



# YOUTH DEVELOPMENT **INSTITUTE OF PUERTO RICO**

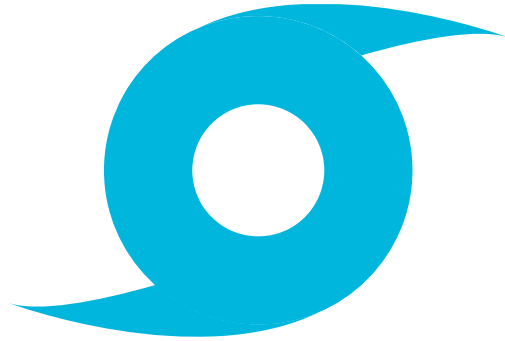


# About Us

The Youth Development Institute (YDI) is the only entity in Puerto Rico exclusively dedicated to promoting research and people-driven public policies that strengthen the economic security of families with children and youth, with the ultimate goal of drastically reducing child poverty on the island. Our goal is that all children in Puerto Rico have the opportunities that allow them escape poverty and live in homes with economic security.

Our main objective is focused on reducing child poverty over the next 10 years. We pursue change using various mechanisms: empowering those affected to engage in the policy process; creating collective impact so that it is not just us working towards such a big goal; promoting the use of data amongst policy makers; and activating traditional advocacy work and grassroots mobilization where we educate about the problem and its solutions.

# RESPONSE TO HURRICANE MARIA



**STUDY ON THE IMPACT OF  
HURRICANE MARIA ON CHILDREN**



**PUERTO RICO  
CHILDREN AND  
YOUTH TASK  
FORCE**





# **CONTEXT OF CHILDREN IN PUERTO RICO**

# Puerto Rico's Context:

## **58%** of children live in poverty

**Families with children living in poverty are the most affected by disasters caused by natural phenomena.**



**594,000** children

**6** out of **10** children live in poverty

**343,000** or **58%** live in poverty



**78%** live in single parent families



**29%** of families with incomes up to 130% of the federal poverty level **DO NOT** receive NAP



**26%** low-income children **DO NOT** have internet



**10% of children** have a physical or mental disability or live with a parent who has a disability



# **MAJOR THEMES FROM HURRICANE MARIA**

# FOOD SECURITY



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# ACCESS TO FOOD

## BY INCOME LEVEL

At any moment after Hurricane María; did you have difficulty in your home accessing food to supply your daily meals?

Yes

No

At any moment after Hurricane María, did you confront difficulties at home to supply daily meals to the children, because of the hurricane?

Yes

No

Less than \$15,000

50.0 %

49.4 %

24.3 %

75.4 %

From \$15,000 to less than \$40,000

38.2 %

61.8 %

17.6 %

82.4 %

\$40,000 or more

27.9 %

72.1 %

4.7 %

95.3 %



Note: The basis of this illustration is constituted by those homes that indicated their specific income level.

# CHALLENGES- THEN (AND NOW)



- School closures represent a major disruption for the food security of families with children
- Food supply chain was majorly disrupted
- WIC ran in mostly analog mode (mailing of checks) and benefits were greatly disrupted
- Not all low-income families with children had access to NAP



# Opportunities to ensure food security after a natural disaster

**1. Preparedness planning in collaboration with community-based entities, leaders and municipalities**



**2. Preparedness transfers**

**3. Advancing benefits before an imminent disaster (providing an analog option when posible)**

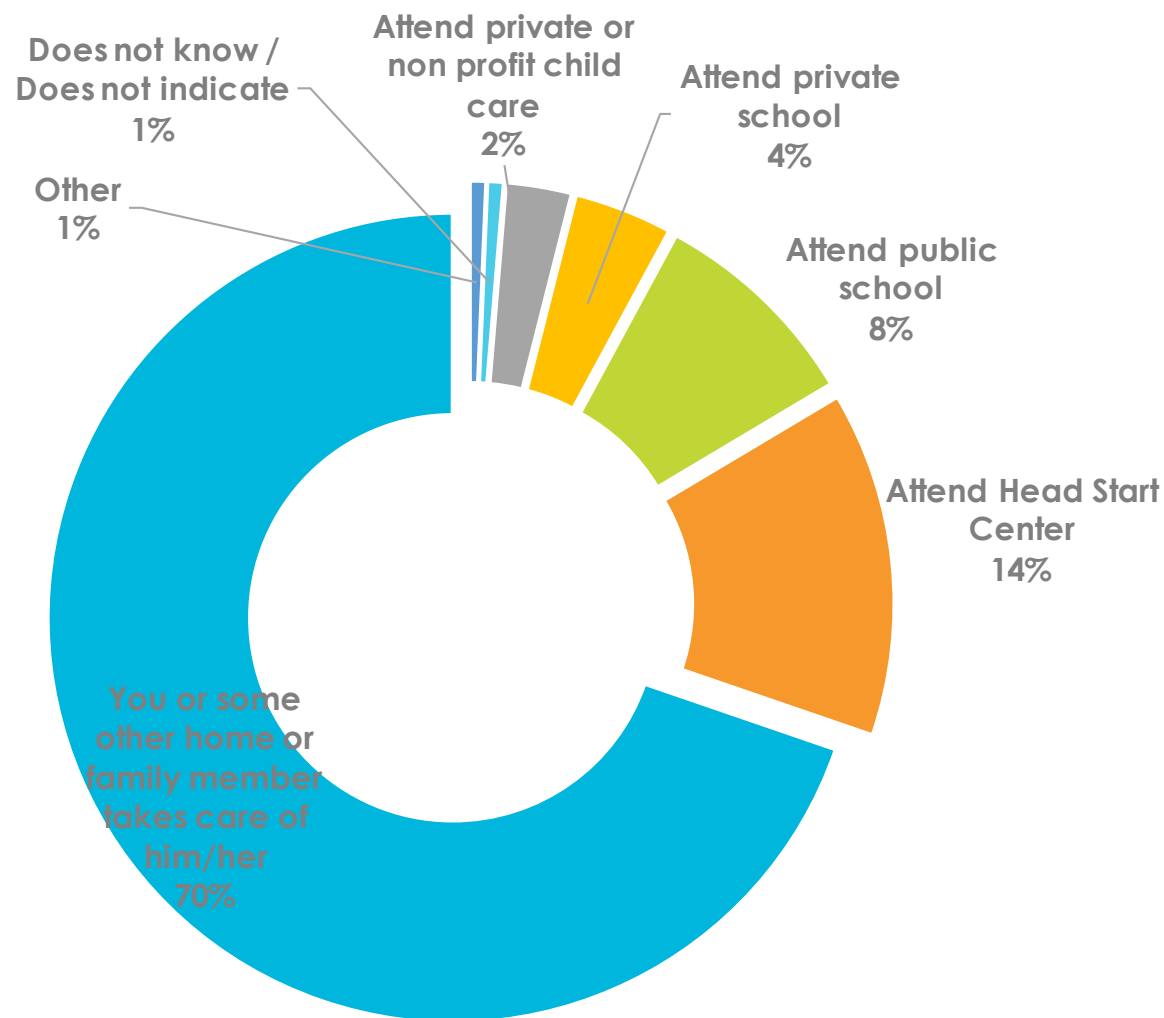
**4. Emergency Electronic Benefit Transfers**



# EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION

# CHILDREN : 0-5 years old

## Type of child care that they attend



Note: The numerical base is 152 children less than five years old that live in the 705 households.

92

Average number of days that they did not attend preschool or child care.

## EARLY INTERVENTION SERVICES

**9.2%** percent of children that were receiving early intervention services before Hurricane María.

**7 of 10** ratio of children that had a service interruption.

**2 of every 10** ratio of children that are not receiving services as of today.

Note: The basis of questions about early intervention is composed by only 14 cases, results should only be seen as a tendency. More data is required to make other inferences.

# CHALLENGES- THEN (AND NOW)



- Electricity and water
- Cash flow – either from parent fees or from government (or both)
- Need for technical assistance in applying for SBA or other supports
- Lack of electricity/water
- As for profit entities, they did not qualify for many of the donations and supports (power generators/ water filtration systems)





# Opportunities to ensure continuity of child care centers



1. Technical assistance and resources for centers to establish robust and feasible COOP

2. Disbursement emergency grants prior to the disaster

3. Loans/grants for back up generators, solar options, etc.



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# COORDINATION OF SERVICES



# CHALLENGES- THEN (AND NOW)



- **Duplication of efforts and major gaps**
  - Different agencies and programs serving similar populations
  - Lack of culture of cross-agency collaboration and coordination
- “Echo chambers” can be created if only government is at the table
- Breakdown in all forms of communication



# CHILDREN AND YOUTH TASK FORCES - OPPORTUNITIES



- Brings stakeholders together- government and nonprofit in a consistent in-person forum to calibrate and coordinate
- Having community-based entities, service providers, daycares, nonprofits and advocates at the table with government allow for respectful challenging and dialogue about where gaps are--- immediately after a disaster and beyond
- Allows for quick information gathering and determining gaps
- Can serve as a platform to continue collaboration beyond disaster (helping partners to stay connected)



# CHILDREN AND YOUTH TASK FORCES – CHALLENGES



- Ensuring buy-in from government agencies when it sits outside of government
- Keeping members engaged beyond the disaster and the emergency – what's in it for them?
- Few resources for staffing and to support participating entities
- Balancing both central and regional efforts



**THANK YOU!**



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