In Numbers

**2,440 mt** of food assistance distributed (in 2022)

**USD 15.4 m** six months (September 2022 - February 2023) net funding requirements, representing 60% of total

**305,301 people** assisted* in August 2022

*Preliminary figures

### Operational Updates

- WFP inaugurated its Humanitarian Hub on 17 August. Located in the North Autonomous Region of the Caribbean Coast (RACCN, for its Spanish acronym), the Hub enables WFP and other United Nations agencies such as the Food and Agriculture Organization, UNOPS and UNICEF to provide lifesaving and life-changing assistance to this vulnerable, disaster-prone area. The Hub also aims to promote economic development in Bilwi and surrounding communities through the procurement of local goods and services.

- In August, WFP began providing assistance to four new smallholder farmer organizations in the Dry Corridor. WFP now assists 31 organizations with multiple services that support production, governance, and sustainability, including the provision of agricultural assets and inputs; water and soil management assets; technical assistance with sustainable agricultural practices; climate information and agricultural microinsurance; and gender and nutrition training.

- WFP finalized two studies that aim to shed light on the linkages between gender and food security. The first one looked into women’s empowerment and its contribution to food systems and food security and nutrition. The second study focused on understanding women smallholder farmers’ concept of happiness and its relationship with the dimensions of women’s empowerment. Both studies are under review and will be published in late 2022 to inform WFP project development and contribute to evidence-based interventions.

- WFP installed 26 water-harvesting systems in schools in the Dry Corridor. Also fitted with water filters, these systems will allow schools in this drought-stricken area to collect and store rainwater for the safe preparation of school meals for children, increased hygiene, and human consumption.

### Operational Context

Nicaragua has been experiencing economic decline due to constant social-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:** 6.7 million
- **2020 Human Development Index:** 128 out of 188
- **Income Level:** Lower middle
- **Chronic malnutrition:** 17% of children between 6-59 months

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

**Country Director:** Giorgia Testolin

**Further information:** WFP Nicaragua
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>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>122.5 m</td>
<td>100.5 m</td>
<td>15.4 m</td>
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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 to government partners on a free-to-user basis to support emergency responses.

**WFP Nicaragua Country Brief**

August 2022

- In collaboration with the non-governmental organization WeWorld GVC, WFP began the construction of ten community seed banks in Indigenous communities of Waspam as a measure aimed at improving community preparedness, livelihood recovery and social cohesion.

- Furthermore, WFP completed the second module, “Food Security and Nutrition,” of the Community Diploma Course on Disaster Risk Reduction delivered to ten Indigenous communities of Waspam, Rio Coco. In coordination with a local university and the National Institute for Agricultural Technology, this course aims to build adaptive capacities in these highly vulnerable communities.

- In coordination with its cooperating partners, Catholic Relief Services and WeWorld-GVC, WFP assisted 206 vulnerable families (1,030 people) in the Dry Corridor with agricultural input packages to increase economic resilience in this drought-affected area. The packages were complemented with training on the establishment and upkeep of vegetable and fruit gardens, as well as nutrition guidance.

**Monitoring**

- In August, WFP continued remote data-collection to monitor baseline indicators for smallholder farmer families assisted by WFP.

**Challenges**

- Rapidly rising prices of fertilizers and agricultural supplies could negatively impact current and future production. Moreover, above-average rainfall experienced in August could hamper the bean harvest, a national staple food and the main protein source for most Nicaraguan families.

- WFP requires USD 13.8 million to support crisis response operations in the next six months. The global food crisis is pushing vulnerable families towards food insecurity and the adoption of negative coping mechanisms. In response, WFP is advocating for support to provide vulnerable populations in RACCN and the Dry Corridor with food assistance, as well as promote the local production of organic inputs and the establishment of seed banks to increase resilience to shocks.

**Donors**

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