**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.

**In Numbers**

- **2,440 mt** of food assistance distributed (covering food requirements for the school feeding programme from September to November 2022)

- **USD 21 m** six months (November 2022 - April 2023) net funding requirements, representing 68 percent of total

- **330,180 people** assisted* in October 2022

*Preliminary figures

**Operational Updates**

- Hurricane Julia impacted Nicaragua on 9 October, causing USD 368 million in damages and affecting 4,000,000 people in the country. Within 24 hours, WFP in coordination with the National System for Disaster Prevention, Mitigation, and Response (SINAPRED, for its Spanish acronym) provided immediate food assistance to 25,600 people in 104 communities in the municipality of El Rama, one of the most affected municipalities, as well as in the departments of Jinotega and Matagalpa. In El Rama, WFP provided electric generators and water pumps to restore 160 community wells enabling access to clean drinking water to 40 percent of the population in the municipality.

- Also, in coordination with SINAPRED, the World Health Organization and the International Organization for Migration, WFP completed the first phase of data collection on food security and nutrition consisting of 2,009 surveys in the North and South Caribbean Coast Autonomous Regions. This data is essential to better understand the food security situation in vulnerable areas to continue advancing towards the fulfillment of the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals and the construction of resilient food systems. It is also valuable to design an effective post-disaster response.

- To commemorate International Rural Women’s Day, WFP promoted exchanges on the role of smallholder farmers’ organizations on the sustainable empowerment of women farmers.
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>21 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 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 October, 144 public servants from 12 institutions received diplomas for the completion of a WFP-supported course on the linkages between women, food security and climate change. Delivered by the Ministry of Women and certified by the National Technology Institute, the course aims to provide public servants with a gender lens that integrates these crucial topics in each participating institutions.

- On 19 and 20 October, WFP conducted an Information Technology (IT) Boot Camp targeting members of eleven smallholder farmer organizations in Jinotega, Matagalpa and Estelí. It was aimed at strengthening the IT capacities of farmer organizations, promoting the use of virtual platforms for information management and marketing. Cybersecurity and good maintenance practices for computer equipment were also addressed.

**Monitoring**

- In October, WFP continued remote data collection to monitor baseline indicators for smallholder farmer families assisted by WFP. Furthermore, WFP continued monitoring the meal distribution through the school feeding programme.

**Challenges**

- Hurricane Julia caused severe flooding and heavy rains, limiting access to some of the most affected areas. Furthermore, the second phase of the food security and nutrition data collection was postponed, as WFP and SINAPRED focused their attention and resources on the immediate emergency response.

**Impact of Limited Funding**

- WFP needs USD 21 million to respond to crises that pose risks to the food security of the vulnerable population, including the adverse climate conditions in the Dry Corridor and the impacts of Hurricane Julia. As the 2022 hurricane season nears its end, the above-average forecast and high rain levels keep WFP on alert for the formation of additional tropical storms and hurricanes.

**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 the United Nations Central Emergency Response Fund and Multi-Partner Trust Fund.