

## OUR RESPONSE

Airlink continues to support requests from our partner network for cargo and personnel movement. The team is currently coordinating with multiple nonprofit partners and responding agencies on several shipments from locations in the US and Canada, as well as ongoing requests for passenger travel across various routes. To date, we have coordinated flights for our partners at CADENA and Project HOPE with support from United Airlines. These response volunteers have provided critical assistance to impacted communities. We continue to monitor international requests for assistance, customs clearance processes, and airport statuses within the region. Please reach out to [ops@airlinkflight.org](mailto:ops@airlinkflight.org) if your organization has a request for support.

## THE SITUATION

At least 10 million people have been affected by Hurricanes Eta and Iota, nearly 3 weeks after Iota made landfall in Nicaragua less than 10 miles away from Hurricane Eta's landfall two weeks prior. Humanitarian response teams and responding agencies continue to assess damage across the region. The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) also reports that in Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua, at least 1.5 million people have had to evacuate and over 400 thousand are in official and non-official shelter settings.

Additional rainfall from seasonal cold fronts are expected throughout the region and could cause additional flooding and potential landslides in areas with remaining floodwaters and high river levels. There are continued evacuations from areas with high flood risks, as concern rises regarding dam capacities and damage to flood prevention infrastructures. With continued rain, communities isolated by Hurricanes Eta and Iota will face additional delays in receiving critical aid and assistance. Responding agencies have reported significant gaps in safe water, hygiene, and sanitation accessibility, highlighting overwhelmed shelter settings and overcrowding increasing risks of COVID-19 and water-borne illness infections.

Strong winds have damaged communication infrastructures, complicating critical response operations. Additionally, at least 480 health facilities in the region have been damaged or destroyed, severely constraining access to health services. Flooding and power outages damaged critical stock of medicines and medical equipment, leaving the health systems underprepared for recovery efforts, COVID-19 prevention and treatment, and basic health services.

As of November 6, the Honduran Foreign Ministry has requested international assistance and the humanitarian community remains active. Immediate needs include food, water, tarps and blankets, medications and medical supplies (including PPE) and hygiene kits.

**Personnel Movement (CIQP):** Current travel restrictions and requirements vary by country within the region and failure to comply with guidelines will result in an inability to travel. We recommend identifying airline-specific requirements before traveling as well:

- **Guatemala** - passengers must present a negative COVID-19 PCR test within 72 hours prior to traveling, and complete a mandatory health questionnaire up to 24 hours before traveling. This questionnaire will generate a QR Code that must be presented on paper or mobile device.
- **Honduras** - passengers must present a negative result from a PCR test or rapid test, performed no more than 72 hours prior to entering the country. Passengers must also complete a required form before departing their country of origin.

## SERVICE DELIVERY

### Personnel Flights

Airlink is supporting flights for emergency medical teams and other specialized personnel. Those traveling to Honduras and other affected countries must adhere to the COVID-19 regulations set forth by the countries.

### Cargo Support

Airlink is supporting the humanitarian community through in-kind and discounted flights into Honduras (TGU, SAP), Nicaragua (MGA), and Guatemala (GUA).

For questions related to Airlink's response, please contact us at [ops@airlinkflight.org](mailto:ops@airlinkflight.org).

- **Nicaragua** - passengers must have a negative PCR test result within 72 hours of entering the country, and dependent on the airline must send the test result to a designated contact no less than 36 hours before flight.

**Cargo Movement (Customs Clearance):** At this time, limited guidance has been put in place regarding customs clearance for responding organizations in Honduras. OCHA reports that “incoming humanitarian aid shipments are now subject to emergency regulations easing importing and exempting fees from payment, transfer service and storage.”

In order to ensure smooth customs procedures, the sending organization must send a letter (in Spanish) addressed to the “Cancillería Hondureña” (Chancellery of Honduras) with the list of the donation to be delivered. Once the letter is received and approved, the donor/shipper may then proceed to send the aid.

## **Air Transportation:**

- **San Pedro Sula (SAP)** - closed to normal air traffic for the remainder of 2020 due to flooding; the runway and terminal building are reported to be completely underwater. Once waters recede, humanitarian flights will be allowed while repairs are carried out.
- **Tegucigalpa (TGU)** - air traffic remains extremely limited following the reopening of the airport post-Hurricane Iota. This airport can only accommodate narrow-body aircraft, making cargo coordination into the airport challenging. Airlink continues to support passenger travel requests into TGU.
- **Guatemala City (GUA)** - no disruptions in service have been reported, Airlink has coordinated passenger travel into GUA for hurricane relief efforts.
- **San Salvador (SAL)** - no disruptions in service, however cargo destined for Honduras by way of SAL may encounter significant delays due to weight restrictions on roads into the country from this airport.

**Road Transportation:** In addition to ongoing airport constraints, multiple border crossings between Honduras and Guatemala are closed due to significant flooding. Damaged roadways and bridges in the region may also cause additional logistics challenges for land transport to isolated communities, including weight limitations that preclude heavy cargo loads being moved by truck. In Honduras specifically, 87 highways have reported damage and four customs offices remain closed. Anecdotal reports from Airlink partners indicate that movement around affected areas is taking 3-4 times longer than normal, hampering relief efforts.

## **RESPONDING PARTNER AGENCIES**

If you don't see your organization listed and are responding, please email [ops@airlinkflight.org](mailto:ops@airlinkflight.org).

### **Active NGOs:**

- |   |                                 |
|---|---------------------------------|
| ● ADRA  | ● Global Links                  |
| ● Afya Foundation   | ● Heart to Heart International  |
| ● Americares  | ● IsraAID                       |
| ● CADENA  | ● MedWish International         |
| ● ChildFund International                                   | ● Mercy Corps                   |
| ● Convoy of Hope  | ● Project Concern International |
| ● GlobalMedic   | ● Project HOPE                  |
| ● Global Emergency Relief, Recovery & Reconstruction (GER3) | ● World Central Kitchen         |
| ● Global Empowerment Mission                                | ● World Hope International      |

### **Active Air Carriers and Logistics Entities:**

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|--------------|-------------------|
| ● AeroMexico | ● DHL Express     |
| ● AmeriJet   | ● Flexport.org    |
| ● Avianca    | ● United Airlines |