


Nicaragua



 Development cooperation with Nicaragua began in 1987. The country has had one of the heaviest foreign debt burdens in the world and was among the first to receive debt forgiveness (80 per cent of its foreign debt) through the IMF debt forgiveness initiative in 2004. Nicaragua is Latin America's second poorest country and will be dependent on sizeable aid transfers in the years ahead.

Governance and anti-corruption activities

 Together with eight other donor countries, Norway has supported an anti-corruption fund since 2002. Three special units were established to work with corruption issues. An office was opened where people can submit formal complaints and report suspected corruption. The Attorney General has strengthened his investigative capacity by opening offices in all counties across the country. Norway signed a new two-year agreement for the training of journalists whose work focuses on the investigation of corruption. A total of 783 journalists have received training since the start-up in 2003.


Budget support

 The United Kingdom, Finland, Switzerland and Norway carried out a joint review of budget support, one conclusion being that the share going to poverty reduction has increased in recent years. Further, improvement has been seen in public finance and administration procedures, and new legislation has improved the planning of and insight into the government budget.

Private sector development

Norway has a three-year agreement (2007-2009) with Nicaragua on sectoral cooperation for sustainable development of rural areas. 1,500 kilometres of roads were built to and from important productive areas and more than 10,000 poor families received support in the form of seedcorn. Norway continued its funding of technical cooperation in the fishery and oil production sectors and natural disaster prevention efforts.

Food security

 Support allocated to the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO) in the aftermath of Hurricane Felix bolstered food security by raising the production of beans. The Development Fund

has for several years supported a regional network of farmers, scientists and organisations with a view to preserving biodiversity, while ensuring food security and economic wherewithal. As a result of this effort, a new act was passed guaranteeing small-scale farmers' rights of ownership and opportunity to sell seed commercially, a right previously confined to national seed institutions and large companies.

Culture

Several literature projects were supported in Nicaragua, including projects for children's literature. Norway also supported programmes for the development of cultural institutions through central government and private sector partners.

Facts

Estimated population (2006): 5.5 million
Gross national income per capita (2006): USD 930
Average annual economic growth (GDP) (2000-2006): 3.4%
Economic structure: percentage of GDP by sector (2005): agriculture 20%, industry 30%, services 50%
Malnutrition among children under 5 years of age (2001): 10%
Human Development Index (HDI) Level (2005): 0.710. A country with an HDI level between 0.500 and 0.800 is regarded as having a medium quality of life. A change of +0.099 has been registered for Nicaragua in the period 1990-2005
Child mortality rate per 1000 (2006): 36.
 Change 2000-2006: -7
Maternal mortality rate per 1000 births (2005): 1.7
HIV infection rate, 15-49 age group (2007): 0.2%
Children in primary education (2006): 91.4%
Illiteracy rate 15-24 age group (2007): 11.3%
Ratio of girls to 100 boys in primary/secondary/tertiary education (2006): 98/114/Unavailable
Percentage of women in parliament (2008): 18.5%
Estimated pay for women as percentage of men's pay in the formal sector (2005): 32%
Forested area (change 1990-2005, negative numbers indicate deforestation as a percentage): -21%
Area protected to conserve biological diversity (2007): 15.3%
Percentage of population with access to safe drinking water (2006): 79%
Percentage of urban population living in slums (2005): 45.5%
Corruption Perception Index (TI) (2007): 2.6
 The index ranges from 10 to 0, where 10 is totally clean and 0 is totally corrupt.
Fragile state, according to OECD/DAC (2006): No
Defence spending as a percentage of GDP (2007): 1%
Aid per capita (2005): USD 144
Aid as a percentage of GDP: 15.4%

Bilateral assistance¹ for Nicaragua, by partner, 2007

Development cooperation partners	NOK 1000	Per cent
Government-to-government, etc. ²	48 238	41,3
International NGOs	4 330	3,7
Local NGOs	10 585	9,1
Norwegian NGOs	36 460	31,2
Multilateral organisations ³	17 272	14,8
Total	116 886	100,0

1) Includes multi-bilateral assistance

2) Including public institutions, ministries, consultants, the private sector, etc.

3) Earmarked assistance channelled through multilateral organisations (multi-bilateral)

Bilateral assistance¹ for Nicaragua, by sector, 2007

Sectors	NOK 1000	Per cent
Economic development and trade	47 373	40,5
Emergency relief and other unspecified assistance	5 478	4,7
Environment and energy	106	0,1
Good governance	36 618	31,3
Health, education and other social sector areas	23 461	20,1
HIV/AIDS	3 851	3,3
Total	116 886	100,0

1) Includes multi-bilateral assistance