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**Executive Board
Second Regular Session**

Rome, 16–18 May 2001

COUNTRY PROGRAMMES

Agenda item 5

For approval

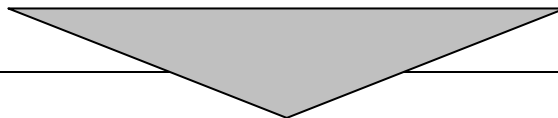
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COUNTRY PROGRAMME— NICARAGUA (2002–2006)

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Note to the Executive Board



This document is submitted for approval by 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.

Senior Liaison Officer, Latin America and Caribbean Region (OLC): Ms G. Segura tel.: 066513-2207

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Executive Summary



Nicaragua is a low-income, food-deficit country with a per capita income of US\$455, the second lowest in Latin America. It has 5.1 million inhabitants, and in spite of substantial migration, its population is growing at 2.7 percent per annum—one of the highest rates in Latin America. This compounds existing education, malnutrition, food insecurity and poverty problems.

Chronic malnutrition affects one out of four children under 5; the under-5 mortality rate is 47 per 1,000, one of the highest in the region. The maternal mortality rate is 125 per 100,000 births. This situation is primarily a result of insufficient access to food, micronutrient deficiencies, poor consumption habits and limited access to basic services, especially water and sanitation.

The Nicaragua 2002–2006 Country Programme (CP) is based on the Country Strategy Outline (CSO) endorsed by the Executive Board in February 2001. It is also based on the results of a comprehensive consultative process with beneficiaries, government representatives, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and bilateral and multilateral aid agencies. The CP cycle and orientation have been harmonized with those of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF).

The goal of the CP is to achieve a sustainable improvement in food security for more than 452,000 persons over the period 2002–2006. Taking into account government strategies for reducing food insecurity and poverty, this CP proposes to concentrate WFP activities in the northern and southern-central regions of the country. In these areas, rural women and children, small farmers and landless people are the most vulnerable and disadvantaged in gaining access to resources.

In accordance with decision 1999/EB.A/2 of the Executive Board, WFP focuses its development activities on five priority areas. The Nicaragua CP focuses its development activities on priorities 1, 2, 4 and 5:

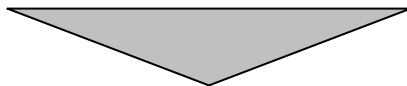
- enable young children and expectant and nursing mothers to meet their special nutritional and nutrition-related health needs;
- enable poor households to invest in human capital through education and training;
- mitigate the effects of natural disasters in areas vulnerable to recurring crises of this kind; and
- enable households that depend on degraded natural resources for their food security to make a shift to more sustainable livelihoods.

The CP has been developed in conjunction with the Nicaragua Common Country Assessment (CCA)/UNDAF process, whose main goal is to promote sustainable development and reduce poverty and food insecurity.

For the proposed CP, the Executive Director asks that the Executive Board approve, subject to availability of resources, US\$12.4 million to cover direct

operational costs and to endorse US\$8.2 million to fund supplementary activities.

Draft Decision



The Board approves the Country Programme for Nicaragua (2002–2006)
(WFP/EB.2/2001/5/3).



STRATEGIC FOCUS

Summary of the Executive Board's Discussion of the CSO

1. At its First Regular Session for 2001, the Executive Board reviewed the Country Strategy Outline for Nicaragua (WFP/EB.1/2001/7/1) and endorsed the strategy delineated in it. The Board recommended that qualitative indicators be included in the Country Programme to allow impact measurement. The Board noted with satisfaction that the WFP approach focused on disaster mitigation activities and that the Enabling Development objectives had been taken into consideration. The strategy demonstrated the way that development activities could help mitigate emergencies. The Board recommended efforts to guarantee that the poorest, including landless farmers, were reached through appropriate targeting. Some Board representatives recommended greater coordination among United Nations agencies, the donor community and NGOs.

Food Insecurity and the Hungry Poor

2. Nicaragua is a low-income, food-deficit country with a per capita income of US\$455, 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 the gross national product (GNP), while the richest 10 percent earns 45 percent. In 1999 the minimum salary in the agricultural sector covered only 32 percent of the cost of the basic food basket.
3. Nicaragua has 5.1 million inhabitants, and in spite of substantial emigration, its population is growing at one of the highest annual rates in Latin America—2.7 percent. 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). The national average level of education is five years of schooling, but it is less in rural areas. In 2000, 78.2 percent of the country's primary-school-age population (7–12 years old), considered to be 1,100,229, was enrolled in primary school. In the same year, 166,715 children were registered in pre-primary education, equalling 24.7 percent of children under 7. Pre-primary education is not institutionalized, and very few pre-school centres exist; consequently many children in the pre-primary age group are left without any type of education, particularly in rural areas.
4. Chronic malnutrition affects one out of four children under 5; infant mortality rates are among the highest in the region: 47 per 1,000 live births in urban areas and 51 per 1,000 in rural areas in 1998. 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. The same study, however, mentions that the actual rate might well reach 200 per 100,000 births. This situation is primarily a result of insufficient access to food, micronutrient deficiencies, poor consumption habits and limited access to basic services, especially water and sanitation.
5. Malnutrition rates, which are closely related to income level and food access, generally reinforce the picture shown in the poverty and consumption data. The six 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), the North Atlantic Autonomous Region (RAAN) (30.5 percent), Matagalpa (30.2 percent) and Chinandega (25.7 percent).
6. Of the 28 worst disasters that took place in Latin America and the Caribbean between 1972 and 1998, nine occurred in Nicaragua (four were climatic, three were caused by



earthquakes/volcanic eruptions, and two resulted from civil conflict). Of these, droughts, floods and hurricanes have had the most direct impact on the poorest population 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 damage worth more than US\$1 billion. Most poor families live in degraded areas; the impact of disasters is therefore greater for them.

7. The recurrent nature of these events makes it 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.
8. Subsistence farmers practise traditional agriculture with low-yield production of basic grains, little farm management experience, financial limitations and high post-harvest losses. All these factors increase the vulnerability and risk status of these families. In their struggle for survival, these families damage natural resources and the environment, starting with the elimination of the forest cover.

STRATEGIC FOCUS OF THE COUNTRY PROGRAMME

9. The goal of the Nicaragua Country Programme is to achieve a sustainable improvement in food security for more than 452,000 persons over the period 2002–2006. Taking into account government strategies for reducing food insecurity and poverty, the objectives of the Enabling Development policy and vulnerability analysis regarding food insecurity, this Country Programme proposes to concentrate WFP activities in the northern and southern-central regions of the country: Nueva Segovia, Jinotega, Madriz, Estelí, Chinandega, Leon, Matagalpa, Boaco, Chontales, RAAN and the South Atlantic Autonomous Region (RAAS) (see map in Annex V). These regions have been identified as those most vulnerable to food insecurity, with high malnutrition rates and high illiteracy rates (the Logical Framework in Annex III illustrates the goal, objectives and activities). Within these areas, rural women and children, small farmers and landless people are the most vulnerable and the most disadvantaged in terms of their 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; and
 - enable households that depend on degraded natural resources for their food security to make a shift to more sustainable livelihoods.
10. The CP will be implemented through the following programme activities:
11. **Basic Activity 1, Integrated Assistance for Vulnerable Women and Children**, will focus on children under-2 and expectant and nursing mothers. These two groups are considered a priority, especially in rural areas, because of high rates of maternal and infant



mortality and malnutrition. WFP assistance includes the provision through community and health centres of locally produced, enriched, blended and weaning foods. 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 integrated assistance that includes the development of motor skills and early stimulation.

12. **Basic Activity 2 and Supplementary Activity 1, Investment in Human Capital through Education**, will support the school feeding programme, placing emphasis on rural, multigrade primary schools in the most food insecure areas as identified by the vulnerability analysis and mapping (VAM). Pre-primary education will also be promoted as a way of preparing children for primary schools and increasing their learning capacity. WFP assistance will also focus on those children outside of the education system whose families are most vulnerable to food insecurity. This assistance includes the provision of enriched, fortified foods. It will help to reduce short-term hunger.
13. **Basic Activity 3, Support to Rural Families in Areas Affected by Drought and Flood**, aims to improve access to food for the population highly vulnerable to drought and flooding while rehabilitating degraded natural resources. WFP will intensify its food-for-work activities concerning soil conservation, the construction of irrigation schemes, reforestation, etc., as they contribute to the prevention and mitigation of natural disasters. The aim will be to assist rural families in particular. This strategy complements the further strengthening and development of the Food Insecurity and Vulnerability Information and Mapping Systems (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 principal objective of the VAM Unit within the country office is to support the Government in this process until it assumes ownership of it. Furthermore, a United Nations system contingency plan for Nicaragua will be produced in collaboration with the Pan-American Health Organization (PAHO), UNDP and UNICEF.
14. **Supplementary Activity 2, Assistance to Street Children:** The lack of resources and access to services and food in rural areas has increased migration towards the capital city and other main cities of the country, resulting in a growing number of street children, most of whom are illiterate. In order to address this situation, a supplementary activity will be developed; it will be implemented if the necessary additional resources are made available.
15. The WFP strategy for Nicaragua identifies the family unit as the principal focus of its assistance, giving priority to households headed by women. As identified by the VAM analysis that took into account a secondary analysis of poverty and nutritional data, an analysis of areas affected by climatic factors and the results of a national workshop on Zoning and Characterization of Food Security in Nicaragua, the areas most vulnerable to food insecurity are found in the country's central and Atlantic regions. This analysis, which was carried out after the elaboration of the CSO, has identified vulnerable areas that were not included in the CSO, the main reasons being the change of focus from the departmental to the municipal level and the inclusion of new components in the analysis.
16. The vulnerable zone in the central region coincides with the dry zone of the country, and natural hazards affect food availability and access on a recurrent basis. Agricultural activities pursued by the majority of these municipalities, which are poor, are oriented towards subsistence production of basic grains on eroded and marginal lands. Irregular topography combined with small farm sizes are additional constraints on the poor farmer's ability to increase production.
17. The vulnerable area in the Atlantic region is characterized by very low population densities, high illiteracy rates and poor physical access (river transport is sometimes the



primary mode of transport). Rainfall is high, often excessive, and the zone is frequently exposed to hurricanes. The area has poor and fragile soils with low fertility and little potential for perennial crops and forest. Livestock farms are moving into the western areas of these municipalities, and are quickly converting many of the new agricultural areas into pasturelands. Along the coast and rivers, small-scale fishing is widespread.

Role and Modalities of Food Aid

18. 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, reduces logistics costs and avoids problems regarding the acceptability of foods that are not usually part of the population's consumption patterns. However, locally produced, blended food enriched with micronutrients will require cash. Commodities should be purchased locally to the extent possible if the resources are available.
19. A substantial part of the Country Programme 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 the immediate availability of food in case of disaster. Soil conservation, reforestation activities and mini-irrigation schemes will also be carried out in an effort to mitigate the impact of future disasters.
20. WFP food aid will focus mainly on children at nutritional risk, expectant and nursing mothers and poor rural households. In school feeding, food aid will contribute to the development of capacities and knowledge of pre-school and primary school children in poor rural centres. The provision of food assistance will encourage the introduction of new knowledge and practices into the environment of food-insecure families. Food aid will encourage the beneficiary population to participate in community activities.
21. Since the gender gap in Nicaragua is greater than 25 percent, 60 percent of the CP resources will be directed to women and girls. WFP will make efforts to help women gain increased access to and control over assets and benefits.

COUNTRY PROGRAMME ACTIVITIES

Resources and Country Programme Preparation Process

22. WFP's contribution under the proposed Country Programme (2002–2006) for basic activities amounts to about US\$12.4 million over five years, for a total allocation of 29,450 tons of food commodities. This sum represents direct operational costs, which include food value and transport costs. Supplementary activities for additional school and street children will cost US\$8.2 million dollars for five years, with a total of 16,280 tons of food commodities allocated, as per Annex IV.
23. The Government's estimated contribution to the implementation of the CP is US\$5 million. This estimate refers to costs directly related to personnel and facilities to manage, store and distribute food to the beneficiaries, and to account for commodities and non-food items received. The Government of Nicaragua covers 50 percent of landside transport, storage and handling (LTSH) costs.
24. The CP has been developed within the overall goals, objectives and collaboration strategies of the Nicaragua CCA and UNDAF. The country office has been one of the



major contributors in the United Nations Country Team's (UNCT) drafting of the CCA/UNDAF. The CP addresses the UNDAF's main goal of promoting sustainable development to reduce regional disparities, whose main objectives are household food security and poverty reduction. The activities developed are in line with the Government's Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP) and Policy on Food and Nutrition Security. The PRSP is a solid platform for the planning, management and evaluation of national and international efforts to solve the major poverty issues. It contains intermediate indicators and goals to be achieved by 2005, such as to reduce extreme poverty by 25 percent by the year 2005, and to increase primary school enrolment from 75 percent in 1999 to 85 percent by 2005.

Overview of Country Programme Activities

25. The planned activities under this CP, their resource level and the number of beneficiaries are as follows and as described in Annex IV.

OVERVIEW OF THE BASIC AND SUPPLEMENTARY ACTIVITIES			
Basic activities	No. of beneficiaries	Food commodities (tons)	Direct operational costs (DOCs) (million US\$)
Vulnerable groups	42 000	1 970	1.1
Human capital (school feeding)	95 000	6 080	3.1
Mitigation of natural disasters	80 000	21 400	7.9
Total basic activities	217 000	29 450	12.1
Supplementary activities			
Additional schoolchildren	230 000	15 640	7.7
Support to street children	5 000	640	0.3
Total supplementary activities	235 000	16 280	8.0
GRAND TOTAL	452 000	45 730	20.1

ACTIVITY COMPONENTS

Basic Activity 1: Integrated Assistance for Vulnerable Women and Children

📌 *Strategic Focus*

26. The strategic focus of this activity is to enable young children and expectant and nursing mothers to meet their special nutritional and nutrition-related health needs (Enabling Development priority 1).

📌 *Problem Analysis*

27. The infant mortality rate (0–12 months) has been decreasing over the last 24 years, but Nicaragua still has higher rates than the other Central American countries: 64 per 1,000 in rural versus 49 per 1,000 in urban areas. In the areas defined as vulnerable in the VAM analysis, the infant mortality rate is higher than 60 per 1,000 in some areas (75 per 1,000 in Chontales, 65 per 1,000 in Jinotega and 62 per 1,000 in RAAN).



28. The average national maternal mortality rate is 125 per 100,000 births. The areas with the highest rates are the northern region of Jinotega and the Atlantic regions (from 192 to 267 per 100,000 births). It is not surprising that fertility rates are also high in these areas. In Jinotega the fertility rate is 6.3, in RAAN it is 6 and in RAAS it is 4.6 births.
29. In 1993, vitamin A deficiency affected 67 percent of all children from 1 to 5, and 31 percent were severely affected. The rates in 2000 show there has been a considerable improvement, according to preliminary data from the Ministry of Health, which estimates that 15 percent of children in this age group have a severe deficiency. The high prevalence of vitamin A deficiency hitherto has been thought to be the most important single factor responsible for the high child mortality rates in the country. The prevalence of anaemia is expected to have risen above its level in 1993, when approximately 33 percent of children between 1 and 5 were affected, and more than 70 percent of children under 1 were affected. Anaemia also affects 40 percent of women.
30. Sexually transmissible diseases such as HIV/AIDS are becoming a serious problem. Among the population, there is insufficient knowledge of prevention and control measures, which will require greater coordination and collaboration between the Government and civil society if they are to be effective.

📌 *Objectives, Intended Outputs and Outcomes*

31. The objectives of this activity are to improve the nutritional status of children under 2 and expectant and nursing mothers in the targeted areas by providing a food supplement enriched with micronutrients, and training in health, nutrition and sanitation.
32. An annual average of 15,000 expectant and nursing mothers and 27,000 children aged 6 months to 2 years will receive a cereal blend fortified with iron and vitamins. Staff working in health institutions and education centres will be trained in nutrition, health, hygiene and sanitation, and gender. Training material, including posters and leaflets, will be provided.
33. As part of the CCA/UNDAF initiatives, the United Nations agencies will develop a common strategy on HIV/AIDS, whose main component will be a module that will be introduced in the training programme of the health centres and aimed particularly at young mothers and girls.

📌 *Role and Modalities of Food Aid*

34. The food supplement enriched with micronutrients that will be provided to expectant and nursing mothers will lower the risks of anaemia and help improve the health of newborn babies. For children between 6 months and 2 years, the food supplement will reduce anaemia rates. Nutrition education will contribute to the promotion of breast-feeding and improved weaning practices. Food enriched with vitamins and iron for children from 6 months to 2 years will help to reduce malnutrition levels and support the normal growth of children.
35. Linkages with nutritional training programmes will lead to healthier eating and will improve nutrition, hygiene and sanitation habits.
36. A fortified cereal drink produced locally will be distributed in the health centres to expectant and nursing mothers for a 12-month period. Children under 2 will receive rations for a period of 18 months. Food aid will be provided in exchange for beneficiaries' undergoing regular and systematic medical check-ups at health centres, and will be



accompanied by nutrition and health education sessions that will enable those beneficiaries to improve their eating and weaning habits and their sexual and reproductive health.

Implementation Strategy

37. The experience gained under protracted relief and recovery operation (PRRO) 6089 Assistance for Reconstruction and Rehabilitation to Families Affected by Hurricane Mitch, will be the basis for the implementation of this activity. The PRRO component Supplementary Food Assistance to Vulnerable Groups was implemented after organizing the distribution of food aid and training with MINSA and NGOs working in the health sector. Mothers participated in health and nutrition education programmes and had regular medical check-ups during their pregnancies and while breast-feeding.
38. A high-level Technical Monitoring Committee will be set up comprising representatives of main partner government ministries—MIFAMILIA (Ministry for Family Affairs) and MINSA—UNICEF and WFP. MINSA will be responsible for the overall assessment of the activity and its strategic focus. Implementation of this activity will be the responsibility of MIFAMILIA and the NGOs working in the health sector in the area through the Project Unit already assisting these vulnerable groups under the PRRO. Annual plans will be prepared at the municipal level with the Local Systems of Integral Health Care (SILAIS) and NGOs.
39. Fortified cereals will be produced locally. To this end, WFP will supply cereals in exchange for food items. WFP has provided the Government with an extruder¹ that will serve this purpose.

Participants and Intended Benefits

40. Approximately 15,000 expectant and nursing mothers at nutritional risk and 27,000 children under 2 will benefit throughout the year.
41. Improvements in the nutritional status of women and their children will constitute the main benefit of this activity, which will be undertaken in collaboration with the joint World Bank/MINSA-supported nutritional project. Furthermore, with the collaboration of UNICEF and the United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA), special HIV/AIDS training sessions will be organized and delivered at the health centres. This training is expected to enable women to improve their own health and that of their infants by adopting improved hygiene, sanitation and nutrition practices.
42. The selection of beneficiaries will be based on poverty and food-deficit criteria. 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 generally rural areas, particularly those in the Atlantic, northern and central regions.

¹ An extruder is a machine that transforms cereals by subjecting them to high temperatures (extrusion). They are then ready to eat. The final product requires only the addition of water or another liquid. It therefore does not need to be cooked at the schools.



Basic Activity 2: Investment in Human Capital through Education

✧ *Strategic Focus*

43. The strategic focus of this activity component is to enable poor households to invest in human capital through education and training (Enabling Development priority 2).

✧ *Problem Analysis*

44. Despite efforts to improve education in Nicaragua, the main problem is that a significant portion of the population still lacks the means to fulfil the right to an education. The lack of educational equity, quality and relevance are factors that both determine and are determined by the nation's poverty. Forty percent of the population living in extreme poverty is illiterate and 46 percent of the children do not finish grade 5 of primary school.
45. According to the Ministry of Education statistical report of 1998, 26 of every 100 children aged 7–12 do not receive any education. Youth in general have a low level of education. UNICEF points out that 700,000 children between 2 and 9 live in very difficult circumstances, characterized by insufficient access to food, education, health services, drinking-water and adequate housing. UNICEF adds that only one fifth of children aged 2–5 are in educational programmes, which generally give priority to children 4–5 years old.
46. There is a 10-percent annual drop-out rate in primary schools, while grade repetition ranges between 5 and 7 percent. Primary school students require an average of ten years to reach the end of grade 6. Some socio-cultural patterns affect school drop-out rates. One of these is the requirement that girls care for younger siblings. Many students also drop out for financial reasons.
47. The main problem affecting school-age children is their low intake of food and their short-term hunger. An estimated two thirds of pre-school and school-age children in depressed areas start lessons every day without having eaten an adequate breakfast, and often after walking several kilometres. (In difficult periods, children from poor families are more likely to drop out of school.) These nutritional problems reduce pupils' learning capacity, weaken their dedication to school and make it difficult for them to participate actively in educational activities.
48. The Government is committed to free and compulsory education for all children, particularly those in primary schools. Starting in 2002, the Government plans to begin implementation of a national school feeding programme.

✧ *Objectives, Intended Outputs and Outcomes*

49. The objectives of this component are to relieve short-term hunger and contribute to an increase in school enrolment and attendance, reduce drop-out rates among pre-primary and primary schoolchildren, and increase their learning capacity by providing them with food supplements enriched with micronutrients.
50. This CP will take over the pre-school and primary school feeding provided through the PRRO, which ends in 2001, and will continue assistance to 95,000 pre-school and primary school children, currently provided through project No. 4515.01 in the targeted areas.
51. Pre-school centres, which are based on local participation, will benefit from education and early learning programmes, together with health programmes, carried out in association with APRENDE, which is a basic education project implemented by the Ministry of Education, Culture and Sports and financed by the World Bank.



✧ *Role and Modalities of Food Aid*

52. Food supplements for pre-primary and primary schoolchildren will improve their food intake and, therefore, their nutritional status. Food supplements will contribute towards an adequate intake of calories, protein and micronutrients and address the problem of short-term hunger by allowing the timely consumption of snacks or lunches. Food aid will enable children to attend pre-school centres and primary schools regularly and will give them an incentive to enter into the formal educational system.
53. A cooked meal will be prepared for children over 2 in the pre-school centres, with the cooperation of the community, which will prepare the meals. These children will also receive a corn-soya blend (CSB)-based drink fortified with micronutrients. A fortified cereal drink and biscuits will be given early in primary schools in the morning to counter short-term hunger and improve the children's level of concentration. Both products will be produced locally with the extrusion, milling and mixing equipment donated by WFP.

✧ *Implementation Strategy*

54. The High-level Technical Monitoring Committee, formed with representatives of the partner ministries—MIFAMILIA and the Ministry of Education, Culture and Sports (MECD), will be responsible for the overall assessment of the activity and its strategic focus. Implementation will be the responsibility of MECD and will be done through the Integrated School Nutritional Programme (PINE). Those implementing this activity will coordinate with the Programme for Integrated Assistance to Nicaraguan Children (PAININ).
55. Community participation is the backbone of the implementation of this activity. Parent committees and school councils will assume responsibility for the management, control, preparation and distribution of food. To guarantee integrated care in community pre-school centres, a tripartite agreement will be signed between WFP, the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB)/PAININ programme and the MECD-APRENDE project. The latter project supplies furniture and teaching materials, undertakes infrastructure improvements, pays teachers' salaries and provides incentives to mobile trainers.

✧ *Participants and Intended Benefits*

56. Approximately 95,000 children (50 percent will be girls) from 2 to 12 years old in pre-school centres and primary schools will receive food rations for 160 days a year.
57. Through women's groups, communities will provide volunteers to prepare meals at the feeding centres. These women will also be trained in food practices and will play an important role in decision-making since they will participate in the establishment, management and administration of the school canteens.
58. Through the partnership with the IDB/PAININ project, WFP will contribute to an improvement in the living standards of poor women, since this programme provides women with opportunities to enter the labour market as programme promoters, thus helping to lower gender barriers.
59. Within the framework of the school programme, much has already been achieved, such as the creation of assets that benefit not only the school but also the community in general (school gardens, water pumps, roads, community associations, mother clubs). The provision of improved gas stoves and other non-food-items, initiated during the current school feeding project, has resulted in a reduction in the consumption of wood.



Basic Activity 3: Support to Rural Families in Areas Affected by Drought and Flood

✦ *Strategic Focus*

60. The strategic focus of this activity component is to mitigate the effects of natural disasters in areas vulnerable to recurring crisis of this kind (Enabling Development priority 4) and to enable households that depend on degraded natural resources for their food security to make a shift to more sustainable livelihoods (Enabling Development priority 5).

✦ *Problem Analysis*

61. Of the 28 worst disasters that took place in Latin America and the Caribbean between 1972 and 1998, nine occurred in Nicaragua (four were climatic, three were caused by earthquakes/volcanic eruptions, and two resulted 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, caused damage worth more than US\$1 billion, and resulted in the loss of 50 percent of the total annual bean crop, 20 percent of the maize crop and 30 percent of the rice crop.
62. Subsistence farmers in the project area practise traditional agriculture with low-yield production of basic grains (food stocks last a maximum of seven to eight months), little farm management experience, financial limitations, high post-harvest losses and insufficient technical assistance. In their struggle for survival, these families damage natural resources and the environment, beginning with the elimination of the forest canopy. The degradation of natural resources has been worsened by inadequate farming practices, which increase soil erosion (1.1 million ha of the country are affected by severe erosion) and lead to the exhaustion and pollution of water sources and general environmental deterioration. Continued cultivation of these lands has resulted in further degradation and silting of rivers and reservoirs. Farmers have seen the yields of their eroded lands decline and have witnessed a reduction in the availability of irrigation water. As a consequence, the frequency of droughts and floods has risen, placing people at greater risk and increasing their vulnerability.
63. Limited access to markets, together with a lack of safe sources of drinking-water (also for livestock) and basic health care centres suppresses the standard of living of these people. The prevalence of diseases, particularly those that are water borne, is high, and the general health and hygiene status of the population is low. The time-consuming tasks of fetching water and collecting fuelwood constitute a large part of the daily workload, particularly for women, thereby constraining their ability to participate in development opportunities. Isolation also increases the cost of inputs and transport, which reduces the profitability of marketing farm production.

✦ *Objectives, Intended Outputs and Outcomes*

64. The objective of this component is to enable poor households in disaster-prone areas to invest in development activities aimed at reducing vulnerability to recurring drought, flood and deforestation by adopting soil and water conservation practices on their farms. This activity also aims to invest in training in community initiatives for disaster preparedness



and mitigation and to enhance the disaster response capacity at the national and local levels through greater participation of communities and other relevant stakeholders.

65. An annual average of 80,000 persons (16,000 families) will benefit through food-for-work activities that will be undertaken for approximately 100 days a year.
66. Mitigation and prevention activities will be implemented, such as the construction or rehabilitation of rural infrastructure to limit flood water damage or slow the advance of desertification (i.e. soil and water conservation). Small irrigation schemes will be introduced, levelling and terracing undertaken, potable water systems constructed, labour and land productivity increased and small household cereal silos built.

Role and Modalities of Food Aid

67. Food aid will be an incentive to implement measures for disaster prevention and mitigation that will moderate potential threats or prevent them from occurring, escalating or affecting productivity into the next season and throughout the crisis. If the condition of degraded natural resources can be improved, vulnerability to flooding and droughts should decrease, and people living in these areas will be able to improve their livelihoods.
68. The WFP food-for-work modality will also help maintain the rural population on their own land during the slack season through the introduction of soil and environmental conservation activities for unskilled labour. Food is considered more attractive than an off-farm cash salary, especially by women, who see it as contributing more to household food security.

Implementation Strategy

69. The Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MAGFOR), through the Coordinating Unit at the central and local level, will implement the activity. This unit will coordinate with the technical units of the ministry such as the Nicaraguan Institute for Agricultural Technology (INTA) and other co-executing units, as well as with NGOs and international organizations working in the project areas. The unit will be responsible for promoting, arranging, planning and monitoring the participation of other stakeholders.
70. The unit will ensure that 50 percent of the available resources is directed to women. Training will be provided in gender and benefit analysis, women's rights, leadership and community management.
71. The productive activities carried out through food for work under the PRRO Rehabilitation and Reconstruction after Hurricane Mitch will continue under this CP activity once the PRRO ends in mid-2001. Most of these activities contribute either to improving the living conditions of the beneficiaries or reducing their vulnerability and food insecurity.

Participants and Intended Benefits

72. The activity will benefit 16,000 rural families (80,000 persons), mainly those that own land, households headed by women and subsistence farming families that have a small plot of land (often less than 5 ha). Indirect beneficiaries will include other families in the community who will benefit from an improved environment, the conservation and protection of land and water resources and greater employment and investment opportunities.
73. Gender inequalities in decision-making positions and long-term benefits will be addressed through training and activities to press for equality of legal rights in land tenure



and house ownership to be in the name of the family or of the women beneficiaries of the PRRO. Furthermore, other gender needs will also be addressed, such as improving women's access to productive resources, gaining the right to participate in decisions about local interventions, and attaining equal opportunities in employment.

74. Poor, food-insecure households in targeted areas will be selected in accordance with household profiles developed through VAM's field surveys.

📌 **Support, Activities Coordination and Monitoring and Evaluation**

VAM's Role

75. The objectives of the VAM targeting process are principally to identify those areas and populations that are most vulnerable to food insecurity, and to characterize the food insecurity and vulnerability issues faced in each of these areas to determine whether WFP food aid will be an appropriate input in the solution and, if so, how best to use it.
76. The concept of vulnerability relates to food security, and it is defined by FIVIMS as: *the presence of factors that place people at risk of becoming food insecure or malnourished, including those factors that affect their ability to cope*. Vulnerability is therefore a result of exposure to risk factors and/or underlying socio-economic processes that serve to reduce the capacity of populations to cope with those risks.
77. In Nicaragua, the VAM targeting process was accelerated in order to correspond more closely with the country office's timetable for the preparation of its CSO and CP. Thus from the time the process began in August 2000, slightly more than one month was available to provide an initial level of targeting to the country office team preparing the CSO. From that point, another ten weeks were available in which to extend and deepen the targeting analyses to provide the information required for the CP document.
78. Within this time frame, the VAM Unit in Nicaragua has carried out three phases of the Standard Analytical Framework (SAF) activities: analysis of secondary data; a national workshop on zoning and characterization of food insecurity; and the elaboration of a paper on food security issues.
79. The next phase of VAM activities is a field survey in which the most vulnerable people and their coping strategies will be characterized. The survey is planned to be undertaken in March/April 2001; however, the timing will be coordinated with the National Institute for Statistics and Census, which is to carry out an agricultural census in March 2001.
80. *Reconciliation* of the different pictures of food insecurity that can be derived from the various sources mentioned above—expert knowledge, quantitative data and informed judgement—is an ongoing process in the effort to identify and improve the characterization of the most vulnerable people in the country.
81. *Identification of a counterpart* will have high priority in 2001, and FIVIMS activities with FAO and MAGFOR will be intensified, as will the collaboration with the Government's Technical Committee of Food and Nutritional Security.
82. For the purpose of keeping vulnerability maps up to date, a VAM focal point in MAGFOR will be identified and the ministry's capacity to collect data and maintain regular data exchanges with the VAM Unit in Nicaragua will be expanded.

Gender

83. WFP has made efforts to help women gain increased access to and control over benefits. However, the gender approach has not always been integrated into the various schemes.



Issues regarding decision-making, management and the control of means of production by women have not been sufficiently addressed.

84. 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 made substantial improvements in women's lives by involving those women in the management of food in the household and in cooking at community centres, as well as in training activities. This is primarily a result of 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 unit directors is a woman.
85. Because data from previous projects have not been systematically collected by gender, there are no records specifically relating to the number of women beneficiaries or resources assigned to women in the past. Nonetheless, as part of WFP's Commitments to Women, three projects now have databases broken down by gender. Gender data will be gathered for all components of this CP. This will facilitate an examination of monitoring and evaluation systems, together with the tools for collecting information, with the aim of ensuring that both qualitative and quantitative information is gathered, including elements to facilitate a gender analysis.
86. Furthermore, a survey on how gender inequity affects access to services and goods has been carried out within the VAM framework. This has allowed available information in the country to be broken down by gender and geographical area (urban-rural), and existing gaps to be detected. This will serve as guidelines to introduce the gender approach in future efforts made by institutions that generate information. Since the gender gap in Nicaragua is greater than 25 percent, 60 percent of the CP resources will be directed to women and girls.

KEY ISSUES, ASSUMPTIONS AND RISKS

87. The Strategy and the Policy on Food and Nutritional Security, presented in October 2000, represent important commitments by the Government to combat hunger and poverty in Nicaragua and provide WFP with a more solid framework than it previously had for establishing priorities as regards food assistance.
88. In spite of this, the Nicaraguan economy is still in a very precarious situation, with insufficient funding available for investing in social projects. The situation would improve if, for instance, Nicaragua were to join the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries scheme. However, if it does not, WFP projects could be faced with a reduction in government support.
89. In Nicaragua, a major obstacle to achieving food security is vulnerable people's low purchasing power and lack of access to land. As this low purchasing power does not influence the national market, well-targeted food aid will not have any negative effects on 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.
90. With the aim of ensuring the sustainability of activities once food aid has ended, WFP will continue to strengthen its coordination with organizations that can offer complementary assistance to that provided by 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 that these organizations will play in implementation activities, WFP must stress support to initiatives intended to strengthen their administrative and implementation capacity.

COUNTRY PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT

Appraisal

91. This is the first Country Programme for Nicaragua to be drawn up and presented to the Board for its approval. It takes into account the comments made by the Board regarding the first-generation CSO presented to it in February 2001. The Country Strategy Outline was reviewed in broad consultation with government entities, United Nations agencies, bilateral and multilateral donors, and national and international NGOs, whose contributions and points of view have been included in this CP.
92. For each basic activity, the country office, together with multidisciplinary United Nations appraisal missions, will prepare activity summaries containing clear objectives and expected outputs and outcomes, together with result indicators, budgets, funding sources, monitoring and evaluation arrangements, and reporting arrangements, and food and financial disbursement plans.
93. The activities currently being implemented through two development projects (school feeding and soil conservation) and PRRO 6089 will finish by the end of 2001. The basic Activity 1 summary has already been prepared and reviewed by the Headquarters-based Programme Review Committee (PRC). It will be updated to include recommendations made by the mission that evaluated the PRRO.
94. The activity summaries will be reviewed by a local PRC formed by technical support staff in the decentralized Bureau before being approved by the Country Director.

Programme Implementation

📁 *Capacity of the Country Office*

95. The Regional Bureau for Latin America and the Caribbean has been decentralized and each sector strengthened. At the national level, WFP and the Government have opened sub-offices in the areas where WFP activities are being implemented. The staff and administrative costs of the sub-offices are funded by government counterpart contributions. WFP funds a United Nations Volunteer and some administrative costs. The decentralization of the PRRO's implementation had positive results. It brought the regional office closer to the action and enabled it to react and respond quickly to the fast-moving reconstruction and relief activities, particularly with food and staff resources.

📁 *Coordination and Partnerships*

96. An important function of the country office will be to transfer VAM methodologies to the government, allowing counterpart capacity to be built up in the areas of vulnerability assessment and disaster mitigation.
97. WFP maintains strong links with multilateral and bilateral donors, and with NGOs. This has enabled assistance to be extended to the poorest among the population, supplementing it with other types of intervention that would otherwise not have been possible. The strengthening of such ties will contribute to ensuring the continuity of assistance to these



groups through other programmes. Collaboration with NGOs will grow, particularly regarding joint implementation of projects.

98. The development of CCA/UNDAF will contribute to strengthening the coordination among the United Nations agencies, and provides an effective means of focusing on priority issues. The most important synergies will concern issues such as the nutrition of women and children, 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 the environment, disaster prevention and mitigation, the preparation of a contingency plan, agricultural production, reproductive health, nutrition, water and sanitation.
99. WFP is linked with projects financed by IDB (PAININ, with MIFAMILIA, and the Socio-environmental and Forestry Development Programme [POSAF] with the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources) and the World Bank (APRENDE, with the Ministry of Education, Culture and Sports [MECD]). The continuation of these projects beyond 2002 is already assured or being negotiated. Important links also exist with projects financed by the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and the European Union (*Trópico Seco*, with the Institute for Rural Development-IDR).
100. WFP has working relationships with more than 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 Catholic Relief Services (CRS), Cooperative for Assistance and Relief Everywhere (CARE), Save the Children, *Auxilio Mundial* and Adventist Development and Relief Agency International (ADRA). The Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) signed with NGOs reflect WFP's Commitments to Women.

📦 **Logistical Arrangements**

101. Food commodities will be imported for direct distribution to beneficiaries, and to a lesser extent, commodity swaps. However, the purchase of local food staples and blended foods produced locally (in the country or region) will be promoted as this assists small producers, reduces logistics costs and avoids problems regarding the acceptability of foods that are not usually part of the population's consumption pattern. If cash is not available for these purchases, commodity swaps will be considered on a per ton basis.
102. WFP will continue to bear 50 percent of LTSH costs. Commodity tracking and reporting from entry point to extended delivery points and beneficiaries will continue to be done using the Commodity Movement Processing and Analysis System (COMPAS).

📦 **Programme Monitoring and Evaluation**

103. The country office will introduce and apply results-based management principles and methods for monitoring and evaluating its activities in accordance with WFP/EB.A/2000/4-C, endorsed by the Executive Board (2000/EB.A/5). With emphasis on performance and measuring results, output and outcome indicators will be developed and realistic targets set. Monitoring and evaluation (M&E) will include an assessment of the extent to which the CP's activity-specific objectives are met. Baseline studies will be conducted for each activity during the initial stage of the CP and an evaluation of the Country Programme may be conducted in 2004 to coincide with the formulation of the next CSO.



104. Closer linkage between VAM and M&E processes will be established. The success of food aid is ultimately measured by the reduction in malnutrition, increases in school enrolment or the elimination of household food insecurity. It is thus to be expected that indicators used in the process of targeting beneficiaries and those used for baseline/mid-term and termination surveys are closely related. One of the stages of targeting will therefore be the baseline survey. The VAM and programme units of the country office will collaborate closely in conducting mid-term and end-of-project participatory household food security surveys, as follow-ups to targeting/baseline surveys, that will measure activity outcome and impact, inform project refinement and rectification, and facilitate knowledge transfer to government institutions.
105. Country Programme reports will be prepared on an annual basis.

SUPPLEMENTARY ACTIVITIES

106. In addition to basic programme activities, this CP envisages the implementation of two supplementary activities (School Feeding Initiative—Additional Schoolchildren and Support for Street Children) that would enlarge the coverage of the basic programme.

Supplementary Activity 1: Additional Schoolchildren

107. A total of 230,000 additional schoolchildren in the targeted areas will be included to increase the impact of school feeding. The aim is to attract children to schools in the selected areas where enrolment rates are lowest and school meals are most likely to make a difference. Pre-primary schoolchildren will receive a cooked lunch at their centres. Primary schoolchildren will receive enriched cereal and biscuits as a snack.
108. The strategic focus, and problem analysis, objectives and intended outputs and outcomes are described in paragraphs 43 to 51.

Supplementary Activity 2: Support for Street Children

📌 **Strategic Focus**

109. The strategic focus of this activity is to enable poor households to invest in human capital through education and training (Enabling Development priority 2).

📌 **Problem Analysis**

110. There are two main reasons why the number of children who live on the streets of the main cities of Nicaragua is increasing: (i) the long, internal, armed conflict that forced families and children to abandon their places of origin; and (ii) high food insecurity in rural areas, which is increasing migration towards big cities. Families are often unemployed and live on the outskirts of the cities in shanty towns. Usually parents send their children to wander up and down the streets to obtain money instead of sending them to school. Most of these children are illiterate. Groups of children live in the streets, while other children live with their families but roam the streets looking for food and some means of survival because of the poverty of their families. Some other children are under institutional care.



✧ *Objectives, Intended Outputs and Outcomes*

111. The aim is to eliminate illiteracy, particularly among girls. Food aid will be an incentive for the children to attend the existing centres for these street children, where they will learn to read and write and will receive some kind of training as preparation for their engaging in an income-generating activity, or they may enter the formal education system.
112. Food will be provided through NGOs, government institutions or community organizations to these groups of children, as an incentive to participate in education, health and nutrition programmes.

✧ *Participants and Intended Benefits*

113. Approximately 5,000 children will be assisted throughout the year. Beneficiaries will be selected through a study that will be conducted soon, and will contribute to the development of the strategy that will be followed.

RECOMMENDATION

114. For the proposed Country Programme for Nicaragua, covering the period 2002–2006, the Executive Director requests the Executive Board to approve, subject to the availability of resources, US\$12.4 million to cover all basic direct operational costs, and US\$8.2 million for supplementary activities.



ANNEX I

COUNTRY STRATEGY OUTLINE 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 116th out of the 174 countries considered in the UNDP Human Development Report for 2000. The Gender 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. 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). The national average level of education is five years of schooling, and less in rural areas.

Chronic malnutrition affects one out of four children under 5; 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. 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. 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.

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 IV), 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 that 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.

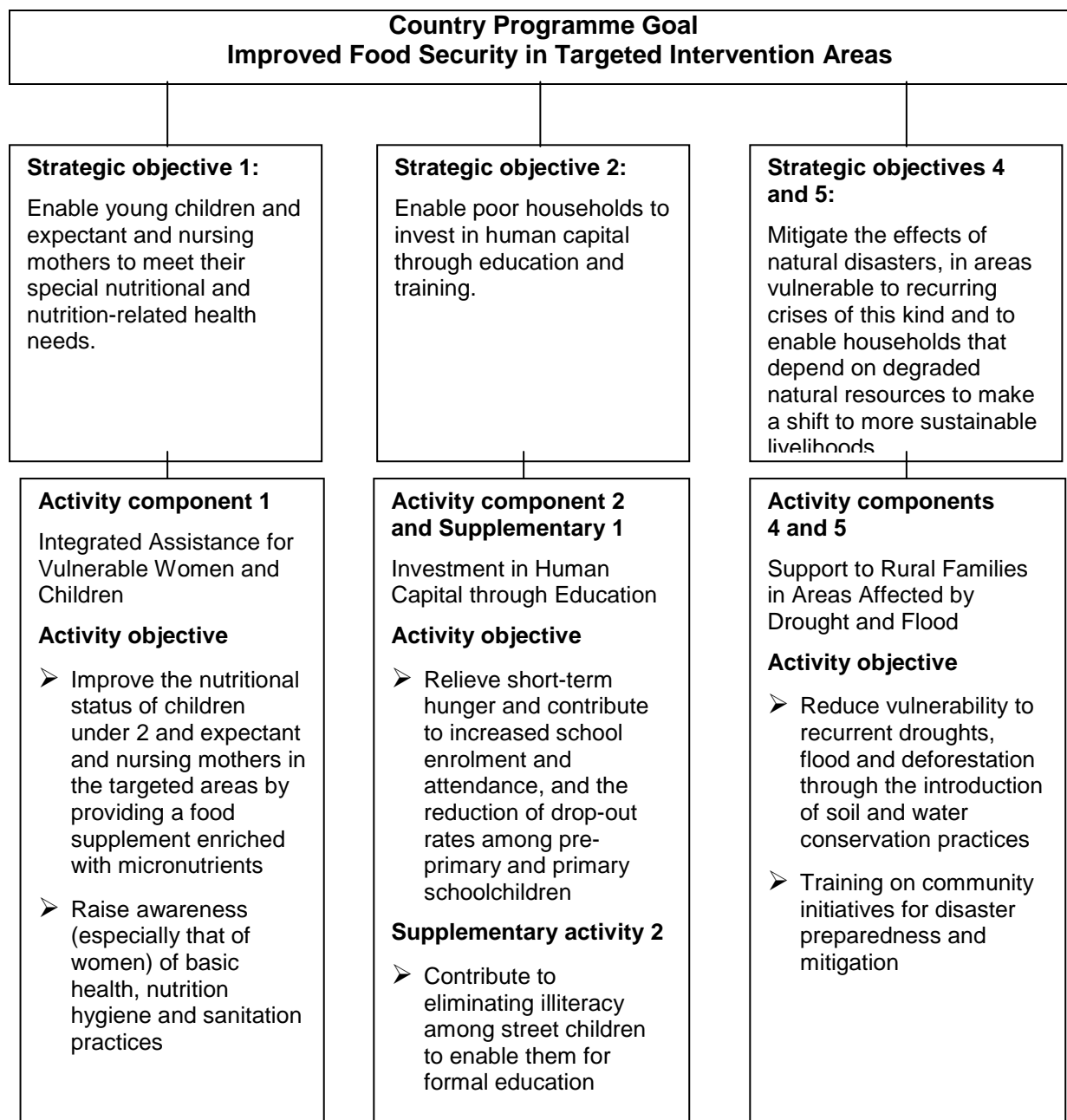
WFP is an active participant in the Common Country Assessment/United Nations development Assistance Framework (CCA/UNDAF) process. All United Nations agencies have agreed to a harmonized cycle (2002-2006).

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.



ANNEX II

LOGICAL FRAMEWORK



LOGICAL FRAMEWORK

Country Programme Goal	Key indicators	Means of verification
Improved food security in VAM-targeted intervention areas	To be established after the completion of the VAM baseline data; they will be in line with the indicators of the Government's Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper.	Government executing agencies and country office reports
Outcomes		
<p><u>Activity 1:</u> Improvements in the nutritional status of children under 2 and expectant and nursing mothers in the targeted areas achieved by providing a food supplement enriched with micronutrients and training in health, nutrition and sanitation</p>	<p>Indices of height/weight ratio of participating children improved</p> <p>Percentage health and nutritional problems of expectant and nursing mothers reduced</p> <p>Number of women and adolescent girls trained in nutrition, hygiene, reproductive health, sanitation, nursing and food preparation</p> <p>Number of rations distributed per product</p>	Data provided by the executing agencies
<p><u>Activity 2 and Supplementary Activities 1 and 2:</u> Relief of Short-term hunger relieved, school enrolment and attendance increased, drop-out rates reduced among pre-primary and primary schoolchildren, and their learning capacity increased, through the provision of food supplements enriched with micronutrients</p>	<p>Percentage school enrolment of participating children increased</p> <p>Number of children/year assisted in pre-school and primary schools, for 165 days/year</p> <p>Percentage cognitive skills of participating children increased</p> <p>Percentage number of children repeating the same grade/class decreased</p> <p>Number of rations distributed per product</p> <p>Number of schools that have received kitchen utensils (non-food items)</p> <p>Percentage of people in charge of food preparation and handling trained</p>	Reports provided by executing agencies



**ANNE
X III**

LOGICAL FRAMEWORK

Outcomes	Key indicators	Means of verification
<p><u>Basic Activity 3</u>: Poor households in disaster-prone areas have invested in development activities aimed at reducing vulnerability to recurring drought, flood and deforestation by (a) planting trees and introducing soil and water conservation practices on their farms, (b) investing in training on community initiatives for disaster preparedness and mitigation and (c) enhancing the disaster response capacity at the national and local levels through increased participation of communities and other relevant stakeholders</p>	<p>Number of men/women involved and time spent on activities to improve marginal land</p> <p>Number of households with access to water, rehabilitated roads and basic sanitation</p> <p>Area of land where soil conservation activities are being implemented. Amount of land irrigated and number of irrigation canals constructed</p> <p>Number of women in communities controlling assets created by the project</p> <p>Number of women who have been trained in natural resources management</p>	<p>Project and executing agencies reports</p>



ANNEX IV

BUDGET PLAN FOR NICARAGUA COUNTRY PROGRAMME (2002–2006)
Basic Activities

	Activity I Vulnerable Groups	Activity II Human Capital	Activity III Mitigation of Natural Disasters	Total
Food commodities (mt)	1 970	6 080	21 400	29 450
Food commodities (value)	780 500	2 099 500	4 536 000	7 416 000
External transport (US\$115 per ton)	251 175	775 200	2 728 500	3 754 875
LTSH (US\$30 per ton)	59 100	182 400	642 000	883 500
ODOC (3 percent)	32 723	91 713	237 195	361 631
Total direct operational costs	1 123 498	3 148 813	8 143 695	12 416 006
Total DSC ¹ (6 percent)	67 410	188 929	488 622	744 960
ISC ² (7.8 percent)	92 891	260 344	673 321	1 026 555
Total WFP costs	1 283 799	3 598 086	9 305 637	14 187 522
Government contribution	831 900	390 250	1 634 200	2 856 350

¹ The DSC amount is an indicative figure presented to the Executive Board for information purposes. The annual DSC allotment for a Country Programme is reviewed and set annually following an assessment of DSC requirements and resource availability.

² The ISC rate may be amended by the Executive Board during the period covered by the Country Programme.

BUDGET PLAN FOR NICARAGUA COUNTRY PROGRAMME
(2002–2006)
Supplementary Activities

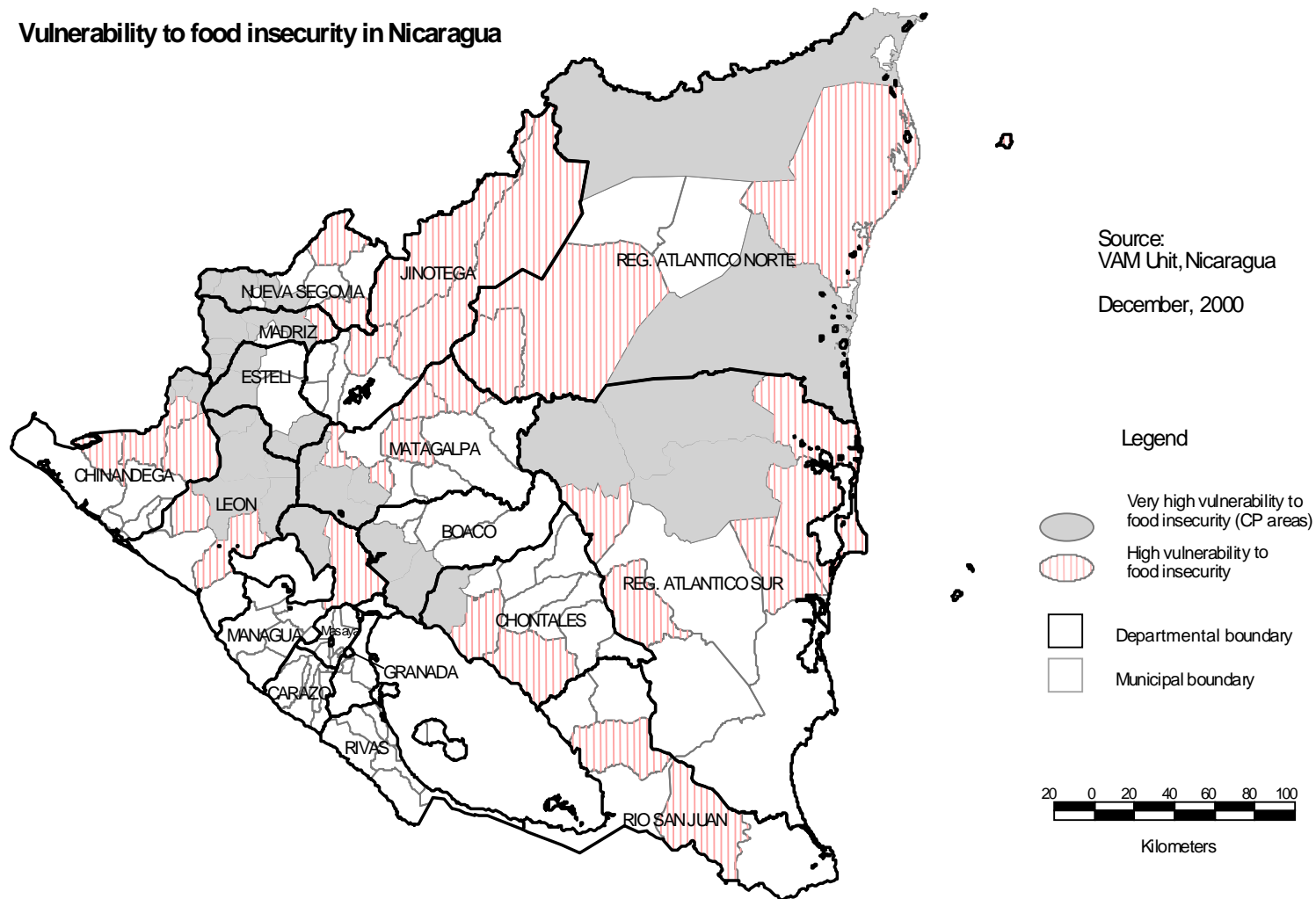
	Activity I Additional Schoolchildren	Activity II Street Children	Total
Food commodities (mt)	15 640	640	16 280
Food commodities (value)	5 216 400	182 800	5 399 200
External transport (US\$115 per ton)	1 994 100	81 600	2 075 700
LTSH (US\$30 per ton)	469 200	19 200	488 400
ODOC (3 percent)	230 391	8 508	238 899
Total direct operational costs	7 910 091	292 108	8 202 199
Total DSC ¹ (6 percent)	474 605	17 526	492 132
Total ISC ² (7.8 percent)	654 006	24 151	678 158
Total WFP costs	9 038 703	333 786	9 372 489
Government contribution	1 997 350	99 000	2 096 350

¹ The DSC amount is an indicative figure presented to the Executive Board for information purposes. The annual DSC allotment for a Country Programme is reviewed and set annually following an assessment of DSC requirements and resource availability.

² The ISC rate may be amended by the Executive Board during the period covered by the Country Programme.







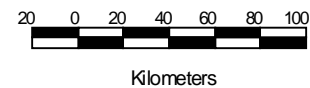
Vulnerability to food insecurity in Nicaragua



Source:
VAM Unit, Nicaragua
December, 2000

Legend

-  Very high vulnerability to food insecurity (CP areas)
-  High vulnerability to food insecurity
-  Departmental boundary
-  Municipal boundary



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

LIST OF ACRONYMS USED IN THE DOCUMENT

ADRA	Adventist Development and Relief Agency International
APRENDE	Basic Education Programme
CARE	Cooperative for Assistance and Relief Everywhere
CCA	Common Country Assessment
COMPAS	Commodity Movement Processing and Analysis System
CP	Country Programme
CRS	Catholic Relief Services
CSB	Corn-soya blend
CSO	Country Strategy Outline
DOC	Direct operational costs
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
FIVIMS	Food Insecurity and Vulnerability Information and Mapping Systems
GDI	Gender Development Index
GNP	Gross national product
IDB	Inter-American Development Bank
IDR	Institute for Rural Development
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
INTA	Nicaraguan Institute for Agricultural Technology
LTSH	Landside transport, storage and handling
M&E	Monitoring and evaluation
MAGFOR	Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry
MECD	Ministry of Education, Culture and Sports
MIFAMILIA	Ministry for Family Affairs
MINSA	Ministry of Health
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
NGO	Non-governmental organization
PAHO	Pan-American Health Organization
PAININ	Programme for Integrated Assistance to Nicaraguan Children
PINE	Integrated School Nutritional Programme
POSAF-MARENA	Socio-Environmental and Forestry Development Programme— Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources
PRC	Programme Review Committee



PRRO	Protracted relief and recovery operation
PRSP	Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper
RAAN	North Atlantic Autonomous Region
RAAS	South Atlantic Autonomous Region
SAF	Standard Analytical Framework
SILAIS	Local Systems of Integral Health Care
UNCT	United Nations Country Team
UNDAF	United Nations Development Assistance Framework
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNFPA	United Nations Fund for Population Activities
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
VAM	Vulnerability analysis and mapping
WHO	World Health Organization

