

San Salvador

31 July 2018

SITUATION

The human rights situation in Nicaragua as observed by the Inter American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) in relation to the violent events that have been taking place since the State repressed the protests on April 18, 2018, and subsequent events over the following weeks. According to figures gathered by the IACHR, the State's repressive action has led to at least 295 deaths, 1,337 persons wounded as of June 19, and 507 persons deprived of liberty as of June 6, and hundreds of persons at risk of becoming victims of attacks, harassment, threats and other forms of intimidation. According to the government on July 28, the deaths were 195; it has been very difficult to keep an exact count since the revolt began in Nicaragua.

According to the Nicaraguan Association for Human Rights (ANPDH) in its report as of July 11 indicates that there are 351 deaths (306 were civilians, 28 paramilitaries, 16 polices and a soldier one from the Army), 2,100 injured and 329 kidnapped. According to the Nicaraguan Foundation for Economic and Social Development (FUNIDES), there are two possible scenarios: The first scenario assumes that the government accepts to leave, thus achieving a framework of understanding focused on issues of justice and democratization, ending repression, violence and citizen insecurity. In this scenario, the economic growth rate for 2018 would contract to -0.03 percent in relation to 2017 and the economy would face losses of US \$638 million. The second scenario assumes that there is no interest from the government to seek a negotiated solution to crisis, which leads to a prolonged and intensified crisis for the rest of the year. In this scenario, the economic growth rate would contract to -5.6 percent in relation to 2017 and the economy would face losses of US \$1.4 billion. There are approximately 1.3 million people in risk of falling into poverty in the coming months. Likewise, the crisis has disrupted the daily routines and the collapse of the protection mechanisms of society, including the loss of the organizational referents of society, which has affected the physical and mental health of people, social integration, family relationship, school performance, self-confidence (especially in children and older adults).

The scenario in Nicaragua can lead to a destabilization of the Central American region and the displacement of people both internally and abroad.

NEEDS

The ACT Forum in Nicaragua have identified food security, Psychosocial support and Advocacy to develop peace and reconciliation as priority needs.

STAKEHOLDERS

The following national entities are present, but have not responded directly to the crisis:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	National government	The Government of Nicaragua is not responding to the crisis and has not defined a national plan to search for long lasting solutions. Despite the crisis, there is no emergency declaration.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Civil society groups	Civil society groups are carrying out protest, networks and social media campaigns, accompaniment to groups linked to the conflict. Representatives of civil society visited the Organization of American States (OAS) in Washington DC to denounce the socio-political situation; as a result The OAS condemned the acts of violence in Nicaragua and called on all parts to participate in the National Dialogue and urged the Government "to support an electoral calendar," in a resolution approved by the Permanent Council. More details can be find in the following link: http://www.oas.org/en/media_center/press_release.asp?sCodigo=E-048/18

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<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Faith based groups	<p>Faith-based organizations are playing a significant role in the response to the crisis. The Catholic Church in Nicaragua was quick to acknowledge the protestors' complaints, and mediated a short-lived dialogue between the government and protesters. Catholic Bishops from the National Episcopal Conference are working as mediators in the talks – they have largely sided with the Civic Alliance in setting the agenda for discussions. The Dialogue was launched on May 16 – but then suspended on May 23, as the opposition refused to remove blockades throughout the country, and the government refused to talk until they did.</p> <p>After several intense weeks of conflict in the streets, the National Dialogue reconvened on Friday, June 15 with the intention of addressing two broad themes: 1. Human rights and justice for victims of the violence and 2. Democracy. The discussions held in a plenary session in front of cameras did not yield an agreement. However, behind closed doors on Friday and into Saturday, agreements were reached. Available information from external sources may be accessed through the following links:</p> <p>https://quixote.org/update-on-nicaragua-the-national-dialogue-is-back-on-for-now/</p> <p>https://aleteia.org/2018/07/18/update-and-background-popes-rep-in-nicaragua-appeals-for-end-of-crisis/</p>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Affected communities	The high number of affected people in the main cities of Nicaragua is contributing to a situation of rapid poverty growth in an already vulnerable and fragile context.

ACT Alliance

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	ACT Alliance Nicaragua Forum have spoken out against the crisis since April 2018 by means of several internal pronouncements: CEPAD sent 2 pastoral letters (April and June) to the Presidency of the Republic of Nicaragua; CIEETS shared 4 statements among its networks (April, May and June). Lutheran World Relief provided an emergency fund for the Lutheran Church in Nicaragua to serve 184 families (804 people) to provide food aid and seed delivery in the Municipality of Somoto. CIEETS through its social networks requested support for the purchase of food and medications aid to 150 families (625 people) for the municipality of Masaya (Monimbó), municipality of Managua (Ciudad Sandino) and Municipality of Mateare (Los Castros). Two statements were sent externally as Forum to the ACT Alliance, which was supported by the ACT Global governing board and an oral statement presented at the 38th session of the United Nations Human Rights Council.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	ACT Alliance continues to monitor the situation and is conducting an assessment to have a better understanding of the situation and needs.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	The ACT Alliance Nicaragua Forum is preparing an appeal to respond to the needs caused by the crisis.

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Any funding indication or pledge should be communicated to the Head of Finance and Administration, Line Hempel (Line.Hempel@actalliance.org)

For further information, please contact:

Evenor Jerez, Forum Coordinator; foroactcoordinacion@gmail.com

Carlos Rauda, ACT Regional Representative: Carlos.rauda@actalliance.org

Rosa Maria Matamoros, Regional Programme Officer: Rosa.Matamoros@actalliance.org

ACT Web Site address: <http://www.actalliance.org>

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