



NATIONAL LOW INCOME
HOUSING COALITION

Hurricane Maria: Where Are We 2 Years Later?

An overview of Puerto Rico's recovery efforts and events marking
the 2nd anniversary of Hurricane Maria

Coordinated by the Disaster Housing Recovery Coalition's Puerto Rico Working Group

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The Disaster Housing Recovery Coalition (DHRC)



- Coordinated by the National Low Income Housing Coalition
- Composed of over 800 local, state and national organizations, many directly working on the ground in post-disaster areas
- Working to ensure federal disaster recovery efforts reach all impacted households, including those that have the fewest resources to recover
- The Puerto Rico Working Group was created after Hurricane Maria struck the island in late 2017

Hurricane Maria: The Damage & Response



Destruction – By the Numbers:

- Over 3,000 killed
- Over 300,000 homes damaged by wind or flooding
- Over \$90 billion in damage to Puerto Rico and the USVI

Inequality and Poverty Made Worse by the Storm

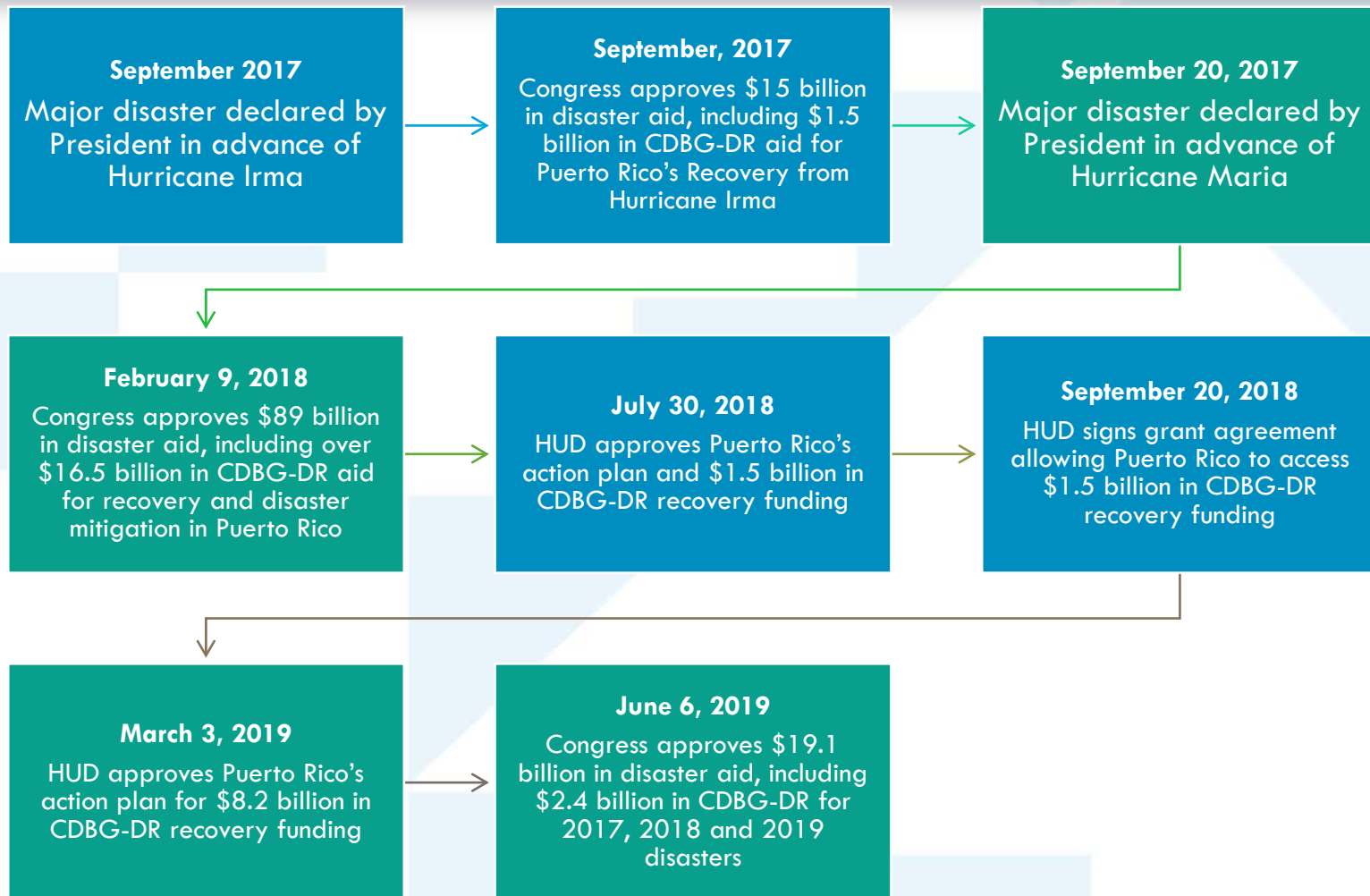
Before Hurricane Maria:

- 45% of the Territory's population lived in poverty – more than triple the national average.
- 3 out of 4 of the lowest income families paid more than 30% of their income on housing
- More than 110,000 homes lacked basic kitchens and plumbing

FEMA Denied Assistance to Puerto Ricans at Twice the Rate of Other Survivors

- FEMA denied nearly two thirds of the nearly 1.2 million applications for FEMA assistance filed in Puerto Rico – twice the denial rate after Hurricane Harvey
- At least 77,000 of these households were denied assistance because FEMA failed to recognize local land ownership practices and the island's informal housing system.

A Lengthy Recovery Process



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