



2020 ATLANTIC HURRICANES

6 MONTH REPORT

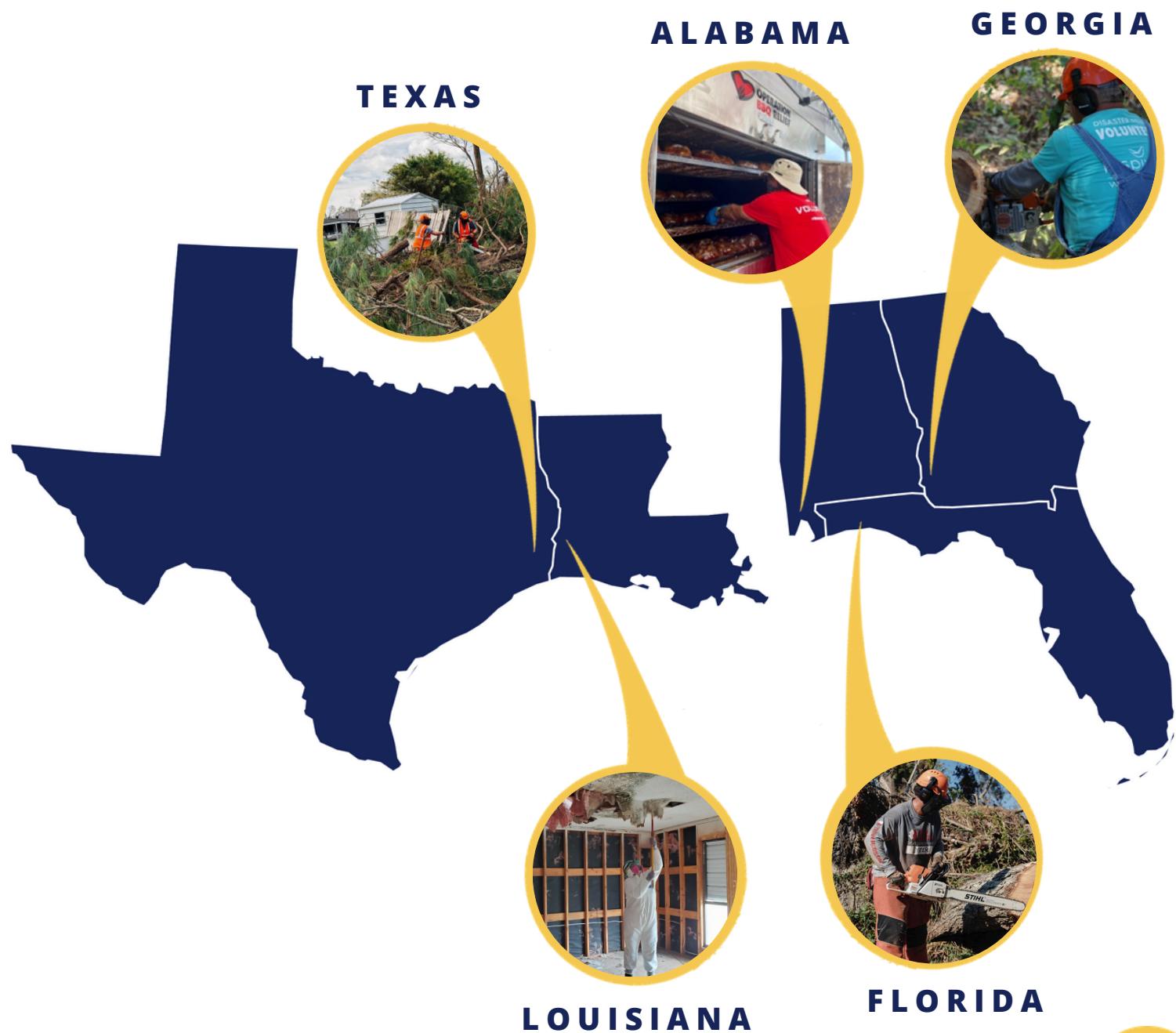
AUGUST 2020 - FEBRUARY 2021

NORTH AMERICA
REGIONAL RESPONSE PLAN



WHERE WE WORKED

2020 saw a record-breaking Atlantic Hurricane Season, with four major hurricanes making landfall on the US Gulf Coast: Hurricanes Laura, Sally, Delta, and Zeta. In the United States, 2020 was the fifth consecutive, “above normal” hurricane season with several storms causing at least one billion dollars in damage. The response to these storms was made more complicated by the COVID-19 Pandemic. Airlink and its nonprofit partners responded in Alabama, Georgia, Florida, Louisiana, and Texas, supporting communities in crisis following these back-to-back storms and their devastating impact.



BY THE NUMBERS

Millions of people were affected by Hurricanes Laura, Sally, Delta, and Zeta - left without power, access to clean water, with severely damaged homes, and unable to access emergency services. Impacted communities experienced multiple disasters at once - devastating hurricanes and their aftermath, alongside the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Our non profit partners found themselves having to amend response plans to maintain volunteers' and beneficiaries' safety and health while also navigating impacts on travel, shelter configurations, and access to emergency relief supplies.

Thanks to Airlink's airline partners, **Air Canada, Alaska Airlines, Southwest Airlines**, and **United Airlines**, along with a generous donation from **Deloitte**, Airlink was able to support critical travel for volunteers providing medical aid and assistance, search and rescue, debris removal and muck-and-gut services for damaged homes, meal distribution, and other critical services. Many of our nonprofit partners operated simultaneous response efforts across multiple states to address the immense needs of communities in crisis. This response is ongoing, with currently-planned activities continuing over the next six months.



12

NONPROFITS
HELPED



\$260,594

IN TRANSPORTATION
RELIEF FOR NGOS



353

RESPONDERS
DEPLOYED



1,682

PEOPLE PROVIDED
WITH SHELTER



4,000

PEOPLE PROVIDED
WITH HEALTHCARE



650

PEOPLE WITH ACCESS
TO CLEAN WATER



870K

HOT MEALS
DISTRIBUTED

OUR PARTNERS' RESPONSES

CLEAN UP & LONG-TERM RECOVERY

In the wake of a record breaking hurricane season, affected areas were left with damaged homes and infrastructure, downed trees and power lines, and inaccessible roads. Our non-profit partners were on the ground in the days following the storms to support critical recovery efforts. Airlink supported travel for 265 volunteers from **Team Rubicon USA, Team Rubicon Canada, Inspiritus, and NECHAMA - Jewish Response to Disaster** to Alabama, Georgia, Florida, Louisiana, and Texas. These volunteers worked to provide immediate assistance by clearing trees and debris from homes and roadways, tarping roofs to prevent additional damage to buildings, and mucking and gutting flooded homes.

The damage done by the hurricanes was extensive and many of our partners launched long term programs to support the overwhelming recovery needs. **All Hands and Hearts'** DM12 volunteers are supporting ongoing recovery efforts in Lake Charles, Louisiana by assisting residents with critical roof and home repairs.



MEAL DISTRIBUTION

Airlink helped partner **Operation BBQ Relief** responded in four states after three hurricanes last year, supporting travel for 46 volunteers. Throughout these responses, **Operation BBQ Relief** provided 870,000 hot meals to those impacted by the storms. Volunteers helped prep, cook, and distribute meals to first responders, fellow response volunteers, and individuals in need of a hot meal - serving them as long as there is a need.



EMERGENCY TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Network connectivity and access to communication networks is vital in recovery efforts in the wake of a disaster. Public safety organizations, disaster response nonprofits, and community members impacted by a disaster all require reliable connectivity to support relief operations, distribute critical aid supplies, or communicate with loved ones. Our partners at **The Information Technology Disaster Resource Center (ITDRC)** recognize this need and respond to disasters and emergencies with the resources to provide information, communications, and technology solutions.

In response to Hurricane Laura, **ITDRC** set up operations in Lake Charles, Louisiana and provided support to residents without power or connectivity with WiFi connection, computers, charging stations, and communication devices.



FIRST RESPONSE

After the hurricanes, millions of people lost access to emergency services and basic needs. Our partners recognize the critical need for early action and deployed volunteers to Louisiana in response to Hurricanes Laura and Delta. **Mobile Medics International** deployed volunteers to Starks, Louisiana, after the local fire department requested assistance in providing medical care. Without a regular medical clinic, **Mobile Medics International** stepped in to provide medical care as needed.

Empact Northwest arrived in Lake Charles, Louisiana alongside two rescue canines to support critical search and rescue efforts. Alongside additional search and rescue organizations, volunteers rescued an individual from her home who was unable to safely evacuate her residence. When the search and rescue efforts were complete, volunteers shifted priorities to clear inaccessible roads of debris so emergency vehicles could access those in need. First responders are unable to complete their operations without reliable access to fuel, which often becomes scarce after a disaster. **Fuel Relief Fund** volunteers joined the response effort in Lake Charles, Louisiana to supply response vehicles and residents' generators with fuel.



SUPPORT FOR VULNERABLE POPULATIONS



Off-The-Grid Missions traveled to Louisiana in the wake of Hurricane Laura to provide relief to the deaf and hard of hearing (HOH) community. Many families lost everything and were left without shelter, an issue complicated by COVID-19 and social distancing requirements. For those who are deaf/HOH, communication becomes difficult or impossible without electricity and light. **Off-The-Grid Missions** distributed solar lights to ensure residents impacted by widespread power outages were able to communicate after sundown.

Volunteers also distributed temporary shelter materials, deaf-friendly PPE supplies, and water filtration units, and other items to ease the transition into temporary housing situations.

ACCESS TO CLEAN WATER

After Hurricane Laura made landfall, residents of Lake Charles, Louisiana were left without shelter and access to basic resources, such as clean water. Our partners at **World Hope International** deployed a team of disaster relief with the three step directive to use clean energy to make clean water, supply vital emergency supplies, and encourage survivors and build hope. The team of volunteers arrived in Lake Charles to provide access to clean water for impacted populations and distribute emergency supplies such as hygiene kits and water filters. The importance of clean water for hygiene practices is increasingly important with COVID-19 prevention methods amongst displaced populations. World Hope International utilizes solar-powered watermakers to ensure high-quality, yet sustainable, drinking water. Using these methods, they have the capacity to produce up to 2,000 gallons of clean water each day.



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:



Airlink's work continues as long as our relief partners need our support to help communities recovering from the 2020 Hurricane Season and preparing for future disasters.

Consider [giving generously](#) today.





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