



## Heifer International

Heifer International is a global development organization on a mission to end hunger and poverty in a sustainable way. Working with farmers and their communities to identify and invest in business opportunities that deliver living incomes, Heifer International creates solutions to local challenges designed to build inclusive, resilient economies. Since launching in 1944, Heifer International has assisted more than 35 million people, with millions more now on a pathway to living incomes.



## Heifer Nicaragua

In 2000, Heifer started working in Nicaragua, focusing on building and strengthening farmer-owned agri-businesses in the beans, cashew, cocoa, coffee, corn, dairy, honey, pork and poultry value chains. To date, Heifer Nicaragua has supported 465,000 families to improve agricultural production and business management and implement climate smart agriculture practices that increase resilience. Families are diversifying and increasing their incomes, working across multiple value chains and gaining access to markets. Nutrition and food security are improving, as families increase the number of food groups in their diets, resulting in fewer families reporting months without adequate food provision. Farmers are forming producer organizations and participating in Farmer Field Schools where they access resources and technical assistance to increase productivity. Savings and loans groups are enabling farmers to establish and grow group saving funds, increasing their access to finance. Heifer Nicaragua's partners include local organizations, cooperatives, farming associations, private sector entities, universities, investment centers and other NGOs.



**Beyond Coffee  
(2018-2021)**

**Donors include:  
Walmart Foundation**

**Total Value:  
\$1.6 million**

Developed to support coffee farming families in Nicaragua, Honduras and Mexico, the Beyond Coffee project is working to make coffee production more sustainable and increase farmers' incomes. In Nicaragua, the project plans to work with 3,000 families in Boaco, Estelí, Jinotega, Madriz, Matagalpa and Nueva Segovia. Families are diversifying their incomes with bananas, cacao, honey, passion fruit and plantain. Cocoa and honey production are proving to be the most successful activities for generating additional sources of income. As of May 2020, honey sales had increased by 43% and cocoa sales had increased by 14% since the beginning of the project. Farmers' organizations are developing ongoing business relations with differentiated markets, with the project having connected 72% of farmers to differentiated markets.

**New Income and Key Alliances  
for Milk (NIKA MILK)  
(2018-2022)**

**Total Value:  
\$1.3 million**

This project was developed to support 3,600 dairy farming families in Matagalpa to increase their incomes by improving profitability and competitiveness. Heifer Nicaragua has established collaboration agreements with a network of local partner organizations to develop the dairy value chain in north-central Nicaragua. The project has established a Promoters' Network, with a Governance Board, through which 60 promoters learn technical skills to increase milk production and sales. A total of 30 Farmer Field Schools have been set up for promoters to learn environmentally-friendly dairy production techniques that protect local resources. Farmers are also diversifying their production into yogurt and cheese, which provides additional income-generating opportunities.

**Youth Employability – Empuje  
(2019-2023)**

**Donors include:  
GAC Canada\***

**Total Value:  
\$731,207**

\* Transferred through Children Believe

This project will increase job opportunities for 3,240 rural youth between the ages of 15 and 30 – 60% of them women – in Boaco and Matagalpa. Training programs provided by Heifer Nicaragua enable project participants to develop technical skills in entrepreneurship and a range of life skills. The project is working with private sector partners to ensure trainings are focused on skills that are in high demand in the marketplace and to identify job opportunities for project participants once they have completed the training.