



WFP Nicaragua Country Brief

WFP Assistance

Country Programme 200434 (1 April 2013 – 31 March 2018)	Total Requirements (in USD)	Total Received (in USD)	6 Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)*
	33.5 m	32.0 (96%)	0.7 m

*November 2017 - April 2018

The Country Programme (CP) aims to break the inter-generational cycle of undernourishment and hunger among the most vulnerable in Nicaragua.

Through Mother and Child Health activities, WFP provides nutritional support to vulnerable groups living in communities with high chronic malnutrition rates in municipalities recurrently affected by drought in Nueva Segovia and Madriz.

The school meals programme supports access to education with a daily meal to pre and primary school children in the most food insecure municipalities in Jinotega and North Caribbean Coast Autonomous Region (RACCN). WFP also supports the national strategy with nutrition education, school gardens, infrastructure improvement, technical assistance and training to government staff and strengthening of community organizations.

WFP also provides an additional meal to school children in municipalities affected by shocks. This response is in line with the Government strategy to augment its existing social safety net programmes to reach the most vulnerable during times of hardship. Children receive a mid-morning meal through the National School Meals Programme and a lunch before going home, with the support of WFP.

Through the resilience programme, WFP seeks to ensure that vulnerable communities are better prepared to cope with shocks. Resilience objectives are being mainstreamed primarily through the school garden initiative and smallholder farming activities.

The mitigation and safety nets programme aims to enhance adherence to anti-retroviral therapy (ART) among HIV affected people in Managua and Chinandega.

Main Credit: WFP/Sabrina Quezada
Photo Caption: Members of WFP's assisted Farmer Organization (FO) COMPARE, after the harvest of beans

Highlights

- In October, Nicaragua was severely impacted by heavy monsoon rains and weather extremes, causing extensive damages across half of the territory and crop losses during the main harvesting season. Government assessments indicate that 10,000 families have been directly impacted and figures are expected to rise. Whilst the Government is responding to the emergency, it has requested WFP's support during the recovery phase. WFP will assist 29,000 people in most affected areas, together with government partners. Net funding requirements stand at 48 percent, with USD 880,000 urgently needed to continue to ensure access to food and restore livelihoods. Thus far, WFP has only received a EUR 200,000 contribution from the Government of Italy that will bring much needed support to vulnerable Nicaraguan families.

Finally, WFP supports smallholder farmers associated in farmer organizations (FOs) to improve their food security and incomes, generating sustainable development. To do so, WFP connects them to local markets and social safety nets, leveraging its food demand; and fosters their capacities with technical assistance. Women farmers receive particular support through WFP's economic empowerment strategy.

Restoring Food Security and Livelihoods for Vulnerable Groups Affected by Recurrent Shocks in El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua Regional PRRO: 200490 (1 January 2014 – 31 December 2017)	Total Requirements (in USD)	Total Received (in USD)	6 Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)*
	188.8 m	105.0 m (56%)	10.5 m

* November 2017 - April 2018

The regional PRRO aims to respond to small and medium scale emergencies through the provision of food assistance to affected families. WFP has contingency stocks available for a rapid response.

WFP supports the National System of Disaster Attention, Prevention and Mitigation (SINAPRED) capacity in emergency preparedness and response through technical assistance, training, reproduction of materials, simulation exercises and strengthening of community organizations and local governments.

In Numbers

172,800 people targeted by WFP in Feb. 2017

167,000 people assisted by WFP in Feb. 2017



Operational Updates

- With the aim of strengthening the gender perspective in Nicaragua's emergency response, WFP conducted training sessions on gender in emergencies in the framework of SINAPRED's National Training Plan for 997 members (482 women and 515 men) from the Committees for Disaster Prevention and Response. The National Training Plan aims to generate strong preparedness and response capacities at all levels of the disaster risk management system.
- In order to improve the climate resilience of smallholder farmers in the Dry Corridor, WFP conducted trainings on water harvesting and water reservoirs with two of its assisted Farmer Organizations (FOs). This is part of the El Niño response, implemented over the course of two years with the support of the European Union.
- Additionally, WFP continued to implement capacity strengthening activities with its assisted FOs, focusing particularly on plague control, post-harvest losses, agricultural techniques, and storage. Business management capacities and linkages to markets were fostered through trainings on administration and accounting; and through business rounds with market leaders in Nicaragua, such as Café Soluble.

Gender Equality

- As part of its efforts to generate gender awareness and women empowerment, WFP conducted workshops on "new masculinities" with men and women of its FOs. These activities targeted 40 members of the management and administration committees, and took place in the framework of a strategy that seeks to generate transformative change and help remove gender barriers that hinder women farmer's access to markets and food security. Agricultural inputs were also distributed for women farmer's use.

Challenges

- Despite resource mobilization efforts, the Mother and Child Health component has been severely underfunded since the beginning of the Country Programme. Failing to provide assistance negatively impacts the status of nutritionally vulnerable groups. WFP is seeking USD 214,000 to cover current needs.
- HIV activities have been discontinued due to lack of funding, with no distributions planned for 2017. WFP needs USD 21,000 to support 1,600 people.

Nicaragua's Response to the Emergency

Since monsoon rains started, the Government of Nicaragua has been responding with early preventive measures and decisive action, saving lives and ensuring that timely assistance was delivered to those in need. To prevent further deterioration and help the most vulnerable recover, WFP will complement the Government's efforts with assistance through January 2018. This will include general food distributions, covering the daily caloric requirements of 29,000 affected Nicaraguans. Additionally, to restore the livelihoods of subsistence farmers, WFP will support 4,000 families with vouchers to procure agricultural inputs in local markets through the Government's food security bonus programme, using it as a shock-responsive safety net.

Country Background & Strategy



Nicaragua is a low income, food deficit country and considered one of the poorest countries in Latin America. 29.5 percent of households live in poverty and 8.3 percent in extreme poverty on less than USD 1.25 a day (INIDE 2015). Poverty levels are higher in rural areas where 50 percent of the population is poor and 11.5 percent lives in extreme poverty. The highest rates of chronic malnutrition occur in the departments of Madriz (30 percent), Jinotega and Nueva Segovia (28 percent), located in the northern Dry Corridor (ENDESA 2011/2012).

Nicaragua is vulnerable to recurrent natural disasters that impede progress in addressing poverty and food insecurity. It is ranked fourth in the Long-Term World Climate Risk Index (Germanwatch, 2016). Food insecurity in Nicaragua is closely related to poverty, recurrent natural disasters and effects of climate change. Agriculture is the primary economic activity and engages almost 70 percent of the population and contributes to 20 percent of the country's GDP.

Historically, Nicaragua has been characterized by strong gender disparities. While there has been progress in recent years, the gap between men and women remains high, especially in rural settings, where traditional roles predominate at both the workplace and household level (USAID 2012).

WFP supports the Government of Nicaragua's Zero Hunger Programme by strengthening social safety nets, addressing prevention of chronic malnutrition and improving food security of smallholder farmers.

WFP has been present in Nicaragua since 1971.

Population: **6.08 million**

2015 Human Development Index: **125 out of 188**

Income Level: **Lower middle**

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

Donors

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

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