



**United States
Department of
Agriculture**

Community Economic Development

Rural Development assists in Hurricane Disaster efforts with deployed employee Mike Botelho



Outline Of Need: RD As many know, housing is a critical and often challenging component of disaster recovery. It must be adequate, affordable, and accessible to make a difference for the whole community. Assistance is needed when disaster strikes to coordinate housing efforts and help those in need. HUD operates as the Federal Housing RSF coordinator and facilitates the delivery of Federal resources to implement housing solutions that effectively support the needs of the whole community and contribute to its sustainability and resilience.

How Rural Development Helped: Rural Development received a request for mission assignment from FEMA for assignment to the Housing Recovery Support Function (RSF) as a result of Hurricane Irma. Mike Botelho gladly stepped up to fill that great need as the Housing RSF Primary Agency Representative.

The Results: Mikes assistance works on preliminary housing and infrastructure impacts and pre- and post-disaster needs. He helps identify available options for temporary housing, and supports the local development of plans for permanent housing. Mike provides FEMA with MFH information such as project and vacancy information to house Hurricane Irma victims who were displaced. Mike also acts as a

participant in FEMA’s City of Everglades City Wastewater Treatment Plant Task Force and on FEMA’s Housing Task Force. Mike’s major responsibility is working with HUD to compose a Mission Scoping Assessment (MSA) and Recovery Support Strategy (RSS). Mike is also currently working with FEMA to put in place a 504 Loan and Grant Program Pilot program with Lowe’s for the following Counties: Collier, Okeechobee, Highland, Glades, and Hendry in which FEMA will provide RD with FEMA registrants with damage to their homes where they can apply for 504 assistance to repair their homes. Mike also worked as a conduit to possible make 59 units at Collier County Housing Authority available to displaced residents in Immokalee under FEMA’s Multi-Family Lease and Repair Program.



Fast Facts

Program: USDA Rural Development Community Economic Development and General RD Programs Outreach including Wastewater. Assisting in housing RSF and the City of Everglades Wastewater Treatment Plant Taskforce

Date: Detail started on 9/20/17 and is currently expected to last through 03/30/2018 with members of Interagency Resource Coordination (IRC) also known as National Disaster Recovery Support (NDRS)

Investment: RD Staff hours and set-up to help with recovery efforts.

Partners: Army Corp of Engineers, EDA, HUD, Health & Human Services, SBA, EPA, FEMA, Department of Interior, Department of Energy, and multiple State agencies.

Impact: . It has been extremely helpful to have someone from RD who has local contacts and is extremely knowledgeable regarding the areas (South Florida) that were most affected. The



**RD Employee Mike Botelho, Florida Area 6 Director on duty with his JFO team and Edna Primrose, Rural Development Deputy Administrator
THANKS MIKE!!!**