Puerto Rico’s Children at the Center of a Natural Disaster

Presenters:
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Puerto Rico’s Children at the Center of a Natural Disaster

Agenda

→ Welcoming / Introductions
→ Presentation
→ Reflect
→ Questions & Answers
• Wrap Up/ ¡Gracias!
Municipal Government

Education
- School of Sports
- Fine Arts School
- School of Sciences, Mathematics, Technologies and Languages

Carolina Children’s Museum
Our services promote a healthy childhood through

- **Medical Services**
  - Carolina has:
    - Doctors' Center Hospital San Fernando
    - Four Vaccination Centers
    - WIC Program (promotes good nutrition of pregnant mothers, infants and children from 0 to 5 years old)

- **Outreach events to provide basic preventive medicine and medical screening** to people in the community
  - Health Fairs and Vaccinations
• **Proper education**
  - Head Start / Early Head Start
    • It offers services in the area of health, nutrition, social work, education, inclusive education and mental health for children from 0 to 4 years of age and their families, but also to pregnant mothers. Includes individual or group interventions focused on healthy nutrition practices and disease prevention.

  - Integrated Services for Children
    • Municipal Day Care Centers based on the needs of the family with an educational curriculum of care and the holistic development of childhood.
Our services promote a healthy childhood through

- **Recreation facilities**
  - Roberto Clemente Walker Sports Complex
  - Julia de Burgos Parks Phase I to Phase V
  - Recreational and Baseball Park for Children and Teens with Special Needs
  - Baseball Parks and Basketball Courts in different communities
  - Aquasol water parks
  - Carolina Children's Museum

- **Cultural, musical and fun events** that promote emotional wellness
Carolina: a city based around education

- Carolina has three specialized schools:
  - School of Sports
  - Fine Arts School
  - School of Sciences, Mathematics, Technologies and Languages
On September 7, 2017, category 5 Hurricane Irma, passed 48 kilometers of our island, leaving more than 600,000 people without electric power and 50,000 without water services.

Thirteen days later, and still recovering, María, one of the most powerful hurricanes in our history, hit P.R., leaving pure destruction in her path. (100% electric power, potable water, telephone and communications systems were lost.)
Children Related facilities with most damages

School of Sports
Reconstruction Budget: $4,600,000
Children Related facilities
with most damages

Fine Arts School
Reconstruction Budget: $839,601
Children Related facilities with most damages

School of Sciences, Mathematics, Technologies and Languages
Reconstruction Budget: $389,000
Children Museum Damages

Carolina Children’s Museum
Reconstruction Budget: $800,000
Children Related facilities with most damages

Public Beach and Aquasol Water Park
Reconstruction Budget: $1,700,000
Children Related facilities with most damages

Julia de Burgos Parks
Reconstruction Budget: $1,500,000
• **Housing Damages**
  - 51,000 claims to FEMA
  - 11,000 Non-habitable residences

• **Refugees during the emergency**
  - Five Shelters
  - 132 refugees

• **Local Business Damages**
  - 1,300 Business with damages
  - 794 Inoperative business
Collected rubble and vegetative material

• 188.3 million pounds of rubble and debris throughout the municipal territory
• We Completed the collection phase in 2 months. Most municipalities took more than 6 months to complete this task
• We established 6 oases to supply drinking water.
• Medical assistance to our people under the Viva Carolina program.
Door to Door supplies

- Urban Area
  - 85 sectors, urbanizations, condominiums and public residential buildings
- Rural Area
  - seven neighborhoods and their sectors, villas, and churches
- 54,054 Boxes of water
- 53,465 Food Supplies Boxes
Kid’s Education: a “must” in the recovery process

- For several weeks, local schools and private schools were unable to receive children due to structural damages and lack of power and water services.

- Families were unable to communicate due to cellular providers’ collapse of services.

- No internet access was possible for weeks.

- Carolina’s effort to restore child related services were prioritized:
  - October 23rd: SIAN Educational Services Began (Municipal Integrated Childhood Services)
  - October 28th Head Start and Early Head Star classrooms were open
“Cuentame Gigante Mío” started reading and discussion panels at local schools and elderly centers to discuss the aftermath of the hurricane in their lives.

- “Felipe Corazón de Gigante” Story was presented to students of elementary and junior high school analyzing their different experiences after the hurricane María and how we can become stronger.

- Human values such as empathy, solidarity, patience, tolerance and thankfulness were discussed in the reading activities.

- Specialized Schools
Recreational Areas

- 279 municipal managed parks were destroyed by hurricanes Irma and María
- Losses were estimated in $1.9 Millions
- Carolina still struggles to restore community parks and recreational areas
Carolina’s Children Museum finally opens in time for Christmas

• As a mayor request from all children; the Municipal Government of Carolina noted as a priority to open this important place for the young ones and their families.

• On December 17, 2017 the museum was open after its reconstruction. We celebrated its 6th Anniversary.
Where are we now?

• All Municipal Specialized Schools are open
  - School of Fine Arts
  - School of Mathematics, Sciences, Technologies and Languages
  - School of Sports

• 97% of recreational parks are ready to use during the day

• Education services are fully provided by:
  - Head Start and Early Head Start
  - SIAN
  - Municipal Libraries
  - Tutoring Services
    ✓ Math
    ✓ Spanish
  - Special Classes
    ✓ English as a Second Language
    ✓ Computer Skills
Carolina Children’s Museum

- **103 exhibitions inside**
  
  Even though it is called a museum, it is really a fun, hands-on place full of interactive, passive-learning activities. It has over 100 exhibits, each with something to play on, with, in, or around. Kids of all ages are sure to find something interesting and fun to do.
Exhibitions themes

Ecosystems

Construction

Water Elements
Exhibitions Themes

Alternative Energy

Mini City

Physics
Exhibitions Themes

Transportation

Universe

Music
Exhibitions Themes

Volcano

Theater

Marine Life
Exhibitions Themes

Go Karts

Airplane

Minizoo
Exhibitions Themes

- Playground
- Jungle Trips
- Pedal Boats
Activities

- Children’s day
- Book Fair
- Aniversary of the Museum
- Children’s Race
We are the first Kid’s Friendly Municipality in Puerto Rico

United Way Organization has recognized Carolina as a Kid Friendly City 2019. This is the first time that United Way Funds gives this award and we were selected due to the many efforts we do to encourage a healthy growth in our children.
Reflect

Think of one thing you heard today in the presentation that resonated with your work or community? Share with your partner/s. Reflect on what you have learned.
Questions & Answers

*Discussion*
¡Gracias por su atención! – Thank you for your attention!
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