Objectives

- Assess the level of **access to basic goods and services** at the household level of Nicaraguan Persons of Concern (PoC).
- Identify the **impact of COVID-19** and related circumstances on that access and the resulting needs.
- Identify **gaps between needs and response**, including the response from the government, UNHCR and other actors.
- Analyze existing **coping mechanisms**.

Methodology

**Target population:** Nicaraguan asylum seekers and refugees

**Geographical coverage:** National

**Method:** Stratified Random Sampling

**Type of interview:** Remote (phone)

**Enumerators:** 21 UNHCR staff

**Data collected:** 30 Jul - 4 Aug 2020

**Perceptions of priorities**

The three main needs perceived by the surveyed households are:

- **#1** Food
  - **92%**

- **#2** Shelter
  - **77%**

- **#3** Income sources
  - **50%**

**Food Security & Nutrition**

Before the COVID-19 pandemic, **20%** of households consumed 2 meals a day while **77%** consumed 3 meals. Now, **63%** of households report having 2 meals a day, while only **23%** consume 3 meals.

**Shelter**

**20%** do not know where they will live next month.

**25%** have changed their place of residence since the start of the pandemic. **80%** of these stated their inability to pay rent as the main reason.

**Sources of income**

Before the pandemic, **93%** of the surveyed households reported having a paid job as their main source of income. Now this percentage has decreased to **59%**.

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*"Quarterías" refer to a type of housing where rooms in an apartment/house are rented individually, leading to various family groups living in a same apartment and sharing common areas, in most cases with sub-standard living conditions.*
• 7% of households have had a family member return to Nicaragua since the start of COVID-19 and 21% of the households have at least one member who is considering returning. The main reasons given are reduced access to income in Costa Rica (90% of households) and lack of access to food (40%).

• Of households where at least one family member has considered returning to Nicaragua, 75% would plan to return to Costa Rica within the next year.

• 73% of households do not plan to return to Nicaragua in the near future. The most common response overall was due to fear of the government or government-related groups (47%).

• 31 households (11%) reported that a relative in Nicaragua had attempted to join them in Costa Rica since the border closure, but 90% were unsuccessful.

• 81% of households with school-aged children have access to educational materials or activities, out of which, more than half have received virtual classes.

• 19% do not have access to the internet. Of the households that have access, most use mobile phones to access the internet.

• 52% of the households have received some form of assistance since the preventive isolation measures started. Of which, 16.7% have received assistance from NGOs and/or the UN agencies, and 30.8% have received assistance from the government (mainly food items).

• Almost 90% of the households have access to potable water whenever they need it.

• Over 95% of the surveyed households claimed that their members wash their hands regularly with both water and soap. Over 27% regularly use hand sanitizer.

• Over 90% of heads of households lack health insurance under COVID-19.

• Of these, 43% had limitations in access mainly due to lack of affiliation to the national health system.

• 57% of the households required medical services from the outset of the COVID-19 pandemic.

• 53% of heads of households lack health insurance under COVID-19.

• 73% of households do not plan to return to Nicaragua in the near future. The most common response overall was due to fear of the government or government-related groups (47%).

• 31 households (11%) reported that a relative in Nicaragua had attempted to join them in Costa Rica since the border closure, but 90% were unsuccessful.

• 19% do not have access to the internet. Of the households that have access, most use mobile phones to access the internet.

This infographic was produced based on initial analysis from data collected for the COVID-19 Rapid Needs Assessment. A detailed analysis of the data collected will be produced before the end of August. For more information on the Operation, see: https://www.unhcr.org/costa-rica.html.