



HURRICANES ETA & IOTA

3 MONTH REPORT

NOV 2020 - FEB 2021

LATIN AMERICA & CARIBBEAN
REGIONAL RESPONSE PLAN

WHERE WE'RE WORKING



Hurricane Eta made landfall on Nicaragua's eastern coast on November 2, 2020 as a Category 4 storm. The storm continued through Latin America, heavily impacting Honduras, as well as bringing substantial rain and wind to Guatemala, Belize, and Colombia's San Andrés and Providencia archipelago . Two weeks later, just 15 miles from where Eta made landfall, Hurricane Iota brought another Category 4 hurricane to Nicaragua and Honduras. The major airports remained closed for weeks. At least 10 million people throughout Central America were affected by the hurricanes and the subsequent rainfall, flooding, and landslides.

BY THE NUMBERS

Airlink has been working in Latin America and the Caribbean since the Haiti earthquake in 2010. The organization has worked to build partnerships over the last decade that have empowered a myriad responses in the region: an earthquake in Ecuador; flooding in Peru; hurricanes affecting island nations and territories across the Gulf of Mexico; the Fuego Volcano eruption in Guatemala; earthquakes in Mexico; and the COVID-19 pandemic across the region. Airlink has also been supporting disaster risk reduction and preparedness initiatives in Honduras, El Salvador, Guatemala, and Nicaragua for more than 7 years.

Thanks to foundation support and advance commitments of airlift from aviation partners, Airlink mounted a rapid and sustained response. Through these partnerships, Airlink is conducting a multi-country response to bring shelter, clean water, and healthcare to people in need.

Across impacted communities in the region, access to safe drinking water remains a critical concern. Even three months after the hurricanes, people are getting water from unsafe sources, increasing their risk of waterborne diseases. Without clean water, disaster-affected communities cannot practice COVID-19 prevention measures, and cases are on the rise. This response is ongoing, with planned activities continuing at least over the next three to six months.



7,500

POUNDS OF RELIEF
SUPPLIES DELIVERED



18

RESPONDERS
DEPLOYED



\$36,929

IN TRANSPORTATION
RELIEF FOR NGOS



6

NONPROFIT
ORGANIZATIONS
HELPED



41K

PEOPLE PROVIDED
WITH HEALTHCARE &
SUPPLIES



48K

PEOPLE PROVIDED
WITH WASH
ASSISTANCE



15K

PEOPLE PROVIDED
WITH SHELTER &
NON-FOOD ITEMS

COLOMBIA

The island chain of San Andrés and Providencia is Colombia's largest archipelago, located off the coast of Nicaragua. One of its islands, Providencia, sustained a direct hit from Hurricane Iota that resulted in an estimated 98 percent of infrastructure and 80% of residences being damaged or destroyed.

Flights from **Avianca** and **United Airlines** helped make possible two projects that are now bringing water and shelter to the island's more than 5,000 permanent residents.

Working with the Colombian government, **World Hope International's** team of clean water specialists quickly deployed to the islands of Providencia and Santa Catalina. The team worked to install solar-powered clean water systems, which not only increase residents' access to safe drinking water but also reduce plastic waste and offer an environmentally-friendly alternative to plastic water bottles.

From the onset of Hurricane Iota, **CADENA** has been providing vital assistance to residents returning to Providencia. High winds and sustained rainfall after the hurricane destroyed the majority of homes and community infrastructure. CADENA responded by building temporary shelters, distributing solar lamps, and installing water filters for impacted families. Their staff members have also provided psychological support through art intervention projects for children recovering from trauma.



GUATEMALA

More than 1.9 million people were affected by Hurricanes Eta and Iota in Guatemala, with 1.2 million in need of critical humanitarian assistance. Nearly 80,000 homes were destroyed, leaving at least 300,000 people displaced and living in shelter settings. The historic rainfall led to landslides and flooded rivers, leaving many communities inaccessible to aid or emergency responders for several weeks.

The protracted nature of the logistical challenges within the country resulted in overfilled shelters and damaged WASH facilities for weeks, making COVID-19 prevention measures challenging. **Afya Foundation** responded by moving personal hygiene kits, PPE, and other consumable medical supplies to impacted areas. Thanks to the support of Airlink partners **Flexport, Avianca Cargo**, and the **Center for Disaster Philanthropy**, the shipment provided 763 people with access to clean water and 39,000 people with healthcare services.

Thanks to **United Airlines, Waves for Water** launched an emergency response team to provide clean water to Guatemalan communities affected by Eta, Iota, and ongoing flooding. The team collaborated with local leaders and community members to implement a long term plan installing water filters and introducing a rainfall catchment system. To date, Waves for Water reports 9,868 people benefited from this response, building on long-standing WASH programs in the region.

Airlink also worked with **Volaris** to deploy volunteers from Mexican NGO **CADENA**, who distributed water filters and solar lamps, and provided medical surge capacity for individuals in need of healthcare services. All together, CADENA conducted 110 medical consultations and psychological interventions, and provided 7,448 individuals with access to clean water. The water filters installed can filter up to 800 liters of water a day, filtering 99.9% of bacteria for a lifespan of at least 5 years.

Most recently, with support from United Airlines, **All Hands and Hearts'** Disaster Assessment and Response Team (DART) traveled to Guatemala for ground assessments in impacted communities in the Alta Verapaz region. The DART has just completed their initial assessment, and the organization will likely launch a long-term recovery program to address WASH infrastructure and community structure repairs.



HONDURAS

Considered the most severe natural disasters to hit Honduras in over 20 years, Hurricanes Eta and Iota impacted over 4.7 million people throughout the country and left more than 368,000 isolated from relief services. At least 2 million people were left with limited or no access to health services due to physical damage to facilities. More than 400 health clinics reported damage, and at least 120 were considered inoperable. Identified critical needs include emergency shelter, food, hygiene supplies, and relief items in vulnerable communities, many of which are indigenous.

The spread of COVID-19 is a continued concern, particularly in departments that were most affected by the hurricanes. This is causing concern among health officials as reports indicate that overwhelmed medical facilities are unable to admit new patients.

Airlink partner **CADENA** deployed volunteers to Honduras just one week after Hurricane Iota made landfall, thanks to donations of flights from **United Airlines**. Their initial response focused on communities in the hardest-hit municipalities: San Pedro Sula, San Manuel, Trascerreros, Santa Rita, Mololoa. This community-based approach allowed them to distribute 500 solar lamps, install 525 water filters in homes and community centers, provide 347 people with health consultations (including 21 people provided with psychological first aid). In total, their Honduras response has helped nearly 15,500 people in cut-off communities get access to relief supplies.

As the health needs became clear, Airlink worked with **United Airlines** to send staff from **Project HOPE** to the country. The organization quickly stood up a response in San Pedro Sula and surrounding communities, where residents are still clearing debris and cleaning up the damage left by Hurricanes Eta and Iota. Teams have been working to ensure access to safe drinking water and support training and education initiatives to strengthen COVID-19 prevention practices. The organization is also sending personal protective equipment (PPE) to clinics and providing surge support to healthcare facilities in an effort to respond to the dual emergencies of COVID-19 and the hurricanes.



HELPING COMMUNITIES IN CRISIS TOGETHER

Support for this and other responses is made possible through partnerships forged in advance of emergencies. Thanks to these nonprofit organizations and airlines for their commitment to working together to deliver aid where it is needed most and help communities in crisis.

This response also would not have been possible without our donors—corporate, foundation, and individual—whose support helps us quickly respond to disasters and humanitarian crises around the globe. Additional support from the following donors helped fuel our efforts:



All Hands and Hearts



Airlink's work continues as long as our relief partners need our support to help the people of Honduras, Guatemala, and Colombia recover from this disaster.

Consider giving.generously today. www.airlinkflight.org/donate





For more information about the responses in this report, please contact:

Sandra Walter, Development Director
swalter@airlinkflight.org / +1.202.550.7692

Stephanie Steege, Humanitarian Programs Director
steegs@airlinkflight.org / +1.703.596.2171