



PUERTO RICO

Hurricane Maria – August 27, 2017

Disaster

On September 20, 2017, Hurricane Maria struck Puerto Rico as a high-end Category 4 storm. Many residents spent months without power or running water. Over 59,469 Blue tarps were placed on damaged homes. As of early 2019 there are still 33,766 roofs in need for repairs.



MDS Response

MDS began early 2018 in clean-up work with small groups of volunteers, and repairing roofs.

MDS is responding in Utuado, Ponce, and Aibonito, in connection with Mennonite Churches in Puerto Rico.

MDS accommodations vary by location, and may include guest houses or rented homes. Running water and electricity have mostly been restored in Puerto Rico. In some areas limited internet and cell phone service may exist.

Note

Volunteers should be particularly aware and mindful of the diversity of cultures, customs, and faith beliefs in the communities in which they are serving. We require that anyone serving with MDS in Puerto Rico read and sign the Weekly Volunteer Guideline Agreement and take note of the ways that respect is demonstrated while serving.

Volunteers should be prepared to be very flexible as the location of work can change from week to week.

Transportation

MDS will coordinate travel from the airport in San Juan to the MDS site, and return travel to San Juan. There will likely be just one pick-up and one drop-off at the airport each week. Once confirmed, please be in contact with MDS for arrival and departure time recommendations, in order to simplify logistics for leadership volunteers. As soon as travel plans have been made, please send them to Deanna Frey at dfrey@mds.mennonite.net or call 800-241-8111 so that we can coordinate trips. If you need assistance making arrangements, we recommend contacting Golden Rule Travel at 719-550-3599 and talk to Sandy Watkins.

Contact Information

Ponce:

Urbanización Los Coabos
Calle Tabonuco 2937
Ponce, PR 00716

Telephone:

(787) 452-8258 (PD)
(939) 308-7032

ponce@mds.mennonite.net

Aibonito:

401 Ave. San Jose
Aibonito, PR 00705

USPS:

PO Box 484
Aibonito, PR 00705

Telephone:

(717) 368-2572 (PD)
(787) 735-1246 (guest house)

aibonito@mds.mennonite.net

Utuado:

Barricade Nueva 91
Barrio Salto Abajo
Utuado, PR 00641

Telephone: (717) 383-8973 (PD)

utuado@mds.mennonite.net