



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	30 m (83%)	0.3 m (36%)

*May - October 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 Credit: WFP/Sabrina Quezada
Photo Caption: Pre and primary children in the community of Watera receiving their daily school meal.

Highlights

- WFP has secured all commodities, except for Super Cereal, to reach 163,000 schoolchildren through the end of 2017 through the school meals programme. The Super Cereal is a key component, as it raises the nutritional value of the school meal. With the generous support of its trusted donors, WFP expects to start the procurement of this product in the coming weeks.
- In April, the Ambassador of the European Union (EU) visited WFP assisted areas in Estelí, currently supported by the EU under their 'El Niño Response in the Dry Corridor of Central America'. At the farmer organization, the participants thanked the EU and WFP for their support, which will allow them to provide higher quality products and receive better prices in a region that is recurrently impacted by drought, affecting the livelihoods of smallholder farmers.

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%)	0.1 (64%)

* May - October 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

169,788 people assisted by WFP in Feb. 2017



April 2017

Operational Updates

- WFP and the Ministry of Education (MINED) conducted the second school meal distribution of the year, in support of 162,710 schoolchildren in over 2,000 schools, in some of Nicaragua's most remote and vulnerable communities. The distribution will cover the needs for 60 school days. The meals incentivize school attendance and make a valuable nutritional contribution to children from low-income families, as for some this is the only nutritious food that they eat during day.
- WFP continued to hold Food Security and Nutrition workshops for technicians and members of four farmer organizations (FO), including 8 women and 13 men. The topics ranged from the different gendered dimensions of nutrition to issues such as food safety, food storage, and nutrition-sensitive agriculture. This allowed smallholder farmers and FO technicians to learn more about the importance of adopting healthy and nutritious eating habits at the household level, thus making a valuable contribution in a context where diets often lack diversity and consist predominantly of carbohydrates.
- As part of its efforts to foster Nicaragua's emergency preparedness, WFP provided SINAPRED with equipment, including software and printers. These tools will be used by Information Capture Centres during national emergency simulation exercises, completed three times per year.

Gender

- In order to foster awareness and empower women smallholder farmers, in 2017 WFP will implement a series of gender workshops aimed at strengthening and mainstreaming a gender approach within FOs. In April, WFP and one of its assisted organizations, UCA San Ramon, agreed to collaborate, with UCA sharing its experience promoting gender and methodologies with fellow WFP-assisted FOs.

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.

Fostering South-South Cooperation for Stronger School Meal Programmes

- With the aim of encouraging South-South cooperation, the Director of MINED's Integral Program of School Nutrition is participating in the VIIIth Latin American Seminar of School Feeding with the support of WFP. During this three-day seminar, held in Mexico, the goal is to share good practices from the region. The Director will highlight Nicaragua's experience using school meals as a shock-responsive safety net to mitigate the impacts of drought. Nicaragua is successfully implementing this strategy since 2014.

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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