



# Mosaic 2021: A Year In Review

## Q&A

In an effort to center the voices of our grant partners and the communities they serve, this year we decided to ask a few questions to a handful of partners and share their answers.

This document provides the unabridged answers from our partners. To read the abridged answers, and see the full issue of Mosaic 2021, visit [pcusa.org/mosaic21](http://pcusa.org/mosaic21)

### Question 1

**What have you found useful in partnering with the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) through PDA?**

Lisa Horne, Director of Community Ministry at First Presbyterian Church of Flint:

The most useful was offering the talents of the Story Ministry to restore the voice of the residents of Flint to share our lived experience related to the water crisis and to also share the story with the world. The distribution of water and filters also met a great need in our community. I must also add that your seat at the table to educate and increase awareness on lead poisoning and water injustices demonstrates your commitment to caring for communities affected by crisis and catastrophic events. Thank you for being present with us.

Bruce Yerman, Director of Operations for the Camp Fire Collaborative

PDA has been with the Camp Fire Collaborative through the beginning providing support to the Unmet Needs Round Table. PDA funds have been used specifically for what we identify as "Complex Unmet Needs," those that require a concerted effort of several funders to help the most vulnerable survivors recover. We work with greater confidence and effectiveness because of PDA.

Magda Bolland, Executive Director of La Posada Providencia shelter at the U.S./Mexico border

The funding allows us to hire more staff for the weekend and welcome more guests.



Alison Wood, Tucson Borderlands YAV site coordinator

Partnering with the PC(USA) through PDA has connected local organizations with a wider network of resources and support. The partnership helps the Tucson Borderlands YAVs see how they are situated within this web of denominational connections, making them feel the truth of their role in the larger picture of the church. We feel supported by PDA and, by extension, the PC(U.S.A.), and are grateful for the resources, encouragement, and collaboration that can emerge as we work for a better world together.

Tori Salas, Coordinating Director of Interfaith Welcome Coalition

PDA understands that serving immigrants and refugees is an emergency. However, PDA is also aware of the current border shelters and organizations that assist immigrants and refugees throughout the nation.

Lirio Márquez D'Acunti, Executive Director of Vieques Conservation and Historical Trust in Puerto Rico

Partnering with PDA has been beyond useful. Funding provided by PDA was fundamental in setting up our Barbosa Resiliency Hub and was the inspiration for our Resiliency Project. With PDA funding we were able to install a water catchment and filtration system and two 1000-gallon cisterns that allow us to provide drinking water to the community during emergencies. A photovoltaic (PV) system was also funded by PDA. This system, which is totally off the grid, allows us to provide energy for the community to charge their devices and connect to the internet during emergencies. But most importantly, we have installed an emergency communications center at the Resiliency Hub which is powered by this PV system and that will allow us to communicate in and off island during emergencies. As stated before, the funding provided by PDA was the motivation and first step in our Resiliency Project which promotes resiliency and preparedness through education and technology to improve community safety and wellness before, during and after an emergency.

Angelina Nyajima Simon Jial, Executive Director of Hope Restoration South Sudan

Response and management of disasters such as floods and COVID-19 pandemic. Mitigating their devastating impacts on the affected populations through management of Flood Protection Systems and COVID-19 awareness raising campaign. Disaster risk assessment and management strategies as well as emergency relief are some of the aspects I found useful.

Peter M. Egwudah, Program Coordinator of Civil Society Coalition for Poverty Eradication (CISCOPE) in Nigeria

a. Home grown initiatives from the community and partner supported by PDA and PC thereby, allowing the community members or beneficiaries to own the project. This has allowed for sustainability of projects funded by PDA.



b. Funding and support from PDA to its partner CISCOPE, is able to reach beneficiaries in hard to reach location and communities that were not reached with any form of assistance by humanitarian actors in the north east region where the activities of the non state armed group (boko haram), has displaced people from their community.

Judith Castañeda, General Coordinator of The Protestant Center for Pastoral Studies in Central America (CEDEPCA)

- Training that PDA has given to CEDEPCA staff on emotional care,
- To be able to provide a humanitarian response due to the effects of COVID-19 due to storms ETA and IOTA.
- Be able to provide psychological and spiritual care in emergencies.
- Reference of cedepca's work to strengthen relations with other PCUSA programs (Self-Development of Peoples and Program Against Hunger).
- Visibility of the work of CEDEPCA and PAD with the churches of PCUSA.
- Financing to attend emergencies:
  - Food, water filters
  - Psychosocial and spiritual care
  - Livelihood recovery.
- Funding for CEDEPCA's PAD program

**Question 2**

**How have you seen the immediate and long-term impacts of climate change informing the work that you do?**

Camp Fire Collaborative

Long-term recovery from a disaster, notably the Camp Fire, is influenced by climate change's immediate and long-term impacts. These impacts permeate recovery work in many forms: economically, socially, psychologically, and as a community (and beyond). While this is a multi-faceted issue, a disaster like the Camp Fire in 2018 resulted from years of drought, low humidity, and unseasonably high temperatures in the Sierra Nevadas. Conditions that continue to impact the landscape of the burn scar.

Immediate impacts of disasters of this magnitude create immediate and long-term displacement of those impacted, as the scale and destruction of this wildfire prevented safe access to the burn scar for months. Coordinating immediate relief efforts and building long-term recovery systems to help people with immediate and long-term needs is a position the Camp Fire Collaborative has occupied since the Camp Fire in 2018.



As the hub for our Disaster Case Management Program, the Camp Fire Collaborative has had to modify and adapt a system that could accommodate the spectrum of needs created by the initial disaster while incorporating the impacts of a global pandemic and subsequent wildfires in and around the borders of the Camp Fire burn scar. Here are some areas that climate change has significantly impacted our work, in consideration of both immediate and long impacts:

- ***Drastic and ongoing change to the burn scar landscape.*** The extensive damage caused by the Camp Fire impacted both the immediate and long-term safety of people returning to the ridge. Dead and dying trees, hurricane-strength winds, flooding, power outages, and mudslides are some of the ongoing challenges of climate change and natural disasters. This influences recovery in many ways, including understandable hesitation to rebuild or remain in the burn scar. These conditions are retraumatizing and present many challenges to survivors navigating case management and the decision to return to an area with these adversities. Additionally, with natural disasters impacting many regions nationally, survivors face difficulty identifying alternative places to relocate that is not affected by climate change and potential disasters. Lapses in rehousing decisions create strains on the disaster case management system, as case managers must navigate clients who are experiencing the stress of not determining a long-term solution.
- ***Threat to human health.*** The Camp Fire destroyed most of the healthcare system on the ridge. What remains is a small clinic to serve the remaining and returning population impacted by the fire. Without a hospital nearby, immediate and extensive medical treatment must be accessed outside of the burn scar. The ongoing impact of a population removed from their support systems while mitigating the effects of trauma has increased addiction, crime, domestic violence, mental health challenges, and chronic homelessness.
- Additionally, the high temperatures experienced in the summer endanger those living in the burn scar who may be without adequate shelter and air conditioning. Elderly and medically fragile populations, in particular, are particularly vulnerable to these weather extremes. As we navigate each season post-fire, disasters and weather events disrupt individual and community-wide recovery capacity. It perpetuates a state of survival and need for relief. Furthermore, ongoing impacts of climate change have made individuals and our community more vulnerable to the effects of Covid-19. Unable to establish congregate shelters, relief work after both the North Complex Fire and the Dixie Fire looked quite different. Many Camp Fire survivors living on the ridge evacuated for the North Complex Fire, increasing communal interactions and decreasing the number of isolated households. Simply put, displacement caused by the natural disasters initiated by climate change impacts individual and community health during a pandemic and how relief work typically gets administered.



- **Systems.** Before the fire, Butte County was already experiencing a housing crisis. Our county has the highest Adverse Childhood Experience scores (ACEs) in California, yielding a population navigating a broad spectrum of barriers created by generational trauma, poverty, lack of resources, etc. The Camp Fire and subsequent disasters brought on by climate change have required many care systems to coordinate their work (a good thing) but have also placed a lot of strain and heavy workloads on already overwhelmed service providers. Our systems have asked providers to respond immediately to the immense needs of displaced families while also shifting to long-term recovery work while also preparing for the likelihood of more disasters that will require solid and resilient systems that can provide services now and for the foreseeable future. The continued potential that climate change will continue to yield such destructive disasters increases the likelihood of populations experiencing multiple displacements and losses. As we move further into the recovery process, identifying unmet needs caused by the Camp Fire versus subsequent disaster and climate change adversities becomes more difficult.

### La Posada Providencia

During Hurricane Harvey, the demand for shelter in Texas increased because Houston was underwater.

When Winter Storm Uri hit, La Posada spent many days without electricity -and it was a nightmare. With a propane grill, the staff provided hot drinks and meals to guests. Additionally, to make matters more difficult, the winter storm was at the beginning of the 2021 migrant influx -and La Posada was overflowing with guests -some were staying at hotels without electricity, stranded for days due to canceled flights, and buses.

La Posada has seen migrants from Haiti and Cuba after hurricanes. The same happens with people from Honduras and Guatemala, where communities are highly dependent on agriculture - and their countries are also vulnerable to storms.

Historically La Posada's arrivals decrease during the summer months due to the high temperatures. However, last year was unprecedented -with the high number of migrants arriving across the US-Mexico border.

### YAV Tucson Borderlands

Through our partnership with PDA, Tucson Borderlands YAV has been able to place Young Adult Volunteers with organizations supporting refugees and asylum seekers. In these work



placements, the YAVs see how climate change is increasingly fueling migration - driving people from their homes where they can no longer support themselves (through farming, for example) the way that generations before were used to doing. At the same time, here in the Sonoran Desert, the conditions facing people migrating are made harsher by increasing climate chaos. We expect these conditions will continue to worsen across the board, making the journey more desperate and more dangerous for our neighbors in transit.

### Interfaith Welcome Coalition

Communities of people are leaving their countries due to natural disasters caused by climate change. For example, natural disasters in Haiti have impacted the people and they can no longer survive in their country. Climate change affects a people's ability to obtain basic needs; there will continue to be people migrating to survive. Climate change also impacts where we send immigrants and refugees to in the United States as there are states that are short on water supply, land that doesn't grow food, etc. Such places are unsustainable to live in and residents are resentful of newcomers.

### Vieques Conservation and Historical Trust

Most of the work that we currently do is influenced by climate change: Resiliency Project – educates about climate change consequences for a small island and prepares communities in Vieques and Culebra for disaster communications and other preparedness methods; MANTA education program visits to all schools in Vieques, has preparedness and climate change education components; The Mangrove Project, reforestation and scientific research to combat the effects of Hurricane Maria in our mangrove forests and the Vieques Bioluminescent Bay.

### Hope Restoration South Sudan

Climate change has caused flooding in my place of work. It has directly killed animals, destroyed the places they live, and wreaked havoc on communities' livelihoods. Flooding disasters took lives away, displaced people and destroyed infrastructure. This has posed challenges to my humanitarian work since movements to project sites has not been possible.

### CISCOPE Nigeria

The immediate impact of climate change in communities where we work include but not limited to the following;

- a. Lost of livelihood as a result of flood, causing landslides, washing off farmlands and livestock.



- b. Excess drought in the sahel region of the country, resulting to poor crop yeild and high rate of morbidity of animals
- c. Food insecurity resulting to hunger and acute malnutrition, especially among children and lactating mothers.
- d. Unemployment and high rate of poverty as well as surge in crime rate

### CEDEPCA

The immediate impacts are easily observable: Drought, crop failure, soil infertility, migration.

In the long term, the extension of the “dry corridor” that crosses the country in its central part and has almost reached the border with Mexico is expected. Also in the long term, poverty will increase due to the low fertility of the soil due to the scarcity of water. Some areas will tend to desertification processes. Heat waves and average temperature rise will be more frequent, with greater impact in areas where the climate is generally warm. The gradual disappearance of fauna and flora is also expected due to the severe impact on ecosystems. The possibility of inter community conflicts due to lack of water is not ruled out.

From CEDEPCA, through the PAD program, awareness-raising processes have begun regarding the care of the environment through talks, workshops and courses; and actions have been initiated in the field of reforestation to preserve the soil and mitigate the impact of climate change.

CEDEPCA also promotes disaster prevention actions that may be caused by climate change, through training in the area of Risk Management. Mainly due to the impact that the greater recurrence and intensity of hydrometeorological phenomena, derived from global warming, may have.

### **Question 3**

**What are some challenges you are facing in your work and how can the church accompany you?**

#### First Presbyterian Church of Flint

Some challenges as water recovery continues and we all battle the impact of the COVID Pandemic are helping those who are experiencing poverty and homelessness regain a sense of hope. As we continue to assist with legal documents for access to local, state, and federal programs, the need for temporary shelter, transportation, navigating social service systems, and help with food security are an ongoing challenge for residents. The mental and emotional distress



has been very challenging for many. The church can accompany us by first continuing to lift us up in prayer, sharing the stories of lived experiences, and any resources to support the Community Ministry in reducing barriers to access and providing emergency needs will be a blessing.

#### Camp Fire Collaborative

We are in year four following the Camp Fire, where 14,000 homes were destroyed. Disaster Case Management has contacted 8,000 households, Opened and closed 5,000 cases, and we currently have 400 open cases with new cases each week. The Camp Fire Collaborative has assisted 1,400 families through our Unmet Needs a round table, and 39 of those 72 of those cased have provided a rebuild or a manufactured home. Much of this work has been done during the pandemic in the past two years. There continues to be pressure to provide resources for the most vulnerable. Our greatest need is to house vulnerable families through the Unmet Needs Program. We have three volunteer rebuild groups working in the Camp Fire Burn scar area. At this time, a 1,000 square foot home will cost 140,000 for a volunteer rebuild group (up 40K since the beginning of the disaster). That amount is beyond what the combined funders can produce due to funding limitations per case. We need to increase the number of funders at the table.

#### La Posada Providencia

La Posada would like to continue to count on PDA's financial support, we would like to add medical staff and we are also interested in professional training.

#### YAV Tucson Borderlands

We are finding that almost everyone we work with is carrying a heavy load of trauma and anxiety. This is, of course, made deeper by the ongoing pandemic. Our partners in hospitality are working hard to find ways to keep hundreds of visitors safe through COVID, as well as protecting the volunteers who serve with them. We covet the church's prayers and financial support and are grateful for the ways we are already experiencing these blessings through PDA!

#### Interfaith Welcome Coalition

Our work is unpredictable. We can't provide a plan to serve migrants as the trend changes daily, and we need to adjust to provide welcoming services. In December we saw a tremendous increase of migrants, the most since the beginning of 2021 and more than 2019. Through the migrant coordinating partnership, we were able to meet these needs knowing that such numbers are not sustainable to provide services.



### Vieques Conservation and Historical Trust

Being able to stay ahead in technology and equipment is one of our major challenges. This project is not only starting but is limited in funding and acquiring equipment is sometimes uphill. Being able to hire more staff to meet increasing demands of the project is also a challenge.

### Hope Restoration South Sudan

Inaccessibility to the affected populations due to floods, inadequate non-food items (NFIs) supplies and shelters for the IDPs displaced by floods, lack of medical supplies and expertise in the few available medical facilities for Covid-19 response, lack of food items. PDA can step in by providing more funding to be able to build resilience and improve livelihoods of people who are affected by flooding.

### CISCOPE Nigeria

- a. Paucity of funds from donor agencies due to competing needs in other region.
- b. The need for capacity development of PDA partners in project mgt circle, fund raising and data analysis
- c. Availability of funds and institutional support for partners

### CEDEPCA

#### A-Challenges:

- Carrying out face-to-face activities so as not to lose contact and relationship with the communities we serve.
- The increase in poverty, unemployment and migration.
- Maintain safety and distancing measures to avoid contagion in the people we serve and the CEDEPCA team.
- That people in communities have access to vaccines and want to get vaccinated.
- Have the human and economic resources to be able to respond in an emergency both in Guatemala and in Costa Rica, El Salvador and Nicaragua.
- Develop the area of pastoral and spiritual care in order to provide comprehensive care.
- Respond appropriately to the mental health crisis.
- Have the economic resources to be able to implement development projects.
- Have economic resources for the maintenance of the Disaster Prevention and Attention program.



- How to respond to the effects of climate change.

B- How can PDA help?

- Continue with the training of the Prevention and Emergency Care team
- Humanitarian aid issues,
- Spiritual and pastoral care,
- Continue to make visible the work between CEDEPCA and PDA
- Financing for emergency response and development projects
- Financing for the operation of CEDEPCA'S PAD program.

#### **Question 4**

**What do you wish our constituents knew more about the communities with whom you are working?**

##### First Presbyterian Church of Flint

I want the constituents to know that Flint is a community that despite challenges, continues to fight for what is right, fair and just. First Presbyterian Church of Flint and other faith communities are working closer with social service agencies, educational institutions, local foundations and other governmental organizations to overcome the challenges faced by many individuals and families. We know the need many times outweighs the resources but by faith and through hope we continue to answer the call to serve, create hope and prepare for a healthier future for our community.

##### Camp Fire Collaborative

The Paradise, Magalia, and Concow areas pride their resourcefulness and resiliency. And they help each other. We have received several donations from survivors we helped house - after their lives are settled, and income grows. Camp Fire Survivors are paying it forward.

##### La Posada Providencia

Our guests are very vulnerable -they have experienced tons of suffering and poverty since birth and during their travel to the United States. Most of them need medical and psychological services.

##### YAV Tucson Borderlands

Young adults are passionate and smart - they are full of wondering about how to follow God's voice through the thickets of this complicated world and are already leaders for a church seeking God's way into a better future. U.S./Mexico border communities are full of creative, strategic,



compassionate people, on both sides of the border, who are collaborating across national and cultural borders to take care of neighbors in transit. People in transit - migrants, refugees, and asylum seekers - are just people, as complex and challenging and wonderful as anyone else, persisting through all the hardships put up by government, landscape, climate change, violence, and bad actors. If you are looking for Matthew 25 communities, you will find them here.

### Interfaith Welcome Coalition

Interfaith Welcome Coalition addresses the best way possible to meet the needs of immigrants and refugees by providing essential services. However, it takes additional resources to serve Haitian or African populations. Such resources as intensive case management, interpreters, and training for culturally competent staff and volunteers to provide adequate services

Interfaith Welcome Coalition has seen an increase of immigrants and refugees that have arrived in San Antonio without sponsors or a place to go. Serving immigrants and refugees that need shelter and sponsor support services takes additional resources such as hotel rooms, meals, over the counter medication, etc. The refugees from Afghanistan have been provided with the support of faith based organizations that normally provide support to immigrants and refugees that are coming across the border. This constraint is being addressed by IWC with organizations throughout the nation to create a national database of sponsors and shelters.

COVID continues to impact our volunteer pool at IWC and our partner organizations. Additional supplies have been needed to provide equipment for our volunteers to be safe to serve migrants.

### Vieques Conservation and Historical Trust

The people we are serving are part of a low-income struggling community. Limited resources are part of daily life in Vieques. Transportation issues make it very difficult to bring resources to the island. The lack of information that people who don't live here have about our reality and our needs limits the access to support from outside Vieques or Puerto Rico: little is known about which or how things are affecting us. Lack of knowledge of our reality sometimes generates the proposal or implementation of projects/"solutions" that although well-intentioned, don't really work in our communities. This same lack of exposure to the "outside world" limits our community's access to processes, funding and education to implement appropriate solutions to daily and emergency situations.

### Hope Restoration South Sudan

I wish they knew more about the extent to which poverty has ravaged communities in Unity State, South Sudan, and which is caused by prolonged periods of armed inter-communal



conflicts. If we design and implement agricultural- based long term projects with a view to building their livelihoods, incidents of conflicts will decrease and so the poverty levels.

### CISCOPE Nigeria

We are currently working in Ibaji Local Government Area of Kogi State situated in the North Central part of Nigeria. The state is adjudged to be the centre of Nigeria, it shares both with 10 other states including, Abuja the capital city of Nigeria, it is a gateway between the northern and southern part of the country.

The two longest rivers in Nigeria;( River Benue and River Niger) converge in Lokoja the capital of Kogi state, hence it is christened "the confluence state." The presence of these rivers in the state has become a nightmare for the citizens for onward of ten years. Yearly flood as a result of climatic factor has continue to decimate the lives and livelihood of the citizens,especially the rural poor who depend on small scale farming to earn a living.

The affected population in these communities is where we are currently implementing our project with funding from PDA/PHP/SDP.

We have recieved funding from PDA for COVID 19 response in Adamawa State, North East Nigeria. Were we are able to utilise the funds for the provision of PPEs, food and non food items for vulnererable households, especially lactating, pregnant mothers and children in IDP camps and host communities.

### CEDEPCA

- That they are communities and people with resilience
- That they are people interested in learning and improving their knowledge through the courses and workshops that CEDEPCA and its programs offer.
- Creative, hard-working people with the spirit to undertake projects to overcome their conditions of poverty
- Communities with an interest and willingness to organize and support each other to execute projects of mutual benefit.
- They are communities formed mostly by youth and with a lot of interest and need to overcome.
- Vulnerable communities in conditions of extreme poverty that receive little attention from the government in order to have basic services for their human development.
- Communities in indigenous/Mayan who do not speak Spanish, only their mother tongue or native language.
- Communities composed of people with little or no schooling.
- Communities with limited access to clean water for human consumption.
- Communities composed of mestizo and indigenous people who have cultural practices of survival that damage the environment