

# Assistance Program for Demining in Central America



**Integral Assistance to mine victim survivors**

**The Case of Nicaragua**

# AGENDA:



The dimension of the problem in Nicaragua



Victim Assistance Component of the OAS and its relation with other actors involved



The case of Mr. Agustín Matey



Projections and Challenges

# Original Dimension of the Problem



135, 000 sown mines

133,435 stockpiled  
mines

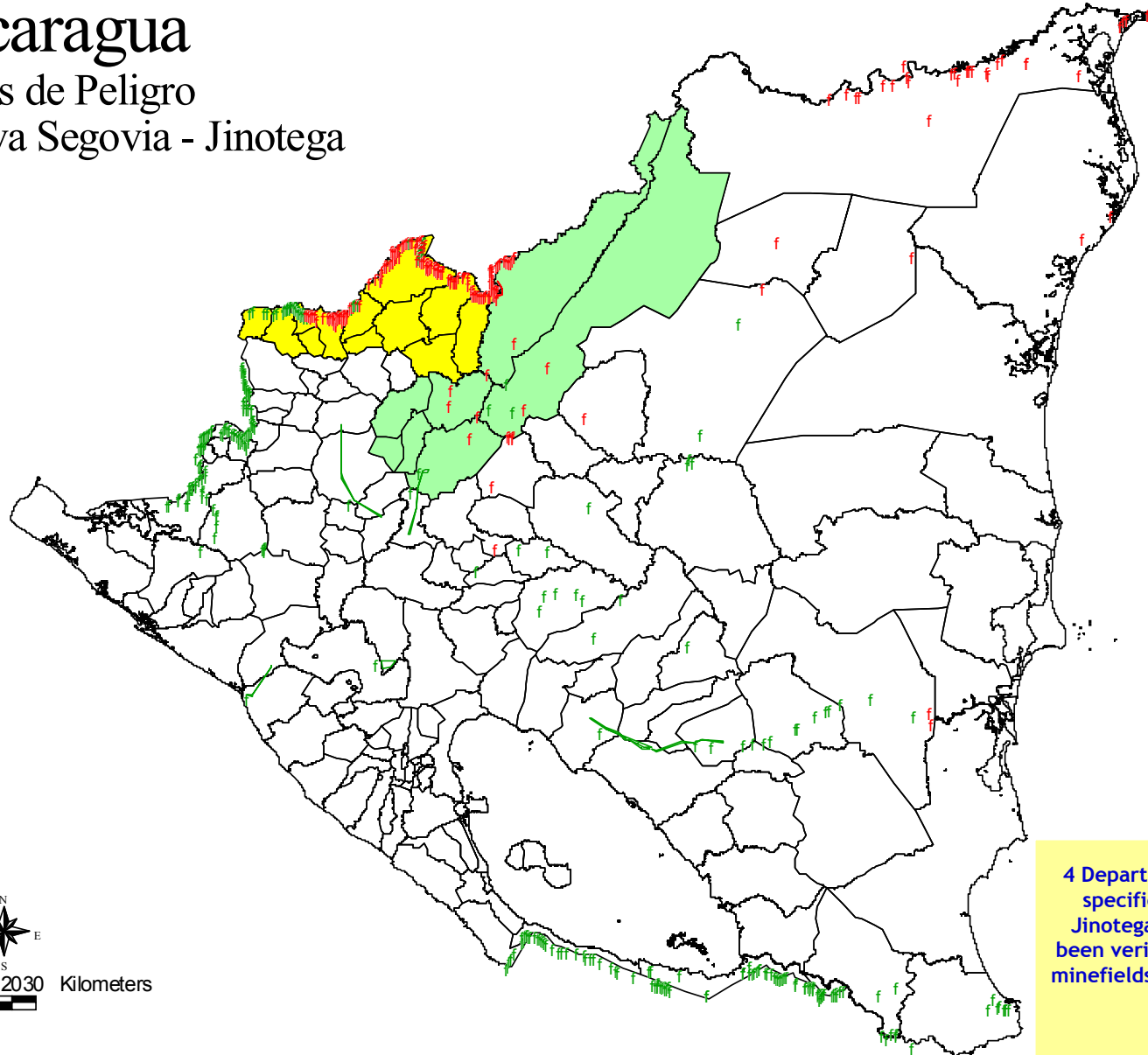


# Nicaragua

## Nicaragua

Areas de Peligro

Nueva Segovia - Jinotega



4 Departments are of high impact, specifically Nueva Segovia and Jinotega. 303 Communities have been verified 5 km or less from 402 minefields, where 117,100 residents reside.

# Sanitary Assistance in Nicaragua is a Constitutional Right

- ◆ A poor country:
  - To 1998, 74% of the rural population in the northern and central part of the country were considered poor.
- ◆ After 13 years of peace there still remain war consequences, including considerable damage to the economic and social infrastructure.
  - 14% of the health sector is financed by external resources.
- ◆ 1% of the urban population does not have access to health services, while
- ◆ the figure for the rural area is 20%



In Nicaragua 700 people are estimated to be disabled by antipersonnel mines.



The OAS has been able to verify 638 cases to date

The majority of accidents have occurred while people carried out agricultural activities.

Children represent 4% of the total affected and adolescents represent 12%



# Characteristics of Mine Victims in Nicaragua

90%



Masculine

Between 20 and 40 years of age

- Origin: eminently rural
- Type of disability: multiple
- Work experience: Agricultural
- Head of family with children
- Generally lack own housing and basic services
- Education level: low
- A low percentage receives an oscillating pension of \$7 and \$26,6
- The majority are unemployed and carry out informal activities

# The OAS and Victim Assistance

**1991 - Central America requests Mine Clearance Assistance**



**1993 - Demining Program is established**



**New Challenge identified**



**Victim Assistance**

# Victim Assistance



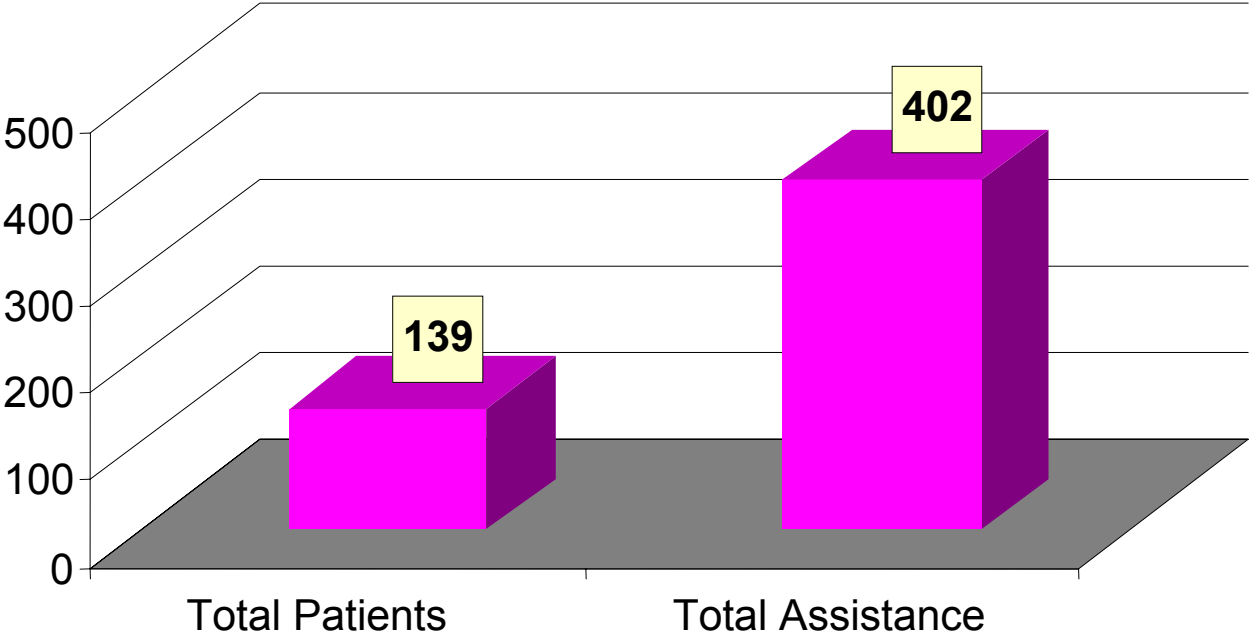
- Eminently Humanitarian and Social
- Conceived and Developed from and for the community

The mine Victim Assistance program has supported 538 mine survivors since its establishment in Nicaragua in 1997

- Support with Emergency Medical Assistance
- Treatment in physical Rehabilitation
- Psychological Assistance



### Mine Victim Assistance January to April 2003



# Social Reintegration



## Objectives:

Provide technical vocational training to mine victim survivors that have received physical and psychological rehabilitation through the OAS program within the framework of the Memorandum of Understanding between the OAS and INATEC.

## Integral Assistance:

- Medical Assistance
- Physical Rehabilitation
- Psychological Assistance
- Technical Training
- Financial Assistance
- Accounting Advise
- Community Support



First Phase: implemented with seed money and directed towards a limited number of survivors.

Since last year 109 survivors have benefited from 30 diverse municipalities of the country (a 17% of the officially registered victims)

# The case of Agustín Matey Ramos

## Antipersonnel Mine Survivor



### Resume

Agustín Matey Ramos is originally from the community of Aranjuez, San Fernando, Department of Nueva Segovia.

- Farmer
- Head of family
- Father of 5 children
- Illiterate
- Lives in one of his daughters house
- Income of less than U\$50.00 a month



May 15, 2001: Steps on a mine  
7 hours later arrives at the hospital in Ocotal, Nueva Segovia



The Director of the hospital immediately notifies the offices of the PADCA-OAS in Ocotal, initiating the medical assistance.



Through the mine Victim Assistance Component of the PADCA-OAS the following is covered:

- Medical assistance expenses
- Hospitalization
- Surgery
- Medicament
- Nourishment
- Surgical cleaning

After 15 days of hospitalization they are transported to their community.

# PHYSICAL REHABILITATION TREATMENT

- ➔ Appraisal of medical physician
- ➔ Pre-prosthesis period (4-6 weeks)
- ➔ Prosthesis Period (2-3 weeks)



CENAPRORTO

Hospital de la Trinidad

Polus Center



In December 2001 Mr. Matey could handle his prosthesis and since that date has maintained:

- ◆ Medical Assistance
- ◆ Medicament
- ◆ Transportation allowance  
nourishment and lodging
- ◆ Prosthesis change and repairs

Additionally, assistance in the area of ophthalmology due to an expansive wave of the mine explosion.

On April 4, 2002, Mr. Matey Ramos becomes a member of the **First Phase of Social Reintegration for Antipersonnel Mine Survivors.**



On November 6, 2002 he receives a certificate of enlistment in the cabinetmaker course, granted by the *Instituto Nacional Tecnológico INATEC*

Three months later, on February 25, 2003, he receives a payment from a *Revolving OAS fund, for the participants of the first phase and tools from the National Demining Commission.*



On April 29, 2003 Mr. Agustin had associated himself with another survivor and have installed a cabinetmaking workshop in their community of Aranjuez-San Fernando.

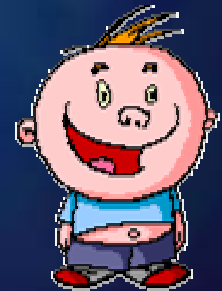


First he invested in a motor for a Winch, basic tools, wood, and small materials.

“The Clients are thankful for the establishment of the workshop in this community now that they are not forced to search for carpenters from other communities to carry out their work”.

# Projections and Challenges:

- ➔ In coordination with the national authorities, continue providing medical, physical and therapeutic rehabilitation assistance, as well as Psychological assistance to those survivors that are identified and need assistance.
- ➔ For this year, 100 survivors are projected to benefit from the vocational training of the Victim Assistance component.





**Thank you very much**