



**HURRICANE MARIA'S
ONE-YEAR ANNIVERSARY:
THE IMPACT OF YOUR SUPPORT**



Donor Report - September 2018

Your Support has made a Difference

Hurricane Maria was the last and deadliest of the Category 4 hurricanes that struck the U.S. in 2017. It reduced communities in Puerto Rico to shambles and caused an estimated 2,975 deaths. The months-long blackout was the longest and largest in U.S. history. Children missed more than 13 million days of learning. Our first team on the ground faced the challenges of not only mobilizing relief, but doing so where Save the Children had no local staff or programs.

Your compassionate support was the difference. Thanks to you, we quickly reached children and families with relief directly and through partners ranging from the Red Cross and Habitat for Humanity to local groups intimately familiar with their communities. Your support enabled us to restore children's access to learning, help children and their caregivers cope with their post-storm stress and begin preparing children and schools for the next disaster.

Save the Children is now a strong presence in Puerto Rico and has solid relationships with mayors, community leaders, organizations and parents from the coast to the mountains. Together, we'll work nonstop over the next year with these determined partners to support children and families through our community-based recovery strategy.

You helped put Save the Children right where we had to be after Hurricane Maria—beside children and families in greatest need. For that, we're grateful. Please visit [SavetheChildren.org/Maria](https://www.savethechildren.org/Maria) to watch a video about the efforts your donation made possible.



Residents in Ciales celebrate a mural-painting project. The event kicked off our long-term partnership with the community to help children recover and become more resilient after Hurricane Maria.

Photo: Gabriel Gonzalez/Save the Children



One Year after Hurricane Maria

For many people in Puerto Rico, life after Hurricane Maria is harder than ever. While power has been restored across the island, in rural and mountainous areas some families remain without reliable power or clean water.

Children have been immensely stressed as they cope with the loss of homes, belongings and daily routines. Months-long closings of schools and early childhood development programs disrupted learning and added to children’s uncertainty. There is a lack of mental health support, especially in rural areas, leaving a gap in service for children and their caregivers grappling with the emotional toll of the disaster.

Maria also increased the pace of migration from Puerto Rico. With some 40,000 fewer students in the school system now, many schools have closed or are being consolidated. Children are attending schools far from home, adding to their stress.

The Dominican Republic narrowly escaped a direct blow from Hurricane Maria. However, flooding from its torrential rains created additional hardship in communities that had been battered days earlier by Hurricane Irma.

Our staff there report that while children and families no longer face immediate risks the storms created, more can be done to prepare for the impact of a future disaster.

Your Generosity at Work: Meeting Needs and Building Resiliency in Puerto Rico

With your support, more than 116,000 children and adults have benefited from our relief and recovery programs. Our work is ongoing in 12 municipalities from the coast to the mountains that we prioritized because they sustained significant damage and because few other responders are there for the long-term.

Here are highlights of the many ways you have helped us make a difference.

Providing Essential Supplies

Our teams and partners conducted nearly 200 aid distributions. We delivered supplies for children and families to shelters and worked with authorities to airlift supplies to remote communities and the island of Vieques. More than 25,000 cases of bottled water and more than 5,000 hygiene kits for babies, mothers and families were among the supplies delivered. We also partnered with Habitat for Humanity of Puerto Rico to provide repair materials to 1,460 families whose homes were badly damaged.

Supporting Children’s Development and Nutrition

Our grants and supplies helped 86 Early Head Start, Head Start and child-care centers to remain open and providing education access to nearly 2,000 children. Where child care centers

and schools were closed, we opened 16 activity centers so 1,000 children could keep learning.

Alimentacion Segura Infantil, an organization that promotes breastfeeding, used our grant to reach pregnant women and mothers, create support groups and lead community education events. Now we're organizing parent groups to help mothers and fathers improve their younger children's nutrition and encourage breastfeeding.



Restoring Access to Learning

Our education strategy is both broad and deep. In 19 municipalities, over 2,700 children attended

summer learning programs we co-funded with the American Red Cross to help them make up for lost time. In 12 municipalities, we've developed strong partnerships with schools to help them improve learning environments for 3,000 students. We're providing supplies and working with the schools to introduce afterschool and summer learning activities.

Without power for months on end, sunset meant no light for children to read and do homework. To help children return to learning, we provided more than 2,500 solar lights and chargers to families, and included smaller rechargeable solar lights in 700 backpacks of school supplies for children.



Ensuring Children's and Caregivers' Well-being

Our flagship Journey of Hope and Healing and Education through the Arts (HEART) programs are providing needed psychological and emotional support to children and their caregivers. With the Universidad Metropolitana, government and the private sector, we've trained more than 400 caregivers, crisis counsellors, university students, and teachers to implement these critical programs. To date, more than 1,600 children have received help to cope with loss, fear and stress and become more resilient. We've also trained more than 100 adults who

work with children to provide reassurance and comfort through psychological first-aid.

At the request of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), we're piloting Journey of Hope Care for the Caregiver at a new FEMA-run community resource center to help adults understand reactions to stress and enhance their coping skills.



Preparing Children and Schools for the Next Disaster

We're taking steps so children are ready for the next emergency. To date, more than 3,600 girls and boys have participated in our Prep Rallies, which use fun activities and games to ensure that they're ready and resilient. Children receive "go-bags" with supplies to help them cope in a disaster.

Schools will also be prepared when the power goes out. We are partnering with the Puerto Rican Department of Education and the Rocky Mountain Institute to design and install solar "micro-grids" at 12 schools so that learning can continue during a prolonged power failure.

Our Priorities in Puerto Rico for Year Two of Recovery

In the year since Maria, we've helped children and families make significant progress with your support. Yet there is much more work to be done. Thanks to you and everyone who contributed to our Hurricane Maria appeal, we can sustain recovery work throughout 2019. Our staff will be working with families, schools, communities and partners on the following priorities.



In our 12 priority municipalities, we'll support and strengthen child-care, early childhood development and nutrition services. With partners, Journey of Hope and HEART programs will expand to help more

children and their caregivers manage post-hurricane stress and become more resilient. We will also build resiliency through emergency preparedness training. Island-wide, we'll make grants to partners to expand their emotional support programs for children.

Additionally, we've secured a local partnership to launch a Response Innovation Lab. Key groups who've worked in Puerto Rico since Maria will collaborate to identify innovative solutions to barriers that inhibited relief and recovery.

Community Partners

We know we can have the greatest impact for children by working closely with trusted community partners and multiplying our efforts. By investing in local partnerships and capacity building, we are strengthening community fabric and seeking sustainable solutions.

Our partners have included:

- American Red Cross
- Federal Emergency Management Agency
- Hispanic Federation
- Universidad Metropolitana
- Universidad Carlos Albizu
- Instituto de la Juventud
- Boys and Girls Clubs

We also continue to coordinate with federal and local agencies through the Hurricane Maria Children's Task Force to ensure we can best meet needs and seek lasting impact for Puerto Rico's children through longer-term policy change. Save the Children launched the Task Force and led it for the first six months after Maria; we also fund it through a local partner.



Children react to a story during a summer learning program funded with support like yours. Photo: Shawn Millsaps/Save the Children



“That push (from Save the Children) gave us the strength to keep going.”

Glorimar and her children, Shaday and Yeiden, outside their home in the community of Fronton. They watched Hurricane Maria tear through the area from the safety of her mother’s concrete house. When it was over, they found ways to help their community rebound through Save the Children. Glorimar worked with us to provide those in need with essential supplies. Shaday was a volunteer activity leader at our summer enrichment program for children at the local community center. Yeiden helped to paint a bright, cheerful mural on center’s basketball court and left a handprint on the wall as a pledge to take care of the center. He goes to the center regularly to learn new things, see his friends, play basketball and feel safe and secure. “It’s a refuge, we can be protected in there,” he said. *Photo: Shawn Millsaps/Save the Children*

The Dominican Republic: Our Team Responds to Hurricanes Maria and Irma

The Dominican Republic narrowly escaped a direct hit from Hurricane Maria, but the storm created additional hardship for children and families whose communities had been battered and flooded by Hurricane Irma days earlier. Over 21,200 children and adults have benefited from our responses to these storms.



Protecting Health and Hygiene

We distributed hygiene kits to nearly 5,000 families and helped them improve hygiene practices for better health. As part of our cleanup days in 25 communities, we educated people about eliminating mosquito breeding sites. Our teams passed out cloth covers for tanks that families use to store water to prevent mosquitos from breeding.

We also organized over 70 workshops on preventing infectious diseases such as Zika and malaria. We partnered with the Ministry of Public Health to distribute oral rehydration salts to help treat children suffering from diarrhea.



Reaching Children in Schools

Nearly 700 children attended presentations in their schools on how to prevent diseases such as dengue, Zika and cholera. Our health promoters taught good hygiene practices to over 300 children. We repaired bathrooms at schools to improve sanitation and addressed water quality issues so primary school students have clean drinking water.

We also conducted disaster risk reduction activities in schools in Miches, Santo Domingo Oeste and San Pedro de Macoris to help prepare students and teachers for future emergencies.

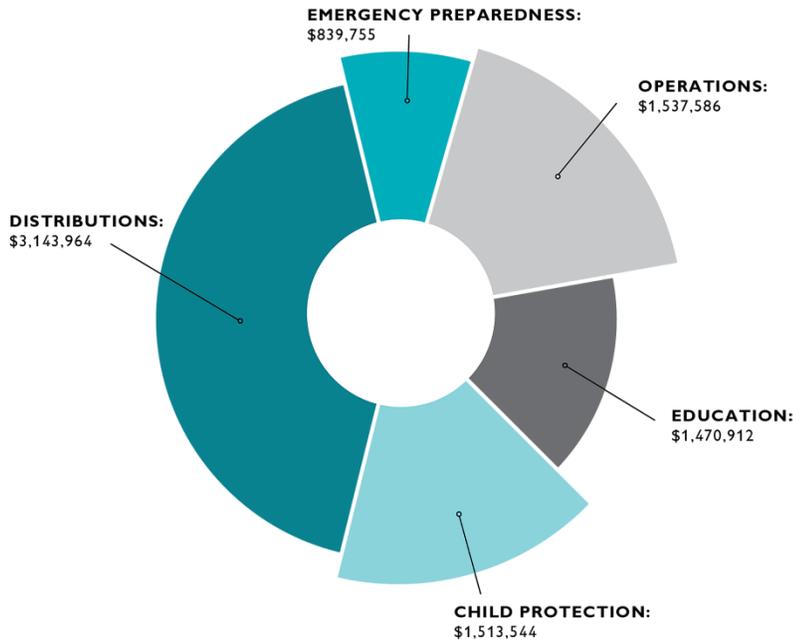


Our staff distribute hygiene kits in San Juan de la Maguana after Hurricane Maria. Save the Children Photo

Hurricane Maria Financial Snapshot

Total Raised: \$18,886,149
(September 2017-July 2018)

SPEND BY SECTOR:



Total Expenses: \$8,505,761

In any major emergency like Hurricane Maria, Save the Children is committed to addressing children’s immediate needs and their long-term recovery. Over the past year in Puerto Rico, your support has helped us respond to these immediate needs and transition to programs focused on children’s and families’ recovery and resilience. We will be using the balance of these funds to grow and sustain this critical this work in the coming year as families continue on the long road to recovery.

OUR VISION is a world in which every child attains the right to survival, protection, development and participation.

OUR MISSION is to inspire breakthroughs in the way the world treats children, and to achieve immediate and lasting change in their lives.

OUR VALUES guide our behavior and are the principles by which we make decisions: Accountability, Collaboration, Integrity, Ambition and Creativity.

OUR 2030 AMBITION



SURVIVAL

No child dies from preventable causes before their fifth birthday.



EDUCATION

All children learn from a quality basic education



PROTECTION

Violence against children is no longer tolerated

Save the Children believes every child deserves a future. In the United States and around the world, we give children a healthy start in life, the opportunity to learn and protection from harm. We do whatever it takes for children – every day and in times of crisis – transforming their lives and the future we share.

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ON THE COVER: Children participate in a Journey of Hope activity during a summer learning program your contribution helped make possible. Over 2,700 children in 19 municipalities took part in education and recreational activities to help them catch up on school they missed and enjoy a respite from stress after Hurricane Maria. *Photo: Shawn Millsaps/Save the Children*