

# INSIGHTS

Philanthropy • PNNL Study • Education



Photo: Courtesy of PhoScope

Educational workshops are one way Light Reach supported communities left in the dark after Hurricane Maria.

## Light Reach

### *Empowering Life After Dark*

Darkness is easy to love when we have a light switch at arm's length, but for those living in "light poverty," it can mean trauma, danger and hardship. One program focused on preventing such circumstances is Light Reach, created by lighting think-tank PhoScope to address global light poverty and facilitate social and philanthropic action in the global lighting community.

In contrast to product-based humanitarian programs that supply solar lighting systems and lanterns for basic tasks and safety, Light Reach's approach is to help people light their environments and to support communities' social and cultural needs.

"Not only can we advance the well-being, social life and personal development of many people by facilitating their access to light, but by sharing our knowledge about light, we can also foster new avenues of sophisticated artistic expression, sociocultural fulfillment and creative enterprise," says Nathalie Rozot, president and CEO of PhoScope.





**Program offerings range from supply kits for workshops (left) to installation projects.**

Using collaborative design processes with local users and partners, and scalable solar lighting programs with rapidly deployable and replicable project models, the projects solve individual and collective needs, and double as sustainable back-up lighting systems in case of emergencies.

For example, when Puerto Rico went dark after Hurricane Maria, Light Reach launched a pilot phase of its first program, Recreo de Noche, which to date has served three Puerto Rican communities over the course of eight months with five workshops (two in community centers and three in the field) and 137 donated fixtures (12 streetlights, five floodlights and 120 portable lights).