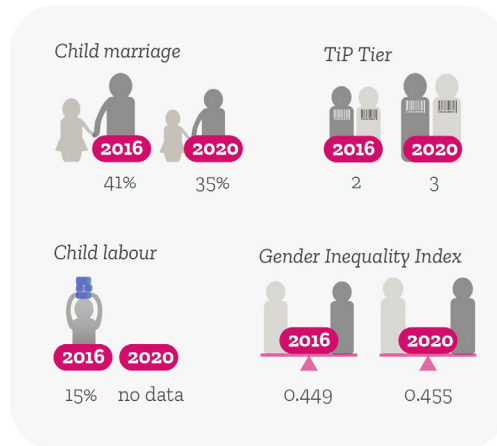


Nicaragua

KEY NATIONAL INDICATORS IN 2016-2020



Since 2019, Nicaragua has been in Tier 3 of the Trafficking in Persons Report because of a lack of significant efforts by the government to fully meet the minimum standards for eliminating trafficking.¹ The government lacks action regarding prosecution and conviction of traffickers and identification of victims. Officials within at least four of the government agencies in the National Coalition Against Human Trafficking In Persons (NCATIP) have been perpetrating, leading, or authorising human rights violations, contributing to an environment of impunity and reducing the likelihood of victims reporting trafficking of persons.

Nicaragua's civic space is currently rated as 'repressed' by Civicus, a global alliance of Civil Society Organisations dedicated to strengthening civil society. In August 2018, an escalation of the government's reaction to protests earlier that year was a reason for Nicaragua to be placed on the global watchlist of countries where civic freedoms are under serious threat.

FOCUS OF OUR WORK

Multisectoral work, and awareness-raising activities for children, their communities and the private sector have been taken place from the start of the programme. Since 2018, progress has been made in working with the local government which includes the formal recognition of the local implementing partner. However, work on sexual exploitation of children (SEC) has remained challenging because of difficulties reaching a peace agreement between the government and the opposition.

Budget 2016-2020

€ 373,077

MAIN RESULTS ON CHILDREN/YOUTH EMPOWERMENT

Following the Down to Zero (DtZ) training on sexual and reproductive health and rights including the risks of SEC, girls and boys formed several youth organisations in the San Rafael del Sur municipality. In 2020, children actively participated in multisectoral groups comprising community leaders, public sector representatives, churches and the private sector working on the prevention of sexual violence in the Masachapa (fishing) community. From July 2017 to July 2018, boys and girls identified and registered SEC risk areas. They shared this information with other communities in the municipality of San Rafael del Sur in order for them to be able to prevent SEC. During 2018-2020, a number of children survivors and children at high risk of sexual violence and abuse,

decided to return to formal education (using distance learning) or follow the Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH) programmes in San Rafael del Sur. In 2019, SEC survivors accessed legal assistance services both with the DtZ programme and by themselves. In 2020, survivors from the Masachapa, Pochomil and Madroñal communities dissociated themselves from SEC dynamics and started the process of social reintegration, putting into practice the life plans that they developed. In 2020, girls and boys who received training as part of the programme were actively participating in the construction of ethical regulations against sexual violence by Mujeres al poder (Women to power), a cooperative of women fishermen in Masachapa. Participants of the Adolescents Club promoted by the Ministry of Health of San Rafael del Sur developed actions for the prevention and promotion of SRH in educational institutions.

As currently lobbying the government is not considered a safe activity for children and young people within the socio-political context since speaking out in public often goes with personal repercussions. So instead of advocating towards the government, youth groups play an active role in their communities by teaching their peers. Children and youth show agency by demanding spaces for participation within groups, taking up the challenge to break cultural barriers where adult reasoning (and being right) prevails. They recognise themselves as part of the reporting route of SEC and are referring SEC cases to the protection committee. Children have thus shown that they are capable of communicating to make sexual crimes visible.

¹The Trafficking in Persons Report, or the TIP Report, is an annual report issued by the U.S. State Department. The report ranks governments based on their perceived efforts to acknowledge and combat human trafficking, from Tier 1 (full compliance with the minimum standards) to Tier 3 (no compliance and no significant efforts to do so).