

# A trip to open your eyes

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## Challenges

Challenges after Hurricane Maria, because I can say, in all aspects there were challenges both in personal, structural, environmental and even in the subject of both physical and mental health. Examples of these challenges are: Lack of mobility to move to different parts of the country to know if your family is well, obviously lack of communication, lack of resources, such as water, food, first aid and everything the essential for a human being to survive. On the other hand, I personally believe that one of the biggest obstacles was the infrastructure and the capacity that hospitals had to deal with those thousands of homeless people. Even a doctor having to attend, even operating a person lighting with his cell phone talks about the great challenges that we had to live each personally.

In my poster or art for this competition I wanted to illustrate part of my post-Maria life experience and in my personal experiences I was transported by bicycle to get to the homes of all my loved ones, my friends, my colleagues and even for that time stop by my girlfriend's house to see that everything was fine, even if she wasn't there. But being able to go everywhere and see the destruction that the hurricane left see the desperate people making huge lines for water, food, gasoline, ice and to withdraw money from the banks was impressive. See things that I had never seen since nature covered them, see the camaraderie and how people helped each other, see how people who did not usually leave their home came out to help or just have a good time with the neighbor, see how comunica joined to do the job that was for the government, people take their tools to cut the fallen branches of trees, take out their trucks to move or transport garbage, people making way for the community to move forward Puerto Rico joined to get up again.

But like everything, not everything is happiness, not everything was rosy, just as there were good people helping, you could also see the selfishness of some people, the impudence of not taking into account others who also suffered and were going need , there were robberies, assaults, people taking advantage of others really were difficult days.

## Benefits and conclusions

Something good or positive can be derived from all the bad things. I believe that the experiences lived after the hurricane were of the utmost importance for the people of Puerto Rico, but personally, the benefits of this experience are that we should be oriented / educated better as citizens and people about the atmospheric phenomena that can happen in our respective countries. Personally, I did not participate in an activity of any association or entity, any initiative that participated was created by the same community and of course we were forced by the needs we were going through, but seeing that there were people worse than we did the task to contribute that grain of sand to help others also get ahead.

Several initiatives also emerged in my university, but I did not participate directly in it due to the difficulty I was facing at the time, but, consulting programs for house designs and remodeling, with architects and certified people in the industry of the construction.

What I learned on a personal level is that they help exist and you have to know how to look for it, get better information, but at the end of the day the most important thing learned from my experience is that we have to prepare and be in solidarity with others and all the activities that exist bring us closer To be better people.

My suggestions are to be cautious, educate well and seek the necessary help at the time of these natural disasters.



## Recommended Steps / Suggestions

In my opinion, what students interested in participating in this type of activity can do is to inform themselves, look over the subject since it seems interesting to me that they do this type of activities or competitions so that the students express their stories about what they have lived and so they can Educate others.

I believe that universities should integrate this type of activities as part of university student learning. I believe that an educated and knowledgeable people can avoid disasters, regardless of the concentration that each student decided to study. I think we should educate ourselves more on this issue of atmospheric disaster and not only that also in the topic of mental health and construction.

Universities and aid agencies in these cases of disasters should unite and leave those differences or competition that exist between them, I think that each of the universities or agencies had good initiatives, but each one was on their side. I believe that if there were more union between the entities, even more significant things would be achieved in these events and thus they would provide more help to the students and the community in general, such as food or transportation programs and even in an extreme case of accommodation.

Give more promotion and create more awareness I think they should inform people of the importance of these activities.

There are always opportunities for new opportunities for activities and there is always room for better existing ones. In my opinion they should provide more information about the activities that already exist, make them more accessible and simple to understand.

I think it would make it easier to have different means to reach people and not just depend on the technology to carry the message of these activities that has the focus of helping students who have gone through these kinds of experiences. And be a little more creative when it comes to attracting people to study the audience so that they understand the importance of all this.