



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Nicaragua Country Brief May 2023



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Operational Context

After a two-year recession, Nicaragua experienced economic growth in 2021 and 2022. However, it continues to be one of the poorest countries in Latin America. Undernourishment has improved, yet chronic undernutrition is 14 percent, with some regions reaching rates of up to 30 percent. Additionally, obesity and malnutrition are on the rise.

Nicaragua is vulnerable to recurrent natural hazards, ranking 21 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**

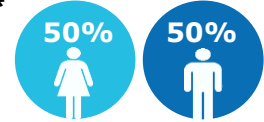
Income Level: **Lower middle**

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

In Numbers

USD 3.9 m six months (June - November 2023) net funding requirements, representing 36 percent of total

298,000 **people assisted*** in May 2023



*Preliminary figures

Operational Updates

- In May, WFP completed the rehabilitation of 23 school kitchens in the Dry Corridor, including installing eco-stoves. This contributes to the safe preparation of school meals for children while protecting parents' and teachers' health by reducing the amount of smoke they are exposed to while cooking.
- As a part of WFP's ongoing internal training, field staff from Siuna, Ocotal, Bilwi and Jinotega were trained on gender analysis and the economic value of unpaid domestic work. This aims to improve WFP's programming by strengthening its gender lens and ensuring activities are designed and implemented considering the time requirements of women, whose traditionally assigned roles include unpaid domestic work.
- In May, WFP and the Ministry of Family, Community, Cooperative and Associative Economy supported 370 families affected by Hurricane Julia to restore their livelihoods. As part of WFP's emergency response, the Ministry worked with these families to develop investment plans to help them recover while dynamizing the local economy.
- WFP started hosting FAO and UNOPS staff in its new field office in Bluefields, in the South Autonomous Region of the Caribbean Coast. It has been set up to support the emergency response to Hurricane Julia, allowing WFP and United Nations agencies to increase their field presence and coordination in this area vulnerable to disasters.

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Country Strategic Plan (2019-2023)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
132.1 m	116.2 m	3.9 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 coordination with the Central American University and the International Center for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT), WFP has begun delivering a diploma course (from May to August 2023) on climate data analysis. This aims to strengthen the climate-data interpretation capacity of 16 technicians (45 percent women) from 10 smallholder farmers' organizations in the Dry Corridor to enhance farmers' agricultural decision-making.
- Four staff members from WFP Nicaragua are participating in the regional Resilience, Food Security and Nutrition course from April to September 2023. The course is delivered by the Central American Public Administration Institute, a part of the Central American Integration System (SICA). It aims to strengthen the capacities of 30 WFP staff members from the region on local and national food security and nutrition governance.

Monitoring

- In May, WFP performed post-distribution monitoring in schools contributing to ensure the quality of the assistance provided to children and parents through school meals.

Challenges

- El Niño phenomenon is under development and is forecasted to impact the 2023-2024 agricultural production cycles. WFP is preparing to support populations vulnerable to food insecurity by providing additional school meals to 120,000 children in the Dry Corridor.

Impact of Limited Funding

- WFP is facing a USD 3.9 million funding gap to prepare its contingency stock as the 2023 hurricane season begins and the El Niño phenomenon sets in. WFP's contingency stock allows for immediate assistance to disaster-prone populations.

Donors

Canada, European Union, Germany, Italy, Japan, Republic of Korea (the), Luxembourg, Nicaragua, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, and Switzerland.

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