ONE YEAR LATER

HURRICANE MARIA

AN UPDATE ON DONATIONS, RESULTS, & FUTURE WORK
Charity Navigator is the nation’s largest and most-utilized evaluator of charities. With data on over 1.8 million US-based nonprofits and ratings for close to 10,000, Charity Navigator guides over 11 million individuals across the country to make informed giving decisions.

Especially in times of crisis, donors use Charity Navigator to discover efficient charities worth supporting. A year after Charity Navigator published the Hurricane Maria ‘Hot Topic’ featuring twenty-seven 3- and 4-star rated organizations, this study has been put together with help from 15 of the organizations from the list and five other nonprofits to provide an update on the work done, the work continuing to be done, and the current needs of communities affected. Of these 20, nineteen represent national or international nonprofits, and one represents a local nonprofit.

Additionally, these organizations display a wide spread of mission through the diversity of their cause areas. 6 are Development & Relief Services; 7 are Humanitarian Relief Supplies; 4 are Multipurpose Human Service Organizations; and there is 1 of each of the following: Youth Education Programs & Services, United Ways, Housing & Neighborhood Development.

Each organization participating in this study answered over forty in-depth questions prepared by Charity Navigator about specific intricacies of the charity’s work in the aftermath of Hurricane Maria. The figures on the following pages are aggregated results reported by the 20 nonprofits.
ABOUT HURRICANE MARIA

Hurricane Maria made landfall on September 19, 2017 as a Category 5 hurricane, causing an estimated $90 billion dollars in damage, according to the National Hurricane Center — causing the worst electrical blackout in U.S. history. Over 3,000 individuals are reported to have died due to the hurricane, in addition to tens of millions of people affected by the storm.

Almost a year after the storm hit Puerto Rico, electricity was finally returned to the island. Estimates report that over 62% of applicants in Puerto Rico were rejected by FEMA, the main reason being that homeowners weren’t able to prove ownership of their homes.

© 2018 Charity Navigator All rights reserved, aside from photos provided by nonprofits participating in this study.
THE RESPONSE

20% of the nonprofits included in this study began responding to Hurricane Maria on the date of landfall, with another 20% beginning their response the day after. Of these 20 organizations, all are continuing to provide ongoing support.

80% of the organizations provided for immediate needs (food, water, shelter); 80% provided for long-term needs; 55% funded other nonprofits; and 40% focused on other forms of additional response.

Each of these organizations provide varying levels and types of support for individuals affected by the hurricane. Of the total 20 organizations, 15% said that there was no longer any need for their provided items or services; 25% were not sure; and 60% said there is still demand.

The items still in demand, as reported by some of the organizations, are: solar lanterns, solar chargers, electric generators, solar powered water pumping systems, water filters, temporary shelters, medical supplies, high quality books, network development, home repairs, economic development.
DONATIONS UPDATE

$160,782,797
dollars donated as Maria restricted funding August - December 2017

$1,148,376
dollars donated as disaster/hurricane restricted funding August - December 2017

$16,419,078
dollars donated as unrestricted funding August - December 2017

358,378
individuals donated specifically for Hurricane Maria relief

36.55%
Average percent of restricted Hurricane Maria funds to total contributions received for 16 nonprofits August - December 2017

11.72%
Average percent of unrestricted Hurricane Maria funds to total contributions received for 6 nonprofits August - December 2017

Unrestricted Funding: Donating to an organization without specifying where you’d like the money to be used
Restricted Funding: Donating to an organization and specifying how you’d like the organization to use the funds (e.g. for Hurricane Maria)

Source: Charity Navigator
THE NUMBERS

For the organizations participating in the study, the timeline for complete recovery for the communities affected varies dramatically. 30% of the 20 organizations stated that they did not know by when the communities affected would be completely recovered.

For another 40% of the organizations, they estimated a recovery timeline of around 5 - 10 years.

The remaining 30% had the following answers: 1 - 2 years, 3 years, 3 - 6 years, and "years."

$21,259,589
generated to 366 other groups by 10 of the 20 charities

$52,052,566
spent on providing for immediate needs August - December 2017

$30,344,983
spent on providing long-term support August - December 2017

$2,118,664
spent on other forms of response August - December 2017

$1,494,687
spent on providing emergency supplies August - December 2017

2,979,794
individuals
helped by 14 organizations

2,921 volunteers
went to the affected areas for 12 organizations

17,265 volunteers
worked for 14 of the organizations to support Maria relief

351 staff
went to the affected areas for 14 of the organizations

85 staff
were already in the area when Maria hit for 5 of the organizations
COMMUNITIES AFFECTED

13 of the organizations hired 284 local residents for different types of jobs: from facilitators to agronomists to fiscal coordinators.

The 20 organizations worked with over 650 other nonprofits and agencies to provide support, relief, and programs.

13 of the 20 organizations established locations in the affected areas after Hurricane Maria hit.

None of the organizations hired third-party management companies to assist in helping those affected.

THE THREE MOST IMPORTANT NEEDS FOR THE COMMUNITIES AFFECTED ACCORDING TO THE CHARITIES ARE:

1. Sustainable electricity and clean water sources
2. Future disaster preparation
3. Counseling / Psychological Services
ITEMS GIVEN OUT
A LIST OF SERVICES, ITEMS, AND MATERIALS

270,000 lbs of aid to Dominica
470,000 lbs of aid to Puerto Rico
7,500 solar lanterns
3,187 generators
79,500 water filters
$297,250 in cash and prepaid credit cards
18,614,622 doses of medications
735,000 lbs of medication
2,112 tarps
54,710 food and baby formula distributions
77,760 water distributions
25,000 cases of water
716 books
4,761 educational resources
12,983,032 meals and snacks
5,200,000 assorted relief items
96,301 personal care items
83,892,400 lbs of food
457 emergency shipments of required medicines and supplies
170 manual clothes washers
50,000 lbs of ice
21,926 off-the-counter durables
26,735 vaccines
301 roofs repaired
38 education grants
660 psychological First Aid trainings
200 emotional support trainings
791 kilowatts of solar energy installed
2 megawatts of battery backup installed
1,200 mother and baby kits
1,460 shelter repair kits
3,000 emergency preparedness bags
200 aid distributions

$45,600,496
estimated cost to provide these items

1 organization received these items from grants
1 organizations received these items from donations
2 organizations have not determined what the cost was

355,582 cans of food
4,950 cans of infant powder formula
31,204 personal hygiene kits
735,000 lbs of medication
141 medical instruments
2,882,696 nutritional supplements
1,871,570 off-the-counter consumables
2,191,531 off-the-counter medications
285,973 prescription consumables
116 prescription durables
GIVING BASKET
CHARITY NAVIGATOR’S DONATION FUNCTION

These 15 organizations originally on the Hurricane Maria list account for 83.1% of all dollars given specifically for Hurricane Maria relief through the Charity Navigator site, and 91.2% of the number of donors who supported Hurricane Maria relief.

All 27 organizations on the Hurricane Maria Hot Topic list, created by Charity Navigator, in addition to the five other respondents received 10.2% of all donations made through Charity Navigator’s Giving Basket from August 1st, 2017 to July 31st, 2018.

The 20 respondents also accounted for 7.7% of all of the donations given through Charity Navigator’s Giving Basket in the same time period.

SPECIAL THANKS TO:

All Hands and Hearts — Smart Response
American Red Cross
Americares
Brother’s Brother Foundation
Direct Relief
First Book
Fondos Unidos de Puerto Rico
GlobalGiving
Habitat for Humanity International
Heart to Heart International
Hispanics in Philanthropy
International Relief Teams
Matthew 25: Ministries
MedShare
Mercy Corps
Save the Children
SBP
UMCOR — United Methodist Committee on Relief
Water Mission
World Hope International

Research conducted and report written by Sara Nason of Charity Navigator between June and August 2018. For additional information, please contact media@charitynavigator.org.