



WFP Nicaragua

Country Brief

September 2021

World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES



Operational Context

Nicaragua has been experiencing economic decline due to constant socio-political crisis, which continues to place it as one of the poorest countries in Latin America. Undernourishment has improved, yet the prevalence of chronic undernutrition is 17 percent and rates are higher in some regions, up to 30 percent. Additionally, obesity and malnutrition are on the rise.

Nicaragua is vulnerable to recurrent natural hazards, ranking 20th in the World Risk Report (2020). Food insecurity is closely related to poverty, frequent natural hazards and the effects of climate change. Agriculture accounts for 17 percent of the Gross Domestic Product and is the primary source of livelihoods for 90 percent of the rural population. Women farmers face higher challenges to access agricultural markets due to the persistence of structural gender inequality in terms of participation in agricultural activities, land ownership and access to farming resources in rural areas. WFP supports the Government's Zero Hunger efforts by strengthening national social protection programmes, fostering disaster risk reduction and food security of smallholder farmers. WFP has been present in Nicaragua since 1971.



Population: **6.63 million**

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

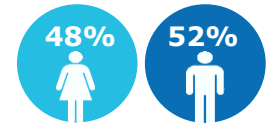
Income Level: **Lower middle**

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

In Numbers

USD 1.9 m six-months (October 2021 – March 2022) net funding requirements, representing 82% of total

263,095 people assisted in SEPTEMBER 2021



Operational Updates

- In September, WFP continued supporting Nicaragua's emergency response post-hurricanes Eta and Iota by scaling-up the school feeding programme. This month, 203,754 children (48 percent girls) from 2,501 schools located in communities affected by Eta and Iota were assisted with two nutritious hot meals. In line with WFP's commitment to programme quality, an evaluation of the transportation service was carried out in 120 schools.
- Under the BOOST project, WFP provided training on the establishment of vegetable gardens to 747 vulnerable families (57 percent headed by women) and provided assets and agricultural inputs to 888 smallholder farmers (52 percent headed by women). Through these activities, WFP contributes to food security by supporting the *Primera* harvest season, which grants vulnerable families with access to food for self-consumption and commercialization of surplus.
- During September, WFP continued executing an agricultural microinsurance pilot aimed at transferring risk and promoting investment. A total of 187 smallholder farmers from 8 farmer organizations are participating. The pilot also aims at reducing risks for farmers through soil conservation and water harvesting.
- As part of the second stage of the disaster risk reduction project supported by Luxembourg, WFP collaborated with the National System for the Prevention, Mitigation and Attention to Disasters (SINAPRED) and the Nicaraguan Institute of Agricultural Technology (INTA) in the development and execution of Participatory Community Planning (PCP) processes in two communities of the North Caribbean Coast Autonomous Region (RACCN). The project includes the implementation of two community projects aimed at the recovery of livelihoods in hurricane-affected areas.

WFP held meetings with SINAPRED and INETER to advance the design of an Early Warning System aimed at alerting against drought. This would be one of the few Early Warning Systems in the region, able to alert on slow developing climate risks, such as droughts. The insights provided by the System will also inform future WFP projects and programmes on emergency response, social protection and food security.

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Country Strategic Plan (2019–2023)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
109.4 m	72.7 m	1.9 m

Strategic Result 1: Everyone has access to food

Strategic Outcome 1: People in targeted areas who are living in poverty or vulnerable to food insecurity have access to adequate nutritious food all year round by 2023.

Focus area: Resilience

Activities:

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

Strategic Result 1: Everyone has access to food

Strategic Outcome 4: Populations affected by shocks have access to adequate and nutritious food during and after an emergency

Focus area: Crisis response

Activities:

- Provide food assistance to populations affected by shocks.

Strategic Result 4: Sustainable Food Systems

Strategic Outcome 2: Vulnerable communities and smallholder farmers in targeted areas benefit from sustainable food systems and have strengthened capacities to cope with shocks, climate change and natural hazards by 2023.

Focus area: Resilience

Activities:

- Provide government institutions with technical assistance in disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation to reduce the vulnerability to food insecurity of populations prone to disasters.
- Provide technical assistance to smallholder farmers to increase their resilience, improve their livelihoods and reduce their vulnerability to adverse climate events.

Strategic Result 5: Capacity Strengthening

Strategic Outcome 3: National institutions have improved capacities to advance gender equality and women's empowerment and to incorporate gender-transformative approaches into programmes, contributing to the achievement of zero hunger by 2023

Focus area: Root causes

Activities:

- Provide technical assistance to the Government in designing and implementing gender-transformative interventions for promoting gender equality and food security and nutrition.

Strategic Result 8: Sharing of knowledge, expertise and tech

Strategic Outcome 5: Humanitarian and government partners have access to reliable services during crises

Focus area: Crisis response

Activities:

- Provide on demand supply chain services to humanitarian and government partners.
- Provide supply chain services to government partners on a free-to-user basis to support emergency responses.

- In September, WFP completed a field visit to the South Caribbean Coast Autonomous Region (RACCS) to evaluate the state of tele-communications in the region, and establish a link to hurricane response preparedness in collaboration with SINAPRED. This is part of a sub-regional collaboration initiative, whereby WFP experts work with SINAPRED to develop a five-year tele-communications improvement plan, which also addresses emergency preparedness for the 2021 hurricane season.
- WFP worked with SINAPRED to design the methodology of a risk assessment that will be conducted in RACCN. The assessment will not only identify and map potential threats, but will incorporate an analysis of livelihoods, food security and capacities of local institutions that are key during emergency response.

COVID-19 Response

- As of late September, Nicaragua's Ministry of Health (MINSa) reported 14,251 positive COVID-19 cases and 204 fatalities. The highest number of monthly positive COVID-19 cases since the beginning of the pandemic were reported in September. WFP continues promoting practices among beneficiaries and staff to reduce contagion risk. WFP and UNICEF are also carrying out complementary actions to support schools with handwashing facilities.

Monitoring

- WFP field monitors and technical staff continue collecting information on the implementation of the school feeding programme, scale-up and community-level data.

Challenges

- The increase in COVID-19 cases in WFP intervention areas has posed logistical challenges for the implementation of projects and group activities. WFP is prioritizing the health of staff members, partners and beneficiaries through preventive measures.

Impact of Limited Funding

- For 2022, WFP has an urgent need for USD 4.4 m to meet the food requirements for the national School Feeding Programme (SFP). The SFP benefits over 180,000 boys and girls in municipalities highly vulnerable to food insecurity with hot meals, providing an important portion of their nutritional requirements.

Donors

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

Additional support has been provided by UN Central Emergency Response Fund and UN Multi-Partner Trust Fund.