



World Food Programme

SAVING
LIVES
CHANGING
LIVES

WFP Nicaragua Country Brief September 2022



©WFP Photo: Heydi Salazar

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 21st in the World Risk Report (2022). 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**

2022 Human Development Index: **126 out of 191**

Income Level: **Lower middle**

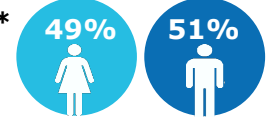
Chronic malnutrition: **17% of children between 6-59 months**

In Numbers

2,440 mt of food assistance distributed (covering the September-December school feeding period)

USD 15.6 m six months (October 2022 - March 2023) net funding requirements, representing 61 percent of total

305,307 people assisted* in September 2022



*Preliminary figures

Operational Updates

- On September 28, WFP and 7 smallholder farmers' (SHF) organizations set up a farmers' market in the capital to commercialize and visibilize their products. The event encouraged consumers to purchase directly from the producer and include vegetables in their diets.
- WFP promoted the establishment of commercial ties between SHF and the private sector to increase sustainability, strengthen capacities and contribute to greater income and food security. As a result, a farmer organization assisted by WFP sold 29 mt of red beans and 72 mt of black beans.
- In September, WFP and the Nicaraguan Institute of Agricultural Technology installed two production plants in the municipalities of Waspam and Siuna in the Autonomous Region of the Northern Caribbean Coast to produce organic inputs, like worm castings, and organic fertilizers. These plants will make it easier for smallholder farmers' families to access organic inputs overcoming the challenges posed by rising inflation and the global food price crisis.
- WFP supported 752 smallholder farmers (45 percent women) to establish 521 hectares of beans and 29 hectares of maize to promote food security through increased food production. Moreover, WFP encouraged beneficiaries to grow climate-resistant sorghum, coffee, pineapple, and plantain as a climate change adaptation measure and diversify beneficiaries' sources of incomes.
- As part of the agricultural microinsurance programme, in September, 11 SHFs received USD 1,812 in payouts for crop losses. This initiative protects SHF by transferring risk to the insurance company while promoting agricultural investment and enhances crop quality.

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	100.5 m	15.6 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.

- In addition, WFP coordinated the implementation of the module on disaster risk management of the Community Diploma. The diploma, which is implemented with a local university, aims to strengthen the adaptive capacities of ten Indigenous communities in Waspam and Río Coco for improved food security and nutrition.

- As a part of capacity-strengthening activities, WFP trained 10 field staff and 20 personnel from the Ministry of Women on gender-transformative approaches for food security and improved nutrition. This training aims to increase participants' understanding on the relation between gender, climate change and the structural barriers that hinder gender equality and women's empowerment to achieve food security. Ministry of Women's staff will then replicate the training with other public servants, multiplying its impact.

Monitoring

- In September, WFP continued remote data-collection to establish baseline values for future evaluations assessing the impact of WFP's programme on smallholder farmer families' food security and nutrition. Furthermore, WFP continued monitoring the distribution of school meals.

Challenges

- An above-average rainfall season is hindering the *postrera* agricultural cycle, causing increased risk of crop losses and pests. The adverse weather conditions are also posing challenges to implement infrastructure and equipment installation activities.

Impact of Limited Funding

- WFP requires USD 15 million to support vulnerable populations in quick and slow onset emergencies. Limited funding threatens WFP's ability to provide life-saving assistance to vulnerable populations affected by crises such as the global food crisis, adverse climate conditions in the Dry Corridor and hurricanes especially as Nicaragua is in the middle of an above-average hurricane season.

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.