

I. CONPRMETIDOS 2017/2018 GRANTS, PROGRAMS & ONGOING PROJECTS:

Our mission guides everything we do.

ConPRmetidos mission is to create a stable, productive and self-sufficient Puerto Rico by:

- Identifying innovative and sustainable solutions to community challenges;
- Leveraging the know-how, talent, networks, and capital of Puerto Rico's diaspora and global friends in support of those doing the work;
- Empowering doers to succeed and inspiring others to follow; and
- Connecting and convening to form strategic partnerships, and the exchange of new information, models and ideas.

The following grants, programs and ongoing projects were funded as a result of the Hurricane Real Time Recovery Fund which ConPRmetidos established with the fiscal sponsorship of Foundation for Puerto Rico:

PILLAR 1 - IDENTIFYING EFFECTIVE, SUSTAINABLE AND INNOVATIVE SOLUTIONS FOR A CLEAN, GREEN PUERTO RICO.

TOTAL INVESTMENT: \$212,323

A. Resilient Power Puerto Rico - \$150,000 grant to support alternative and reliable energy systems for communities with limited access to electricity.

Context: Hurricanes Irma and Maria left most of Puerto Rico without electricity. The most vulnerable communities were left without power for over five months. The lack of reliable electricity and the fragility of the existing power grid remains a critical challenge for the island's residents. ConPRmetidos provided a grant to Resilient Power Puerto Rico, a nonprofit modeled after post-hurricane Sandy efforts in New York that is offering robust photovoltaic (PV) energy systems to areas across the island which were severely impacted by the hurricanes. Their goal is to install solar generators in 100 community service centers, clinics, schools, and libraries in all 78 municipalities in Puerto Rico.

Impact: ConPRmetidos' grant to Resilient Power Puerto Rico made it possible to fund six of these installations. The PV energy systems provide an alternative and reliable source of electricity that will help the community centers maintain essential services during times of limited power resources.

B. OffGridBox - \$32,087 grant to provide clean water and renewable energy for critical nonprofits serving multiple neighborhoods and surrounding communities.

Context: After the storms, access to clean water was a significant and life-threatening challenge for millions of island residents. To help address this, ConPRmetidos purchased and imported an OffGridBox: a patented water filtration and rainwater harvesting system that can filter, sterilize and pressurize 1,580 gallons of water per day, while also producing up to 16kWh of power per day, enough to help meet water and critical energy needs of up to 1,500 people.

ConPRmetidos' OffGridBox was loaned out to, and professionally installed in, the Bayamón chapter of the Boys and Girls Clubs of Puerto Rico, a community center that provided emergency relief services immediately after the storms. The Club served as a collection center for aid and supplies in the Bayamón area, while also maintaining educational programs and community services to club participants and their families.

Impact: The OffGridBox purchased and installed by ConPRmetidos directly provided hundreds with clean, filtered water for several months following the hurricanes. The deployment of the OffGridBox and the provision of renewable energy and safe water at this Boys and Girls Club location had a positive, multiplier effect in the surrounding neighborhoods.

Now that power has been restored to almost 100% of the Greater San Juan Metropolitan Area, ConPRmetidos is relocating the OffGridBox to a rural community that still does not have access to sustained, reliable electricity and safe water.

C. Solar Panels for Women's Shelter/Community Center - \$22,477 grant to keep domestic violence survivors safe after the storm.

Context: In the aftermath of hurricanes Irma and Maria, the rate of violence against women increased significantly in Puerto Rico. Without a functioning power grid, women's shelters throughout the island did not have electricity or functioning security systems, leaving residents (i.e., women and their children) vulnerable and in emotional distress.

Impact: ConPRmetidos purchased and professionally installed a 5kW solar energy system at a women's shelter in Arecibo, a municipality that reported the second highest rate of domestic violence incidents in 2017 (Source: Puerto Rico Police Department).

The solar energy system provided much-needed comfort and safety to 30 vulnerable shelter residents and their children.

D. Basura Cero - \$7,759 grant to address toxic waste build up in the island's landfills, waterways and green areas.

Context: ConPRmetidos funded a battery collection and disposal program devised by Basura Cero Puerto Rico, a nonprofit organization that promotes the "Zero Waste" concept. In collaboration with local Walgreens stores, the Judicial Branch of the Government of Puerto Rico and the federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Basura Cero established 29 collection stations across the island.

Impact: This project prevented the island's landfills and green areas from being overwhelmed by toxic, discarded batteries used right after the storm to power lamps, flashlights, fans, and other emergency devices. As a result of this grant, 17,965 pounds of toxic battery waste was disposed of safely.

PILLAR 2 - EMPOWERING LOCAL, ENTREPRENEURIAL DOERS.

TOTAL INVESTMENT: \$98,860

A. Portable Energy for Small Businesses - \$71,044 grant to power up small businesses in eight island cities and towns.

Context: The effects of hurricane Irma and María have been particularly acute for small-sized businesses, which are a crucial engine of Puerto Rico's economy. The collapse of the power grid forced many entrepreneurs to close shop, leaving workers across the island without reliable income during a time of great need for food, healthcare, transportation, and security.

Two weeks after the storm, ConPRmetidos purchased, delivered, installed and subsequently rotated thirty portable, generators among small businesses located in affected municipalities, including San Juan, Isabela, Arroyo, Aguadilla, Aguas Buenas, Rio Grande, Orocovis, and Jayuya.

Impact: These portable power units allowed local businesses to resume operations, retain/regain the employment of dozens of people, and enabled the recovery of commercial activity essential for the economic stability of surrounding communities. The rotation program for these portable power generators continues in areas still affected by little to no energy supply.

B. Connect Relief - \$25,000 grant to develop and support an online platform for data collection and improved accuracy in the assessment of post-disaster relief and recovery needs. This innovative platform also allows for real-time volunteer coordination and activation across the island.

Context: ConPRmetidos invested in Connect Relief, a project led by a local nonprofit to connect those affected by the hurricanes with relief efforts. Through a virtual platform, Connect Relief provides up-to-date, accurate information on the specific needs of communities, shelters, nonprofit organizations and homes for the elderly, to those who are bringing and distributing aid.

Impact: This grant has provided resources towards the enhanced effectiveness and efficiency of the platform, helping improve Connect Relief's data analysis and volunteer coordination efforts. As a result, they have been able to train over 500 volunteers who have gathered data necessary for relief and recovery efforts from over 277 communities, 90 shelters, and 49 senior homes in 70 municipalities.

C. Food Distribution - \$2,816 grant to provide immediate relief to remote communities.

Context: ConPRmetidos covered the costs for Fundación El Plato Caliente to rent a van that was used to distribute and deliver meals to residents of the "Sector El 26" and "Villa Calma" neighborhoods in the municipality of Toa Baja.

Impact: Over 80,000 meals were distributed in these affected communities.

PILLAR 3 - Leveraging local and global capacity to rebuild and grow vibrant Puerto Rican communities smartly. Total Investment: \$174,742

A. The Bottom Up Destination Recovery Initiative - \$150,000 grant to support Foundation for Puerto Rico's economic recovery strategy in the community of Punta Santiago, Humacao, a town on the east coast of Puerto Rico that was severely impacted by hurricanes Irma and Maria. .

Context: The Bottom Up Destination Recovery Initiative is an economic recovery strategy with a sustainable model for long-term development. It was designed by Foundation for Puerto Rico (FPR) to support communities on the island by helping them become more resilient while activating local resources for the creation of new tourism attractions and experiences.

This community-based recovery program aims to build local infrastructures required for growth. The goal is to help communities recover quickly by creating a *Community Destination Economic Development Plan* that increases local tourism offerings and the average length of stay for visitors.

Impact: As a result of this grant, economic development in the community of Punta Santiago in Humacao is being improved through better commercial operations, new businesses, job creation, workforce development and a growing tax base. This project is also helping to build the resilience and capacity of local business, community and government leaders.

B. Community Service in Puerto Rico's Public Schools - \$10,868 grant to help two public schools in Cataño get back on their feet.

Context: On March 22 and 23, ConPRmetidos staff and board members joined a group of public education leaders from the mainland, captained by former U.S. Secretary of Education, Arne Duncan. ConPRmetidos helped the delegation organize the service trip, and selected the schools in Cataño -- Isaac del Rosario Elementary School and Onofre Caraballeiro Middle School -- where the services would be carried out over two days of action. These two schools were selected due to (i) the extent of hurricane-caused damages, (ii) the high percentage of students living below the poverty line, and (iii) their demonstrated efforts to rebuild their community (physically and emotionally).

Impact: In addition to organizing a high-profile service trip which received notable news coverage highlighting the ongoing needs of Puerto Rico's public schools following the storms, ConPRmetidos directly helped two damaged and under-resourced public schools by providing small grants to pay for: (i) pest control and termite extermination services; (ii) replacement of damaged ceiling panels; (iii) refurbishment of common areas; and (iv) replacement of damaged and unsafe school furniture in a primary classroom.

In partnership with school supplies retailer Yoobi, ConPRmetidos also donated school materials to 700 students, and collaborated with Walmart of Puerto Rico to provide two new playground sets for the schools.

C. Satellite Phones - \$9,874 grant to purchase communications equipment used to coordinate and expedite emergency aid immediately after Hurricane Maria.

Context: Immediately after the storm, aid deployment efforts were severely impaired without a functioning communications system. ConPRmetidos distributed satellite phones to non-profit organizations on the island that were engaged in urgently needed relief and needs assessment work on the ground.

Impact: Thanks to the satellite phones, key nonprofit organizations were able to procure and coordinate the delivery of emergency aid to people in vulnerable communities during the four months following Maria. The organizations that benefited from these satellite phones included: Fundación Culebra, Connect Relief, The Puerto Rico Model Forest, and Centro de Apoyo Mutuo. The satellite phones also helped families communicate and reunite after the storm during a critical time when less than 5% of the cellular antennas in Puerto Rico were operational.

D. Posigen Water Filtration System - \$4,000 grant to ship \$50,000 worth of donated solar-powered water-filtering equipment to Puerto Rico.

Context: Posigen, a successful green energy startup in New Orleans that provides working-class families access to affordable solar energy, donated \$50,000 worth of solar-powered, water-filtering equipment to a community in need in Puerto Rico. Posigen asked ConPRmetidos to identify the community and to pay for the shipping, from New Orleans, plus the professional installation of the equipment once it arrived on the island. ConPRmetidos selected a community center located in the western side of the island, an area that was severely affected by Maria.

Impact: The Posigen water filtration system will enable a community center in a small rural municipality to supply clean water to area residents without increasing their energy or operational costs to do so.

PILLAR 4 - CONNECTING AND CONVENING TO FORM STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS AND THE EXCHANGE OF IDEAS. TOTAL INVESTMENT: \$14,690

A. Puerto Rican Leaders Meet with Katrina Recovery Experts in New Orleans - \$14,690 grant to provide a "crash course" to Puerto Rican leaders on how to deploy effective and sustainable recovery efforts.

Context: A delegation organized by ConPRmetidos met with over a dozen New Orleans leaders and organizations involved in economic development, social innovation, entrepreneurship, sustainable building, green energy, and public-school reform.

The New Orleans hosts included: The City of New Orleans Mayor LaToya Cantrell, the Greater New Orleans Foundation, Idea Village, Bio Innovation Center of New Orleans, Propeller, GNO Inc., Broadmoor Neighborhood Association, Posigen, New Schools for New Orleans, Inspire NOLA, Tulane University, Loyola University and NOLA Media Group.

The ConPRmetidos delegation included 33 senior executives and leaders from Puerto Rico's philanthropy, higher education, entrepreneurial, healthcare and nonprofit sectors. The costs related to organizing and executing this two-day trip, including travel scholarships for those who could not afford it themselves, were graciously covered by the Skip Battle Foundation, with additional pro bono help from Friends of New Orleans.

Impact: The purpose of the trip was to learn valuable post-Katrina lessons that could be applied to Puerto Rico's recovery, and to avoid repeating some of the costly mistakes that were made in New Orleans. The immediate outcomes as a result of this trip were as follows:

- i. ConPRmetidos documented the lessons learned by the delegation in a publicly available document. This report - [Post-Maria Recovery: Lessons and Recommendations from Post-Katrina New Orleans](#) - is now being shared with others working on Puerto Rico's recovery.
- ii. Foundation for Puerto Rico and ConPRmetidos jointly hosted the "Six Months After Maria Forum" featuring a panel discussion with Andy Kopplin, President/CEO of the Greater New Orleans Foundation, and Robin Barnes, Vice President of GNO Inc., on the importance of unified advocacy efforts and a unified political agenda focused on recovery.
- iii. New Orleans tech entrepreneur and the Founder/President and CEO of TurboSquid, Matt Wisdom, came to Puerto Rico and to discuss "Resilience in Entrepreneurship" with over 50 local entrepreneurs and business leaders. ConPRmetidos organized and hosted this event in partnership with Parallel 18, a leading start-up accelerator/incubator on the island.
- iv. The Latin American Business Council (CEAL) hosted a conference on "The role of the private sector in the reconstruction of Puerto Rico," inviting Andy Kopplin, the President of Greater New Orleans Foundation, to give a keynote address at the event. ConPRmetidos Executive Director, Isabel Rullán, spoke to the audience about the lessons learned in New Orleans.

v. Posigen Solar, a leading green energy company in NOLA, donated \$50,000 worth of solar powered water filtering equipment to a rural community center in Puerto Rico's interior.

II. COLLABORATIVE IMPACT GRANT PROGRAM:

A. *Proyecto de la Montaña* - A Puerto Rico Coffee Industry Rehabilitation Project
\$608,500 grant to rehabilitate the island's mountainous coffee regions.

Context: Puerto Rico's coffee industry suffered the worst blow to its infrastructure and crops in almost 100 years. Nearly 18 million trees were destroyed, wiping out approximately 85% of the island's coffee farms. The loss in agricultural income for local coffee farmers and their families is estimated at over \$27 million, while the local coffee industry suffered losses estimated at over \$75 million. Puerto Rican coffee is an essential part of the island's identity and a great source of pride for its people. From those who grow it, process it, sell it wholesale or retail, to those that support the growers and processors, and those who consume it, Puerto Rican coffee is an important economic asset that powers thousands of direct and indirect jobs. To rehabilitate the island's mountainous coffee regions, ConPRmetidos has teamed up with some of the island's top coffee experts, PROCAFE (a local nonprofit organization), and MLB Hall of Fame Catcher, Ivan 'Pudge' Rodriguez, to fund and launch an island wide coffee rehabilitation program that will provide much needed economic relief for Puerto Rican coffee farmers while jumpstarting the local coffee business. A total of \$500,000 of this funding came from a grant that *Unidos por Puerto Rico*, a foundation on the island, awarded to ConPRmetidos. The remaining \$108,500 is coming from the ConPRmetidos Hurricane Relief Fund.

Impact: PROCAFE, with funding from ConPRmetidos, is using this grant to purchase and distribute 750,000 coffee trees, fertilizers and additional farm subsidies to over 500 coffee farming families across the interior of the island. In addition, ConPRmetidos is working with PROCAFE to develop a best practice manual that can be distributed to the coffee farmers participating in the project.

B. Sustainable Building/Roofing Projects - \$568,000 grant for residents of Caño Martín Peña, in San Juan, and Villas del Sol, in Toa Baja, to rebuild their homes and their lives.

Context:

1. Caño Martín Peña. Approximately 70% of homes in Caño Martín Peña, a very poor community located in San Juan, were flooded with wastewater, and in some areas, the flooding lasted up to four days. Over 1,000 homes suffered severe damage, including partial or total loss of their roofs, and more than 75 homes were completely destroyed. In addition, many families lost most of their belongings while others also lost their jobs/sources of income. This situation forced many families to resort to the installation of zinc awnings as temporary roofs to cover their severely destroyed homes and shelters. These zinc awnings, and the blue tarps provided by FEMA and others, are temporary solutions that have helped families regain some stability in their lives but they will not last or be safe over a prolonged period of time. One year after the passage of Hurricane Maria, too many families in Caño Martín Peña are still living under these temporary roofing materials which makes it very difficult for them to fully recover and return to normal. This is why ConPRmetidos gave a grant of \$250,000 to help this low income community rebuild the roofs of 16 families. This project includes: (1) evaluation of need in the community and selection of the houses to be repaired; (2) home evaluation and recommendation of repairs by an architect; (3) roof construction/repair; and (4) final housing inspection.
2. Villas del Sol, Toa Baja. This project seeks to directly impact 14 low-income families that still need help recovering after the passage of Hurricane Maria in the Villas del Sol community in the Ingenio neighborhood of the town of Toa Baja. This will include the building of 7 concrete roofs, reconstruction of one house that is partially built, and the rebuilding of 6 houses for families that completely lost their homes. The completion of the entire work will take 14 months to complete. The contractor that has been hired is from the community and residents from the community have also been hired to build the houses. ConPRmetidos gave a grant of \$318,000 to support this project.

Impact: 16 low income families living in Caño Martín Peña, San Juan, and 14 low income families living in Villas del Sol, Toa Baja, are now rebuilding their homes with quality materials that will last. Roofs are being installed, and minor on-site repairs to the homes are being made such as: (a) making sure that the house can support the roof; and (b) fixing windows, walls, and floors.

C. Kiva Puerto Rico - a grant of \$36,000 and an in-kind donation of \$4,000 in specialized NGO consulting services to Causa Local to help them expand the Kiva program on the island.

Context: Kiva Microfunds is a 501c3 non-profit organization in the U.S. that allows people to lend money to low-income entrepreneurs and students in over 80 countries. Kiva's mission is "to connect people through lending to alleviate poverty." Through their crowdfunding platform, individuals can invest as little as \$25 in entrepreneurs with limited access to capital.

In Puerto Rico, Kiva is being managed by a locally incorporated non-profit organization called Causa Local.

ConPRmetidos gave Causa Local a grant of \$36,000 and an in-kind donation of \$4,000 in specialized NGO consulting services to help them expand their impact on the island. Their goal is to raise their visibility among the entrepreneurship sector in Puerto Rico and reach municipalities in more remote parts of the island. By July of 2019, Causa Local aims to grow substantially; giving out loans of up to \$10k at 0% interest.

Impact: In addition to helping them expand the Kiva program to other low income and young entrepreneurs in Puerto Rico, this grant will help Causa Local continue helping entrepreneurs who have gained traction and sales and have already gone through an accelerator or incubator program.



III. CONCLUSION:

A. Our Commitment:

ConPRmetidos is committed to creating a stable, productive and self-sufficient Puerto Rico. Our staff and board are equally committed to making the organization a great nonprofit with strong leadership and a clear vision that invites others to join us and do what's needed to grow the scope and impact of our work.

B. Lessons learned:

Following hurricanes Irma and María in September 2017, ConPRmetidos rapidly mobilized on-the-ground relief efforts to help stabilize vulnerable and marginalized communities throughout the island. Thanks to the support from donors like you, we have delivered food, water, communications equipment and shelter to thousands in need. The first nine months – full of challenges and mistakes, as well as successes and luck – have taught us critical lessons that have helped us develop a comprehensive strategy that will focus on the long-term, sustainable renewal of the island. True to our values, we will also advocate for systemic change, resilient structures, and equitable policies.

C. Next Steps Going Forward:

ConPRmetidos will devote our remaining Hurricane donated funds towards Collaborative Impact Grants (CIG). The CIG model was designed by ConPRmetidos to help partner nonprofits execute their programs according to plan, strengthen and scale up their work, increase their influence, and achieve a greater impact than they could generate on their own. Through CIGs, ConPRmetidos finances programs that tackle root causes to socio-economic challenges in Puerto Rico and assigns partnering organizations a consulting service resource.

