

## Hurricanes Helene and Milton

October 22, 2024

No. 1

### Key Figures and Highlights

- Hurricane Helene, responsible for at least 227 fatalities, was the deadliest hurricane to hit the mainland U.S. since Katrina in 2005 (source: Associated Press).
- Combined, Hurricanes Helene and Milton are estimated to have caused \$100 billion in damage (source: Associated Press).

### Situation Overview

Hurricane Helene made landfall as a Category 4 storm in Florida's Big Bend area on September 26, 2024. Helene left a path of destruction across areas of Florida, North Carolina, Georgia, South Carolina and Tennessee. The greatest impacts were from severe and widespread flooding across the southern Appalachians.

Hurricane Milton made landfall near Sarasota on October 9, 2024, as a Category 3 storm, affecting many of the same communities in Florida still recovering from Hurricane Helene. The storm spawned several tornadoes and produced dangerous storm surge and wind.

Combined, the back-to-back hurricanes caused more than 250 fatalities and billions in property damage.

### Humanitarian Situation

People affected by the hurricanes — especially those whose homes were damaged or destroyed — are most in need of essentials like food, water, shelter, personal hygiene items and household supplies. Bottled water has been the most requested item by organizations responding to the disasters.

### Lutheran World Relief Response Efforts

Our Humanitarian Action Team is coordinating with organizations in Florida, Georgia and the Carolinas to support and expand local emergency response operations.

Our response includes:

- More than \$4.5 million worth of LWR Quilts and Kits delivered to multiple organizations in North Carolina, Florida, Mississippi and Louisiana.
  - Quilts 60,465
  - Personal Care Kits 48,561
  - School Kits 9,494
  - Baby Care Kits 16,568
  - Fabric Kits 1,760
  - Bars of soap 16,043



- Cash grants to many of the same organizations receiving quilts and kits. The grants allow the organizations to expand their local response, which often includes providing food, water, essential supplies and temporary housing.

## Lutheran World Relief in the United States

Beginning in 2024, Lutheran World Relief has expanded our emergency response programming to the United States. This expansion is happening in partnership with humanitarian and social services organizations operating in the U.S.

### For more information please contact:

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## Photos



LWR Quilts and Personal Care Kits are delivered to local veterans in Asheville, NC, who lost everything in the aftermath of Hurricane Helene.