



Expanded Security Welcome Brief Nicaragua

In-country Situation

Continued to have protracted economic problems and the resultant high levels of unemployment fuel rising crime. Most crime is economically motivated rather than drug-related.

Street blockades are for political demonstrations and strikes that sporadically occur. Protests are especially common whenever international economic forums are held in the country, or during local meetings conducted by the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the US-Central American Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA) or the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA).

Nicaragua is currently in a serious situation of social and political unrest.

According to the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR), there is a clear difference between the government death and injured figures and those that have been reported since the demonstrations began on 18 April 2018. This agency has accused the government of extrajudicial killings, torture, and illegal detention. Further impromptu and planned protests are expected to continue to take place throughout the country. Protesters gather near-daily around 15.00 or 16.00 at rally flashpoints in the capital. These locations in Managua include the National University of Engineering, the Metropolitan Cathedral, the Polytechnic University of Nicaragua campus, Rotonda Ruben Dario, Rotonda Jean Paul Genie, and Highway 4 (Carretera a Masaya). Roadblocks have been reported nationwide.

The protests began in April following the passage of legislation that reduced benefits, while at the same time increasing social security contributions from employers and workers. However, they have since widened to demand the resignation of members of the government. Stalled negotiations between President Daniel Ortega's administration and protest leaders continue and some advancements have been noted but intermittent.

Unrest is expected to continue in urban centers and flashpoint areas in the coming months. This is due primarily to the inability of government representatives and anti-government protesters to enter into a consistent dialogue aimed at resolving the crisis. The current President of Nicaragua is unlikely to voluntarily relinquish control, and both side's entrenched positions means that common ground on which to build consensus remains elusive.

Antigovernment demonstrations against President Daniel Ortega, which in much of 2018 cause significant disruption throughout the country, have abated in the first months of 2019.

This is the result of a government response which drastically curtailed opposition protests and roadblocks and led to a more stable security environment for travelers.

Clashes between protesters and government security forces may occur, albeit less frequently. Government and other groups affiliated to the government still suppress opposition rallies with lethal force, but the more limited nature of protest activities has decreased the potential risks to bystanders. Police are still liable to carry out arbitrary detentions and searches of anyone suspected of participating or supporting protest activities.

The government response to the political crisis has exacerbated the country's economic problems.



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By the end of 2019, Nicaragua is anticipated to experience its worst economic crisis in 30 years. Already the resultant high levels of unemployment have fueled the rise in crime, particularly in urban areas, though high unemployment also makes it a feature of rural areas.

Petty and opportunistic crime is the main risk to humanitarian, movement and visitors. Violent assaults on foreign visitors are rare, however, female travelers have reported sexual assaults and violence against women is a strong concern.

In the capital Managua, the main risks stem from crime, social and political violence.

Occasional armed robbery occurs at open air markets, shopping centers, and parking lots. Car jackings and stabbings have increased in the poorer neighborhoods of Managua. Purse and Jewelry snatching from motorists is known to occur at stoplights. Youth gang violence has been blamed for a significant portion of the high homicide and violent crime rate. Most violence occurs between rival gang members, but foreign visitors face a risk of random attack.

Population

6,465,513 (2019, World Bank)

Religion

Christian

Visitor Information

- *Defer non-essential travel to Nicaragua due to regularly occurring anti-government protests, associated violence and resultant travel disruption. A full itinerary-specific briefing on the prevailing threats is necessary prior to essential travel. Seek itinerary- and profile-specific advice prior to travel in central Boaco department and Honduran and Costa Rican border areas due to risks posed by banditry.*
- *Carry identity documents on your person at all times.*
- *Do not travel on foot; use a private vehicle and driver or a taxi ordered through your hotel.*
- *Public transport is not suitable for RCRC Personnel.*
- *Road conditions and driving standards are poor and highway robbery is an issue in some areas; do not self-drive unless familiar with local conditions.*
- *Consider travelling by air between cities where possible and minimize non-essential movement outside urban centers as a precaution due to frequently erected protester roadblocks on major highways. Undertake cross-country travel during day light hours only and with adequate communications systems, spares and fuel. Drive defensively at all times.*
- *Avoid demonstrations due to the credible risk of clashes with the security forces; do not stop to watch or photograph them.*
- *The police may try to extract dubious 'fines. In the event you need to report a crime, do so with the assistance of a trusted local contact. If involved in a serious crime, contact your embassy for support.*
- *Be firm, but patient and respectful towards members of the security forces you encounter.*
- *Members choosing to stay in private residences during personal travel or academic trips should carefully consider the risks associated with potential raids by security forces.*
- *Exercise strict information security protocols at all times in order to protect sensitive information. The police regularly seize electronic devices. Do not carry material that may appear critical of the government.*

IFRC Regional Presence



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None at Nicaragua. Just control visits from programmes such as ZIKA, Dengue and others.

When doing Field / Operational / Mission Trips / Movement:

- *The Mission Order System is in place for ALL movement outside of Managua.*
 - *Mission Orders must be signed to travel outside of Managua.*
- *Team members must inform their TL (Team Leader) or line manager of all field movement on a daily basis including when departing to field, arrival at destination, when departing to base and conformation upon safe arrival to base.*
- *RC/RC personnel must be met at the port.*
- *All team members must report to TL before 18:00 hrs daily to inform him/her on safe status and whereabouts of team members.*
- *Team members must inform the Security Coordinator of all proposed daily field movements and any changes or delays as they become known. The Security Coordinator and/or TL must be able to get information on the whereabouts of all RC/RC personnel at any time.*
- *Passengers other than RC/RC personnel may not be carried in IFRC vehicles, without the consent of the Security Coordinator.*
- *Emergency plans must be established in case of team members not reporting on safe return from the field.*
- *Operational movement (field travel) will be done during the day. Outside urban areas, no field movement is permitted after nightfall, only upon exception authorization of the Security Coordinator.*
- *Travel outside cities and towns must be strictly limited and be well planned and coordinated the Security Coordinator /, TL and maps must be available.*
- *All vehicles must be equipped with first aid kits and emergency food/water rations.*
- *Any abnormal activity or aggression must be immediately reported to TL and Security Coordinator.*
- *All travel must be done in roadworthy vehicle with Federation/RC markings.*
- *Team members should with a Nicaragua Red Cross counterpart (if possible / feasible).*
- *Under NO circumstances must anyone conduct mission activities under Police /Military escort.*

IFRC Country Cluster address

Not present in Nicaragua.

Address in Honduras: 7ma y 8va Ave. Calle Real, Edificio CRH |Comayagüela, MDC, Honduras

Contacts:

Head of Country Cluster Support Team for Central America (located in Honduras): Nelson Aly Rodríguez

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Skype: nelsonalyrodriguez

National Society

National Society President: Oscar Gutiérrez

Mobile: 505 88879819

General Director: Auner García

Mobile: 505 88950147

They are able to provide National Society administrative support.



Airport

Augusto César Sandino International Airport (MGA, also known as Managua International Airport) is the only international airport in the country. Severe weather conditions may disrupt travel during the rainy season (May-November). Security measures at the airport are strict and in compliance with international standards.

Passport & Visa

	Passport Required?	Visa Required?	Return Ticket Required?
British	Yes	No/2	Yes
Australian	Yes	No/2	Yes
Canadian	Yes	No/2	Yes
USA	Yes/1	No/2	Yes
Other EU	Yes	No/2	Yes

1. US citizens do not require passports with a validity of six months; their passports should be valid for the intended length of stay in the country.

 **Visas**

2. Visas are not required by all nationals referred to in the chart above, who are instead issued a tourist card on arrival at the airport and other border crossings. This costs approximately USD \$20 for stays of up to 90 days, provided that the traveller holds valid travel documents and, in the case of business visas, a letter from their employer and/or company in Nicaragua.

Other nationalities designated as Category A in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs' list exempted from visa requirements also need to obtain the tourist card on arrival. Citizens of other countries require visas; nationals of Category B countries can apply for a visa on arrival (forms and supporting materials necessary, or at the nearest Nicaraguan diplomatic representation in the traveller's country for USD \$30. Nationals of Category C countries cannot apply for a visa on arrival.

 **Entry/Exit requirements**

The 2006 Central America-4 (CA-4) Border Control Agreement signed between Nicaragua, Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador allows travellers in any of these four countries to travel and stay for up to 90 days in the other three countries without undergoing any visa or entry/exit formalities. The tourist card issued at the time of entry allows for travel within the CA-4 countries and the 90 days period is counted from the first point of entry in any of the signatory countries. Visitors planning to stay beyond the authorised period of 90 days should obtain an extension from the Immigration Department; unauthorised extensions can incur fines of up to USD \$2 per day of the illegal stay, or detention.

All travellers except US nationals are required to have a passport that is valid for at least six months from the intended departure date, an onward or return ticket. All passports are stamped on entry, and a fee of approximately USD \$20 levied for the tourist card; this entry stamp will be checked on departure. An exit fee of USD \$35 is charged upon departure from Managua airport (MGA) (typically included in the airfare), while a small exit fee may be charged at land and maritime departure points. There are no restrictions on the import or export of any amount of local or foreign currencies.

 **Procedures**

Visitors should reconfirm their tickets, preferably in person. They should also arrive at the airport two hours before departure as procedures can be slow and may require patience when dealing with airport officials. Visitors should be alert to changes in departure gates or delays. These are often unannounced and can cause confusion for visitors. Travellers should carry valid identification documents at all times as they may be required to present them.

International Vaccination Certificate

Yellow Fever vaccination is needed. You need to carry the certificate and it has to be put at least 10 days before travelling.

Climate

The country has three distinct climatic zones – the western (Pacific) coastal area, including Managua, is hot; the central highlands, which are cooler with high rainfall on the eastern side; and the Caribbean coastal region, which is hot with high rainfall for most of the year. The average temperature in the country is 27°C (81°F). Visitors can refer to the Meteorological [website](#) in Nicaragua for the latest weather information.

Accommodation

Voltage: 120 volts

Frequency: 60 Hz

Curfew: There is a nighttime curfew from 12:00pm to 6:00 am from Sunday to Thursday 2:00am to 6:00 Fridays and Saturday for Managua put in place by the government of Nicaragua.

- *The IFRC exception is to be used only for travel within Managua and must be approved by the Security Coordinator*
- *The Security Coordinator has maintained that all delegates remain under the above-mentioned curfew, outside of the transport that does Hotel and Apartment drops at designated times. Any exemptions must be authorized by the Security Coordinator*

Food /Drinks

Pure water is safe to drink. Try to avoid cabbage.

Banking and Currency

The Nicaraguan córdoba (NIO).

1USD = 33.52 (23rd August)

The Nicaraguan córdoba (NIO), the official currency, cannot be readily changed in other countries. US dollars can often be used for transactions, but the notes must be in pristine condition or they are likely to be refused. However, Canadian dollars cannot be exchanged for local currency. Visitors should exchange foreign currency only at banks and official exchange offices. Major credit cards such as Visa and MasterCard are widely accepted and are the most convenient means of paying for hotels, hire cars and restaurants. Travellers should regularly monitor their credit card statements due to the threat of skimming.

ATMs are widely available in major cities, in places such as shopping centres, petrol stations and popular tourist areas. Travellers should use ATMs located at banks or in major hotels and ensure that the machine has visible security nearby, as opportunistic criminals may target ATM users. Cards on the



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Cirrus and Plus networks can be used easily. Using credit cards at ATMs can be expensive, but may be unavoidable as some debit cards may not work.

Transport

NO Local Driver – ONLY RC or Movement Vehicle authorized for movement.

- *The use of the safety belt is mandatory as well, speed limits must be adhered to.*
- *Boat trips in your private time are on your own responsibility.*

Communications

- *The telephone service has been modernised to a good standard, but there can be delays in obtaining international lines. Mobile telephone coverage (GSM standard) is good and roaming arrangements exist; Empresa Nicaraguense de Telecomunicaciones ENITEL (CLARO NIC) and Telefonía Celular de Nicaragua (movistarNI) are the main GSM network providers. Pre-paid mobile phones are easily available. All major towns have internet access, but it can be slow at times.*
- *The postal system is reasonably reliable for internal and international deliveries, though delays can occur. Fax is recommended for urgent messages and courier services for important business documents. Courier services are available through DHL and FedEx.*
- *ITT must ensure two-way communication (operational field sites and the operational base) on a 24-hour basis.*
 - *Currently the only field base in Margot airport is the only operational site, occupied sometimes.*
- *Adequate telecommunication tools and system must be in place including back up (hand held radio, HF radios, mobile phones and satellite phone).*
- *Clear communication procedures must be established, and all RC/RC personnel must understand the procedures to follow in the event of a breakdown in communication technology or loss of contact.*
- *All RC/RC personnel must carry functioning communication equipment at all times and be contactable at all times (24/7). No travel to any areas without secure communication capacity will be conducted.*
- *If no radio network, a functioning satellite phone must be carried. If it is a pre-paid account, ensure that there is sufficient credit for the mission.*
- *All RC/RC personnel must be issued with a list of essential emergency contact information including internal and external emergency numbers, which could also include frequencies, and call signs as pertinent.*

List of useful telephone numbers:

- *Police: 118*
- *Fire: 115*

SECURITY MANAGEMENT

General situation

Main risks to visitors in Nicaragua

- *Petty and Opportunistic Crime.*
- *Robbery, Theft and Burglaries.*
- *Demonstrations – Social and Political Unrest.*
- *Sexual Assault and Violence*
- *Gan Violence*
- *Traffic Accidents*
- *Kidnappings. – Mostly express kidnappings*



Risk Assessment

Security incidents can occur anywhere and at any time. Therefore, visitors must never let down their guard, and must always keep a high security awareness both individually and collectively. All visitors are responsible for their own security and must take all possible measures to minimize or avoid potential risks. Always share security information with your colleagues and IFRC Country Cluster Office.

- **Road traffic accident:**

- *Be aware that in the event of a road traffic accident, the constabulary / police may detain one or more parties involved until situation is resolved. Advise the Security Coordinator immediately and remain calm.*
- *The lack of road maintenance and the disregard for road safety regulations, particularly speed limits, make driving in the country a risky endeavour. Pedestrians also contribute to road accidents, not respecting pedestrian overpasses, traffic lights, etc. Vehicles do not necessarily stop for pedestrians in the crosswalk.*
- *No IFRC staff are authorized to drive during the emergency phase.*
- *Do not leave valuables in the vehicle and remain alert when in stopped traffic. In addition to robbery of auto parts (mirrors, hubcaps, etc.) when the vehicle is trapped in traffic jams or on slow-moving streets, criminals have been known to reach into windows, open car doors and even break windows to grab luggage, purses and other valuables.*
- *Avoid travel after dark.*
- *Driving outside town or cities after nightfall is prohibited.*
- *RC/RC personnel are to use only RC/RC vehicles, which should be clearly identified.*
- *When in vehicles the doors must be locked, seatbelts used and windows closed or only opened 5 centimetres (approximately 2 inches) to be aware of the surroundings.*
- *All passengers in vehicles, both front and rear, must wear seatbelts.*

- **Criminality:** *RCRC Personnel in major urban centers, may encounter petty and opportunistic crimes because the high levels of unemployment in some rural destinations such as Puerto Cabezas, Bluefields, and the Corn Islands. Foreign RCRC Personnel have been targeted by criminals due to their perceived wealth, including in the popular tourist destinations of Granada and San Juan del Sur. Pickpocketing remains the most common crime, but armed robberies on crowded buses and at open-air markets (particularly in the large Mercado Oriental and Mercado Huembes) have occurred with increasing frequency in Managua.*

Nicaragua's violent crime rates have been steadily falling since 2007 following reforms in prison management and law enforcement. However, Nicaragua continues to have the highest crime rates in the world. Violent crime, including sexual assault, is common in Managua, Granada, San Juan del Sur and the Corn Islands of the Caribbean coast, and incidents have also been reported in hotels. Incidents of violent crime have also been reported in popular rural towns such as Bonanza, La Rosita, and Siuna. Express kidnappings, in which victims are abducted for a brief period and are forced to withdraw money from ATMs, have also occurred in these areas. Female RCRC Personnel should adopt sensible precautions to mitigate the risk of sexual assault, such as not travelling alone after dark. Credit card and ATM fraud pose a risk and members should use ATMs located at bank branches or in major hotels.

There is also a risk of fraud by street money-exchangers, known as 'cambistas'. Imposters pretending to be tour guides have robbed RCRC Personnel, especially on the island of Ometepe, and visitors should hire guides from reputable tour operators.

Criminals are frequently armed; in the event of being accosted, RCRC Personnel should do nothing to resist or antagonize the assailant. Crimes such as robbery, kidnap and extortion are usually



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committed by armed criminal groups, particularly in remote areas in the departments of Nueva Segovia, Madriz, Jinotega, Matagalpa, Estelí and Boaco. Taxi kidnappings have been reported in and around San Juan del Sur, San Jorge, Granada, Managua and Masaya. Foreign RCRC Personnel should remain alert and only use officially registered taxis with red number plates and driver's identification posted inside the vehicle where passengers can easily spot it, usually above the dashboard 'Colectivo' taxis, or shared taxis contracted by multiple passengers, should be avoided at all times.

Armed robberies have taken place along roads leading to popular tourist spots. Assaultants stop the targeted vehicles, sometimes via crude roadblocks, and then rob the passengers at gunpoint or knifepoint.

Foreigners have been targeted by criminals after arrival at the airport. Criminals posing as policemen have previously stopped RCRC Personnel' vehicles and robbed passengers of their belongings. Most such incidents take place after dark, and the assaultants are normally armed. Vehicles, including buses operated by hotels, have been targeted frequently along the Managua-León Highway, as well as the Tipitapa-Masaya Highway.

Criminal gangs in Managua are more organized and violent than those in more rural areas; incidents associated with these organizations have been reported near major hotels, bus terminals, beaches and markets. Stolen vehicles are sometimes used in such incidents. Armed clashes between gangs pose an incidental risk to RCRC Personnel in the low-income neighborhoods of Granada

Violence and hostage-taking has been reported during residential break-ins. Visitors should avoid travelling alone at night, specifically on isolated beaches.

RCRC Personnel should take particular caution from incidental exposure to violence in rural areas along the borders with Honduras and Costa Rica as prominent trafficking gangs such as the Reñazcos and Tarzanes, engage in frequent activities along these borders. Additionally, the Nicaraguan government frequently carry out security operations along these border areas. Drug trafficking along the Caribbean-Miskito coast (which is composed of the North Atlantic Autonomous Region (RAAN) and the South Autonomous Region (RAAS)) is a problem, exacerbated by the inadequate police presence. Increasing incidents of drug trafficking activities along the Pacific Ocean coast have been reported in 2016. There is a high murder rates in the eastern South Autonomous Region.

- **Civil Unrest:** *Protests over socio-economic and political issues are a common occurrence, with the capital Managua being the focal point of most pro- and anti-government demonstrations in the country. Managua and León (León department) also witness industrial action by trade unions. Political protests can turn violent, especially during election campaigns and after the release of poll results. Unauthorized groups related to the ruling Sandinista National Liberation Front (FSLN) can use excessive force to suppress anti-government measures. Business RCRC Personnel should avoid all large gatherings to mitigate the incidental risk of exposure to violence. Demonstrations may occasionally be accompanied by roadblocks, resulting in travel disruption.*
- **Kidnaping:** *Kidnapping by criminal groups is mainly confined to the northern and central departments. However, most victims are locals; foreigners are rarely targeted.*
- **Health Issues** *Malaria, ZIKA, dengue, yellow fever might require special attention. Top causes of death: coronary heart disease, kidney disease, stroke, diabetes mellitus, liver disease and influenza and Pneumonia.*



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- **Militant Groups:** *The risk of terrorism is low. No Islamist extremist groups are known to be active in Nicaragua and no such attacks have taken place in the country.*
- **Conflict:** *Nicaragua is involved in several border disputes with neighboring countries, including Honduras and Costa Rica; however, none of these disagreements are likely to escalate into violent conflict. However, incursions by the Nicaraguan military into Costa Rica have been recorded in 2013 and 2016. These border disputes have also led the Nicaraguan government to close its borders, such as in 2015 when the Nicaraguan government entered in a dispute with the Costa Rican government over increased migration.*
- *An isolated violent conflict currently exists between the indigenous Miskito, Ulwa, and Rama tribes and urban settlers in various rural areas of the RAAN. Since 2005, urban settlers and various corporations have established communities and industrial projects throughout the RAAN region. Miskito tribes have perceived the arrival as a violation of their land. Since late 2016 and early 2017, there have been reports of armed clashes between settlers and the indigenous tribes, especially around the northern area of the RAAN, including the Waspan, Esperanza Rio Coco and Wasput Ta areas.*
- **Political situation:** *Decades of political volatility and persistently heightened political tensions have created an environment in which RCRC Personnel should refrain in particular from making political statements in public or participating in associated gatherings. The country is a presidential democracy with a unicameral parliament, known as the National Assembly, and follows a multi-party system. The president, who is head of state and of the government, is elected for a five-year term by a public vote. The National Assembly comprises of 92 members; 90 elected by proportional representation, and one seat for the outgoing president and another for the runner-up in the most recent presidential election.*

The country is divided into 15 departments and two autonomous administrative regions – North Atlantic Autonomous Region (RAAN) and South Atlantic Autonomous Region (RAAS) – these two regions being the only two political subdivisions to have independent legislatures and executives. The 1987 Sandinista regime's constitution was changed in 1995, 2000 and again in 2005, to provide for a more equitable distribution of power between the four branches of government (the executive, the legislature, the judiciary and the electorate).

President Daniel Ortega and the ruling Sandinista National Liberation Front (FSLN) secured a third consecutive term (fourth in total) in the November 2016 general elections; the next elections are scheduled for 2021. Major political parties include the Independent Liberal Party (PLI), the Conservative Party (PC), the Constitutional Liberal Party (PLC), the National Liberal Alliance (ALN) and Sandinista Renovation Movement (MRS).

- **Corruption:** *Corruption exists at all levels of Nicaraguan society and is especially rampant in government offices. RCRC Personnel in the past have been forced to pay bribes to the police and should travel with a knowledgeable local resident, to help deal with demands for bribes.*
- **Natural disasters:** *Nicaragua is prone to earthquakes, volcanoes, hurricanes, severe storms and flooding. Earthquakes remain a serious concern in the capital Managua, which rests on multiple seismic faults. There are several active volcanoes of which Concepción, San Cristobal, Cerro Negro, Telica and Masaya are considered the most active. Heavy rainfall and associated flooding are common during the rainy season (May to November) and may disrupt travel and essential services. The hurricane season runs from June to November and can cause notable damage and disruption.*

IFRC Security Phases

The Federation operates a four-colour phase system to distinguish the security situation.



White phase	Normal	No major security concerns
Yellow phase	Heightened tension	Some security concerns, heightened security awareness initiated
Orange phase	Emergency situation	Access to beneficiaries limited, risk to RCRC personnel severe, tight security management needed
Red phase	Relocation / hibernation	Conditions do not allow work, risk to RCRC personnel extreme

All RC Personnel must know the current security phase classification and its implication on the way of working and living in their area of operation or area that will be visited.

All personnel are to comply with any restrictions put in place by the senior field manager in accordance with the current situation and designated phase level.

The current phase in Nicaragua is **Orange**.

GENERAL CONDUCT

Local Customs/Traditional Law

Rule of law: *The judiciary is independent. The highest court in the country is the Supreme Court, to which judges are nominated by political parties and elected for five-year terms by the National Assembly. Despite its independence, the judiciary is subject to political influence and corruption. The government generally retains control of its national territory, and administrative institutions are present almost everywhere in the country. However, in rural areas such as the eastern half of the country, their presence is minimal. The Nicaraguan National Police (NNP) is responsible for law enforcement in the country. They lack adequate resources to respond effectively to any emergency situation. Police personnel and other civic officers may not speak English.*

Personal Documents

See passport and visa requirements.

Cameras

Never take pictures of military, police or security people. Always ask before taking pictures of people or places, even for professional purposes, if in doubt - Do Not Take pictures and put away your camera.

MEDICAL EMERGENCY

In case of any emergency, please contact immediately the Head of Country Cluster for Central America, Nelson Aly Rodriguez; Email: nelson.alyrodriguez@ifrc.org; Dir. +504 22204009 Mobile: +504 99860160; Skype: [nelsonalyrodriguez](https://www.skype.com/user/nelsonalyrodriguez)

*National Society President: Oscar Gutiérrez
Mobile: 505 88879819*

*General Director: Auner García
Mobile: 505 88950147*

Hospitals



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In case of severe illness or injury, IFRC recommends the following Hospitals:

- *Hospital Bautista de la Casa Ricardo Morales Aviles 1C al Sur 6C arriba.*
- *Hospital Vivian Pellas – Carretera Masaya km 4.5*

PEP kits

Because of there is no country office of IFRC in Nicaragua, the Post Exposure Prophylaxis (PEP) kits (for exposure to HIV/AIDS, rabies or a post-rape situation) is available through the Nicaragua Red Cross, or the United Nations Department of Safety and Security (UNDSS) who has authorized the use of their PEP kits should the need arise.

Critical Incident Management

In the event of a Critical Incident (an incident that threatens or has impacted on the safety/security of IFRC personnel, assets or operations to the extent that there is significant disruption or incapacity to operate) the Country Cluster Critical Incident Management Plan will be put into effect.

At the field level any staff members involved in a critical incident will have the responsibility to immediately detect and provide a first response to an imminent or actual crisis incident. Reporting of the incident to the Security Focal Point (Auner García Tel. 505 88950147), then supporting the Country Cluster CIMT if and as capable. Immediate life-saving decisions and actions as and where possible. Local management of the critical incident; liaising with the authorities, especially local law enforcement; gathering information about and assessing risks and transmitting findings to the CIMT at appropriate level as per normal security incident reporting.

At the local level any visitor to Nicaragua must first and foremost try to:

- Ensure the wellbeing of those directly affected by the critical incident – self included;*
- Prevent further harm to other IFRC staff;*
- Ensure as far as possible, programme continuity;*
- Limit damage to IFRC assets and reputation.*

In case of a critical incident in Nicaragua it is recommended that you contact National Society President: Oscar Gutiérrez - Mobile: 505 88879819; General Director: Auner García - Mobile: 505 88950147) in country who may be in measure to provide local support.

As soon as safely possible take contact with Nelson Aly Rodriguez, Head of Country Cluster Support Team, Email: nelson.alyrodriguez@ifrc.org; Dir. +504 22204009 Mobile: +504 99860160 If needed or pertinent, please feel free also to contact Americas Regional Coordinator Jorge Zequeira +507 6949 5546 / +507 6674 1584 / +507 6382 6355 / +57 313 500 3268; Geneva Security Unit Manager Lars Tangen - Mob: +41 79 217 3371 or Senior Security Officers: Julian Harris - Mob: +41 79 251 8015 and Karl Julisson - Mob: +41 79 308 9842.

HAVE A SAFE STAY!!!