

RESILIENCY AND RESPONSE IN A COVID-19 ENVIRONMENT

Results from a Survey of Disaster Response Organizations During the COVID-19 Pandemic

As the 2020 Atlantic hurricane season begins on June 1 and the COVID-19 pandemic continues, NGOs and governments are faced with the dual challenge of addressing a public health crisis while preparing for a season that is expected to be more intense than previous years. In light of this, Airlink partnered with the Clinton Global Initiative (CGI) to conduct a survey of more than 60 organizations engaged in disaster response, gathering data and insights into how COVID-19 will affect their plans and capacity to respond to natural disasters.

According to the survey, **less than one-quarter of responding organizations (22%) indicated that they would be able to respond to a major natural disaster at the same level as in previous years.** The remaining proportion of respondents stated that their response to a major disaster would be substantially reduced in deployment duration, staff and volunteer capacity, and resources compared to previous years (68%) or that they may not be in a position to respond at all (10%). Other key findings (included below) detail the effects COVID-19 has or will have on the delivery of programs and services, staff and volunteer capacity, and access to funding.

If a major disaster (flood, hurricane, cyclone) occurs in the next 3 to 6 months, would your organization be able to respond at the same level compared to in previous years?

68%

Our organization's response to a major disaster would be substantially reduced compared to previous years.

22%

Our organization could respond to a major disaster at the same level compared to previous years.

10%

Our organization would not likely be in a position to respond to a major disaster at this time.

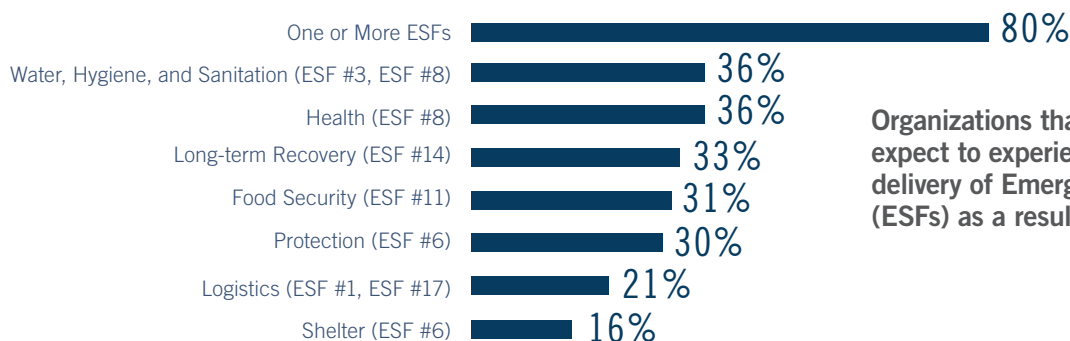


COVID-19 and its associated restrictions present challenges to the delivery of disaster response programs and supplies.

The vast majority of organizations (80%) have experienced, or expect to experience, challenges in the delivery of one or more Emergency Support Functions (ESFs).

Less than half of organizations (42%) reported experiencing stock-outs of supplies that are essential to service delivery, and one-quarter of organizations (25%) have drawn down strategic, prepositioned supply reserves.

Only one-fifth of respondents (20%) reported that they have been able to secure all necessary flights for personnel.



Organizations that have experienced, or expect to experience, challenges in the delivery of Emergency Support Functions (ESFs) as a result of COVID-19



Disaster response organizations are experiencing reductions in staff and volunteer capacity as a result of COVID-19.

Nearly half of respondents (46%) reported having to redeploy on-the-ground staff and volunteers to other missions and nearly one-third of respondents (30%) reported having to repatriate on-the-ground staff to their home countries.

Of the organizations who utilize volunteers, 31% have already experienced a decline in their volunteer base and an additional 29% expect to see a decline in volunteers.

COVID-19 has impacted or is expected to impact access to funding for disaster response organizations.

The vast majority of respondents (82%) reported that the COVID-19 pandemic has forced them to cancel fundraising events or suspend future fundraising events.

Slightly less than half of organizations (44%) foresee a decline in corporate funding for their organization, and 43% of organizations foresee a decline in funding from individual donors.

65%

of disaster response organizations are “extremely concerned” about funding in 2020.

About the Clinton Global Initiative (CGI)

Building on a lifetime of public service, President Clinton established the Clinton Foundation on the simple belief that everyone deserves a chance to succeed, everyone has a responsibility to act, and we all do better when we work together. Following the devastating 2017 hurricane season, the Clinton Foundation launched the CGI Action Network on Post-Disaster Recovery.

About Airlink

Airlink (www.airlinkflight.org) is a nonprofit disaster relief organization linking the aviation industry and humanitarian response organizations to ensure relief workers and material aid reach those impacted by natural disasters and other humanitarian crises around the globe.

Survey Information

The Resiliency and Response in a COVID-19 Environment Survey was fielded between April and May 2020. The survey captured 61 respondents, including non-governmental organizations, non-profit organizations, government agencies, and other organizations. All responding organizations are directly involved in natural disaster response programs and/or supply provision, and their geographic focus areas vary. For more information on methodology, please contact Bekah Curtis-Heald at rcurtisheald@clintonfoundation.org.

