

**EC Partner**

Ministry of Education,  
Culture & Sports

**Facts and Figures**

- **EC contribution**  
€11 million granted  
1999-2004
- **110** people trained in sanitation and health
- **58,125** students and **1,625** teachers have taken part in the "Basic Hygiene in Schools Programme 2002-2004"
- **290** Clean Water Committees have been created



**EUROPEAN  
COMMISSION**

# Water and Sanitation

## Improving water and sanitation in the rural areas of Nicaragua (PRASNIC)

*"I think PRASNIC has not left, it is here with us because in addition to have proper water and letrins we can maintain the system and the contribution up to date"*

Balbino Casco, CAPS President in Corrente Lira 2

**Context****A region vulnerable to epidemics**

The sanitary conditions of the peasant population in Nicaragua are very hazardous, generating infectious diseases which have been practically eradicated in developed countries. The PRASNIC intervention area encloses the municipalities of El Tuma y La Dalia, in Matagalpa department, and the municipalities of El Cuá, Bocay, Pantasma and Wiwilí in the bordering Jinotega department. This region is one of the most deprived in the country due to its distance from centres of economic activity, bad road network, a history of conflict and bad education and health infrastructures. The situation was further exacerbated by the damage caused by Hurricane Mitch in 1998.

**Objectives****To improve hygienic & health conditions in Nicaragua**

PRASNIC is a joint initiative between the EC and the Republic of Nicaragua. Its overall goal is to enhance hygiene and health conditions in the region by supplying clean water and sanitation, while creating partnerships between the institutions and beneficiaries in order to promote the sustainability of improvements. Specifically, the project aims to:

- Reduce morbidity and mortality caused by illnesses due to hydro-faecal transmission (unclean water)
- To support the process of change being undertaken in the governmental institutions, both at central and municipal level

**Impact****What has been achieved?**

- Probability of sick children under 5 years old dying per year as a result of water-borne infectious diseases and diarrhetic diseases reduced from **63.3 to 41.4**
- **52,000** people have access to clean water
- **145,000** people have access to basic sanitation
- **80%** of households in the target area use latrines appropriately
- Sanitary infrastructures built in schools and households: **140** small aqueducts, **120** wells, **800** rain water containers, **15,000** latrines, **100** public toilets, **300** improved households floors, **10,000** improved stoves, protection of **20** fountains and river basins