

Information on the country strategy Nicaragua

For each partner country of VLIR-UOS, a country strategy has been developed. The country strategy represents the strategic niche for VLIR-UOS cooperation in a country, with specific **thematic areas** and an institutional and/or regional focus, based on the needs and national priorities of the country with regard to higher education and development. The [VLIR-UOS Country Strategy for Nicaragua](#) fits with the national human development plan and its focus on innovation and research as an important factor for development. This is translated in the country strategy by means of 3 central themes: '**environment**', '**territorial development**' and '**society**'. '**Research strengthening**', '**intercultural diversity**' and '**gender**' have been identified as crosscutting themes. There is no **geographical or institutional focus** put forward, but prioritising institutions of the National Council of Universities (CNU) is proposed (see p.13 of the Country Strategy for the full list).

Information for potential synergy and complementarity

Synergy and complementarity (S&C) can improve the impact of development cooperation interventions and is a top priority of the Belgian minister of Development Cooperation and encouraged by the reform of non-governmental cooperation in 2016. In order to promote S&C, all Belgian non-governmental development actors were invited to elaborate a Joint Strategic Framework (JSFs) per country in 2016. These JSFs provide information about the goals to which the actors want to contribute, and also indicate potential for synergy and complementarity. In the table below, a general overview of relevant information from the **Joint Strategic Framework** Nicaragua is provided for each **thematic area** of the VLIR-UOS **country strategy**. The Joint Strategic **Goal** relevant for each theme is listed, together with the **Belgian non-governmental actors** which are active in **Nicaragua** with funding of the Belgian development cooperation. By providing this list, VLIR-UOS wants to facilitate **synergy** and/or complementarity with programmes of other Belgian actors. Synergy and complementarity will also be integrated as an element in the **selection** of interventions, more in particular when discussing the (developmental) relevance of project proposals. The last updated version of the JSF Nicaragua can be found [here](#).

| Thematic area of the VLIR-UOS country strategy | Potential match with the Joint Strategic Goal of the Joint Strategic Framework | Belgian Non-Governmental Actors active in this area |
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| ENVIRONMENT | (1) Strengthen the capacities of rural and urban populations and local authorities for sustainable management of natural resources , conservation of biodiversity and the promotion of public policies for the preservation and protection of natural resources. | EF, Oxfam, VECO, VVSG |
| TERRITORIAL DEVELOPMENT | (2) Support the development of the agricultural and food industry in a dynamic, inclusive and sustainable way to ensure a dignified life for small producers (Decent Work) Guaranteeing labour rights and extending social protection for all | EF, Oxfam, VECO, VVSG FOS, Oxfam |
| SOCIETY | (3) Sustain political advocacy of social organizations and / or strengthen the institutional capacity of local governments to promote democratic mechanisms and respect for human rights , especially for women and youth. | EF, VVSG |
| Crosscutting themes for HIGHER EDUCATION, RESEARCH and INNOVATION POLICIES | (4) Ensure and improve access to knowledge , improve the quality of scientific research and stimulate innovation in order to contribute to sustainable development | VLIR-UOS |

More information about the other Belgian actors active in **Nicaragua** with funding of the Belgian development cooperation can be found in the table below. Their own suggestions for possible cooperation with academics are also provided, but this should not be seen as an exhaustive list. Academics and ICOS (institutional coordinators for development coordination at level of the Flemish HEIs) elaborating a project proposal are invited to contact relevant organisations for more information and/or to enquire them on potential collaborations.

| NGA | Short description of the activities in Nicaragua | Name of the local partner(s) | Region(s) | Suggested research topics | Contact person |
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| Entraide et Fraternité (EF) | The EF program seeks to support the work of farmers, women and youth engaged in building sustainable agri-food models, creating jobs and promoting citizen participation. Sustainable agri-food models will be implemented through Sustainable Land Parcel Plans and investment plans, with a vision of environmental risk management that is resilient to climate change. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Asociación de Educación y Comunicación La Cuculmeca Asociación de Voluntarios para el Desarrollo Comunitario Fundación Odorico d'Andrea | Jinotega | | Ana Vassallo Sarah Crosset |
| Rikolto – former VredesEilanden Country Office (VECO) | VECO will contribute to improving the quality of life of small producers in family farming in Nicaragua, through a program that will promote the sustainable development of the cocoa, coffee and vegetable subsectors. These sectors face challenges in terms of sustainability that can only be addressed through a comprehensive, holistic and inclusive approach, such as the Sustainable Development of Sub-sectors (Sustainable Sector Transformation). | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cooperativa de Servicios Múltiples Productores de Jinotega Cooperativa de Servicios Múltiples Sacaclí Cooperativa Agropecuaria de Servicios Tomatoya Chagüite Grande Cooperativa De Servicios Múltiples Padre Odorico De Andrea Comisión Sectorial de Hortalizas Comisión Sectorial de Cacao de Nicaragua Cámara Nicaragüense de Cacaoteros Cooperativa Multifuncional Cacaotera La Campesina Cooperativa de Servicios Múltiples Ríos de Agua Viva 21 de Junio | Jinotega Managua Matagalpa | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Research proposal between universities of Vietnam, Tanzania and Nicaragua on safe vegetables, focusing on access to technology, knowledge, best practices to ensure smallholders can comply to produce with lower residues, according to GAP norms etc... Research proposal | Roos Peirsegaele |

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| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alianza Nacional de Caficultores de Nicaragua | | <p>between universities of Central and South-America (Ecuador & Peru) about cacao: cadmium issue or focusing on genetic material. Rikolto is already supporting interuniversity collaboration on cacao at Central-American level.</p> | |
| Vlaamse Vereniging van Steden en Gemeenten (VVSG) | <p>The VVSG program in Nicaragua focuses on strengthening the mechanisms of good governance in 3 sister-municipalities in Nicaragua. This is done through supporting initiatives that promote the local economy with an environmental responsibility. Specifically, it wants to contribute to the process of supporting the communities in their agricultural techniques, their knowledge of the importance of the environment and in the elaboration of a municipal public policy of community tourism.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Municipality of Darío (twinning with Lommel) • Municipality of Santo Tomás (twinning with Mol) • Municipality of Nueva Guinea (twinning of Sint-Truiden) | See partners | | <p>Karlien Gorissen</p> |
| Waardig Werk (Oxfam Solidarité, Fonds voor OntwikkelingsSamenwerking FOS) | <p>FOS supports trade unions or platforms of trade union organizations, which are supported to develop a joint trade union strategy and the required organizational capacities to achieve effective social dialogue at various levels, to defend and extend strategic labor rights for the target groups. The social protection strategy is focused on strengthening the territorial base of social organizations through the activation and training of members of health networks in the communities around sexual and reproductive rights and health on the one</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Confederacion Sindical de Trabajadores de Zonas Francas • Comision de Genero de la Maquila • Mesa de la Agro industria Sindical de Nicaragua • Movimiento Comunal Nicaraguense | <p>Chinandega Leon Managua Rivas Region Autonoma Atlantico Sur Masaya Carazo</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengths and weaknesses of the medical assistance model within social insurance in Nicaragua. • Role of agribusiness growth in Nicaragua: | <p>Frank Lensink</p> |

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| | <p>hand and an improvement in the quality of the services offered in health authorities on the other hand.</p> <p>The specific objective of the Oxfam program in Nicaragua is to increase the income of 1,167 producers organized into 45 groups, based on their sustainable production and marketing of their products. This would result in the direct beneficiary groups taking ownership of their rights, participating in decision-making spaces and strengthening their productive, business and advocacy capacities. The programme has a strong gender approach.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Federacion de Trabajadores de Salud. • FUNDACION ENTRE MUJERES • Unión Nacional Agropecuaria de Productores Asociados • Federación Agropecuaria de Cooperativas de Mujeres Productoras del Campo de Nicaragua | <p>Matagalpa Jinotega</p> <p>Jinotega, Matagalpa, Managua, Esteli</p> | <p>economic, social, labor and environmental impacts.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access to land by women and young people • Strengthening of the peasant identity, the revaluation of the countryside and the appropriation of rights contribute to defend the land and natural resources as a common good • Effectiveness of agroecological practices for adapting to climate change. • Advancement of the rights of rural women (compliance with the Economic Agenda) and their participation in economic processes. | <p>Marie-Pierre Smets</p> |
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More information can be found on our [Nicaragua page](#) of the website or by contacting the VLIR-UOS programme coordinator and focal point for Nicaragua [Inge Vandevyvere](#)