



## **Puerto Rico: Five years after Maria, an Update on Hurricane Fiona**

On the cusp of the five-year anniversary of Hurricane Maria, a massive storm that knocked out power and water to the island of Puerto Rico (in places up to a year) and from which Puerto Rico has only recently begun to rebuild, the Island is today beginning to dry out and assess damage from Hurricane Fiona. The Fundación Borincana is actively working with and communicating with our communities to address the aftermath of Fiona and continue the energy transformation of Puerto Rico.

**They deserve our support and we deserve yours. If you want to strengthen our community then [donate](#) or contact us to [volunteer](#).**

Mercifully, Fiona's winds were less damaging than Maria and it took a less direct route over the island. However, its very slow rate of progress means that parts of the island were inundated with 18 to 24+ inches of rain in a very short period of time causing dangerous flash flooding and landslides. Many have seen the incredible footage of the temporary bridge in Utuado being swept away - a bridge that was not designed to survive another hurricane - but as a friend from Utuado reminded me, "In Puerto Rico the temporary becomes the permanent."

Thankfully, our teams and our program participants all appear to be safe and healthy. Power has already started to be reconnected to parts of the island as has water and Internet as I write this note. Humidity is high and temperatures are in the high 80s and low 90s, uncomfortable for people now living without air-conditioning. Communications infrastructure appears to have responded well. Some stores are beginning to open but lines are understandably long. Offices will begin to open tomorrow. Meanwhile, some parts in the center of the island and Southwest where flooding has been the most extreme may take some time to recover and there are still some communities that are out of touch.

One small community that is not out of touch is Castañer. Castañer has a microgrid courtesy of training and technical support from the [Fundación Borincana](#) and funding provided by IREC. Castañer's sponsor, the Cooperativa Hidroeléctrica de la Montaña, was a beneficiary of the Fundación's Energy Capital Access Program (PRECAP). This program build capacity in project development, management and execution through technical assistance and financial education. Cohort VI began last week.

The Fundación Borincana and PRECAP, together with our Solar IT workforce development program and Grupo ASI, is leading the effort build the replicable, scalable, and sustainable capacities to transform Puerto Rico's energy infrastructure, accelerate economic development, and lead 1.5 million Americans out of poverty.

***We are here for Puerto Rico. Our communities, small businesses, and trainees need your support. We need your support.***

With Respect and Appreciation,

Thomas King  
Founding Director  
Fundación Borincana

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