OUR RESPONSE
On September 28, Hurricane Ian made landfall as a Category 4 storm, bringing 155 mph maximum sustained winds to southwest Florida. Airlink activated its North America Regional Response Plan following Hurricane Ian’s landfall and in anticipation of widespread humanitarian needs. We are currently connecting with nonprofit, logistics, and airline partners in the region to assess main needs and capabilities. Please reach out to ops@airlinkflight.org if your organization is planning to respond and/or has a request for transportation assistance.

THE SITUATION
Hurricane Ian caused catastrophic damage to parts of Florida that experienced extreme storm surges from 8 to 12 feet. At least 300,000 homes are still without power as of October 5th. The death toll in Florida is at least 102 and search and rescue operations continue, it’s unclear how many people are still missing after the storm. About 1,700 people remain in emergency shelters as their homes were deemed uninhabitable due to flooding or infrastructure damage. Those in hard-to-reach areas were unable to call for help due to electricity outages and downed communications. Sanibel Island and Pine Island were cut off from Mainland Florida and are now only accessible by boat or aircraft. Schools in Lee and Charlotte counties are closed indefinitely and Sarasota County is making preparations for a phased reopening of schools to behind mid-October.

Ian made a second landfall in South Carolina before also impacting North Carolina as a category 1 storm on September 30th. At its peak, the hurricane left about 400,000 homes without power in the Carolinas, although most have now been restored. At least four people died in North Carolina as a result of the storm and hundreds of homes were damaged due to flooding.

In Cuba, Hurricane Ian made landfall as a Category 3 storm with winds at speeds up to 129 mph. In the aftermath of the storm, the entire island faced a prolonged power outage - the first time in recent history this has occurred. On Wednesday, September 28th, officials reported that power restoration had begun. Although parts of Havana and other population centers now have access to power, parts of the island still remain without.

Passenger Movement:
Response teams planning to enter the disaster area, are required to have the following on hand:
- Valid government issued ID (driver’s license, passport)
- Proof of employment (employer credentials, document on company letterhead)
- Demonstrated need to enter the area (work order, inventory list, employer authorization)
- Please Note: A Department of Homeland Security CISA Access Coordination Letter is not an acceptable document to enter any disaster areas in Florida.

For questions related to Airlink’s programmatic response, please contact ops@airlinkflight.org. To help fund Airlink’s response, please contact Development Director Sandra Walter at swalter@airlinkflight.org.
**Air Transportation:**
- **Tampa Bay (TPA):** open with normal operations.
- **Sarasota (SRQ):** open, but experiencing some delays.
- **Fort Myers (RSW):** open, with limited operations and some delays.
- **Orlando (MCO):** open with normal operations.
- **Miami (MIA):** open, with normal operations.
- **Fort Lauderdale (FLL):** open, with normal operations.

**Lodging:**
Airbnb.org is offering emergency responders vouchers for free of charge, short term stays. Should you be interested, please let us know the name and email address of the person(s) that would need the voucher, number of people in each voucher, and estimated check-in dates. We will send a referral and you will receive the voucher directly from Airbnb.

**Land Transportation:**
Fuel: Retail fuel stations in Fort Myers remain closed. If any Airlink partners operating in the Fort Myers area are in need of fuel, please reach out to Kate Bickford from Fuel Relief Fund at kbickford@fuelrelieffund.org.

**RESPONDING PARTNER AGENCIES**
*If your organization is not listed below, but is active in the response, please email ops@airlinkflight.org.*

**Active NGO Partners:**
- Child Life Disaster Relief
- Crisis Cleanup
- Empact Northwest
- Feed the Children
- Footprint Project
- Fuel Relief Fund
- Heart to Heart International
- Healthcare Ready

**Active Airline & Logistics Partners:**
- Alaska Airlines
- American Airlines
- American Logistics Aid Network
- JetBlue Airways
- SEKO Logistics
- Southwest Airlines
- United Airlines

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