

**ANNUAL REPORT OF  
THE HUMANITARIAN/RESIDENT COORDINATOR  
ON THE USE OF CERF GRANTS**

<b>Country</b>	<b>Nicaragua</b>
<b>Humanitarian / Resident Coordinator</b>	<b>Mr. Pablo Mandeville</b>
<b>Reporting Period</b>	<b>1 January 2009– 31 December 2009</b>

**I. Executive Summary / Background**

The third of November 2009, a tropical depression was located approximately 200 km. east of Bluefields on the Caribbean Coast. This later turned into a tropical storm and afterward a hurricane (category 1) before gradually losing its strength. On land, while the intensity of the winds decreased, the rain continued to fall over an extended area. Initially, the winds were the greatest cause of concern, but as the winds decreased the rains continued causing flooding, overflowing rivers and damaging housing, infrastructure and particularly agriculture. In addition, the flooding also caused problems related to water and sanitation and related health problems. To respond to this situation, there was an urgent need for the provision of: food assistance, clean water, hygiene kits, medicine and means to recover livelihoods (fishing equipment) amongst others.

While the Government responded fast to the emergency by providing items such as food and construction material for roofs, it was clear from an early point that the Government did not have the capacity to cover all the humanitarian needs. Therefore, the Government officially requested the assistance of the UN System in coordinating the support by the international community. The Government's request estimated the required financial support from the international community – 4,558,000 US\$. Due to the dimensions of the devastation, on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of November the President issued a State of Emergency for the municipalities affected by the hurricane and the heavy rains.

Special notice should be made to the fact that the damages caused by the hurricane and the heavy rains aggravated the food security problem, which is one of the structural development problems that the country is facing. Moreover, this year food production and household food stocks have been greatly reduced due to a severe draught, which began in August and still affects the country.

It is also important to mention that the areas affected by the hurricane and the unusual heavy rains are some of the poorest of the country. And, the inhabitants, many of which are indigenous and afro descendant, are among the most vulnerable to emergencies. Approximately 75 % of the population live in the rural sector, with the highest level of extreme poverty in the country, the highest index of children mortality and extremely difficult access for transportation, thus elevating the prices of materials and food.

<b>Total amount of humanitarian funding required and received (per reporting year)</b>	Required:	US\$ 4,271,640		
	Received:	US\$ 3,308,400		
<b>Total amount of CERF funding received by funding window</b>	Rapid Response:	US\$ 2,069,776		
	Underfunded:	US\$ 0		
	Grand Total:	US\$ 2,069,776		
<b>Total amount of CERF funding for direct UN agency/IOM implementation and total amount forwarded to implementing partners</b>	Total UN agencies/IOM:	US\$ 1,964,401		
	Total implementing partners:	US\$ 105,375		
<i>Note: The grand total must equal the total CERF funding allocated</i>				
<b>Approximate total number of beneficiaries reached with CERF funding (disaggregated by sex/age if possible)</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>under 5 years of age</b>	<b>Female (If available)</b>	<b>Male (If available)</b>
	82,000	5,000	39,000	43,000
<b>Geographic areas of implementation</b>	Nicaragua's Regional Autonomous Atlantic Regions of the South and North (RAAN and RAAS).			

## II. Coordination and Partnership-building

### (a) Decision-making process to decide allocation

From the moment it became clear that a tropical storm was heading towards the Caribbean Coast of Nicaragua, the Resident Coordinator called for an UNETE meeting in which the situation was analyzed and several recommendations made to the UN Disaster Management Team (DMT), including activating the Regional UNETEs (Northern and Southern Autonomous Regions).

Thereafter, UNETE Managua continued to meet on a regular basis to assess the situation. At a political level, the Resident Coordinator discussed and agreed with the Heads of Agencies on how to proceed in supporting the Government in responding to the emergency.

The CERF proposals were based on solid and complementary needs assessments, both in form of the official Damage Assessment and Needs Analysis Report, inputs from the UNDAC Team and Regional UNETEs as well as information collected by individual agencies through field visits and/or partners with presence in the field. ROLAC (OCHA) gave technical advice to the development of the proposals.

### (b) Coordination amongst the humanitarian country team

At an early stage, the Government officially requested the UN to coordinate the international humanitarian assistance and help mobilize funds. To achieve these objectives, the UN organized three humanitarian forums with presence of all major national and international humanitarian actors, including national and international NGOs. These were very important forums in which the responsible authorities were given the opportunity to thoroughly explain their analysis of the situations and potential donors were given the opportunity to ask questions. The two first meetings were chaired by the Resident Coordinator while the last meeting was co-chaired with SE SINAPRED (Governmental agency responsible for coordinating emergency responses) as a way of

building local capacity and ownership. In between the Humanitarian Forums, the Office of the Resident Coordinator (ORC) and OCHA maintained contact with all major humanitarian stakeholders through Sitreps, email contact and meetings.

The fact that more than 3,300,000 US\$ were raised out of the 4,500,000 US\$ requested, demonstrates that the UN played a critical role in facilitating the mobilization of resources and support from the international community.

**(c) Partnerships**

SE SINAPRED was a key partner for the UN system both in assessing needs, planning the emergency relief and the actual delivery of the relief.

In addition, regional sectorial authorities as well as national and international NGOs with field presence were closely involved as implementing partners. Previous collaboration, in depth knowledge of local conditions and sensitivity to local culture turned out to be key factors in the success the partnerships. In this context, the fact that a Humanitarian Network, involving all stakeholders, was in the process of being established (facilitated by the UNS) meant that stakeholders knew each other and a certain level of trust had been built. This turned out to be a decisive factor of success since it very much facilitated the collaboration.

**(d) Prioritization process**

The sectors and projects were prioritized by the UNDMT and the Government based on the official needs assessment, recommendations from the UNDAC team and the CERF lifesaving criteria. It was observed that while the recommendations from the central level (SE SINAPRED) were very general, having an UNDAC mission in the field was very useful to prioritize. From a distance everything seems extremely important but the presence of experienced UNDAC staff in the field allowed the UN to make an assessment of the most critical needs and understand the relative importance of supporting different sectors as well as the levels of urgency.

### **III. Implementation and Results**

#### **Rapid Response projects**

The hurricane hit the South Atlantic Coast of Nicaragua, devastating an already impoverished population. Many families lost their crops and livestock affecting their livelihoods and threatening the food security situation of the most vulnerable groups of the region. With CERF funding, WFP was able to quickly respond with food assistance to families affected by Hurricane Ida through a general food distribution. In 2010 WFP continued its food assistance to communities that had been most affected by the Hurricane and deactivated its interventions in communities that had better response mechanisms in place. Between January and March 2010, 24,658 beneficiaries continued to receive WFP food rations for an additional 60 days- for a total of 90 days of assistance.

The provision of non-food items such as mattresses, blankets and kitchen kits by IOM helped the affected population to cope with the stressful situation of having lost many personal items. In addition, the provision of water containers, household disinfection items and personal hygiene kits by IOM and UNICEF prevented the outbreak of

diseases. This was complemented by hygiene and sanitation campaigns that sensitized the population about the benefits of following sound practices.

### **Underfunded projects**

#### **(a) How was the monitoring and evaluation of the CERF projects conducted?**

- The RCO established a working group integrated by Participating Agencies' Technical Officers and OCHA to:
- Develop a common understanding of expectations regarding coordination of the assistance in the field, formats for narrative and financial reports and M & E mechanisms;
- Share information and coordinate assistance in the field to increase synergies and reduce duplication;
- Assure that the agencies were following the agreed procedures and standards and that the information required in the CERF reports would be made available through the agency reports, and
- Discuss and clarify outstanding technical and political issues.

The agencies each used their internal M and E standards and procedures but ensured that these were compliant with the CERF formats. When required the agency formats were complemented with elements required by CERF formats, for example, regarding categories of beneficiaries (male, female and children under 5).

#### **(b) How did other initiatives complement the CERF-funded projects?**

The UN agencies developed the CERF proposals keeping in mind the assistance provided by the Government, other donors and well as other sources of UN emergency funding.

The initial UN funds, sent to the field offices within a few days of the emergency, and the Emergency Cash Grant were to a great extent used to support the extremely high transportation costs in the Atlantic regions. Both regions lack good infrastructure and most local transportation is done by boat on the many rivers and lakes. The support to cover transportation costs turned out to be extremely important since otherwise the assistance could have stranded before reaching the beneficiaries.

Other initiatives complemented the CERF funded projects with provisional housing, food assistance and later provision of housing material to reconstruct private and public buildings damaged by the hurricane. In addition, the provision of seeds, tools and technical support by other donors helped farmers replant their fields, and therefore, again become food self-sufficient within a few months.

## IV. Results

Sector/ Cluster	CERF projects per sector	Amount disbursed in 2010 (US\$)	Number of Beneficiaries	Implementing Partners	Expected Results/Outcomes	Actual results and improvements for the target beneficiaries
<b>Food Security</b>	WFP  Emergency Food Assistance to Hurricane Ida Victims  09-WFP-073	140,442*	Total: 24,658  Male: 12,390 Female: 12,268  Children under 5 Boys: 1,886 Girls: 1,812  Children 5-18 Boys: 5,770 Girls: 5,327	MAGFOR SINAPRED	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To stabilize and prevent the deterioration of the nutritional status of the affected population by providing relief with food assistance.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>WFP provided food rations, including food fortified with micronutrients to the affected population. In total, 389.93 MT of CERF food were delivered in 2010 to cover 60 feeding days for the affected population. Food rations alleviated short-term hunger, allowing families time to recuperate their livelihoods in the aftermath of Hurricane Ida.</li> </ul>
<b>Water and Sanitation/ Health</b>	IOM  Provision of non-food items  09-IOM-031	92,459	TOTAL: 8,993 (100%)  Men: 4,717 Women: 4,276  < 5 years: 1,653 5-17 years: 2,276  18-65 years: 4,959  > 65 years: 105	Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA)  Save the Children	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6,750 people received needs-based non-food items (planned for 2010)</li> <li>498 Non-food items distributed</li> <li>470 Rain kits (agua lluvia) distributed</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Project provided emergency relief support in the municipalities of Laguna de Perlas and Desembocadura de Rio Grande, two of the most impoverished and inaccessible municipalities in Nicaragua that were directly impacted by Hurricane Ida. Non-food item kits were distributed to 1,553 families (8,993 people), equivalent to 139% of the expected beneficiaries</li> <li>The project supported the training of 138 Local Rescue Brigade (BRILOR) members in seven communities in first aid and states of alert, led by a European Commission for Humanitarian Aid (ECHO) emergency decision project implemented by ADRA. The project also provided first aid kits and other emergency response products to BRILOR and community members.</li> <li>The project beneficiaries included the following indigenous groups: Mestizo</li> </ul>

						(25%), Miskito (37%), Creole (16%) y Sumu/Ulúa (22%).
<b>Water and Sanitation</b>	<p>WHO</p> <p>Humanitarian response in water reparation in support to the Ministry of Health, Secretary of Health and net communitarian of RAAN, RAAN</p> <p>09-WHO-067</p>	<p>84,676</p> <p>(2009 10,766)</p> <p>(2010 73,911)</p> <p>(fondos recibidos: 86,912)**</p>	<p>Total: 8,250</p> <p>Female: 3,878</p> <p>Male: 4,372</p> <p>Children under 5 years = 990</p>	<p>MoH (Minostry of Health)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ To reduce the morbi - mortality in the affected populaton</li> <li>■ To provide safe drinking water</li> </ul>	<p>Safe drinking water provided to population and risk of transmsion of water borne diseases reduced through</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Installed capacity of Health Centers to produce chlorine to disinfect water making it safe for human consumption.</li> <li>■ Provision of water tanks to population to safely store water into the household.</li> </ul>
<b>Health</b>	<p>WHO</p> <p>Humanitarian response to assure the population's medical attention in the communities affected in support to the Ministry of Health, Secretary of Health (GRAAN and GRAAS) and Community Network of RAAN and RAAS</p> <p>09-WHO-068</p>	<p>251,374</p> <p>(fondos recibidos: 262,727)**</p>	<p>Total: 82,020</p> <p>Female: 38,549</p> <p>Male: 43,471</p> <p>Children under 5 years =4801</p>	<p>MoH (Ministry of Health)</p>	<p>Affected communities have access to primary health care through the mobile medical brigades.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Rate of vector transmitted diseases reduced (malaria, dengue, etc.)</li> <li>■ The population recognizes the early signs of diarrhea and respiratory disease and vector transmitted diseases.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Mobile medical brigades collaborate with local health personel in providing heath services</li> <li>■ Population protected from vector transmitted diseases such as dengue and malaria.</li> <li>■ Population with greater awareness about diarrhea, respiratory diseases and the means of prevention.</li> </ul>
<b>Livelihoods</b>	<p>FAO</p> <p>Assistance for the reactivation of the artisan fisheries sector affected by Hurrucane IDA in Caribbean Coast communities</p> <p>09-FAO-038</p>	<p>401,597**</p>	<p>Total: 940 total direct beneficiary</p>	<p>INPESCA (Nicaraguan Fisheries Department – Instituto Nicaraguense de la Pesca y Acuicultura) and Regional Autonomous Governments</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Provide 750 fishermen with lobster traps and fishing equipment</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ The delivery of the all lobster traps and complementary fisheries materials has been made. The project was able to deliver to more beneficiaries by providing some with lobster traps and others with fishing materials according to their specific needs.</li> </ul>

<p><b>Reproductive Health</b></p>	<p>UNFPA</p> <p>Humanitarian response for deliver attention, micronutrients provision to pregnant women, lactation women and prevention and care of victims of gender violence</p> <p>09-FPA-034</p>	<p>70,629</p>	<p>Total: 6,393 all women in reproductive age (pregnant and breast feeding) RAAN: 2,883 RAAS: 3,510</p>	<p>MoH, the Regional Health Secretaries, Women Commissioner and community organizations to prevent and provide attention to victims of gender violence.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2,000 pregnant and breast feeding women in the nine affected communities receive nutritional supplements and micronutrients.</li> <li>• Nine health care units equipped with Clean Delivery kit, labor kits and Rape Treatment kit.</li> <li>• Strengthened the MoH, the Regional Health Secretaries and community organizations to prevent and provide attention to victims of gender violence</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Total women beneficiaries (pregnant or breast feeding) who received micronutrient in the RAAN: 2,883</li> </ul> <p>Distributed in RAAN:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 4 Kits 2A y 2B (<i>Clean Delivery kit (individual): Part A (mother) and B (birth attendant)</i>)</li> <li>• 4 Kits 3A y 3B (<i>Rape treatment kit</i>)</li> <li>• 10,980 prenatal drugs</li> <li>• 81,000 folic acid drugs</li> <li>• 81,000 iron + folic acid.</li> </ul> <p>Total women beneficiaries (pregnant or breast feeding) who received micronutrient in the RAAS: 3,510</p> <p>Distribution in RAAS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 5 Kits 2A y 2B (<i>Clean Delivery kit (individual): Part A (mother) and B (birth attendant)</i>)</li> <li>• 5 Kits 3A y 3B (<i>Rape treatment kit</i>)</li> <li>• 12,620 prenatal</li> <li>• 99,000 folic acid</li> <li>• 99,000 iron + folic acid.</li> </ul> <p>The proyecto carried out a diagnosis in the RAAN and RAAS on violence.</p> <p>95 community leaders of RAAN and RAAS trained in issues related to gender violence.</p> <p>1,109 people, including adolescents, of RAAN and RAAS attended video-forums and chats on gender violence.</p> <p>126 women from RAAS and 26 women RAAN received support on how to deal with gender violence.</p>
<p><b>Water and Sanitation</b></p>	<p>UNICEF</p> <p>Humanitarian response in water, sanitation and hygiene in communities affected by Hurricane</p>	<p>44,362</p>	<p>Total: 7,739 Female: 3,946 Males: 3,793 Children under</p>	<p>RAAN and RAAS Regional Governments</p> <p>Save the Children</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 7,000 people reestablished drinking water conditions similar to their pre-hurricane s</li> <li>• 7,000 people access information on hygiene</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 7,739 affected people from 4 municipalities in the RAAN and 3 in the RAAS reestablished their preexisting drinking water conditions.</li> <li>• 7,739 people with access to information on issues of hygiene,</li> </ul>

	<p>Ida in the RAAN and RAAS, in support of the Regional and Municipal Govern-ments, MoH and NGOs</p> <p>09-CEF-063-B</p>		<p>five: 840</p> <p>30 technicians from the RAAN and the RAAS; 55 employees of the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Education and municipal governments; and 240 community leaders</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ and sanitation 400 families and 20 schools receive and use filters for water disinfection</li> <li>▪ The RAAN and RAAS Regional Water and Sanitation Boards have coordinated response actions with the support of the SINAPRED Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Commission</li> </ul>	<p>sanitation and quality of life in families, schools and communities in emergency conditions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ 280 families and 20 schools received and used filters for the disinfection of water.</li> <li>▪ A team of 30 technicians from the RAAN and the RAAS; 55 employees of the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Education and municipal governments; and 240 community leaders and facilitators from the 7 affected municipalities were trained on issues related to safe and clean water and basic sanitation and hygiene practices.</li> <li>▪ 215 wells were cleaned and disinfected in the communities affected by Hurricane Ida.</li> <li>▪ At the regional and local levels the response actions have been coordinated through the RAAN and RAAS Health Secretariats, in coordination with SINAPRED, and executed by the water and sanitation counterparts. Local authorities have partially been involved in the response by the Regional Water and Sanitation Boards.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Education</b></p>	<p>UNICEF</p> <p>Psychosocial rehabilitation for children and adolescents (“Return to Happiness”)</p> <p>09-CEF-063-A</p>	<p>1,219</p>	<p>Total: 3,390 1,808 girl 1,582 boys</p> <p>122 teachers, fathers, mothers and tutors.</p>	<p>RAAN and RAAS Regional Governments</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ 1,000 children involved in psychosocial activities to prevent post traumatic mental disorders</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ RAAS: 1,903 children were involved in “Return to happiness” activities in two schools of the municipalities of Pearl Lagoon and Desembocadura de Rio Grande, 1,020 girls and 883 boys, as well as 122 teachers, fathers, mothers and tutors. The activities helped the children overcome possible psychosocial disorders.</li> <li>▪ RAAN: 1,487 children from 14 schools in 14 communities of two municipalities (Waspan and Prinzapolka) participated in psychosocial activities to prevent post traumatic mental disorders. 25 children had reported psychosocial problems. One positive experience</li> </ul>



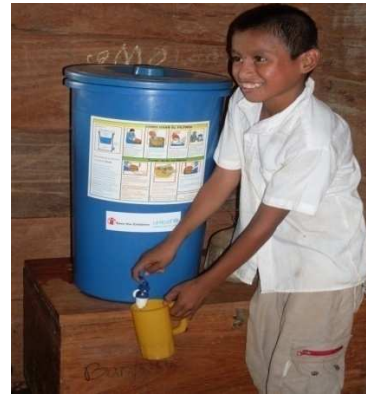
						<p>was that the children strengthened their self esteem, socialization abilities, creativity and active participation. Teachers and parents were actively integrated into "Return to Happiness " activities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>An additional result was that the recreational activities facilitated the integration of children and adolescents who had been outside school system.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Health and Nutrition and Protection</b></p>	<p>UNICEF</p> <p>Promotion of appropriate nutrition and hygiene practices and monitoring of malnutrition and violence against children in emergency situations</p> <p>09-CEF-063-C</p>	<p>47,831</p>	<p>Total: 5,000</p> <p>Children under 5: 600 (318 girls and 282 boys).</p>	<p>RAAN and RAAS Regional Governments</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Communication campaign reached 5,000 affected people, including school children</li> <li>Malnutrition and domestic violence monitored through medical brigades</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Health Secretariats of the RAAN and RAAS Regional Governments designed and implemented a communication strategy on promotion and prevention of undernourishment, acute diarrheah and respiratory diseases. The materials were culturally adapted and reached 5,000 people.</li> <li>Mobile medical brigades in affected municipalities obtained basic knowledge for monitoring malnutrition and domestic violence in emergency situations.</li> <li>100 community leaders, promoters and health workers from the RAAN and RAAS were trained in promoting maternal breastfeeding (during and after emergency situations), nutrition for pregnant women and children under two years of age, and the prevention of domestic violence.</li> <li>Local authorities received support to strengthen their capacity to implement nutrition standards for children under the age of 5.</li> <li>A monitoring plan to identify and prevent domestic violence was implemented in affected communities. Cases of violence detected in the communities were attended to by counsellors and special protection measurement were implemented in association with the regional government Health Secretariats.</li> </ul>

\*Please note that WFP estimated costs are based on food commodity prices. Associated costs, such as operational and administrative costs (i.e. staff, monitoring, transport, travel, etc.) are based on average rates per MT purchased. Since, food prices vary from week to week, budget lines will vary depending on the tonnage procured. WFP was able to procure more tonnage than originally estimated.

\*\* Surplus funds returned to OCHA.

## V. CERF IN ACTION

### WASH (Water and Sanitation and Health)



In the municipality of Rosita (RAAN) most water sources were left contaminated by the rains and floodwater in the wake of Hurricane Ida. As a result, one of the main needs of the population was access to safe water. UNICEF's coordination with the counterpart Save the Children in the municipality facilitated the distribution of filters to affected families and schools that operated as temporary shelters. As mother-of-five Estela Rugama from the community of El Blak explained, "The filter is a real benefit for the family, as you don't have to be chlorinating or boiling the water. As a mother, I look after my filter because it benefits my children's health, the water comes out clean."



Cleaning the wells was one of the rapid response actions conducted during the Hurricane Ida emergency in communities such as Risco de Oro, Bancruz, Wasakin, El Black and Fruta de Pan. The participation of families and community leaders was very important in response to the need for safe drinking water.

### Health and Nutrition

While promoting the issue of breastfeeding during emergencies in the community of Karawala in the municipality of Desembocadura de La Cruz de Río Grande, a nurse from the local health centre told how they had taken refuge from the winds and rain in a shelter where there was nothing to eat or drink and the children were all crying. One of the people in the shelter was a mother who had given birth only a few days earlier and was feeling desperate and very nervous.

One of the men in the shelter told her that there was nothing to eat, so she just hugged her baby boy and gave him her breast. At that moment, she began to feel more relaxed, knowing that her baby was receiving a safe source of food. She felt less nervous, although at the time she did not completely understand why her mood had changed.



The nurse explained that during emergency situations, even the health personnel forget to encourage mothers to continue breastfeeding. She stressed the importance of the training session for everybody who was there, including the health ministry delegate, the person responsible for the civil registry, the national police, community brigade members, the person responsible for environmental health, the deputy mayor, the elected community representative, the secretary of the territorial government, the community judge, a teacher and the secondary school head teacher.

Community judge Nelson Miranda stressed that this subject is so important that it should form part of the regular emergency plan, as it is an effective way of preventing hunger and malnutrition.

### **Education: Psychosocial care**

In communities affected by Hurricane Ida in the Lower Coco River area of the municipality of Waspam and the coast and middle basin areas of the municipality of Prinzapolka, teachers and employees of the RAAN regional government's Education Secretariat considered that participation in recreational activities had an invaluable effect on the feelings of parents, leaders and above all children and adolescents.



In the community of Klampa,

community leader Glad Robinson said "I thank God, the Regional Government and UNICEF for remembering the existence of a small piece of land where this community is located, as this is the first time we've been visited to respond to our problems after an emergency."

Parent Bernardo García from the community of Andris explained how "Pupils lost their school possessions during the rains, because the only thing they do is to

look for somewhere to take refuge and leave everything behind in their houses. When they go back to school, they don't have any notebooks or pencils, which is why they appreciate the attention and the materials, particularly the notebooks and pencils the children of this community need so much."



Meanwhile, in the community of Kiwastara a pupil said “I have never felt as happy as I do today. I’m happy I met other people who played and talked to us.”

And finally, head teacher Gilberto Rodríguez from the school in the community of Walpasiksa thanked the Regional Government and UNICEF for the recreational activities they provided. “I feel very happy that we were included in this psychosocial attention,” he stated. “We know that our students have been psycho-socially affected

and need to recover their emotional state.”

### Agriculture, Fisheries

As response to Hurricane Ida, which hit Eastern Nicaragua in November 2009, the FAO implemented the *Assistance for the reactivation of the artisan fisheries sector affected by Hurricane IDA in Caribbean Coast communities* (FAO code: OSRO/NIC/904/CHA) project with CERF funding. This project provided 1410 families with fishing gear and / or lobster traps that were either destroyed or lost during the hurricane.

The delivery of lobster traps coincided with a relatively high-catch period, resulting in an



average catch of four pounds of lobster per trap. Since each fisherman was provided with sufficient materials in kit form to make five traps, this corresponded to an average of 20 pounds of lobster per fisherman. The amount generally is around 2 pounds per trap, thus the daily catch increased significantly due

Delivery of lobster trap kits in the community of La Barra.

to the new traps. According to Aiban Horsley Cotborth Sjgreen, a fisherman from the community of Karawala, this increase in catch is due to the materials and design of the lobster trap itself. Describing the new lobster traps delivered, he says “the design permits an easy catch of lobster; they go inside and can’t get out easily. On good days, I get six pounds

of lobster per trap.” In the local community, traps are made out of a variety of local material, including old tires, used lumber or wires. This makes it easy for the lobster to find

ways to crawl out. The lobster trap provided by the project is made of heavy wood, meets exact specifications and measurements, making it hard for the lobster to escape. Mr. Cothborth added that with the extra income of the lobster this season, he will build more lobster traps using the design of those provided by the project.

The design of the lobster traps was established by INPESCA and approved by the appropriate technical unit in FAO, allowing for this increased catch due to the dimensions of the wooden pieces and the openings. By following the technical specifications, lobsters are drawn to the bait more efficiently and are unable to crawl out again. Another very important reason for the success of the new traps is due to the fact that they were made out of Nanciton wood, not Pine which is often used. Unlike Pine, Nanciton does not emit any residue while in the water and it is a very hard wood and therefore sits easily on the ocean floor and last much longer than pine.

The assistance provided by FAO to the fishing communities affected by Hurricane Ida is greatly appreciated by the fishermen. Those benefitted were able to successfully re-establish their livelihoods with the lobster traps and fishing gears provided by the project. Not only have they been able to re-establish their livelihoods, but they also observe an increase in their catch due to using lobster traps which comply with the established norms and standard.