

The background of the slide is a light gray gradient with several realistic water droplets of various sizes scattered across it. The droplets have highlights and shadows, giving them a three-dimensional appearance. The main title is centered in a large, bold, black sans-serif font.

HURRICANE MARÍA EMERGENCY ASSESSMENT AND RESPONSE

PRESENTATION PREPARED BY THE MISSION COUNCIL
OF THE SOUTHWEST PRESBYTERY IN PUERTO RICO

DECEMBER 20, 2017

BRIEF INTRODUCTION

- CHRISTMAS THIS YEAR WILL BE VERY DIFFERENT IN PUERTO RICO. FOR MANY FAMILIES, WHO HAVE PARTIALLY OR TOTALLY LOST THEIR HOMES AND POSSESSIONS, THIS TIME WILL NOT BE VERY HAPPY. LIKE MODERN JOSEPH AND MARY, THEY WILL NOT HAVE A PLACE WHERE TO REST THEIR HEADS IN THE SECURITY OF THEIR HOMES.
- CHRISTMAS' SEASON IN PUERTO RICO HAS ALWAYS BEEN VERY SPECIAL. THE FESTIVITIES ARE CONSIDERED BY MANY TO BE THE LONGEST IN THE WORLD. THE CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS BEGIN AFTER THANKSGIVING AND CULMINATE WITH THE CELEBRATION OF THE EPIPHANY. HOWEVER, THIS YEAR THE FESTIVE AND CHEERFUL TONE OF THE SEASON HAS BEEN MARRED BY THE EVENTS THAT OCCURRED LAST SEPTEMBER, WHOSE CONSEQUENCES ARE STILL VERY PRESENT IN THE HEART, MIND AND SPIRIT OF ALL.

- **SEPTEMBER 6, 2017:** THE NATIONAL HURRICANE CENTER (NHC) INFORMED EVERYONE ON OUR ISLAND THAT HURRICANE IRMA, CLASSIFIED AS "EXTREMELY DANGEROUS", WAS PASSING THROUGH NORTHERN PUERTO RICO. THE PHENOMENON, CLASSIFIED AS CATEGORY 5 MAINTAINED ITS MAXIMUM SUSTAINED WINDS AT 185 MILES PER HOUR, WITH A SPEED OF 16 MPH MOVING WEST-NORTHWEST. ALTHOUGH IT KEPT BORDERING THE COASTS OF PUERTO RICO, AFTER ITS PASSAGE THE MEDIA REPORTED THAT 80% OF THE POPULATION DID NOT HAVE WATER SERVICE, 90% OF THE ISLAND DID NOT HAVE ELECTRICITY SERVICE, THERE WERE 4,200 REFUGEES AND 22 HOSPITALS WERE IN OPERATION USING GENERATORS.
- **SEPTEMBER 9, 2017:** WE WERE STILL IN THE INITIAL RECOVERY PROCESS DUE TO THE RAVAGES OF IRMA, WHEN HURRICANE JOSE, CATEGORIZED AS CATEGORY 4 BY THE NATIONAL HURRICANE CENTER, PASSED AT A SAFE DISTANCE OFF THE COAST OF PUERTO RICO. HOWEVER, IT LEFT IN ITS WAKE TORRENTIAL RAINS OVER THE WHOLE ISLAND AND SWELLS THAT AFFECTED OUR COASTS. ITS PASSAGE THROUGH PUERTO RICO MADE IT MORE DIFFICULT THE RECOVERY FROM THE DAMAGE CAUSED BY HURRICANE IRMA.

- AND THEN SEPTEMBER 20, 2017 ARRIVED: THE POWERFUL HURRICANE MARIA ENTERED PUERTO RICO AT 6:15 AM THROUGH THE MUNICIPALITY OF YABUCOA. THIS WAS REPORTED BY THE NATIONAL HURRICANE CENTER IN MIAMI (NHC). SHORTLY AFTER IT TOUCHED DOWN, THE DOPPLER RADAR OF PUERTO RICO BROKE, BUT THROUGH THE SATELLITE IMAGES, THE NHC WAS PLOTTING THE SYSTEM'S ROUTE. IT PASSED FROM ONE END OF THE ISLAND TO THE OTHER IN A LINE THAT CAN BE TRAVERSED THROUGH THE MUNICIPALITIES OF YABUCOA, MAUNABO, CAGUAS, COROZAL, MOROVIS, VEGA ALTA, VEGA BAJA, MANATÍ, FLORIDA, BARCELONETA, ARECIBO, HATILLO, TO LEAVE FINALLY BETWEEN CAMUY AND QUEBRADILLAS. ITS PASSAGE THROUGH PUERTO RICO LEFT THE ENTIRE ISLAND WITHOUT WATER, ELECTRICITY, WIRED AND CELLULAR PHONES, FIBER OPTIC AND INTERNET SYSTEMS. THE RECOVERY PROCESS HAS BEEN SLOW.

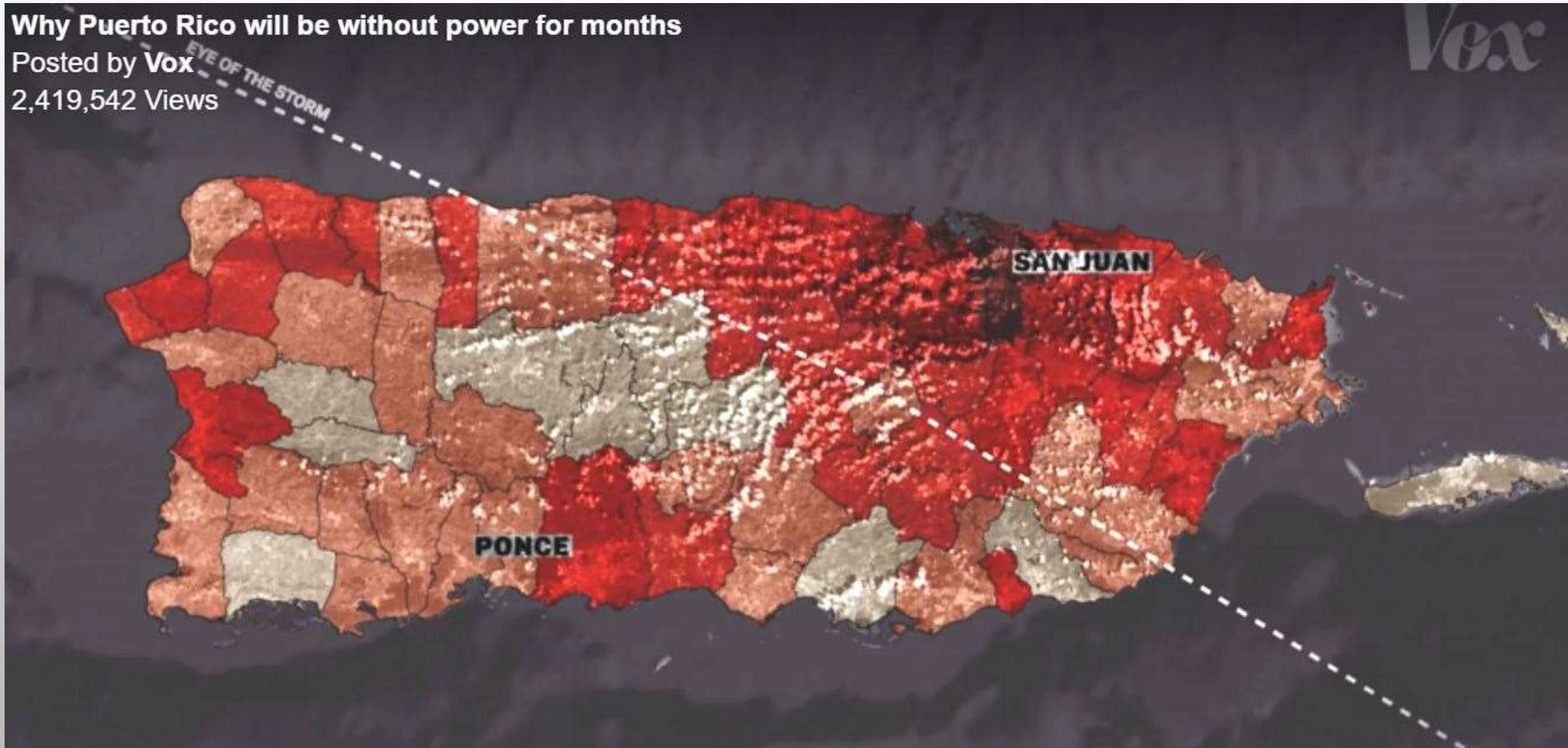
HURRICANE'S EYE ROUTE THROUGH PUERTO RICO

Why Puerto Rico will be without power for months

Posted by Vox

2,419,542 Views

Vox



AFTER 90 DAYS THIS IS OUR SITUATION.

- 87.6% HAVE DRINKING WATER SERVICE. 60% OF THE SYSTEM IS USING GENERATORS TO PUMP THE WATER.
- THE ELECTRICAL SYSTEM IS OPERATING AT 65.4% OF ITS CAPACITY. SEVEN TOWNS DON'T HAVE ELECTRICITY.
- THE DISTRIBUTION OF GASOLINE IS AT 84.27% OF ITS CAPACITY.
- COMMUNICATIONS HAVE BEEN RESTORED BY 86.7%.
- A TOTAL OF 88.75% OF SUPERMARKETS ARE OPEN.
- 22% OF HOSPITALS WORK WITH GENERATORS BECAUSE THEY STILL DON'T HAVE ELECTRIC SERVICE.
- 20% OF BUSINESSES STILL DON'T ACCEPT THE GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE CARD.
- 493 REFUGEES IN 30 SHELTERS ACROSS THE ISLAND.

OUR PRESBYTERIES IN PUERTO RICO



Northwest has 30 congregations and 1 mission (in 11 municipalities), **San Juan** has 15 congregations (in 10 municipalities) and the **Southwest** has 29 congregations (in 12 municipalities).

HELP GIVEN BY THE CONGREGATIONS SO FAR (IMMEDIATE AND SHORT TERM RESPONSE)

- **GROCERIES PURCHASE**
- **BOTTLED WATER**
- **WATER FILTERS**
- **SOLAR LAMPS**
- **HOT MEALS**
- **MONETARY CONTRIBUTIONS**
- **LAUNDRY SERVICES**
- **PASTORAL VISITS**
- **VOLUNTEERS HELPING IN THE CLEANING**
- **TEMPORARY RESIDENCE
(PASTORAL OFFICE REPURPOSE)**

PRESBYTERIAN RESPONSE TO OUR PRESENT SITUATION

- ACCESSING THE FOLLOWING LINKS YOU CAN HAVE INFORMATION AND NEWS ABOUT THE PCUSA RESPONSE
 - [HTTP://PDA.PCUSA.ORG/SITUATION/HURRICANE-IRMA/](http://pda.pcusa.org/situation/hurricane-irma/)
 - [HTTPS://WWW.PRESBYTERIANMISSION.ORG/STORY/PRESBYTERIAN-DISASTER-ASSISTANCE-DELEGATION-TRAVELS-PUERTO-RICO](https://www.presbyterianmission.org/story/presbyterian-disaster-assistance-delegation-travels-puerto-rico)
 - [HTTPS://WWW.PRESBYTERIANMISSION.ORG/STORY/PRESBYTERIAN-DISASTER-ASSISTANCE-VISITS-PUERTO-RICAN-SEMINARY-PRESBYTERY-LEADERS](https://www.presbyterianmission.org/story/presbyterian-disaster-assistance-visits-puerto-rican-seminary-presbytery-leaders)
 - [HTTPS://WWW.PRESBYTERIANMISSION.ORG/YEARBOOK/DECEMBER-14-2017/](https://www.presbyterianmission.org/yearbook/december-14-2017/)

NEEDS

IMMEDIATE, SHORT AND LONG TERM

- **SOLAR LAMPS (AT LEAST 500)**
- **WATER TANKS (AT LEAST 10)**
- **GENERATORS FOR FOUR CHURCHES AND ONE COMMUNITY THAT LACK OF ELECTRIC SERVICE**
- **FUNDS TO BUY OR TO DISTRIBUTE FOR GROCERIES, MEDICINES, PERSONAL HYGIENE ITEMS, PERSONAL CARE, ETC.**
- **ASSISTANCE TO DEVELOP PASTORAL CARE TRAINING AND PROGRAM TO TRAIN ELDERS AND CHURCH'S MEMBERS (I, ST, LT)**
- **PSYCHOLOGICAL FIRST AID (I, ST, LT)**
- **VOLUNTEERS TO HELP US REBUILD AND ACCOMPANY US IN THIS JOURNEY.**

These are some of the ways you can help us now. If you want to know more or want to talk about other ways in which you can help us, please contact the people identified on the last page.

- **FUNDS TO HELP TWO COMMUNITIES THAT ARE USING GENERATORS TO SUPPLY WATER**
 - **GUACIO PRESBYTERIAN CAMP IS SUPPLYING WATER AND ICE TO THE NEIGHBORING COMMUNITIES. THEY ARE ALSO GIVING LAUNDRY SERVICE (ESTIMATE OF \$1,200 PER MONTH)**
 - **CORCOVADA HAS NO ELECTRICITY OR WATER. THE COMMUNITY IS USING A LOCAL TANK TO SUPPLY WATER TO 165 FAMILIES. THEY HAVE AN OLD GENERATOR THAT NEEDS TO BE REPLACED. THEY ALSO NEED FINANCIAL RESOURCES FOR THEIR MAINTENANCE. (ESTIMATE OF \$600 PER MONTH)**
- **SHORT AND LONG TERM:**
 - **VOLUNTEERS (HELP TO PREPARE HOUSING)**
 - **PRESBYTERIES HAS SEVERAL HOUSES THAT CAN BE USE TO ACCOMMODATE SMALL GROUPS**
 - **RECONSTRUCTION OF HOUSES AND CHURCH'S FACILITIES**
 - **ASSISTANCE TO CONVERT TO RENEWABLE ENERGY (SOLAR PANELS AND BATTERIES)**

LIST OF CONTACTS

- **PRESBYTERIAN DISASTER ASSISTANCE**
 - **JIM KIRK, ASSOCIATE FOR DISASTER RECOVERY (U.S.)**
 - **OFFICE (502) 569-5036, MOBILE (502) 438-5161**
- **NORTHWEST PRESBYTERY (PNO)**
 - **RE DAGMARIS FORNES , MODERATOR**
 - **MOBILE (787) 225-6913**
- **SAN JUAN PRESBYTERY (PSJ)**
 - **TE EDWIN GONZALEZ CASTILLO, STATED CLERK**
 - **MOBILE (787) 525-3798**
- **SOUTHWEST PRESBYTERY (PSO)**
 - **RE ANA V. ELEUTICE FIGUEROA, STATED CLERK**
 - **MOBILE (787) 892-1111**
 - **TE RUBÉN ORTIZ RODRIGUEZ, MODERATOR, PSO MISSION COUNCIL**
 - **MOBILE (787) 374-2449**

For details on how you can help us through Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, go to www.pcusa.org/pda

If you want to know more details about how you can help us or send your help directly to the presbyteries, get in touch with the people identified as contacts in each one of them.

Thank you in advance for your prayers and your help.

FINAL THOUGHTS

- THE CURRENT SITUATION IS A GREAT OPPORTUNITY FOR THE CHURCH TO TESTIFY THROUGH SERVICE. WALK WITH US ON THIS BLESSED PATH.
- WE THANK YOU IN ADVANCE FOR YOUR ACCOMPANIMENT AND PRAYERS AS WE WORK TO HELP REBUILDING AND IMPROVING OUR PRESENT SITUATION.
- BLESSINGS FROM PUERTO RICO