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# **COUNTRY STRATEGY OUTLINES**

**Agenda item 7**

***For consideration***

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## **COUNTRY STRATEGY OUTLINE— NICARAGUA**

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# Note to the Executive Board



**This document is submitted for consideration to the Executive Board.**

The Secretariat invites members of the Board who may have questions of a technical nature with regard to this document, to contact the WFP staff focal point indicated below, preferably well in advance of the Board's meeting.

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# Executive Summary

Nicaragua is a low-income, food-deficit country, with an average daily calorie intake of approximately 80 percent of the minimum recommended by the Pan-American Health Organization/World Health Organization (PAHO/WHO). The Human Development Index is 0.643, ranking it 116<sup>th</sup> out of the 174 countries considered in the UNDP Human Development Report for 2000. The Gender-related Development Index (GDI) for the same period is 0.632.

This is a first-generation Country Strategy Outline (CSO) presented to the Board. The destruction ensuing from Hurricane Mitch in 1998, which came on the heels of a prolonged drought caused by El Niño, calls for a strategy aimed at recovering and reconstructing the most affected areas through a concerted effort.

The country's population growth rate, at 2.72 percent a year, is among the highest in the region (see Annex I, Table 1). This compounds existing education problems: 29.8 percent of men and 28.5 percent of women aged 15 and over are illiterate (in rural areas the rates are 46.6 percent and 45.9 percent, respectively) (Table 2b). The national average level of education is five years of schooling, and less in rural areas (Table 2a).

Chronic malnutrition affects one out of four children under 5 (Table 3); infant mortality rates are among the highest in the region: 40 per 1,000 live births in urban and 51.1 in rural areas in 1998 (Table 4). Maternal mortality rates are also high; a study carried out by the Ministry of Health (MINSa) and UNICEF estimated maternal mortality to be 125 per 100,000 births in 1999 (Table 5). The same study, however, mentions that the actual rate might well reach 200 per 100,000 births. This situation is primarily due to insufficient access to food, poor consumption habits and limited access to basic services, especially water and sanitation (Table 6).

The Gross National Product (GNP) was US\$2.394 billion in 1999, with a per capita income of US\$485, the second lowest in Latin America. These national aggregates hide a highly skewed distribution of income: 50 percent of the population earns only 14.5 percent of GNP, and the richest percentile earns 45 percent. In 1999 the minimum salary in the agricultural sector covered only 32 percent of the cost of the basic food basket.

Taking into account government strategies for reducing food insecurity and poverty, the objectives of the Enabling Development policy, and vulnerability analysis regarding food insecurity, WFP activities in Nicaragua will concentrate in the northern and southern-central regions of the country (Annex II, Map 1), identified as most vulnerable to food insecurity. Within these areas, rural women and children and landless people are the most vulnerable and disadvantaged in gaining access to resources. To help these people overcome food insecurity and poverty, considerable investment will be needed in order to:

- Enable young children and expectant and nursing mothers to meet their special nutritional and nutrition-related health needs;
- Enable poor households to invest in human capital through education and training;
- Mitigate the effects of natural disasters, in areas vulnerable to recurring crises of this kind;
- Enable households which depend on degraded natural resources for their food security to



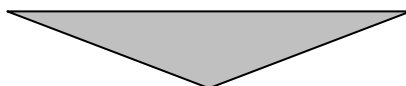
make a shift to more sustainable livelihoods.

The Country Programme (CP), due to be presented in May 2001, will take into account the comments of the Board. The CP will more accurately target poor households through intensified WFP vulnerability analysis and mapping (VAM) activities. The development and transfer of this capacity to the Government will be an important activity over the next five years.

WFP is an active participant in the Common Country Assessment/United Nations Development Assistance Framework (CCA/UNDAF) process. All United Nations agencies have agreed to a harmonized cycle (2002–2006).

The key challenges for the Government and WFP over the next five years will be to ensure the implementation and continuation of the modalities planned in this strategy, as well as in the Government's Poverty Reduction Strategy and Policy on Food and Nutritional Security.

## Draft Decision



The Board endorses the Country Strategy Outline for Nicaragua (WFP/EB.1/2001/7/1) and authorizes the Secretariat to proceed with the formulation of a Country Programme, which should take into account the comments of the Board.



## FOOD INSECURITY AND THE HUNGRY POOR

### Food Insecurity at the National Level

1. **Food Availability.** Even though the Nicaraguan economy is based primarily on agriculture, the country has not yet been able to produce all the food that it needs by applying the appropriate technology and farming incentives. In the 1998/99 agricultural season, average grain production equalled 531,000 tons, while grain consumption requirements were approximately 568,000 tons (Table 7). Per capita basic grains production increased from about 100 kg in 1990 to 140 kg in 1998 (Table 8). These increases have been achieved by expanding the area planted from 454,500 ha. in 1990 to 751,248 ha. in 1998, a strategy that has already led to a critical rate of conversion of forest and grasslands to agricultural use.
2. Even though Nicaragua's soil is relatively richer and its territory less populated than those of its Central American neighbours, its yields of maize (under 1,200 kg/ha.) and beans (under 800 kg/ha.) are substantially lower than in neighbouring countries. This is mainly due to the relatively intensive farming practised and the low level of technology used.
3. During the 1990s Nicaragua had to import, on average, 7.5 percent of its needs for beans, 4.6 percent for maize and 32.4 percent for rice in order to meet total requirements. The country depends almost entirely on imports to meet its needs for wheat flour and imports as much as 25 percent of its milk and 79 percent of its oil needs. From 1990 to 1996, food aid imports have at times risen to the equivalent of 40 to 50 percent of the country's normal grain production levels. From 1990 to 1999, a total of 893,346 tons of maize, wheat, rice and beans was imported as aid; of this total, WFP provided 106,173 tons, or 11.9 percent of overall imports (Tables 9 and 10).
4. **Food Access.** In rural areas as a whole, households derive food and income mainly from three sources. Crop production provides approximately 51 percent of total food and income, animal production 24 percent, and off-farm activities 25 percent. There are significant differences in household food and income between rural farming households, depending upon land availability (20 percent have access to plots under 0.7 ha.), the number of economically active adults in the household, whether they own animals (53 percent do not), and their possibility to participate in the market. More than 44 percent of farming families rent the land they use.
5. Gender differences in access to food are substantial. Agricultural reforms carried out in recent years have been unequally divided between men and women: in the Pacific region, only 13 percent of the land distributed under the reform was assigned to women, with 12 percent in the central departments and only 4 percent in the Atlantic region.
6. Farm ownership displays the same bias. Farms normally belong to the head of the household, which in 81.5 percent of cases is a man. When women have the right to the farm, this does not necessarily mean they receive other resources provided to the production unit. For example: of the total credit granted to households headed by women, only 64 percent actually goes to women, while 99 percent of the credit granted to households headed by men is received by men.
7. According to the Living Standards Measurement Study of 1998, females head 28 percent of all households. Of these, 33 percent are single-parent households in urban areas, and 41 percent in rural areas. The equivalent figure for male-headed households is 2 percent, in



both urban and rural areas. This situation confirms the notion that households headed by women are generally more at risk than those headed by men because they often have fewer economically active members and fewer possibilities to earn an income. Households headed by women also show relatively lower rates of education and higher rates of economic dependency.

8. Approximately 45 percent of all farm households have at least one permanent migrant working off the farm. One fifth of the permanent migrants live outside Nicaragua and send money back to their households. At least 12 percent of all rural households have a temporary migrant, the majority of whom are working in non-agricultural day-work, and one fifth are out of the country.
9. **Food Utilization.** During the 1994–98 period, the average daily diet contained 1,790 kcal. and 43 grams of protein. PAHO/WHO recommends that on average each person should consume 2,155 kcal. and 54 grams of protein. Hence, there is an average national food deficit of 365 kcal. per person.
10. The staple foods in the diet of Nicaraguans are rice, red beans, maize *tortillas*, *cuajada* (fresh cheese), coffee, milk, sugar and oil. These products are relatively rich in energy and proteins, but less so in vitamins and minerals. The consumption of poultry and meat is basically determined by household income, whereas the scarce use of vegetables, legumes and fruit is related to a lack of habit in eating these products and taboos. When vegetables are used they are often over-cooked to such an extent that most of the vitamins and minerals are lost. In times of crisis, the diet is reduced to rice and *tortillas*, and beans, the main source of protein, are not purchased. Food consumption habits in the Atlantic region differ from those in the rest of the country, as tubers and bananas are important elements of the diet, and coconut oil, not used in the rest of the country, is the cooking oil of choice.
11. **Food Marketing.** Retail markets may be present in all parts of the country, but studies suggest that the costs of getting food to the market are relatively high, and the incentives to produce and sell a surplus of basic grains are therefore low. It is estimated that only 50 percent of the maize produced reaches markets. The key factors in the high costs of food are poor road access to markets and deficient public transport. These are a particular constraint in the departments on the Atlantic Coast and in the mountainous areas.
12. At the wholesale level, the growing presence of wholesale grain buyers in the northern and central regions of the country is beginning to facilitate the export of Nicaraguan grains and beans at harvest time to meet the relatively high levels of demand in El Salvador and Honduras. These buyers are also constructing in-country storage facilities. Furthermore, the export of milk products, especially to El Salvador, is increasing.

### Food Insecurity at the Sub-national Level

13. The largest difference in food access is between urban and rural areas. Most evidence from nutritional data and studies of household income and poverty indicates that access to food in urban areas is significantly higher than in rural areas, where average rural consumption represents 55 percent of urban consumption (Table 12).
14. The departments with the largest staple crop production in the country (total and per capita) are Matagalpa, Jinotega, Boaco, Chontales and Río San Juan, mostly in the interior mountainous areas of the country. As concerns cash crops, a decreasing national trend reflects the collapse of cotton production in the mid-1970s due to the drop in international prices and high production costs, and hides strong increases in a more diversified cash crop production strategy involving coffee, soya beans, groundnuts, sugar cane and sesame, especially in the departments of León, Rivas, Chinandega and Masaya. Cash crop



production is minimal in the departments of Chontales, Río San Juan, the North Atlantic Autonomous Region (RAAN) and the South Atlantic Autonomous Region (RAAS), where road and transport access pose serious problems (Table 11).

15. Aggregate annual rural household consumption, a reflection of household income, has been estimated to be lowest in RAAN, Madriz, Nueva Segovia, Chontales, Jinotega, Matagalpa, Boaco and Río San Juan, all of them below the average rural consumption level (US\$265.75) (Table 12). The percentage of the rural population that was identified as extremely poor was highest in RAAN (67 percent), Chontales, Jinotega and Río San Juan (53 percent), Madriz (52 percent), Boaco (51 percent), RAAS and Nueva Segovia (50 percent) (Table 13).
16. Malnutrition rates, highly related to income level and food access, generally reinforce the picture shown in the poverty and consumption data. The seven departments with the highest percentage of chronic child malnutrition in 1999 were Madriz (47.3 percent), Jinotega (36.3 percent), Nueva Segovia (31.8 percent), RAAN (30.5 percent), Matagalpa (30.2 percent) and Chinandega (25.7 percent) (Table 3).
17. **Vulnerability to Shocks.** Of the 28 worst disasters that took place in Latin America and the Caribbean between 1972 and 1998, nine occurred in Nicaragua (four climatic, three earthquake/volcano, and two from civil conflict). Of these, droughts, floods and hurricanes have had the most direct impact on the poorest populations in rural areas. There is more than a 25 percent chance of substantial agricultural losses from drought in any given year in a zone that begins at the northern tip of Lake Nicaragua and extends north and west to the departments of Estelí and Madriz. Hurricanes can affect almost all parts of the country. Hurricane Mitch, which struck Nicaragua in 1998, severely affected as many as 800,000 people and caused damages worth more than US\$1 billion, and a loss of 50 percent of the total annual bean crop, 20 percent of the maize and 30 percent of the rice crop.
18. This relentless exposure to recurrent natural hazards makes it very difficult for the country and its population to recover from one event before another strikes. The capacity to cope is further reduced by the fact that Nicaragua is a low-income country, with a large percentage of its population living below the poverty line.

### The Target Population

19. A VAM study of existing data shows that vulnerability to food insecurity in Nicaragua is concentrated primarily in rural areas, and that key problems in rural areas are the lack of access to basic and productive services, low productivity, and poor infrastructure in terms of roads, silos and transport facilities, thus limiting access to markets for economic activities.
20. Areas with the lowest consumption rates include RAAN, Madriz, Jinotega, Río San Juan and Nueva Segovia. With the exception of Chontales, which is poorer than Río San Juan, these are also the departments with the highest levels of extreme poverty. Areas with the highest incidence of drought, with an impact on local production, include Madriz, Nueva Segovia, Estelí, Matagalpa and Jinotega. Difficult access to roads and markets is a feature of the eastern half of the country and mountainous areas in the northern and central part of the country (Nueva Segovia, Madriz, Estelí, Jinotega). Malnutrition is highest in Chinandega, Madriz, Jinotega, Nueva Segovia, RAAN and Matagalpa. Based on these factors, Madriz, Nueva Segovia, Jinotega, RAAN, Chinandega, Chontales and Río San Juan are considered the departments most vulnerable to food insecurity (see Annex II, Map 1).



21. Certain types of households found in these areas are more vulnerable to food insecurity than others. These include landless rural households and those with limited access to land; and single-parent households, especially those headed by women.
22. The population of the seven most vulnerable departments mentioned in paragraph 20 is estimated to be 1,512,500 in 2000, or 30 percent of Nicaragua's total population. Of this total, an estimated 15 to 20 percent comprises single-parent households. Twenty percent of households with access to land (around 50 percent of rural households) are estimated to have less than 0.7 ha.

## GOVERNMENT PRIORITIES AND POLICIES ADDRESSING POVERTY AND FOOD INSECURITY

### Overall Policies

23. The *Poverty Reduction Strategy*, issued by the Government in August 2000, identifies four main reasons for the low income and productivity of the poor in Nicaragua: 1) the collapse of the economy in the 1980s; 2) the limited access to employment and infrastructure; 3) the limited provision of basic services such as education and health; and 4) the relentless exposure to natural disasters. The key strategies identified to combat this situation include:
  - Continued modernization of the State;
  - Promotion of equality for rural women, indigenous groups and the population in the Atlantic regions;
  - Transparency; and
  - Greater participation of all members of the Nicaraguan society in the Strategy effort.

### Food Security Policies

24. A national *Policy on Food and Nutritional Security* was presented on 16 October 2000 to mark World Food Day. The main strategies identified to increase food security include generating employment in rural areas, increasing access to land, diversifying production patterns, strengthening market infrastructure and changing consumption habits through education. WFP will continue its support to the Government in the ensuing implementation process. WFP's intended programming focus will promote the increase of food production and assistance to vulnerable groups to improve their health, nutrition and education situation.

### Food Aid Policies

25. As regards a food aid policy, the Government considers that food aid should be restricted to imports that do not compete with local production. Consequently, food aid has been decreasing since 1997, and an increasingly high proportion is being used as direct food aid for those sectors of the population that live in extreme poverty or have been affected by emergency situations. According to the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MAGFOR), the tendency is for food donations to decrease even further.
26. Programme food aid from the United States and the European Union is mainly targeted for monetization. Funds generated in this way are used to finance specific projects previously agreed upon with the donor. In 1998, 130 projects worth a total of





US\$23 million were carried out. Over 50 percent of the commodities were assigned to projects associated with the country's economic infrastructure and 12 percent were allocated to the social sector.

27. Besides subscribing to the *Commitments to Women* made at the Fourth International World Conference on Women, the Government participated in the 1996 World Food Summit, committing to reducing the level of food insecurity and malnutrition in the country. According to a report issued by MAGFOR and the Secretariat for Social Action, the Government has made progress in meeting these commitments. The impact, however, has been limited because of sustainability problems. The Ministry of Health formulated a National Micronutrients Plan for 1996–2000, targeting children under 5, expectant and nursing mothers, women heads of household and marginalized families, which includes supplementing food with iron, vitamin A and iodine, and providing de-worming therapy to children between the ages of 2 and 12.

## ASSESSMENT OF WFP'S PERFORMANCE TO DATE

28. WFP assistance to Nicaragua began in 1979; it is characterized by two different approaches:
- The first focused primarily on emergency situations;
  - The second focused on development projects under four categories: a) assistance to health and education programmes; b) support to productive reintegration of persons displaced by war; c) promotion of dairy development; and d) productive rehabilitation of marginal areas.

### The Effectiveness of Targeting (Food Aid): Vulnerable Groups Projects

29. Assistance has mainly focused on vulnerable groups, particularly children at nutritional risk, expectant and nursing mothers, and poor rural households. Projects have benefited some 400,000 children and 160,000 families living in social isolation and affected by food insecurity. The selection of beneficiaries has been based on poverty and food deficit criteria. However, further VAM development will allow for improved targeting and selection techniques and methodologies regarding the population to be assisted. Although implementation through partner organizations may limit the selection of beneficiaries, these entities contribute to broadening project coverage through their presence in the field. In those targeted areas where NGOs do not exist or do not have the capacity to implement WFP activities, the Government, through its WFP project implementation units, has been carrying out activities with the collaboration of other government entities present.

### The Effectiveness of Targeting (Food Aid): Emergency Operations

30. Although the response has been invariably rapid, weaknesses were detected in terms of methods to identify the population in need of assistance. Aid was mainly provided to beneficiaries of WFP partner organizations. This confirms the need to develop methods for more adequate targeting in geographical and social terms within set time frames.

### The Effectiveness of Targeting (Achievements and Sustainability): School Feeding Projects

31. One major impact of school feeding has been the development of capacities and knowledge of pre-school and early primary school children in poor rural centres. WFP has



worked in marginal areas and with marginal groups. Its assistance has made it possible to satisfy at least 50 percent of the calorie and protein requirements of these children. Increases have been noted in: a) the number of children who remain enrolled in school; b) community pre-school attendance (from 10 percent in 1990 to 50 percent in 1998); and c) the degree of dedication and attention shown in class. Although it has not been possible to obtain access to information regarding improvement of the quality of education, data on completion of the school year show positive results. For instance, in 1998 close to 95 percent of the school population enrolled in basic primary education finished the school year. Primary education in Nicaragua covers 75 percent of the child population, one of the lowest in Central America. Pre-primary education attendance in rural areas are 26 percent for boys and 46 percent for girls.

32. Within project Nicaragua 4515.01, 30 percent of the children receiving food in the community centres are under 2; many of them show strong signs of malnutrition when they begin attending community centres. Specialized surveys indicate that most skills and abilities to be developed in the future are acquired during the first two years of life, and the food ration children receive in the centres are an important factor in their growth and development. Nonetheless, a significant gap exists in the attention focused on this critical group of children from 6 months to 2 years of age.

#### The Effectiveness of Targeting (Achievements and Sustainability): Food-for-work Projects

33. **Adoption of new techniques and changes in patterns of family behaviour and attitude towards gender relations in the household.** Provision of food assistance has encouraged the introduction of new knowledge and practices into the environment of food-insecure families. In addition, food assistance becomes more sustainable when accompanied by educational and training activities. Better cooking practices, diversification of children's diet and the adoption of new eating and hygienic habits have been promoted through the provision of food assistance.
34. In the rural production context, this newly gained knowledge has contributed to the adoption of new productive techniques by men and women, linked in particular to water and soil conservation. This has given added value to rural populations' small plots and allowed them to engage in new activities that would not have been possible with their scarce resources. Working in partnership has been another factor making this possible, as implementing partners have contributed additional knowledge and resources. Continuity and sustainability of these partnerships depend on how clearly defined and formalized they are from the onset of WFP assistance.
35. **Promotion of community participation.** Food aid has strongly encouraged the beneficiary population to participate in community activities. Increased participation of women in the organization and management of food commodities has helped them realize the importance of nutrition and hygiene and acquire new skills and knowledge. Activities to build community infrastructure have allowed for the development and promotion of community organization schemes that promote increased leadership by women. These efforts should be improved and systematized.
36. **Reactivation of production and development of income-generating alternatives for poor families.** Assistance has been provided mainly through the food-for-work programme by generating temporary jobs for over 300,000 people. Furthermore, this has allowed for the rehabilitation and integration of 42,000 ha. of marginal land into small farm production. A supplementary credit programme has made it possible to extend credit to



thousands of families in order to improve their productive capacity and infrastructure; 31 percent of the participants are women.

37. An important factor in ensuring sustainability in WFP activities has been the link of WFP efforts with other activities directly related to long-term economic and productive development. The main challenge is to reach people at high risk of food insecurity who do not receive assistance because of difficult physical access, organizational weaknesses, and/or lack of implementation entities.
38. **Construction and rehabilitation of infrastructure.** These activities have contributed to generating employment in rural areas, strengthening community organization, and improving works not financed by other government programmes. Women have participated in 38 percent of activities, which include building or improving an estimated 20,000 km of rural roads, close to 600 drinking-water supply systems for community use, over 15,000 households and community centres, and approximately 1,000 schools. Financial support was provided for planting 30,000 ha. for the production of basic grains. Food aid contributed to reviving the network of storage and production facilities for dairy products in the country's central region.
39. The sustainability of investments in infrastructure and the capacity of beneficiaries to organize the necessary maintenance tasks are issues that require appropriate evaluation. In some cases it has been noted that such investments would be abandoned should assistance be withdrawn. One of the reasons for this is insufficient community participation in identifying and prioritizing investments and in selecting and defining beneficiaries of food aid. Another core element in this respect is linking beneficiaries to subsequent efforts that will allow for monitoring activities.
40. **Lessons Learned from Hurricane Mitch.** Given the magnitude of damages caused by the hurricane, the volume of assistance provided and the mobilization of human resources after the tragedy, it is worth pointing out some core lessons learned from this experience. The main lesson to be drawn from assistance after the hurricane is that it is possible to coordinate with other actors when they share the same goal. Such coordination facilitates assistance and makes modes of implementation more flexible.
41. Existing food stocks in the various projects facilitated immediate response to the emergency in spite of the enormous proportion of needs. During the emergency, WFP played a leading role in food distribution and in consolidating other efforts involving relief assistance. This role should continue as WFP shifts its attention to reconstruction and rehabilitation activities.

## Overall Assessment of the Programme

42. **Development of an integrated gender approach in accordance with WFP's Commitments to Women.** Women have received specific attention from WFP to help them gain increased access to and control over benefits. However, the gender approach has not always been integrated into the various schemes. Issues of decision-making, management and control of means of production by women have not been sufficiently addressed.
43. Productive projects have focused on farmers rather than family units. Current efforts are directed at the family unit, emphasizing the role of women. Many projects have achieved substantial improvements by involving women in the management of food in the household and in cooking at community centres, as well as in training activities. This is primarily due to efforts made by partner implementation management units. These units



have also increased the number of women members in their own staff. One of the three national Directors is a woman.

44. Because data from previous projects have not been systematically collected by gender, there are no specific records as to the number of women beneficiaries or resources specifically assigned to women in the past. Nonetheless, as part of WFP's Commitments to Women, three projects now have databases broken down by gender. This will facilitate an examination of monitoring and evaluation systems as well as the tools for collecting information, so as to ensure that both qualitative and quantitative information is gathered, including elements to facilitate a gender analysis.
45. Furthermore, a survey on gender inequity as regards access to services and goods was carried out within the VAM framework. This has allowed for identifying the status of available information in the country by gender and geographical area (urban-rural), as well as detecting existing gaps. This will serve as guidelines to introduce the gender approach in future efforts made by institutions that generate information. Considering that Nicaragua is one of the countries with a gender gap greater than 25 percent, 60 percent of the Country Programme (CP) resources will be directed to women and girls.

## FUTURE ORIENTATION OF WFP ASSISTANCE

### Target Population and Geographical Targeting

46. The WFP strategy for Nicaragua identifies the family as the principal focus of its assistance, giving priority to households headed by women.
47. Based on the concept that WFP assistance should be provided only when and where food consumption is inadequate for good health and productivity, the CSO for Nicaragua proposes that WFP development activities be concentrated in areas inhabited by the most food-insecure and environmentally at-risk populations. As identified in a VAM study that took into account poverty mapping and consumption estimates, access to food and services, drought risk and malnutrition, the areas most vulnerable to food insecurity are in general rural areas, and in particular, Nueva Segovia, Madriz, Jinotega, Chinandega, RAAN, Chontales and Río San Juan (see Annex II, Map 1). As mentioned earlier, high levels of food insecurity, poverty, malnutrition and the lowest levels of literacy characterize these areas.
48. The total population of these departments is estimated to be 1,512,500 for 2000. Of these, approximately 404,098 people are extremely poor, out of whom 324,799 live in rural areas.
49. Households headed by women are particularly vulnerable to food insecurity. In the departments listed above, such households are estimated to be 158,654; of these 64,572 are single-parent households.
50. It is estimated that 20 percent of rural households have access to less than 0.7 ha. This implies that 414,425 people in the seven departments identified as vulnerable live on less than 0.7 ha.
51. The analysis carried out for the CSO has been conducted at the departmental level (the second political-administrative unit). The analysis for the Country Programme will be carried out at the municipal level and supported by the results of a field assessment.



## Identification of Key Areas for Assistance

52. In accordance with decision 1999/EB.A/2 of the Executive Board, WFP focuses its development activities on five objectives. This CSO addresses Enabling Development objectives 1, 2, 4, and 5: enable young children and expectant and nursing mothers to meet their special nutritional and nutrition-related health needs; enable poor households to invest in human capital through education and training; mitigate the effects of natural disasters in areas vulnerable to recurring crises of this kind; and enable households which depend on degraded natural resources for their food security to make a shift to more sustainable livelihoods.
53. **Enable young children and expectant and nursing mothers to meet their special nutritional and nutrition-related health needs.** Attention to these two groups is considered a priority, especially in rural areas, due to high rates of maternal and infant mortality and malnutrition. WFP assistance includes the provision through community and health centres of enriched blended and weaning foods for local production. In this way, food assistance is combined with increased awareness of practices related to nutrition, hygiene, early childhood development, reproductive health and family planning. In community day-care centres, infants receive weaning foods as part of an integrated assistance that includes the development of motor skills and early stimulation.
54. **Enable poor households to invest in human capital through education and training.** The school feeding programme will continue, with emphasis on rural, multigrade primary schools. The level of this assistance will gradually be reduced as the Government takes over. Pre-primary education will also be promoted as a way of keeping children in primary schools and increasing their learning capacity. WFP assistance will continue to be focused on those children whose families are most vulnerable to food insecurity. This assistance includes enriched, fortified foods. It will help reduce short-term hunger and will contribute to reducing the gender gap.
55. **Mitigate the effects of natural disasters in areas vulnerable to recurring crises of this kind.** Because the population is highly vulnerable to natural disasters, WFP will intensify its food-for-work activities in soil conservation, irrigation schemes, reforestation, etc. as prevention and mitigation of natural disasters, particularly aimed at assisting rural families. This strategy complements the further strengthening and development of the Food Insecurity and Vulnerability Information and Mapping System (FIVIMS), a new unit in the Ministry of Agriculture, to define and gather the necessary data in order to provide an in-depth food insecurity vulnerability analysis. The final objective of VAM is to support the Government of Nicaragua in this process until it assumes ownership of the project. Furthermore, a United Nations system contingency plan for Nicaragua will be produced in collaboration with PAHO, UNDP and UNICEF.
56. **Enable households which depend on degraded natural resources for their food security to make a shift to more sustainable livelihoods.** The target population includes mainly families afflicted by high levels of vulnerability and food insecurity, which work small plots on fragile and/or degraded soils with irregular rainfall. WFP, through food-for-work activities, will give priority attention to female heads of household to assist them in adopting techniques that will rehabilitate their lands and improve the environment around them, thus helping to decrease their vulnerability to natural disasters and increase the productivity of their lands. Food assistance will be combined with training activities centred on soil and water conservation, environmental preservation, sustainable agricultural practices, disaster prevention and mitigation, and community participation involving gender issues.



## Modalities for Assistance and Operational Aspects

57. WFP will promote the direct distribution of food aid to beneficiaries and, to a lesser degree, the exchange of commodities. Moreover, the purchase of local food staples in the country or region will be promoted as it assists small producers and reduces logistics costs, and avoids problems regarding acceptability of foods that are not usually part of the population's consumption patterns. However, blended food enriched with micronutrients will be produced locally, which will require cash. Exchange of commodities will be considered if cash is not available.
58. The current WFP strategy and programme (1998–2000) were examined together with the Government. Projects 4515.01 and 4571.01 are scheduled to conclude in late 2001 and early 2002, respectively. In 2001 each operation will begin an adjustment process in accordance with the changes and new policy guidelines defined in this document.
59. In 2001, project 4515.01 will start a plan to reduce WFP school feeding assistance in certain locations by handing these activities progressively over to the Government. The resources made available as a result of this shift will be directed towards providing food assistance to expectant and nursing mothers and infants under 2. The activities of project 4571.01 will focus on the same areas, coordinating efforts to provide assistance in collaboration with other United Nations agencies and NGOs.
60. The protracted relief and recovery operation (PRRO) is geared towards the prevention of disasters in areas affected by environmental degradation based on experience acquired during the emergency brought about by El Niño and Hurricane Mitch. Contingency and other planning efforts will help ensure immediate availability of food in case of disaster. Soil conservation and reforestation activities, and mini-irrigation schemes will also be carried out in an effort to mitigate the impact of future disasters.
61. At the government level, the successful decentralized implementation scheme will continue; through this scheme, the Government assigns specific budgetary line items to ministries that are WFP project counterparts. With advisory assistance provided by WFP, these are used to finance government implementation units in charge of project planning, management, follow-up and evaluation.
62. VAM assistance will be provided to the National Emergency Committee, the Office of the Vice-President, and the Civil Defence to strengthen both their disaster planning and mitigation capacities.

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## PARTNERSHIPS

63. WFP maintains strong links with multilateral and bilateral donors, as well as with NGOs. This has enabled assistance to be extended to the poorest among the population, supplementing it with other types of interventions that would otherwise not have been possible. The strengthening of such ties will contribute to guaranteeing the continuity of assistance to these groups through other programmes. Collaboration with NGOs will expand, particularly as regards joint implementation of projects.
64. WFP will continue to support and participate in the activities carried out by other United Nations organizations and NGOs, especially in those areas that have been jointly determined as requiring priority attention.
65. The development of CCA/UNDAF will contribute to a strengthening of coordination among United Nations agencies, providing a concerted effort when focusing on priority issues. The most important synergies will be on issues such as female and child nutrition,



education, agricultural production, the environment, and the prevention and mitigation of disasters; these coincide with the Government's priorities established in its Poverty Reduction Strategy. It is expected that cooperation can be strengthened, particularly with PAHO, FAO, UNDP, UNICEF and UNFPA, on environment, disaster prevention and mitigation, the preparation of a contingency plan, agricultural production, reproductive health, nutrition, water and sanitation.

66. WFP is linked with projects financed by the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), *Ministerio de la Familia-Programa de Atención Integral a la Niñez Nicaragüense* (MIFAMILIA-PAININ) and *Programa Socioambiental y de Desarrollo Forestal, Ministerio del Ambiente y Recursos Naturales* (POSAF-MARENA) and the World Bank/*Ministerio de Educación Cultura y Deportes* (MECD-APRENDE). The continuity of these projects beyond 2002 is already assured or being negotiated. Important links also exist with projects financed by IFAD and the European Union—*Trópico Seco-Instituto de Desarrollo Rural* (TROPISEC-IDR).
67. WFP has working relationships with over 50 national and international NGOs. Partnerships can take the form of direct collaboration agreements or cooperation projects that subcontract local NGOs. Among the prominent international NGOs are CRS, CARE, Save the Children, *Auxilio Mundial* and ADRA. The MOUs signed with NGOs reflect WFP's Commitments to Women.
68. The review of the country strategy outline was done in broad consultation with government entities, United Nations agencies, bilateral and multilateral donors, and national and international NGOs, whose contributions and points of view were included in the document.

## KEY ISSUES AND RISKS

69. The recently approved *Poverty Reduction Strategy* and the *Policy on Food and Nutritional Security* presented on 16 October 2000, represent important commitments by the Government to combat hunger and poverty in Nicaragua and provide WFP with a more solid framework than in the past for establishing priorities as regards food assistance.
70. In spite of this, the Nicaraguan economy is still in a very precarious situation, with insufficient funding available for investing in social projects. If this situation is not alleviated, for instance, with Nicaragua joining the Highly Indebted Poor Countries scheme, WFP projects could be faced with a reduction in Government support.
71. In Nicaragua, a major obstacle to food security is vulnerable people's low purchasing power and lack of access to land. Their low purchasing power does not influence the national market. As a result, well targeted food aid will not interfere with the national market and will contribute to closing a food deficit gap that these people would not be able to close without assistance. Food aid and the accompanying capacity-building through training activities will provide them with the opportunity to improve their food security situation.
72. With the aim of ensuring the sustainability of activities once food aid has ended, WFP will continue to strengthen its coordination with organizations that provide complementary assistance to that of WFP. Participation in these activities by NGOs and local and community organizations has been and will continue to be essential. Despite their capacity to organize the targeted population, some organizations continue to face problems related to implementation. Taking into account the greater role these organizations will play in



implementation activities, WFP must stress support to initiatives intended to strengthen their administrative and implementation capacity.

73. A constant risk for the projects and activities is Nicaragua's high vulnerability to natural disasters.





## ANNEX I

## NICARAGUA—BASIC INDICATORS

TABLE 1: FERTILITY BY REGION AND AREA 1993–1997  
(expressed in births per woman)

Region	Overall rate
Boaco	4.7
Carazo	3.6
Chinandega	4.1
Chontales	3.9
Estelí	3.5
Granada	3.6
Jinotega	6.3
León	3.5
Madriz	4.7
Managua	3.0
Masaya	3.4
Matagalpa	4.8
Nueva Segovia	4.2
North Atlantic Autonomous Region (RAAN)	6.1
South Atlantic Autonomous Region (RAAS)	4.6
Río San Juan	5.6
Rivas	3.9
<b>Area</b>	
Urban	3.1
Rural	5.4

Source: Nicaraguan Demographic and Health Survey, 1998, page 40, INEC, Managua, 1999.

TABLE 2A: ILLITERACY RATE AND AVERAGE YEARS OF  
SCHOOLING BY AREA, GENDER AND REGION  
(children aged 10 and older)

Years of schooling	Rate
General	4.9
Men	4.8
Women	5.0
<b>Region</b>	
Managua	6.6
Urban Pacific	5.9
Rural Pacific	5.7
Urban Centre	5.7
Rural Centre	2.7
Urban Atlantic	4.8
Rural Atlantic	2.1

Source: Nicaragua Human Development Report, Managua, UNDP, 2000, pages 52–53.



TABLE 2B: POPULATION LITERACY LEVEL BY REGION<sup>1</sup>  
(aged 15 and over)

Region	Overall population			Male			Female		
	Total	Illiterate no.	Illiterate %	Total	Illiterate no.	Illiterate %	Total	Illiterate no.	Illiterate %
Boaco	108 755	47 178	43.4	53 649	23 591	44.0	55 106	23 587	42.8
Carazo	122 250	27 264	22.3	60 082	13 338	22.2	62 168	13 927	22.4
Chinandega	281 755	74 606	26.5	139 038	38 751	28.0	142 717	35 855	25.1
Chontales	115 625	44 029	38.1	56 141	22 742	40.5	59 484	21 287	35.8
Estelí	143 470	36 011	25.1	69 573	19 412	28.0	73 897	16 599	22.5
Granada	126 965	29 378	23.1	61 778	14 407	23.3	65 187	14 970	23.0
Jinotega	198 859	93 545	47.0	99 886	48 007	48.1	98 973	45 538	46.0
León	275 065	66 685	24.2	133 737	34 570	25.9	141 328	32 115	22.7
Madriz	86 015	33 575	39.0	43 328	17 279	3.9	42 687	16 296	38.2
Managua	915 077	126 805	13.9	433 146	59 073	13.6	481 931	67 732	14.1
Masaya	196 991	43 544	22.1	96 097	20 248	21.1	100 894	23 295	23.1
Matagalpa	303 328	132 192	43.6	150 507	65 438	43.5	152 821	66 754	43.7
Nueva Segovia	117 788	43 441	36.9	58 725	22 066	37.6	59 063	21 375	36.2
RAAN	146 144	70 906	48.5	72 741	33 325	45.8	73 403	37 582	51.2
RAAS	207 973	104 360	50.2	104 267	52 788	50.6	103 706	51 572	49.7
Rio San Juan	53 215	24 953	46.9	27 730	13 200	47.6	25 485	11 752	46.1
Rivas	115 355	26 682	23.1	57 397	14 096	24.6	57 958	12 586	21.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>3 514 630</b>	<b>1 024 631</b>	<b>29.2<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>1 717 822</b>	<b>512 094</b>	<b>29.8<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>1 796 808</b>	<b>512 537</b>	<b>28.5<sup>2</sup></b>

Region	Overall rural population			Male			Female		
	Total	Illiterate no.	Illiterate %	Total	Illiterate no.	Illiterate %	Total	Illiterate no.	Illiterate %
Boaco	76 311	40 369	52.9	39 217	20 680	52.7	37 094	19 689	53.1
Carazo	50 970	16 682	32.7	26 138	8 595	32.9	24 832	8 088	32.6
Chinandega	114 662	44 911	39.2	59 169	24 455	41.3	55 493	20 456	36.9
Chontales	56 663	31 361	55.3	29 370	16 904	57.6	27 293	14 457	53.0
Estelí	65 553	24 235	37.0	33 967	13 858	40.8	31 586	10 377	32.8
Granada	46 384	17 192	37.1	23 786	8 794	37.0	22 598	8 398	37.2
Jinotega	159 051	86 033	54.1	81 843	44 588	54.5	77 208	41 445	53.7
León	120 088	44 153	36.8	61 419	23 999	39.1	58 669	20 154	34.3
Madriz	63 246	29 494	46.6	32 716	15 388	47.0	30 530	14 106	46.2
Managua	97 576	29 986	30.7	49 854	15 803	31.7	47 722	14 183	29.7
Masaya	82 924	25 609	30.9	41 558	12 400	29.8	41 366	13 209	31.9
Matagalpa	202 122	111 356	55.1	103 781	56 168	54.1	98 341	55 188	56.1
Nueva Segovia	63 462	30 197	47.6	32 944	15 727	47.7	30 518	14 470	47.4
RAAN	105 355	61 509	58.4	53 270	29 131	54.7	52 085	32 378	62.2
RAAS	126 545	80 127	63.3	65 272	41 124	63.0	61 273	39 004	63.7
Rio San Juan	41 388	21 872	52.8	21 990	11 666	53.0	19 398	10 206	52.6
Rivas	74 745	21 262	28.4	38 157	11 391	29.8	36 588	9 871	27.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>1 547 045</b>	<b>716 094</b>	<b>46.3<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>794 451</b>	<b>370 560</b>	<b>46.6<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>758 594</b>	<b>345 535</b>	<b>45.9<sup>2</sup></b>

VAM Unit elaboration based on the 1995 Census, Population: educational characteristics, Vol. II, Managua, INEC, 1997. Population rate of 6 or over, by area of residence and literacy level by region, gender, age group and simple age table.

<sup>1</sup> The difference between the population of both sexes and the rural population of both sexes would reflect information on the urban population. Similar differences regarding the columns with data on women would provide information regarding men.

<sup>2</sup> Average.



TABLE 3: CHILD MALNUTRITION (aged 0 to 5)<sup>1</sup>

Region	Height-for-age <sup>2</sup>		Weight-for-age	Weight-for-height	Number of children
	% with-2SD	% with-3SD	% <sup>3</sup>	% <sup>4</sup>	
Boaco	24.7	11.8	15.2	1.4	225
Carazo	24.2	7.7	8.0	1.3	200
Chinandega	25.7	9.7	15.9	2.6	573
Chontales	18.8	7.7	9.4	3.1	199
Estelí	22.7	8.0	9.3	1.3	278
Granada	21.7	7.1	11.6	1.5	187
Jinotega	36.3	14.3	21.9	2.8	498
León	22.1	7.7	14.3	3.2	497
Madriz	47.2	17.7	25.3	2.7	176
Managua	14.6	5.3	12.1	2.2	1 722
Masaya	24.6	7.4	7.9	1.7	336
Matagalpa	30.2	11.5	13.0	3.5	619
Nueva Segovia	31.8	12.3	13.8	2.2	260
RAAN	30.5	10.4	15.9	2.5	426
RAAS	23.0	9.2	11.4	3.8	302
Río San Juan	19.2	6.1	8.6	3.3	102
Rivas	15.4	4.3	11.1	3.3	190
<b>Average</b>	<b>25.5</b>	<b>9.3</b>	<b>13.2</b>	<b>2.5</b>	<b>5 068 (Total)</b>
<b>Area</b>					
Urban %	19.4	7.0	10.9	2.0	
Rural %	32.2	11.7	15.9	3.0	

Source: Nicaraguan Demographic and Health Survey 1998 (ENDESA), Managua, INEC.

<sup>1</sup> Each indicator is shown in terms of standard deviations (SD) from the average of the international reference population, as recommended by NCHS/CDC/WHO. Children are classified as malnourished if found to be two or more standard deviations (-2SD) below the aforementioned average.

<sup>2</sup> Indicates chronic malnutrition.

<sup>3</sup> Global indicator of malnutrition: more than 13 percent of the Nicaraguan children are malnourished.

<sup>4</sup> Under 3 percent of children suffer from acute malnutrition.



TABLE 4: INFANT AND CHILD MORTALITY PER 1,000 LIVE BIRTHS  
1988–1997 (by region)

Region	Mortality <sup>2</sup>			
	Neonatal	Post-neonatal	Infant (aged 0–1)	Childhood (aged 0–5)
Boaco	24.0	26.3	50.3	58.3
Carazo	21.0 <sup>1</sup>	15.1 <sup>1</sup>	36.1 <sup>1</sup>	40.1 <sup>1</sup>
Chinandega	21.2	26.2	47.5	58.0
Chontales	36.8	38.4	75.2	80.4
Estelí	20.2	13.8	34.1	41.4
Granada	11.1	21.6	32.7	41.2
Jinotega	27.9	37.5	65.3	97.3
León	20.7	13.7	34.4	39.6
Madriz	13.0 <sup>1</sup>	16.2 <sup>1</sup>	29.2 <sup>1</sup>	42.8 <sup>1</sup>
Managua	18.9	21.6	40.5	46.7
Masaya	18.9	24.0	42.9	56.6
Matagalpa	20.4	27.6	48.1	64.4
Nueva Segovia	17.8	26.1	44.0	52.3
RAAN	19.9	41.8	61.6	81.3
RAAS	12.2	29.6	41.8	53.2
Río San Juan	18.0 <sup>1</sup>	17.7 <sup>1</sup>	35.7 <sup>1</sup>	42.4 <sup>1</sup>
Rivas	20.0 <sup>1</sup>	22.8 <sup>1</sup>	42.7 <sup>1</sup>	52.7 <sup>1</sup>
<b>National average</b>	<b>20.1</b>	<b>24.7</b>	<b>44.8</b>	<b>55.8</b>
<b>Area</b>				
Urban	17.7	22.3	40.0	48.8
Rural	23.1	27.9	51.1	64.3

Source: INEC, MINSA and ENDESA, 1998, Managua; INEC, 1999, page 126.

<sup>1</sup> Rates are based on under 500 cases; all other rates are based on probabilities calculated for intervals with over 500 cases (exposed persons).

<sup>2</sup> Neonatal mortality is before 29 days from birth; post-neonatal mortality is from 29 days until before the first year; the total of both defines infant mortality. Childhood mortality is from birth up to the age of 5; the difference between childhood mortality and infant mortality defines post-infant mortality (ages 1 to 4).



TABLE 5: MATERNAL MORTALITY PER 100,000 LIVE BIRTHS, 1992–1999  
(by region)

Region	Year							
	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999 <sup>1</sup>
Boaco	38	33	0	0	31	98	89	190
Carazo	87	68	63	73	62	70	129	85
Chinandega	168	73	20	79	71	117	70	54
Chontales	101	141	55	215	272	188	141	213
Estelí	111	81	96	58	78	38	54	114
Granada	19	82	61	91	50	120	27	26
Jinotega	249	192	135	233	260	244	267	302
León	46	72	88	84	66	13	59	108
Madriz	58	56	212	125	87	95	29	29
Managua	69	63	45	38	62	66	49	36
Masaya	103	73	58	91	71	17	46	73
Matagalpa	127	230	205	169	179	167	188	223
Nueva Segovia	35	64	65	90	142	95	52	110
RAAN	63	115	283	335	421	274	236	292
RAAS	141	111	184	109	230	402	192	87
Río San Juan	74	59	70	63.6	137	376	61	354
Rivas	46	79	75	44.7	29	58	95	98
<b>National maternal mortality rate<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>91</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>105.7</b>	<b>125</b>	<b>121</b>	<b>106</b>	<b>125</b>

Source: Nicaragua Human Development Report, Managua, UNDP, 2000, pages 157–158.

<sup>1</sup> Preliminary data.

<sup>2</sup> Total annual deaths of women due to pregnancy, labour and puerperium (direct and indirect obstetric deaths based on WHO definition) per 100,000 live births registered.



TABLE 6: URBAN POPULATION ACCESS TO SANITARY SEWER SYSTEMS, 1990–1999  
(percent)

1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
31.0	30.1	29.6	32.5	32.5	32.6	32.6	32.3	32.3	33.4

Source: Nicaragua Human Development Report, Managua, UNDP, 2000; page 154.

POPULATION ACCESS TO DRINKING WATER, 1990–1999  
(percent)

	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
National coverage (percent)	45.8	47.2	49.4	52.5	55.4	56.1	59.1	61.6	62.8	66.4
Urban coverage	74.0	74.0	75.9	78.8	82.5	80.8	82.4	86.9	88.3	88.5
Dispersed rural coverage <sup>1</sup>	17.5	19.0	21.0	23.0	25.0	29.3	32.2	34.5	36.8	39.0

Source: Nicaragua Human Development Report, Managua, UNDP, 2000; page 154.

<sup>1</sup> Includes training in well construction, small aqueduct by gravity and spring collection, etc.

TABLE 7: CALENDAR FOR SOWING AND HARVESTING OF BASIC GRAINS

Product	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	March	April
<b>Maize</b>												
First cycle				20%	50%	30%						
Late first cycle						100%						
Second cycle							30%	40%	20%	10%		
Irrigated		50%	50%									
<b>Beans</b>												
First cycle				20%	70%	10%						
Second cycle							30%	35%	35%			
Third cycle	10%										40%	50%
<b>Rice</b>												
Irrigated	50%	20%					30%					30%
								40%	30%			
Rain-fed						40%	60%					

Sowing

Harvesting

Source: Secretariat for Social Action, Nicaragua, 2000. Situational Analysis of Food and Nutritional Security. Annex Graph 6, according to data provided by the Statistics Unit at the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MAGFOR), 1998.



TABLE 8: PRODUCTION OF BASIC GRAINS, BY REGION 1990/91–1998/99 (tons)

Region	1990/91	1991/92	1992/93	1993/94	1994/95	1995/96	1996/97	1997/98	1998/99	Average
Boaco	21 073.8	25 166.8	10 149.	32 691.1	22 883.4	45 594.4	44 720.6	41 907.1	50 818.9	32 778.3
Carazo	8 690.1	9 158.5	5 052.	6 766.0	5 138.1	10 318.8	10 861.2	6 355.0	5 458.2	7 533.1
Chinandega	19 637.7	25 233.7	34 910.	43 241.9	32 383.6	38 531.2	52 603.2	27 653.3	16 307.8	32 278.1
Chontales	49 910.8	63 523.1	68 562.	125 212.8	49 632.4	69 614.9	62 638.6	57 194.4	75 535.9	69 091.7
Estelí	23 938.6	25 287.0	29 319.	24 846.4	33 410.0	31 250.2	23 976.2	34 196.2	21 040.9	27 473.9
Granada	32 607.6	29 107.9	30 097.	38 742.6	27 415.4	28 027.8	39 576.3	31 209.8	29 472.2	31 806.3
Jinotega	46 050.2	51 066.0	43 136.	48 430.8	82 822.5	74 639.1	66 171.1	63 012.4	66 895.2	60 247.1
León	23 279.8	29 669.0	39 413.	45 552.6	33 208.9	30 659.9	41 706.0	23 683.9	16 062.9	31 470.7
Madriz	5 339.2	4 472.0	4 252.	2 442.2	5 176.9	7 009.0	5 355.6	7 316.8	12 252.3	5 957.4
Managua	12 059.9	15 162.8	6 946.	22 263.7	20 528.5	16 154.5	27 121.4	21 306.0	11 492.9	17 004.0
Masaya	18 552.3	15 403.6	12 194.	25 732.0	11 229.2	12 797.3	15 098.3	10 922.5	9 529.6	14 606.6
Matagalpa	58 337.3	66 983.4	64 540.	73 054.8	109 850.5	120 956.1	117 714.5	116 538.2	112 692.2	93 407.5
Nueva Segovia	25 636.1	31 608.7	37 235.	19 487.9	34 471.6	34 487.9	28 808.6	38 059.6	34 269.6	31 562.9
RAAN	8 307.6	14 720.0	18 203.	21 820.6	25 965.7	40 583.3	41 559.5	47 130.3	47 734.9	29 558.3
RAAS	7 754.1	6 718.6	20 549.	3 838.4	8 256.6	9 086.7	5 605.4	7 374.0	24 927.1	10 456.7
Río San Juan	14 591.7	14 488.0	17 785.	21 325.7	14 174.2	20 164.3	42 839.1	36 814.3	125 819.1	34 222.5
Rivas	19 782.4	14 858.1	13 989.	17 935.3	12 543.4	14 634.6	33 982.3	17 585.3	12 266.4	17 508.6
<b>Total tons</b>	<b>395 549.2</b>	<b>442 627.2</b>	<b>456 338.</b>	<b>573 384.8</b>	<b>529 090.9</b>	<b>604 510.0</b>	<b>660 337.9</b>	<b>588 259.1</b>	<b>672 576.1</b>	<b>546 963.7</b>
Per capita (kg)	103.5	112.4	112.6	137.3	123.1	136.6	145.2	125.9	140.0	126.3

VAM elaboration using data from the Ministry of Agriculture, Department of Statistics, 2000 (production data) and Nicaraguan Institute for Statistics and Censuses, INEC, for population estimates.

Note: Basic grains include maize, beans, rice and sorghum.



TABLE 9: FOOD AID DELIVERIES OVERALL AND BY WFP TO NICARAGUA  
IN TONS BY YEAR, OPERATION AND TONNAGE

Year	Programme	Project	Emergency	Total per year	WFP total per year
1990	164 359	17 176	14 044	195 580	14 872
1991	96 769	12 935	0	109 704	3 275
1992	78 315	13 108	1 781	93 204	4 464
1993	59 849	17 486	0	77 335	5 272
1994	26 000	18 592	0	44 592	6 728
1995	26 566	17 606	0	44 172	7 999
1996	21 470	16 342	0	37 812	11 779
1997	7 000	14 557	1 000	22 557	4 550
1998	40 115	7 912	21 668	69 695	7 972
1999	15 000	69 856	113 839	198 695	39 260
<b>Total</b>	<b>535 443</b>	<b>205 571</b>	<b>152 332</b>	<b>893 346</b>	<b>106 173</b>

Source: Interfais, WFP, 2000.



TABLE 10: TOTAL AND WFP FOOD AID TO NICARAGUA IN TONS BY YEAR, COMMODITY AND PERCENTAGE

Year	Total	WFP	WFP % of total	Rice	WFP rice	WFP % rice	Wheat	WFP wheat	WFP % wheat	Beans	WFP beans	WFP % beans	Maize	WFP maize	WFP % maize
1990	195 579.4	14 872.3	7.6	38 203.7	2 330.7	6.1	86 628.1	4 479.4	5.2	9 520.0	1 540.0	16.2	61 228.0	6 522.1	10.7
1991	109 704.4	3 275.3	3.0	12 026.0	0.0	0.0	78 776.0	1 127.0	1.4	11 000.0	0.0	0.0	7 902.3	2 148.3	27.2
1992	93 204.4	4 464.1	4.8	7 418.8	464.8	6.3	80 554.4	3 395.3	4.2	2 985.0	120.0	4.0	2 246.0	484.0	21.6
1993	77 335.4	5 272.1	6.8	15 222.3	2 605.3	17.1	51 543.0	0.0	0.0	4 711.1	327.1	6.9	5 858.7	2 339.7	39.9
1994	44 591.4	6 728.2	15.1	7 762.4	2 598.4	33.5	9 309.9	0.0	0.0	4 545.6	1 934.9	42.6	22 974.0	2 195.0	9.6
1995	44 172.4	7 999.3	18.1	10 682.3	3 346.3	31.3	12 115.0	0.0	0.0	3 103.1	806.5	26.0	18 271.6	3 846.5	21.1
1996	37 812.4	11 779.2	31.2	2 405.0	720.0	29.9	31 469.8	10 000.0	31.8	199.1	199.1	100.0	3 738.0	860.0	23.0
1997	22 556.4	4 550.4	20.2	2 450.4	856.4	35.0	7 208.2	0.0	0.0	7 392.0	240.0	3.3	5 506.0	3 454.0	62.7
1998	69 694.4	7 971.8	11.4	11 829.0	4 072.8	34.4	39 014.0	0.0	0.0	1 450.4	641.0	44.2	17 401.2	3 258.0	18.7
1999	198 695.4	39 259.9	19.8	55 929.6	13 695.9	24.5	60 823.1	620.3	1.0	18 014.0	3 038.8	16.9	63 928.6	21 904.9	34.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>893 346.4</b>	<b>106 172.6</b>	<b>11.9</b>	<b>163 929.5</b>	<b>30 690.6</b>	<b>18.7</b>	<b>457 441.5</b>	<b>19 622.0</b>	<b>4.3</b>	<b>62 920.3</b>	<b>8 847.4</b>	<b>14.1</b>	<b>209 054.4</b>	<b>47 012.5</b>	<b>22.5</b>

Source: Interfais, WFP, 2000.



TABLE 11: PRODUCTION OF CASH CROPS 1990/99 (tons)

Region/year	1990/91	1991/92	1992/93	1993/94	1994/95	1995/96	1996/97	1997/98	1998/99	Average	% increase
Boaco	904.6	881.2	615.3	697.6	719.9	1 083.7	836.4	1 309.4	964.3	890.3	6.6
Carazo	3 261.3	6 138.8	4 434.3	3 542.3	4 910.6	4 127.6	2 873.9	2 476.7	1 629.1	3 710.5	-50.1
Chinandega	308 479.8	357 042.4	217 401.2	159 141.8	172 979.8	202 446.5	273 783.4	224 349.9	242 754.6	239 819.9	-21.3
Chontales	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Estelí	1 913.1	1 856.9	1 684.3	1 727.1	1 601.9	2 559.8	3 416.2	3 403.5	1 899.8	2 229.2	-0.7
Granada	596.2	547.3	411.3	223.9	459.7	327.4	414.2	262.9	783.0	447.3	31.3
Jinotega	9 967.9	18 096.1	11 941.4	16 688.2	14 541.9	21 281.0	17 218.9	31 760.4	34 482.8	19 553.2	245.9
León	48 732.5	44 237.3	6 205.0	14 526.9	21 704.5	28 706.3	17 461.3	20 665.0	18 736.0	24 552.8	-61.6
Madriz	2 600.1	3 082.9	2 484.1	3 176.0	3 302.7	4 320.4	2 810.6	4 334.8	3 391.7	3 278.1	30.4
Managua	3 334.8	2 329.7	1 575.3	1 454.3	1 590.2	3 089.4	4 323.8	919.2	1 815.6	2 270.2	-45.6
Masaya	3 019.1	2 145.8	1 656.1	1 094.0	1 854.9	4 958.2	3 914.8	5 131.9	6 972.9	3 416.4	131.0
Matagalpa	6 492.2	11 621.2	7 639.8	10 714.4	9 336.4	13 663.2	20 213.4	18 030.9	18 148.8	12 873.4	179.6
Nueva Segovia	3 828.8	4 609.3	3 474.3	4 116.3	3 946.5	5 320.8	4 312.2	6 374.2	4 032.7	4 446.1	5.3
RAAN	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
RAAS	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Río San Juan	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Rivas	345.0	385.1	259.3	27.2	0.9	525.6	803.1	902.0	1 312.8	506.8	280.5
<b>Total (tons)</b>	<b>393 475.4</b>	<b>452 974.0</b>	<b>259 782.3</b>	<b>217 130.0</b>	<b>236 949.9</b>	<b>292 409.9</b>	<b>352 382.2</b>	<b>319 920.8</b>	<b>336 924.1</b>	<b>317 994.2</b>	
Per capita (kg)	102.9	115.0	64.1	52.0	55.1	66.1	77.5	68.4	70.2	74.6	

VAM elaboration using data from the Ministry of Agriculture, Department of Statistics, 2000 (production data) and Nicaraguan Institute for Statistics and Censuses, INEC, for population estimates.

Note: Cash crops include coffee, cotton, sesame seed, sugarcane, tobacco, bananas, and peanuts.

TABLE 12: AVERAGE CONSUMPTION BY REGION, AREA, NUMBER OF HOUSEHOLDS AND POPULATION
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Region	Consumption (\$C)		No. of households		Population	
	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban
Boaco	3 271.1	6 603.2	15 844	6 994	97 591	39 065
Carazo	4 238.3	7 012.3	11 090	15 254	63 295	85 334
Chinandega	3 570.5	6 098.5	24 745	35 963	146 210	202 347
Chontales	3 063.2	6 104.0	10 677	13 426	67 822	75 643
Estelí	3 384.0	6 920.5	13 586	17 426	80 689	92 811
Granada	3 733.9	6 583.0	9 722	17 076	58 587	95 914
Jinotega	3 123.4	3 123.4	30 364	8 166	196 355	45 648
León	3 497.2	6 811.1	24 852	32 739	151 004	185 007
Madriz	3 016.9	5 394.3	12 829	4 817	79 923	27 207
Managua	-	10 441.0	-	202 128	-	1 088 514
Masaya	4 494.9	6 773.9	17 658	24 138	103 567	137 418
Matagalpa	3 265.3	6 306.0	42 528	21 693	260 554	121 788
Nueva Segovia	3 061.1	4 620.4	14 938	12 259	92 345	69 397
RAAN	2 631.1	6 088.5	20 987	8 454	130 487	50 885
RAAS	3 542.3	5 617.5	25 338	17 438	167 806	102 517
Río San Juan	3 373.9	5 312.7	8 955	2 557	55 025	14 779
Rivas	3 978.9	6 861.2	15 433	8 943	91 768	47 978
<b>Total</b>	<b>55 246.0</b>	<b>106 671.5</b>	<b>299 546</b>	<b>449 471</b>	<b>1 843 028</b>	<b>2 482 252</b>
<b>Average</b>	<b>3 452.9</b>	<b>6 274.8</b>	<b>17 620</b>	<b>26 439</b>		

Source: Mecovi Project 2000, National households survey to measure living standards(EMNV 1998), Managua, INEC, 1999.



TABLE 13: POVERTY ANALYSIS BY REGION

Region	Population (1995 census)	Rural population	Rural poverty	Rural poverty %	Extreme rural poverty	Extreme rural poverty %
Boaco	136 656	97 776	76 962	78.7	38 920	50.6
Carazo	148 629	63 787	41 626	65.3	14 842	35.7
Chinandega	348 557	146 657	111 373	756.0	46 671	41.9
Chontales	143 465	72 985	55 192	75.6	29 112	52.8
Esteli	173 500	81 423	61 725	75.8	28 445	46.1
Granada	154 501	58 982	42 060	71.3	16 403	39.0
Jinotega	242 003	209 135	156 721	74.9	82 549	52.7
Leon	336 011	151 374	112 969	74.6	45 508	40.3
Madriz	107 130	80 156	65 571	81.8	34 019	51.9
Managua	1 088 514	119 572	31 839	26.6	6 153	19.3
Masaya	240 985	103 808	64 134	61.8	20 724	32.3
Matagalpa	382 342	261 335	205 073	78.5	101 625	49.6
Nueva Segovia	161 742	81 469	75 106	92.2	37 613	50.1
RAAN	181 372	141 492	108 269	76.5	72 839	67.3
RAAS	270 323	168 858	126 298	74.8	63 578	50.3
Río San Juan	69 804	55 215	41 801	75.7	21 995	52.6
Rivas	139 746	92 269	63 766	69.1	23 850	37.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>4 325 280</b>	<b>1 986 293</b>	<b>1 440 484</b>	<b>72.3</b>	<b>684 847</b>	

Source: Mecovi Project 2000, Poverty Map of Nicaragua. Managua, INEC, 2000.



**ANNEX II**

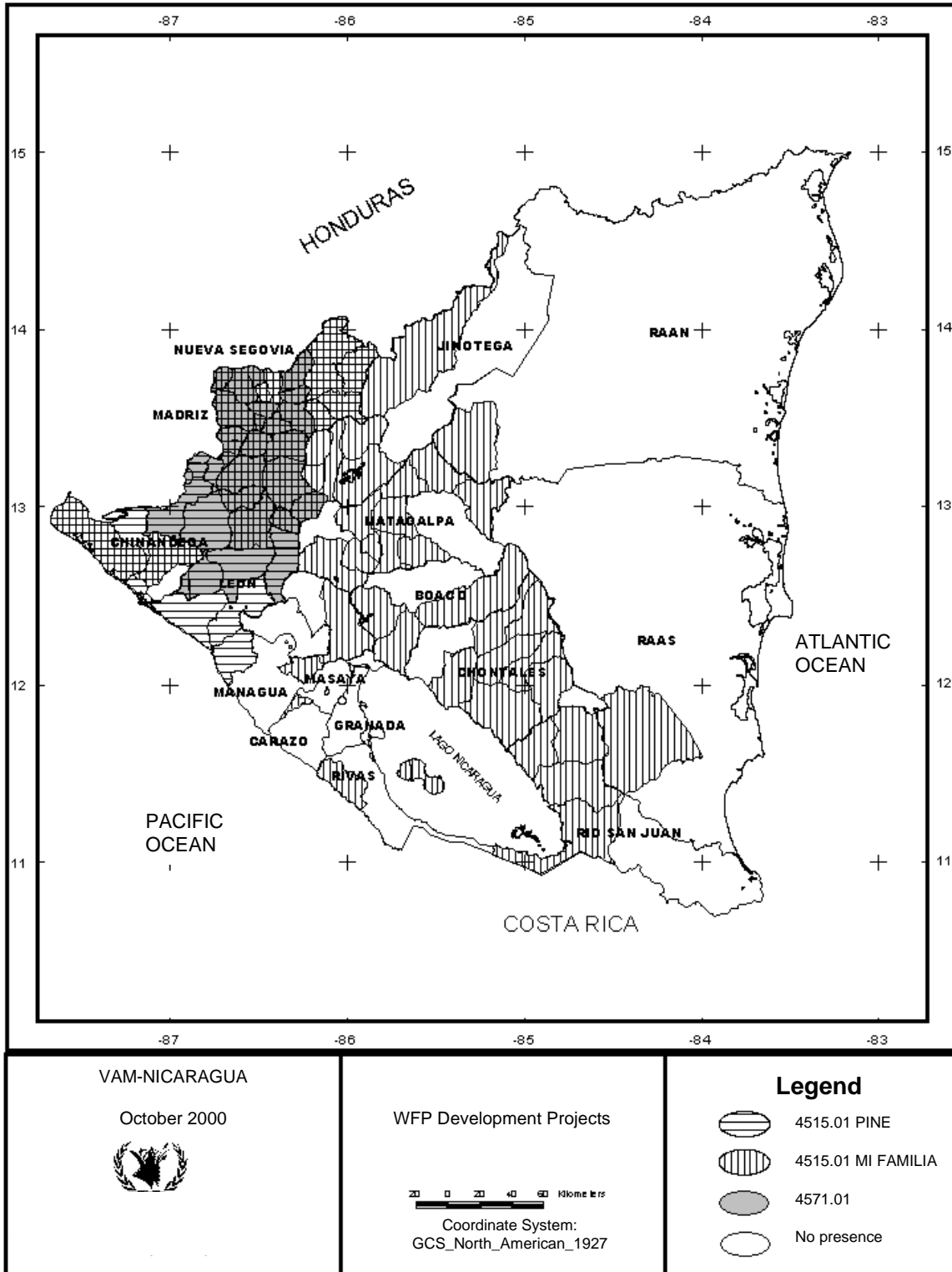
**Map 1: Vulnerability to Food Insecurity**



The designations employed and the presentation of material in this publication do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the World Food Programme (WFP) concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its frontiers or boundaries



### Map 2: World Food Programme Development Projects



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## LIST OF ACRONYMS USED IN THE DOCUMENT

ADRA	Adventist Development and Relief Agency International
CARE	Cooperative for Assistance and Relief Everywhere
CCA	Common Country Assessment
FIVIMS	Food Insecurity and Vulnerability Information and Mapping System
GDI	Gender-related Development Index
GNP	Gross National Product
IDB	Inter-American Development Bank
MAGFOR	Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry
MECD-APRENDE	<i>Ministerio de Educación, Cultura y Deportes</i> (Ministry of Education, Culture and Sports)
MIFAMILIA-PAININ	<i>Ministerio de la Familia—Programa de Atención Integral a la Niñez Nicaragüense</i> (Ministry for Family Affairs—Programme for Integrated Assistance to Nicaraguan Children)
MINSA	Ministry of Health
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
PAHO	Pan-American Health Organization
POSAF-MARENA	<i>Programa Socioambiental y de Desarrollo Forestal—Ministerio del Ambiente y Recursos Naturales</i> (Socio-Environmental and Forestry Development Programme—Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources)
PRRO	Protracted Relief and Recovery Operation
RAAN	North Atlantic Autonomous Region
RAAS	South Atlantic Autonomous Region
SD	Standard Deviation
TROPISec	<i>Trópico Seco</i> —Instituto de Desarrollo Rural (Institute for Rural Development)
UNDAF	United Nations Development Assistance Framework
VAM	Vulnerability Analysis and Mapping

