



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES

# WFP Nicaragua Country Brief July 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**

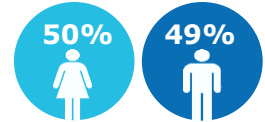
Income Level: **Lower middle**

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

## In Numbers

**USD 3.1 million** six-month net funding requirements

**350,000** people assisted in July 2021



## Operational Updates

- In July, WFP continued supporting Nicaragua's emergency response post-Hurricanes Eta and Iota by scaling-up the school feeding programme and distributing take-home rations. 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. As part of its school feeding activity, WFP continues building water-harvesting systems, kitchen storage areas and handwashing stations in schools in the North Caribbean Coast Autonomous Region (RACCN). Improvements in infrastructure increase schools' resilience to climate change and extreme weather conditions, while also enabling COVID-19 prevention through WASH facilities.
- WFP delivered 914,795 kitchen supplies and 5,170 desks to local delegations of the Ministry of Education, who will distribute the items to 2,430 schools in Jinotega, Nueva Segovia and the North Caribbean Coast Autonomous Region (RACCN). These items will contribute to improving safe food preparation.
- In July, WFP and the Nicaraguan Institute of Agricultural Technology (INTA) continued delivering seeds, bio-inputs, small livestock and tools to 448 families as well as 800 additional rice vouchers, distributed in Las Minas, a hurricane-affected area with strong rice demand. WFP also provided 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.
- In the context of producers' limitations to plant during the *primera* planting season due to delayed rainfall, WFP enabled 11 smallholder farmer organizations in Matagalpa, Estelí and Jinotega to plant approximately 2,143 hectares of corn and beans. These food staples protect food security in vulnerable areas and provide a critical source of income for farmers.
- WFP has provided 2,981 vulnerable families with seeds, fertilizer and farming tools to establish vegetable gardens. By growing fresh vegetables and fruits, families can diversify their production during a period of adversity due to below-average rainfall and continued effects of hurricanes Eta and Iota.
- In July, WFP continued to strengthen its collaboration with other field actors. WFP's nutrition and gender experts delivered workshops on health and nutrition to local indigenous leaders, WFP staff and key government institutions, including the Ministry of Women (MINIM) and INTA.

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## Country Strategic Plan (2019–2023)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
<b>109.4 million</b>	<b>71.6 million</b>	<b>3.1 million</b>

### 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.

- WFP held a working session with the National System for Disaster Prevention, Mitigation, and Attention (SIAPRED) to support the incorporation of a gender focus to its Needs and Damages Assessment.
- WFP and SINAPRED are also working with a local business to create a natural disaster risk reduction and integral management communications plan that integrates the linkages between emergency response, gender and food safety. Through audiovisual content, this plan aims to influence the behavior of populations affected by natural disasters.
- WFP provided INTA with assistance to set up internet connectivity for their offices in Siuna, Bilwi and Waspán, enabling improved communications at a country-wide level. In addition, WFP contributed to the basic equipment of 14 community brigades located in areas with a high recurrence of disasters, with the distribution of 71 protective gear and lighting tools, 75 fire extinguishing tools and 6 first aid tools.

### COVID-19 Response

- As of late July, Nicaragua's Ministry of Health (MINSa) reported 9,853 positive COVID-19 cases and 196 fatalities. Thus, 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 July, WFP completed the collection of baseline data for the EU Resilience project, which aims to protect hydric resources and increase the resilience of vulnerable families in the Dry Corridor.

### Challenges

- Late start of the raining season caused significant delays for the *primera* planting season. In fact, 30 to 40 percent of smallholder farmers currently assisted by WFP decided against planting. Added to the harvest loss caused by Eta and Iota and off-season rainfall, this sets a difficult stage for smallholder farmers. WFP continues to monitor the situation.

### 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 2021 may require up to USD 150,000.

### Donors

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