AIRLINK
SUPPORTING COMMUNITIES IN CRISIS

LEVERAGING PRIVATE SECTOR AVIATION FOR HUMANITARIAN LOGISTICS

RIGHT AID. RIGHT PLACE. RIGHT TIME.

WHAT IS AIRLINK?

Airlink is a global humanitarian organization that delivers critical aid to communities in crisis by providing airlift and logistical solutions to nonprofit partners, changing the way the humanitarian community responds to disasters around the world.

Airlink connects NGOs' airlift needs with timely, low-cost transportation for response personnel and material aid to natural disasters and manmade emergencies around the world, lowering logistics and cost-related barriers for humanitarian NGOs.

OUR MANDATE

We work to support humanitarian response, recovery, and resiliency projects around the world that relate to both natural and human-caused emergencies—from hurricanes and earthquakes to refugee crises and protracted conflict.

Rapid Response

Responding to rapid-onset disasters such as earthquakes, floods, fires, hurricanes, typhoons and cyclones.

Medium and Long-term Recovery

Supporting the recovery of communities' infrastructure post-disaster.

Health Systems Strengthening

Supporting programs that strengthen local health systems' ability to respond to pandemics or rapid-onset events.

Displaced and Migrant Populations

Serving programs that aid refugees who have been displaced by conflict, natural disasters, climate change, food insecurity, and mass migration movements.

Food Insecurity and WASH

(Water, Sanitation and Hygiene)

Supporting programs that address access to clean water, adequate nutrition, and sanitation and hygiene services; if left unaddressed these issues often lead to greater humanitarian disasters such as the spread of disease or famine

SCOPE OF PROGRAMS

Emergency Response Coordination
Bringing together nonprofit actors in the Airlink network to collaborate, share information, and reduce duplication of effort.

Passenger Flights
Providing low- and no-cost airfare for staff and volunteers executing humanitarian programs around the world.

Cargo Airlift
Sending the right goods to the right people at the right time.

HOW WE WORK IN EMERGENCIES

1 When an emergency occurs, Airlink already knows which NGOs are likely to respond and what their transport needs will be, thanks to continuous, year-round engagement.

2 Following an emergency, Airlink engages the donors and aviation actors it has developed partnerships with in order to mount a rapid response.

3 Airlink assists with document review and shipping guidance to ensure flight safety, alignment with needs, and efficient customs clearance.

The organization also connects active agencies for multisector collaboration and information sharing through coordination calls.

4 Airlink helps private sector aviation engage in emergencies by helping them vet organizations they wish to support, as well as matching their capacity with people and goods in need of transport.

5 Airlink utilizes existing commercial capacity where possible to send personnel and supplies.

6 When goods arrive in-country, Airlink and its logistics partners ensure they clear customs and move through the airport quickly to avoid supply chain constriction.

7 When last-mile challenges exist, Airlink works with logistics partners, as well as private sector and nonprofit aviation operators, to find the best solution to get goods and expert personnel to their final destination.

8 Programs supported by Airlink reach communities in need around the world with a wide variety of assistance - from USAR and emergency medical assistance, to long-term solutions to clean water and shelter.

RIGHT AID. RIGHT PLACE. RIGHT TIME.

OUR IMPACT: BY THE NUMBERS

130+ emergency responses

12K responders sent

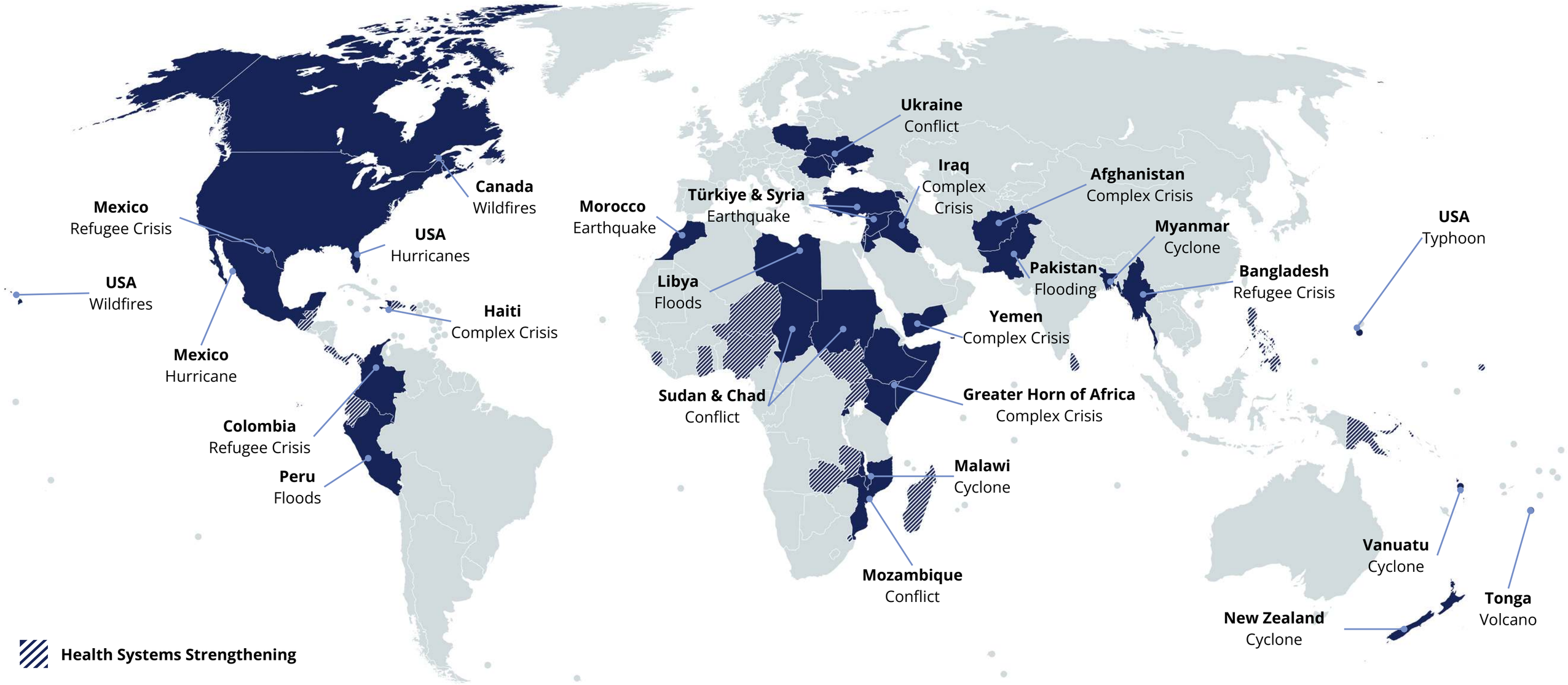
80+ countries served

6,696 tons of supplies mobilized

$36M in transportation relief provided to NGOs around the world

55M people provided with life-saving and life-sustaining relief

OUR 2023 PROGRAMS



CASE STUDY - HAITI AIRBRIDGE

In this program, each entity played a crucial role in the efficient and effective execution of the response:

- **Haiti Logistics Sector Working Group** provided a central coordination mechanism & common warehousing service
- **USAID/BHA** provided essential funding
- **NGOs** with specialized expertise were responsible for sourcing, delivery, and administration of aid supplies.
- **Commercial airlines**, such as American Airlines and Amerijet, donated capacity on their existing route networks to transport aid.
- **Logistics providers**, including SEKO Logistics and The UPS Foundation, ensured the smooth movement of critical cargo throughout the supply chain.
- **Airlink**, facilitated coordination between mentioned stakeholders to quickly and effectively respond.

IMPACT

Ultimately, the structure of the program:

- **Provided a common service** to GLC members when air access was the only means of program delivery
- **Reduced duplication** of efforts in transportation by providing visibility of incoming aid
- **Reduced competition** among NGOs for limited resources in a highly competitive airfreight market
- **Streamlined logistics services** for responding agencies
- **Saved NGOs funds** to be used elsewhere in their relief programs or **enabled them to deliver programs** that, without transportation, would not have happened at all

IMPACT

OVERVIEW

- **289.8 metric tonnes of cargo** (CW) mobilized through the program
- Moved across **6 charters (275 tonnes)** and **5 shipments (14 tonnes)**
- **38 shipments** coordinated in total

COST SAVINGS

- $1.24M saved in transportation and logistics costs
- In-kind flights, donated trucking and storage, as well as the economies of scale achieved through charter flights, enabled **funding to go twice as far** when compared to commercial solutions

IMPACT

- At least **137,120** people gained access to water, sanitation, and hygiene services and supplies, including point-of-use water filtration devices and community-wide filtration systems.

- At least **157,089** people received treatment for cholera through IV fluids, testing, fortified meals, and medications.

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION

What challenges does you organization experience in leveraging private sector logistics resources?

What best practices has your organization identified?

What recommendations would you share for the sector?