



OUR RESPONSE

As of Friday, February 19, Airlink has launched a response to the winter blast event under its North America Regional Response Plan. As of February 22, Airlink has deployed 6 passengers from NGO partner **Operation BBQ Relief** to assist with mass feeding, thanks to flight support from **United Airlines**. The Humanitarian Programs team is in contact with six other nonprofit organizations to support potential response efforts.

Please reach out to ops@airlinkflight.org if your organization is planning a deployment or shipment of supplies.

AIRLINK SUPPORT SERVICES

Flights for Critical Staff and Volunteers

Airlink is providing free-of-charge flights to staff and volunteers supporting NGO partner operations.

Cargo Flights for Critical Supplies

Airlink is supporting the humanitarian community through in-kind and discounted cargo flights into the affected areas of the southern US where possible.

THE SITUATION

Winter Storm Uri passed through the US, Canada, and Northern Mexico in mid-February 2021. The storm impacted over 170 million people, caused blackouts for over 9.7 million people in the U.S. and Mexico, cut off access to water for more than 7 million people, and created major weather events including blizzard conditions and tornadoes throughout the region. At least 70 deaths have been attributed to the storm so far.

The storm has disproportionately impacted unhoused and low-income populations who are already food- and housing-insecure; due to COVID-19, many ongoing recovery projects in the Southern US were delayed or under-resourced, resulting in these populations becoming more vulnerable to weather events this season.

Logistics: Due to inclement weather conditions, flights to airports across Texas and trucking throughout the Southwest US have been difficult to procure; this has hampered aid distribution activities over the last week. With temperatures forecasted to be well above freezing over the coming week, these challenges may abate, allowing aid to come in.

Response Needs: Short-term needs include PPE for essential workers and those in congregate shelter settings, socks, scarves, hand warmers, blankets, soaps, wipes, toilet paper, snacks, pet food, and bottled water.

Long-term Recovery Needs: As communities move from response to recovery, significant concerns remain regarding the 2021 Spring Flooding season. Ways to effectively muck out homes without removing house insulation will be key to ensuring people can stay home and avoid group shelters. Ultimately, a successful response hinges on the state governments' ability to collect accurate damage data, as well as nonprofit organizations' ability to adequately meet the shelter repair needs of millions of homes. Significant donated support - via in-kind logistics and flight support, in-kind clean-up and relief materials, financial support of programs, and volunteers - will be needed in order to quickly carry out this recovery effort.

RESPONDING AGENCIES

If you don't see your organization listed and are responding, please email ops@airlinkflight.org.

- Adventist Community Services
- Catholic Charities USA
- Convoy of Hope
- Disaster Services Corporation
- Feed the Children
- Footprint Project
- Good360
- Habitat for Humanity
- ITDRC
- Operation BBQ Relief
- Operation Blessing
- Presbyterian Disaster Assistance
- Salvation Army
- Save the Children USA
- Team Rubicon USA
- UMCOR
- World Central Kitchen