

Participatory Budgeting: a Community-Led Intervention for Resource Security Following a Disaster

Corcovada, Puerto Rico

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Public Health Disaster Research Award Webinar:
Call 4 and Continuation Call 2
August 1, 2024

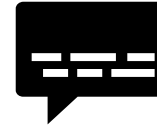


Project Overview



Previous Award

- Our first award for **the Strengthening Community Resilience in U.S. Territories** explored the relationship between social capital, community health resilience, and compounding hazards in Corcovada, Puerto Rico.
- Our next continuation award, **Extending Public Health Disaster Research and Community Engagement in the U.S. Territories**, we developed a community-centered survey in Corcovada, which assesses household FEW insecurity and health risks before, during, and after hazards.
- Our research team was motivated to implement a project that provides direct resources to the community, that is decided by the community about their specific needs.



Continuation Award Purpose

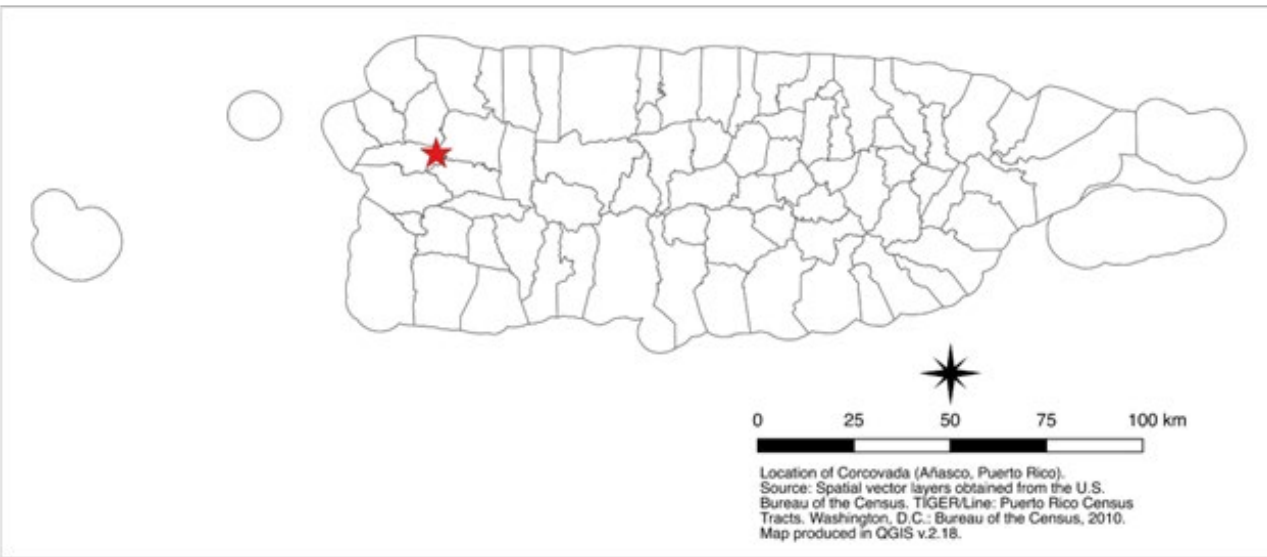
- The purpose of this project was to carry out a participatory budget for the Corcovada community, leading to the implementation of at least three (3) community-based projects that combat food, energy, and water (FEW) insecurities and public health risks during hazards.
- We hope that this project will help researchers and practitioners understand and apply mitigation measures for compounding hazards that enhance public engagement and bonding social capital within the community.

Project Overview



Project Site

The Community of Corcovada,
Añasco Municipality, Puerto Rico



Timeline

Month	Activities
November 2023	Steering Committee Convening
January 2024	Request Proposals
February 2024	Review Proposal and Community Vote
March 2024	Proposal Winners Announced
April - August 2024	Start Implementing Projects
August 2024	Community Event

Community Partners



- We worked alongside our community partners in Corcovada, Puerto Rico, who we have built a strong relationship with over the last three years. We established relationships through local connections with members of the community.
- Some of these community partners—Edna Torres, Enid Quintana, and Fernando Cuevas—are Co-PI's on the project. Javier Nieves Torres, our project coordinator, has been invaluable in project management on the ground.

Project Activities



NATURAL HAZARDS CENTER

RECOGIDO DE IDEAS


PRESUPUESTO PARTICIPATIVO CORCOVADA



FEB 10 3-5 PM

CENTRO MULTIUSOS

Pasa por la mesa para someter tus ideas durante el cobro de agua o escanea el código a la derecha.



PRESUPUESTO PARTICIPATIVO

¡DECIDE CÓMO ASIGNAR EL PRESUPUESTO EN TU COMUNIDAD!

El Centro de Amenazas Naturales de la Universidad Colorado Boulder ha otorgado a la comunidad de Corcovada **\$8,000** para implementar un proyecto que les ayude a ser más resilientes a desastres. Este proyecto se implementará haciendo un ejercicio de presupuesto participativo.

Un presupuesto participativo es un proceso democrático en el que las personas de una comunidad deciden de manera directa cómo asignar una parte del presupuesto público.

Este presupuesto se enfocará en un proyecto que pueda ayudar a la comunidad de Corcovada a responder a problemas de: **agua, comida, energía y salud antes y/o después de un desastre.**


"¡TU VOZ IMPORTA!"

- ✓ ¿Quién puede proponer propuestas?
Todo residente de Corcovada.
- ✓ ¿Cuáles son los criterios para las propuestas?
Cualquier idea dentro de los temas de agua, comida, energía y salud que no sea mayor de la cantidad otorgada al proyecto.

¡AYUDE A DAR FORMA AL FUTURO DE TU COMUNIDAD!

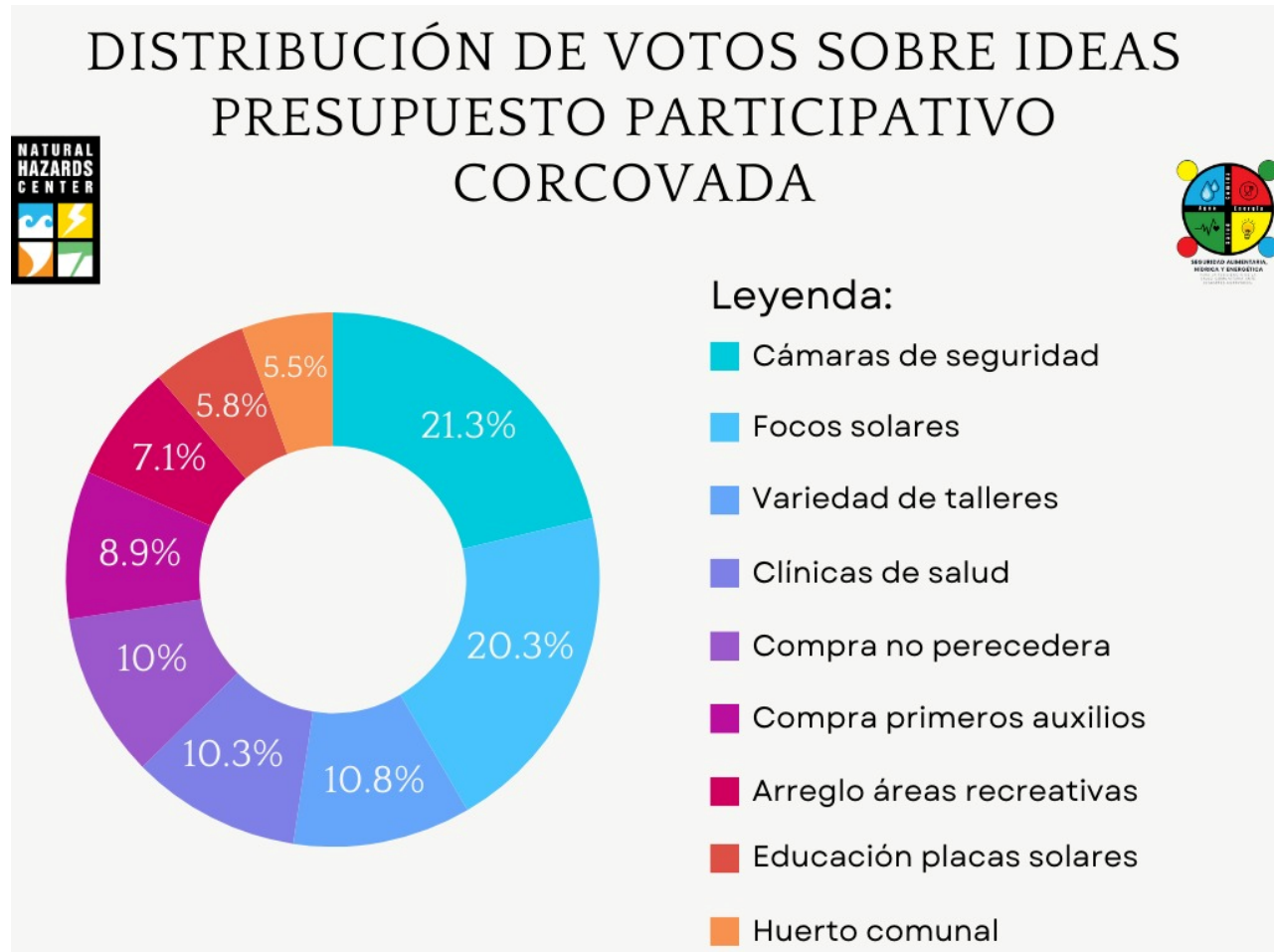
Para más información y participar en este proyecto, puede contactarse con:
Javier Nieves Torres, Coordinador de proyecto

787-242-6556



- Establishing a steering committee made from community members.
- Promote proposal solicitation to the community.
- Gather project proposals from the community for the steering committee for review.
- Hold voting with the community.
- Announce proposal winners.
- Start project implementation.
- Hold community event.

Results



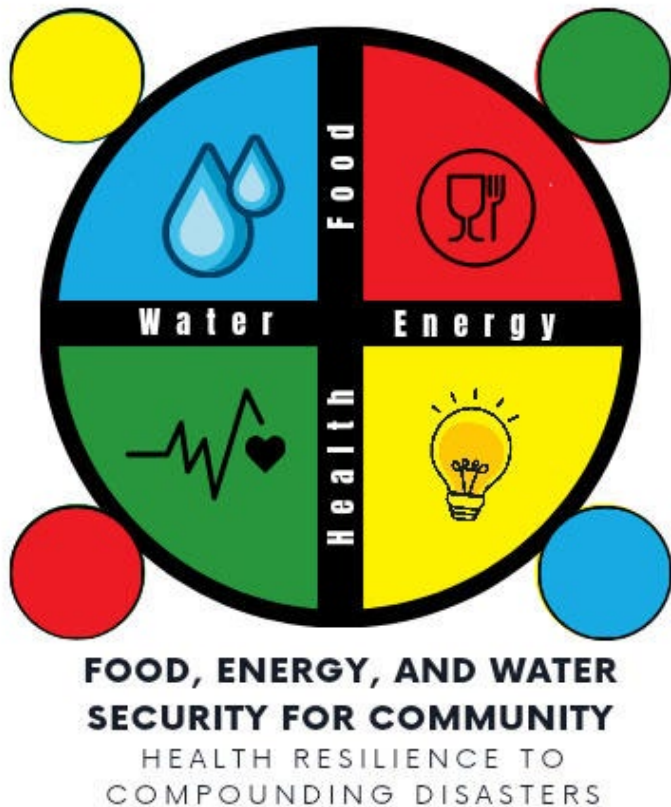
In English: security cameras (21.3%); solar streetlights (20.3%); workshop series (10.8%); health clinics (10.3%); purchase nonperishable food (10%); purchase first aid supplies (8.9%); repair recreational areas (7.1%); education about solar panels (5.6%); community garden (5.5%).



Results

- **We found that our project ignited active community participation from Corcovada community members at every stage of the process.**
 - We expect that as these projects are implemented, community members will have more opportunities to be educated on these topics, interact with each other, and rebuild social connections.
- **The participatory budget exercise supports community-led intervention in resilience to hazards and disasters.**
 - Considering the history of the community with hazards and disasters, we expect this will ultimately support community resilience to future events.
 - Community leaders shared the value of feeling that the proposed ideas and implementation were their own because of the opportunity to engage in decision-making throughout all stages of the project.

Public Health Application or Tool



- In previous phases on this project, we have developed a mapping tool, a community survey toolkit, and a website.
- For this phase, we developed a participatory budget project template to be shared with those interested in conducting a similar project in other communities.
- This template and all community approved projects will be posted on our Corcovada website: <https://home-fewsecuritydisaster.carrd.co/>.



Translating Research to Practice: Lessons Learned



1

We found that having deep connections to the community is essential to ensure participation and engagement from residents.

2

As members of the research team from various disciplines and backgrounds, we acknowledged that we had our own perceptions of what we believed would be beneficial for the community.

3

We found that having several different avenues for communicating with residents of Corcovada elicited excitement and drive for participation.

Acknowledgements

We would like to express our profound gratitude to the Corcovada community for welcoming our research team and for their active and invaluable participation in this collaborative effort. Their willingness to invest time and effort has been a cornerstone of our partnership, for which we are immensely thankful. We are grateful to the members of our participatory budgeting steering committee, as well as to all the residents who eagerly proposed ideas and participated in the voting process, demonstrating a commendable commitment to their community's development. Further, we cannot overlook the extraordinary role of Javier Nieves Torres, our project coordinator. Javier's efforts have been vital in ensuring that our project not only stayed on track but also thrived.

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