 3. To do so, WFP continued efforts to strengthen its monitoring system, ensuring that it is gender sensitive and has a protection focus, ensuring that the different perspectives of women and men were included in data collection activities. Additionally, all informative and educational materials, most of which had a COVID-19 focus this year, were adapted to the different age groups, considering the needs of girls, boys, women, men, and teachers. Moving forward, WFP aims to further advance its gender analysis in both, rural and urban areas, inform activities and share the findings with the educational community.

WFP Gender and Age Marker	
CSP Activity	GAM Monitoring Code
Provide nutritious school meals to school boys and girls in targeted areas, complementing the national programme, and strengthen national nutrition and gender responsive social protection programmes and systems that promote food security	3

Strategic outcome 02: 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



Nicaragua is exposed to hazards, including droughts, floods, and hurricanes, which impact food systems, increasing the vulnerability of populations to food insecurity and malnutrition, and putting at risk the objectives in Nicaragua's National Human Development Plan and the Sustainable Development Goals. WFP provides support on two fronts: at the institutional level, it assists its national partner, the National System for the Prevention, Mitigation and Attention to Disasters (SINAPRED), and its member institutions, be prepared for emergencies and manage risk (Activity 2). At the civil society level, WFP works with smallholder farmers to increase agricultural productivity, resilience, and income by accessing markets, allowing them to be better prepared for shocks (Activity 3).

Activity 2 was better financed in 2020 compared to the previous year, allowing the number of technicians engaged in training sessions to nearly double, when compared to 2019. Through 82 sessions, WFP increased the capacity of national institutions and ministries in disaster risk management, emergency preparedness, and climate change adaptation. Given the COVID-19 challenges, remote capacity strengthening activities and the acquisition of specialised equipment were prioritised, providing electronic solutions.

By facilitating remote training on seasonal livelihood planning (SLP) methodologies, WFP enabled national institutions to implement four livelihood diagnoses in the Caribbean Coast, to better understand and analyse gender roles, traditional practices, livelihoods, and risks. This exercise can then guide the implementation of tailored, more effective programmes in these vulnerable regions that are recurrently exposed to hazards. WFP also designed and implemented the first country-wide diagnosis of SINAPRED's Disaster Operations Centres. The results will allow WFP and national institutions to map out an action plan to fill in the gaps in disaster risk reduction. WFP supplied SINAPRED with equipment to produce television programmes and monthly bulletins with an overview of climate conditions and their impacts on agriculture, which were accessible to the public, as part of a larger social and behaviour change communication strategy. This aimed to mainstream disaster-risk reduction and reduce the vulnerability of societies to disasters.

With a strong financial outlook, Activity 3 provided much-needed support to over 4,780 smallholder farmers in 2020, surpassing the CSP target of supporting 4,500 women and men. Whilst women participation was still low, it was higher than in 2019 thanks to sustained efforts to address the gender gap in rural areas. Given the COVID-19 context and the economic crisis, WFP, in consultation with donors, increased investment in food production, prioritising activities that allowed smallholder farmers to meet their food needs, despite increases in prices of agricultural inputs and credit restrictions. WFP facilitated access to inputs, assets, technical assistance, credit, and services, rather than investing in infrastructure and equipment for the farmer organisations for food transformation. As a result, smallholder farmers were able to plant 1,716 hectares of staple crops such as maize, beans and rice; 30 percent were women-established. WFP also complemented the delivery of assets with agricultural tools, including backpack sprayers to fumigate and protect crops and silos for post-harvest grain storage. About two-thirds of these were given to women. Low financial inclusion represented one of the main constraints, especially for women, to finance their activities and improve their sales and market access. To increase their access to credits with favourable terms, WFP provided farmer organisations with resources to invest.

With the aim of promoting climate resilience, WFP also supported soil and water conservation works to allow for human consumption and support agricultural production, contributing towards climate change adaptation and sustainable management of natural resources. This is key, especially in a country experiencing severe rainfall deficit in the last years. Starting in 2021, WFP will assist six new farmer organisations and 3,000 smallholder farmers in the Dry Corridor. Similarly, WFP supported productive diversification by helping smallholder farmers introduce new agricultural crops, such as coffee and cacao, as part of a strategy to promote resilience building and transfer risk. These two cash crops that are highly valued in the market can help reduced dependency on staple grains, allowing farmers to access economic activities in between the three sub-cycles of staple grains. These are also crops of permanent vegetal coverage that contribute towards the preservation of the environment and are more resilient to the impacts of climate change. Poultry farming and honey production were also promoted as activities for families to generate income.

WFP also continued to work to tackle the gender constraints through a women's economic empowerment strategy, which has paved the way to reach women. Through this strategy, WFP aims to promote gender awareness, incentivise women's engagement in farming activities, and create an enabling environment for women participation in decision-making. This is done by providing women with training on gender, agricultural tools and inputs, and enhanced access to credit through revolving funds created for women. This credit system was designed in a manner that is responsive to their needs and allows them to learn about credit management. WFP also works with men farmers and technical staff from farmer organisations to design and implement gender policies, promote gender awareness, and advance healthy models of masculinities. This year, the activities focused mostly on supporting women's food production and access to inputs, given the pandemic.

In this year of economic contraction, WFP provided a stable market to farmers organisations through its food purchases for school feeding. In 2020, WFP purchased 810 mt of staple crops from smallholder farmers. The volume of food purchased from farmer organisations decreased in 2020 compared to the previous year as weather conditions damaged crops and grain quality, affecting farmers' sales to WFP. The high relative humidity, the variation in temperatures and the excessive rainfall caused by the hurricanes Eta and Iota towards the end of 2020 damaged grains, infrastructure, and production. A survey carried out with smallholder farmer organisations estimated that established areas suffered up to 80 percent of damage due to the hurricanes, with bean crops suffering the most. Despite these affectations, at earlier moments of the year, WFP still connected smallholder farmers' food supply with the demand generated by the school feeding programme, even if at a lesser degree. This helped promote inclusive value chains and more sustainable food systems, whilst contributing towards community development in rural areas.

In 2020, WFP also started preparatory activities to assist about 2,500 low-income families and help them mitigate the combined impacts of the economic crisis and COVID-19 through technical assistance and inputs to establish vegetable gardens in small land plots. This aims at improving access to nutritious food and reducing dependency on markets and economic pressures at home. These families, most headed by women, received hygiene and protection kits and were informed of the initiative, which will begin implementation in 2021.

As a result of these combined efforts, smallholder farmers managed to maintain their food consumption score (97 percent) similar to the previous year, which is an important achievement considering the multiple shocks in 2020. However, negative coping strategies increased moderately, as some farmers still had to deplete their own resources, generate debts, spend savings, and/or sell animals and assets, in order to survive. To mitigate this, WFP adopted measures, such as quickly injecting more resources following the impacts of hurricanes Eta and Iota to help farmers recover during the *Apante* cycle (December – July). WFP will continue to enhance local capacities and promote resilience building to strive for food security and achieve zero hunger in rural Nicaragua.

As the Gender and Age Marker 4 (Activity 2) and 3 (Activity 3) show, gender was fully integrated in the implementation of these activities. In particular, WFP strongly promoted gender and age analysis in the activities conducted with SINAPRED, allowing this national partner to tailor communication messages to the needs of women, men, boys and girls for more effective results; and remained strongly committed to enhancing women farmers' engagement under Activity 3 through the women's economic empowerment strategy.

WFP Gender and Age Marker	
CSP Activity	GAM Monitoring Code
Provide government institutions with technical assistance in disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation with a view to reducing the vulnerability to food insecurity of populations prone to disasters	4
Provide technical assistance to smallholder farmers in order to increase their resilience, improve their livelihoods and reduce their vulnerability to adverse climate events	3

Strategic outcome 03: 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



Strategic Outcome 3 focuses specifically on promoting policies, programmes and campaigns with a gender-specific lens, recognising the linkages between food security and gender, not just for women and girls, but for society as a whole. In 2020, WFP focused on strengthening partnerships, generating evidence on the relationship between gender, food security and nutrition, strengthening institutions' capacities to mainstream gender and promoting social communication for behavioural change. Under Strategic Outcome 3, WFP worked primarily with the Ministry of Women (MINIM) and the National System for Disaster Prevention, Mitigation and Attention (SINAPRED).

WFP's work with SINAPRED centred on bolstering the ability of the institution, its instruments, and its technicians to design and implement gender-responsive disaster prevention, risk reduction and emergency interventions as these approaches are proven to be more effective and sustainable. As part of its collaboration with SINAPRED, WFP helped facilitate work sessions of a commission integrated by 11 national institutions, whose aim was allowing members to coordinate and promote gender-sensitive approaches to risk and impact assessments, early warning systems, knowledge development, emergency management and recovery responses and recognise women and girls are often disproportionately affected by crises, and have specific needs and roles. WFP supported the process of collecting and systematising data on members of the Women's Network for Crises and Emergencies Management, active in the country's 153 municipalities, to maximise the networks' potential.

In 2020, WFP developed an Annual Strategic Plan to guide the WFP and MINIM partnership. This plan is and will continue to be instrumental in WFP's work towards a country with zero hunger and gender equality, transforming gender relations and decreasing gender-based violence in private and public spaces. WFP's work with the Ministry of Women centred on the integration of gender analysis of national policies and programmes, promoting and disseminating laws and policies on women rights and training public servants. This year, WFP provided technical support in the form of 24 training sessions, surpassing the number of sessions planned. These sessions were attended by technicians from 34 national institutions and ministries. To foster the design and implementation of gender transformative interventions, WFP financed courses, attended by staff from the Ministry of Women and other government institutions, on human rights and gender equality and on methodological tools to integrate gender analysis into the design and monitoring of social protection programmes. These activities took into account existing inequalities, the needs of women and men, and their roles. WFP also designed and facilitated in-person trainings targeting servants of the Ministry of Women on food security, nutrition, and gender. These trainings emphasized that women are producers and providers of food and that hunger affects women disproportionately, calling for sex-disaggregated data and gender-specific indicators, which are necessary to identify the state of food security and nutrition in the country. This will improve the use of instruments for a deeper assessment of food security and nutrition at the territorial level.

WFP also supported the National Campaign "Women for Life," led by the Ministry of Women, by designing, printing, and disseminating communication, informational and educational material on women rights and mechanisms in place to protect victims of violence. These materials were translated to indigenous languages to respect the ethnic, linguistic, and cultural diversity of the Autonomous Regions of the Caribbean Coast of Nicaragua, the region with the most cases

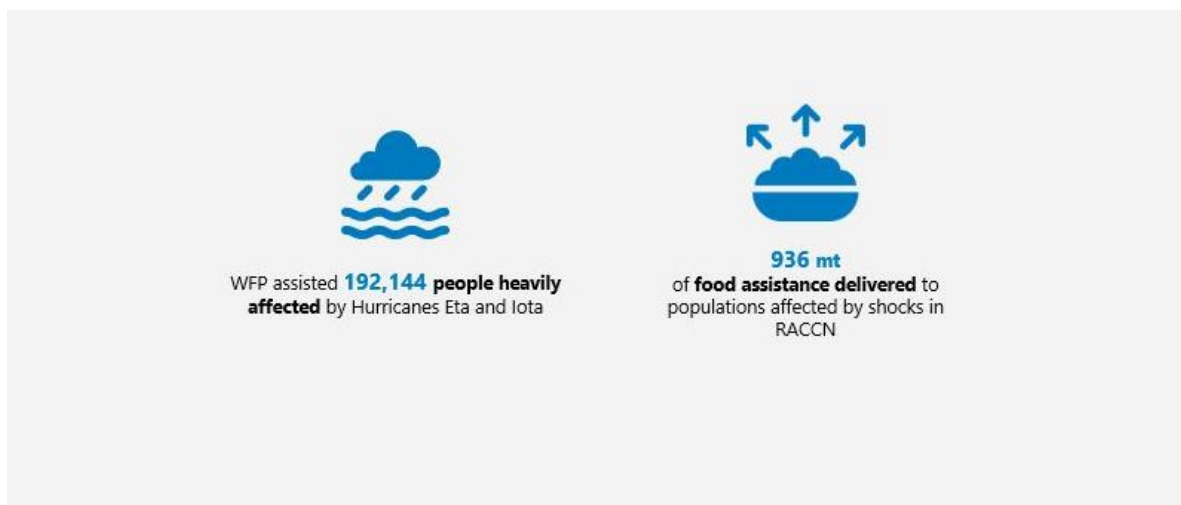
of gender-based violence. These materials will support a better understanding and appropriation on women and girls' rights. As part of violence prevention actions, meetings were organized with women and their families addressing gender-based violence warning signs; participants included civil and public servants, and members of the community.

In 2020, WFP also started assisting the Ministry of Women in the creation of an e-learning platform containing online courses, videos, and texts. This innovative space will be an opportunity to exchange information and knowledge with the broader public and promote gender equality as well as women and girl's empowerment. To be able to advance these efforts, WFP provided technological equipment to the Ministry of the Women. An adequate information technology infrastructure is essential so the Ministry of Women can advance women's empowerment and gender equality and provide more and better services to different users.

The implementation of activities to strengthen the capacities of public servants has been a highly effective strategy for the consolidation of gender practices that contribute to the empowerment of women in all areas of development. As a new area of work for WFP Nicaragua that was incorporated into the CSP in 2019, 2020 is the first year in which Strategic Outcome 3 registers beneficiaries, the number of people benefiting from WFP capacity strengthening processes was 333 people (83 percent women). Due to the high level of women's participation in comparison to men in training sessions, it is still perceived that training on the issue of gender and women's empowerment is a matter for women; strategies must be sought to achieve greater participation of men in these processes. Nonetheless, all these sound efforts to incorporate a gender lens into the activities implemented and to promote gender analysis in the work of national institutions have resulted in a Gender and Age Marker score of 3 for this Strategic Outcome in 2020.

To advance the goals of this Strategic Outcome WFP coordinated two experience-sharing events to foster gender equality and women's empowerment, focusing on food systems. WFP and FAO organized a discussion, "Rural Women, Food Systems and Economic Autonomy: Challenges Faced and Alternatives Rural Women Weave," fostering dialogue with rural women on their identity, their role in food security, autonomy, and economic empowerment. Participants of this event included UN agencies staff and farmer organisations assisted by WFP under Strategic Outcome 2. WFP also shared with the Ministry of Women, the women's economic empowerment strategy through which rural women farmers received tailored-assistance and agricultural inputs from WFP. By exchanging the reflections of women who benefited, as well as lessons learned, WFP contributed towards more successful and sustainable national programmes focused on equality and empowerment.

Strategic outcome 04: Populations affected by shocks have access to adequate and nutritious food during and after an emergency



Under Strategic Outcome 4, WFP seeks to attend to the food needs of populations affected either by sudden or slow onset shocks, providing them with a safety net during emergencies and support to promote early recovery thereafter. To achieve this objective, WFP, in coordination with SINAPRED, provides unconditional food assistance to the most affected populations primarily through in-kind food transfers and shock-responsive social protection programmes that can be scaled up in case of emergencies such as the School Feeding Programme. Likewise, WFP foresees the prepositioning of food in risk-prone areas to be able to respond within the 72 hours of the impact of any climatic event.

In 2020, WFP identified roughly 80,000 people who required immediate emergency assistance in the Dry Corridor, including 40,000 children. To reach affected children in the Dry Corridor, WFP planned to scale up the school meals programme through the third and last distribution of the year. Nevertheless, this activity was pushed to 2021 since schools had enough food items in stock due to the decreased attendance of schoolchildren at the peak of the pandemic.

In November, Nicaragua was struck in close sequence by two hurricanes, Eta and Iota (Category 4 and 5). The strong winds and heavy rainfall devastated the north-eastern regions of the country, particularly the North Caribbean Coast Autonomous Region (RACCN). The strongest impact occurred in 26 municipalities, mainly in the RACCN, a particularly vulnerable and mostly indigenous region, but also affected the departments of Nueva Segovia and Jinotega. Damages included material and livelihood losses, threatening the food and nutrition security of the affected populations, as well as their ability to recover in the months after the impact. According to the Government's assessments, three million people were exposed to these events, out of which 300,000 people were identified as in need of assistance in RACCN and other northern areas of the country.

Before Hurricane Eta's landfall, WFP prepositioned 80 mt of food items (72 mt of rice and 8 mt of oil) in Bilwi and deployed staff from Managua to the sub-offices located in what would be the impacted area. This allowed WFP to start dispatching food just a few hours after the hurricane to be distributed by the Government in shelters and communities complementing their own food basket. During the first weeks of the response, WFP focused on the distribution of food items, whilst also supporting the Government with fuel to conduct damage assessments and with expert staff and equipment to restore and maintain essential telecommunications between affected areas and the capital. WFP provided personal protective equipment and hygiene inputs for approximately 60 shelters to reduce the risk of COVID-19 spread. WFP also delivered 1,000 litres of water in rural communities of Prinzapolka, a key need identified by local authorities in the first hours following Eta's landfall.

In coordination with SINAPRED, WFP immediately assisted the population in shelters in the municipalities of Waspam, Puerto Cabezas, Siuna, Rosita, Bonaza, Mulukukú and Paiwas through in-kind food transfers. The initial ration covered the food needs of the families during the first five to ten days after the impact of both hurricanes. The food basket in the immediate response consisted of rice, oil, and beans. Salt and fortified wheat flour were subsequently added for the Miskito and Mayagna populations and maize for the Mestizo population. In addition, Super Cereal was added as a fortified blended food for vulnerable groups (pregnant and lactating women, and children aged 6 months to 6 years old according to the national protocol).

In 2020, due to Eta and Iota, WFP surpassed its target of 80,000 beneficiaries by attending almost 120,000 more people than planned. Due to the increase in beneficiaries targeted, it became necessary to carry out a Budget Revision that will be finalized in 2021 to incorporate the increase in food and beneficiaries of this Strategic Outcome.

From the onset of the emergency, WFP validated a response plan with the Government to ensure affected communities would receive assistance until they can recover their livelihoods. The response is based on three main activities, the second and third, will take place in 2021:

1. In-kind food assistance: General food distributions in the most affected areas as immediate response with a full basket for people in shelters and rural communities. The food basket includes rice, beans, vegetable oil, salt and either maize or fortified wheat flour (depending on the cultural preference of the assisted communities). During the last distributions of December, and from thereafter, a ration of Super Cereal was also included in the basket, specifically targeting pregnant and lactating women, as well as children aged 6 months to 6 years old.
2. Scale-up of school feeding: Provision of an additional meal a day for 198,000 school-age children for at least three months (these children are already beneficiaries of the national school-feeding programme supported by WFP as part of its regular CSP activities). As a clear example of vertical expansion of Shock-Responsive Social Protection (SRSP), this activity will start in February 2021 and has the objective of ensuring children receive at least two nutritious meals per day. Discussions are also ongoing to see how to use the schools as a horizontal expansion of the SRSP system to provide take-home rations for the families if the school children impacted by the hurricanes.
3. Early recovery/livelihoods support: WFP will implement the transfer of non-food items, either directly or through the government partners to 26,000 households whose livelihoods have been disrupted so they can prepare for the harvest. These items will mostly be composed of seeds of culturally appropriate crops and the basic tools needed for the harvest.

By the end of 2020, over 200 communities in RACCN had been assisted through general food distributions with 936 mt of food items. It is important to note that many of these beneficiaries were targeted during the first distributions in shelters and communities with a reduced food basket. In terms of unique beneficiaries, without counting the overlap between the three activities, over 192,000 were assisted by WFP for the response to Hurricanes Eta and Iota.

WFP has conducted local procurement to cover the needs of the response, thus supporting the national market and reducing lead times. Delivering food items to remote communities has been a logistical feat achieved through strong coordination amongst WFP staff, as well as with transporters and authorities. Many of the assisted communities are located along riverbanks and are only accessible by small boats. WFP deployed staff from Managua, Regional Bureau Panama and other country offices in the region to augment the capacity of its two Sub-offices in the RACCN: Siuna and Bilwi. This way, WFP ensured staff could accompany and monitor food distributions. Additional staff were also hired, mostly field monitors, to support the response.

Strong coordination with the authorities was ensured at all levels, with WFP working closely with SINAPRED to identify the most affected communities and thus the priority areas of assistance. As a key added value of WFP in the food distributions, communication materials on beneficiary entitlements, gender, nutrition (including instructions for the use of Super Cereal) and hygiene were developed to be distributed to authorities and communities. These materials in both Spanish and Miskito, which also provided valuable donor visibility, have been very well received. WFP's strong advocacy efforts with national partners to incorporate a gender and age lens in the production of these awareness and informative material, as well as in the design of the response have resulted in a Gender and Age Marker code 3 for this activity, reflecting its commitment to incorporate these considerations also in complex contexts of sudden-onset emergencies.

WFP Gender and Age Marker	
CSP Activity	GAM Monitoring Code
Provide food assistance to populations affected by shocks and strengthen institutional capacities for effective response	3

Cross-cutting Results

Progress towards gender equality: Improved gender equality and women's empowerment among WFP-assisted population

Nicaragua has made important progress towards gender equality, currently ranking fifth in the Global Gender Gap Index, generating momentum for advancing the gender agenda. This is thanks to improvements in education and political empowerment, with more women in ministerial positions than men. Yet, the gender gap remains regarding economic participation and widens in rural communities. Furthermore, the pandemic threatened to exacerbate existing fragilities due to gender-based violence and women's economic constraints.

In 2020 WFP remained committed to gender equality and achieved an important landmark, establishing the first-ever operational plan with the Ministry of the Women (MINIM), marking the beginning of this strategic partnership. Through this alliance, WFP and MINIM set the foundations for transformative actions and deconstruct gender-biases, especially in the agricultural sector, opening valuable operational spaces at the institutional level, which will benefit the population at large, paving the way to a more equal and food secure society. This year's activities promoted awareness of women rights and the laws protecting them; training on gender mainstreaming, gender-sensitive monitoring, and the relationship between food, nutrition, and gender; and knowledge exchanges to hear the voices of rural women. Similarly, WFP promoted the importance of understanding and addressing the effects of gender roles and inequality on risk and resilience to shocks with the national authority on disaster risk management before and after Hurricanes Eta and Iota.

At the territorial level, WFP also enhanced its support to women farmers by delivering two-thirds of all agricultural assets transferred to women, as they were more vulnerable to the pandemic's impacts. Additionally, WFP continued implementing the women's economic empowerment strategy, designed in 2016 to address the constraints that hinder women's opportunities and foster their decision-making. Whilst this remains a challenge, more women participated in deciding the use of inputs provided by WFP within their households, compared to 2019. WFP also completed a comprehensive review of past years, generating rich qualitative data, including stories, testimonies, and good practices. "Our self-esteem started changing and our perspective on life is very different now; we've done things, attended trainings, land projects and have moved forward towards the goal of having our own food," reports one of the women. The review highlighted the relevance and effectiveness of the strategy but also pointed out the need to continue to generate enabling environments to overcome the persistent barriers, including but not limited to the traditional gender roles, gendered leadership gap, and unequal access to resources and knowledge.

Regarding school feeding, WFP also prepared to research gender and feeding practices amongst members of the educational community in the Northern Caribbean Coast Autonomous Region. The study will be implemented in 2021 to inform the design of a social behavioural change strategy, promoting healthier nutrition practices with a gender lens.

WFP Nicaragua participated in an evaluation of WFP's Gender Policy (2015-2020), due to its experiences mainstreaming gender over the past years. The evaluation allowed WFP to learn to which extent the policy has been effectively implemented, as well as to draw recommendations for the way forward.

Protection and accountability to affected populations: Affected populations are able to benefit from WFP programmes in a manner that ensures and promotes their safety, dignity and integrity. Affected populations are able to hold WFP and partners accountable for meeting their hunger needs in a manner that reflects their views and preferences

Since the school feeding programme is a national initiative handled by the Ministry of Education (PINE-MINED), WFP was not able to establish formal complaint feedback mechanisms. WFP resorted to alternative mechanisms to consult beneficiaries and stakeholders on their perception of the programme, including surveys conducted in a sample of schools. In the 2020 school feeding monitoring exercise, WFP included questions specific to beneficiary's satisfaction with the activity and consulted schools' headmasters, teachers, warehouse and kitchen managers from 159 educational centres. The results of the survey indicated that 99 percent believe WFP has treated the beneficiaries of the feeding programme with respect and delivered the food for the school basket in good condition. A further 11 percent of those consulted submitted complaints on the third and last distribution of the school meal through letters and phone calls to educational centres and PINE-MINED's technicians. To improve this, in 2021, WFP will offer technical support to PINE-MINED for the creation of a complaint and feedback mechanism that permits a categorization by issue and is recorded accordingly.

Under Activity 3, at the start of the year WFP held working sessions with farmer organisations to define the specific activities to implement in 2020. Farmer organisations were identified and a compilation of the needs of their members were gathered. WFP remained committed to placing beneficiaries at the centre, using participatory approaches to ensure that the needs and preferences of beneficiaries and participants were considered in the planning of the activities. Following the outbreak of the pandemic, these were revised and adjusted to introduce COVID-19 measures and to delay planned activities that were not essential, reducing risk of contagion. With regards to the training topics, the farmer organisations also identified their needs, based on their understanding and knowledge of the challenges that members face, as well as the areas in need of strengthening to improve their opportunities for growth and development. With the inputs, the content of the training plans was discussed and agreed upon during the design of the annual operational plans for each farmer organisation. Furthermore, following each training activities, smallholder farmers completed anonymous feedback surveys in which they provided a critical assessment of the activities and suggestions to improve them. WFP aims to continue to strengthen these consultative efforts moving forward, which are in line with its corporate commitment to remain accountable to affected populations.

In terms of safety, the municipalities where smallholder farmer organisations are located are relatively safe, compared to urban areas where assaults, robberies and muggings are frequent. Nevertheless, WFP provides the necessary conditions for the safe development of activities. However, this year the population's safety was at risk due to a new and unexpected threat: COVID-19. In March, WFP activated its biosecurity protocol and supported the farmer organisations in implementing prevention practices to avoid the spread of the disease and its effects on the participants. This allowed the activities to continue as planned whilst protecting boys, girls, men, and women. Although some expressed fear of contagion, beneficiaries felt safe, cared for and treated with dignity, possibly due to the measures taken by both WFP and the farmers organisations to protect people from COVID-19. 85 percent reported that they received assistance without safety challenges. Nevertheless, reduced mobility, due to the pandemic caused a decrease in the number of targeted people with unhindered access to WFP's support [1]. Unlike in the case of smallholder farmers, school feeding activities were reportedly implemented without significant difficulties, as 94 percent reported to receiving assistance without safety challenges.

Finally, in 2020, WFP produced pamphlets with information on WFP's activities with smallholder farmers, selection criteria, benefits, and duration to improve their awareness of the programme and activities. Nevertheless, ensuring widespread awareness remains a significant challenge, as those who are duly informed about the programme represent a low percentage of the targeted population, calling for continued actions to ensure all beneficiaries have adequate information about the programme. WFP will design other mechanisms to reach more people in 2021.

WFP also complements the efforts of the Ministry of Women and the National System for Disaster Prevention, Mitigation, and Response (SINAPRED) in the ongoing dissemination of information on warning signs of violence, emergency lines and institutions that protect human rights and assist women who suffer any form of violence. To this end, visibility materials were produced, including radio spots and vignettes on gender-based violence prevention and information to the general population on where to go to report cases of violence against women. The spots and vignettes were disseminated through two national radio stations. In 2021, it is expected to continue promoting these warning signs to a larger group of the population, and mechanisms will be established so that the people have more information on the joint actions that WFP implements with the different partners.

In the framework of the response to the emergency caused by the hurricanes that hit RACCN, WFP in coordination with SINAPRED, produced information material, including their food entitlements, translated into indigenous languages, to ensure that the Miskito communities had access to the information. Posters and flyers were produced on issues of protection and prevention of the COVID-19 pandemic, nutritional information on the Super Cereal for vulnerable

groups, information on the food rations they should receive during distributions, among other relevant information. One of the protection actions that was most promoted was to organise distributions at times that would not endanger the people collecting the food, and physical distancing at the time of distribution was promoted.

Environment: Targeted communities benefit from WFP programmes in a manner that does not harm the environment

The environmental impact caused by the passage of Hurricanes Eta and Iota was significant, causing deforestation, loss of many areas of crops and animals, which caused a deterioration in the capacities of the country's food systems to guarantee food and nutrition for the most affected families living in the most remote areas of the country and where the impacts of the hurricanes were most intense. According to the Humboldt Centre, a Nicaraguan non-governmental environmental organisation, the hurricanes affected 15 protected natural areas. High humidity caused by heavy rainfall in short periods of time caused the development of aflatoxins in stored grains. The high-level of aflatoxins pressured farmers organisations to cancel contracts with WFP, reducing the value and volume of smallholder sales through WFP-supported aggregation systems.

Recognizing environmental degradation is linked to food insecurity, WFP is committed to promoting a sustainable and responsible management of natural resources among beneficiaries and its own staff. In 2020, WFP's Procurement unit went paperless. This initiative is part of a broader green strategy introduced in 2019. Furthermore, in 2020, WFP field technicians applied a survey based on corporate environmental and social standards amongst smallholder farmer organisations. The screening tool applied in the survey allowed WFP to determine the level of environmental and social risk on WFP's interventions. The results provided important information; none of the actions included in Activity's 3, 2020 annual operational plans were considered high risk as WFP ensured that all actions with smallholder farmers and vulnerable families meet WFP's standards to prevent environmental damage.

In terms of actions taken to reduce the effects of climate change and increase resilience among smallholder farmers' households, WFP supplied beneficiaries and farmer's organisations with materials and tools to establish water harvesting infrastructure and promoted environmental-friendly practices. These included the use of bio-fertilisers, integrated pest management, soil and water conservation, bio-intensive crops, water harvesting for irrigation, and producing mineral and organic fertilisers. Furthermore, when suggesting new crops to grow, as part of diversification efforts, WFP selected crops with multi-purposes; for instance, permanent vegetation like coffee and cacao are beneficial to control soil erosion.

Finally, in 2020, WFP under Activity 2, worked with national institutions to promote the analysis of the percentage of soil which is covered by green vegetation as early warning system for droughts.

Data Notes

2020 Overview

For the 2020 reporting period, disability data has been collected using a variety of approaches, according to the existing needs, capacity, and experience of various WFP activities and operational contexts. Moving forward, as part of the 2020 Disability Inclusion Road Map, WFP will be building on this experience to mainstream and standardise disability data collection methodologies, aligning with international standards and best practices.

Under the graph "beneficiaries by programme areas", the number of school children targeted includes the beneficiaries of the regular school feeding activities (activity 1) and the children assisted through the temporary scale-up of school feeding in emergencies (activity 5). Whilst the first group was assisted as planned, and even exceeded the target, the scale-up of school feeding was delayed to 2021, as schools had surpassed their food items' capacities in stock due to the decreased attendance of schoolchildren at the peak of the pandemic.

Context and operations & COVID-19 response

[1] World Bank. 2020. Nicaragua: Overview

[2] The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (2020) Social Challenges in COVID-19 times

[3] World Bank. 2020. Latin America and Caribbean Region: Macro Poverty Outlook. Washington, DC.

[4] According to the Nutritional Census, carried out in 2020, the prevalence of acute malnutrition stood at 5.8 percent among children aged 0-6 and 4.9 percent in children aged 7-14 years in 2016.

Strategic outcome 01

For the enrolment rate, the WFP methodology establishes the baseline as zero before CSP starts. Thus, the baseline for this indicator in 2019 is zero.

Strategic outcome 02

The Consumption Strategy Index indicator measures behavioural strategies that people apply when they cannot access enough food or when they foresee a decrease in food security. A higher score indicates a higher stress level. Vice versa a lower score means that the households is less stressed. In this case, the results in 2020 indicate a higher stress level according to the methodology applied.

Strategic outcome 04

Under SO 4, the data values for some outputs and outcomes are not reflected because the school feeding scale-up was not implemented in 2020.

In 2019, the Government of Nicaragua did not provide disaggregation by gender for attendance rate; WFP worked with government partner to register this value in the future.

Protection and accountability to affected populations


[1] When asked if they had unhindered access to to WFP programmes, 46 percent of smallholder farmers responded positively, suggesting that the remaining half did not enjoy such access. However, it is important to clarify that the data collection instruments asks specifically if any member of the household had been unable to access WFP assistance one or more times in the past 2 months. In this case, most of the beneficiaries reported that they did have access to the programme, but this was prior to the two month-period considered in the survey.


Environment

The Environment Social Risk Screening was introduced during 2020. At this moment, the Country Office is learning about the tool and it will be implemented in 2021 for each CSP activity.

Figures and Indicators

WFP contribution to SDGs

 SDG 2: End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture											
WFP Strategic Goal 1: Support countries to achieve zero hunger						WFP Contribution (by WFP, or by governments or partners with WFP Support)					
SDG Indicator	National Results					SDG-related indicator	Direct				Indirect
	Unit	Female	Male	Overall	Year		Unit	Female	Male	Overall	
Prevalence of moderate or severe food insecurity in the population, based on the Food Insecurity Experience Scale (FIES)	%					Number of people reached (by WFP, or by governments or partners with WFP support) in the context of emergency and protracted crisis response	Number	94,151	97,993	192,144	
						Number of people reached (by WFP, or by governments or partners with WFP support) to improve their food security	Number	163,206	162,815	326,021	
Average income of small-scale food producers, by sex and indigenous status	US\$					Number of small-scale food producers reached (by WFP, or by governments or partners with WFP support) with interventions that contribute to improved incomes	Number	1,927	2,856	4,783	
Proportion of agricultural area under productive and sustainable agriculture	%					Number of people reached (by WFP, or by governments or partners with WFP support) with interventions that aim to ensure productive and sustainable food systems	Number	3,561	3,667	7,228	

 SDG 17: Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development									
WFP Strategic Goal 2: Partner to support implementation of the SDGs					WFP Contribution (by WFP, or by governments or partners with WFP Support)				
SDG Indicator	National Results			SDG-related indicator	Direct		Indirect		
	Unit	Overall	Year		Unit	Overall			
Foreign direct investments (FDI), official development assistance and South-South Cooperation as a proportion of total domestic budget	%			Dollar value of resources mobilized (by WFP) to increase government or national stakeholder access to financial resources to achieve the SDGs	US\$		28,676,475		

Dollar value of financial and technical assistance (including through North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation) committed to developing countries	US\$		Dollar value (within WFP portfolio) of technical assistance and country capacity strengthening interventions (including facilitation of South-South and triangular cooperation)	US\$		2,594,522.42
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Beneficiaries by Sex and Age Group

Beneficiary Category	Gender	Planned	Actual	% Actual vs. Planned
Total Beneficiaries	male	131,400	162,815	124%
	female	130,600	163,206	125%
	total	262,000	326,021	124%
By Age Group				
0-23 months	male	920	4,440	483%
	female	880	4,268	485%
	total	1,800	8,708	484%
24-59 months	male	23,870	18,603	78%
	female	23,830	19,105	80%
	total	47,700	37,708	79%
5-11 years	male	85,889	66,776	78%
	female	85,729	69,265	81%
	total	171,618	136,041	79%
12-17 years	male	9,401	18,619	198%
	female	9,281	18,326	197%
	total	18,682	36,945	198%
18-59 years	male	10,080	48,421	480%
	female	9,680	46,517	481%
	total	19,760	94,938	480%
60+ years	male	1,240	5,956	480%
	female	1,200	5,725	477%
	total	2,440	11,681	479%

Beneficiaries by Residence Status

Residence Status	Planned	Actual	% Actual vs. Planned
Resident	262,000	326,021	124%
Refugee	0	0	-
Returnee	0	0	-
IDP	0	0	-

Beneficiaries by Programme Area



Programme Area	Planned	Actual	% Actual vs. Planned
School Meal	222,000	183,459	82%
Unconditional Resources Transfer	40,000	192,144	480%

Annual Food Transfer

Commodities	Planned Distribution (mt)	Actual Distribution (mt)	% Actual vs. Planned
Everyone has access to food			
Strategic Outcome: Strategic Outcome 01			
Maize	347	260	75%
Rice	1,239	853	69%
Wheat Flour	1,004	771	77%
Dried Fruits	310	308	99%
Corn Soya Blend	1,084	744	69%
Vegetable Oil	310	243	78%
Beans	774	622	80%
Strategic Outcome: Strategic Outcome 04			
Maize	336	69	20%
Rice	336	423	126%
Wheat Flour	0	208	-
Corn Soya Blend	144	8	5%
Iodised Salt	6	9	145%
Vegetable Oil	54	60	111%
Beans	132	160	121%

Annual Cash Based Transfer and Commodity Voucher

Modality	Planned Distribution (CBT)	Actual Distribution (CBT)	% Actual vs. Planned
Everyone has access to food			
Cash	300,000	0	0%
Value Voucher	100,000	0	0%

Strategic Outcome and Output Results

Strategic Outcome 01 : People in targeted areas who are living in poverty and/or are vulnerable to food insecurity have access to adequate nutritious food all year round by 2023						- Resilience Building	
Output Results							
Activity 01: Provide nutritious school meals to school boys and girls in targeted areas, complementing the national programme, and strengthen national nutrition and gender-transformative social protection programmes that promote food security							
Output Category A: Resources transferred							
Output Category C: Capacity development and technical support provided							
Output Category N*: School feeding provided							
Output	Output Indicator	Beneficiary Group	Sub Activity	Unit of measure	Planned	Actual	
A:	A.1: Beneficiaries receiving food transfers	Children (pre-primary)	School feeding (on-site)	Female Male Total	18,190 18,190 36,380	18,361 17,420 35,781	
A:	A.1: Beneficiaries receiving food transfers	Students (primary schools)	School feeding (on-site)	Female Male Total	66,449 66,449 132,898	68,809 66,098 134,907	
A:	A.1: Beneficiaries receiving food transfers	Students (secondary schools)	School feeding (on-site)	Female Male Total	6,361 6,361 12,722	6,161 6,610 12,771	
A:	A.2: Food transfers			MT	5,068	3,800	
	A.10*: Total value (USD) of capacity strengthening transfers						
A: School boys and girls and their parents in targeted areas benefit from improved storage and food preparation facilities to promote safe access to food	A.10*.1: Total value (USD) of capacity strengthening transfers		School feeding (on-site)	US\$	1,030,712.25	22,677	
	A.6*: Number of institutional sites assisted						
A: School boys and girls in targeted areas receive nutritious school meals to meet their basic food needs and incentivize access to education	A.6.23: Number of schools assisted by WFP		School feeding (on-site)	school	2,000	2,323	
	C.4*: Number of people engaged in capacity strengthening initiatives facilitated by WFP to enhance national food security and nutrition stakeholder capacities (new)						
C: Beneficiaries of social protection programmes benefit from strengthened, effective, nutrition-sensitive and gender-transformative interventions to improve their access to food and their consumption of nutritious and diverse foods	C.4*.1: Number of government/national partner staff receiving technical assistance and training		School feeding (on-site)	individual	500	313	
	C.5*: Number of capacity strengthening initiatives facilitated by WFP to enhance national food security and nutrition stakeholder capacities (new)						

C: Beneficiaries of social protection programmes benefit from strengthened, effective, nutrition-sensitive and gender-transformative interventions to improve their access to food and their consumption of nutritious and diverse foods	C.5*.2: Number of training sessions/workshop organized		School feeding (on-site)	training session	200	55
	C.7*: Number of national institutions benefitting from embedded or seconded expertise as a result of WFP capacity strengthening support (new)					
C: Beneficiaries of social protection programmes benefit from strengthened, effective, nutrition-sensitive and gender-transformative interventions to improve their access to food and their consumption of nutritious and diverse foods	C.7*.1: Number of national institutions benefitting from embedded or seconded expertise as a result of WFP capacity strengthening support (new)		School feeding (on-site)	Number	2	1
	N*.2*: Average number of school days per month on which multi-fortified or at least 4 food groups were provided (nutrition-sensitive indicator)					
N*: School boys and girls in targeted areas receive nutritious school meals to meet their basic food needs and incentivize access to education	N*.2.1: Average number of school days per month on which multi-fortified or at least 4 food groups were provided (nutrition-sensitive indicator)		School feeding (on-site)	Days	18	18.6

Outcome Results

Activity 01: Provide nutritious school meals to school boys and girls in targeted areas, complementing the national programme, and strengthen national nutrition and gender-transformative social protection programmes that promote food security

Indicator	Subactivity	Sex	Baseline	End-CSP Target	2020 Target	2020 Follow-up	2019 Follow-up	2018 Follow-up	Source
School children; Nicaragua; Food									
Attendance rate (new)	School feeding (on-site)	Female	75	≥85	≥80	54.2			WFP survey
		Male	76.5	≥85	≥80	54.9			
		Overall	75.8	≥85	≥80	54.5			
Enrolment rate	School feeding (on-site)	Female	0	=3.5	=1	7.6			WFP programme monitoring
		Male	0	=3.5	=1	-6.2			
		Overall	0	=3.5	=1	0.83			
Gender ratio	School feeding (on-site)	Overall	0.97	=1	=1	0.97			WFP programme monitoring
Retention rate / Drop-out rate (new): <i>Drop-out rate</i>	School feeding (on-site)	Female	6.3	=5	=7	5.6			WFP survey
		Male	8.9	=5	=7	6.7			
		Overall	7.6	=5	=7	6.2			
Retention rate / Drop-out rate (new): <i>Retention rate</i>	School feeding (on-site)	Female	93.7	=95	=93	94.4			WFP survey
		Male	91.1	=95	=93	93.3			
		Overall	92.4	=95	=93	93.8			

Output Results

Activity 02: Provide government institutions with technical assistance in disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation with a view to reducing the vulnerability to food insecurity of populations prone to disasters

Output Category C: Capacity development and technical support provided

Output Category G: Linkages to financial resources and insurance services facilitated

Output	Output Indicator	Beneficiary Group	Sub Activity	Unit of measure	Planned	Actual
	C.4*: Number of people engaged in capacity strengthening initiatives facilitated by WFP to enhance national food security and nutrition stakeholder capacities (new)					
C: Populations vulnerable to climate events benefit from enhanced Government capacities in disaster risk management and climate change adaptation to promote food security	C.4*.1: Number of government/national partner staff receiving technical assistance and training		Institutional capacity strengthening activities	individual	100	188
	C.5*: Number of capacity strengthening initiatives facilitated by WFP to enhance national food security and nutrition stakeholder capacities (new)					
C: Populations vulnerable to climate events benefit from enhanced Government capacities in disaster risk management and climate change adaptation to promote food security	C.5*.2: Number of training sessions/workshop organized		Institutional capacity strengthening activities	training session	80	82
	C.7*: Number of national institutions benefitting from embedded or seconded expertise as a result of WFP capacity strengthening support (new)					
C: Populations vulnerable to climate events benefit from enhanced Government capacities in disaster risk management and climate change adaptation to promote food security	C.7*.1: Number of national institutions benefitting from embedded or seconded expertise as a result of WFP capacity strengthening support (new)		Institutional capacity strengthening activities	Number	3	15
	C.4*: Number of people engaged in capacity strengthening initiatives facilitated by WFP to enhance national food security and nutrition stakeholder capacities (new)					
C: Vulnerable populations benefit from strengthened institutional capacities to improve emergency preparedness and protect food security	C.4*.1: Number of government/national partner staff receiving technical assistance and training		Institutional capacity strengthening activities	individual	25	25

	C.5*: Number of capacity strengthening initiatives facilitated by WFP to enhance national food security and nutrition stakeholder capacities (new)					
C: Vulnerable populations benefit from strengthened institutional capacities to improve emergency preparedness and protect food security	C.5*.2: Number of training sessions/workshop organized		Institutional capacity strengthening activities	training session	40	82
	C.7*: Number of national institutions benefitting from embedded or seconded expertise as a result of WFP capacity strengthening support (new)					
C: Vulnerable populations benefit from strengthened institutional capacities to improve emergency preparedness and protect food security	C.7*.1: Number of national institutions benefitting from embedded or seconded expertise as a result of WFP capacity strengthening support (new)		Institutional capacity strengthening activities	Number	25	15
	G.7*: Number of tools developed to strengthen national systems for forecast-based early action (new)					
G: Populations vulnerable to climate events benefit from enhanced Government capacities in disaster risk management and climate change adaptation to promote food security	G.7*.2: Number of coordination/implementation tools developed		Institutional capacity strengthening activities	tool	2	2
	G.7*: Number of tools developed to strengthen national systems for forecast-based early action (new)					
G: Vulnerable populations benefit from strengthened institutional capacities to improve emergency preparedness and protect food security	G.7*.2: Number of coordination/implementation tools developed		Institutional capacity strengthening activities	tool	3	2
Activity 03: Provide technical assistance to smallholder farmers in order to increase their resilience, improve their livelihoods and reduce their vulnerability to adverse climate events						
Output Category A: Resources transferred						
Output Category F: Purchases from smallholders completed						
Output	Output Indicator	Beneficiary Group	Sub Activity	Unit of measure	Planned	Actual
	A.5*: Quantity of non-food items distributed					
A: Men and women farmers equitably receive training, agricultural inputs, services and climate information to improve their resilience and adaptation to climate change	A.5.13: Quantity of agricultural inputs (seeds, fertilizer) distributed		Climate adaptation and risk management activities	non-food item	4,500	5,477
	F.1*: Number of smallholder farmers supported/trained					

F: Men and women farmers equitably receive training, services and inputs to improve their sales in formal and institutional markets and thus improve their incomes and food security	F.1.22: Number of farmer organizations trained in market access and post-harvest handling skills		Climate adaptation and risk management activities	farmer organization	24	20
F: Men and women farmers equitably receive training, services and inputs to improve their sales in formal and institutional markets and thus improve their incomes and food security	F.1.23: Number of farmers contributing to the quantity of food purchased by WFP		Climate adaptation and risk management activities	individual	490	58
F: Men and women farmers equitably receive training, services and inputs to improve their sales in formal and institutional markets and thus improve their incomes and food security	F.1.53: Number of smallholder farmers supported by WFP		Climate adaptation and risk management activities	individual	5,250	7,228
	F.1*: Number of smallholder farmers supported/trained					
F: Women farmers receive training, services and inputs as part of the women's economic empowerment strategy to improve their access to markets and thus increase their incomes and food security	F.1.58: Number of women trained in leadership roles and responsibilities		Climate adaptation and risk management activities	individual	400	396

Outcome Results

Activity 03: Provide technical assistance to smallholder farmers in order to increase their resilience, improve their livelihoods and reduce their vulnerability to adverse climate events

Indicator	Subactivity	Sex	Baseline	End-CSP Target	2020 Target	2020 Follow-up	2019 Follow-up	2018 Follow-up	Source
Smallholder Farmers; Nicaragua; Capacity Strengthening									
Consumption-based Coping Strategy Index (Average)	Climate adaptation and risk management activities	Female	3.7	≤0	=3	7.25			WFP programme monitoring
		Male	2.23	≤0	=2	5			
		Overall	2.74	≤0	=2.5	6.02			
Food Consumption Score: <i>Percentage of households with Acceptable Food Consumption Score</i>	Climate adaptation and risk management activities	Female	32.84	=100	=100	95.45			WFP programme monitoring
		Male	65.2	=100	=100	99.07			
		Overall	98	=100	=100	97.04			
Food Consumption Score: <i>Percentage of households with Borderline Food Consumption Score</i>	Climate adaptation and risk management activities	Female	1.47	=0	=0	2.27			WFP programme monitoring
		Male	0.49	=0	=0	0			
		Overall	2	=0	=0	1.48			
Food Consumption Score: <i>Percentage of households with Poor Food Consumption Score</i>	Climate adaptation and risk management activities	Female	0	=0	=0	2.27			WFP programme monitoring
		Male	0	=0	=0	0.93			
		Overall	0	=0	=0	1.48			
Percentage of targeted smallholders selling through WFP-supported farmer aggregation systems	Climate adaptation and risk management activities	Female	3	≥6	=3.71	0.4			WFP programme monitoring
		Male	5.9	≥9	=6.71	0.8			
		Overall	8.9	≥15	=10.42	1.2			
Smallholder Farmers; Nicaragua; Food									
Value and volume of smallholder sales through WFP-supported aggregation systems: <i>Value (USD)</i>	Climate adaptation and risk management activities	Overall	792,259.98	≥1,474,215	≥1,474,215	907,429.07	1,246,362.65		WFP programme monitoring

Value and volume of smallholder sales through WFP-supported aggregation systems: <i>Volume (MT)</i>	Climate adaptation and risk management activities	Overall	1,054.15	≥1,589.5 1	≥1,589.5 1	809.78	1,489.75		WFP programme monitoring
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Strategic Outcome 03 : 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 - Root Causes

Output Results

Activity 04: Provide technical assistance to the Government in designing and implementing gender transformative interventions for promoting gender equality and food security and nutrition

Output Category C: Capacity development and technical support provided

Output Category K: Partnership supported

Output	Output Indicator	Beneficiary Group	Sub Activity	Unit of measure	Planned	Actual
	C.4*: Number of people engaged in capacity strengthening initiatives facilitated by WFP to enhance national food security and nutrition stakeholder capacities (new)					
C: Nicaraguans benefit from gender-transformative policies, social protection and productive programmes to promote gender equality and food security	C.4*.1: Number of government/national partner staff receiving technical assistance and training		Institutional capacity strengthening activities	individual	50	333
	C.5*: Number of capacity strengthening initiatives facilitated by WFP to enhance national food security and nutrition stakeholder capacities (new)					
C: Nicaraguans benefit from gender-transformative policies, social protection and productive programmes to promote gender equality and food security	C.5*.2: Number of training sessions/workshop organized		Institutional capacity strengthening activities	training session	3	24
	C.7*: Number of national institutions benefitting from embedded or seconded expertise as a result of WFP capacity strengthening support (new)					
C: Nicaraguans benefit from gender-transformative policies, social protection and productive programmes to promote gender equality and food security	C.7*.1: Number of national institutions benefitting from embedded or seconded expertise as a result of WFP capacity strengthening support (new)		Institutional capacity strengthening activities	Number	2	34
	K.1*: Number of partners supported					
K: Nicaraguans benefit from gender-transformative policies, social protection and productive programmes to promote gender equality and food security	K.1.1: Number of partners supported		Institutional capacity strengthening activities	partner	1	1

Strategic Outcome 04 : Populations affected by shocks have access to adequate and nutritious food during and after an emergency						- Crisis Response	
Output Results							
Activity 05: Provide food assistance to populations affected by shocks							
Output Category A: Resources transferred							
Output	Output Indicator	Beneficiary Group	Sub Activity	Unit of measure	Planned	Actual	
A:	A.1: Beneficiaries receiving cash-based transfers	All	General Distribution	Female Male Total	9,800 10,200 20,000		
A:	A.1: Beneficiaries receiving food transfers	All	General Distribution	Female Male Total	19,600 20,400 40,000	94,151	97,993 192,144
A:	A.1: Beneficiaries receiving food transfers	Children (pre-primary)	School feeding (on-site)	Female Male Total	4,200 4,200 8,400		
A:	A.1: Beneficiaries receiving food transfers	Students (primary schools)	School feeding (on-site)	Female Male Total	15,800 15,800 31,600		
A:	A.2: Food transfers			MT	1,008	936	
A:	A.3: Cash-based transfers			US\$	400,000	0	
	A.6*: Number of institutional sites assisted						
A: Populations affected by disasters and other crises have access to nutritious food to meet their food needs during and after emergencies	A.6.23: Number of schools assisted by WFP		Climate adaptation and risk management activities	school	1,000		

Outcome Results									
Activity 05: Provide food assistance to populations affected by shocks									
Indicator	Subactivity	Sex	Baseline	End-CSP Target	2020 Target	2020 Follow-up	2019 Follow-up	2018 Follow-up	Source
School feeding scale-up school children; Nicaragua; Food									
Attendance rate (new)	School feeding (on-site)	Female		≥90	≥80				Secondary data
		Male		≥90	≥80				
		Overall	71	≥90	≥80		81.93		
Gender ratio	School feeding (on-site)	Overall	0.93	=1	=1		0.93		Secondary data
Retention rate	School feeding (on-site)	Female	99.6	=100	=100		99.8		Secondary data
		Male	99.6	=100	=100		100.5		
		Overall	99.6	=100	=100		100.2		

Cross-cutting Indicators

Progress towards gender equality indicators

Improved gender equality and women's empowerment among WFP-assisted population									
Proportion of households where women, men, or both women and men make decisions on the use of food/cash/vouchers, disaggregated by transfer modality									
Target group, Location, Modalities	Activity	Subactivity	Category	Sex	Baseline	End-CSP Target	2020 Target	2020 Follow-up	2019 Follow-up
Smallholder farmers; Nicaragua; Capacity Strengthening	Act 03: Provide technical assistance to smallholder farmers in order to increase their resilience, improve their livelihoods and reduce their vulnerability to adverse climate events	Climate adaptation and risk management activities	Decisions made by women	Overall	12	≤25	≤25	18	
			Decisions made by men	Overall	72	≤25	≤25	45	
			Decisions jointly made by women and men	Overall	16	≥50	≥50	37	

Protection indicators

Affected populations are able to benefit from WFP programmes in a manner that ensures and promotes their safety, dignity and integrity								
Proportion of targeted people having unhindered access to WFP programmes (new)								
Target group, Location, Modalities	Activity	Subactivity	Sex	Baseline	End-CSP Target	2020 Target	2020 Follow-up	2019 Follow-up
Smallholder farmers; Nicaragua; Capacity Strengthening	Act 03: Provide technical assistance to smallholder farmers in order to increase their resilience, improve their livelihoods and reduce their vulnerability to adverse climate events	Climate adaptation and risk management activities	Female		≥100	≥100		
			Male		≥100	≥100		
			Overall	87	≥100	≥100	46	
Proportion of targeted people receiving assistance without safety challenges (new)								
Target group, Location, Modalities	Activity	Subactivity	Sex	Baseline	End-CSP Target	2020 Target	2020 Follow-up	2019 Follow-up
School children; Nicaragua; Food	Act 01: Provide nutritious school meals to school boys and girls in targeted areas, complementing the national programme, and strengthen national nutrition and gender-transformative social protection programmes that promote food security	School feeding (on-site)	Overall	93.80	≥90	≥90	94.12	
Smallholder farmers; Nicaragua; Capacity Strengthening	Act 03: Provide technical assistance to smallholder farmers in order to increase their resilience, improve their livelihoods and reduce their vulnerability to adverse climate events	Climate adaptation and risk management activities	Overall	86.76	≥90	≥90	85	
Proportion of targeted people who report that WFP programmes are dignified (new)								
Target group, Location, Modalities	Activity	Subactivity	Sex	Baseline	End-CSP Target	2020 Target	2020 Follow-up	2019 Follow-up
Smallholder farmers; Nicaragua; Capacity Strengthening	Act 03: Provide technical assistance to smallholder farmers in order to increase their resilience, improve their livelihoods and reduce their vulnerability to adverse climate events	Climate adaptation and risk management activities	Female	92.65	≥100	≥100	94	
			Male	97.69	≥100	≥100	96	
			Overall	95.90	≥100	≥100	95	

Accountability to affected population indicators

Affected populations are able to hold WFP and partners accountable for meeting their hunger needs in a manner that reflects their views and preferences								
Proportion of assisted people informed about the programme (who is included, what people will receive, length of assistance)								
Target group, Location, Modalities	Activity	Subactivity	Sex	Baseline	End-CSP Target	2020 Target	2020 Follow-up	2019 Follow-up
School children; Nicaragua; Food	Act 01: Provide nutritious school meals to school boys and girls in targeted areas, complementing the national programme, and strengthen national nutrition and gender-transformative social protection programmes that promote food security	School feeding (on-site)	Overall	91.20	≥95	≥95	96.41	
Smallholder farmers; Nicaragua; Capacity Strengthening	Act 03: Provide technical assistance to smallholder farmers in order to increase their resilience, improve their livelihoods and reduce their vulnerability to adverse climate events	Climate adaptation and risk management activities	Overall	0.49	≥80	≥80	8.71	

World Food Programme

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Schoolchildren in a rural community in RACCN benefiting from WFP's school feeding scale up implemented since Eta and Iota.

<https://www.wfp.org/countries/nicaragua>

Financial Section

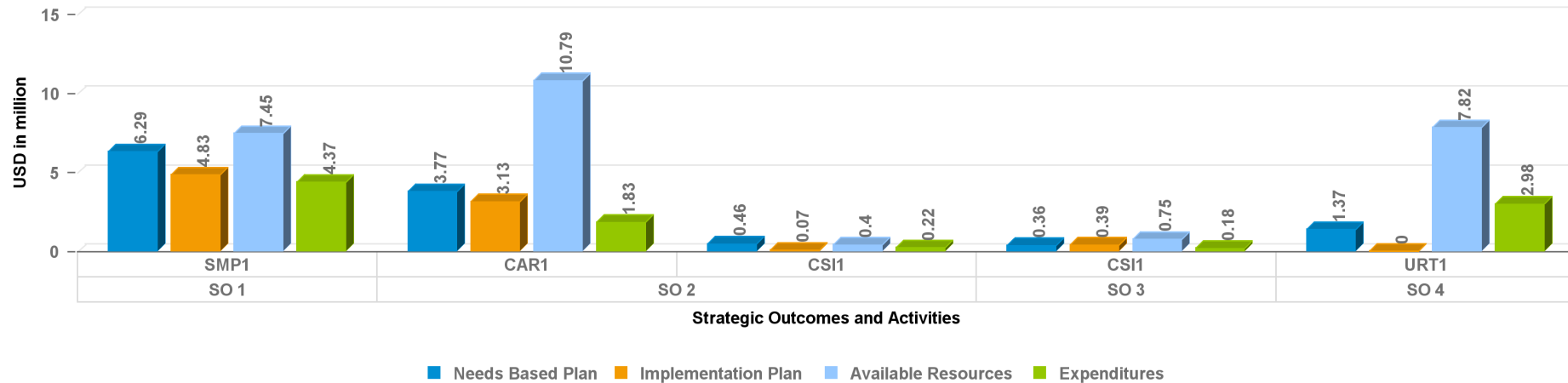
Financial information is taken from WFP's financial records which have been submitted to WFP's auditors.

Annual Country Report

Nicaragua Country Portfolio Budget 2020 (2019-2023)

Annual Financial Overview for the period 1 January to 31 December 2020 (Amount in USD)

Annual CPB Overview



Code	Strategic Outcome
SO 1	People in targeted areas who are living in poverty and/or are vulnerable to food insecurity have access to adequate nutritious food all year round by 2023
SO 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
SO 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
SO 4	Populations affected by shocks have access to adequate and nutritious food during and after an emergency
Code	Country Activity Long Description
CAR1	Provide technical assistance to smallholder farmers in order to increase their resilience, improve their livelihoods and reduce their vulnerability to adverse climate events
CS11	Provide government institutions with technical assistance in disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation with a view to reducing the vulnerability to food insecurity of populations prone to disasters
CS11	Provide technical assistance to the Government in designing and implementing gender transformative interventions for promoting gender equality and food security and nutrition
SMP1	Provide nutritious school meals to school boys and girls in targeted areas, complementing the national programme, and strengthen national nutrition and gender-transformative social protection programmes that promote food security
URT1	Provide food assistance to populations affected by shocks

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Strategic Result	Strategic Outcome	Activity	Needs Based Plan	Implementation Plan	Available Resources	Expenditures
1	People in targeted areas who are living in poverty and/or are vulnerable to food insecurity have access to adequate nutritious food all year round by 2023	Provide nutritious school meals to school boys and girls in targeted areas, complementing the national programme, and strengthen national nutrition and gender-transformative social protection programmes that promote food security	6,293,670	4,833,702	7,445,558	4,366,707
		Non Activity Specific	0	0	2,262,759	0
	Populations affected by shocks have access to adequate and nutritious food during and after an emergency	Provide food assistance to populations affected by shocks	1,372,788	4,075	7,821,845	2,984,681
		Non Activity Specific	0	0	3,823,973	0
Subtotal Strategic Result 1. Everyone has access to food (SDG Target 2.1)			7,666,458	4,837,777	21,354,135	7,351,388

Annual Country Report

Nicaragua Country Portfolio Budget 2020 (2019-2023)

Annual Financial Overview for the period 1 January to 31 December 2020 (Amount in USD)

Strategic Result	Strategic Outcome	Activity	Needs Based Plan	Implementation Plan	Available Resources	Expenditures
4	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	Provide technical assistance to smallholder farmers in order to increase their resilience, improve their livelihoods and reduce their vulnerability to adverse climate events	3,766,798	3,129,082	10,785,356	1,832,055
		Provide government institutions with technical assistance in disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation with a view to reducing the vulnerability to food insecurity of populations prone to disasters	455,589	65,319	401,534	223,252
		Non Activity Specific	0	0	3,093,375	0
Subtotal Strategic Result 4. Food systems are sustainable (SDG Target 2.4)			4,222,387	3,194,402	14,280,265	2,055,307
5	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	Provide technical assistance to the Government in designing and implementing gender transformative interventions for promoting gender equality and food security and nutrition	359,638	386,647	750,377	183,385
Subtotal Strategic Result 5. Countries have strengthened capacity to implement the SDGs (SDG Target 17.9)			359,638	386,647	750,377	183,385


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Annual Country Report

Nicaragua Country Portfolio Budget 2020 (2019-2023)

Annual Financial Overview for the period 1 January to 31 December 2020 (Amount in USD)

Strategic Result	Strategic Outcome	Activity	Needs Based Plan	Implementation Plan	Available Resources	Expenditures
	Non SO Specific	Non Activity Specific	0	0	3,121,290	0
Subtotal Strategic Result			0	0	3,121,290	0
Total Direct Operational Cost			12,248,483	8,418,825	39,506,066	9,590,080
Direct Support Cost (DSC)			1,430,271	1,262,825	2,336,727	1,090,253
Total Direct Costs			13,678,754	9,681,650	41,842,793	10,680,334
Indirect Support Cost (ISC)			889,119	629,307	1,780,765	1,780,765
Grand Total			14,567,873	10,310,958	43,623,558	12,461,099



Brian Ah Poe
Chief

Contribution Accounting and Donor Financial Reporting Branch

Columns Definition

Needs Based Plan

Latest annual approved version of operational needs as of December of the reporting year. WFP's needs-based plans constitute an appeal for resources to implement operations which are designed based on needs assessments undertaken in collaboration with government counterparts and partners

Implementation Plan

Implementation Plan as of January of the reporting period which represents original operational prioritized needs taking into account funding forecasts of available resources and operational challenges

Available Resources

Unspent Balance of Resources carried forward, Allocated contribution in the current year, Advances and Other resources in the current year. It excludes contributions that are stipulated by donor for use in future years

Expenditures

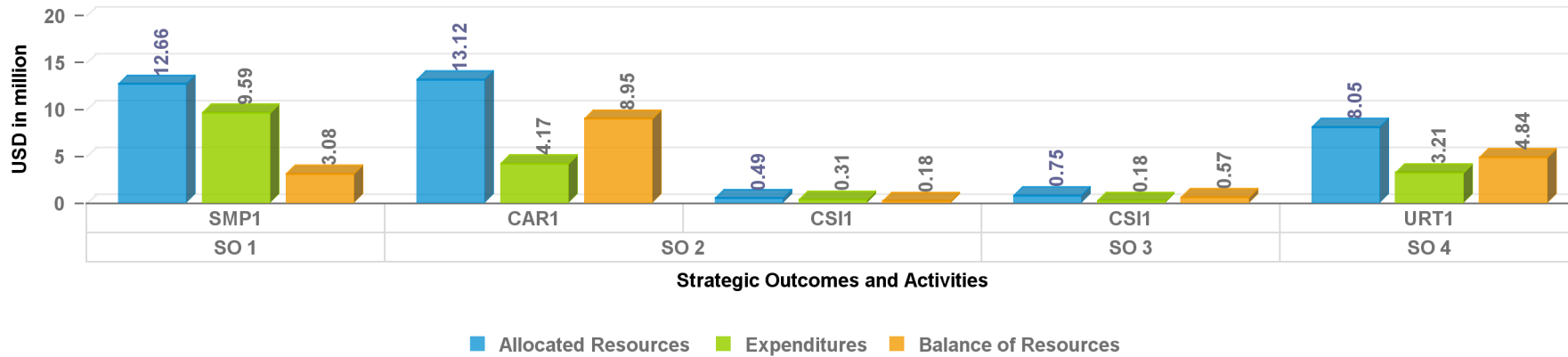
Monetary value of goods and services received and recorded within the reporting year

Annual Country Report

Nicaragua Country Portfolio Budget 2020 (2019-2023)

Cumulative Financial Overview as at 31 December 2020 (Amount in USD)

Cumulative CPB Overview



Code	Strategic Outcome
SO 1	People in targeted areas who are living in poverty and/or are vulnerable to food insecurity have access to adequate nutritious food all year round by 2023
SO 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
SO 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
SO 4	Populations affected by shocks have access to adequate and nutritious food during and after an emergency
Code	Country Activity - Long Description
CAR1	Provide technical assistance to smallholder farmers in order to increase their resilience, improve their livelihoods and reduce their vulnerability to adverse climate events
CSI1	Provide government institutions with technical assistance in disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation with a view to reducing the vulnerability to food insecurity of populations prone to disasters
CSI1	Provide technical assistance to the Government in designing and implementing gender transformative interventions for promoting gender equality and food security and nutrition
SMP1	Provide nutritious school meals to school boys and girls in targeted areas, complementing the national programme, and strengthen national nutrition and gender-transformative social protection programmes that promote food security
URT1	Provide food assistance to populations affected by shocks

Annual Country Report

Nicaragua Country Portfolio Budget 2020 (2019-2023)

Cumulative Financial Overview as at 31 December 2020 (Amount in USD)

Strategic Result	Strategic Outcome	Activity	Needs Based Plan	Allocated Contributions	Advance and Allocation	Allocated Resources	Expenditures	Balance of Resources	
1	People in targeted areas who are living in poverty and/or are vulnerable to food insecurity have access to adequate nutritious food all year round by 2023	Provide nutritious school meals to school boys and girls in targeted areas, complementing the national programme, and strengthen national nutrition and gender-transformative social protection programmes that promote food security	10,566,865	12,664,845	0	12,664,845	9,585,994	3,078,851	
		Non Activity Specific	0	2,262,759	0	2,262,759	0	2,262,759	
	Populations affected by shocks have access to adequate and nutritious food during and after an emergency	Provide food assistance to populations affected by shocks	2,274,801	7,133,039	915,559	8,048,598	3,211,434	4,837,164	
		Non Activity Specific	0	3,823,973	0	3,823,973	0	3,823,973	
	Subtotal Strategic Result 1. Everyone has access to food (SDG Target 2.1)			12,841,665	25,884,616	915,559	26,800,176	12,797,428	14,002,747

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Annual Country Report

Nicaragua Country Portfolio Budget 2020 (2019-2023)

Cumulative Financial Overview as at 31 December 2020 (Amount in USD)

Strategic Result	Strategic Outcome	Activity	Needs Based Plan	Allocated Contributions	Advance and Allocation	Allocated Resources	Expenditures	Balance of Resources
4	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	Provide technical assistance to smallholder farmers in order to increase their resilience, improve their livelihoods and reduce their vulnerability to adverse climate events	7,049,371	13,120,407	0	13,120,407	4,167,106	8,953,301
		Provide government institutions with technical assistance in disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation with a view to reducing the vulnerability to food insecurity of populations prone to disasters	1,236,420	492,042	0	492,042	313,760	178,282
		Non Activity Specific	0	3,093,375	0	3,093,375	0	3,093,375
Subtotal Strategic Result 4. Food systems are sustainable (SDG Target 2.4)			8,285,791	16,705,824	0	16,705,824	4,480,866	12,224,958

Annual Country Report

Nicaragua Country Portfolio Budget 2020 (2019-2023)

Cumulative Financial Overview as at 31 December 2020 (Amount in USD)

Strategic Result	Strategic Outcome	Activity	Needs Based Plan	Allocated Contributions	Advance and Allocation	Allocated Resources	Expenditures	Balance of Resources
5	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	Provide technical assistance to the Government in designing and implementing gender transformative interventions for promoting gender equality and food security and nutrition	604,894	751,959	0	751,959	184,968	566,991
Subtotal Strategic Result 5. Countries have strengthened capacity to implement the SDGs (SDG Target 17.9)			604,894	751,959	0	751,959	184,968	566,991
	Non SO Specific	Non Activity Specific	0	3,121,290	0	3,121,290	0	3,121,290
Subtotal Strategic Result			0	3,121,290	0	3,121,290	0	3,121,290
Total Direct Operational Cost			21,732,351	46,463,689	915,559	47,379,248	17,463,262	29,915,986
Direct Support Cost (DSC)			2,479,823	3,098,988	117,307	3,216,294	1,969,821	1,246,473
Total Direct Costs			24,212,173	49,562,677	1,032,866	50,595,543	19,433,083	31,162,459
Indirect Support Cost (ISC)			1,573,791	3,118,241		3,118,241	3,118,241	0
Grand Total			25,785,964	52,680,917	1,032,866	53,713,783	22,551,324	31,162,459



This donor financial report is interim
 Brian Ah Poe
 Chief

Contribution Accounting and Donor Financial Reporting Branch

Columns Definition

Needs Based Plan

Latest approved version of operational needs. WFP's needs-based plans constitute an appeal for resources to implement operations which are designed based on needs assessments undertaken in collaboration with government counterparts and partners

Allocated Contributions

Allocated contributions include confirmed contributions with exchange rate variations, multilateral contributions, miscellaneous income, resource transferred, cost recovery and other financial adjustments (e.g. refinancing). It excludes internal advance and allocation and contributions that are stipulated by donor for use in future years.

Advance and allocation

Internal advanced/allocated resources but not repaid. This includes different types of internal advance (Internal Project Lending or Macro-advance Financing) and allocation (Immediate Response Account)

Allocated Resources

Sum of Allocated Contributions, Advance and Allocation

Expenditures

Cumulative monetary value of goods and services received and recorded within the reporting period

Balance of Resources

Allocated Resources minus Expenditures