



DEPARTMENT OF
HOUSING



**Stakeholder
Engagement Report**

An aerial photograph of a coastal town, likely in Puerto Rico, showing a sandy beach, turquoise ocean waves, and a dense residential area with palm trees. In the background, there is a large body of water (likely a bay or lagoon) surrounded by lush green mangroves and distant mountains under a blue sky with scattered clouds. Two large, white, semi-transparent arches are overlaid on the bottom half of the image, framing the title text.

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Executive Summary

Executive Summary

Introduction

The Puerto Rico Department of Housing (**PRDOH**) presents the *CDBG-DR Stakeholder Engagement Report* as a chapter in the continuing story of Puerto Rico's journey to prosperity. Within these pages, PRDOH presents a summary of the outreach and engagement efforts undertaken by the agency during the disaster recovery planning that sought to bring strength and acknowledgement to community-driven solutions. PRDOH exhausted every effort to ensure a thorough, future-driven, and – most importantly – publicly accessible planning engagement for the benefit of the citizens of Puerto Rico. Many reading this report are familiar with the CDBG-Disaster Recovery and CDBG-Mitigation (**CDBG-DR/MIT**) funds that are assisting in the Island's efforts to recover from the devastation of Hurricanes Irma, María, Isaiás Storm and the 2020 Earthquakes. The purpose of these CDBG-Disaster Recovery (**CDBG-DR**) funds aims to assist vulnerable communities located in or near floodplains through Puerto Rico.

Background and Purpose of this Report

On May 18, 2023, the Federal Government published the Federal Register Notice Vol. 88, No. 96, 88 FR 32046, allocating \$166,312,000 in funding to support long-term recovery efforts following Severe Storm, Flooding and Landslides (DR-4649-PR), and Hurricane Fiona (DR-4671-PR). As announced in 88 FR 32046, twenty-three (23) Municipalities were designated in the Most Impacted and Distressed (MID) Areas, including: Añasco, Arecibo, Barranquitas, Cabo Rojo, Caguas, Canóvanas, Dorado, Guayama, Hormigueros, Humacao, Juana Díaz, Lajas, Las Piedras, Naranjito, Orocovis, Ponce, Salinas, San Lorenzo, Santa Isabel, Toa Baja, Vega Baja, Yabucoa, and Yauco. On December 1, 2023, HUD responded via e-mail with the approval of an expansion to the MID Area for the DR-4649-PR and DR-4671-PR. This expansion added twenty-five (25) municipalities to the MID Area identified in the 88 FR 32046, including Adjuntas, Aguada, Aguadilla, Aibonito, Barceloneta, Bayamón, Carolina, Cataño, Cidra, Coamo, Comerío, Guayanilla, Isabela, Jayuya, Juncos, Mayagüez, Moca, Patillas, Peñuelas, Rincón, San Germán, San Juan, Toa Alta, Utuado, and Vega Alta increasing the total MID Area to forty-eight (48) municipalities. PRDOH is the agency designated by the Government of Puerto Rico to administer CDBG-DR/MIT funds.

Although PRDOH requested information from Municipalities included in the MID Area as well as state agencies, a qualitative analysis approach was developed

through targeted on-site visits, collecting information using a digital survey and interviews to capture photos and locations of citizens who were unable to attend public meetings and who could provide details of unmet needs across the MID Area. The tactics employed to accomplish this mission have, and will continue to include adherence to the PRDOH Citizen Participation Plan and the use of other citizen engagement protocol developed under HUD's guidance.

Summary of Public Outreach and Engagement

Throughout the public engagement and planning process, PRDOH performed on-site visits based on available data that reflected impacted communities in Municipalities considered MID Area, as approved by HUD. Through the first phase of the CDBG-DR Action Plan draft, PRDOH requested information from Municipalities and Non-Governmental Organizations; sought the input from individual citizens through active, on-line surveys, and the collection of disaster recovery needs. The second phase of public outreach and engagement, the *Publication & Response* phase, began with the publishing of the CDBG-DR Action Plan draft and ended with the closing of the public comment period on February 23, 2024. The purpose of this phase was to seek public comment on the Action Plan in consideration for amendments prior to its submittal to HUD.

Finally, PRDOH allowed for greater participation by holding two (2) Public Hearings during the public comment period as follows, one more than CDBG-DR regulations required. The first Public Hearing was held in the Municipality of San Juan at the PRDOH Headquarters, Avenida Barbosa 606, and the second Public Hearing, at the Municipality of Ponce, Leopoldo Bonilla Vélez Session Room in the Municipal Legislature.

Outcomes

PRDOH traveled around the Island to visit vulnerable communities and hear the stories of Puerto Rico—individual and shared challenges derived from landslides and floods because of the 2022 disasters. This effort included citizens, community leaders, small business owners, farmers, local disaster response/law enforcement personnel, among others. The multiple outreach activities performed validates historical, vulnerable community needs living near flood-zones and/or landslide prone areas and supports the need to plan, design, and develop comprehensive projects that can address these challenges.



Outreach Strategy

Outreach Strategy

Method of Engagement

PRDOH utilized a variety of electronic methods, media, and community networking to reach citizens in the public comments process.

HUD guidance at 88 FR 32046 prescribes for CDBG-DR grantees the number of public hearings that must be convened based on the amount of the grantee's allocation. PRDOH adhered to the guidelines for allocations under \$500 million, requiring at least one (1) public hearing in the HUD-identified MID Area -PRDOH held two (2)- and a public comment period of thirty (30) calendar days. Residents were offered the option of submitting comments during the public hearings through one or more of the following means: the CDBG-DR website, comments on social media, and the call center (1- 833-234-CDBG or 1-833 234-2324, (TTY: 787-522-5950).

Outreach methods throughout the planning process were used to ensure citizens were made aware of engagement opportunities. Outreach tools were provided to assist participation in various engagement activities.

Outreach methods included:

- **Public Website** – English and Spanish webpages available at <https://recuperacion.pr.gov/welcome/en/home/> and <https://recuperacion.pr.gov/welcome/home/> and used as a resource to access general information about CDBG-DR, as a method to promote engagement activities, as a tool for constituents to participate in the planning process and to receive updates on the CDBG-DR Action Plan draft, as the official site for posting of the Action Plan draft for comment, and eventually, as a resource for updates on implementation plan.
- **Emails** – Utilizing Municipal and State database contacts from active CDBG-DR/MIT programs, emails were used for invitations, conveying surveys, tools, and reminders.
- **Social Media** – The CDBG-DR Facebook page and CDBG-DR YouTube channel were used to announce activities, e.g., public hearings and Action Plan Public Comment Period.
- **Press Releases** - used to announce activities to general media.
- **Newspaper Public Announcements** - used for official publishing of public hearing notices and public comment period announcement in English and Spanish.

Outreach tools included:

- **Forms and Surveys** – webforms and call center assisted questionnaire used to allow for registration and public input.
- **GIS StoryMaps** – user-friendly, publicly available geospatial data was shared with stakeholders and citizens upon conclusion of the qualitative analysis approach of the CDBG-DR Action Plan draft for public comment.

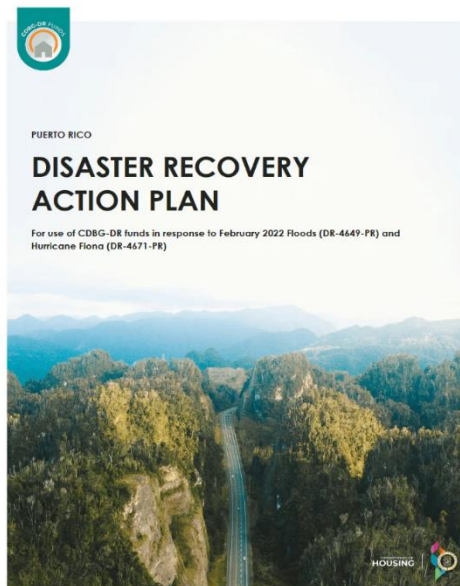
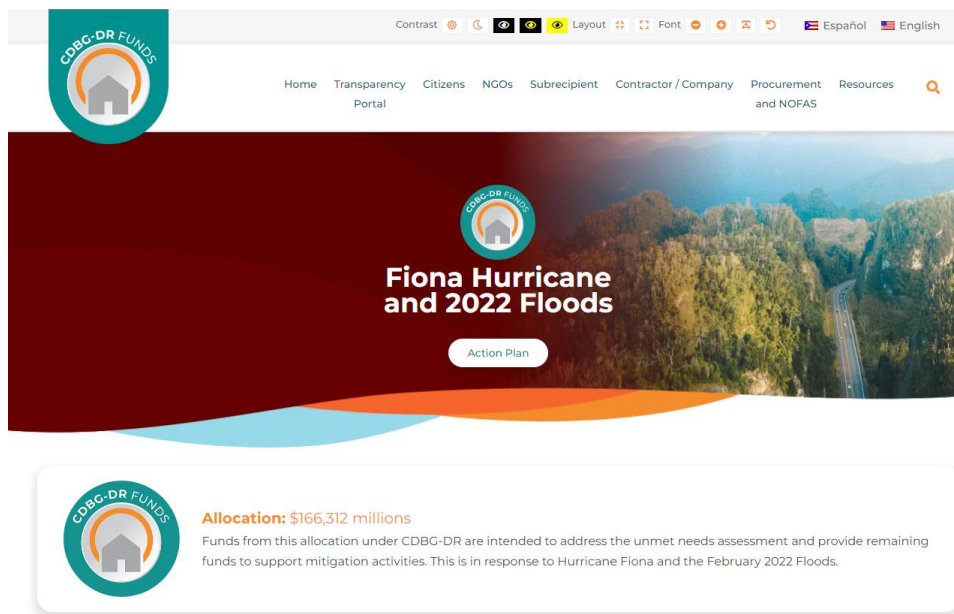


Planning & Research

Planning & Research Outreach and Engagement Methods

Website

PRDOH developed Planning & Research efforts during the Public Comments phase, while public information remained available on a dedicated section within the PRDOH website at <https://recuperacion.pr.gov/planes-de-accion/plan-de-accion-huracan-fiona-e-inundaciones-2022/> (English) and <https://recuperacion.pr.gov/planes-de-accion/plan-de-accion-huracan-fiona-e-inundaciones-2022/> (Spanish).



Action Plan - Hurricane Fiona and February 2022 Floods

Disaster Recovery Action Plan for use of CDBG-DR funds in response to Hurricane Fiona and February 2022 Floods.

The Puerto Rico Department of Housing (PRDOH) has been designated by the Government of Puerto Rico as the agency responsible for administering CDBG-DR funds. PRDOH built its Action Plan to describe the use of CDBG-DR funds and how the unmet needs will be addressed after the Hurricane Fiona and February 2022 Floods.

This are subject to several amendments throughout the life of the grant to capture programmatic changes, reallocation of funds, and updates to the unmet needs, as appropriate. The current approved version of the Action Plan and its appendices are available for view on this page.

[View Action Plan](#)















[View Exhibits](#)
























From this page, entities and private citizen stakeholders can find up-to-date information, register for program-related notifications, and during the Planning & Research phase were able to promote announcements for public participation opportunities. As described in this report, these opportunities included the following:





















- Completion of the citizen survey.
- Public Hearing events and opportunities for participation.
- The opening of the CDBG-DR Action Plan public comment period.

Once the CDBG-DR Action Plan is approved by HUD and program information becomes available, the final plan will be posted in its entirety to the PRDOH website and amendments page where all versions of the CDBG-DR and CDBG-MIT Action Plans and amendments will reside at <https://recuperacion.pr.gov/en/action-plans/> (English) and at <https://recuperacion.pr.gov/planes-de-accion/> (Spanish).

Electronic Mail

| | |
|---|---|
|  | CDBG-DR_MIT Recopilación de información relacionada al impacto del huracán Fiona Municipality of Vega Alta |
|  | CDBG-DR_MIT Recopilación de información relacionada al impacto del huracán Fiona Municipality of Adjuntas |
|  | CDBG-DR_MIT Recopilación de información relacionada al impacto del huracán Fiona Municipality of Aguada |
|  | CDBG-DR_MIT Recopilación de información relacionada al impacto del huracán Fiona Municipality of Añasco |
|  | CDBG-DR_MIT Recopilación de información relacionada al impacto del huracán Fiona Municipality of Arecibo |
|  | CDBG-DR_MIT Recopilación de información relacionada al impacto del huracán Fiona Municipality of Cataño |
|  | CDBG-DR_MIT Recopilación de información relacionada al impacto del huracán Fiona Municipality of Dorado |
|  | CDBG-DR_MIT Recopilación de información relacionada al impacto del huracán Fiona Municipality of Guayanilla |
|  | CDBG-DR_MIT Recopilación de información relacionada al impacto del huracán Fiona Municipality of Ricon |
|  | CDBG-DR_MIT Recopilación de información relacionada al impacto del huracán Fiona Municipality of Salinas |
|  | CDBG-DR_MIT Recopilación de información relacionada al impacto del huracán Fiona Municipality of Vega Alta |
|  | CDBG-DR_MIT Recopilación de información relacionada al impacto del huracán Fiona Municipality of Vega Baja |
|  | CDBG-DR_MIT Recopilación de información relacionada al impacto del huracán Fiona Municipality of Yauco |
|  | RE_CABO ROJO CDBG-DR_MIT Recopilación de información relacionada al impacto del huracán Fiona Municipality of Cabo Rojo |
|  | RE_Subject; CDBG-DR_MIT Recopilación de información relacionada al impacto del huracán Fiona Municipality of Aguadilla |
|  | RE_Subject; CDBG-DR_MIT Recopilación de información relacionada al impacto del huracán Fiona Municipality of Bayamón |
|  | RE_Subject; CDBG-DR_MIT Recopilación de información relacionada al impacto del huracán Fiona Municipality of Cabo Rojo |
| | RE_Subject; CDBG-DR_MIT Recopilación de información relacionada al impacto del huracán Fiona Municipality of Caguas |
| | RE_Subject; CDBG-DR_MIT Recopilación de información relacionada al impacto del huracán Fiona Municipality of Canovanas |
| | RE_Subject; CDBG-DR_MIT Recopilación de información relacionada al impacto del huracán Fiona Municipality of Carolina |
| | RE_Subject; CDBG-DR_MIT Recopilación de información relacionada al impacto del huracán Fiona Municipality of Humacao |
| | RE_Subject; CDBG-DR_MIT Recopilación de información relacionada al impacto del huracán Fiona Municipality of Juana Diaz |
| | RE_Subject; CDBG-DR_MIT Recopilación de información relacionada al impacto del huracán Fiona Municipality of Mayaguez |
| | RE_Subject; CDBG-DR_MIT Recopilación de información relacionada al impacto del huracán Fiona Municipality of Ponce |
| | RE_Subject; CDBG-DR_MIT Recopilación de información relacionada al impacto del huracán Fiona Municipality of San Juan |
| | RE_Subject; CDBG-DR_MIT Recopilación de información relacionada al impacto del huracán Fiona Municipality of Toa Alta |

-  RE_ Subject; CDBG-DR_MIT Recopilación de información relacionada al impacto del huracán Fiona Municipality of Ponce
-  Subject; CDBG-DR_MIT Recopilación de información relacionada al impacto del huracán Fiona Municipality of Adjuntas
-  Subject; CDBG-DR_MIT Recopilación de información relacionada al impacto del huracán Fiona Municipality of Aguadilla
-  Subject; CDBG-DR_MIT Recopilación de información relacionada al impacto del huracán Fiona Municipality of Arecibo
-  Subject; CDBG-DR_MIT Recopilación de información relacionada al impacto del huracán Fiona Municipality of Bayamon
-  Subject; CDBG-DR_MIT Recopilación de información relacionada al impacto del huracán Fiona Municipality of Cabo Rojo
-  Subject; CDBG-DR_MIT Recopilación de información relacionada al impacto del huracán Fiona Municipality of Caguas
-  Subject; CDBG-DR_MIT Recopilación de información relacionada al impacto del huracán Fiona Municipality of Canovanas
-  Subject; CDBG-DR_MIT Recopilación de información relacionada al impacto del huracán Fiona Municipality of Carolina
-  Subject; CDBG-DR_MIT Recopilación de información relacionada al impacto del huracán Fiona Municipality of Cataño
-  Subject; CDBG-DR_MIT Recopilación de información relacionada al impacto del huracán Fiona Municipality of Dorado
-  Subject; CDBG-DR_MIT Recopilación de información relacionada al impacto del huracán Fiona Municipality of Humacao
-  Subject; CDBG-DR_MIT Recopilación de información relacionada al impacto del huracán Fiona Municipality of Juana Diaz
-  Subject; CDBG-DR_MIT Recopilación de información relacionada al impacto del huracán Fiona Municipality of Mayaguez
-  Subject; CDBG-DR_MIT Recopilación de información relacionada al impacto del huracán Fiona Municipality of Ponce
-  Subject; CDBG-DR_MIT Recopilación de información relacionada al impacto del huracán Fiona Municipality of San Juan
-  Subject; CDBG-DR_MIT Recopilación de información relacionada al impacto del huracán Fiona Municipality of Toa Alta
-  Subject; CDBG-DR_MIT Recopilación de información relacionada al impacto del huracán Fiona Municipality of Toa Baja
-  Subject; CDBG-DR_MIT Recopilación de información relacionada al impacto del huracán Fiona Municipality of Vega Alta
-  Subject; CDBG-DR_MIT Recopilación de información relacionada al impacto del huracán Fiona Municipality of Vega Baja
-  CDBG-DR_MIT Recopilación de información relacionada al impacto del huracán Fiona Junta de Planificacion 1
-  RE_ CDBG-DR_MIT Recopilación de información relacionada al impacto del huracán Fiona Junta de Planificacion 2
-  RE_ CDBG-DR_MIT Recopilación de información relacionada al impacto del huracán Fiona Junta de Planificacion 3
-  CDBG-DR Borrador Plan de Acción_ Desastres ocurridos en el 2022 (inundaciones y huracán Fiona) Zona Aguadilla
-  CDBG-DR Borrador Plan de Acción_ Desastres ocurridos en el 2022 (inundaciones y huracán Fiona) Zona Arecibo
- CDBG-DR Borrador Plan de Acción_ Desastres ocurridos en el 2022 (inundaciones y huracán Fiona) Zona Caguas
- CDBG-DR Borrador Plan de Acción_ Desastres ocurridos en el 2022 (inundaciones y huracán Fiona) Zona de San Juan
- CDBG-DR Borrador Plan de Acción_ Desastres ocurridos en el 2022 (inundaciones y huracán Fiona) Zona Guayama
- CDBG-DR Borrador Plan de Acción_ Desastres ocurridos en el 2022 (inundaciones y huracán Fiona) Zona Humacao
- CDBG-DR Borrador Plan de Acción_ Desastres ocurridos en el 2022 (inundaciones y huracán Fiona) Zona Mayaguez
- CDBG-DR Borrador Plan de Acción_ Desastres ocurridos en el 2022 (inundaciones y huracán Fiona) Zona Ponce
- CDBG-DR Borrador Plan de Acción_ Desastres ocurridos en el 2022 (inundaciones y huracán Fiona) Zona Vega Baja

-  CDBG-DR Borrador Plan de Acción_ Desastres ocurridos en el 2022 (inundaciones y huracán Fiona) Asociacion la Margarita
-  CDBG-DR Borrador Plan de Acción_ Desastres ocurridos en el 2022 (inundaciones y huracán Fiona) Citizens 2
-  CDBG-DR Borrador Plan de Acción_ Desastres ocurridos en el 2022 (inundaciones y huracán Fiona) Citizens 3
-  CDBG-DR Borrador Plan de Acción_ Desastres ocurridos en el 2022 (inundaciones y huracán Fiona) citizens 4
-  CDBG-DR Borrador Plan de Acción_ Desastres ocurridos en el 2022 (inundaciones y huracán Fiona) Citizens 5
-  CDBG-DR Borrador Plan de Acción_ Desastres ocurridos en el 2022 (inundaciones y huracán Fiona) Citizens 6
-  CDBG-DR Borrador Plan de Acción_ Desastres ocurridos en el 2022 (inundaciones y huracán Fiona) Citizens 7
-  CDBG-DR Borrador Plan de Acción_ Desastres ocurridos en el 2022 (inundaciones y huracán Fiona) Citizens 8
-  CDBG-DR Borrador Plan de Acción_ Desastres ocurridos en el 2022 (inundaciones y huracán Fiona) Citizens 9
-  CDBG-DR Borrador Plan de Acción_ Desastres ocurridos en el 2022 (inundaciones y huracán Fiona) Citizens 10
-  CDBG-DR Borrador Plan de Acción_ Desastres ocurridos en el 2022 (inundaciones y huracán Fiona) Citizens 11
-  CDBG-DR Borrador Plan de Acción_ Desastres ocurridos en el 2022 (inundaciones y huracán Fiona) Citizens 12
-  CDBG-DR Borrador Plan de Acción_ Desastres ocurridos en el 2022 (inundaciones y huracán Fiona) Citizens 13
-  CDBG-DR Borrador Plan de Acción_ Desastres ocurridos en el 2022 (inundaciones y huracán Fiona) citizens 14
-  CDBG-DR Borrador Plan de Acción_ Desastres ocurridos en el 2022 (inundaciones y huracán Fiona) Citizens 15
-  CDBG-DR Borrador Plan de Acción_ Desastres ocurridos en el 2022 (inundaciones y huracán Fiona) Citizens
-  CDBG-DR Borrador Plan de Acción_ Desastres ocurridos en el 2022 (inundaciones y huracán Fiona) Proangeles
-  CDBG-DR_MIT Recopilación de información relacionada al impacto del huracán Fiona Junta de Planificacion 1
-  RE_ CDBG-DR_MIT Recopilación de información relacionada al impacto del huracán Fiona Junta de Planificacion 2
-  RE_ CDBG-DR_MIT Recopilación de información relacionada al impacto del huracán Fiona Junta de Planificacion 3

Planning Process and Targeted Approach

PRDOH analyzed the best available data from state and federal agencies, including the review of planning, housing, and infrastructure efforts during the disaster events and the following year. These efforts include outreach and citizen participation strategies at the community level, ranging from focal groups, surveys, and participatory mapping exercises to public discussions. An extensive review of finalized or in process Planning documents based on community profiles was performed, highlighting data that related to issues, activities, and other critical needs such as:

- water control and management;
- acquisition of properties to channel community waters along with stormwater drainage;
- installation of pump stations that can support discharge to nearby rivers for flood control and mitigation;
- mitigation measures for landslides and erosion;
- increasing water reservoir reforestation activities; and
- integrating green infrastructure mitigation actions into new constructions.

The ongoing CDBG-DR Planning Program efforts related to the impact of the February 2022 floods and Hurricane Fiona detailed how the most significant damages caused severe floods and landslides through the Island. Based on the preliminary framework, a qualitative analysis approach was developed through targeted on-site visits. Data collected was from a digital survey was published live on the Action Plan draft section, including photos, locations, and descriptions of citizens who were unable to attend public meetings and who could provide details of unmet needs across the MID Area. A sample profile was identified and applied for visits, which included citizens, community leaders, small business owners, farmers, local disaster response/law enforcement personnel, among others.

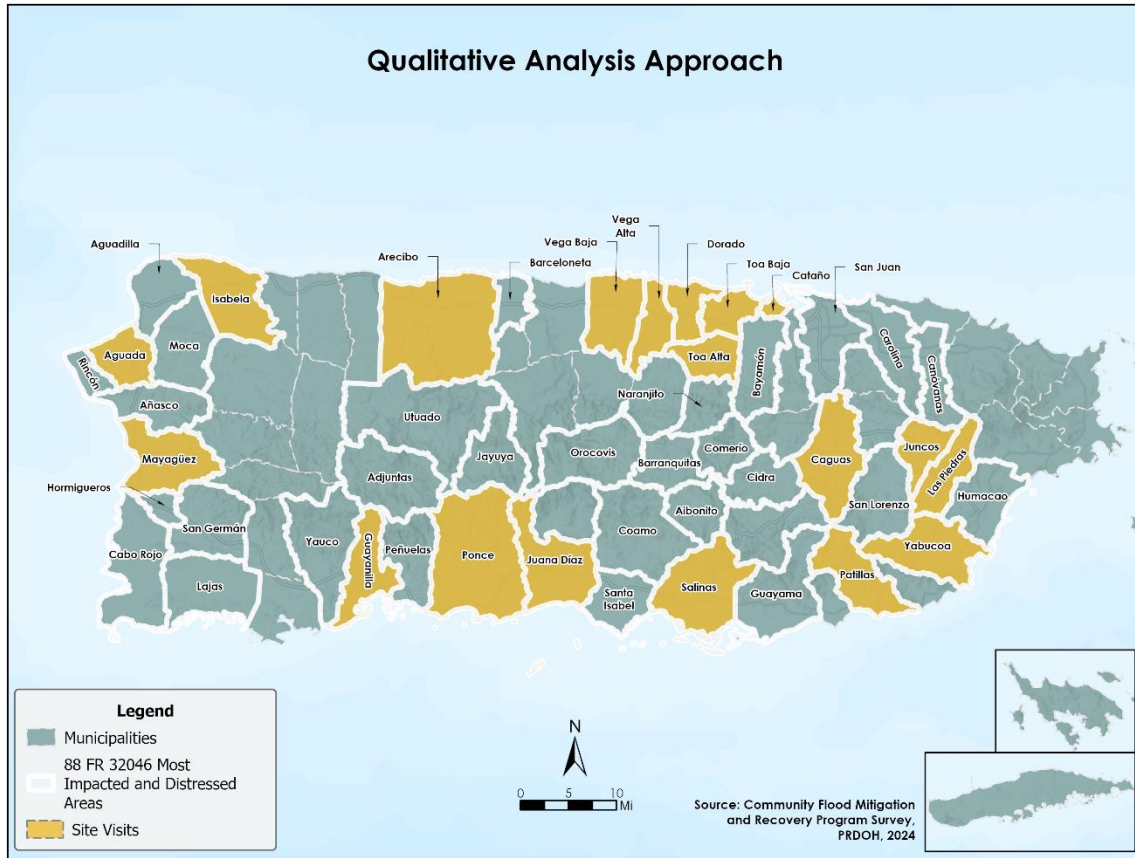



Figure 1 Qualitative Analysis Approach

Citizen Survey

PRDOH developed a Citizen Survey to understand the type of impact received and the administrative reporting and application process pertaining to Disaster Recovery efforts that follows.

Damage assessment for disasters DR-4649-PR and DR-4671-PR



Questionnaire to compile the damages caused by the following disasters that occurred in 2022:

- Floods
- Hurricane Fiona

Name*

Last Name*

Entity
If apply

Town*
Municipality where the damage occurred

-Please select-

Neighborhood/Sector*
Where the damage occurred

-Please select-

Type of damage caused by the disaster*
Damage to property (residence, business and infrastructure)

Floods

Landslide

Winds

Other

Type of Structure*

Residence

Business

Infrastructure

Other

Did you submit damage requests/reports?*

Yes

No

Damage Description*
Explain the damage that occurred to your property or community.

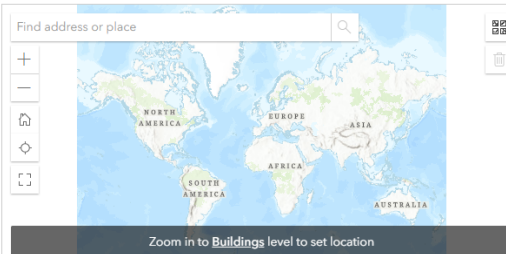
1000

Damage Image*
Image showing the damage that occurred.

1
Drop image here or select image (number of files required: 2)

Location*
Area where the damage occurred.

Find address or place



Zoom in to **Buildings** level to set location

Esri, USGS | Esri, FAO, NOAA, USGS
Powered by Esri

No geometry captured yet.

Unmet Needs*
As of today, do you have unmet needs as a result of these events?

1000

Comments
Additional Information

1000

Email

Data collection date*

MM/DD/YYYY

hh:mm

User
name of person who collected the data.

-Please select-

Figure 2 Online Survey

SURVEY  RESULTS

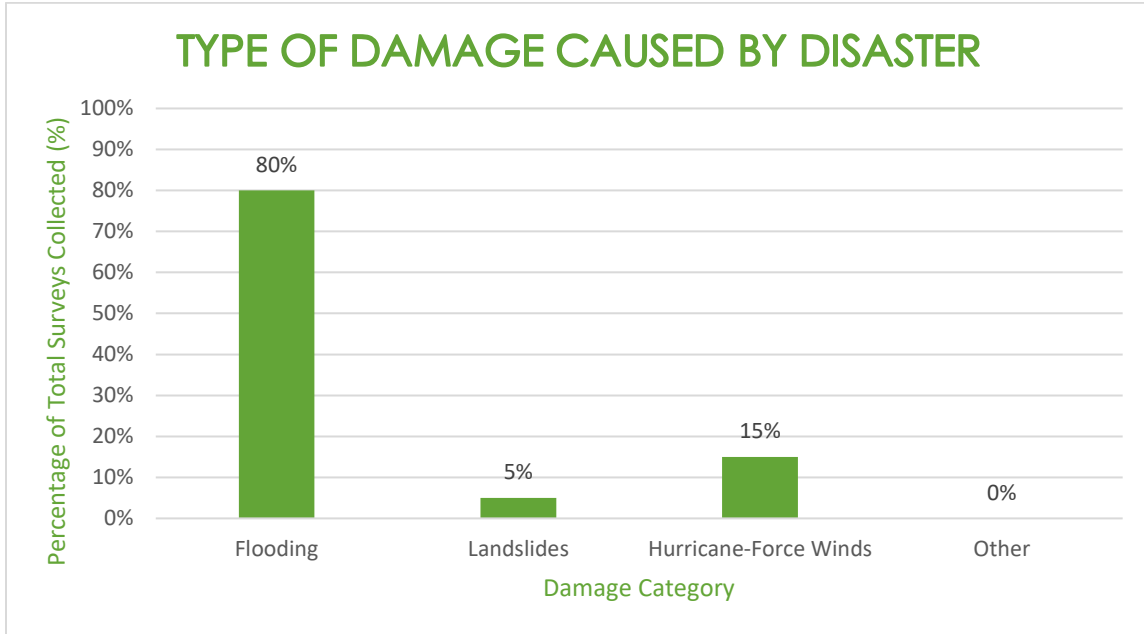


Figure 3 Type of Damage Caused by Disaster

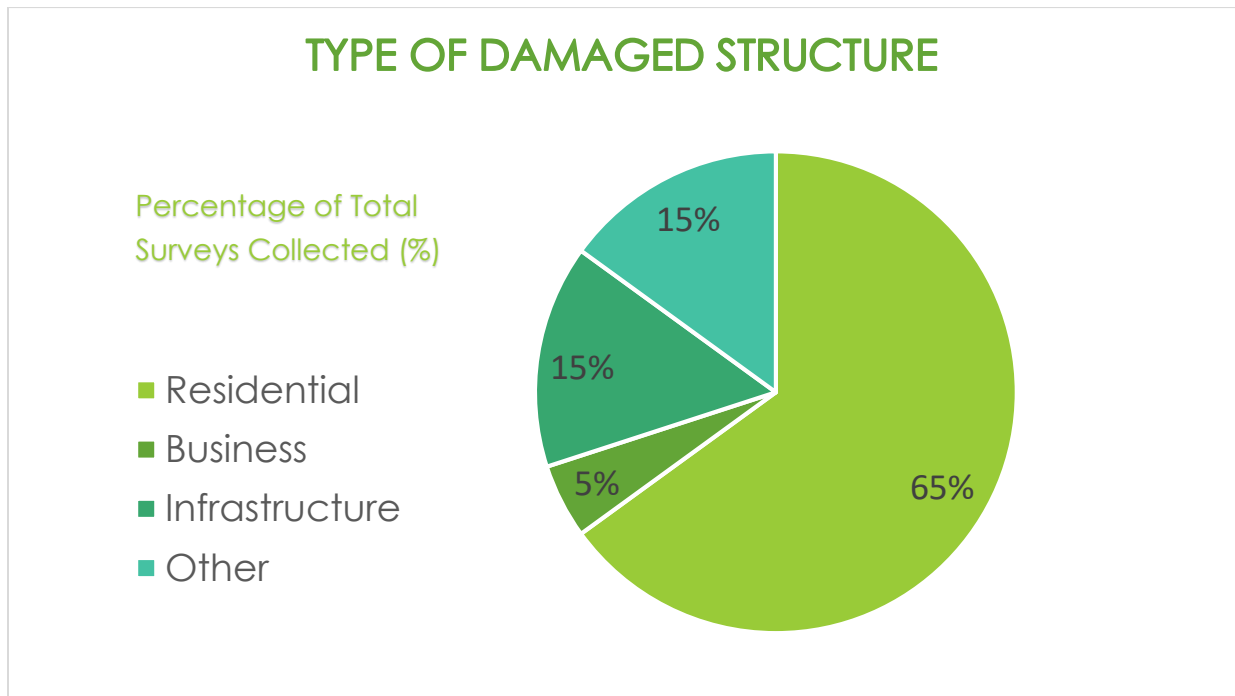


Figure 4 Type of Damaged Structure

DISASTER RECOVERY EFFORTS INTAKE OVERVIEW

55% Reported damages and submitted disaster recovery applications



45% Did not report damages



TYPE OF ASSISTANCE REQUESTED AFTER THE DISASTER

50% FEMA Application



11% Other type of disaster recovery aid request



6% SBA Loan



6% Private Insurance

TYPE OF ORGANIZATION OR ENTITY

| Type | Quantity | Percentage |
|------------------------------------|----------|------------|
| Non-Governmental Organization | 4 | 22% |
| Private, For-Profit business owner | 1 | < 1% |
| Citizens | 13 | 72% |

Site Visits and Individual Interviews

PRDOH recognized that not all individuals or entities may have reported damages or requested disaster recovery assistance in the aftermath of the February 2022 floods and Hurricane Fiona. Thus, planning and outreach efforts were focused on a disperse area across the Island to collect data points as described above. The table below provides a summary of the individual data collection interviews and site visits PRDOH conducted during the outreach and engagement process as time, resources and coordination allowed. Disaster recovery needs related to floods, landslides and title ownership issues are highlighted.

| INDIVIDUAL INTERVIEWS AND SITE VISITS | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|-------------|--------|------------|-------------------------|
| Municipalities | | Floods | Landslides | Titles Ownership Issues |
| 1 | Patillas | X | | X |
| 2 | Yabucoa | X | X | X |
| 3 | Las Piedras | X | | |
| 4 | Juncos | X | | |
| 5 | Caguas | X | | |
| 6 | Toa Baja | X | | X |
| 7 | Vega Baja | X | | X |
| 8 | Vega Alta | X | | X |
| 9 | Dorado | X | | |
| 10 | Cataño | X | | X |
| 11 | Isabela | X | | |
| 12 | Aguada | X | X | X |
| 13 | Mayagüez | X | | X |
| 14 | Arecibo | X | | X |
| 15 | Salinas | X | | X |
| 16 | Guayanilla | X | | |
| 17 | Juana Díaz | X | | X |
| 18 | Ponce | X | | X |

Key Findings from Individual Interviews

Data collection from the survey, accompanied by interviews with citizens, community leaders, small business owners, farmers, local disaster response/law enforcement personnel, and others, reflect an enduring reality for the Island's vulnerable communities. The following list summarizes key findings obtained through these one-on-one interactions:

- Addressing/adequate street sign issues prevent disaster recovery aid to get to places correctly/in time.
- Damage reports vs aid support gaps - Insurance pays much less than damages, in relation to FEMA inspections and what the citizens expected.
- Psychological problems/depression due to interrupted needs and services as a result of the disasters.
- Overarching issues with ownership titles around communities – 67% of the Municipalities visited reflect communities with a lack of ownership title are more prone to discard reporting damages or apply to disaster recovery programs after being discouraged from previous application processes.
- Most of the citizens have delicate health problems and very little income. Some houses still depend on informal septic tanks.
- Municipal visits reflected several flood infrastructure challenges, including undersized pluvial systems that get clogged easily, as well as inadequate or inexistent.
- Low and moderate Income (LMI) communities located in the urban center prone to floods.
- Public nuisance issues, according to community leaders, there are abandoned businesses and houses.

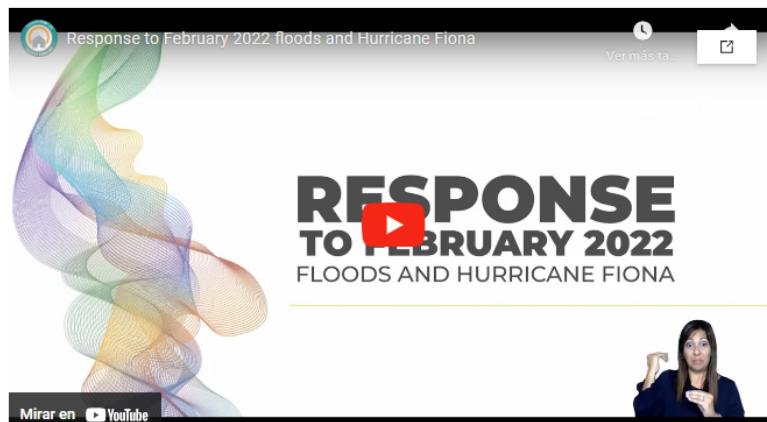
StoryMap detailing visits



Action Plan Summary

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) announced that the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico will receive \$166,312,000 in funding to support long-term recovery efforts following Severe Storm, Flooding and Landslides (DR-4649-PR), and Hurricane Fiona (DR-4671-PR) through the Puerto Rico Department of Housing (PRDOH), as indicated in the [Federal Register Vol. 88 No. 96 \(May 18, 2023\)](#). Community Development Block Grant- Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) funding is designed to address needs that remain after all other assistance has been exhausted.

On October 9, 2023, PRDOH requested an expansion of the HUD identified MID Area with data driven analysis, based on the best available information to address needs in all the seventy-eight (78) municipalities. On December 1, 2023, HUD responded via e-mail the approval of the expansion to the MID Area for the DR-4649-PR and DR-4671-PR. This expansion added twenty-five (25) municipalities to the MID Area identified in the 88FR 32046, increasing the total MID Area to forty-eight (48) municipalities.



Floods

On February 4 to 6, 2022, a cold front and trough over northern Puerto Rico caused heavy rains in the western half of the metropolitan area. Water accumulation ranged from three (3) to six (6) inches, with a maximum of ten (10) inches in some areas. These atmospheric events affected the municipalities where several houses were flooded due to the excessive amount of runoff and poor drainage.

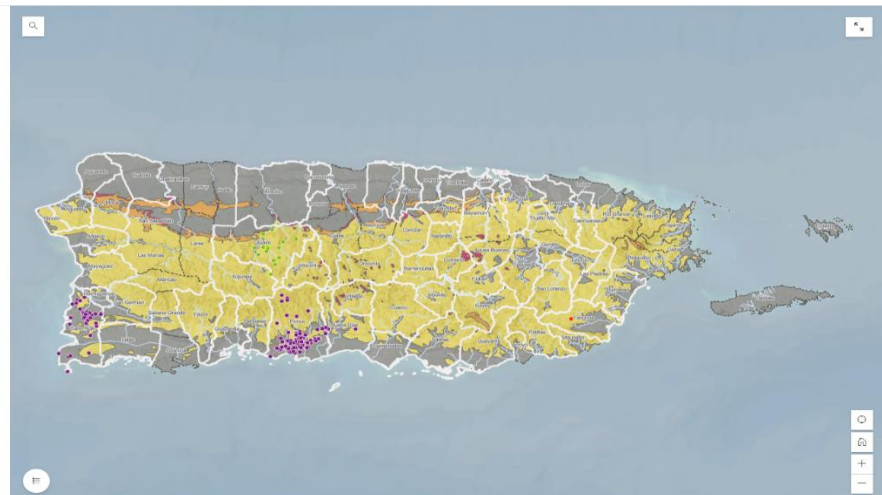
On September 18, 2022, Hurricane Fiona made landfall near Punta Tocón in Lajas. The greatest impacts of this hurricane were caused by extreme rainfall, especially in the southeast of Puerto Rico. In areas along the Central Mountain Range and around El Yunque, rainfall totaled more than sixteen (16) inches. According to preliminary information from the USGS-NWS Stream Gauge Network, 50 of 100 river gauges rose above the USGS-NWS flood stage. Most river gauges along the Río Grande de Manatí, Río Cibuco, Río La Plata, Río Grande de Arecibo, Río Grande de Loiza and Río Guanajibo rose above moderate or major flood stage. In the southern and southeastern part of the island, significant catastrophic flooding was observed due to strong rises along rivers combined with storm surge and coastal flooding.

As identified on the map, many of the affected homes and infrastructure are located or are near flood zones, rivers and coastal areas, which were affected by storm surge.



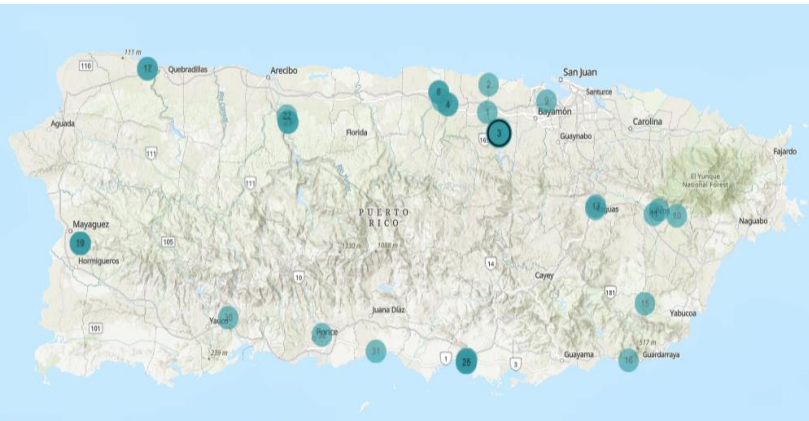
Landslides

The disasters of February and Hurricane Fiona of 2022 caused flooding such as landslides. For Hurricane Fiona, numerous landslides were recorded in the affected areas of steep terrain. Multiple communities were affected by significant landslides and rockslides throughout the interior and south of Puerto Rico, leaving more than a dozen structures uninhabitable. Most structures and infrastructure are located in areas of low, moderate and high susceptibility to landslides. In turn, they are located near water resources. Official information indicates that most of the structures and infrastructure were destroyed or partially damaged.



Toa Alta

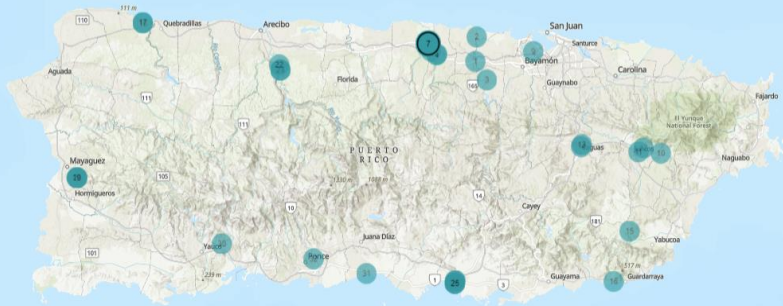
Location of PR-828 which was affected by Hurricane Fiona and is under reconstruction.





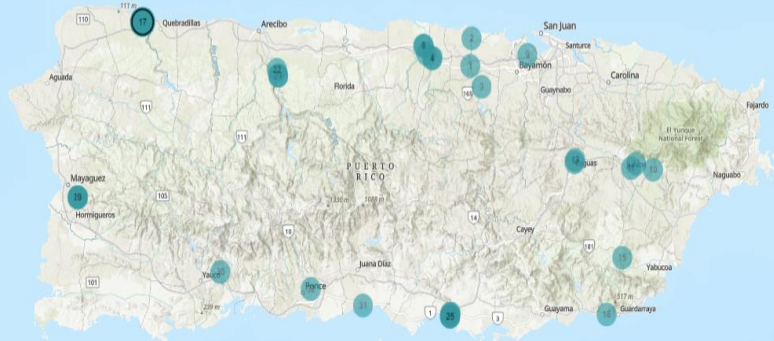
Vega Baja

Happy Givers - Non-profit organization that prepares food for nearby communities. Its facilities were affected by flooding after Hurricane Fiona.



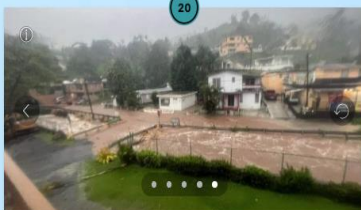
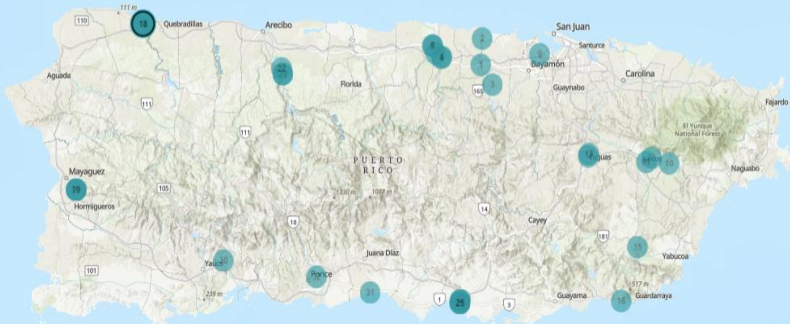
Isabela

Collapsed rainwater System.



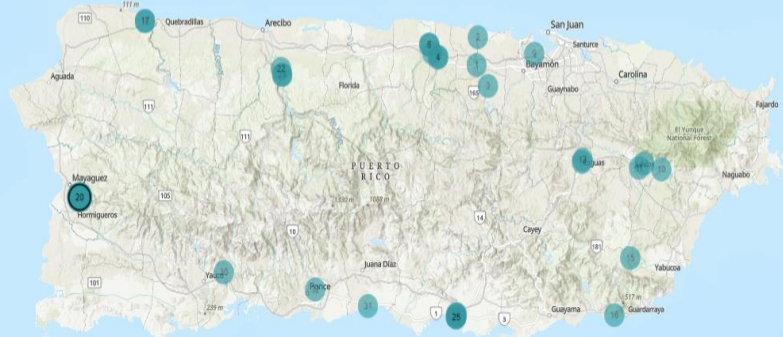
Isabela

Collapsed rainwater System.



Mayagüez

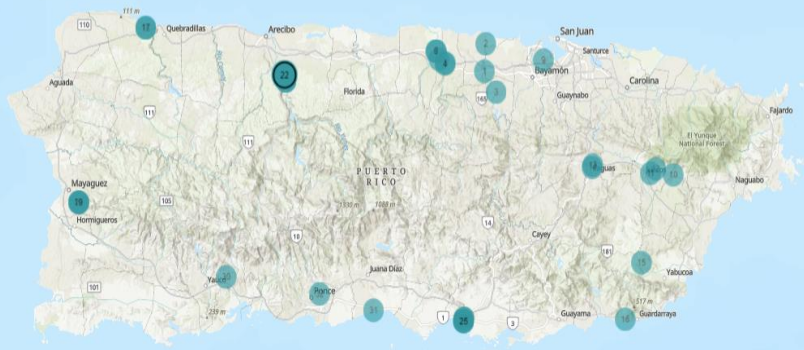
Construction of canalization of a stream affected by flooding as a result of the impact of Hurricane Fiona.





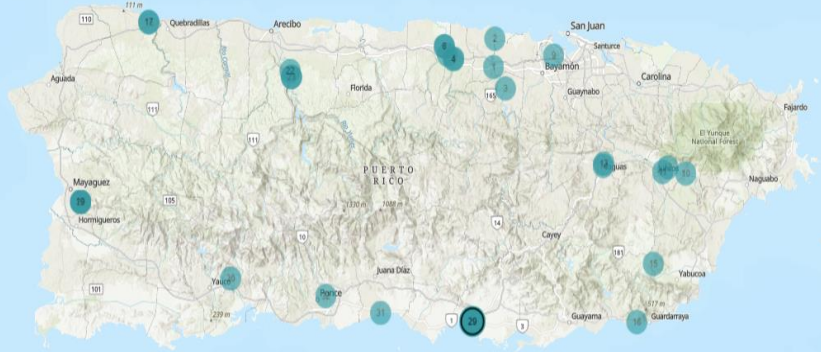
Arecibo

Collapsed or non-existent rainwater system.



Salinas

Bridge collapse as a result of Hurricane Fiona.



Outreach Campaign Details

| Eblast, Web Page, Facebook, LinkedIn & YouTube Campaigns | | | |
|---|--------------------|---------------------|-------------------------------|
| Eblast | Total Posts | Dates (2024) | Total Reach |
| Public Hearings | 2 | 01/19 | 11,498 |
| Action Plan Comment Period | 2 | 01/25 | 12,897 |
| TOTAL | | | 24,395 |
| Web Page | Total Posts | Dates (2024) | Views (as of 01/18/24) |
| Comment Period – Spanish English | 1 1 | 01/25 - 02/23 | 31,245 5,639 |
| AP Download Spanish English | 1 1 | 01/25 – 02/23 | 196 56 |
| Public Hearing – Spanish English | 1 1 | 01/18 – 01/31 | 21,842 2,762 |
| TOTAL | | | 61,740 |
| Facebook | Total Posts | Dates (2024) | Views (as of 01/18/24) |
| Comment Period - Spanish English | 1 1 | 01/25 | 2,580 2,121 |
| Public Hearing – Spanish English | 1 1 | 01/18 | 2,950 1,806 |
| TOTAL | | | 9,457 |
| LinkedIn | Total Posts | Dates (2024) | Views (as of 01/18/24) |
| Comment Period - Spanish English | 1 1 | 01/25 | 986 615 |
| Public Hearing – Spanish English | 1 1 | 01/18 | 518 776 |
| TOTAL | | | 1,294 |

| Youtube | Total Posts | Dates (2024) | Views (as of 02/01/24) |
|----------------|-------------|--------------|------------------------|
| Comment Period | 1 | 01/26 | 222 |
| Spanish | 1 | 02/01 | 107 |
| English | | | |
| TOTAL | | | 329 |

Public Hearing Media Announcements





**Publication
& Response**

Publication & Response

Published Action Plan

The CDBG-DR Action Plan draft was published on January 24, 2024 on the PRDOH website. The availability of the Action Plan was announced on the PRDOH website, through email and social media.

Public comment on the Action Plan could be provided:



Through the CDBG-DR email;



Utilizing an on-line comment form on the CDBG-DR website;



Providing comment during the public hearings through various means (Refer to Public Hearings section);



Utilizing the PRDOH call center; and



During briefings held during the public comment period.

As required by the Federal Register Notice, the public comment period was established as thirty (30) days, from January 24 to February 23, 2024.

Promotion of the public comment period included:

- A press release on January 17, 2024;
- A pop-up announcement on the CDBG-DR website on January, 25 2024
- A pop-up announcement on eblast on January, 19 2024
- Social Media announcement on January 25, 2024.

aviso público

INVITACIÓN A PARTICIPAR DE LAS VISTAS PÚBLICAS SOBRE LA RECUPERACIÓN DE LAS INUNDACIONES DE FEBRERO 2022 Y EL HURACÁN FIONA CON LOS FONDOS CDBG-DR

El Departamento de la Vivienda de Puerto Rico (Vivienda), como entidad encargada de administrar los fondos de Subvención en Bloque para el Desarrollo Comunitario – Recuperación ante Desastres (CDBG-DR, por sus siglas en inglés), informa a la ciudadanía que el Departamento de Vivienda y Desarrollo Urbano de los Estados Unidos (HUD, por sus siglas en inglés) ha asignado fondos para abordar los daños no cubiertos ocasionados por las inundaciones de febrero de 2022 y el paso del Huracán Fiona. Estos fondos, destinados a la asistencia de desastres, la recuperación a largo plazo, la restauración de infraestructura y vivienda, y la mitigación en las áreas más impactadas, son cruciales para nuestra reconstrucción.

El 18 de mayo de 2023, HUD publicó un aviso federal asignando a Puerto Rico \$166,312,000 en fondos CDBG-DR para atender las declaraciones de desastre mayor DR-4649-PR y DR-4671-PR, relacionadas con las inundaciones y el huracán. Es imperativo realizar vistas públicas durante el periodo de comentarios públicos del borrador al Plan de Acción. La participación ciudadana es invaluable en este proceso, y por ello, Vivienda exhorta a la ciudadanía a contribuir activamente en esta encomienda para construir un Puerto Rico más resiliente.

Invitamos a los residentes de los municipios más afectados por estos desastres a participar en las siguientes vistas públicas:


miércoles, 24 de enero de 2024, 5:00 p.m.
Departamento de la Vivienda en el 606 Ave. Barbosa, San Juan

miércoles, 31 de enero de 2024, 5:00 p.m.
Salón de Sesiones Leopoldo Bonilla Vélez de la Legislatura Municipal, Ponce

Para garantizar la participación de toda la ciudadanía, ofrecemos las siguientes alternativas virtuales para someter propuestas, comentarios o preguntas: (1) Enviando un correo electrónico a infoCDBG@vivienda.pr.gov (2) Utilizando el formulario disponible en la página web recuperacion.pr.gov/planes-de-accion/plan-de-accion-huracan-fiona/.

Hacemos un llamado a todos los residentes, organizaciones, entidades gubernamentales y no gubernamentales, y otros grupos de interés a compartir este anuncio y participar activamente. La opinión de cada uno es esencial y cuenta.

Para mantenerse informado sobre los fondos CDBG-DR y recibir notificaciones, visite nuestra página web recuperacion.pr.gov y suscríbase.


Lcdo. William O. Rodríguez Rodríguez
Secretario
Departamento de la Vivienda

Autorizado por la Oficina del Contralor Electoral OCE-SA-2023-00076

public notice

INVITATION TO PARTICIPATE IN THE PUBLIC HEARINGS ON THE FEBRUARY 2022 FLOOD AND HURRICANE FIONA RECOVERY WITH CDBG-DR FUNDS

The Puerto Rico Department of Housing (PRDOH), as the entity in charge of administering the Community Development Block Grant - Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) funds, informs the public that the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has allocated funds to address the uncovered damages caused by the February 2022 floods and Hurricane Fiona. These funds, allocated for disaster assistance, long-term recovery, infrastructure and housing restoration, and mitigation in the most impacted areas, are critical to our rebuilding.

On May 18, 2023, HUD published a federal notice allocating Puerto Rico \$166,312,000 in CDBG-DR funds to address major disaster declarations DR-4649-PR and DR-4671-PR, related to the flooding and hurricane. It is imperative that public hearings be held during the public comment period of the Action Plan draft. Citizen participation is invaluable in this process, and therefore, Vivienda encourages citizens to actively contribute to this endeavor to build a more resilient Puerto Rico.

We invite residents of the municipalities most affected by these disasters to participate in the following public hearings:


Wednesday, January 24, 2024, 5:00 p.m.
Department of Housing at 606 Barbosa Ave., San Juan

Wednesday, January 31, 2024, 5:00 p.m.
Leopoldo Bonilla Vélez Sessions Room of the Municipal Legislature, Ponce

To guarantee the participation of all citizens, we offer the following virtual alternatives to submit proposals, comments or questions: (1) By sending an e-mail to infoCDBG@vivienda.pr.gov (2) Using the form available at the web page recuperacion.pr.gov/planes-de-accion/plan-de-accion-huracan-fiona/.

We call on all residents, organizations, governmental and non-governmental entities, and other stakeholders to share this announcement and actively participate. Everyone's opinion is essential and counts.

To stay informed about CDBG-DR funds and to receive notifications, please visit our website at recuperacion.pr.gov and subscribe.


William O. Rodríguez Rodríguez, Esq.
Secretary
Puerto Rico Department of Housing

Authorized by the Office of the Electoral Comptroller OCE-SA-2023-00076

Gobierno

Vivienda discutirá en vistas públicas uso de fondos por huracán Fiona

Una de las audiencias será en San Juan y la otra en Ponce.

Por: **CyberNews**
Publicado: Jan 23, 2024 10:10 AM

f w t i



El Departamento de la Vivienda, William Rodríguez Rodríguez.
Foto: Archival.es López

El secretario del Departamento de la Vivienda (DV), William Rodríguez Rodríguez, informó el martes que se llevarán a cabo dos vistas públicas que marcarán un paso importante en la gestión de los 166 millones de dólares asignados para la recuperación de Puerto Rico tras el paso del Huracán Fiona.

1/23/24, 3:19 PM

Vivienda anuncia vistas públicas sobre reconstrucción tras Fiona | Es Noticia PR

Vivienda anuncia vistas públicas sobre reconstrucción tras Fiona

Por **Yenilis Mattel** - enero 23, 2024



Por Redacción Es Noticia

redaccion@esnoticiapr.com

https://www.elvocero.com/gobierno/agencias/celebrar-n-vistas-p-blicas-para-discutir-uso-de-fondos-tras-hurac-n-fiona/articde_45fd1f66c-b9ff-11ee-97a1-b79dd6c73ad2.html

CONTENIDO DESTACADO

Celebrarán vistas públicas para discutir uso de fondos tras huracán Fiona

También se presentará el plan de acción preparado por el Departamento de Vivienda para mejorar la infraestructura y establecer iniciativas de resiliencia y sostenibilidad ambiental

CyberNews
23/01/2024



El secretario del Departamento de la Vivienda, William Rodríguez.

Archivo / EL VOCERO

El secretario del Departamento de la Vivienda (DV), William Rodríguez Rodríguez, informó el martes que se llevarán a cabo dos vistas públicas para discutir el uso de los \$166 millones que fueron asignados para la recuperación de Puerto Rico tras el paso del Huracán Fiona.

1/23/24, 3:19 PM

Vivienda anuncia vistas públicas para discutir usos fondos tras huracán Fiona • WIPR



Vivienda anuncia vistas públicas para discutir usos fondos tras huracán Fiona

Por [netisela360pr](#) - 23/01/2024



El secretario de la Vivienda, William Rodríguez Rodríguez.

El secretario de la Vivienda, William Rodríguez Rodríguez, informó que se llevarán a cabo dos vistas públicas que marcarán un paso importante en la gestión de los \$166 millones asignados para la recuperación de Puerto Rico tras el paso del Huracán Fiona.

Las vistas públicas se realizarán el miércoles, 24 de enero en la sede del Departamento de la Vivienda en la avenida Barbosa en San Juan y el miércoles 31 de enero en el Salón de Sesiones Leopoldo Bonilla Vélez, en la Legislatura Municipal de Ponce. Ambos eventos comenzarán a las 5:00 pm.

"Invitamos a toda la comunidad a ser parte de este esfuerzo colectivo. Cada idea o comentario será muy importante para el uso de forma efectiva de estos fondos asignados por el Departamento de Vivienda federal y que logremos un plan beneficioso para nuestro pueblo. Reiteramos nuestro compromiso con la transparencia y el uso ágil de cada centavo asignado para la recuperación de Puerto Rico", expresó el secretario.

<https://wipr.pr/vivienda-anuncia-vistas-publicas-para-discutir-usos-fondos-tras-huracan-fiona/>

1/23/24, 11:37 AM

Celebrarán vistas públicas sobre fondos de huracán Fiona | Agencias | elvocero.com

Las vistas públicas se realizarán mañana, miércoles, 24 de enero, en la sede del Departamento de la Vivienda, en la avenida Barbosa, en San Juan, y el miércoles, 31 de enero, en el Salón de Sesiones Leopoldo Bonilla Vélez, en la Legislatura Municipal de Ponce. Ambos eventos comenzarán a las 5:00 pm.



Empresarios se declaran culpables de robo de fondos federales

"Invitamos a toda la comunidad a ser parte de este esfuerzo colectivo. Cada idea o comentario será muy importante para el uso de forma efectiva de estos fondos asignados por el Departamento de Vivienda federal y que logremos un plan beneficioso para nuestro pueblo. Reiteramos nuestro compromiso con la transparencia y el uso ágil de cada centavo asignado para la recuperación de Puerto Rico", expresó Rodríguez Rodríguez en declaraciones escritas.

1/23/24, 11:37 AM

Celebrarán vistas públicas sobre fondos de huracán Fiona | Agencias | elvocero.com

Estas sesiones son fundamentales para discutir el uso de los fondos asignados tras el paso del Huracán Fiona y la recuperación de las inundaciones de febrero de 2022. Además, se presentará el Plan de Acción preparado por Vivienda para mejorar la infraestructura y establecer iniciativas de resiliencia y sostenibilidad ambiental.

El período de comentarios públicos al Plan de Acción comenzará el próximo jueves, 25 de enero, por un período de 30 días, proporcionando una plataforma adicional para que la ciudadanía exprese sus opiniones y comentarios.

Las personas interesadas en más información sobre este proceso pueden acceder a [recuperación.pr.gov](https://recuperacion.pr.gov).

Public Hearings

As part of the development of this Action Plan, PRDOH held a total of two (2) Public Hearings, one required as part of the citizen participation effort detailed in 88 FR 32046. These two (2) Public Hearings resulted in ten (10) comments from citizens, in addition to the twenty (20) comments received through the webpage tool and one (1) written proposal letter through email. Copy of the transcriptions from the Public Hearings will be included as part of Appendix C-1.

END OF DOCUMENT.