

EDUCATION GOT THROUGH ALL ADVERSITIES

SITUATION DESCRIPTION

As my perspective of a student of the Catholic University Pontificia of Puerto Rico, the hurricane lasted 5 months and the effect are still visible. The classes resumed the 23rd of October, 2017; practically a month after the pass of hurricane Maria on the island. To that date my situation wasn't much different as the first week after the hurricane, (we were living 40 years on the past in finals of 2017. Our home there were no electricity, water or communication service while on campus of the university there was already those services. All common and easy tasks like washing the clothes becomes a complete daily labor since the only way to do it was by hand, late night activities at home were practically too much effort since our light source were flashlights or candles.

It was hard to accept that the big cities like Ponce were already connected to electricity, water and communication system. Every night I get to my home after classes I had to turn on my flashlight to get to my room.

COMMUNICATION

The most reliable communication systems were the analog based and become the main source of information.



CONSTANT HEAVY RAINS

ELECTRIC DISTRIBUTION DESTROYED

BLOCKED ROADS

DESTROYED VEGETATION

SHATTERED ZINC ROOF

FLOODING

MEAL READY TO EAT

LANDSLIDES

LEARNED...

The pass of this hurricane showed us how weak ours distribution of communication, electric, water and other systems really are. There is an urgency to rural areas to get more off grid and independent for when the next desastre hit us we become a more prepared and resilient community.

SUGGESTIONS

So how do we become more independent from the distribution system, to eventually get off grid? After the first 2 months of the hurricane there was some basic needs that have to be solved, some of them was to improve reservation of water, have a temporary electric source and develop temporary food sources. How do we do it?, in terms of water we build a water tank on the roof of the house so when we need it the gravity distribute it through the water pipes. We develop a temporary electric source with 2 power plants so we could do general house tasks and having the freezer on to keep it cool. For the food source, a small hydroponic system become essential by creating enough food for a week, which will expand the food reserved.