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.

Operational Updates

- In January, WFP held its planning staff retreat. It was a great opportunity to look back on 2021, reflect on WFP’s achievements, challenges and the road that lies ahead.
- In January, WFP with the Ministry of the Family continued supporting Nicaragua’s recovery post-hurricanes Eta and Iota by delivering food packages to 415 vulnerable elders and their families in Bilwi and Siuna, both hurricane-affected areas.
- WFP and the Nicaraguan Institute of Agricultural Technology (INTA for its Spanish acronym) also delivered agricultural and livelihood packages to 3,000 people in the North Caribbean Coast Autonomous Region (RACCN for its Spanish acronym) and Jinotega. Packages included bean, vegetable, plantain seeds and plants, as well as bio inputs. These packages support the recovery of livelihoods in areas affected by adverse climate conditions, with a strong focus on indigenous populations, which represent 60 percent of all beneficiaries.
- In January, WFP carried out two important consultation processes with beneficiaries. The first, aimed to identify communication channels to establish a feedback mechanism, was carried out in 35 communities with 62 percent participation of women and 50 percent participation of indigenous populations. The second process allowed WFP to validate the needs and informed consent for the implementation of a livelihood recovery programme in remote indigenous aquatic communities in Prinzapolka and Bilwi, giving beneficiaries a leading voice in the design and implementation of WFP’s actions.
- Moreover, WFP with the support of 26 smallholder organizations carried out an evaluation of the achievements under its 2021 annual operative plan and began the 2022 planning process to define which activities will be implemented in line with smallholder farmers’ needs. These include innovative actions like the scale-up of an agricultural micro insurance pilot and the
**WFP Country Strategy**

### Country Strategic Plan (2019-2023)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total Requirement (in USD)</th>
<th>Allocated Contributions (in USD)</th>
<th>Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>109.4 m</td>
<td>76.2 m</td>
<td>0.5 m</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

#### 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 2: 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 3: 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 4: 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.

WFP urgently requires USD 1.1 million to support livelihood recovery activities in areas highly vulnerable to food insecurity that are still recovering from the impact of hurricanes Eta and Iota. Moreover, WFP is currently experiencing a USD 260,000 funding gap that limits WFP’s ability to continue supporting risk reduction and disaster preparedness with the National System for Prevention, Mitigation and Attention to Disasters (SINAPRED), crucial to mitigating the impact of future disasters and enhancing emergency response capacities.

**Impact of Limited Funding**

- **WFP** urgently requires USD 1.1 million to support livelihood recovery activities in areas highly vulnerable to food insecurity that are still recovering from the impact of hurricanes Eta and Iota. Moreover, WFP is currently experiencing a USD 260,000 funding gap that limits WFP’s ability to continue supporting risk reduction and disaster preparedness with the National System for Prevention, Mitigation and Attention to Disasters (SINAPRED), crucial to mitigating the impact of future disasters and enhancing emergency response capacities.

**Donors**

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