



World Food Programme

SAVING  
LIVES  
CHANGING  
LIVES

# WFP Nicaragua Country Brief February 2022



## 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**

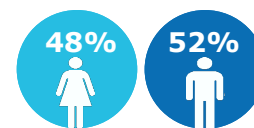
Income Level: **Lower middle**

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

## In Numbers

**USD 1.7 m** six months (March -August 2022) net funding requirements, representing 85% of total

**219,063 people assisted**  
in FEBRUARY 2022



## Operational Updates

- WFP and the Nicaraguan Institute of Agricultural Technology delivered agricultural and small livestock packages to 17,500 people in the North Caribbean Coast Autonomous Region (RACCN) Jinotega and Nueva Segovia. Packages include vegetables, fruits, bio-fertilizers, pigs, sheep, and goats. These packages support the recovery of livelihoods in areas affected by adverse climate conditions, focusing on Indigenous populations, representing 60 percent of all beneficiaries.
- WFP partnered with the Ministry of the Family to contribute to the food security of elders and their families, delivering 254 food packages in RAACN and Matagalpa.
- WFP and the Ministry of Women (MINIM, for its Spanish acronym) finalized their joint 2022 Annual Operational Plan outlining 2022 priorities and activities. These include capacity strengthening for public servants on food security and nutrition, gender and climate change, focusing on expanding MINIM's services to the Caribbean Coast, an underserved, remote part of the country with a large percentage of Indigenous populations and high levels of food insecurity. The plan also contemplates the development of a chatbot to provide women with information on violence prevention and other topics.
- In February, WFP carried out an internal survey to evaluate staff's knowledge and training gaps on gender. The results will guide WFP's gender training plan in 2022.
- To promote a nutritious and diverse diet, WFP created a recipe booklet to encourage the consumption of vegetables in vulnerable families. In February, five focal groups were carried out to validate the contents of the booklets.
- Under its risk reduction activity, WFP began an evaluation of the state of meteorological

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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>77 m</b>                      | <b>1.7 m</b>                                |

### 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.

- stations located in the Dry Corridor, an area heavily affected by drought. This will allow WFP to support managing institutions, enabling the provision of weather information, key for production in this area. A telecommunications tower was also installed in Waspam as a part of WFP's plan to improve telecommunications for emergency response in the Caribbean Coast.

- In February, 7 trainings on production, disaster risk reduction, food security and resilience were delivered to 438 beneficiaries under a joint Catholic Relief Services (CRS) - WFP livelihood recovery programme.

## Monitoring

- In February, WFP consulted 114 beneficiaries of Indigenous communities as part of its consultations to identify the most appropriate communication channel for a beneficiary feedback and complaints mechanism.

## Challenges

- As Russia is Nicaragua's second-largest donor, WFP had to reallocate USD 1 million to cover school feeding due to delays and uncertainty in shipping times. This leaves important activities that were already planned with limited or no funds available.
- WFP is performing an urgent budget revision to accurately reflect the funding requirements to address food insecurity in the Dry Corridor and areas affected by the protracted effects of Hurricanes Eta and Iota.
- The limited local and regional availability of Super cereal requires its international purchase, making WFP vulnerable to increasing prices and operational delays.

## Impact of Limited Funding

- Due to the uncertain international context, USD 5 million of WFP's funding for planned activities is at risk. WFP urgently requires USD 4 million to support its operations over the next year, including key programmes like school feeding and livelihood recovery activities in areas highly vulnerable to food insecurity. Moreover, WFP is currently experiencing a USD 250,000 funding gap that hinders WFP's ability to continue supporting risk reduction and disaster preparedness activities, crucial to mitigating the impact of future disasters and enhancing emergency response capacities.

## Donors

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