

PfR Nicaragua country factsheet



Country: Nicaragua

Project Area: Somoto, Madriz dep.

Organization(s): CARE, CARE Nicaragua, Asociación de Municipios de Madriz (AMMA), Instituto de Promoción Humana (INPRUH), NLRC

Key data about the project area (area of the beneficiaries):

Population: Total population in 2005 was 132,459.

Geography: The geographic position of Nicaragua makes it highly vulnerable to recurring disasters like earthquakes, floods, landslides, hurricanes, droughts, tsunamis and volcanic eruptions. It is estimated that over the last four decades the country lost around four billion dollars due to disasters.ⁱ Hardly any losses due to disasters are covered by insurance. It is estimated that only 10% of the population in Central America has access to the credit, and an even lower proportion to insurance.ⁱⁱ

Main livelihood sectors: agriculture, sale of firewood. cultivating staples such as corn, sorghum and beans. Some areas produce pineapple, yucca, cactus fruit, sugar cane and vegetables. At higher altitude, coffee and tobacco are grown. The services and manufacturing are underdeveloped. Livestock farming has diminished considerably. Cutting and selling of firewood is an important activity.

Beneficiaries: for Care region: 507 people, 235 men and 272 women.

Beneficiary groups: Both areas are predominantly inhabited by indigenous communities. There will be a special emphasis on women, traditionally responsible for their household's food security, and youth, who have shown to be very receptive to solutions to reduce the risk of disasters.

What types of hazards occur in project site?

tropical depressions, landslides. The focus is prioritized on the micro river basins of Tapacali and Inali considering that the priorities of higher part of the micro watershed are very different from the lower part. In the higher part of the micro basin highlights the scarcity of water and in the lower part there is the contamination of surface water and groundwater as well as the pressure on wood resources.

How are these hazards exacerbated?

By human activity? (ecosystems degradation)

high poverty rate in rural areas;

lack of community know-how for proper management of natural resources in the current context of accelerated degradation; lack of community know-how for reducing risks of multiple natural hazards; falling water tables which leave many communities without adequate access to drinking water; inadequate health services; increasing deforestation and ecological fragility, including desertification in some areas; limited access to micro-credit leading to increases vulnerability to natural hazards; lack of awareness on the impact of climate change; gender inequality, which hampers women's space to improve their livelihoods;

(?) Politics?

general lack of focus of poverty reduction programmes on strengthening communities' capacities;
elections (2011) are causing violence and conflict between different political factions. Elections 2012 will cause similar situation

the main problems are: civil society organisations' limited idea of their own role, which they see mainly as supervising the government's interventions; complicated dialogues between civil society organisations and government; advocacy in support of the two regions does not find an ear at the national level; duplication, overlap and conflict in the mandates of different institutions; weak implementation of the strategies contained in the National Plan for Risk Management coordination between various government departments responsible for DRR and CCA is limited; limited capacity and knowledge of Government departments for management of natural resources with a view to their sustainability; many local government officials find it difficult to understand languages spoken by indigenous communities; lack of financial and technical resources to review, and update risk management plans; and the potential of community empowerment and the role of civil society is not fully understood and utilised by local governments.

(?) Economics?

small and medium enterprises are putting pressure on firewood reserves

Climate change?

Projected changes for Central America show that unusually warm days and nights are likely to increase while unusually cold days and nights are likely to decrease. Heat waves and heat spells are also likely to be more frequent and longer in most of the region. Projections show 0.6 to 2.7°C increase in average annual temperature by the 2060s and a 1.2 to 4.5°C increase by the 2090s.

Models vary in their projections of how rainfall will change, ranging from a 63% increase and 16% decrease by the 2090s. The middle of all models shows a decrease of 8 to 21%. The season most likely to have the strongest decrease in rainfall is June-August. Tropical cyclone intensity is expected to increase.

Also, sea-level rise is expected to increase by 0.13 to 0.51m on the Pacific coastline and by 0.18 to 0.56m on the Atlantic coastline by 2090 (relative to 1980-1999 sea level). However, several other models suggest global sea level could rise by as much as one meter.

How are people's livelihoods affected?

Human

fragile livelihoods leading to an increase in poverty levels due to the impact of disasters

Social

Physical

financial

Natural

What are the solutions offered by the alliance?

Preparedness

Early warning

Mitigation

development
