



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)*
	36.2 m	31.5 m (87%)	1.6 m

*June - November 2017

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 Photo Credit: WFP/Sabrina Quezada
Caption: Primary school girl in the community of Watera doing her assignment after receiving the school meal.

Highlights

- With the timely support of Yum! Brands, WFP managed to close its only funding gap in its school meals programme and procure Super cereal for the upcoming food delivery, preventing pipeline breaks. The Super Cereal is a highly nutritious component of the food basket, providing important micronutrients that children often lack in the targeted communities. The Yum! Brands team visited Nicaragua in May to learn more about the School Meals programme and its link to smallholder farmers, seeing first-hand the benefits that its contribution brings to schoolchildren in the most remote and poorest areas.

Finally, WFP supports sustainable development by improving the income of smallholder farmers associated in Farmer Organizations (FOs). 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)*
	13.4 m	2.4 m (18%)	13 m (80%)

* June - November 2017

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 (SINPARED) 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

167,030 people assisted by WFP in Feb. 2017



Operational Updates

- WFP conducted working sessions to promote forward contracts with two of its assisted farmer organizations (FO). This purchasing modality consists of negotiating the sale prior to the harvesting season. WFP piloted this type of purchase contract in 2016 for the first time and confirmed that it benefits farmers, allowing them to plan accordingly in advance and obtain credit. At the same time, for WFP, this guarantees that the product will be timely received for its food deliveries, conducted under its portfolio of activities. WFP will continue to work with these two FOs with the aim of securing forward contracts in 2017.
- As part of its efforts to foster Nicaragua's capacities in emergency preparedness, WFP is providing technical assistance to SINAPRED in telecommunication and geo-referencing systems. The aim is to help identify the most suitable solutions to equip SINAPRED's mobile Centres of Information. Such systems are used to capture and process information when disasters strike and systems shut down.

Gender

- Under its women economic empowerment strategy, WFP began assisting women farmers to develop business plans. These are five-year strategic documents, where participants outline their production goals, resources and support that they will need to achieve such targets. These proposals allow them, in turn, to advocate for funding with the donor community and Ministry of Family Economy that works with agricultural producers. Thus far, the Ministry has expressed interest in helping some of the women make these plans a reality. Additionally, some of these groups of women secured their first sales of maize to the local market.

Challenges

- Despite resource mobilization efforts, the Mother and Child Health component of the Country Programme has been severely underfunded since its beginning. Failing to provide continued assistance negatively impacts the nutritional status of the most vulnerable. To continue to provide nutritional assistance in 2017, WFP is seeking USD 214,000.
- 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.

Building a more food secure environment in schools in San Rafael del Norte

With the generous support of Yum! Brands, WFP is building kitchens, storage rooms, and dining facilities in four rural schools in the north of the country. This will not only ensure that food is kept and prepared under safer conditions, but it will also make a significant difference for the members of the community, who had not option but to prepare the food offsite and carry it every morning to the schools. The works are expected to finalize before the end of the year. This is highly valued by Nicaragua's Ministry of Education, who is interested in furthering this type of collaboration.

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.

Contact info: Maria Elena Velazquez, mariaelena.velazquez@wfp.org

Country Director: Antonella D'Aprile

Further information: www.wfp.org/countries/nicaragua