

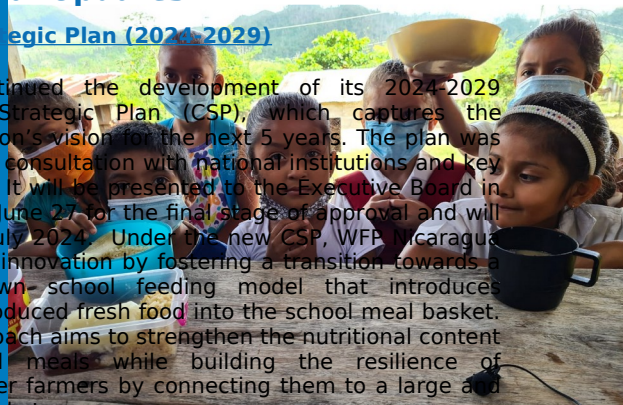


# WFP Nicaragua Country Brief Annual Updates May 2024

Strategic Plan (2024-2029)

World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES  
LIVING WITH DIGNITY  
CHANGING LIVES



WFP continued the development of its 2024-2029 Country Strategic Plan (CSP), which captures the organization's vision for the next 5 years. The plan was drafted in consultation with national institutions and key partners. It will be presented to the Executive Board in Rome on June 27 for the final stage of approval and will start on July 2024. Under the new CSP, WFP Nicaragua is driving innovation by fostering a transition towards a home-grown school feeding model that introduces locally produced fresh food into the school meal basket. This approach aims to strengthen the nutritional content of school meals while building the resilience of smallholder farmers by connecting them to a large and stable market.

## Operational Context

### School Feeding

Despite the economic growth seen in recent years, Nicaragua has been struck by multiple crises and continues to be one of the poorest countries in Latin America. The national School Feeding Program, the largest social protection program in Nicaragua, provides school meals to 1.2 million children across the whole country, with WFP specifically supporting 180,000 vulnerable children in communities within the Dry Corridor, a region severely affected by poverty and climate change. This program also serves as a crucial safety net, considering that these communities are still recovering from the effects of the 2018 El Niño, which impacted agricultural production and caused incomes to diminish among smallholder farmers. Moreover, given the alarming forecasts for the 2024 Hurricane Season, this program is vital to protect the food security of children, as it enables rapid expansion in response to emergencies through provision of a second meal or the distribution of food packages for affected families.

### Climate Change Adaptation

Nicaragua is highly exposed to recurrent natural hazards, ranking 21st in the 2023 World Risk Index. Food insecurity is closely related to the impact of these extreme climate events on the country. Currently, 1.2 million people in the Nicaraguan Dry Corridor, has been approved by the Adaptation Fund with WFP Nicaragua as supervising entity. The project aims to reduce the climate vulnerability of smallholder farmers and their agro-ecosystems by increasing their adaptive capacity through the rehabilitation of their agricultural livelihoods. As part of the initial activities, WFP is preparing for the inception workshop to kickstart the project. WFP is collaborating with the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources (MARENA) to assess all necessary requirements and ensure everything needed to start implementation is in place and aligns with fund regulations.

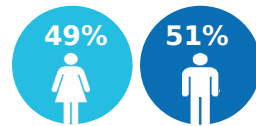
### Emergency Preparedness and Response

As part of WFP's emergency preparedness activities for the 2024 Hurricane Season, a two-day emergency preparation and response workshop was held in the Ocotal and Jinotega sub-offices, with 30 staff members participating. The workshop emphasized the importance of readiness in light of the alarming forecasts from Nicaragua's National Institute of Territorial Studies (INETER), which warn that this season resembles the one present in 1998, the year Hurricane Mitch caused unprecedented devastation in the country.

## In Numbers

**USD 7.2M** six months (June 2024 - November 2024) net funding requirements, representing 38% of total requirements

**188,722 people** assisted\* in April 2024



\*Preliminary figures

Population: **6.7 million**

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

Income Level: **Lower middle**

Chronic malnutrition (Stunting): **14.9% of children less than 5**

# WFP Country Strategic Plan

## Country Strategic Plan (2019-2024)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
151.7 M	126.6 M	7.2 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 2024.

**Focus area:** Resilience

**Activities:**

- Provide nutritious school meals to schoolboys 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 2024.

**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 2024.

**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.

- Topics covered included WFP's Response Plan and the

strategies to better support national efforts to respond to the impact of hurricanes. This plan has been built based on the experiences responding to three recent hurricanes (Eta, Iota and Julia). Moreover, key measures discussed included the relevance of prepositioning food, which prove to be essential for the immediate response post-hurricanes Eta, Iota, and Julia, when flooded main roads hindered the delivery of assistance.

## Monitoring

- WFP continues to monitor the impact of El Niño on vulnerable communities in the Dry Corridor. According to the "National Plan for Production, Consumption, and Commerce 2024/2025," the agricultural cycle of 2023-2024 was significantly affected by El Niño, resulting in the agricultural sector meeting only 86.4% of its annual targets. Agro-export production declined by 12.1% compared to the previous cycle, while basic grains production saw an average decrease of 13.5%. In light of this national report on agricultural production, and the combined effects of El Niño, the anticipated La Niña conditions, and the concerning forecasts for the 2024 Hurricane Season, the impact on the already vulnerable communities that WFP targets could be severe.
- WFP continues designing its monitoring strategy for the new Country Strategic Plan (2024-2029). This strategy will seek to enhance program effectiveness, support informed decision-making and strengthen accountability measures for the organization.

## Challenges

- As WFP Nicaragua approaches the conclusion of its current Country Strategic Plan, the primary challenge lies in securing funding for its upcoming plan, set to begin in July 2024. This challenge is compounded by the global backdrop of limited resources and competing needs.

## Impact of Limited Funding

- WFP urgently requires USD 1.1 million to procure food for forthcoming distributions of the School Feeding Programme. If no additional funding is secured, WFP will be unable to reach its commitments to support this critical social protection program.
- With the imminent start of the 2024 Hurricane Season, forecasted to be exceptionally active, the urgency intensifies for WFP to secure USD 4.7 million to establish a contingency stock and be prepared to provide immediate food assistance to potentially affected populations. WFP is monitoring the situation closely and will inform key partners of relevant developments.

## Donors

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

Additional support has been provided by UN Central Emergency Response Fund and UN Multi-Partner Trust Fund.

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