

Revised Plan 2011



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Nicaragua

Country Context

Nicaragua is the largest country in the Central American with population of 5.6 million¹ and a population density of 43.5² inhabitants per squared kilometres, which is the lowest in the region. According to UNDP's *Human Development Report 2009*, 15.8 per cent of the population lives on less than 1.25 US dollars a day (2000–2007) and 47.9 per cent lives below the national poverty line (2000–2006). In addition, it continues to have a high level of disparities, inequities and gaps between different population groups, particularly notable for indigenous people, afro-descendents, children, women and people with disabilities.

Women in their childbearing age make up 52 per cent of the female population and 59 per cent are less than 30 years old; 12 per cent are not formally educated; 37 per cent have secondary school education and 14 per cent have advanced studies. The overall fertility rate is 2.7 children per woman and in rural areas reaches 3.5 children and 2.2 in urban areas. Females between the ages of 15 and 19 years are the largest contributors to the overall fertility rate, making up 20 per cent. Contraception is used by 42 per cent of females between the ages of 15 and 40 years, which lowers to a 7 per cent rate for single women. Whilst 94 per cent of pregnant women receive prenatal care, the rate descends to 87 per cent in rural areas. Seventy-four per cent of females gave birth in health centres and 26 per cent in their homes.

Infant mortality is estimated at 29 for every 1,000 live births and in the rural areas increases to 34 for every 1,000 live births. In the age group of 18 to 29, 85 per cent of children and young adults have completed all of their vaccinations. The prevalent illnesses are severe respiratory infections and diarrhoea, with the children under the age of five being most vulnerable to the latter.

Of the women who know about HIV and AIDS, 76 per cent have heard of HIV testing; 44 per cent know where to have one done and 16 per cent have had a test. Condom use is at 10 per cent in urban areas and 4 per cent in rural areas, with a slight increase in the group of women with higher education levels. In addition, it is reported that 21 per cent of women were physically mistreated before the age of 15.

Since all of the health indicators decrease in the country's rural areas, national policies promote community-based health interventions to strengthen primary health care.

Nicaragua is a multi-hazard country. The Nicaraguan Institute for Territorial Studies³ study conducted in 2001 on natural hazards in Nicaragua indicates the country's different levels of vulnerability due to natural disasters. Alongside its geographic beauty, Nicaragua is a country with high risks to disasters, mainly earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, hurricanes and floods.

The total 2011 budget is 190,264 Swiss francs (Click here to go directly to the attached summary budget of the plan).

¹ UNDP. *Human Development Report 2009 - Overcoming barriers: Human mobility and development*. 2009. URL: http://hdr.undp.org/en/media/HDR_2009_EN_Complete.pdf

² UNDATA. Country Profile: Nicaragua. 2008. URL: <http://data.un.org/CountryProfile.aspx?cname=NICARAGUA>

³ Instituto Nicaragüense de Estudios Territoriales - INETER

National Society priorities and current work with partners

The Nicaraguan Red Cross (NRC), as an auxiliary to the government, is member of the National Emergency and Disaster Prevention and Mitigation System - SINAPRED and other national platforms related to its mission to improve the lives of the most vulnerable people. The NRC implements programmes based on the country's priorities in and coordination with the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Environment and local authorities. In addition, the NRC also works and coordinates with different international organizations that include PAHO/ WHO, UNICEF, the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, the German Technical Cooperation (GTZ), the European Union, the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) and the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID). Furthermore, the NRC works with members of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, including the Partner National Societies (PNS) from Canada, Italy, the Netherlands and Spain, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).

This country support plan is based on the strategic issues that have been defined in work sessions with the majority of the organization's directorate, coordinators and technical programme staff and with accompaniment by the IFRC's Country Representative in Nicaragua. The NRC at the national and departmental levels and national volunteer coordinators have also reached consensus on these issues, which are presented in this plan.

Work will focus on the following areas

1. Strengthening of the NRC governances' capacities through a) organizational development with a modern vision targeting governance and leadership of the National Society, b) an effective and efficient institutional administration, c) institutional strategies for programme development and d) the positioning of the NRC's image. Furthermore, activities will be undertaken to strengthen programme and services planning, implementation skills and the management structure (at the headquarters and branch level) by developing human resources, guaranteeing economic sustainability and improving volunteer management.
2. Reducing intolerance and encouraging behaviour change through the dissemination and promotion of the Fundamental Principles and Humanitarian Values of the Movement with all the NRC's volunteers and staff. Additionally, activities will to promote the fundamental principles and values in the NRC programmes, services and projects particularly with ethnic groups and indigenous populations and encourage gender equality within the NRC. Finally, the National Society will promote the understanding of international humanitarian law (IHL) internally and externally and support the restoring of family links as part of the Movement's mandate in coordination with ICRC.
3. Prioritizing interventions in community-based health promotion and prevention with an emphasis on vulnerable groups. For example, mother to child care with efforts aimed at behaviour change for healthy habits, food security and nutrition. People living with HIV (PLHIV) are another prioritized group: information and education will be provided to students and youth to promote reducing stigma and discrimination against PLHIV and encourage social solidarity. During times of emergency, the response capacity in the health sector aims to provide psychosocial support, prevent communicable illnesses and contribute to the national response. The promotion of voluntary non-remunerated blood donation (VNRBD) is a permanent activity that generates 100 per cent of the blood supplies in the country's health centres. All of these programmes and projects will be conducted in coordination with and respect the norms of the Nicaraguan Ministry of Health.
4. Defining and establishing clear risk reduction policies and guidelines with the aim of reducing the numbers of deaths, injuries and damage caused by disasters. Efforts will be placed to strengthen the National Society's understanding of the work guidelines for risk reduction management. It is important that the NRC is prepared with relevant policies, response and

contingency plan to respond to the vulnerable population during adverse events. At the community level, the Nicaraguan Red Cross will prepare to conduct risk reduction activities by strengthening the relief programme's organizational structure to focus on risk and gender. Lastly, in line with the National Society's strategy to integrate cross-cutting issues in its programmes and services, community preparedness and response capacities to adverse events will be strengthened with communication, awareness-raising and education about climate change.

Secretariat supported programmes in 2011

The IFRC supports the Nicaraguan Red Cross with the objective to strengthen coordination and organizational development. These efforts, incorporating actions at the political and administrative levels within the National Society have cascading down consequences in the programmes and services provided to the population.

It is important to note that the National Society has received financial support for different emergencies in the country. This support, through Appeals and DREF allocations sustain emergency responses to affected communities has been accompanied by technical support from the IFRC's Pan American Disaster Response Unit (PADRU) delegates and Regional Intervention Team (RIT) members. Once the emergency phase has been overcome, recovery projects complement the initial support provided to affected communities.

Disaster Management

a) The purpose and components of the programme

Programme purpose
Reduce the number of deaths, injuries and impacts of disasters.

The disaster management programme budget is 81,260 Swiss francs.

Programme component 1: Disaster Response Preparedness
Component outcome 1: The Nicaraguan Red Cross is prepared and organized to respond to the vulnerable population during adverse events.

This expected outcome aims to strengthen the organizational structure of the Nicaraguan Red Cross' national relief directorate at the headquarters and branch level by supporting relief teams established and trained. Also they are knowledgeable about the national response plan operative procedures and implementation, thus ensuring high-quality performance and coordination in disaster response.

The following indicators will measure the achievement of the component outcome for 2011:

- Thirty eight rapid response teams are established nationally.
- The National Society has a National Intervention Team (NIT) group of facilitators.
- Sixteen relief brigades are established nationally.
- The National Society has a document to systematize their experiences in disaster preparation.

Programme Component 2: Build safer and more resilient communities
Component outcome 1: The Nicaraguan Red Cross programmes and services facilitate a cross-cutting approach to climate change.

This component refers to the training of volunteer and paid human resources on the issue of climate change, as well as knowledge-sharing with different branches at the national level.

Additionally, this component foresees volunteer training based on a learning-by-doing methodology.

The following indicators will measure the achievement of the component outcome for 2011:

- A National Society facilitators' network on climate change is established.
- National Society volunteers and staff members in the national headquarters are knowledgeable about climate change and apply this knowledge to their plans and in line with their responsibilities in the Nicaraguan Red Cross.

Programme Component 3: Coordination

Component outcome 1: The National Society establishes and participates in alliances with key stakeholders for disaster risk reduction.

As part of SINAPRED, the Nicaraguan Red Cross actively participates with other local and national actors in commissions to establish institutional synergy, implementing community preparedness actions and providing an effective response. In addition, the NRC provides follow-up and participates in project implementation activities in risk management with departmental and local branches.

The following indicators will measure the achievement of the component outcome for 2011:

- The National Relief Directorate participates in inter-institutional coordination processes.
- The National Relief Directorate provides follow-up for projects implemented at the departmental and local levels.

b) Potential risks and challenges

- Political processes directly affect governmental institutions at different levels (municipal, departmental and national). The presidential elections are scheduled for next year and generally, following elections, there are staff changes in government institutions. This will cause the slow down or delay of coordination processes for shared activities and the establishment of institutional synergies. The NRC could need a prudential period to re-establish the close relations it has with different State institutions.
- Adverse events, due to the country's vulnerability related to its geographic location, are another potential risk. The frequent occurrence of disasters or complex emergencies related to hurricanes and storm season starts in early May.
- Branch willingness, commitment and accompaniment are central for the implementation of the planned activities.
- The socio-economic situation limits the incorporation of the population located in regions at risk where the NRC works on preparedness processes for adverse events.

Health and Care

a) The purpose and components of the programme

Programme Purpose:

Reduce the number of deaths, illnesses and impact from diseases and public health emergencies.

The health and care programme budget is 30,566 Swiss francs.

Programme Component 1: HIV and AIDS

Component outcome 1: Nicaragua National Society (NRC) supported by the secretariat have increased their capacity to deliver and sustain HIV programmes that respond to and mitigate the impact of HIV in the framework of the Global Alliance on HIV.

With IFRC support, this component aims to increase the capacities of the National Society's with trained and up-to-date volunteer human resources to work on HIV and AIDS, to contribute to the national response in coordination with the Nicaraguan Commission for AIDS - CONISIDA⁴. In addition,

⁴ CONISIDA: La Comisión Nicaragüense del SIDA.

to implement prevention actions with prioritized vulnerable groups such as in and out-of-school youth and mobile workers, such as taxi drivers. In this manner, these groups can take ownership and raise awareness about these issues, apply healthy habits that favour their personal lives and contribute to transmitting messages of solidarity and anti-stigma and non-discrimination for people living with HIV (PLHIV). In 2011, HIV and AIDS prevention will target youth in universities, secondary schools and communities, transport workers, and those who have been identified as multiplying agents in their family and community environments. Moreover, the NRC will be formally introduced to the IFRC's Global Alliance on HIV framework, with a view to their future incorporation.

The following indicators will measure the achievement of the component outcome for 2011:

- By the end of 2011, the NRC has a national-level network of trained and up-to-date volunteer promoters on HIV issues.
- By the end of 2011, the NRC has conducted promotion and advocacy work with prioritized populations (students, taxi drivers and volunteers).

Programme Component 2: Community Public Health

Component outcome 1: The NRC with secretariat support improves its community-based health programmes, including initiatives in mother-child health, voluntary non-remunerated blood donation (VNRBD), food security and road safety.

Through this component, and with IFRC support, the National Society aims to strengthen and give continuity to the actions that the country is implementing in agreement with the National Health Policy and Movement's guidelines in *Strategy 2020*. The NRC, based on an inter-institutional collaboration agreement with the Ministry of Health, will promote national and local skills in community health strategies aimed to improve mother-child health, reproductive health, nutrition, food security, water and sanitation. The NRC will also engage in advocacy to reduce prevalent infectious illnesses, as well as the promotion of VNRBD and the development of resources that respond to road safety in order to prevent traffic accidents.

The following indicators will measure the achievement of the component outcome for 2011:

- By the end of 2011, the NRC has conducted promotion and prevention interventions on prevalent illnesses in coordination with the Ministry of Health.
- By the end of 2011, the NRC has improved its recruitment levels for VNRBD with the Club 25 initiative.
- By the end of 2011, the NRC has identified at least two sponsors to finance road safety initiatives and the National Society is recognized as a social actor on the issue.

Programme Component 3: Public Health in Emergencies

Component outcome 1: The Nicaraguan Red Cross with secretariat support improves its skills to prepare, respond, and recover from epidemics/ pandemics and provide safe water, sanitation and hygiene to vulnerable populations.

The Nicaraguan Red Cross has a national response plan, which guides interventions in emergencies or disasters. The plan is in line with the guidelines of SINAPRED, of which the National Society is a member.

With IFRC support, the NRC will have trained human resources in methodologies and tools to address health in emergencies, epidemics and pandemics, water and sanitation, psychosocial support and first aid. The National Society needs to increase the number of resources to be able to guarantee national coverage, including in particular regions since Nicaragua is a country highly vulnerable to natural emergencies and disasters.

The National Society also is interested in linking the creation of health and first aid skills with road safety, which is a current priority due to the significant increase in traffic accidents.

The following indicators will measure the achievement of the component outcome for 2011:

- By the end of 2011, the NRC has human resources trained in preparation and health in emergency methodologies (psychological first aid, epidemics and pandemics, water and sanitation, and road safety).
- By the end of 2011, the NRC has organized response teams at the national level in line with the institutional national response plan.
- By the end of 2011, the NRC is recognized as a support institution for road safety issues.

Organisational Development/Capacity Building

a) The purpose and components of the programme

Programme Purpose:

Increase local community, civil society and Red Cross Red Crescent capacity to address the most urgent situations of vulnerability.

The organizational and development/ skill strengthening programme budget is 21,674 Swiss francs.

Programme Component 1: National Society governance, management and support for the organisational development process.

Component outcome 1: The Nicaraguan Red Cross has an updated regulatory framework (policies, statutes, regulations).

The National Society's statutes, norms and regulations are the main basis for the NRC's organizational development. These should be dynamic and pertinent to the current context in order to have an impact on governance processes, and programme and service development. Therefore, the NRC plans to strengthen its organizational and work policies.

The National Society will develop governance members' management skills with a future-looking and modern vision and in line with current statutes. This marks a very important contribution to the skill strengthening needed to effectively lead the organization and provide services.

The following indicators will measure the achievement of the component outcome for 2011:

- The National Society volunteer policy is defined.
- The Nicaraguan Red Cross volunteer regulations are updated.
- The National Society fundraising rules are defined.
- The Nicaraguan Red Cross' statutes and regulations are reformed and disseminated.
- Thirty eight Nicaraguan Red Cross branches exercise their responsibilities in line with National Society norms and regulations.

Component outcome 2: National programmes and branches understand and apply planning tools.

This expected outcome plans to provide support and transfer knowledge and tools to all NRC branches in order to develop their annual operative plans and projects. These activities will be based on *Strategy 2020* to ensure that the branches function under the same strategic aims and fulfil the institutional mission, and maintain high-quality organization and resource administration through planning. Furthermore, this expected outcome will support project management to improve the sustainability of services provided at the departmental and local levels.

The following indicators will measure the achievement of the component outcome for 2011:

- Thirty eight Nicaraguan Red Cross branches adjust their strategic plans and develop their annual operative plans for 2012 in line with *Strategy 2020*.
- Thirty eight Nicaraguan Red Cross branches have knowledge and tools to develop projects.

Programme Component 1: Volunteer and youth development through national coverage of

NRC local units and services.

Component outcome 1: The Nicaraguan Red Cross volunteering management and functioning are strengthened.

The National Society has planned to reform the volunteer regulations to be in line with its statutes, the Movement's fundamental principles and humanitarian values, and mission and thus ensure that volunteers' actions are conducted efficiently and are legally supported. This expected outcome will strengthen each of the National Society's volunteer structures and inform them of their roles and functions.

The following indicators will measure the achievement of the component outcome for 2011:

- Nicaraguan Red Cross' volunteer bodies are created in line with appropriate norms and regulations, based on the particular type of volunteer.

Principles and Values

a) The purpose and components of the programme

Programme Purpose:

Promote respect for diversity and human dignity, and reduce intolerance, discrimination and social exclusion.

The principles and values programme budget is 56,765 Swiss francs.

Programme Component 1: Promote the Fundamental Principles and Humanitarian Values

Component outcome 1: Strengthen the knowledge and dissemination of humanitarian principles and values to Nicaraguan Red Cross elected government bodies, staff and volunteers by promoting gender equity and violence prevention.

The National Society plans to strengthen the dissemination of the Movement's fundamental principles and humanitarian values, based on three central issues: international humanitarian law, violence prevention and gender equity.

The following indicators will measure the achievement of the component outcome for 2011:

- The network of Disseminators, communicators and reestablishment of family links – DICORECF⁵ is activated at the national level.
- A National Society gender policy is defined and disseminated.
- National Society's personnel are knowledgeable about international humanitarian law and *Strategy 2020*.
- The Nicaraguan Red Cross has designed an image strategy and dissemination plan for principles and values.

b) Potential Risks and Challenges

Potential challenges could arise following delays or cancelations within the activities calendar due to emergencies or complex disasters. Emergencies usually occur after May when the hurricane and storm season begins and regularly affect the regions where indigenous communities are located.

Role of the secretariat

Support the National Society through the Regional Representation for Central America and Mexico based in Costa Rica to guarantee agile and timely implementation of all planned activities.

⁵ DICORECF: Difusores, Comunicadores y Restablecimiento de Contacto Familiar

a) Technical programme support

The IFRC through the continental team in Panama and the Regional Representation will provide technical assistance to the National Society to implement the Country Support Plan.

b) Partnership development and coordination

With the support of the Regional Representation and the Americas Zone Office, the NRC will strengthen its coordination with PNS in-country —the Canadian Red Cross, the Italian Red Cross, the Netherlands Red Cross and the Spanish Red Cross. The proposed creation of cooperation synergies will contribute to the country plan's implementation. The PNS jointly implement their projects with the National Society.

The ICRC and the Nicaraguan Red Cross maintain close coordination and information exchange to monitor factors that can evolve into disturbances and internal tensions and could affect the safety and integrity of all the Movement components in Nicaragua. The National Society works closely with the ICRC in the design and implementation of training activities on institutional doctrine, the Fundamental Principles and Humanitarian Values and safe access. Additionally, the ICRC jointly supports the National Society in its process to adjust its legal base (statutes, norms and regulations).

The IFRC will support the National Society's auxiliary role to public powers in Nicaragua. This support will focus particularly on the National Society's participation in SINAPRED's commission for disaster response coordination and comprehensive disaster risk management, as well as with the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Education for programmes and projects on HIV and AIDS, health in emergencies and water and sanitation.

In addition, the NRC will work and coordinate with international cooperation agencies and organizations, especially the European Commission's Humanitarian Aid Office (ECHO) regional office in the country, OCHA, UNICEF, UNDP, WFP, ISDR and Plan International.

c) Representation and Advocacy

The IFRC will take the necessary actions to uphold efficient cooperation and coordination with the Ministry of Foreign Relations in order to maintain in effect the headquarters' agreement and to take advantage of these benefits to favour appropriate management of humanitarian programmes and international cooperation and support in case of disasters. Given the latter, the IFRC is interested in maintaining a technical coordinator to provide the needed accompaniment for the support, planning and reporting processes.

The IFRC, jointly with the National Society, will provide relevant information to the Ministry of Interior about the Nicaraguan Red Cross' activities and priorities in the process of strengthening skills and organizational development, advocating in favour of respect for the Fundamental Principles and the support that the National Society needs from government authorities, when determined necessary.

Strategy 2020 and IFRC policies will be publicized in activities with public authorities and representatives of national and international organizations and humanitarian institutions.

Quality, accountability and learning

The IFRC, jointly with the National Society's President and Executive Director, will promote the development and functioning of a committee to collaborate in the monitoring of the country support plan and the Nicaraguan Red Cross' strategic plan. This committee will meet at least once a month and ensure the participation of all collaborating PNS.

The IFRC technical coordinator, or his/her counterpart in the National Society will create a monthly report on the country support plan's progress and aspects to be improved. The National Society will receive support to produce a quarterly report of its strategic plan and operative annual plan regarding technical and financial implementation.

An evaluation report on the planning implementation will be presented by January 2012, at the latest, and will include the most important lessons learnt. This report will be shared with PNS, the International Federation, the ICRC, beneficiary populations, government authority counterparts and cooperation agencies.

How we work

The IFRC's vision is to:

Inspire, encourage, facilitate and promote at all times all forms of humanitarian activities by National Societies, with a view to preventing and alleviating human suffering, and thereby contributing to the maintenance and promotion of human dignity and peace in the world.

The IFRC's work is guided by *Strategy 2020* which puts forward three strategic aims:

1. Save lives, protect livelihoods, and strengthen Recovery from disaster and crises.
2. Enable healthy and safe living.
3. Promote social inclusion and a culture of non-violence and peace.

Contact information

For further information specifically related to this plan, please contact:

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MAANI002 - Nicaragua

Budget 2011

Budget 2011

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

	Disaster Management	Health and Social Services	National Society Development	Principles and Values	Coordination	Total
Supplies						
Land, vehicles & equipment						
Transport & Storage	1,800					1.800
Personnel	5,000	2,500		19,000		26.500
Workshops & Training	67,300	24,200	18,500	19,300		129.300
General Expenditure	2,200	2,000	1,851	15,000		21.051
Depreciation						
Contributions & Transfers						
Programme Support Services Contingency	4,960	1,866	1,323	3,465		11.612
Total Budget 2011	81,260	30,566	21,674	56,765		190,264