



Hurricane Maria Relief, Puerto Rico

Reporting period: June 1–30, 2018

Prepared by: Marisol Espinosa

Organization: Real Medicine Foundation Puerto Rico (www.realmedicinefoundation.org)

Project title: Hurricane Maria Relief

Project location: Municipalities of Vega Alta, Dorado, Comerío, Toa Baja, Corozal, and surrounding areas in Puerto Rico



Distributing OTC medication, solar lamps, and hygiene kits to residents in the Padilla Community of Corozal

June 2018

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Background

On September 20, 2017, Category 4 Hurricane Maria hit the US territory of Puerto Rico. The winds, 155 miles per hour at landfall, completely wiped out the island's power grid and phone towers. A flash flood emergency was declared in central Puerto Rico, and the island experienced record flooding. Prior to the hurricane, Puerto Rico's infrastructure was weak, and the storm left the small island crippled. Across the island, cities reported collapsed bridges and severe damage to roadways. Many homes, businesses, and public buildings were also damaged or destroyed. As of June 2018, much of Puerto Rico remains without power, clean water, or sufficient medical supplies.

After our initial needs assessment in October 2017, RMF Founder and CEO Dr. Martina Fuchs visited Puerto Rico in early December 2017, strengthening ties with local authorities, medical professionals, and organizations. RMF then began working closely with Dr. Luis Gonzalez Bermudez, who oversees 5 medical facilities in the Vega Alta municipality. Thanks to support from LDS Charities and individual donors, we began supporting the operations of these 5 health clinics and hospitals, and Dr. Martina Fuchs returned in February 2018 to guide our Puerto Rico team as per next steps of the program. Through RMF, the clinics are also receiving essential medical supplies, dietary supplements, safety equipment, and personal hygiene products from Direct Relief. These supplies are used to serve patients in the clinics, support community outreaches, and contribute to the safety of local maintenance and construction workers.

Direct Relief Shipments

During the month of June, RMF Puerto Rico continued to distribute supplies received in previous shipments from Direct Relief, which included multivitamins, pediatric supplements, over-the-counter (OTC) medicines, influenza vaccines, insulin for diabetic patients, soap, body wash, shampoo, Vaseline, sunscreen, surgical medical supplies, stethoscopes, and safety materials such as safety helmets, safety glasses, bactericidal water tablets, and solar lamps. We also received the ninth Direct Relief shipment on June 28, 2018, valued at \$18,082.11.

OTC supplies and hygiene products were distributed through the outreaches at Comerío, Toa Baja, and Corozal, as shown below, while influenza vaccines were administered in Toa Baja and Dorado. We coordinated with different clinics, nursing homes, communities, and government agencies.

Ninth Shipment

On June 28, 2018, we received the ninth shipment from Direct Relief, containing medications for hypertension and asthma. The shipment was valued at \$18,082.11. The delivery company did not follow protocol, leaving the supplies on a chair in the waiting room. When RMF staff examined the boxes, we found that 9 vials of injectable diphenhydramine were missing. We therefore filed an incident report and took measures to ensure proper delivery in future. Received at the end of this month, the contents of the shipment have not yet been distributed, and are stored safely in our warehouse for distribution according to pharmacy protocols.



RMF Puerto Rico team members confirming shipment contents

Community Health Outreaches

RMF Puerto Rico has been continually providing health outreaches throughout rural and urban areas most impacted by Hurricane Maria, focusing our efforts on inland towns where health services and support are most needed. Thanks to the in-kind donations from Direct Relief, as well as the support of LDS Charities and individual donors, we have been able to provide **519** free hygiene products, **462** multivitamins, **161** OTC medicines, **30** Solar Lamps, and **17** influenza vaccines in the month of June 2018. Health education is also provided at the events, and beneficiaries include children, teenagers, and the elderly.

During the month of June, RMF Puerto Rico held outreaches in the urban areas of Dorado and Toa Baja, as well as the rural area of Comerío and Corozal. We visited communities, health fairs, and a nursing home, where community members received OTC medicines, influenza vaccines, multivitamins, and hygiene products to help them stay clean and healthy. Thanks to the donations from Direct Relief, we will be able to continue offering these essential health and hygiene supplies to the community.

June 1–30, 2018

During the month of June 2018, RMF Puerto Rico provided community members with 519 hygiene products, 462 multivitamins, 161 OTC medicines, 30 solar lamps and 17 influenza vaccines:

- 70 children’s multivitamins and 118 children’s OTC medicines were distributed at the health fair in Comerío, June 8, 2018.
- 53 children’s multivitamins, 9 children’s OTC medicines, and 10 adult multivitamins were distributed at the Doña Elena Community in Comerío, June 19, 2018.
- 34 multivitamins and 34 OTC medicines were distributed at the Palomas Community in Comerío, June 19, 2018.
- 224 hygiene products were distributed and 5 influenza vaccines were administered at the Golden Age Tower, Sabana Seca in Toa Baja, June 20, 2018.
- 295 hygiene products, 295 multivitamins, and 30 solar lamps were distributed at the Padilla Community in Corozal, June 20, 22, & 24, 2018.
- 12 immunization vaccines were administered at the Mameyal Community in Dorado, June 28, 2018.

The first, second, and third community health outreaches were carried out by a volunteer doctor from the Vega Alta Health Clinic, while the fourth outreach was supported by RMF team members Dr. Luis Gonzalez Bermudez and Dr. Emilio Rivera, as well as volunteers from the Angelorum Medical Aesthetics Pain Clinic. The fifth outreach was facilitated by RMF team member Dr. Emilio Rivera, volunteer medical students, and a volunteer registered nurse, the sixth outreach was carried out by a volunteer registered nurse from the Vega Alta Health Clinic.

Comerio Health Fair

On June 8, 2018, RMF participated in the health fair of Comerío in central Puerto Rico. Residents live with few economic resources and still do not have electricity or drinking water nine months after Hurricane Maria. We provided 70 children’s multivitamins and 118 children’s over-the-counter (OTC) medications to 56 families in this community.

Doña Elena Community

On June 19, 2018, we held an outreach in the Doña Elena Community of Comerío in central Puerto Rico. Residents live with few economic resources and still do not have electricity or drinking water nine months after Hurricane Maria. We provided 53 children’s multivitamins, 9 children’s over-the-counter (OTC) medications, and 10 adult multivitamins to 84 families in this community.

Palomas Community

On June 19, 2018, we also held an outreach in the Palomas Community of Comerío in central Puerto Rico. Residents live with few economic resources and still do not have electricity or drinking water nine months after Hurricane Maria. We provided 34 multivitamins and 34 over-the-counter (OTC) medications to families in this community.

Golden Age Tower

On June 20, 2018, we held an outreach at the Golden Age Tower, Sabana Seca, a retirement home in the town of Toa Baja on the northern coast of Puerto Rico. In the hard-hit town of Toa Baja, Hurricane Maria's wrath swept some community members to their deaths. Many homes were flooded and filled with mud, while eight people drowned. During this outreach, we conducted health education and check-ups for diabetes, hypertension, cholesterol, and arthritis, as well as providing 224 hygiene products and 5 influenza vaccines to 76 families in this community.



Health and hygiene outreach at the Golden Age Tower in Toa Baja



Angelorum volunteers participating in the outreach



RMF team members Dr. Luis Gonzalez Bermudez and Dr. Emilio Rivera participating in the Golden Age Tower outreach in Toa Baja



Registration of beneficiaries and provision of medical services, influenza vaccines, and hygiene products



Immunization registration at the Golden Age Tower outreach



Golden Age Tower medical and hygiene outreach in Toa Baja

Padilla Community

On June 20, 22, and 24, 2018, RMF held outreaches in the Padilla Community of Corozal, located in northern Puerto Rico. Residents live with few economic resources and still do not have electricity or drinking water nine months after Hurricane Maria. We were able to provide 295 hygiene products, 295 multivitamins, and 30 solar lamps to families in this community.



Multivitamin and hygiene product outreach at the Padilla Community in Corozal





Multivitamin and hygiene product outreach at the Padilla Community in Corozal



Dr. Emilio (center), beside another RMF team member facing the crowd, at Padilla's Community in Corozal



Multivitamin and hygiene product outreach at the Padilla Community in Corozal



Beneficiaries with RMF hygiene kits during the outreach at the Padilla Community in Corozal



Door-to-door outreaches to deliver hygiene kits, solar lamps, and multivitamins to residents of the Padilla Community in Corozal





Door-to-door outreaches to deliver hygiene kits, solar lamps, and multivitamins to residents of the Padilla Community in Corozal





Delivering hygiene kits, solar lamps, and multivitamins to families in the Padilla Community of Corozal



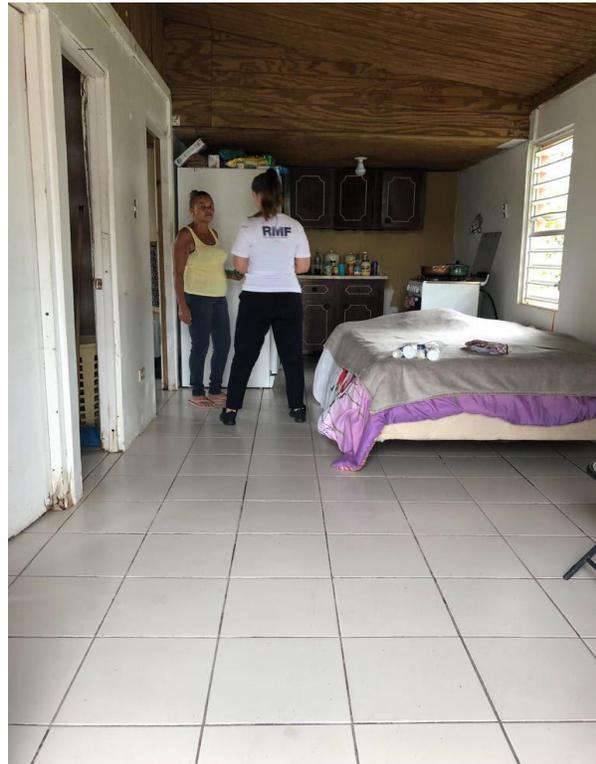


Delivering hygiene kits, solar lamps, and multivitamins to young and old in the Padilla Community of Corozal





Delivering hygiene kits, solar lamps, and multivitamins to families in the Padilla Community of Corozal





Delivering hygiene kits, solar lamps, and multivitamins to families in the Padilla Community of Corozal





Delivering hygiene kits, solar lamps, and multivitamins to families in the Padilla Community of Corozal





Delivering hygiene kits, solar lamps, and multivitamins to families in the Padilla Community of Corozal

Mameyal Community

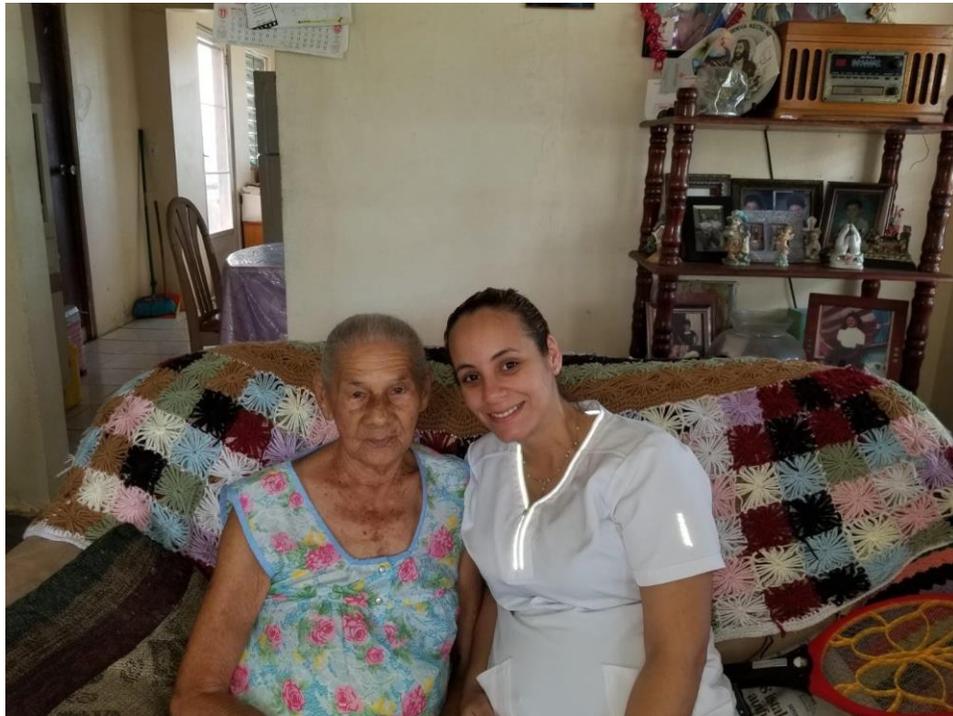
On June 28, 2018, we provided an immunization outreach in the Mameyal Community of Dorado, located in northern Puerto Rico. Residents live with few economic resources and still do not have electricity or drinking water nine months after Hurricane Maria. We were able to administer influenza vaccines to 12 community members.



Immunization outreach for residents in the Mameyal Community of Dorado



Volunteer registered nurse with patients participating in the immunization outreach at the Mameyal Community of Dorado



An elderly beneficiary with the volunteer registered nurse during the immunization outreach

Shipping Lists

Ninth Shipment: Received June 28, 2018

Commercial Invoice

Humanitarian Gift Donation of Medical Supplies
Not for Resale or Commercial Purposes
Harmonized Code: 9802.20.0000 (Donated Medical Supplies)
NO EEI Required, 30.37(h)

Date: June 12, 2018

Shipment Number: 80075476 - USA

Consignee:

Real Medicine Foundation Vega Alta Community Health
Carretera #2 KM 31.9
Bo. Bajuras
Vega Alta, Puerto Rico, 00646,
USA

Phone:
Mobile Phone:
Fax:
Email:

--- No Commercial Value ---
--- Value Shown is for Customs Purposes Only ---

Total Value (U.S.):	\$18,082.11	
Gross Weight:	22.0 LB	10.0 KG
Volume:	2,000.0 in ³	0.0 m ³
Number of Pieces:	2	

These commodities, technology, or software were exported from the United States of America in accordance with Export Administration Regulations. Diversion contrary to US law prohibited.

Guidelines Regarding Direct Relief Donated Products

All donated prescription medicines provided by Direct Relief must be dispensed only to uninsured, low-income patients seeking care at your health center or clinic and cannot be billed to any third party payer, including Medicare, Medicaid, or private insurance.

Direct Relief requests that all donated medicine is stored separately from any purchased medications in your pharmacy or dispensary.

Direct Relief also requests that donated medicines are marked in a way that distinguishes them from purchased medications. If your organization does not utilize a system to differentiate between products, please contact Direct Relief to receive stickers that can be used to mark all Direct Relief donated product.

Products must NOT be returned for credit to the manufacturer or processed through a reverse wholesaler where a credit might occur.

Any products that are knowingly returned for credit will result in the clinic being permanently removed from Direct Relief's donation program and any clinic/health center association(s) will be notified of the indiscretion.

In the event of a recall, product must be returned as specified by the manufacturer's instructions and may entail return directly to the manufacturer, or to the reverse distributor coordinating the recall.

If any prescription product provided by Direct Relief cannot be dispensed by the expiration date, please contact Direct Relief to receive a Return Authorization Form and free shipping of the product back to Direct Relief:

1-877-303-7872

USAPrograms@directrelief.org

Direct Relief, 6100 Wallace Becknell Road, Santa Barbara CA 93117

Donated Products (Rev. 09-12-2016)

Packing List Shipment Number: **80075476** # of Packages: **2**



Ship To: Real Medicine Foundation Vega Alta Community Health
 Carretera #2 KM 31.9
 Bo. Bajuras
 Vega Alta, PR 00646

Ship From: Direct Relief
 6100 Wallace Becknell Road
 Santa Barbara, CA 93117
 CA Lic# WLS 7315

Medical Director: Luis Gonzalez Bermudez
License#: 009663

Product Name	Quantity	Value
Material: 7334 Diltiazem Hydrochloride 120mg DILTIAZEM HYDROCHLORIDE 100 Tablets, Film-Coated Batch/Serial: 3081988	3 BT Expires: JAN 31, 2020	\$721.11 NDC/Model: 00378-0525-01
Material: 23997 Dihydrochloride 50mg/mL DIPHENHYDRAMINE HYDROCHLORIDE 10mL x 10 Vials/Pack Batch/Serial: 170313	1 PAC Expires: FEB 28, 2019	\$115.00 NDC/Model: 67457-0124-10
Material: 17105 Ipratropium Bromide-Albuterol Sulfate 20mg-100mg COMBIVENT RESPIMAT 4g (120 Metered Doses) Batch/Serial: 701572A	50 PAC Expires: JAN 31, 2020	\$17,246.00 NDC/Model: 00597-0024-02

only one(s) vial

Shipment Total

Total Value (U.S.): \$18,082.11
Gross Weight: 22.0 LB 10.0 KG
Volume: 2,000.0 in³ 0.0 m³
Number of Pieces: 2

Certified True and Correct:

Director of Operations

Director of Pharmacy, R.Ph.
 Pharmacy Department

Transportation Manager
 Shipping Department