



# CGI ACTION NETWORK **POST-DISASTER RECOVERY**

## Commitments to Action – August 7, 2018 Meeting

### **Caribbean Disaster Preparedness & Response**

NetHope has committed to address the information and communications readiness gap in the Caribbean region by implementing a disaster preparedness and response plan for the region focused on Information and Communications Technology (ICT) preparedness. The 2017 hurricane season exposed critical weaknesses in the communications infrastructure of impacted areas, with information on damages often taking days to reach the outside world. With partners including Cisco, Facebook, Microsoft, the Hewlett-Packard Company Foundation, Internews Network, Rocky Mountain Institute, and The Patterson Foundation, NetHope will implement a five-part regional preparedness plan involving: pre-positioned ICT equipment; deployment of trained staff; data sharing platforms with other NGOs and businesses; Information as Aid programs; and an online data sharing platform to support real-time decision making by responders. As a result of the commitment, at least 100 individuals from 25 partner organizations will receive training in how to deploy ICT in disaster settings.

### **Expansion of the Bottom Up Destination Recovery Program**

Foundation for Puerto Rico (FPR) has partnered with Fundación Popular, Grupo Guayacán, Inc., Centro para Emprendedores, Kiva-PR, and Direct Relief to expand its Bottom Up Destination Recovery Initiative program to 24 new communities outside the San Juan metropolitan area. The Bottom Up Destination Recovery Initiative is a community-based recovery approach that supports communities to become more resilient and active resources in the creation of economic opportunities. The program identifies and invests in four impact areas that are critical to meet both recovery and resiliency objectives: addressing basic needs and investing in public infrastructure; providing small business support; building social capital; and developing branding and marketing strategies to attract visitors. Over the next three years, \$2.5 million will be invested in public infrastructure, including solar systems, water cisterns and filters, and satellite communication systems, and \$1.2 million will be deployed through grants to local entrepreneurs and SMEs. This expansion will impact 300 SMEs and lead to the creation of 72 new businesses and 1,116 new jobs.

### **Solarizing Schools in Dominica**

In 2018, Expedia Group, Construction for Change, and Sextant Foundation committed to install solar systems at six primary schools in Dominica. These schools were identified as high priorities by the Prime Minister. In 2017, Hurricane Maria caused 99% of the island to lose power, disrupting many critical services. Without power, many of the schools on the island were



forced to close temporarily. Many students have been forced to travel to different schools and attend at reduced schedules. To address this need, the newly-installed solar systems will provide schools with a reliable, sustainable source of energy for students to continue their education. In the event of another hurricane or natural disaster, these systems will keep the lights, fans, and refrigerators running, and allow local residents the ability to power communication devices. This commitment will also serve to strengthen the schools as places of refuge and bring hope and reassurance to their communities

### **Hurricane Preparedness Program**

Direct Relief has committed to expand their proven Hurricane Preparedness Program, through which Direct Relief distributes Hurricane Preparedness Modules and Packs to partner health centers internationally and in the US that are hurricane risk areas. Leveraging extensive in-kind contributions from pharmaceutical partners, these Modules and Packs are intended to be opened in the event of a hurricane and can treat 5,000 patients for up to a month or 100 patients for five days, respectively. Through this commitment, Direct Relief will increase the number of Hurricane Preparedness Pack recipient sites in the mainland US from 50 to 60 and double the number of international Hurricane Preparedness Module recipients from 10 to 20, expanding to include islands that were severely impacted by the 2017 hurricane season such as Puerto Rico, the US Virgin Islands, and Dominica. As a result, over 70 health providers will have increased capacity to serve patients in the event of more hurricanes in 2018. This commitment is made in concert with a number of international relief and health organizations, and community health centers, including: Adjuntas Center for Diagnostics and Treatment; Batey Relief Alliance; British Virgin Islands Health Authority; Camuy Health Services, Inc.; Caribbean Community (CARICOM); Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA); COSSMA, Inc.; Costa Salud Community Health Centers; Dominica Ministry of Health; Frederiksted Health Center; Fundación Solidaria Del Divino Niño Jesús; HealthProMed Foundation; Jamaica Ministry of Health; Med Centro Consejo de Salud de Puerto Rico, Inc.; Migrant Health Center, Inc.; Salud Integral en la Montaña; St. Thomas East End Medical Center Corporation; Yabucoa Center for Diagnostics and Treatment

### **Puerto Rico Cotton Study**

The Smallholder Farmers Alliance, in partnership with Visit Rico and Textile Exchange, has committed to undertake a study to consider the feasibility of reintroducing cotton cultivation to Puerto Rico as part of the recovery efforts following the devastation caused by Hurricane Maria. This study will provide recommendations regarding the reintroduction of cotton as an organic crop for smallholder farmers, including the support structure required, possible domestic and international markets, potential scale of operation, how to combine with increased food production, needs for first and second stage processing, and potential international partnerships to enhance research, improve farm management and secure external export markets. Should the feasibility of cotton reintroduction be confirmed, the commitment partners will seek support to implement the study recommendations, including field trials to determine the varieties of organic cotton best suited to local conditions.



## **Solight Design: Empowering Puerto Rico with Solar Lights**

Solight Design, in partnership with the Hispanic Federation, has committed to donate and distribute 50,000 SolarPuffs (durable, collapsible solar lanterns) to communities without reliable access to grid power in Puerto Rico. Hurricane Maria devastated Puerto Rico's energy system, leaving some communities without access to electricity seven months after the storm, especially in rural, mountainous areas of the island. The Hispanic Federation has provided funding to procure these lights and will provide logistical assistance to support distribution. Additional distribution support will be provided by NGO partners including Studio Unite, Puerto Rico Renace, and Operation Blessing. These lights will benefit approximately 50,000 households in the towns of Ciales, Canovanas, San Juan, and Yabucoa. This commitment builds on a previous commitment made by Solight to provide 10,000 lights to Puerto Rico through the Solar Saves Lives initiative; through this commitment, Solight will bring the total number of lights distributed in Puerto Rico to 130,000.

## **The Great Movement/Last Resort Docu-series**

StediCam Associates and Trieste Associates Inc. have committed to creating an outreach program designed to educate local communities about technological innovations in various sectors including agriculture, energy, and infrastructure that promote recovery and long-term resiliency. These technological innovations include advances in solar power and storage, as well as re-fab steel building solutions that can withstand severe winds and serve as shelters, stockpile centers, and houses. Despite these advances there is a lack of basic understanding of energy conservation strategies and these new recovery technologies in many local Caribbean communities, preventing individuals and communities from making informed decisions about these solutions. Furthermore, there is a lack of advocacy for these technologies in the larger community, which has led to an absence of investment. The outreach program includes a community education program and a docu-series that captures the use of various technologies that can be used as an education tool to reach a more widespread audience.

