



Partners for World Health
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**PARTNERS FOR WORLD HEALTH'S DONATION OF MEDICAL SUPPLIES FINALLY
DISTRIBUTED TO PUERTO RICO FACILITIES IN NEED**

Local Effort. Global Impact.

Vieques Island, Puerto Rico (March 28, 2020) - In October of 2017, Partners for World Health (PWH) shipped two 40-foot containers filled with donated medical supplies and equipment to Puerto Rico in response to the Category 5 Hurricane Maria which devastated the island in September, 2017.

While many of the supplies were utilized in the capital of San Juan, other items including personal protective equipment (PPE), were transferred and stored at a local hospital on Vieques Island, off Puerto Rico's eastern coast. The hospital has been closed since the 2017 storm due to a lack of staffing. Having been in storage for over two years, health officials discovered the stock of medical supplies and equipment amidst the coronavirus outbreak.

The 2017 shipments were in partnership with Dr. Jesus Alvelo, President of A.M.A.R and a doctor at Bayamon Medical who has also played an essential role in the recovery of these supplies. Dr. Alvelo and his team of medical professionals recently traveled to Vieques, training the local MD's, health personnel and first responders proper procedures related to COVID-19, PPE, and the practical management of the equipment. Supplies were distributed to health institutions, medical labs, elderly homes, refugee camps and local clinics.

"Although the initial mismanagement of our donation is upsetting, it is comforting to know that these supplies will help to save the lives of those on Vieques Island, during the COVID-19 pandemic." Elizabeth McLellan, Founder and President of PWH.

PWH collects medical supplies and equipment from healthcare facilities, manufacturers, other organizations, and individuals. They sort, evaluate, repackage, and prepare these supplies and equipment for distribution to individuals, communities, and healthcare facilities in need both locally and internationally.

PWH's commitment to their international partners has not strayed, however it is the commitment to their dedicated New England partners that has taken priority during these unprecedented times. PWH has loaned ventilators, beds, IV poles, IV pumps and other needed medical equipment to many of their partners organizations on the front lines in New England and New York. They have donated masks, gloves, gowns, and other sanitation items to these heroes including over 7,000 N95 masks. PWH has always focused on helping those in need and will continue to do so.

Partners for World Health is a 501 (c)3 non-profit organization.