



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES

# WFP Nicaragua Country Brief May 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 21st in the World Risk Report (2019). 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**

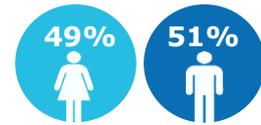
Income Level: **Lower middle**

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

## In Numbers

**USD 1.1 million** Net Funding Requirements

**505,710 people assisted**  
May 2021



## Operational Updates

- In May, WFP continued supporting Nicaragua's emergency response post-Hurricanes Eta and Iota. With the Ministry of Education (MINED), and the National System for Prevention, Mitigation and Response to Disasters (SINAPRED), WFP completed the distribution of take-home rations consisting of a 15-day supply for three people of oil, rice, beans, and flour (or corn, depending on the area) to affected families with kids in school. The one-time distribution in Jinotega, Nueva Segovia, Rivas, and North Caribbean Autonomous Region (RACCN) benefits 64,023 families (192,069 people) with food packages while efforts are directed towards the first agricultural cycle. Since the affected areas include indigenous communities, WFP also produced pamphlets in Spanish and Misquito to promote healthy diets and safe food-handling behaviours.
- As the school-feeding scale up is ongoing, WFP also assisted about 199,100 children (48% girls) from 2,400 schools located in communities impacted by Eta and Iota. The supply of both, the regular and the additional hot school meal, reduces households' food insecurity and nutritional deficiencies and helps access education and human capital development as communities recover from the Hurricanes.
- Additionally, in May, WFP and the Nicaraguan Institute of Agricultural Technology (INTA) delivered seeds, bio-inputs, tools to 4,270 families (10,381 people), Another 5,100 packages will be delivered in June. WFP also provided informative material in Spanish and Misquito, with information on the programme and technical guidance to improve their productive capacities and income.
- Furthermore, in May, WFP continued to strengthen its coordination and collaboration with other field actors. As part of these efforts, WFP's nutrition specialist trained Gruppo di Volontariato Civile's staff (GVC) based in RACCN on healthy diets; personal hygiene, anaemia; pillars of food security and nutrition; malnutrition; and feeding of children under six years of age. This is a strategic partnership to spread technical knowledge and expertise since GVC will replicate this training in the communities they are present.
- Extreme rainfall and heavy winds annually threaten smallholder farmers' crops and food security. To increase their resilience, WFP started a pilot to assist five smallholder farmers' organizations, 350 smallholder

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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>\$71.3 million</b>	<b>\$1.1 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.

farmers (41% women), with agricultural insurance. The value chains covered under the insurance scheme are staple grains (rice, beans and maize) and vegetables (tomatoes, potatoes, onions, bell peppers). WFP also assisted 26 farmers organizations with the acquisition of assets, inputs, materials and tools for the 2021 agricultural cycle, which will begin with the onset of rains.

- For the first time, WFP implemented Livelihoods Assessments at the municipal level in Waspam and Prinzapolka, municipalities impacted by Eta and Iota and with a high level of vulnerability. Forty-eight villagers (50% women) from the different communities in the municipalities, including indigenous communities, participated in the assessments. The products of this activity including maps and calendars will be key in the design of prevention and response measures to multi-hazards, tailored to local needs. Following the Diagnoses, three communities were visited to ensure prioritization and ownership by communities.

### COVID-19 response

- As of late May, Nicaragua's Ministry of Health (MINSa) reported 7,324 positive COVID-19 cases and 186 fatalities. Thus, WFP continues promoting practices among beneficiaries and staff, to reduce contagion risk. Furthermore, WFP and UNICEF are 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 regular programme, scale-up and community-level data based on inputs from key informants. Through this exercise, WFP can have a community-level overview of the local situation after Eta and Iota, including how people are obtaining food.

### Challenges

- The fragile infrastructure of targeted schools in some of the most remote and hard to reach areas of Nicaragua is posing storage limitations. Thus, WFP is delivering food items for the school meals in two phases. It is of utmost importance to invest in their improvement.

### Impact of Limited Funding

- In collaboration with the Ministry of Women (MINIM), WFP drafted the Annual Operational Plan. Besides continuing awareness campaigns on gender-based violence, WFP will support MINIM in increasing its focus on the Caribbean Coast and strengthen 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

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