

The Plastic Free Solentiname sustainable tourism project received the “2020 Excellence in Tourism” Award, during the International Tourism Fair of Spain in May. The Award evaluates innovative projects in tourism, art, and culture. Solentiname is an archipelago of 36 islands in Nicaragua’s Lake Cocibolca. (*Nicaragua News*, 24 May 2021)

In its [May report](#) the International **Monetary Fund states that Nicaragua has worked to maintain social and public investment programs, safeguard job stability and actively seek public financing**, registering a deficit of the non-financial public sector of 2.5% of GDP, the lowest in the region. The report also noted that the fiscal policy measures taken in 2020 increased resources for the public health sector to face the COVID-19 pandemic and prioritized the population affected by the 2 November hurricanes. Regarding the vaccination process, Nicaragua began its program on March 2. (*Nicaragua News*, 26 May 2021; <https://www.imf.org/en/Topics/imf-and-covid19/Policy-Responses-to-COVID-19>)

On June 2 Nicaragua and the Central America Bank for Economic Integration signed loans for US\$118.5 million for vaccines and improvement of hospitals. **CABEI president Dante Mossi noted that the bank is financing 25 projects, due to the good management and excellent relations** between the bank and Nicaragua. (*Radio La Primerisima*, 2 June 2021)

CABEI also approved a loan for US\$151 million to further clean up Lake Managua. This loan will guarantee full coverage of potable water and sanitation services to more than one million inhabitants. (*La Voz del Sandinismo*, 29 June 2021)

A May report from the World Food Program on Nicaragua’s emergency response after the November 2020 hurricanes acknowledges the government’s response and excellent attention to communities. It also praised the expansion of the school meal program to more than 1.2 million children. (*Informe Pastran*, 17 June 2021)

US\$222 million will be invested in 281 water and sanitation projects in the South Caribbean Region over the next 10 years with the first projects to be inaugurated in 2022. (*Radio La Primerisima*, 21 June 2021)

The Ministry of Education inaugurated the installation of wireless internet at the José Santos Zelaya Educational Center in Matiguás. In addition, workshops on art, culture, tradition and creativity development were held throughout the country. Many rural schools now have internet. (*Informe Pastran*, 17 June 2021)

And in its June 28th report the Ministry showed that the budget for education quadrupled between 2006 and 2020 (US\$114 million in 2006 to US\$600 million). During this 13-year period 35,400 schools were built, expanded, or repaired; the number of teachers in the public education system rose by 29.5%. The illiteracy level dropped to 4.5% in 2020. (*Nicaragua News*, 29 June 2021)

President of the Supreme Electoral council, Brenda Rocha, said that “the opening for the inscription of Presidential candidates by parties and alliances is July 28 according to the electoral calendar. That is when the CSE begins reviewing whether or not candidates fulfill the requirements according to the law.” 17 parties are participating in this year’s elections including the PLC, Camino Cristiano, ALN, APRE, “Alianza Ciudadanos por la Libertad” and YATAMA, along with the FSLN Alliance, “United Nicaragua Triumphs made up of 9 parties and 4 movements.”

The provisional electoral roll currently being verified, exceeds 4.3 million registered citizens, 49% men and 51% women. And of more than 4 million registered, 1.6 million are between 16 and 25 years of age. There will be 3,110 voting centers; this is the largest number ever, so that people don't have to go too far to vote. (*Radio La Primerisima*, 12 and 28 July 2021)

According to the most recent survey the FSLN has 62.8% of voting strength, with 43% hard vote, 11% soft vote and 9% tending to vote for this party. The survey was carried between June 27 and July 3, to Nicaraguans over 16 years of age. 76% consulted said that conditions in Nicaragua have progressed greatly in relation to 14 years ago. On the imposition of sanctions by the US, 83.7% agreed that this was another manifestation of the interventionist US behavior in the internal affairs of their country. 85% said that the sanctions imposed by the US harm democracy and the Nicaraguan people. [Presentación-Nicaragua-Rumbo-a-Noviembre-2021_8va-Ola_Julio-2021](https://radiolaprimerisima.com/noticias-generales/destacado/nicaraguenses-ratifican-respaldo-a-gestion-del-presidente-daniel-ortega/) *Radio La Primerisima*, 22 July 2021, (*Informe Pastran*, 29 June 2021)
<https://radiolaprimerisima.com/noticias-generales/destacado/nicaraguenses-ratifican-respaldo-a-gestion-del-presidente-daniel-ortega/> (*Radio La Primerisima*, 26 June 2021)

The Police report on the Program for Comprehensive Care and Development of Adolescents and Youth from the first semester of 2021 indicates that some 3,700 families participated in workshops and received psychological care on prevention, identification, and treatment for addictions. The report noted that 112,000 youths attended community counseling programs and 11,000 police-community meetings for prevention of situations of violence were held. (*Nicaragua News*, 8 July 2021)

The National Plan for the Fight against Poverty and for Human Development 2022-2026 was presented the first week of July by the Finance Minister, Iván Acosta, who said "It is a plan with heart, focused on the most important aspect of any society, not on how much it impacts the economy, but on how much it changes people for the better, on how much it improves people's living conditions; it is a plan focused on the human being,"

He talked about how horrible the period from 1990 to 2007 was. There was no purchase of buses and many transportation cooperatives closed due to lack of support. 27,000 classrooms crumbled; fees were charged for public education under "school autonomy;" the glass of milk per child was eliminated and illiteracy grew from 12% to 22%.

Acosta said, "There are two indicators that showed a terrifying turning point. In 2005, poverty was increasing by nearly 2 points a year, and it made a jump from 45% to 48% in 2005. We were on a path to 70% poverty. Homicide rates jumped 4.5 points. That is to say, we were on the path of the northern triangle. We would have easily reached 60 homicides per 100 thousand."

Acosta mentioned changes since the return of the Sandinista government in 2007: An increase of 99.6% in improved roads and highways; the reduction from 93 to 21 per 100,000 in the rate of maternal and child mortality; and a 91% increase in investment in energy, drinking water and sanitation; more than 1.7 million students with free education; and efficient management of funds received from the international community. "The political will is to have good government focused on the fight against poverty," he said.

Acosta said that the decision was made to deliver the best public sector hospital infrastructure in Central America, which has had an important impact on the capacity to care for the Covid-19 pandemic and the demand for public health in general. With relation to education, he said that "There has been a leap in Education public policy since 2007. School meals were guaranteed, 1.2 million meals daily, a policy to finally guarantee enrollment, retention, promotion, and ensure the stability and quality of education. Another great achievement is the investment in energy and quality of service. In addition to this is the construction of 71,000 homes, and the capitalization of the rural sector to reduce

poverty and ensure food security and sovereignty. A great leap has been made in social and economic transformation.”

He said: “Probably no country in the world has had four consecutive impacts of great size in 3 years. We are talking about the coup attempt and the pandemic; but we also received the impact of two hurricanes in less than ten days, an issue that shows the impact of climate change,” he said. The hurricanes had an impact of nearly 1 billion dollars, while the coronavirus pandemic had an impact of US\$2 billion.

However, the impact of the coup attempt reached more than US\$24 billion. “The failed coup attempt, was the worst pandemic.... It has had an impact of eight to ten times the pandemic. It shows that those who promoted the coup attempt were backed by imperialist countries that really wanted to destroy the future and the hope of several generations. But in the end it shows the ability, resilience, dedication, and good public policies of the Government of President Daniel Ortega.” (*Radio La Primerisima*, 6 July 2021)

The Violeta Barrios de Chamorro Foundation received at least US\$17.5 million from US agencies and foundations as well as from European organizations from February 2017 to July 2018, leading up to and during the 2018 coup attempt. US\$16.7 million was given by US agencies and foundations to finance media terrorism [lies, fake news and distortion to foment assassinations and hate, destabilize and create chaos in Nicaragua] to incite and maintain the coup attempt. The Foundation also received €679,530 from Europe. The attempted coup left families in mourning, many people traumatized as well as much destruction and severe damage to the economy resulting in unemployment.

Cristiana Chamorro, was accused by the Public Prosecutor’s Office of the crimes of abusive management, ideological falsehood, along with money laundering, and given house arrest on June 2, 2021. From the National Endowment for Democracy (NED) on Nov. 11, 2017, the Foundation received **US\$564,134** for a project “promoting independent journalism and freedom of expression.” On March 9, 2018 the Foundation received **US\$6,722,325** from two of the Soros Foundations owned by New York-based tycoon George Soros. For the project, “independent and transparent journalism,” it received US\$6,148,325 and from the Open Society Foundation on July 26, 2018, it received US\$574,000 for the “independent journalism and citizenship” project.

The 2017-2018 funding of opposition media and journalists through the Chamorro Foundation by USAID, NED and Soros Foundations was US\$16,696,312 million just before and during the attempted coup. This is only part of US funding provided by agencies like USAID, NED, IRI, Freedom House and foundations with close ties to the Council on Foreign Relations. Just USAID spent more than US\$160 million on opposition organizations between 2015 and 2021. (*Radio La Primerisima*, 2 June 2021)