

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. We continue to monitor international requests for assistance, customs clearance processes, and airport statuses within the region. Please reach out to ops@airlinkflight.org if your organization has a request for support.

THE SITUATION

Hurricane Iota made landfall on Nicaragua's eastern coast on November 16 as a Category 4 storm, less than 10 miles away from Hurricane Eta's landfall two weeks prior. Humanitarian response teams were still assessing damage from Eta when Iota became a threat to the region, preventing communities from beginning response and recovery processes. ECHO reports at least 7 fatalities in Nicaragua and Honduras, and at least 63,000 people evacuated to shelters in Nicaragua. Before Iota made landfall, Honduran officials estimated that 3 million people were affected by Eta with 57,000 in shelters.

The additional rainfall from Iota may further isolate communities cut off from responding agencies after flooding and mudslides from Eta washed out bridges and damaged roadways. Strong winds have damaged communication infrastructures, complicating critical rescue operations. In Colombia, the country's Caribbean island of Providencia saw 98% of infrastructure destroyed, leaving residents without electricity or potable water. Reports estimate that over 5 million people have been affected across the region including vulnerable communities in Nicaragua, Honduras, Guatemala, Belize, El Salvador, Mexico, Costa Rica, and Panama. There is significant concern regarding weak WASH and health infrastructure and ongoing COVID-19 responses as confirmed cases have rapidly increased in Honduras, notably within the congregant shelters for hurricane survivors.

As of November 6, the Honduran Foreign Ministry has requested international assistance and humanitarian community support is ramping up. Immediate needs include food, water, tarps and blankets, medications and medical supplies (including PPE) and hygiene kits. This need has only intensified following Hurricane Iota.

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:

- **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.
- **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 (CIQP): At this time, limited guidance has been put in place regarding customs clearance for responding organizations in Honduras. 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

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.

aid; aid must be consigned to the Secretaría de Estado en los Despachos de Gestión de Riesgo y Contingencias Nacionales (COPECO) (Honduran FEMA equivalent).

Transportation:

- San Pedro Sula (SAP) - closed to all traffic until at least 11/23 due to flooding, the runway and terminal building are reported to be completely underwater.
- 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.
- Guatemala City (GUA) - no disruptions in service have been reported, Airlink has coordinated passenger travel into GUA for hurricane relief efforts.

As a result of these ongoing challenges, Airlink may look to operate one or more dedicated flights to facilitate a response in the early days of this response, depending on demand.

RESPONDING PARTNER AGENCIES

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

Active NGOs:

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

Active Air Carriers and Logistics Entities:

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