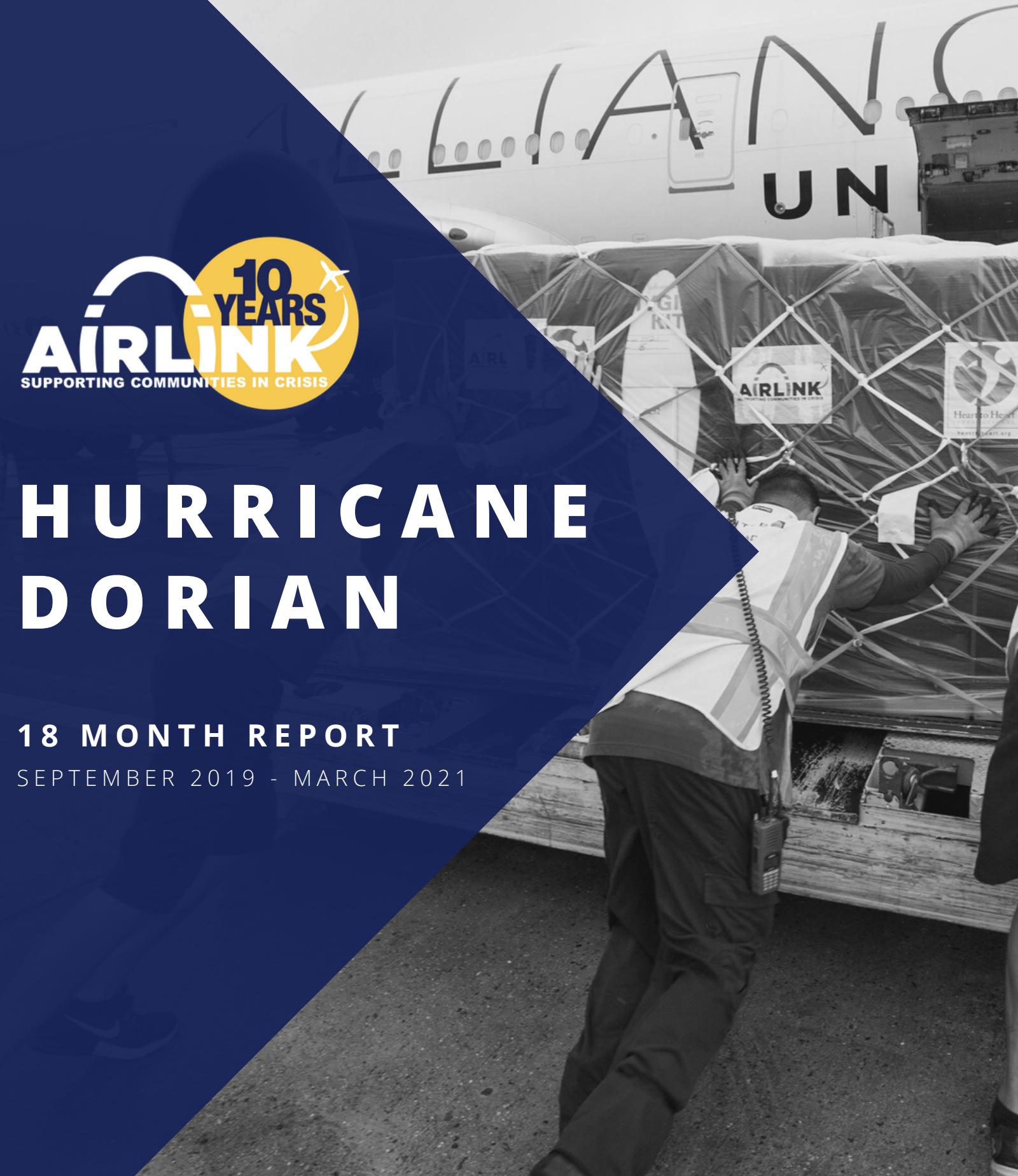




# HURRICANE DORIAN

18 MONTH REPORT  
SEPTEMBER 2019 - MARCH 2021



# BY THE NUMBERS

On September 1st, 2019, Hurricane Dorian made landfall as the strongest hurricane to hit the Bahamas. For the following 40 hours, the Category 5 hurricane crawled across Grand Bahama and the nearby Abaco Islands, hammering the islands with sustained winds up to 185 miles per hour. An incredible 23-foot storm surge inundated affected areas, washing out neighborhoods and destroying roads. Saltwater and other pollutants from the surge contaminated the islands' water supply and entirely flooded the islands' main airports. The majority of homes were flattened or washed away, leaving 70,000 people without shelter. 74 people lost their lives in the storm and another 245 people remain missing a year and a half later. The country was left to grapple with a staggering \$3.4 billion in damages.

For the past 18 months, Airlink has been honored to support response and recovery efforts on the islands. Thanks to foundation support and advance commitments of airlift from aviation partners, Airlink immediately mounted a rapid and sustained response. Through these partnerships, Airlink mobilized volunteers and coordinated cargo to bring shelter, clean water, food, and healthcare to people in need. A year and a half later, Airlink's response is still ongoing, with plans to support long-term recovery programs rebuilding affected communities.



**145,600**

POUNDS OF RELIEF  
SUPPLIES DELIVERED



**944**

RESPONDERS  
DEPLOYED



**\$962,458**

IN TRANSPORTATION  
RELIEF FOR NGOS



**29**

NONPROFIT  
ORGANIZATIONS  
HELPED



**110K**

PEOPLE PROVIDED  
WITH HEALTHCARE &  
SUPPLIES



**162K**

PEOPLE PROVIDED  
WITH CLEAN WATER &  
HYGIENE SUPPLIES



**11,226**

PEOPLE PROVIDED  
WITH SHELTER &  
OTHER SERVICES

# RESPONSE SPOTLIGHT: ITDRC

In the wake of the storm, the Grand Bahama International Airport emerged damaged and under six feet of water. The control tower experienced immense damage from the flood, completely destroying all communications equipment held on the first floor. Upon reopening, the airport's entire communication operations comprised of just a single generator and cell phone. The limited capabilities meant that air traffic controllers were isolated, unable to communicate with other airports, or access aviation and weather radars. The result was a compounding logistical nightmare as the damages impaired responders' abilities to travel and move cargo into affected communities on Grand Bahama and the rest of the Abaco islands.

Airlink helped send a team of Information Technology Disaster Resource Center (ITDRC) volunteers and necessary supplies to install an interim voice and network infrastructure. With the team's support, the Grand Bahama air control team was able to access flight tracking systems, file flight plans, and access the airport's weather desk.

Thanks to the support of our airline partners - **Alaska Airlines, Bahamasair, JetBlue Airways, United Airlines, the Center for Disaster Philanthropy**, and the **Clara Lionel Foundation** -

Airlink was able to support a total of 27 technical volunteers to the islands. Airlink supported another wave of ITDRC volunteers to work alongside the local communications provider. The volunteers mobilized technical personnel volunteers as well as donated communications equipment to provide temporary connectivity for survivors and responders, serving an estimate of 50,000 people.



WE DELIVERED...



EMERGENCY  
TELECOMMUNICATIONS

# RESPONSE SPOTLIGHT: GLOBAL MEDIC

Hurricane Dorian's storm surges devastated the islands' water infrastructure. Access to clean water is critical in disaster recovery, necessary for drinking, cooking, hygiene, and healthcare. Contamination of saltwater and other pollutants to the water supply meant that thousands of people were in need of short-term clean water solutions. GlobalMedic recognized this need and immediately mobilized their Rapid Response Team to provide assistance.

Thanks to the support of **Air Canada, Bahamasair, United Airlines, the Center for Disaster Philanthropy, and the Clara Lionel Foundation**, Airlink supported flights for seven members of GlobalMedic's Rapid Response team along with 23 GlobalMedic personnel. An additional challenge to relief efforts in the Bahamas was navigating aid between islands, and Airlink was able to support 22 flights in-country, moving volunteers between the islands of Grand Bahama and New Providence. These members constructed six large-scale water purification solutions for evacuees without access to clean water.

In addition to providing clean water, GlobalMedic personnel distributed 4,000 Family Emergency Kits and 1,000 Emergency Food kits with the help of Airlink. Thanks to our partner Air Canada, Airlink moved 140 pallets of supplies from a GlobalMedic site in Toronto to their mission in Nassau. The kits contained essential hygiene items like soap, toothbrushes, and toothpaste to prevent the spread of communicable diseases. Solar lights were included to mitigate the effects of loss of electricity. All kits contained culturally appropriate foods to combat food insecurity and maintain a sense of normalcy throughout the recovery.

## WE DELIVERED...



CLEAN  
WATER



SOLAR  
LIGHT



HEALTH  
SERVICES



# RESPONSE SPOTLIGHT: ALL HANDS AND HEARTS

All Hands and Hearts (AHAH) has remained committed to the Bahamas' recovery since the beginning. The hurricane destroyed 14,000 homes, displacing thousands of residences. Starting in September of 2019, Airlink organized 56 flights to the islands, thanks to **Air Canada, Bahamasair, British Airways, JetBlue Airways, United Airlines, Volaris, Western Air Bahamas**.

These programs targeted preliminary clean-up of damaged buildings, including mucking, gutting, debris removal, and mold sanitation. One major complication to Hurricane Dorian's recovery efforts was the lack of manpower due to the evacuation of residents, limiting rebuilding capability. AHAH programs filled that labor gap, mobilizing volunteers to clear up impacted areas and accelerating the rate residents could return to their communities.

In addition to residential clean-ups, restoring school facilities to get children back into the classroom is a top priority. Academic continuity is core to children's long-term success and reopening schools is central to the entire community's recovery. AHAH volunteers pivoted their programs to the restoration of schools in Marsh Harbour. Prior to the suspension of operations due to the COVID-19 pandemic, AHAH volunteers successfully restored seven schools. AHAH staff members created a COVID-conscious DM12 volunteer initiative in order to safely resume recovery projects. Altogether, AHAH's Bahamas program is responsible for sending 1,570 children back to school. Since January 2021, Airlink has been proud to send 64 volunteers to this project, thanks to the support of **Southwest Airlines** and **United Airlines**. We remain committed to supporting this recovery effort.

## WE DELIVERED...



DEBRIS  
REMOVAL



TRANSITIONAL  
SHELTER



# 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 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:



Airlink's work continues as long as our relief partners need our support to help the Bahamian people recover from this disaster. Consider [giving generously](#) today.





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