NICARAGUA PAHO/WHO COUNTRY COOPERATION STRATEGY 2026-2031



INTRODUCTION

The Pan American Health Organization/World Health Organization (PAHO/WHO) Country Cooperation Strategy (CCS) for Nicaragua 2026–2031 sets the strategic direction for technical cooperation in support of national health priorities. It is aligned with the National Plan for the Fight Against Poverty and for Human Development 2022–2026 and the Family and Community Health Model (MOSAFC), as well as the Sustainable Health Agenda for the Americas 2018–2030, WHO's Fourteenth General Programme of Work 2025–2028, and the PAHO Strategic Plan 2026–2031.Developed through a participatory process led by the Ministry of Health, with support from PAHO/WHO, the CCS draws on lessons from the previous strategy and contributions from national authorities, Ministry technical teams, and the PAHO/WHO Country Office. A high-level strategic dialogue and technical review resulted in four strategic priorities, 10 deliverables, and their corresponding activities and intermediate results. The CCS will be implemented through three biennial work plans covering 2026–2027, 2028–2029, and 2030–2031. These plans will guide technical cooperation, resource allocation, monitoring, and results-based management.

ABOUT US

The PAHO/WHO Office in Nicaragua is in the country's capital, Managua. During the past biennium (2024-2025), 86% of the committed outputs and services were achieved, with a budget execution of 99%. As of 2026,

PARTNERSHIP ENVIRONMENT

PAHO/WHO works closely with the United Nations Country Team and strategic partners, including Canada, AECID, the Inter-American Development Bank, and the World Bank,

COUNTRY CONTEXT

Home to approximately 7 million people, Nicaragua comprises 15 departments and two autonomous regions: the North Caribbean Coast and the South Caribbean Coast. A lower-middle-income country, Nicaragua has abundant natural resources, including fertile agricultural land, extensive freshwater reserves, tropical forests, and considerable potential for geothermal, wind, and solar energy. Recognizing health as a cornerstone of sustainable development, the country has prioritized public investment in the sector, allocating 17% of the 2025 General Expenditure Budget to the Ministry of Health. The National Health System comprises public and private subsystems. The public subsystem includes the Ministry of Health, the Nicaraguan Social Security Institute, the Army Medical Corps, and the National Police Medical Services. The Ministry of Health operates through 19 Local Integrated Health Care Systems (SILAIS), which are responsible for health-service delivery, administration, and management across the country.

PROGRESS ON HEALTH OUTCOMES

Nicaragua has made steady progress in health outcomes and access to services. For 2020–2025, life expectancy at birth is projected at 76.65 years, reaching 73.66 years for men and 79.78 years for women. The Family and Community Health Model provides free access to a nationwide health services network. The Expanded Program on Immunization protects against 18 vaccine-preventable diseases and maintains coverage above 90%. In 2025, Nicaragua inaugurated 25 health facilities and service improvements, with 18 additional expansions planned for 2026..

KEY CHALLENGES

Nicaragua continues to address an evolving health profile shaped by demographic change, noncommunicable diseases, mental health conditions and climate-related risks. Building on national achievements, opportunities remain to strengthen prevention, integrated care, rehabilitation and community-based mental health services, while promoting equitable access. Continued investment in workforce competencies, digital transformation and emergency preparedness will consolidate progress and respond to changing health needs.

For more information visit the link: https://www.paho.org/nicaragua

OUR STRATEGIC PRIORITIES & DELIVERABLES



Prevent, control and eliminate communicable diseases

01

STRATEGIC DELIVERABLES

- Strengthen epidemiological surveillance of human and zoonotic diseases and environmental health risks to enhance early detection and coordinated response at all levels.
- Strengthen the Expanded Program on Immunization to address emerging threats and sustain the country's achievements.
- Support the certification and validation processes for the elimination of communicable diseases and related conditions prioritized by the country.

Prevent and manage NCDs and mental health issues

02

SRATEGIC DELIVERABLES

- Strengthen comprehensive and integrated action to address risk factors, noncommunicable diseases (NCDs), mental health conditions, and disability.
- Support capacity-building within community networks to prevent and address NCDs and their risk factors.

Contribute to the development of the Family and Community Health Model (MOSAFC)

03

STRATEGIC DELIVERABLES

- Promote high-quality, integrated health services through a life-course approach.
- Support the integration of digital health tools to enable the early and timely detection of communicable and noncommunicable diseases and facilitate an effective response.
- Strengthen health workforce capacity to respond effectively to population health needs.

Health Emergencies

04

STRATEGIC DELIVERABLES

- Strengthen risk management for public health emergencies and disasters.
- Strengthen capacities to assess and prioritize risks associated with public health events through a multi-hazard approach, ensuring the safe, inclusive, and continuous delivery of health services within the MOSAFC framework.

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