

TOWARDS A JUST RECOVERY: POLICY ASKS



Zero forced displacements

- Eliminate the housing reconstruction ban in flood zones.
- Establish a moratorium on relocations to make room for participatory planning and mitigation processes.
- Separate the repair and reconstruction initiatives from the relocation program.
- Adopt a minimization of displacement policy that promotes mitigation rather than relocation and a relocation plan with a human rights perspective.

Real and effective participation

- Amend HUD's codes and regulations to demand the local Department of Housing (PRDOH) clear and ample parameters of civic participation, such as the celebration of public hearings prior and during the creation of the Action Plan, as well as periodic hearings during the implementation process.
- Create regional community councils to evaluate how the programs are functioning and the decisions that are being made by the government.
- Open the programs implementation guidelines to public comments and to the supervision of the community councils.
- Expand the community planning program and assign funds to implement the resilience projects identified along the process.

Ensure equitable access to recovery funds

- Develop program applications that are accessible, short, simple and uniform.
- Increase the number and adjust the schedule of information and service centers so that they are accessible to people throughout the archipelago.
- Establish a uniform mechanism of alternate proof of ownership, which does not require a notary, so that people that do not have formal titles can access the housing repair and reconstruction funds.
- Permit those without formal titles to use alternative methods of proof for ownership.
- Establish and make public specific timelines that regulate when must the PRDOH assess and act upon applications.
- Remove barriers that prevent community-based organizations from obtaining funds to rebuild their communities, such as bonds and reimbursement requirements.