



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	32.1 (96%)	-

*December 2017 - May 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 the 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.

Finally, WFP supports smallholder farmers associated in

Main Credit: WFP/Sabrina Quezada
Photo Caption: Gender event with the members of WFP's assisted farmer organizations

Highlights

- WFP is preparing to support the victims of the monsoon rains that rendered thousands in need of assistance last month. Starting in December, the response will complement the Government's assistance through general distributions to guarantee access to food. Additionally, WFP will support the Government's Food Security Bonus programme, providing vouchers for agricultural inputs to help smallholder farmers restore their livelihoods. USD 680,000 are needed to assist 29,000 Nicaraguans in the most affected areas.
- In order to provide much needed support to 163,000 school children through the school meals programme, WFP is urgently seeking USD 2.4 million. The funds are needed to cover food requirements of the first distribution of the year in early 2018, including rice, maize, beans, super cereal, vegetable oil, and wheat flour.

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 a Women 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 m (56%)	-

* December 2017 - May 2018

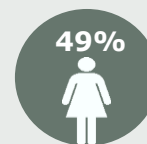
The regional PRRO aims to respond to small and medium scale emergencies through the provision of food assistance to affected families. WFP has contingency stocks available for a rapid response.

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

164,100 people assisted by WFP in Nov. 2017

167,000 people assisted by WFP in Feb. 2017



November 2017

Operational Updates

- In November, WFP supported 164,000 school boys and girls living in some of Nicaragua's poorest communities with daily school meals. For some of the children, these mid-morning meals are the only nutritious meal that they receive in the day, thus providing much needed access to food and incentivising school attendance. Additionally, WFP and the Ministry of Education provided trainings on food handling and storage to avoid food spoilage for the members of the School Meal Committees, integrated by parents and teachers. The committees play a key role in the implementation of the programme.
- With the aim of improving the food security and livelihoods of smallholder farmers, WFP continued to work with its assisted farmer organizations (FOs) to boost their productive and commercial capacities. The activities focused on productivity; sustainable agricultural practices; post-harvest handling; and strategies for enhancing commercialisation, communication, and leadership. Additionally, under its Women Economic Empowerment Strategy, women farmers received training on basic accounting and financial education to promote the sound management of their production costs and sales.
- In order to strengthen Nicaragua's emergency preparedness and response capacities, WFP supported SINAPRED in the implementation of trainings on Emergency Food Security Assessment (EFSA). These training sessions were conducted in the framework of SINAPRED's National Training Plan, provided for members of SINAPRED's staff and extensive network of actors. The transfer of the EFSA tool is an important step towards the inclusion of a food security approach in SINAPRED's training plan. Additionally, WFP supported the actualization of multi-hazard maps in two departments. This exercise serves to identify the most vulnerable areas to disasters and inform the development of response plans to ensure an effective and rapid response at the local level.

Challenges

- Despite resource mobilization efforts, the Mother and Child Health component has been severely underfunded since the beginning of the County Programme. Failing to provide assistance negatively impacts the status of nutritionally vulnerable groups. WFP is seeking USD 80,000 to cover current needs.
- HIV activities have been discontinued due to lack of funding; USD 72,000 are needed to support 1,600 patients.

Uniting Against Gender-Based Violence

In the framework of the United Nations' UNITE campaign and the 16 Days of activism against gender-based violence, WFP implemented gender activities, aimed at generating gender awareness at different strategic levels. These included: a media event; a University Forum for civil society actors, implemented in collaboration with all UN agencies; and a gender event with 53 members of WFP's assisted FOs, including women and men. This two-day event served to generate awareness and together explore ways in which the FOs can help put an end to gender-based violence in their rural communities. This helps re-inforce WFP's ongoing efforts to bridge the gender gap and promote women empowerment.

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Country Background & Strategy



According to the 2016 classification of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), Nicaragua is a low income food deficit country and is 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 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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