In Numbers

3,027 MT of food assistance distributed (covering the May-July school feeding period)

USD 10.7 M six months (August 2022 - January 2023) net funding requirements, representing 75% of total

185,088 people assisted* in July 2022

*Preliminary figures

Operational Updates

- In early July, tropical storm Bonnie caused flash flooding, overflow in rivers and landslides in the North and South Caribbean Coast, with damages reported in 21 municipalities across Nicaragua. Early Government assessments indicate that at least 350 houses experienced flooding, 120 lost roofs, and five schools were damaged. There are negative effects on the production of various crops in the country. The most affected include corn, rice and bananas, and this creates concerns for the livelihoods of the rural families and the food security of entire communities, which are at risk of being unable to cope with the rising prices of agricultural inputs. WFP works with the National System for the Prevention, Mitigation and Response to Disasters (SINAPRED) to support early recovery efforts.

- In coordination with Action Against Hunger, WFP supported SINAPRED in the launch of a technological innovation challenge for Disaster Risk Reduction (DDR). Open to researchers, university professors, students and staff from government institutions, who are encouraged to work in teams to find innovative solutions, it aims to promote innovation in DDR education, mitigation and early warning systems.

- On July 28, WFP launched a course on DDR in coordination with the Bluefields Indian & Caribbean University and the Nicaraguan Institute of Agricultural Technology. With 30 participants from the Indigenous communities in Waspam and Rio Coco, the course aims to strengthen the adaptation capacities of Indigenous populations through skill development and a gender and intercultural approach to promote gender equity.

- In coordination with its cooperating partners, Catholic Relief Services and WeWorld-GVC, WFP assisted 794 vulnerable families (3,970 people) in the Dry Corridor providing agricultural inputs packages to establish home vegetable gardens. These packages aim to increase the economic resilience of vulnerable families.

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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
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>122.5 m</td>
<td>100.5 m</td>
<td>10.7 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 technology

**Strategic Outcome 4:** 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.

- As a part of WFP’s annual operational plan with the Ministry of Women, WFP organised four workshops on women’s rights, economic empowerment and legal framework for gender equality. Participants included women from six smallholder farmer organizations assisted by WFP in Matagalpa and Jinotega.

- In July, 36 staff members from WFP Nicaragua and SINAPRED participated in a regional workshop on nutrition in emergencies. Through this initiative, they are better prepared to protect the food security of vulnerable populations during and after emergencies, ensuring a nutritionally balanced approach to emergency response.

**Monitoring**

- In July, WFP collected the necessary data to create a baseline follow-up monitoring exercise on the families assisted by the Organisation in establishing home vegetable gardens.

**Challenges**

- The country is experiencing above-average rainfall levels, and the lack of a break in the rainy season, known in Spanish as the canícula - the early arrival of the dry warm period - puts a risk on the first agricultural season harvest and threatens additional dangers for the food security. Furthermore, it poses challenges for WFP when it conducts its regular monitoring activities due to, for example, damaged access roads.

**Impact of Limited Funding**

- WFP urgently requires USD 10.7 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 Strom Bonnie, this funding gap limits WFP’s capacity to ensure an immediate, efficient response. Moreover, the global food price crisis is pushing vulnerable families towards food insecurity and promoting the adoption of negative coping mechanisms. In response, WFP is advocating for support to provide school children in the North Caribbean Coast and the Dry Corridor with additional school meals.

**Donors**

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