



WFP Nicaragua Country Brief

March 2018

Operational Context

Whilst Nicaragua has achieved sustained economic growth and human development in recent years, it continues to be a food deficit country (FAO 2016) and one of the poorest countries in Latin America. Undernourishment has improved, yet the prevalence of chronic undernutrition is 17 per cent and rates are higher in Madriz (30 per cent), Jinotega, and Nueva Segovia (28 per cent). Additionally, obesity and overweight are on the rise.

Nicaragua is vulnerable to recurrent natural disasters, ranking fourth in the Long-Term World Climate Risk Index (Germanwatch, 2016). Food insecurity is closely related to poverty, recurrent natural disasters and the effects of climate change.

Agriculture accounts for 17 per cent of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and is the main source of livelihoods for 90 per cent of the population, including women and men farmers. However, women farmers face greater challenges than men to access to agricultural markets due to the persistence of a gender gap in rural areas.

WFP supports the Government's Zero Hunger efforts by strengthening social safety nets, fostering disaster risk reduction and food security of smallholder farmers. WFP has been present in Nicaragua since 1971



Population: **6.08 million**

2016 Human Development Index:
124 out of 188

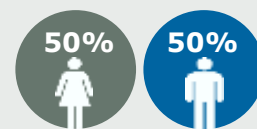
Income Level: **Lower middle**

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

In Numbers

USD 4 m six months (April -September 2018)
net funding requirements

164,200 m people
assisted
in March 2018



Operational Updates

- In March, WFP and the Ministry of Education supported 164,200 pre and primary schoolchildren with school meals, delivered every day in some of the most remote and poorest communities in the Northern Autonomous Caribbean Coast (RACCN) and Jinotega. For some of these boys and girls, this is the only nutritious meal that they receive during the day, providing an important source of micronutrients, including vitamins and minerals through bio-enriched foods. The meals guarantee access to food, whilst incentivizing school attendance.
- WFP continued to strengthen capacities of assisted farmer organizations (FOs), to promote their access to formal agricultural markets. In March, as a result of cumulative efforts, one of the FOs was included in the roster of providers of new formal buyers, bringing about new opportunities to its smallholder farmer members. Additionally, WFP purchased 66 metric tons of beans from this FO for the school meal programme, therefore generating linkages between the local production and the largest social protection programme in the country.
- With the aim of fostering resilience and climate change adaptation, WFP also supported smallholder farmers with the implementation of working sessions on water harvesting, reforestation, and forest management. These actions sought to promote the sustainable use of natural resources and recover depleted resources in the Dry Corridor, allowing smallholder farmers to better cope with climate variability.
- WFP also conducted a seasonal livelihoods programming (SLP) exercise, targeting smallholder farmers and other community members from the department of Nueva Segovia. The event was organized in collaboration with government institutions with the aim of informing the planning of activities in a more effective manner.

Main
Photo

Credit: WFP/Sabrina Quezada
Caption: WFP beneficiaries in Nicaragua

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WFP Country Strategy		
Total Requirement (in USD)	Confirmed Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
Transitional Interim Country Strategic Plan (2018)		
10.2	3.82m	4.53m
Strategic Result 1: Everyone has access to food		
Strategic Outcome 1: Pre and primary schoolchildren and persons living with HIV have access to adequate food and nutrition during 2018 <i>Focus area: Root Causes</i>		
6.42 m	1.75m	4 m
Strategic Result 1: Everyone has access to food		
Strategic Outcome 4: Shock affected populations have access to adequate and nutritious food after an emergency <i>Focus area: Crises Response</i>		
0.72 m	0.59 m	0.34 m
Strategic Result 2: End Malnutrition		
Strategic Outcome 2: Nutritionally vulnerable groups in the targeted areas meet their nutritional needs during 2018 <i>Focus area: Root Causes</i>		
0.25 m	. m	0.19 m
Strategic Result 3: Smallholder Farmer Productivity		
Strategic Outcome 3: Smallholder farmers in targeted departments increase their food security and access to markets all year round <i>Focus area: Resilience</i>		
0.96 m	0.88 m	. m
Strategic Result 5: Capacity Strengthening		
Strategic Outcome 5: National institutions and programmes are strengthened to prevent and respond to shocks during 2018 <i>Focus area: Resilience</i>		
0.21 m	0.21 m	. m

WFP Country Activities

SO 1	Provide school meals to pre and primary school children in targeted municipalities to incentivise access to the NSMP and increase access to food Provide food assistance to HIV patients
SO 2	Provide food assistance to PLW/G and children aged 6-36 months to prevent malnutrition.
SO 3	Provide assistance to smallholder farmers to enhance access to formal markets, generating linkages with national social safety nets and empowering women.
SO 4	Scale-up school meals for schoolchildren in shock-affected areas Provide food assistance to shock-affected populations.
SO 5	Provide technical assistance to the government in disaster risk management, supporting national programmes

Monitoring

- Following the first school meal distribution of the year, WFP conducted its post-distribution monitoring exercise during March to follow up on the process indicators. These activities were conducted in both Jinotega and RACCN, the geographical areas that are assisted by WFP in partnership with the Ministry of Education.

Challenges

- In order to provide much needed support to 164,200 school children through the School Meal Programme through the end of the year, WFP is urgently seeking USD 2.8 million for the next six months. The funds are needed to cover food requirements including maize, beans, Super Cereal, vegetable oil, and wheat flour; and to continue to support the Ministry of Education with technical assistance.
- Despite resource mobilization efforts, the Mother and Child Health activities has been severely underfunded since the beginning of the County Programme. Failing to provide assistance negatively impacts the status of nutritionally vulnerable groups. WFP is seeking USD 284,700 to cover current needs.
- HIV activities have been discontinued due to lack of funding; USD 40,900 are needed to support 1,600 patients.

Fostering Disaster Risk Reduction through stronger information management

Given Nicaragua's high exposure and vulnerability to weather extremes and climatic conditions, strengthening disaster risk reduction is key for achieving food security in the country. Therefore, WFP is working alongside its government partner, the National System for Disaster Prevention, Mitigation, and Attention (SINAPRED) to strengthen its risk monitoring capacities through the establishment of an information platform for risk mapping. During March, WFP supported SINAPRED in the launching of the platform system, using video tutorials and providing technical assistance to SINAPRED's staff. WFP will continue to work with SINAPRED to further improve these systems and ensure that the country is ready to provide a more effective response prior and during emergencies.

Donors

Canada, European Union, Japan, Nicaragua, Private Donors, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, and Switzerland.

