

# CHILD FRIENDLY AND HEALTHY SCHOOLS INITIATIVE

## NICARAGUA



## CONTEXT

- Population: 5,6 millions inhabitants
- 53% under 18 years old
- Net enrolment rate:
  - preschool 28 %
  - primary 85%
  - secondary 45%
- 20% of schools with water supply and sanitation services

## BACKGROUND

- ✓ Nicaragua was involved in the international School Sanitation and Hygiene Education project promoted by UNICEF and IRC in 6 countries
- ✓ 2001. It was signed an Agreement among Education, Health, Water and Natural Resources Ministries supported by UNICEF and PAHO/WHO
- ✓ Health Promoter School, New School and Child Friendly School were integrated in a national model
- ✓ FRESH framework
- ✓ Life Skills approach

## “CHILD FRIENDLY AND HEALTHY SCHOOL”

Child Friendly and Healthy Schools are schools where girls, boys and adolescents:

- ✓ learn and develop knowledge, attitudes and life skills
- ✓ have a safe, healthy, protective environment where cultural diversity is respected
- ✓ participate with teachers, parents and community members.

## COMPONENTS

1. Quality education for successful learning
2. Child-friendly and safe infrastructure
3. Water, hygiene and environmental sanitation
4. Health and nutrition
5. Rights, duties and participation

## NICARAGUA



117 schools in 11 departments

- with CFHS
- without CFHS

## ACTIVITIES

- a) **Advocacy for building partnership** with health and water sectors
- b) **Construction of Child Friendly and Healthy School model** and diffusion of it at the national level
- c) **Establishment of Intersectoral Technical Committees** at national, regional and local level
- d) **Training** to technicians, teachers, community leaders, and local governments
- f) **Self-assessment, Action plans, Monitoring and Evaluation** were done in each school

## ACHIEVEMENTS

- Strengthened intersectoral coordination and cooperation
- The Child Friendly and Healthy School experience feeds the national education policy. Based on this experience the MoE has created the “Learning and Progress Centres”. They will address quality of education, democracy, environment, sports and recreation, health and nutrition, human and children rights, innovation and leadership
- Norms, standards and guidelines for school infrastructure, including water and sanitation facilities, has been agreed at national level
- School management involve boys, girls, mothers, fathers, teachers and community leaders



## ACHIEVEMENTS

### Improvement of the learning process:

- ✓ Active and participatory methodology
- ✓ Strengthened democracy at school level
- ✓ Improvement on classrooms, canteens, kitchens and water and sanitation facilities
- ✓ Promotion of healthy behaviours and good nutrition
- ✓ Development of emergency preparedness plans
- ✓ Development of materials and tools for teachers and students

## LESSONS LEARNED

- Water, hygiene and sanitation are an excellent entry point for integral interventions at the school level
- Integral and intersectoral approaches are demanded by a children rights based programme
- Intersectoral team work requires the development of concepts, methodologies and tools (how to do it)
- The mobilization strategy has been successful because it was based on and adapted towards the local context



## The Challenge:

Scaling up the experience through the development of “The Learning and Progress Centres” at the national level by 2015

117 schools → 7,000 schools

- ✓ Adaptation of the model to the multi-cultural and multi-lingual context of the country
- ✓ Get new partners and donors for leverage of funding
- ✓ Assess the impact of model in learning achievements and behaviour changes of boys and girls
- ✓ Certification of schools according to standard indicators



THANK YOU