



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Nicaragua Country Brief August 2021



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 20th in the World Risk Report (2020). 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: **6.63 million**

2020 Human Development Index: **128 out of 189**

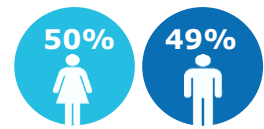
Income Level: **Lower middle**

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

In Numbers

US\$ 1 m six months (September 2021-February 2022) net funding requirements

233,358 people assisted in AUGUST 2021



Operational Updates

- In August, WFP continued supporting Nicaragua's emergency response post-hurricanes Eta and Iota by scaling-up the school feeding programme. This month, 202,816 children (48 percent girls) from 2,483 schools located in communities affected by Eta and Iota were assisted with two nutritious hot meals. Additionally, a total of 79,023 take-home food packages were delivered between February and July to support food security of impacted families in the aftermath of the emergency.
- In August, WFP and the Nicaraguan Institute of Agricultural Technology (INTA) delivered 2,500 maize vouchers in RACCN and Jinotega, completing the delivery of 12,683 productive vouchers, including seeds or small livestock, bio-inputs, and tools to families in hurricane-affected areas. WFP also provided families with informative material about the programme in Spanish and Miskito and technical guidance to improve productive capacities, income and knowledge on food security, gender, and resilience.
- WFP is preparing to implement a project to enable the production of beans with a higher zinc and iron content. In coordination with INTA, smallholder farmers will receive high quality biofortified bean seeds, the produce of which will be provided to the school feeding programme, improving the nutritional value of the meals for school-aged children while providing a stable source of income for farmers.
- In August, WFP continued to strengthen capacities in the field. WFP's nutrition expert delivered training on healthy nutrition and food hygiene to 11 farmer organizations and WFP field staff. Moreover, WFP's nutrition and gender expert delivered a workshop on good nutrition practices to staff of the Ministry of Women (MINIM). MINIM took part in a Training of Trainers (ToT) workshop to public sector staff.
- In line with the WFP-MINIM action plan, WFP supported MINIM with the translation of informative flyers on drug prevention and women's rights to Miskito, Creole and Mayagna, ensuring the inclusion of some of the most vulnerable communities.
- With the objective of mitigating the impact of the pandemic for Nicaraguan families, WFP began the distribution of in vitro-plants, certified seeds, and tools to government institutions and beneficiaries in coordination with the Government of Nicaragua and the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

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Country Strategic Plan (2019–2023)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
109.4 m	71.6 m	1 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 August, WFP continued preparing for the 2021 hurricane season, which is expected to be very active, to be able to respond most rapidly and effectively in the Caribbean Coast. In order to provide an efficient and context-appropriate response in all stages of an emergency, WFP is working with the nutrition expert to make adjustments to the contents of food packages and packaging to be able to respond to emergencies in different contexts and regions.

- As a part of a sub-regional collaboration initiative, WFP experts on Information and Communication Technologies provided technical support to the National System for Prevention, Mitigation and Attention to Disasters (SINAPRED) to develop a 5-year telecommunications improvement plan, which also addresses emergency preparedness for the 2021 hurricane season.

COVID-19 Response

- As of late August, Nicaragua's Ministry of Health (MINSAs) reported 11,735 positive COVID-19 cases and 200 fatalities. The highest number of weekly positive COVID-19 cases since the beginning of the pandemic were reported in the last two weeks of August. WFP continues promoting practices among beneficiaries and staff to reduce contagion risk. WFP and UNICEF are also carrying out complementary actions to support schools with handwashing facilities.

Monitoring

- WFP field monitors and technical staff continue collecting information on the implementation of the school feeding programme, scale-up and community-level data. In August, WFP collected baseline follow-up information for the BOOST project remotely in order to reduce risks associated with COVID-19.

Challenges

- The increase in COVID-19 cases in WFP intervention areas has posed logistical challenges for the implementation of projects and group activities. Some of the smallholder farmer organizations WFP works with have had to temporarily close their facilities. WFP is prioritizing the health of staff members, partners and beneficiaries through preventive measures.

Impact of Limited Funding

- In line with the WFP-MINIM 2021-2023 Strategic Plan, WFP will continue conducting awareness campaigns on gender-based violence, as well as supporting MINIM in increasing its focus on the Caribbean Coast and strengthening its partnerships to promote the participation of women in science and technology. The implementation of these activities in 2022 may require up to US\$ 180,000.

Donors

Canada, European Union, Germany, Japan, Government of Nicaragua, Luxembourg, Private Donors, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, and Switzerland. Additional support has been provided by UN CERF and UN MPTF.