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

- WFP is taking an innovative approach to disaster risk reduction by introducing insurance at the micro and macro level. In May, in coordination with the Ministry of Finance, WFP increased the Government’s Caribbean Catastrophe Risk Insurance Facility's insurance policy. In the event of a major disaster, WFP would receive a proportional payout to be directed towards school feeding and other shock-responsive social protection programmes.
- WFP has launched a pilot project with three smallholder farmer (SHF) organizations leveraging the production of biofortified beans for the school feeding programme; so far, 208 hectares have been planted. WFP is also supporting the production of 994 hectares of red beans and 784 hectares of maize, while also linking four SHF organizations with Walmart to plant 141 hectares of black beans for exports.
- WFP continues actively supporting The Ministry of Women’s expansion to the Caribbean Coast, a region with high levels of inequality and gender-based violence. Jointly with the Ministry of Women, WFP carried out training on different gender-related topics, including human rights and disability (120 participants with disabilities in 4 departments) and gender policy and equity (122 public servants in 4 departments). Workshops on family relations, domestic labor and women’s rights were also held with Indigenous people of the Caribbean Coast.
- WFP continues working with the National System for the Prevention, Mitigation and Attention to Disasters to compile lessons learned in the emergency response to Hurricanes Eta and Iota to support the design of evidence-based actions for preparedness and response to future disasters. In May, 8 interviews and 11 focus groups were conducted in Jinotega and Tola, and additional workshops were also held with nine government institutions that participated in the emergency response.

In Numbers

USD 15.1 m six months (June-November 2022) net funding requirements, representing 63% of total

205,751 people assisted* in May 2022

*Preliminary figures

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WFP Country Strategy

Country Strategic Plan (2019-2023)

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**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 on a free-to-user basis to support emergency responses.

**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 technical assistance to smallholder farmers to increase their resilience, improve their livelihoods and reduce their vulnerability to adverse climate events.

Monitoring

**In May, WFP performed its country strategic plan midterm review, a process key to assess progress towards goals and planned activities for 2022 and 2023. In addition, WFP began preparing logistics to gather data for the baseline follow-up monitoring exercise for families that have received support from WFP to establish vegetable gardens in their houses.**

**Challenges**

- Shipping delays and rapidly rising food prices and agricultural inputs, estimated to have increased by 50 percent in the past year, pose challenges for WFP. To mitigate the impact on agricultural production, WFP is supporting the local production of agricultural inputs at a small level. The country office is finishing a budget revision to increase its crisis response budget to provide life-saving assistance to populations impacted by multiple crises, including the forecasted economic impact of rising global prices.

**Impact of Limited Funding**

- WFP urgently requires USD 14.2 million to support crisis response operations in the next 6 months as the 2022 hurricane season begins with an above-average forecast. Limited funding has prevented the prepositioning of food stock in areas vulnerable to hurricanes, a key action to ensure an immediate, efficient response to potential emergencies. WFP is also experiencing a USD 288,000 funding gap that hinders WFP’s ability to continue supporting risk reduction and disaster preparedness activities.

**Donors**

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

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