



**Hurricane Maria Disaster Relief and Rehabilitation
Project Report-2017
Puerto Rico**



Meals Served
150,000+

Hurricane Maria : The storm made landfall on Puerto Rico on September 20th. A sustained wind of 64 mph (103 km/h) with a gust to 113 mph (182 km/h) was reported in San Juan, Puerto Rico. After most of the crops were destroyed, many have been left without food. Over 95% of the infrastructure collapsed, including basic access to power and water. With torrential rains nearly every day, there has been countless floods, landslides, and washouts to even those homes and structures that were still standing.



As per United Nations' reports, early estimates suggest that **74,000** people, including **20,000** children, have been affected. The UN statement said that more than **80%** of Puerto Rico's population, or about **2.8 million** people, still lack electricity, while most hospitals are non functioning.¹

UNITED SIKHS is committed to providing critical aid and humanitarian support. The Impact of hurricane disaster led the road damaged severely.

Assistance & Relief Efforts

Immediately after the hurricane, the UNITED SIKHS Disaster team mobilized in the most remote areas of Puerto Rico. Coordinating efforts with FEMA, Red Cross, and the Coalition of Hope, our team has cooked and delivered thousands of hot meals and delivered aid supplies to the elderly and children.

UNITED SIKHS actively worked with the leading organizations from the San Juan head quarters and reached the rural communities in the Puerto Rican countryside. One such area, Utuado, was one of the heaviest hit provinces where infrastructure had collapsed.



Medical Supplies
10,000+



Meals Served
150,000+



Man Hours
1200+



Medical Supplies
over 10,000+



Homes Rebuilt
250+



Volunteers providing meals to all in need.



Volunteer serving food to the people in need.



Sevadaars preparing langar in the kitchen to ensure no one goes to sleep hungry in remote areas of Puerto Rico.

Warm Meals Served with Love

Early morning, the Disaster Relief Team, along with a coalition of local UNITED SIKHS Volunteers coordinated directly with the US military to access the untouched areas of Utuado, where no running water, no electricity and no fuel had been available since Hurricane Maria devastated the island. UNITED SIKHS quickly mobilized a Langar to serve a healthy hot meal of rice, beans and vegetables to hundreds of area residents, as many began weeping with relief at receiving their first warm meal in weeks.



Homes Rebuilt
250+



Volunteers providing basic amenities and food packets.



UNITED SIKHS volunteers reaching out in the remote area to provide clean drinking water.



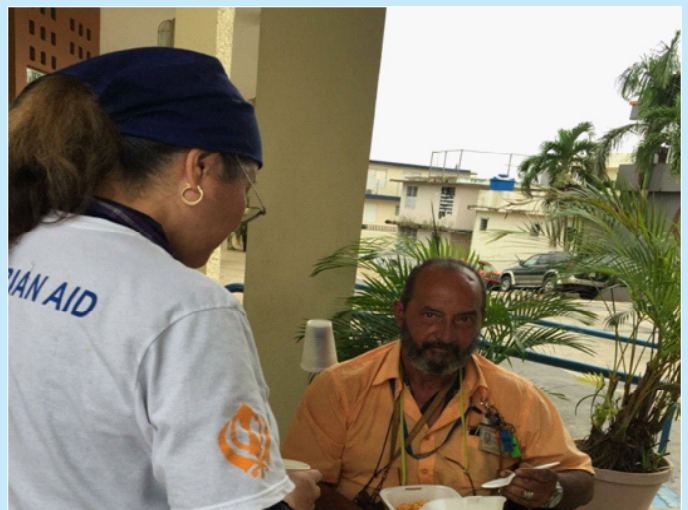
Tons of food supplies & medical aid in the Trailer.



Volunteers visiting homes and providing basic essential supplies.



UNITED SIKHS volunteers preparing meals in the kitchen.



UNITED SIKHS team found elderly, disabled man in Aguadilla high in the mountains helping with food and medicine.



Man Hours
1200+



Residents waiting to cross broken bridge.



The broken water pump.

Restoration of Basic Amenities

UNITED SIKHS is actively working to source clean, potable water in conjunction with the local police, military and emergency response teams and bring resources to the residents within and around Utuado. UNITED SIKHS Engineering Team, working alongside the Aqueduct and Sewer Authority of Puerto Rico (AAA) and FEMA, made the incredible breakthrough of re-activating a water purification plant in the districts of Aguadilla and Aguada that services more than 15,000 families in around the Utuado and Lares regions.

Life for much of the island of Puerto Rico remains at a standstill without drinking water a full month after Hurricane Maria devastated its fragile infrastructure. The power outages have caused pumps at water treatment plants to fail across the island, leaving regions vulnerable to the threat of contamination and disease. Residents are forced to forgo their routine and ration with what little water they have. The sick and elderly are in dire need and people in remote villages and mountainous regions often resort to collecting water from any source whether it be broken pipes or springs to simply survive.



UNITED SIKHS volunteer Engineering team lead by Kamaljeet Singh assessing the damage to the water pump & repairing the generator.

Reaching out to Remote Areas

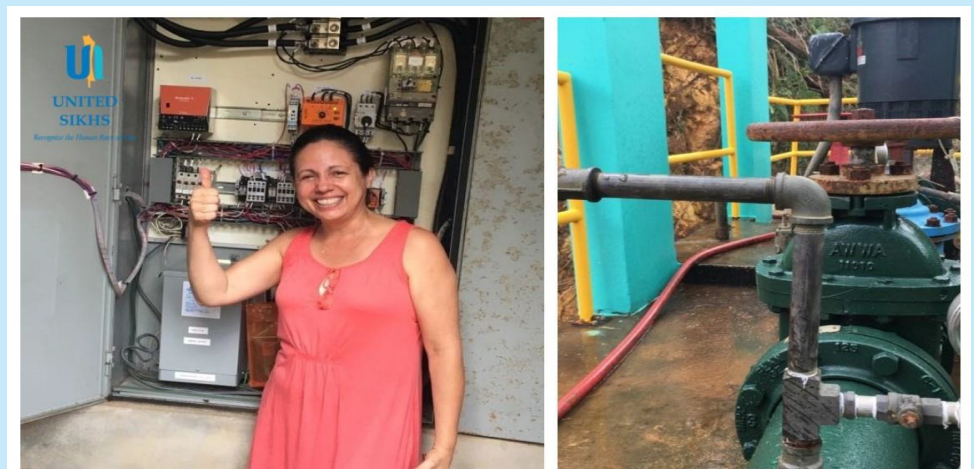
UNITED SIKHS is committed to reaching those communities whose needs are most pressing, actively working to reach the mountainous remote communities. To ensure our operations are effective and efficient, UNITED SIKHS is communicating with every agency and even some local networks to ensure supplies reach those who need it the most. With three fully operational base camps set up across the island through the partnership of EDP University.

“We are also actively sending shipments of humanitarian aid based on the latest information we are receiving,” says Gurbinder Singh, UNITED SIKHS Director of Disaster Relief. “We continue to call upon the resourcefulness and spirit within our Sikh community to come together and support those who need it most.”

For six grueling days, under the leadership and counsel of Kamaljeet Singh, the engineering team travelled back and forth from the mountains of Utuado to fix generators and supply lines. “Pump stations 1 & 2 have been reactivated this week. We were only allowed to work for a few hours at a time every day,” explains Kamaljeet Singh, lead engineer for the UNITED SIKHS ground team. “Roads were damaged by the pouring rain and landslides yet the team made constant trips to the plant. In the time we had, we were able to repair the generator using batteries and supplies provided by UNITED SIKHS. Fuel lines were repaired in time even though the threat of landslides persisted at the site.” This has allowed entire regions to feel a sense of normalcy has returned.

In a short period of time, UNITED SIKHS, selfless volunteers gave the gift of life and hope to thousands by their collective efforts. We are reminded that through determination and collaboration, anything is possible and our mission ‘Recognize the Human Race as One’ can be realized. We are incredibly humbled to be a part of this effort and hope that others are inspired as well.

Lisa, local volunteer, excitedly turns on the generator at the Utuado Water Plant, after three weeks of inactivity. The river water will be purified and funneled to almost 60,000 people.



¹<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=57992#.Wn9xw-jwY2w>



 contact@unitedsikhs.org

 www.unitedsikhs.org

