Puerto Rico
Hurricane Response

Who is Global Communities?

Global Communities is a global development organization that implements community-driven development projects in 28 countries around the world. We have 65 years of experience working with vulnerable communities, and 20 years of experience implementing humanitarian assistance projects in complex environments, responding to natural disasters and conflicts, from Hurricane Mitch in 1998 to Syria today. Our humanitarian efforts are based on rigorous assessments of local needs and careful selection of those most in need, and how we can best leverage our decades of expertise to address those needs.

www.globalcommunities.org

To join our effort, please contact Pia Wanek, Vice President of Humanitarian Assistance, by phone 301.587.4700 or by email: pwanek@globalcommunities.org.

Why Global Communities?

Long Term Focus Even in Immediate Need

- Global Communities always considers the long-term recovery of a community, even in the process of providing immediate assistance. Our assistance focuses on restarting livelihoods, increasing access to financial services, rebuilding homes and neighborhoods, and providing psychosocial support to help families recover from the trauma of disaster and conflict.

- We involve the community in project design, implementation and sustainability. We work with affected communities to plan for their needs and employ them in the projects to kick-start their damaged livelihoods and build their capacity for future employment.

As we approach Puerto Rico, we are considering focusing on these main areas:

Sheltering

Global Communities is a recognized international leader in providing shelter to families. We call it “sheltering” because of the many forms our shelter assistance can take, from emergency shelter kits to permanent home reconstruction. Following disasters, Global Communities supports families living in a variety of contexts – rented apartments, with relatives or host families, or in their own house which they rebuild one room at a time. We are also widely known for our work in transitional shelter. Our transitional shelters are durable temporary homes that meet global standards and enable a family to live and thrive during the phase between tents and tarpaulins in the immediate aftermath of a disaster and permanent, fully constructed housing.
Livelihoods

Rebuilding livelihoods and restarting economic activity is a critical component for disaster-affected families as they restart their lives. Without support for livelihoods or widespread economic recovery, the economy of a community remains reliant on handouts and can stagnate for years following a disaster. Helping families rebuild their livelihoods through short-term employment or longer-term vocational training, enables them to become proactive agents in control of their own recovery process.

Risk Reduction

We incorporate risk reduction into all our programs to help build safer, more resilient communities. By helping communities prepare for these disasters now, through focusing on issues like food security, rehabilitating water, sanitation, hygiene infrastructure and safe construction, we empower them to better cope and rebuild when the next disaster comes.

Supporting the Most Vulnerable

We carefully select and prioritize the most vulnerable people and families for assistance, paying special attention to children, women headed households, the elderly or disabled and other vulnerable groups. All of our work is community-based and involves the community, and we ensure that all voices and groups are represented in our decision-making process.

Global Communities has responded to natural disasters in Haiti, Indonesia, Peru and Nepal.

HAITI EARTHQUAKE RESPONSE, 2010

- 4,940 temporary shelters constructed and 666 houses repaired
- 200 households received kits to enable them to repair salvageable homes
- 264,404 m³ of rubble removed from 838 sites, including schools, hospitals, homes, and government buildings
- 7,300 linear meters of corridors and secondary roads redeveloped

Global Communities is a global non-profit organization that works closely with communities worldwide to bring about sustainable changes that improve the lives and livelihoods of the vulnerable. Development is not something we do for people; it is something we do with them. We believe that the people who understand their needs best are the people of the community itself. Please visit our website at www.globalcommunities.org for more information.