



WFP Nicaragua Country Brief April 2022

World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES



©WFP Photo: Sabrina Quezada / Girl eating school meal

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: **1.1 million**

2015 Human Development Index: **148 out of 188**

Income Level: **Lower middle**

Chronic malnutrition: **31% of children between 6-59 months**

In Numbers

2,374 mt of food assistance distributed*

USD 17.6 m six months (May-October 2022) net funding requirements, representing 38% of total

188,502 people assisted* in April 2022



*Preliminary figures

Operational Updates

- In April, WFP distributed 2,374.5 mt of food through the school meal programme, reaching 182,000 children who receive a hot meal a day through the school year. Also, 120,000 additional children living in the Dry Corridor, receive two meals a day during the lean season.
- In April, WFP completed its annual planning process with the National System for Disaster Prevention, Mitigation and Response (SINAPRED, for its Spanish acronym). Plans for 2022 include improving the emergency telecommunications network, developing a shared beneficiary registry to expand the coordination between relevant institutions, broadening the reach of the Early Warning System that covers other threats like landslides and floods.
- In line with the telecommunications improvement plan developed with SINAPRED, 25 radios were purchased by WFP and delivered to this institution to strengthen its coordination capacities.
- WFP is working with SINAPRED gathering lessons learned on the emergency response to Hurricanes Eta and Iota for designing evidence-based actions for preparedness and response to future disasters. In April, six interviews and 14 focus groups were conducted in Bilwi and Siuna in the North Caribbean Coast, including consultations with Indigenous communities to highlight traditional practices in emergency response.
- Operational plans were completed with 26 smallholder farmer organizations to support activities around production, capacity strengthening, commercialization agricultural insurances, last-mile climate information services and a biofortification pilot.
- Workshops on meteorology and interpretation of climate data, crop simulation models and agroclimatic information monitoring systems were carried out with 20 field technicians from ten smallholder farmer organizations.

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Country Strategic Plan (2019–2023)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
95.2 m	96 m	15.2 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.

- WFP partnered with the Nicaraguan Institute of Agricultural Technology (INTA, for its Spanish acronym) to provide 33 trainings on agricultural, biofertilizer and livestock management for smallholder farmers who received seeds and livestock to contribute to the recovery of their livelihoods.
- In April, WFP and the Ministry of Women launched a course of Women’s Rights and Violence Prevention in partnership with the Nicaraguan Autonomous University. This will enable 40 public officials to strengthen their capacities and further contribute to the development of public policy, programming, and national strategies to support women and their families.

Monitoring

- In April, WFP began its country strategic plan midterm review, a key process to assess progress towards goals and planned activities for 2022 and 2023.

Challenges

- The ongoing increase in shipping and commodity prices has reduced the amount of food that WFP is able to purchase with available funding. Moreover, WFP has had to divert funding from underfunded activities to avoid pipeline breaks in the school feeding programme caused by delays and uncertainty in commodities procured from Russia, its second largest donor. This puts critical activities at risk, including the repositioning of contingency stock to respond to emergencies in preparation for the hurricane season, forecasted to be above average. WFP is also 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.

Impact of Limited Funding

- WFP urgently requires USD 19.4 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. WFP is currently experiencing a USD 375,000 funding gap that hinders its ability to continue supporting risk reduction and disaster preparedness activities, crucial to mitigating the impact of future disasters and enhancing emergency response capacities.

Donors

Canada, European Union, Germany, Japan, Republic of Korea (the), Luxembourg, Nicaragua, private donors, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, and Switzerland.

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