

# Environmental education as a community mobilization tool to advance health equity and environmental justice for isolated, low-income, and underserved communities in Puerto Rico

**PRESENTER:**  
Myrellis Muñiz Márquez, MPH

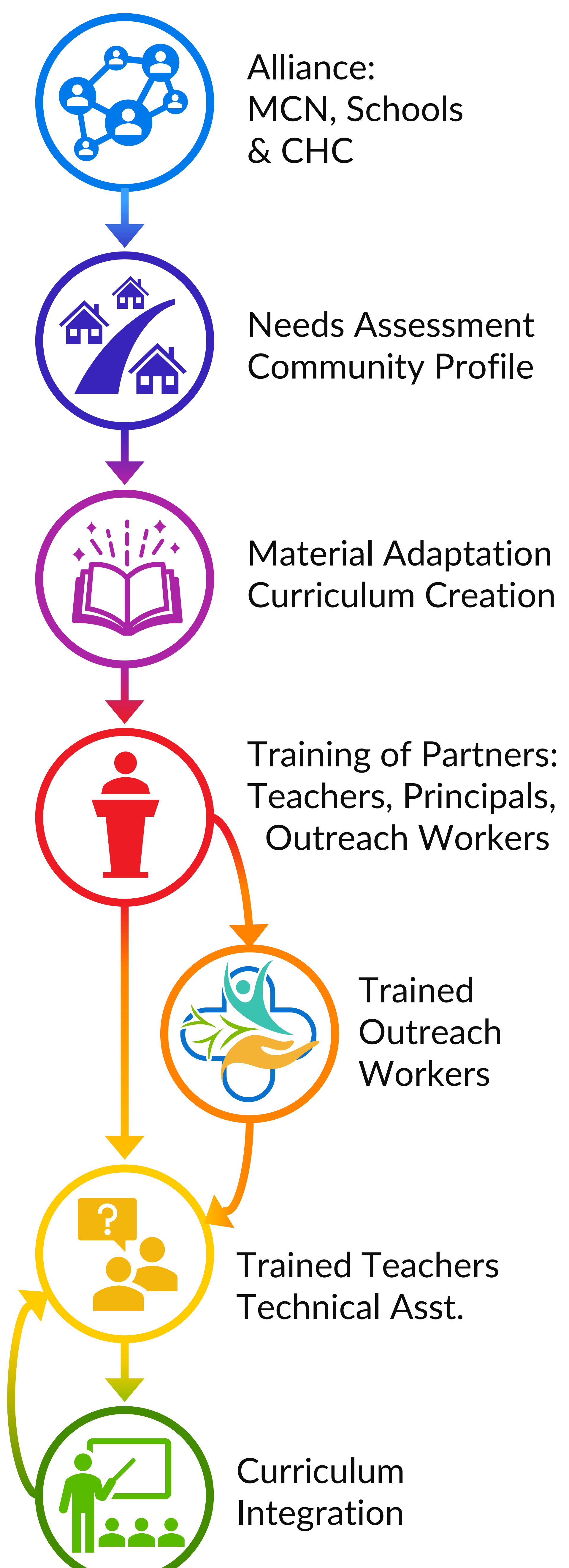
**BACKGROUND**  
Rural communities in central Puerto Rico face yearly challenges as climate-fueled hurricane seasons endanger their health and safety. In 2017, access to clean/safe drinking water and environmental contamination was problematic after Hurricane Maria devastated communities throughout the island.

**METHODS**

- Formative Evaluation:**  
Needs Assessment and Community Profile
- Process Evaluation:**  
1 Workshop and 6 Learning Collaboratives
- Outcomes Evaluation:**  
Knowledge Change, Environmental Stewardship Criteria, Partnerships, Community Impact

- RESULTS**
- INCREASE IN KNOWLEDGE
  - INCREASED ACCESS TO ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION MATERIALS
  - CAPACITY BUILDING OPPORTUNITIES IN COMMUNITY ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP
  - PARTNERSHIPS SUCCESSFULLY ESTABLISHED
  - INCREASED COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION TO IMPROVE PROTECTION OF HUMAN HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT
  - INCREASED ABILITY OF CRITICAL THINKING: ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES & DECISIONS THAT AFFECT HUMAN HEALTH & THE ENVIRONMENT IN TERMS OF DISASTER PREPAREDNESS & RESPONSE

An **environmental education** program that fostered **community mobilization** in disaster preparedness, and environmental conservation, **advanced health equity and environmental justice** in rural communities in Puerto Rico.



**Process Evaluation**

Criteria	Workshop AVG Score (1 - 5 scale)	(6) LC AVG Score (1 - 5 scale)
Presenter competence and expertise	5	5
Overall satisfaction	5	4.3
New areas of knowledge including ideas and methods to implement in the project were presented	5	4.9
Learning objectives met	5	
Level of information commensurate with participant's training or experience	5	
Confidence in considering application of the information presented	5	
Experienced knowledge gain	5	
Provided a space to share best practices and ideas		5

**Outcome Evaluation**

Activity	Impacted Participants	Average Change in Knowledge
Workshop	School personnel Outreach workers Community leaders	Gain 8%
Curriculum Integration	Students	Gain 20%



Scan with camera for more information & access to all project resources!

**TEAM**  
Muñiz-Márquez, Myrellis, MPH  
Liebman, Amy, MPA, MA  
Pagán-Santana, Marysel, DrPH, MS  
Torres-Torres, Nicole  
Galván, Alma, MHC

