



WFP Nicaragua Country Brief December 2022

World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES



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 14 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: **14% of children between 6-59 months**

In Numbers

85 mt of food assistance distributed

USD 5.3 m six months (January 2023 - June 2023) net funding requirements, representing 30 percent of total

332,099 people assisted* in December 2022



*Preliminary figures

Operational Updates

- WFP provided food kits to 29,000 beneficiaries affected by Hurricane Julia in the North Autonomous Region of the Caribbean Coast. The beneficiaries assisted included households with children under 3, elders and families with children not receiving school meals being out of the public school system.
- WFP provided training on disaster risk reduction and administration of seed banks to 30 Indigenous community leaders (47 percent women). The training has been delivered by a local university and aims to build the capacities of communities to directly manage the seed banks and increase the resilience of disaster-prone communities to climate shocks, enabling the recovery of their livelihoods.
- In December, WFP provided the Ministry of Family with 300 vegetable-based recipe books and 300 brochures on healthy diets. The materials feature nutritious recipe ideas that encourage the use of locally produced fruits and vegetables for a diversified diet. This aims to promote nutritional education in child development centres and maternity homes.
- WFP supported the National System for Disaster Prevention, Mitigation and Response (SINAPRED, for its Spanish acronym) to implement the fourth national multi-hazard simulation, a disaster preparedness exercise that aims to rehearse emergency response protocols for hurricanes, earthquakes and volcanic eruptions, among others. Six hundred thousand people throughout the country participated at the national, municipal and community levels.
- WFP is designing its annual operational plans with the Ministry of Women and with 30 smallholder farmer organizations. This process is the foundation for the resilience-building and capacity-strengthening work for 2023. It is based on an evaluation of the 2022 achievements and challenges, as well as priorities established for the upcoming year.

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- In December, WFP continued its remote data collection to monitor baseline indicators for smallholder farmers assisted by WFP. Furthermore, WFP continued the food security analysis of the data collected jointly with SINAPRED. The results will provide a better understanding of the effects of Hurricane Julia on food security.

Challenges

- The socioeconomic impact of Hurricane Julia in October 2022 and the global food crisis caused a rapid increase in food prices which tripled the cost of WFP's school feeding programme to assist 182,000 children and is threatening to interrupt emergency school feeding in the Dry Corridor for 120,000 children.

Donors

Canada, European Union, Germany, Italy, 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.

Country Strategic Plan (2019–2023)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
122.5 m	106.6 m	5.3 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.