



UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF STATE



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

NICARAGUA

U.S. FOREIGN ASSISTANCE PERFORMANCE PUBLICATION Fiscal Year 2009

FY 2009 FOREIGN ASSISTANCE GOALS

The U.S. Government (USG) provides assistance to Nicaragua to strengthen democracy and good governance, peace and security, expand economic opportunities, and increase access to quality health and education services.

FY 2009 PERFORMANCE HIGHLIGHTS BY PROGRAM AREA

Peace and Security

Under Peace and Security, the U.S. Military Group (USMILGP) and the International Narcotics and Law Enforcement (INL) sections of the U.S. Embassy in Nicaragua continued working with the Nicaraguan Armed Forces and National Police.

In FY 2009, USMILGP provided professional military education or technical training to 15 military personnel. The U.S. Coast Guard provided boat operations training to include “boarding” and donations of equipment to conduct drug interdiction operations. Currently, Nicaragua has three cadets enrolled at the United States Military Academy – the maximum allowed. USG-funded equipment in FY 2009 included runway lighting for airstrips in the Atlantic, two fuel trucks, water trailers, and an auxiliary power unit, all in support of the Nicaraguan counter-narcotics and counterterrorism efforts.

U.S. Embassy Managua’s INL section purchased information technology equipment, vehicles, and safety gear, and provided other operational support to the Nicaragua National Police and its anti-drug division. The program also helped to strengthen the Nicaraguan Navy’s interdiction and border patrol abilities in FY 2009, mainly with the successful completion of a large coast guard vessel refurbishment and the procurement of safety equipment for maritime operations. With INL support, the DARE program reached 14,395 students in 123 schools across Nicaragua in FY 2009, teaching them anti-gang and anti-drug messages.

Governing Justly and Democratically

The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) helps strengthen democracy through assistance and training to citizens' groups, municipal government councils, government officials, and community organizations in improving management and organizational skills, operational efficiency, responsible citizenship, free and fair elections, and accountable government.

Near the end of FY 2009, USAID's election program provided grants to 31 Nicaraguan civil society organizations to promote voter registration, voter education, outreach to youth, and get-out-the-vote campaigns. Over 15,000 people attended trainings in civic education programs.

The program provided training to civil society organizations to improve management and organizations skills.

USAID promoted the "Citizen Participation Ordinance" to reinforce civil society participation in Municipal Development Councils. Four municipal councils (El Rama, Matiguás, Jalapa, and Nueva Guinea) passed the ordinance by March 2009.

Additionally, through this program, over 700 people participated in anticorruption training, resulting in eight anticorruption measures implemented in various communities in Nicaragua. A total of 381 journalists were trained during FY 2009 on how to improve the quality of news coverage and to access public information.

A USAID training program brought together 88 young reform-minded political leaders, representing four out of five political forces in Nicaragua's National Assembly, in political leadership workshops that shared international experiences and political party best practices to become more transparent, democratic, and responsive to citizen concerns.

USAID helped to improve access to justice through the development of fee-for-service structures to address the sustainability of 20 mediation centers nationwide. Over 18,000 people visited the mediation centers in FY 2009 to settle property disputes, family conflicts, and other legal matters. The program also promoted municipal government support to continue the efforts of a network of justice facilitators.

Economic Growth

Through the development of a competitive, market-oriented economy, USAID is helping Nicaragua take advantage of the opportunities offered by the Dominican Republic-Central America Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA-DR).

Economic growth programming provides technical assistance for better management and production methods, access to new technology and infrastructure, and training in marketing skills. USAID assistance in FY 2009 helped over 9,500 Nicaraguan producers to increase their sales in local, regional, and international markets. In 2009, USAID-assisted producers had sales totaling \$16.85 million. Farmers were introduced to 32 new production and post-harvest technologies.

USAID's main trade project sponsored 28 training events covering commodity-specific export opportunities, best practices, and economic conditions favoring the country. A total of 2,042 businesspeople participated in these events – 44 percent of them women.

A USAID Public-Private Alliance for Sustainable Forestry, Agriculture, and Tourism is providing assistance for income-generating activities through green market links and ecotourism, which offer new economic opportunities under CAFTA-DR. In FY 2009, over 2,300 people have increased

economic benefits from market-based conservation and biodiversity protection, such as the production of certified products and the promotion of ecotourism.

Investing in People

As a major international donor in health, USAID has contributed to reducing maternal and infant mortality rates, a drop in fertility rates, and increased HIV/AIDS counseling and testing.

In FY 2009, HIV/AIDS prevention activities reached over 300,000 individuals. Additionally, 63,757 individuals received HIV/AIDS test results with counseling.

Nicaragua is on track to graduate from family planning and reproductive health assistance programs in 2012. In preparation for this, USAID expanded the implementation of the integrated logistic system with the Ministry of Health for inventory planning and distribution management of medicines and contraceptives. In FY 2009, more than 37,000 people received information on family planning, and local counterparts provided 96,565 family planning counseling visits.

Through USAID programs, in FY 2009, pregnant women benefited from 90,713 antenatal care visits to skilled providers, 49,221 mothers and their infants were attended by skilled birth attendants, and 54,092 children received essential newborn care. More than 3,200 health personnel were trained. Maternal deaths in 10 hospitals that received USAID training fell by 17 percent, compared with a 4 percent drop in non-USAID-supported hospitals.

At the local level, USAID projects worked with 1,237 communities in the poorest areas in the country, focusing on community participation as a means to achieve behavior changes in health. A key activity was to help the MOH implement the Community Food Security and Nutrition strategy in 1,103 poor communities. Almost 5,000 children were reached, and more than 80 percent of them showed satisfactory growth. Nearly 450 communities benefitted from Safe Water strategies, contributing to a fall in the incidence rate of acute diarrhea in children from 5 percent to 2 percent.

Under USAID's primary education program, a child-centered model school network was expanded to reach a new total of 3,000 schools—one-third of the primary school system—benefiting 527,960 students. In addition to the model schools activity, USAID-promoted private sector partnerships leveraged more than \$5 million for education activities.

In FY 2009, USAID's education program provided training to over 1,700 administrators and officials, 4,690 teachers, and 3,340 Parent Teacher Associations. Over 225,300 textbooks were distributed.