

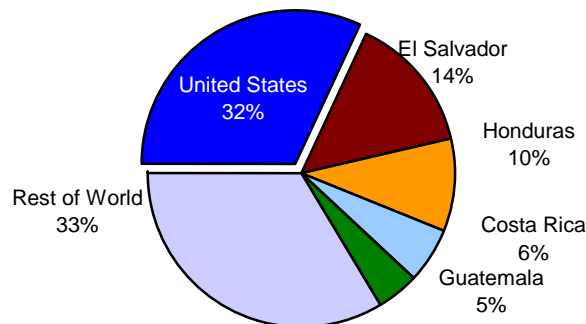


# The United States Contributes to Economic Prosperity in Nicaragua

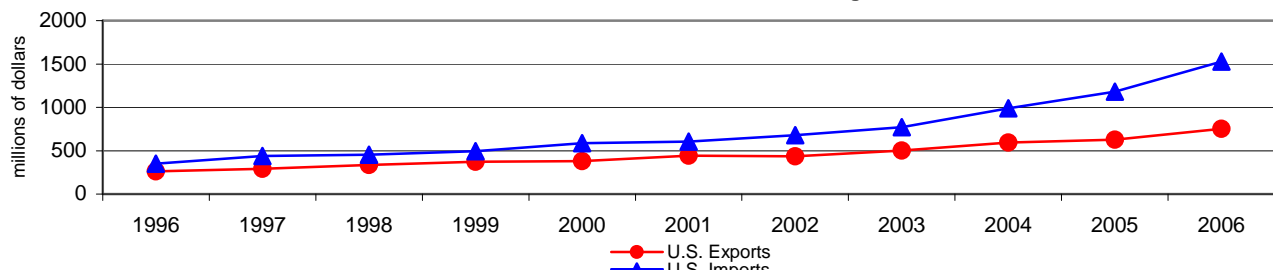


- In 2006, U.S. direct investment in Nicaragua reached \$261 million (BEA, *Survey of Current Business*, Sept. 2007); this is equivalent to 4.9 percent of Nicaragua's 2006 GDP of \$5.4 billion (World Bank, *World Development Indicators*).
- The Peace Corps currently has approximately 172 volunteers working in Nicaragua; since 1968, 1,619 volunteers have aided communities in Nicaragua.
- The Overseas Private Investment Corporation (OPIC) provided over \$34 million in finance and insurance funds in 2006.
- The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) provided over \$46.2 million in aid to Nicaragua in 2006.
- In 2005, the Millennium Challenge Corporation committed over \$175 million to Nicaragua for development projects.
- The United States purchased 32 percent of Nicaragua's total merchandise exports in 2006 (World Trade Atlas).
- U.S. merchandise exports to Nicaragua grew from \$262 million in 1996 to \$752 million in 2006, an increase of approximately 187 percent (U.S. Census Bureau).
- In 2006 over \$950 million in remittance money was sent by Nicaraguans living abroad (Inter-American Development Bank).

**Total Market Share the United States Represents for Nicaragua's Merchandise Exports - 2006**



**United States Trade in Goods with Nicaragua**





## Nicaragua

# U.S. Companies Contribute to Economic Prosperity and Social Development



### **Reaching out to Children – Pizza Hut**

Pizza Hut's social programs are dedicated to children and teenagers in need. Pizza Hut Nicaragua's mascot, Pizza Pooch, makes regular visits to hospitals, orphanages and youth centers to provide companionship, entertainment and gifts for children. Pizza Hut has partnered with many Nicaraguan foundations helping young burn victims, children with cancer, children recovering from open-heart surgery, and children with haemophilia. The "Pizza Book Program" was introduced in 2002 to promote reading skills for 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders. Complementing existing national educational initiatives, Pizza Hut's reading program rewards children for reading. This program operates in approximately 14 public schools in the city of Managua. More than 6,000 children have benefited from programs sponsored by Pizza Hut and its employees.

### **Creating Supply Chains - Wal-Mart Nicaragua**

Wal-Mart Nicaragua is a member of Wal-Mart Central America, the leading Central American retail store chain made up of the Uribe group of Costa Rica (CSU), the Paiz group of Guatemala (La Fragua) and Wal-Mart Stores Inc. of the United States of America. Wal-Mart Nicaragua has 36 stores; 5 La Unión Supermarkets and 31 PALI discount stores. In 2005, Wal-Mart Nicaragua paid \$3.5 million in taxes, and its direct investment has reached more than \$25 million. Wal-Mart Nicaragua directly employs 1,222 people and indirectly employs more than 5,000 people. For example, Wal-Mart's affiliated companies, *Industrias Cárnicas Integradas* and *Hortifruti*, which supply agricultural products to Wal-Mart, employ 120 people directly and buy products from more than 400 small and medium Nicaraguan agricultural producers.

### **Hand-to-hand with Stakeholders - AIRPAK / Coen Group**

AIRPAK Nicaragua is a subsidiary of the Coen Group and co-owner of the Central American franchise of Western Union, the leader in the area for family remittances and wiring money. The company has 180 agencies throughout Nicaragua, generating more than 1,200 direct jobs and 1,600 indirect jobs. The Coen Group has made a commitment to invest more than \$1 million a year in corporate responsibility programs. Education initiatives include a fast-track adult education high-school program for 150 adults, and the distribution of school materials for Coen Group employees' children and other stakeholders. Other programs provide corporate and technological grants, a housing equipment program, and medical assistance in the workplace with five rural health clinics and one urban clinic. Furthermore, the Coen Foundation supports nine primary rural schools with 3,232 students and has provided training for 180 teachers in primary education. The Foundation also provides therapy for handicapped children from all over the country and a public clinic attending to approximately 900 people a month.



## Nicaragua

# U.S. Companies Contribute to Economic Prosperity and Social Development



### Setting Higher Standards - Gran Pacifica [11]

Since 2000, Gran Pacifica, a joint project of U.S. and Nicaraguan investors, has invested over US\$11 million in creating an upscale tourism city in Villa El Carmen, Nicaragua. In a rural municipality with 50% unemployment, the project has already generated more than 400 jobs. The company is setting high quality standards in construction safety, environmental policy, urban zoning, and community projects. Communities along a 23-kilometer corridor benefit from electrical infrastructure, and the 11-kilometers of public road is now all-weather accessible because of upgrades and maintenance performed by Gran Pacifica. Gran Pacifica is the only 2,200 acre project that is investing in a water treatment system to avoid using septic tanks near the ocean. To give back to the community in which it operates, Gran Pacifica has a policy of facilitating at least 3 social projects per year via direct corporate donations or through U.S. and local Rotary Clubs. The board has achieved a long-term commitment from the Pennsylvania Rotary District to offer health and educational programs in Villa El Carmen. In 2004, such collaborations resulted in the repair of the only local police car, the donation of an ambulance, the delivery of school supplies to 300 children, and the planting of hundreds of trees. Gran Pacifica has also signed an agreement with the National Education Ministry to provide support to a 700-student rural school.

### Saving Young Lives - Merck

In September 2006, Merck & Co., Inc.<sup>1</sup> and the Nicaraguan Ministry of Health announced plans to conduct a joint partnership aimed at demonstrating the public health impact of implementing a full rotavirus vaccination program in Nicaragua. Through this partnership, all infants born in Nicaragua in a three-year period will receive free doses of RotaTeq®. After the three-year period, Merck will offer the vaccination to the Nicaraguan Government at dramatically reduced prices. Rotavirus is a highly contagious disease typically characterized by frequent diarrhea, vomiting, and fever that can lead to rapid dehydration in infants and young children. In Nicaragua, diarrhea and gastroenteritis are leading causes of death among children under five years of age. This program represents a \$75 million commitment on the part of Merck.

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<sup>1</sup> Merck & Co., Inc., is a global, research-based pharmaceutical company based in Whitehouse Station, NJ, USA. Merck & Co., Inc., operates as Merck Sharp & Dohme (MSD) in most countries outside the United States. In Canada, the Company operates as Merck Frosst Canada, Ltd. In Japan, it operates as Banyu Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd.

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