



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES

# WFP Nicaragua Country Brief October 2021



## Operational Context

Nicaragua has been experiencing economic decline due to constant socio-political crisis, which continues to place it as one of the poorest countries in Latin America.

Undernourishment has improved, yet the prevalence of chronic undernutrition is 17 percent and rates are higher in some regions, up to 30 percent. Additionally, obesity and malnutrition are on the rise.

Nicaragua is vulnerable to recurrent natural 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**

2015 Human Development Index: **128 out of 189**

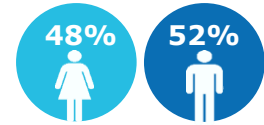
Income Level: **Lower middle**

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

## In Numbers

**USD 2.0 m** six months (November 2021-April 2022) net funding requirements, representing 18% of total

**262,855 people assisted** in OCTOBER 2021



## Operational Updates

- In October, 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 regional support, WFP carried out a systematization of experiences of the national School Feeding Program (SFP), in response to hurricanes Eta and Iota as shock-responsive social protection. During this month, interviews were conducted at national and territorial levels, and 14 schools were visited in Jinotega and the North Atlantic Coast Autonomous Region (RACCN).
- As a part of The Ministry of Women's (MINIM) Annual Operational Plan (AOP), supported by WFP, 150 bakery kits and 150 cooking kits were distributed to women entrepreneurs and mothers that had multiple births. Along with the kits, these women receive training to start a business and generate their own income as an economic empowerment initiative.
- In October, WFP trained 34 staff from multiple government institutions in data collection through digital tools. This aims to improve the quality and timeliness of data collected by the Government and in joint programs, supporting efficient project monitoring.
- WFP partnered with FAO and UNFPA on a campaign to celebrate the role of rural women in food production. In this context, the organizations held a webinar on economic and social empowerment opportunities for rural women, aimed at sharing experiences and key findings on the rights and productive role of rural women in food systems.
- Additionally, WFP's gender specialist continued strengthening capacities of WFP staff, in-field offices, and smallholder farmer organizations. Through weekly online training, this process aims to deepen participants' understanding of the

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## Country Strategic Plan (2019-2023)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
<b>109.4 m</b>	<b>72.9 m</b>	<b>2.0 m</b>

### Strategic Result 1: Everyone has access to food

**Strategic Outcome #:** 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.

empowerment of women in farmer organizations and promote the implementation of gender-sensitive activities.

- In October, eight local smallholder farmer organizations received validation by WFP Head Quarters' (HQ) Food Safety and Quality Unit (SCOQ). This process allows smallholder farmer organizations to become food providers for WFP's programmes, opening the door to a stable, formal market with fair prices for their production.
- As a part of the risk reduction project supported by Luxembourg, WFP and the National Agricultural Technology Institute (INTA) delivered 400 productive vouchers to vulnerable populations in Waspam and Prinzapolka, both located in RACCN. A community-based participatory planning exercise was performed as a part of a wider local livelihood analysis. This provides WFP, INTA and other institutions with key information for decision-making and programme design based on beneficiaries' perspectives.

## Monitoring

- WFP field monitors and technical staff continue collecting information on the implementation of the SFP, scale-up and community-level data.
- As a part of the mid-term BOOST project evaluation, a field mission was carried out during October. External evaluations interviewed beneficiaries, WFP partners, and FAO. The evaluation will continue in 2022.

## Challenges

- WFP faces challenges in the procurement of fortified cereal (known as CSB Plus), a key component of the SFP. CSB Plus needs to be procured internationally and takes approximately 5 months to arrive in country. In order to have CSB Plus available for the first distribution of the SFP in 2022, CSB Plus (valued at USD 560,000) needs to be purchased immediately.
- For 2022, WFP has an urgent need for USD 3.1 m to meet the food requirements for the national School Feeding Programme (SFP), which benefits over 180,000 boys and girls highly vulnerable to food insecurity, providing an important portion of their nutritional requirements.

## Donors

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