

The Sorrow Post-María Awoke

My Experience & Challenges: I am Thalia Escobar, a Puerto Rican student, who experienced Hurricane Maria. It was difficult during this time for my family and I, because of lack of water and light for over three months. It was a challenge especially being dependent on electronics to complete architecture homework and basic necessities. The day before the hurricane, the sky presented such beautiful colors, but we were yet to see what the following days, weeks & months, would bring. When the hurricane was over, the first thing you saw were many roofs and structures destroyed, all the greenery gone and sadness filling the air. The first few weeks were the most hectic. There was no signal whatsoever, to see if our loved ones were okay. We had to wake up early to be in line for 8 hours or more, to see if we got there early enough to get ice to keep our food cool, to get food, gas, and other necessities. We would also be working hard all day to clean up the roads, & our yard from the disaster Maria left us. After over a month, school was back in session. I was still without water, or light. If I couldn't work at school, I would have to work in the dark at home. This is just an insight of what I, as a student, and resident of Puerto Rico, went through.



Benefits: The benefits to my Post María experience, were receiving a higher level of consciousness, and understanding what many people go through, live through and how the government can deceive their people, even in times of need. It has taught me to keep moving forward, even after certain difficulties, making me believe anything is possible, still having an excellent outcome in my studies and in

Suggestions: From my personal experience, my family & I felt well prepared, except for the fact we lost all our food, because of no refrigeration and we did not take out a good amount of money. My recommendations to people are to always prepare for the worst. Get as much as food as possible, because being dependent on the government will not save us. Take money out, help others in need, get all the supplies necessary for survival. I strongly believe the participation of students to help the people in need is something they would not regret. They can do charities, a collection of supplies and food. Everything that will help a family, is always needed. Universities and students can also volunteer to help clean up our island, or even just creating and spreading awareness to everyone they know, saying Puerto Rico needs your help. There is always room to improve activities/programs, because as said before, not even the government could be trusted. Any help our way, to make sure everyone was getting the food and water they needed, to make sure those donated products were reaching us, and for traumatic events like this one,