



World Food Programme

SAVING
LIVES
CHANGING
LIVES

WFP Nicaragua

Country Brief

June 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: **6.1 million**

2020 Human Development Index: **128**
out of 188

Income Level: **Lower middle**

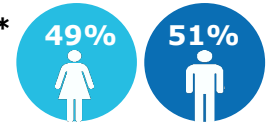
Chronic malnutrition: **17%** of children
between 6-59 months

In Numbers

2,374.5 mt of food assistance distributed
(covering the May-July school feeding period)

USD 11.3 m six months (July - December 2022) net funding requirements, representing 53% of total

304,731 people assisted*
in June 2022



*Preliminary figures

Operational Updates

- On 1 July, Tropical Storm Bonnie made landfall in Nicaragua. In coordination with the National System for the Prevention, Mitigation and Response to Disasters, WFP activated its emergency response preparedness protocol immediate food assistance for affected populations was required. Emergency response teams and telecommunication equipment were mobilized to the North and South Autonomous Caribbean Coast Region, and Siuna. Although it appears damage was not severe, Bonnie's effects on agricultural production are being evaluated.
- Potential crop loss linked to Tropical Storm Bonnie poses risks for food security, as it could further reduce agricultural production capacity at an already challenging time due to the high prices of fertilizers and agricultural inputs. WFP is prepared to support early recovery efforts in coordination with the Government.
- WFP assisted 1,908 vulnerable families in Jinotega, Matagalpa, Nueva Segovia, Madriz, and the Dry Corridor with agricultural inputs packages to establish home vegetable gardens. Of these, 600 were assisted in coordination with cooperating partners Catholic Relief Services and WeWorld-GVC. These packages aim to increase the economic resilience of vulnerable families, making them less dependent on volatile markets, which is particularly relevant during the current global food price crisis. The package delivery is also accompanied by training on composting, vegetable garden management, and gender-based violence.
- WFP also completed the development and printing of a vegetable-based recipe booklet, which will be shared with families assisted with the establishment of vegetable gardens. Recipes included in the booklet aim to inspire families to incorporate their home-grown vegetables into daily meals, contributing to diet diversification and nutrition.

Contact info: Marcela Herdocia (marcela.herdocia@wfp.org)

Country Director: Giorgia Testolin

Further information: [WFP Nicaragua](#)

Country Strategic Plan (2019-2023)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
122.5 m	100.2 m	11.3 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 Ministry of Women to launch a booklet highlighting women's role in climate change, food security, and disaster risk management, with a gender and human rights approach.
- In coordination with the Ministry of Education, WFP and the Ministry of Women trained 702 teachers in rural areas, including 50 of Indigenous Miskito ethnicity, on the rights and dignity of women. These trainings aim to strengthen their knowledge of peace culture and the legal framework of women's rights so that it can be reinforced in their classrooms.

Monitoring

- In June, WFP continued its regular monitoring activities. Remote data gathering was conducted for the baseline follow-up monitoring exercise for families that have received support from WFP to establish vegetable gardens in their homes.

Challenges

- Shipping delays and rapidly rising prices of food and agricultural inputs estimated to have increased by 50 percent in the past year due to the global food price crisis pose significant challenges for WFP. To mitigate the impact on production, WFP supports the local production of agricultural inputs at a small level.

Impact of Limited Funding

- WFP urgently requires USD 11.2 million to support crisis response operations in the next six months as the 2022 hurricane season, which has received an above-average forecast, is off to a concerning start with Tropical Storm Bonnie. This funding gap limits WFP's capacity to respond to slow-onset disasters and ensure an immediate, efficient response to potential quick onset emergencies, as it prevents the prepositioning of food stock in areas vulnerable to hurricanes. WFP's experience with major Hurricanes Eta and Iota proved that prepositioning food stock is a key factor for a successful, timely response.

Donors

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

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