

Standard Project Report 2015

Reporting Period: 1 January - 31 December 2015

NICARAGUA

Country Programme - Nicaragua (2013-2018)

Project Number	200434
Project Category	Country Programme

Project Approval Date	19 Feb 2013
Planned Start Date	01 Apr 2013
Actual Start Date	07 Jun 2013
Project End Date	31 Mar 2018
Financial Closure Date	n.a.

Approved budget as 31 December 2015 in USD	
Capacity Dev.t and Augmentation	2,856,962
Direct Support Costs	5,631,992
Food and Related Costs	22,459,094
Indirect Support Costs	2,166,363
Total Approved Budget	33,114,411

Commodities	Metric Tonnes
Total Approved Commodities	20,613
Planned Commodities in 2015	4,076
Actual Commodities in 2015	3,106

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Country Overview



COUNTRY BACKGROUND

Nicaragua is a low-income food-deficit country (LIFDC) ranked 125 out of 188 countries in the Human Development Index (HDI, 2015) and 95 out of 155 countries in the Gender Inequality Index (UNDP 2015). According to the 2015 poverty assessment carried out by the Government of Nicaragua with support of the World Bank, 29.5 percent of households live in poverty and 8.3 percent in extreme poverty on less than USD 1.25 a day. Poverty levels are highest in rural areas where 50 percent of the population is poor and 11.5 percent lives in extreme poverty.

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, considering specific indicators for the 10 countries most affected from 1994 to 2014 (Germanwatch, 2016). According to FAO, Nicaragua is classified as a low-income food deficit country with an estimated 1 million undernourished people. Nicaragua has a Global Hunger Index of 13.6 (moderate). Food insecurity in Nicaragua is closely related to poverty, recurrent natural disasters and effects of climate change. In 2015, Nicaragua was impacted for the second consecutive year from below average rainfall caused by El Niño phenomenon.

According to the National Health and Demographic Survey (ENDESA, 2011/2012), the prevalence of chronic malnutrition among children under 5 is 17 percent. The highest rates occur in the departments of Madriz (30 percent), Jinotega and Nueva Segovia (28 percent), located in the northern Dry Corridor. According to the third National Height Census (2012), the prevalence of stunting among schoolchildren aged 6 to 9 is 22 percent. The highest prevalence among schoolchildren are in the North Caribbean Coast Autonomous Region (RACCN, 30 percent), Jinotega (34 percent) and Matagalpa (32 percent).

According to the Strategic Education Plan Implementation Report (MINED, 2011-2015), the net enrolment rate among primary school children at national level is 91 percent. However, in indigenous areas, 40 percent of children do not attend primary school and the average length of schooling is only three years.

In Nicaragua, 8,184 people, or 0.24 percent of the population are registered as living with HIV. Rates in some municipalities, particularly Chinandega and Managua, are far higher than the national rate. Further, more men than women are affected, an estimated 1.39 men for every woman have been diagnosed with HIV. Anti-retroviral therapy (ART) coverage is 57 percent. An estimated 73 percent of children and 52 percent of pregnant women receiving ART live in Managua and Chinandega (Ministry of Health, 2015).

Agriculture is the primary economic activity in Nicaragua and engages almost 70 percent of the nation's population and contributes to 20 percent of the country's GDP (Fourth National Agricultural Census CENAGRO IV, 2011). Basic grains are traditionally grown by subsistence farmers typically working small plots of land. Subsistence farmers often utilize the surrounding natural resources in unsustainable ways, resulting in environmental degradation and deforestation. In addition, they have little farm management experience, low technical capacity and considerable financial limitations, which lead to post-harvest losses. These factors, along with the effects of climate change, increase their vulnerability to natural disasters and other shocks.

The government addresses food insecurity in Nicaragua through its main national programme, Zero Hunger, and the Productive Bonus Programme, National School Feeding Programme, the National Programme Towards the Eradication of Child Chronic Undernutrition and Solidarity Programme (CRISSOL). Nicaragua has achieved Millennium Development Goals (MDG) 1, target 1C - the proportion of people who were undernourished was reduced by 56 percent between 1990 and 2015.

SUMMARY OF WFP ASSISTANCE

Through the Country Programme (CP) 200434, the Regional Protracted Relief and Recovery operation (PRRO) 2000490, and regional emergency preparedness and response capacity strengthening projects, WFP assisted the Government of Nicaragua to implement its Zero Hunger strategy, and strengthened its emergency preparedness.

CP 200434 aimed to break the inter-generational cycle of undernourishment and hunger among the most vulnerable in Nicaragua. It had a strong capacity strengthening focus in all its components. Component 1 provided nutritional support to vulnerable groups living in communities with high chronic malnutrition rates in Nueva Segovia and Madriz. Component 2 supported access to education with school meals to pre and primary school children in the most food-insecure municipalities in Jinotega and RACCN. Under component 3, WFP planned to promote resilience-building activities through food assistance for assets and training in municipalities of Nueva Segovia and Madriz in the dry corridor of Nicaragua. This component is under revision with the Government of Nicaragua to align activities with new national policies and priorities and hence was not implemented in 2015. Component 4 plans to enhance adherence to anti-retroviral therapy (ART) among HIV clients in Managua and Chinandega. In 2015, WFP focused on capacity building activities under this component, while food distributions will start in 2016. Component 5 supported sustainable development by improving the income of smallholder farmers, connecting them to local markets by leveraging WFP food demand and developing their agricultural production capacity and quality.

Component 1 (mother and child health, MCH) is in line with the "Promotion and Surveillance of Child Growth Development Programme" and "Towards the Eradication of Child Chronic Undernutrition". Component 2 supports the National School Feeding Programme outlined in the National Education Plan and component 5 (Purchase for Progress, P4P) supports the National Strategy for the Agriculture Sector. All these programmes are derived from the National Human Development Plan.

The regional PRRO aimed to respond to small and medium emergencies through the provision of food assistance to affected families. WFP had contingency stock in country to support government response in emergencies.

WFP supported government efforts to achieve MDG 1 through 7. In 2015, WFP positioned itself as a lead partner for the Government of Nicaragua in food security. Although funding constraints were a challenge, WFP contributed to national programmes to reduce undernutrition, improved educational indicators and linked smallholder farmers to formal markets, particularly to social protection programmes. Further, WFP enhanced emergency and preparedness response capacities of the government, strengthened community organizations and the national school meals programme, and provided logistics support for a more efficient implementation of food assistance activities.

Beneficiaries	Male	Female	Total
Number of children below 5 years of age	17,926	17,325	35,251
Number of children 5 to 18 years of age	71,005	62,216	133,221
Number of adults		3,542	3,542
Total number of beneficiaries in 2015	88,931	83,083	172,014
Total number of beneficiaries in 2014	215,829	224,618	440,447
Total number of beneficiaries in 2013	161,450	116,658	278,108

Project Type	Distribution (mt)					Total
	Cereals	Oil	Pulses	Mix	Other	
Country Programme	939	321	584	1,038	224	3,106
Total food distributed in 2015	939	321	584	1,038	224	3,106
Total food distributed in 2014	4,322	660	1,366	963	234	7,544
Total food distributed in 2013	1,252	217	433	765	208	2,876

Operational SPR

OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVES AND RELEVANCE

WFP, through its country programme, supported the Government in designing and implementing long-term solutions to break the inter-generational cycle of undernutrition and hunger through capacity strengthening activities and technical assistance. Pursuing WFP Strategic Objectives 3 and 4, all CP activities were in line with the national development plans: the Human Development Plan, the Programme Towards the Eradication of Child Chronic Malnutrition, the National School Feeding Programme, the Strategy for the Agricultural Sector, and the HIV Plan. The country programme had five components: mother and child health, school meals, food for asset creation / food for training, HIV, and support smallholder farmers to access formal markets and increase their income. These components were designed jointly with the Government of Nicaragua to address undernutrition, low educational indicators in the most food insecure regions, inadequate farming practices and insufficient market access of smallholder farmers.

Component 1 aimed to prevent chronic malnutrition and reduce prevalence of anemia among pregnant and lactating women (PLW) and children under 2 by offering mother and child health (MCH) activities that supported their nutritional intake (Strategic Objective 4).

Component 2 aimed to increase enrollment and attendance among pre- and primary school-aged children by providing school meals and strengthening the National School Feeding Programme (Strategic Objective 4).

Component 3 aimed to enhance the resilience of vulnerable rural communities and households through food-for-assets (FFA) and food-for-training (FFT) activities (Strategic Objective 3). This component is under revision with the Government of Nicaragua to align activities with national policies and strategies and thus was not implemented in 2015.

Component 4 aimed to support mitigation and safety nets to improve adherence to anti-retroviral therapy (ART) among food-insecure people living with by providing nutritional support (Strategic Objective 4). Activities were implemented in agreement with the Ministry of Health.

Component 5 aimed to increase smallholder farmer productivity and quality, to connect farmers to markets and to integrate local purchases into food-based national safety nets (Strategic Objective 3).

RESULTS

Beneficiaries, Targeting and Distribution

WFP targeted 31 municipalities in the departments of Nueva Segovia, Madriz, Matagalpa, Jinotega, Esteli, the North Caribbean Coast Autonomous Region (RACCN), Managua and Chinandega that were identified as highly or extremely vulnerable to food insecurity based on vulnerability analysis mapping. Targeting criteria included: municipalities with high level of environmental degradation, high proportion of families depending on subsistence farming, high rates of chronic undernutrition, high HIV prevalence compared to national levels, low educational performance compared to national averages, and the proportion of marginalized indigenous populations.

Through component 1 (MCH), WFP supported the Ministry of Health's "Promotion and Surveillance of Growth Development" programme to prevent chronic undernutrition and anemia, in line with the Scaling-up Nutrition 1,000-Days initiative. In agreement with the Ministry of Health, targeting was aligned with national guidelines and programmes; consequently, WFP increased the age range of eligible children from under 2 to children under 3 years old, resulting in a higher number of children assisted than planned. WFP provided micronutrient enriched foods through blanket supplementary feeding as an incentive for children under 3 and pregnant and nursing mothers to attend local health centres for pre and postnatal care, regular medical check-ups and nutritional monitoring. Children received specialized nutritious foods. Women received Super Cereal and vegetable oil. In addition, nutrition and health counselling was provided by health centre staff to participating women.

Efforts made by health volunteers to promote MCH activities increased the number of women enrolled in the programme during the second half the year. As a result, WFP reached more women than planned. Although the period of food assistance was reduced, WFP distributed the planned amount of commodities. WFP and the Ministry Health prioritized women and children that were at risk of undernourishment or already undernourished in eight municipalities of Nueva Segovia and Madriz, located in the dry corridor. WFP food assistance was distributed through local health posts with the active participation of health staff, volunteers and food distribution committees.

Under component 2 (school meals), WFP supported the government-led School Feeding Programme implemented by the Integral School Nutrition Programme (PINE) of the Ministry of Education. WFP contributed with school meals to 14 percent of pre- and primary school children out of the 1.2 million reached nation-wide by the government. WFP targeted the most food-insecure communities located in remote and hard to reach areas in 12 municipalities of the departments of Jinotega and RACCN.

Dry food rations were delivered to schools and parents prepared meals on-site on a rotational basis. Pre- and primary school children received a daily mid-morning meal consisting of rice, maize, beans, Super Cereal, vegetable oil, dried skimmed milk and dates. In the RACCN, children received wheat flour instead of maize, as maize is not part of their dietary habits. This assistance was complemented by wheat flour provided by the government. Food rations were reduced by an average of 10 percent due to funding constraints; however, the Government mitigated this by providing 180 mt of rice to WFP-assisted schools. Dried skimmed milk arrived mid-year in 2015, which interrupted deliveries during the second quarter of the year. Milk was a highly valued commodity for parents, teachers and students and was usually prepared with Super Cereal as a porridge for a highly nutritious meal. Parents contributed to the meal with firewood, onions, tomatoes, peppers and other seasonings.

Component 3 (Resilience) was not implemented in 2015 due to a re-prioritization and new focus of government programmes and policies regarding resilience. This component will be re-designed jointly with the government.

In 2015, WFP focused on capacity building activities under component 4. WFP provided resources to the National HIV Plan through the Ministry of Health to carry out trainings and workshops on nutrition and health guidelines for HIV clients. No food distributions were carried out under component 4 (HIV-Mitigation and Safety Nets). With funds made available mid-year, WFP purchased commodities for one year of project requirements which arrived during the last quarter of 2015. In agreement with the Ministry of Health, component 4 will start food distributions in 2016.

Under component 5 (P4P), WFP targeted smallholder farmers of basic grains in nine municipalities in the departments of Nueva Segovia, Esteli, Jinotega and Matagalpa. These municipalities were identified as crop surplus areas, with small-scale farming as the main livelihood. Targeting criteria included farmers with less than 3.5 hectares of land and farmers organized in cooperatives with experience in basic grain production. WFP provided technical assistance and training in post-harvest management, agronomic crop management, sowing and planting, gender, and demonstrative parcels to 1,644 smallholders through 15 farmer organizations, 33 percent of participants were women. In addition, WFP procured maize and beans from smallholder farmers to support the school meals programme in Jinotega and RACCN: 100 percent of all maize and beans distributed for school meals was purchased from WFP supported smallholder farmers.

Beneficiary Category	Planned			Actual			% Actual v. Planned		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
ACT1 - Nutritional Support to Vul. Groups (PLW)									
Number of adults		3,000	3,000		3,542	3,542		118.1%	118.1%
Number of children below 5 years of age	2,600	2,600	5,200	3,069	3,062	6,131	118.0%	117.8%	117.9%
Total number of beneficiaries in 2015	2,600	5,600	8,200	3,069	6,604	9,673	118.0%	117.9%	118.0%
Total number of beneficiaries in 2014	2,600	5,600	8,200	0	0	0	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Total number of beneficiaries in 2013	2,600	5,600	8,200	0	0	0	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
The total number of beneficiaries includes all targeted persons who were provided with WFP food during the reporting period - either as a recipient/participant in one or more of the following groups, or from a household food ration distributed to one of these recipients/participants									
ACT2 - Support Access to Education - School Feeding									
Number of children 5 to 18 years of age	65,155	65,155	130,310	71,005	62,216	133,221	109.0%	95.5%	102.2%
Number of children below 5 years of age	13,345	13,345	26,690	14,857	14,263	29,120	111.3%	106.9%	109.1%
Total number of beneficiaries in 2015	78,500	78,500	157,000	85,862	76,479	162,341	109.4%	97.4%	103.4%
Total number of beneficiaries in 2014	75,000	75,000	150,000	76,091	79,176	155,267	101.5%	105.6%	103.5%
Total number of beneficiaries in 2013	75,000	75,000	150,000	78,437	81,639	160,076	104.6%	108.9%	106.7%
The total number of beneficiaries includes all targeted persons who were provided with WFP food during the reporting period - either as a recipient/participant in one or more of the following groups, or from a household food ration distributed to one of these recipients/participants									
ACT3 - Comm. & Household Resilience (FFA/FFT)									
Number of adults	1,920	2,080	4,000	0	0	0	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Number of children 5 to 18 years of age	2,340	2,160	4,500	0	0	0	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Number of children below 5 years of age	765	735	1,500	0	0	0	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Total number of beneficiaries in 2015	5,025	4,975	10,000	0	0	0	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Total number of beneficiaries in 2014	5,025	4,975	10,000	0	0	0	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Total number of beneficiaries in 2013	5,025	4,975	10,000	0	0	0	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
The total number of beneficiaries includes all targeted persons who were provided with WFP food during the reporting period - either as a recipient/participant in one or more of the following groups, or from a household food ration distributed to one of these recipients/participants									
ACT4 - Mitigation and Safety Nets									
Number of adults	307	333	640	0	0	0	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Number of children 5 to 18 years of age	374	346	720	0	0	0	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Number of children below 5 years of age	122	118	240	0	0	0	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Total number of beneficiaries in 2015	803	797	1,600	0	0	0	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Total number of beneficiaries in 2014	803	797	1,600	0	0	0	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Total number of beneficiaries in 2013	803	797	1,600	0	0	0	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
The total number of beneficiaries includes all targeted persons who were provided with WFP food during the reporting period - either as a recipient/participant in one or more of the following groups, or from a household food ration distributed to one of these recipients/participants									

Beneficiary Category	Planned			Actual			% Actual v. Planned		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
ACT1 - Nutritional Support to Vul. Groups (PLW)									
Children 6 to 23 months given food under blanket supplementary feeding (prevention of stunting)	2,600	2,600	5,200	1,910	1,951	3,861	73.5%	75.0%	74.3%
Pregnant and lactating women given food under complementary feeding (prevention of stunting)		3,000	3,000		3,542	3,542		118.1%	118.1%
ACT2 - Support Access to Education - School Feeding									
Children receiving school meals	78,500	78,500	157,000	85,862	76,479	162,341	109.4%	97.4%	103.4%
ACT3 - Comm. & Household Resilience (FFA/FFT)									
Participants in Food For Training	800	800	1,600	0	0	0	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Participants in Food For Assets	1,000	1,000	2,000	0	0	0	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
ACT4 - Mitigation and Safety Nets									
HIV/AIDS and TB beneficiaries	804	796	1,600	0	0	0	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%

Commodity Distribution

Commodity	Planned Distribution (mt)	Actual Distribution (mt)	% Actual v. Planned
ACT1 - Nutritional Support to Vul. Groups (PLW)			
Corn-soya Blend (csb)	295	300	101.6%
Vegetable Oil	13	10	73.3%
Sum	308	309	100.4%
ACT2 - Support Access to Education - School Feeding			
Beans	696	584	84.0%
Corn-soya Blend (csb)	812	739	90.9%
Dried Fruits	72	72	99.9%
Maize	450	347	77.0%
Plain Dried Skimmed Milk	232	152	65.3%
Rice	778	593	76.2%
Vegetable Oil	348	311	89.4%
Sum	3,388	2,797	82.6%
ACT3 - Comm. & Household Resilience (FFA/FFT)			
Beans	48	0	-
Corn-soya Blend (csb)	132	0	-
Maize	132	0	-
Vegetable Oil	12	0	-
Sum	324	0	0.0%
ACT4 - Mitigation and Safety Nets			
Beans	7	0	-
Rice	46	0	-
Vegetable Oil	3	0	-
Sum	56	0	0.0%
Total for 2015	4,076	3,106	76.2%
Total reported in 2014 SPR	3,268	2,828	86.5%
Total reported in 2013 SPR	2,561	2,008	78.4%

'Story Worth Telling'

The community of Waspuk is located 96 km from the Municipality of Waspam and 718 km from Managua at the northeastern border between Nicaragua and Honduras. This is a small, isolated community surrounded by a forest reserve. It can only be reached by boat via the Coco River. There are 55 families in this community and the majority depend on small-scale farming for their livelihoods. Despite the area's potential in forestry and agriculture, it is recurrently affected by floods during the rainy season and droughts during the dry season.

Sedy Perez is a single mother and teacher at Basilio Velazquez School. As a young girl, Sedy was passionate about making a difference for her community through teaching. She has been teaching literature and language for 16 years. For the past 10 years she volunteered to support the school meal programme by actively participating in the school meal committees. Sedy firmly believes better times are yet to come for her community. "The school feeding programme is a great part of the change." She uses her knowledge of working in her own garden to provide her students with the "best nutrition education she can".

Through the School Feeding Programme implemented by the Government of Nicaragua with the assistance of WFP, children in the Basilio Velazquez School receive a daily meal of maize, rice, beans, vegetable oil, milk, dried fruit and Super Cereal. Sedy says she has noticed that children look happier after the meal and it motivates them to finish the school day. Sedy acknowledges that before this programme began in her community more than nine years ago "kids would leave school hoping to find something to eat and now they don't have to." As a mother, she feels relieved knowing that if she couldn't afford enough food for her children, they are guaranteed a hot nutritious meal at school. "It takes a bit of the pressure off," she says. Sedy is very grateful for all those who made this possible and she understands the value of a good education and a proper nutrition.

Progress Towards Gender Equality

WFP supports the National Gender Policy established through the Equal Rights and Opportunities Law and the National Development Plan by incorporating gender in all its activities. The country office has a gender specialist that works with all units to ensure gender is promoted and properly monitored. In April, a gender workshop was carried out for 35 WFP staff to strengthen their knowledge on streamlining gender in programme design and implementation. The main action points agreed during the workshop were to strengthen capacities of government partners and farmer organizations on gender topics by setting a work plan and ensuring gender is incorporated in all monitoring activities, proposals and reports. Under component 1 (MCH), WFP carried out four workshops on community organization with a gender focus. A total 91 women and 28 men participated, including community members and health staff. Overall, there is a higher participation of women in leadership positions in food management committees and in training sessions. WFP will continue to work with the Ministry of Health to encourage more men to participate in MCH activities. Upon government request, WFP refrained from carrying out surveys at household level, thus, currently there is no data available on intra-household decision-making on the use of food.

Since the 2013 baseline study, the participation of women in leadership positions in school management committees has increased by 8 percentage points. The proportion of men and women trained on modalities of food distribution increased by 6 percentage points compared to the previous year. WFP supported the Ministry of Education to provide trainings on programme implementation and food distribution modalities. As limited resources do not allow for annual training of school management committees, training sessions are being rolled out since 2013 to reach the targeted 60 percent of committee members by the end of the project.

Under component 5, WFP strengthened the capacity of farmer organizations to better access agricultural inputs, credit and services, especially for their female members, and increased the participation of women in decision-making positions. Women headed five out of the 15 cooperatives supported, with one only women cooperative. Women also held other decision-making positions at the board of directors, including vice-presidency and general manager.

WFP distributed silos, shelling machines, and other inputs to 163 women. Further, 60 percent of farmer organizations had incorporated gender in their work plans, gender committees were formed within the organizations and flexible credit mechanisms for women were established.

Cross-cutting Indicators	Project end Target	Base Value <i>(at start of project or benchmark)</i>	Previous Follow-up <i>(penultimate follow-up)</i>	Latest Follow-up <i>(latest value measured)</i>
	Target Val			
ACT1 - Nutritional Support to Vul. Groups (PLW)				
Proportion of women beneficiaries in leadership positions of project management committees				
Base value: Mar-2015, Ministry of Health records, 8 municipalities in Nueva Segovia and Madriz, Secondary data.	50	73		
Proportion of women project management committee members trained on modalities of food, cash, or voucher distribution				
Base value: Jul-2015, Post-workshop reports, 8 municipalities of Nueva Segovia and Madriz, Programme monitoring.	60	78		
ACT2 - Support Access to Education - School Feeding				
Proportion of women beneficiaries in leadership positions of project management committees				
Base value: Sep-2013, Baseline survey in Jinotega and RACCN, WFP survey. Previous Follow-up: Sep-2014, Follow-up survey in Jinotega and RACCN., WFP survey. Latest Follow-up: Sep-2015, Follow-up survey in Jinotega and RACCN., WFP survey.	50	44	54	52
Proportion of women project management committee members trained on modalities of food, cash, or voucher distribution				
Base value: Sep-2014, Follow-up survey in Jinotega and RACCN., Programme monitoring. Latest Follow-up: Sep-2015, Follow-up survey in Jinotega and RACCN, Programme monitoring.	60	23		29
ACT5 - Purchase for Progress				
Proportion of women beneficiaries in leadership positions of project management committees				
Latest Follow-up: Dec-2015, FO records, departments of Esteli, Jinotega, Matagalpa and Nueva Segovia, Programme monitoring.	50			38
Proportion of women project management committee members trained on modalities of food, cash, or voucher distribution				
Latest Follow-up: Dec-2015, WFP monitoring, departments of Esteli, Jinotega, Matagalpa and Nueva Segovia, Programme monitoring.	60			34

Protection and Accountability to Affected Populations

In April, the country office held a workshop for 35 staff at both central and field levels to strengthen their capacities to incorporate protection principles within WFP activities.

Under the MCH component, WFP held eight workshops with the participation of food distribution committees and health staff on programme implementation, food distribution modalities and the incorporation of the "do-no-harm" principle in all activities. WFP recommended that women from the farthest communities be prioritized to avoid long waiting times at distribution sites. Further, it was recommended that a household member assist pregnant women in carrying food rations received. A simple format was designed and shared with the Ministry of Health to allow beneficiaries to provide feedback on the programme. Post-monitoring distribution could not be carried out by WFP, as the Ministry of Health considered the monitoring of nutritional programmes a government competency. Protection indicators were not measured by the government. However, WFP field staff present at distribution sites reported that health staff and committee members informed beneficiaries on their entitlements and the benefits of Super Cereal. No security incidents were reported and the distribution process was quick and well-organized.

Under component 2 (school meals), the proportion of men and women informed about the programme increased by 8 percentage points. In a WFP survey, most respondents said they were familiar with the programme entitlements and targeting. The Ministry of Education has included a feedback mechanism in its programme implementation strategy and used its technical field staff to provide information to school management committees. WFP will continue to work with the Ministry of Education to strengthen this mechanism.

Food distributions were planned in advance for both MCH and school meals. Community members, schools, health staff, parents, teachers and beneficiaries were informed in a timely manner of the planned arrival of food. All food deliveries took place during daytime hours and were coordinated with local authorities.

WFP incorporated protection principles in activities of component 5. WFP distributed agricultural tools and other inputs to enhance the drying, shelling and storage of grains to reduce the workload of women. Further, workshops held with farmer organizations included information on project benefits, eligible participants and targeting criteria. Farmer organizations were also informed of WFP procurement policies. At the request of the government, surveys at household level were not carried out by WFP; as a result protection indicators could not be measured. There were no security incidents reported under this component.

Cross-cutting Indicators	Project end Target	Base Value <i>(at start of project or benchmark)</i>	Previous Follow-up <i>(penultimate follow-up)</i>	Latest Follow-up <i>(latest value measured)</i>
ACT2 - Support Access to Education - School Feeding				
Proportion of assisted people informed about the programme (who is included, what people will receive, where people can complain)				
Base value: Sep-2014, WFP follow-up survey, Jinotega and RACCN, Programme monitoring. Latest Follow-up: Sep-2015, WFP follow-up survey, Jinotega and RACCN, Programme monitoring.	90	46		54
Proportion of assisted people (men) informed about the programme (who is included, what people will receive, where people can complain)				
Base value: Sep-2014, Follow-up survey in Jinotega and RACCN, Programme monitoring. Latest Follow-up: Sep-2015, Follow-up survey in Jinotega and RACCN, Programme monitoring.	90	46		54
Proportion of assisted people (men) who do not experience safety problems travelling to/from and at WFP programme sites				
Base value: Sep-2014, WFP survey, Jinotega and RACCN, Programme monitoring. Latest Follow-up: Sep-2015, WFP survey, Jinotega and RACCN, Programme monitoring.	100	100		100
Proportion of assisted people who do not experience safety problems travelling to/from and at WFP programme sites				
Base value: Sep-2014, WFP survey, Jinotega and RACCN, Programme monitoring. Latest Follow-up: Sep-2015, WFP survey, Jinotega and RACCN, Programme monitoring.	100	98		100
Proportion of assisted people (women) informed about the programme (who is included, what people will receive, where people can complain)				
Base value: Sep-2014, WFP survey, Jinotega and RACCN, Programme monitoring. Latest Follow-up: Sep-2015, WFP survey, Jinotega and RACCN, Programme monitoring.	90	46		54
Proportion of assisted people (women) who do not experience safety problems travelling to/from and at WFP programme sites				
Base value: Sep-2014, WFP survey, Jinotega and RACCN, Programme monitoring. Latest Follow-up: Sep-2015, WFP survey, Jinotega and RACCN, Programme monitoring.	100	97.6		100

Outputs

Overall, WFP reached planned outputs for components 1, 2 and 5. WFP worked alongside government partners to ensure that expected results were reached and that mitigation actions were implemented to minimize the impact of funding constraints. Such actions included coordination with government partners to alert on pipeline breaks, substitution of commodities and joint discussions on how to adjust rations without significantly reducing their energy value.

Prior to the start of component 1 (MCH), WFP held one workshop for national and municipal health staff on food distribution modalities, expected results of the programme, and its implementation strategy. WFP trained local health staff and community volunteers in eight municipalities of Nueva Segovia and Madriz on the roles and responsibilities of food distribution committees in seven further workshops. In these training sessions WFP promoted the participation of women, particularly in remote communities with limited access to health services. As a result, during the second half of the year, a higher number of pregnant and nursing mothers than expected enrolled in the programme. WFP also supported the Ministry of Health with checklists, registration forms and 3,000 microcuvettes to strengthen its monitoring activities.

Under component 2 (school meals), WFP distributed food assistance to all public pre- and primary schools in targeted municipalities. Technical assistance was provided in collaboration with the Ministry of Education based on an annual work plan to strengthen the implementation of the National School Feeding Programme. These activities included training to school distribution committees in programme implementation, food security and nutrition, logistics support to the national programme, reproduction and distribution of education materials, and expansion of the number of school gardens in WFP assisted schools. Support to the design of a logical framework for the National School Feeding Programme was planned in 2015 but was then postponed at the request of the Ministry of Education until 2016, resulting in less expenditures than foreseen.

In line with the school feeding essential package, the Ministry of Health supported deworming campaigns for children aged 2 to 12 years. Further, WFP supported school garden activities in 190 out of 130 schools by distributing of garden kits and educational material, organizing committees and training to school staff and communities. Due to favorable prices obtained in a competitive tender process, WFP could purchase 46 percent more garden kits for schools. The Ministry of Education also created school gardens in WFP-assisted schools, and shared standardized models of garden kits, in accordance with local preferences, with WFP. These kits included 10 different tools and materials and 10 seed varieties (tomato, pepper, watermelon, melon, yucca, and cucumber, among others). School gardens were used as a teaching tool and to complement the school meal.

Under component 4, as part of the National HIV plan, WFP supported the training of health staff on the food security and nutrition of HIV-affected people.

Through component 5, WFP provided technical assistance and training to 30 percent more smallholders than planned. WFP worked closely with farmer organizations and the National Institute of Agricultural Technology (INTA) to strengthen local production capacities, leading to a higher engagement of farmers in training sessions and workshops. Trainings focused on strengthening organizational capacities, financial management, pre- and post-harvest management, cost structure analysis, negotiation techniques and agronomic management of grains. As part of the programme strategy to link smallholders to formal markets, WFP procured maize and beans to supply to the school meal programme. Four farmer organizations sold their produce more than once to WFP. WFP-assisted farmer organizations sold an additional 136 mt of grains in other formal markets. During the last quarter of 2015, WFP purchased more grains than planned for the school meal programme in order to acquire the maize and beans requirements for the first six months of 2016 at a favorable price.

Output	Unit	Planned	Actual	% Actual vs. Planned
ACT1 - Nutritional Support to Vul. Groups (PLW)				
SO 4: Capacity Development: Strengthening National Capacities				
Number of female government staff trained by WFP in nutrition programme design, implementation and other nutrition related areas (managerial)	individual	10	11	110.0%
Number of government staff trained by WFP in nutrition programme design, implementation and other nutrition related areas (technical/strategic/managerial)	individual	20	21	105.0%
Number of male government staff trained by WFP in nutrition programme design, implementation and other nutrition related areas (managerial)	individual	10	10	100.0%
Number of technical assistance activities provided	activity	2	2	100.0%

Output	Unit	Planned	Actual	% Actual vs. Planned
SO 4: Nutrition: Prevention of Stunting				
Energy content of food distributed (kcal/person/day)	kcal/person/day	976	984	100.8%
Number of feeding days	day	180	155	86.1%
Number of health centres/sites assisted	centre/site	47	47	100.0%
Number of pregnant/lactating women assisted	Individual	3,000	3,542	118.1%
Number of staff members/community health workers trained on modalities of food distribution	Individual	222	233	105.0%
Proportion of women exposed to nutrition messaging supported by WFP against proportion planned	%	100	100	100.0%
Quantity of inputs for nutrition activities distributed	item	3,000	3,000	100.0%
ACT2 - Support Access to Education - School Feeding				
SO 4: Capacity Development: Strengthening National Capacities				
Logistics, supply chain and common services: Number of government/national partner staff receiving technical assistance and training	individual	4	4	100.0%
Number of technical assistance activities provided	activity	6	5	83.3%
School Feeding: Number of female government/national partner staff receiving technical assistance and training	individual	28	27	96.4%
School Feeding: Number of male government/national partner staff receiving technical assistance and training	individual	28	29	103.6%
Technical Assistance: WFP expenditures for technical assistance to strengthen national capacity	US\$	85,000	71,925	84.6%
SO 4: School Feeding				
Health, Nutrition and Hygiene: Number of WFP-assisted schools that have school gardens for learning or complementary food input	school	715	650	90.9%
Kcal transferred to school children (kcal/child/day)	kcal/child/day	715	685	95.8%
Monetary value of food transferred	US\$	3,532,248	3,363,408	95.2%
Number of feeding days as % of actual school days	%	83	83	100.0%
Number of pre-school boys assisted by WFP	Individual	13,345	14,857	111.3%
Number of pre-school children assisted by WFP	Individual	26,690	29,120	109.1%
Number of pre-school girls assisted by WFP	Individual	13,345	14,263	106.9%
Number of primary school boys assisted by WFP	Individual	65,155	71,005	109.0%
Number of primary school children assisted by WFP	Individual	130,310	133,221	102.2%
Number of primary school girls assisted by WFP	Individual	65,155	62,216	95.5%
Number of PTA members trained in school feeding management or implementation	Individual	550	584	106.2%

Output	Unit	Planned	Actual	% Actual vs. Planned
Number of schools assisted by WFP	school	2,100	2,119	100.9%
Number of WFP-assisted schools benefiting from complementary contribution of curriculum development, teacher training or provision of school supplies and materials	school	2,100	2,119	100.9%
Quantity of agricultural tools distributed	tool	1,300	1,900	146.2%
ACT4 - Mitigation and Safety Nets				
SO 4: Capacity Development: Strengthening National Capacities				
HIV/TB: Number of female government/national partner staff receiving technical assistance and training	individual	66	66	100.0%
HIV/TB: Number of male government/national partner staff receiving technical assistance and training	individual	24	24	100.0%
WFP expenditures for technical assistance to strengthen national capacity	US\$	5,060	5,060	100.0%
ACT5 - Purchase for Progress				
SO 3: Capacity Development: Strengthening National Capacities				
Technical Assistance: WFP expenditures for technical assistance to strengthen national capacity	US\$	439,764	397,402	90.4%
SO 3: Local Purchase				
Food purchased from local farmer groups or cooperatives, as percentage of total food purchased locally	%	80	82	102.5%
Monetary value of food commodities purchased locally by WFP (US\$)	US\$	2,678,000	2,592,442	96.8%
Number of farmer groups supported through local purchases	farmer group	7	6	85.7%
Number of FOs trained in market access and post-harvest handling skills	farmer organization	15	15	100.0%
Number of smallholder farmers supported by WFP	Individual	300	323	107.7%
Quantity of food purchased locally from pro-smallholder aggregation systems (expressed in MT)	mt	1,300	1,822	140.2%

Outcomes

WFP assistance in Nicaragua led to positive results for all active components of the CP. WFP collaborated with government partners and aligned its activities to national programmes. Effective coordination and complementary actions with the government enabled positive results.

WFP regularly monitored implementation processes through its four field offices in Nueva Segovia, Jinotega, Bilwi and Siuna. WFP field staff monitored the distribution of commodities at health centers and schools and provided monthly reports. For component 1, nutritional data was provided by the Ministry of Health, while for component 2, a follow-up survey was carried out by WFP in September, using a representative sample of schools. Post-distribution monitoring was completed after each school meals distribution cycle. Under component 5, field monitors and technical assistants visited farmer organizations on a weekly basis and provided monthly progress reports. Further, WFP hired an independent consultancy firm to survey farmer organizations.

According to Ministry of Health records, prevalence of stunting among children aged 6 to 23 months was 7.6 percent, while prevalence among children aged 24 to 36 months was at 15 percent. A more in-depth study is required to better understand the causes for higher prevalence among older children. Health staff acknowledged that WFP's support has increased programme coverage rate and complemented government efforts to reduce stunting. Upon government request, WFP and Ministry of Health monitoring of Component 1 was fully aligned, which allowed WFP to analyze official health records. Regular monitoring by the Ministry of Health does not yet include collection of data on anemia prevalence and the minimum acceptable diet.

According to the 2015 poverty assessment carried out by the Government of Nicaragua with the support of the World Bank, the National School Feeding Programme and School Backpack programme contributed to the reduction of poverty by two percentage points. It is the major social safety net programme in the country and WFP was the government's largest partner in 2015.

WFP's supported the National School Feeding Programme with school meals, school gardens, technical assistance and training to strengthen capacities at both national and local level. This contributed to the achievement of targeted results. Compared to 2014, attendance rates for boys increased by three percentage points while attendance rates for girls slightly decreased by two percentage points. The long term trend measured since the baseline study, however, shows an increase by 21 and 19 percentage points respectively. As per the follow-up survey, main reasons for missing school were illness, poor weather, the parents' attitude towards education and child labour. During rainy season, children do not attend class due to poor road conditions and the closure of some schools due to their inadequate infrastructure. In many rural communities, access to secondary school is limited or non-existing.

Despite these challenges, enrollment rates increased compared to the previous year. The Ministry of Education implemented programmes to address the mentioned challenges by improving school infrastructure and opening Saturday classes. In 2016, WFP plans to support government efforts to improve school infrastructure, including storage and kitchen facilities. Retention rates among girls and boys remain high. Parents and teachers indicate that the school meal is an important factor to keep children in school. Parents perceive the daily school meal as a reduction in household food expenditures by 1 USD per day (National Livelihood Survey, 2014). The Ministry of Education closely follows-up on migrating families to ensure they re-enroll their children at their new location. Further, the "Battle for the 6th Grade" and School Backpack programme also contributed to higher retention and attendance rates. Other stakeholders working in WFP assisted schools provided infrastructure projects, school supplies, kitchen utensils, school gardens, nutrition education and training to teachers.

Under component 5, the baseline and project monitoring show that farmer organizations improved their production yields by 13 percent for maize and by 21 percent for beans and their sales volumes increased 5.6 times compared to the last year. Registered sales in 2015 surpassed the annual goal by 40 percent and the number of participating smallholder farmers increased by 75 percent since last year: this also led to an increase in sales to WFP. WFP was able to link social protection systems to smallholders farmers, which stimulated local markets, enhanced the income of vulnerable farmers, and allowed to source locally accepted fresh food items. Smallholder farmers benefited from technical training, agricultural inputs and WFP sales. Workshops were held on pre-planting and planting, agro-ecological harvest management, use of bio-enriched varieties of beans and gender. Access to credit for the commercialization of beans and maize is still a challenge. WFP established a forward contract working group to pilot this modality in 2016. Forward contracts are agreements between WFP and farmers' organizations to deliver a specified commodity quantity and quality at an agreed time in the future, and would allow smallholder farmers to access credit based on contracted sales to WFP.

Outcome	Project end Target	Base Value <i>(at start of project or benchmark)</i>	Previous Follow-up <i>(penultimate follow-up)</i>	Latest Follow-up <i>(latest value measured)</i>
ACT1 - Nutritional Support to Vul. Groups (PLW)				
Strategic Objective 4: Reduce undernutrition and break the intergenerational cycle of hunger				
Coverage rate of supplementary feeding				
Base value: Mar-2015, Ministry of Health records, 8 municipalities in Nueva Segovia and Madriz, Secondary data.	90	89.7		
Prevalence of stunting among targeted children under 3 (height-for-age as %)				
Base value: Mar-2015, Ministry of Health records, 7 municipalities in Nueva Segovia and Madriz, Secondary data.	10	11.44		
ACT2 - Support Access to Education - School Feeding				
Strategic Objective 4: Reduce undernutrition and break the intergenerational cycle of hunger				
Attendance rate (boys) in WFP-assisted primary schools				
Base value: Sep-2013, Baseline survey in Jinotega and RACCN., WFP survey. Previous Follow-up: Sep-2014, Follow-up survey in Jinotega and RACCN., WFP survey. Latest Follow-up: Sep-2015, Follow-up survey in Jinotega and RACCN., WFP survey.	70	61	79	82
Attendance rate (girls) in WFP-assisted primary schools				
Base value: Sep-2013, Baseline survey in Jinotega and RACCN., WFP survey. Previous Follow-up: Sep-2014, Follow-up survey in Jinotega and RACCN., WFP survey. Latest Follow-up: Sep-2015, Follow-up survey in Jinotega and RACCN., WFP survey.	70	62	83	81
Attendance rate in WFP-assisted primary schools				
Base value: Sep-2013, WFP survey, Jinotega and RACCN, WFP survey. Previous Follow-up: Sep-2014, WFP follow-up survey, Jinotega and RACCN, WFP survey. Latest Follow-up: Sep-2015, WFP follow-up survey, Jinotega and RACCN, WFP survey.	70	62	80.6	81.4
Average number of school days per month when multi-fortified foods or at least 4 food groups were provided				
Base value: Sep-2013, Baseline survey in Jinotega and RACCN., WFP survey. Previous Follow-up: Sep-2014, Follow-up survey in Jinotega and RACCN., WFP survey. Latest Follow-up: Sep-2015, Follow-up survey in Jinotega and RACCN., WFP survey.	16	16	16	16
Enrolment: Average annual rate of change in number of children enrolled in WFP-assisted primary schools				
Base value: Dec-2014, Ministry of Education distribution reports in Jinotega and RACCN, Secondary data. Latest Follow-up: Dec-2015, Ministry of Education distribution reports in Jinotega and RACCN, Secondary data.	4	1.04		4
Gender ratio: ratio of girls to boys enrolled in WFP-assisted pre-schools				
Base value: Sep-2013, Baseline survey in Jinotega and RACCN, WFP survey. Previous Follow-up: Sep-2014, Follow-up survey in Jinotega and RACCN, WFP survey. Latest Follow-up: Sep-2015, Follow-up survey in Jinotega and RACCN., WFP survey.	1	1.1	1	1
Gender ratio: ratio of girls to boys enrolled in WFP-assisted primary schools				
Base value: Sep-2013, Baseline survey in Jinotega and RACCN, WFP survey. Previous Follow-up: Sep-2014, Follow-up survey in Jinotega and RACCN, WFP survey. Latest Follow-up: Sep-2015, Latest follow-up survey in Jinotega and RACCN, WFP survey.	1	1.1	1	0.9
Retention rate (boys) in WFP-assisted primary schools				
Base value: Sep-2013, Baseline survey in Jinotega and RACCN, WFP survey. Previous Follow-up: Sep-2014, Follow-up survey in Jinotega and RACCN., WFP survey. Latest Follow-up: Sep-2015, Follow-up survey in Jinotega and RACCN., WFP survey.	95	96	93	95
Retention rate (girls) in WFP-assisted primary schools				
Base value: Sep-2013, Baseline survey in Jinotega and RACCN, WFP survey. Previous Follow-up: Sep-2014, Follow-up survey in Jinotega and RACCN, WFP survey. Latest Follow-up: Sep-2015, Follow-up survey in Jinotega and RACCN., WFP survey.	96	96	97	97
Retention rate in WFP-assisted primary schools				
Base value: Sep-2013, WFP survey, Jinotega and RACCN, WFP survey. Previous Follow-up: Sep-2014, WFP survey, Jinotega and RACCN, WFP survey. Latest Follow-up: Sep-2015, WFP survey, Jinotega and RACCN., WFP survey.	95	96	94.5	96.6
ACT5 - Purchase for Progress				
Strategic Objective 3: Reduce risk and enable people, communities and countries to meet their own food and nutrition needs				
Food purchased from aggregation systems in which smallholders are participating, as % of regional, national and local purchases				
Base value: Dec-2014, FO sales records and WFP procurement records, Programme monitoring. Latest Follow-up: Dec-2015, FO sales records and WFP procurement records, Programme monitoring.	12	20.7		74.8
Food purchased from regional, national and local suppliers, as % of food distributed by WFP in-country				
Base value: Dec-2014, FO records and WFP procurement records, Programme monitoring. Latest Follow-up: Dec-2015, FO records and WFP procurement records, Programme monitoring.	42	51.2		78.3

Sustainability, Capacity Development and Handover

WFP carried out various activities to strengthen national capacities and thus enable the Government to better design, implement and evaluate its own programmes and initiatives. WFP signed two annual work plans with the Ministry of Education and the Nicaraguan Institute of Agricultural Technology (INTA).

In addition to complementing the National School Feeding Programme in some of the most vulnerable areas, WFP also supported the Integral School Nutrition Programme unit of the Ministry of Education in its procurement, logistics monitoring and distribution processes to assist more than 15,000 schools nation-wide. WFP shared cost-saving strategies in contracting transport suppliers with technical government staff and worked with the government to ensure that food arrived at schools in a timely manner. WFP logistics staff permanently worked alongside PINE staff in the government warehouse to strengthen food management, including fumigation and inventory control.

Through the annual work plan signed with the Ministry of Education, WFP supported the four-pillar strategy for school meals, which includes the provision of school meals, school gardens, zero junk food policy and food security and nutrition in the curriculum. In order to augment the coverage of school gardens in Jinotega and RACCN, an agronomist was hired to provide technical assistance and support to PINE staff in school garden implementation and monitoring in RACCN. WFP field staff held information sessions with government staff on best practices for school meals, storage at school level, proper delivery and reception of food, and information exchange on challenges and mitigations measures. Further, WFP strengthened community organizations through workshops and trainings and helped establish school garden committees.

WFP began discussions with the Government of Nicaragua to implement Systems Approach for Better Education Results (SABER) methodology in 2016. This approach evaluates the quality of school feeding policies and programmes against evidence-based global standards, with the aim of helping countries systematically strengthen their systems. The results of SABER will enable WFP and the government to define a clear plan for a handover strategy.

Under component 4, WFP provided support to the Ministry of Health to train its staff on health and nutrition issues among people living with HIV. In 2015, the Ministry of Health incorporated nutrition topics within the National HIV Strategic Plan. WFP expects to enhance nutrition sensitive trainings within the 2016 annual work plan.

The approach used for component 5 is aligned to the strategy of the Nicaraguan Institute of Agricultural Technology (INTA). As per the annual work plan, WFP supported the validation, dissemination and production of bio-fortified seeds. On average, yields of bio-enriched beans seeds were 39 percent higher than that of other varieties used by farmer organizations. The aim was to replicate this approach to enhance the availability of nutritious varieties of maize, beans and rice, and link their production to the demand of social protection programmes.

Compared to sales to informal markets, WFP's demand platform and high-quality standards enabled farmer organizations to obtain a better price for their produce. Farmers benefitted from increased credit for agricultural inputs, processing, technical support and commercialization services.

Activities under the regional emergency preparedness and response projects complemented CP capacity strengthening activities. WFP supported the National System of Disaster Attention and Mitigation (SINAPRED) with their annual training plan in disaster and risk management and simulation exercises.

INPUTS

Resource Inputs

Donor support enabled WFP to purchase maize and beans from smallholder farmers for school meals. Funding allowed WFP to provide technical assistance to farmer organizations, smallholders and government staff. Resources also enabled WFP to augment school garden activities and strengthen the National School Feeding Programme. In-kind contributions of dried-skimmed milk and dates increased the nutritional value of the school meal food basket. Milk was an important source of animal protein for schoolchildren in the most food insecure municipalities. The Government of Nicaragua complemented school meals with wheat flour and rice. A grant for Component 4 enabled WFP to support health staff with training and workshops on food security and nutrition among HIV-affected people. WFP also procured commodities that will be distributed in 2016 to people living with HIV and their families in Managua and Chinandega.

Donor	Resourced in 2015 (mt)		Shipped/Purchased in 2015 (mt)
	In-Kind	Cash	
Australia			37
Canada		1,506	1,822
Luxembourg		58	3
MULTILATERAL		159	281
Nicaragua		246	214
Private Donors		545	104
Switzerland	225		225
Total:	225	2,515	2,687

See Annex: Resource Inputs from Donors for breakdown by commodity and contribution reference number

Food Purchases and in-kind Receipts

Food purchases were carried out on a cost effectiveness basis. Purchases from farmer organizations represented 64 percent total commodities procured and 82 percent of all local purchases. P4P-assisted farmer organizations participated in tender processes and six cooperatives were awarded with contracts. Additionally, in 2015, WFP began purchasing fortified rice to provide an added value to the food basket for school meals and the HIV component.

Commodity	Local (mt)	Developing Country (mt)	Other International (mt)	GCMF (mt)
Beans	1,425	0	0	
Corn Soya Blend	403	0	0	
Dried Fruits	0	0	72	
Maize	397	0	0	
Plain Dried Skimmed Milk	0	0	225	
Rice	0	206	0	
Vegetable Oil	3	0	112	
Sum:	2,228	206	409	

Food Transport, Delivery and Handling

All WFP stocks were managed and stored in a government warehouse located in Managua with the support of WFP logistics staff. Food was delivered to beneficiaries in a timely manner; three food distributions cycles were carried out to cover the number of school days agreed with the government. Under MCH, food was delivered in coordination with the Ministry of Health to health centres and food was distributed by committees to beneficiaries.

In order to mitigate the impact of pipeline breaks, loans and swaps of different types of commodities took place between activities, other WFP and government projects in order to cover the planned food basket. Furthermore, WFP rotated food to preserve its quality.

Post-Delivery Losses

Post-delivery losses were under 1 percent. Technical assistance provided to government staff on best practices in commodity and warehouse management led to efficient management of commodities. Additionally, WFP required insurance policies for commodities to recover any losses from transporters.

MANAGEMENT

Partnerships

WFP's main cooperating partner was the Government of Nicaragua, including the Ministry of Health for component 1 and 4, the Ministry of Education for component 2 and the Nicaraguan Institute of Agricultural Technology (INTA) for component 5. WFP also worked closely with community organizations and volunteers to promote the programme and support its implementation. Complementary actions between WFP and government partners contributed to the achievement of positive outcomes.

The Ministry of Health, through its "Promotion and Surveillance of Growth Development" programme, provided women and children with iron supplementation, health services, nutritional and health counselling, growth monitoring and pre- and postnatal care. Vaccination and deworming campaigns were carried out in targeted municipalities. Health volunteers reached out to communities to promote the participation of women and children in Mother and Child Health programmes. The Ministry of Health also provided accommodation to pregnant women living in remote communities in order to guarantee access to pre- and postnatal care. Maternity houses were located nearby hospitals and were equipped with health staff and basic medical equipment. WFP supported health centres and three maternity houses with supplementary fortified foods. Furthermore, WFP's support to strengthen community organizations contributed to the effective implementation of the programme.

The Ministry of Education was responsible for the implementation of activities and coordination of stakeholders of the school meals programme. School supplies were delivered to children through the School Backpack programme. The Ministry of Education supported infrastructure projects, distributed educational material and trained teachers and community organizations on food security and nutrition and programme implementation. The Government also contributed with logistics costs, monitoring and provided warehouse space for WFP food.

Under component 5, INTA provided technical assistance and expertise to farmer organizations (FOs) to enhance quality of grains, promote new seed varieties, improve post-harvest management and promote best practices to increase productivity. WFP facilitated work sessions and meetings between FOs and national organizations with expertise in marketing of grains, credit management and finance. As a result of these work sessions, five FO's formed alliances and signed collaboration agreements with national and international organizations.

Cross-cutting Indicators	Project end Target	Base Value	Previous Follow-up	Latest Follow-up
	Target Val	(at start of project or benchmark)	(penultimate follow-up)	(latest value measured)
ACT1 - Nutritional Support to Vul. Groups (PLW)				
Number of partner organizations that provide complementary inputs and services				
Base value: Jun-2014, CPAP and correspondence with the Ministry of Health, WFP survey. Previous Follow-up: Jan-2015, CPAP agreement with the Government of Nicaragua, WFP survey. Latest Follow-up: Dec-2015, CPAP agreement with the Government of Nicaragua, WFP survey.	1	1	1	1
Proportion of project activities implemented with the engagement of complementary partners				
Base value: Jun-2014, CPAP agreement with the Government of Nicaragua, Programme monitoring. Previous Follow-up: Jan-2015, CPAP agreement with the Government of Nicaragua, Programme monitoring. Latest Follow-up: Dec-2015, CPAP agreement with the Government of Nicaragua, Programme monitoring.	90	100	100	100
ACT2 - Support Access to Education - School Feeding				
Number of partner organizations that provide complementary inputs and services				
Base value: Sep-2014, Follow-up survey in Jinotega and RACCN, Programme monitoring. Latest Follow-up: Sep-2015, Follow-up survey in Jinotega and RACCN., Programme monitoring.	25	16		22
Proportion of project activities implemented with the engagement of complementary partners				
Base value: Jun-2014, CPAP agreement with the Government of Nicaragua, Programme monitoring. Previous Follow-up: Jan-2015, CPAP agreement with the Government of Nicaragua, Programme monitoring. Latest Follow-up: Dec-2015, CPAP agreement with the Government of Nicaragua, Programme monitoring.	100	100	100	100
ACT4 - Mitigation and Safety Nets				
Number of partner organizations that provide complementary inputs and services				
Base value: Jun-2014, CPAP agreement with the Government of Nicaragua, WFP survey. Previous Follow-up: Jan-2015, CPAP agreement with the Government of Nicaragua, WFP survey. Latest Follow-up: Dec-2015, CPAP agreement with the Government of Nicaragua, WFP survey.	2	1	1	1
Proportion of project activities implemented with the engagement of complementary partners				
Base value: Jun-2014, CPAP agreement, partnership with the Ministry of Health, WFP survey. Previous Follow-up: Jan-2015, CPAP agreement, partnership with the Ministry of Health, Programme monitoring. Latest Follow-up: Dec-2015, CPAP agreement, partnership with the Ministry of Health, WFP survey.	100	100	100	100
ACT5 - Purchase for Progress				
Number of partner organizations that provide complementary inputs and services				
Latest Follow-up: Dec-2015, WFP survey and monitoring in Nueva Segovia, Jinotega, Matagalpa and Esteli, Programme monitoring.	3			13
Proportion of project activities implemented with the engagement of complementary partners				
Latest Follow-up: Dec-2015, WFP survey and monitoring in Nueva Segovia, Jinotega, Matagalpa and Esteli, WFP survey.	100			62.5

Lessons Learned

In 2015, the Government of Nicaragua revised its cooperation strategy with donors and international organizations. WFP held continuous discussions with the Government to ensure WFP operations were fully aligned to national priorities. This enabled WFP to position itself as a lead agency in terms of food security and a key partner for the National School Feeding programme. All WFP activities supported government-led programmes. Complementarity between government programmes and WFP activities has enhanced expected outcomes.

High engagement of community organizations, parents and teachers in the school meals programme were key for effective programme implementation. In previous years, WFP monitoring showed that in loosely organized communities the school meal programme has been less effective in achieving results. Consequently, WFP supported trainings and workshops in its annual work plan with the Ministry of Education in order to strengthen community organization. Roles and responsibilities were clearly defined, ensuring that kitchen rules were followed and food was properly managed at the community level.

WFP's demand for high-quality grains allowed smallholders to sell maize and beans and obtain a higher price than in the informal market. WFP worked with farmer organizations to improve the quality of grains and maintained strict quality and control practices, including three laboratory analyses during the procurement process. When cooperatives had processed 50 percent of grains contracted by WFP, an external party carried out quality control. This allowed cooperatives to take necessary corrective measures if WFP quality standards were not yet met and avoid losses related to non-compliance. In addition, once contracts were awarded to cooperatives, WFP staff verified the quality of stored grains. Staff provided advice and accompanied the process until delivery to the WFP warehouse.

OPERATIONAL STATISTICS

Annex: Resource Inputs from Donors

Donor	Cont. Ref. No	Commodity	Resourced in 2015 (mt)		Shipped/ Purchased in 2015 (mt)
			In-Kind	Cash	
Australia	AUL-C-00093-08	Vegetable Oil			37
Canada	CAN-C-00461-01	Beans		341	823
Canada	CAN-C-00461-01	Maize		50	125
Canada	CAN-C-00461-02	Beans		252	252
Canada	CAN-C-00461-02	Maize		372	272
Canada	CAN-C-00461-03	Beans		431	350
Canada	CAN-C-00461-03	Maize		60	
Luxembourg	LUX-C-00114-01	Corn Soya Blend		5	
Luxembourg	LUX-C-00114-01	Rice		50	0
Luxembourg	LUX-C-00114-01	Vegetable Oil		3	3
MULTILATERAL	MULTILATERAL	Corn Soya Blend		159	159
MULTILATERAL	MULTILATERAL	Dried Fruits			72
MULTILATERAL	MULTILATERAL	Rice			50
Nicaragua	NIC-C-00007-01	Corn Soya Blend		140	140
Nicaragua	NIC-C-00007-01	Rice		107	0
Nicaragua	NIC-C-00007-01	Vegetable Oil			74
Private Donors	WPD-C-02734-02	Rice		15	0
Private Donors	WPD-C-02808-01	Rice		35	0
Private Donors	WPD-C-03066-01	Corn Soya Blend		104	104
Private Donors	WPD-C-03299-02	Corn Soya Blend		250	
Private Donors	WPD-C-03299-02	Rice		141	
Saudi Arabia	SAU-C-00095-05	Dried Fruits			0
Switzerland	SWI-C-00444-04	Plain Dried Skimmed Milk	225		225
Total:			225	2,515	2,687