Airports Global Training Programme

Results Report 2025

Airports Global Training Programme

Airports
Global Training Programme

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Executive Summary

In 2025, UNITAR's **Airports Global Training Programme** moved from conceptual design to full operational deployment. Through **22 activities**, the programme reached **1,164 beneficiaries** from **76 countries**, supporting **35 Civil Aviation Authorities** and strengthening capacity across **283 airports**.

The programme is structured around **four training pillars: Smart**, **Resilient**, **Inclusive**, and **Sustainable** airports. These pillars guided workshops, simulations, and capacity-building events across **four continents**, with a focus on **Least Developed Countries**, **Small Island Developing States**, and **Landlocked Developing Countries**.

Looking ahead, the programme aims to embed its training pillars into institutional systems, accelerate technology adoption, and expand multi-year partnerships to ensure airports contribute to climate objectives, equitable access, and resilient infrastructure during the upcoming UN Decade of Sustainable Transport (2026–2035).

Figure 1: Map of Countries Reached

283 Airports Reached in 2025

35 Civil Aviation Authorities took part in our Trainings in 2025

Key outcomes include:

- Training delivered through existing CIFAL centres in Atlanta, Merida, Miami, Singapore, and York, which served as regional hubs for programme implementation.

- Development and use of digital tools such as AeroHazard (risk-mapping), VR emergency simulations, and AI-based crisis training.

- 102 graduates from the Master in Sustainable Air Transport Management (MATSM), and 116 completed the Diploma in International Airport Management.

- Airport-to-Airport collaboration through Sister Airports agreements.

Australia, Benin, Bermuda, Botswana, Brazil, British Virgin Islands, Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde, Cameroon, Canada, Central African Republic, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Czech Republic, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Finland, France, Gabon, Ghana, Grenada, Guatemala, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Ivory Coast, Jamaica, Kenya, Lebanon, Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Mexico, Morocco, Namibia, Nigeria, Pakistan, Panama, Peru, Portugal, Puerto Rico, Qatar, Rwanda, Saba, Saint Lucia, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Somalia, South Africa, South Korea, Spain, Sri Lanka, St Vincent and the Grenadines, Sudan, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Taiwan, Tanzania, Thailand, Trinidad and Tobago, Türkiye, Turks and Caicos Islands, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Uruguay, and Venezuela.

28
Least Developed Countries, Small Island Developing States, and Landlocked Developing Countries trained

76
Countries Reached through Airports Trainings
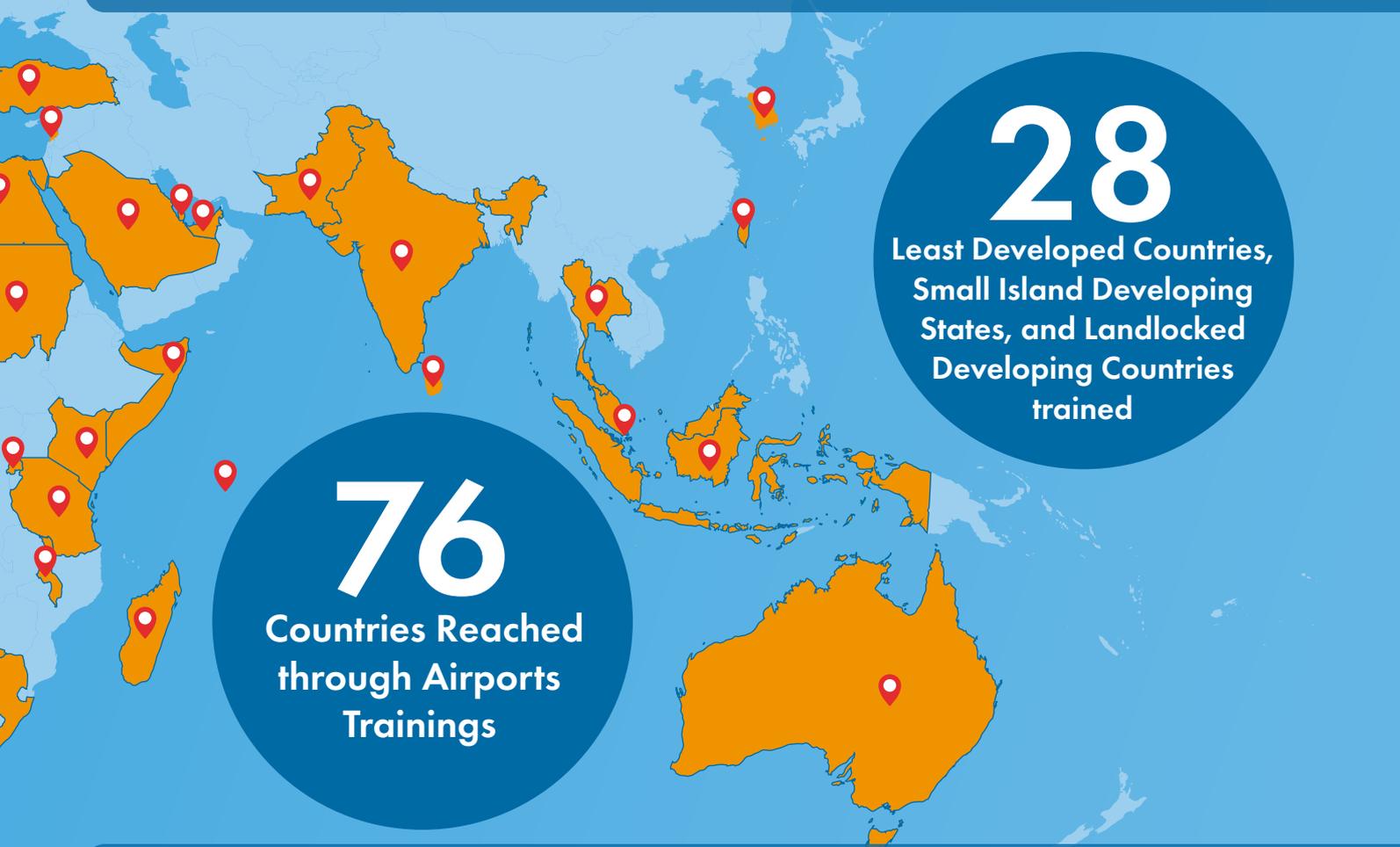
Disclaimer: Country borders or names do not reflect the official position of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR). The maps used on this publication are for illustrative purposes and does not imply the expression of any opinion on the part of UNITAR, concerning the legal status of any country or territory or concerning the delimitation of frontiers or boundaries.

Airports Global Training Programme

Contributing to advancing airports worldwide. Between January 2025 and November 2025 our efforts have resulted in:
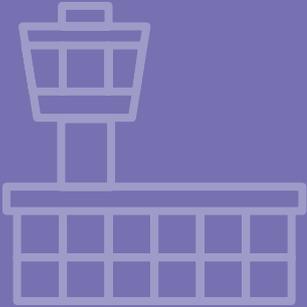
41 **Airport Systems** reached through training activities.

48 **Individual Airports** reached through training.

76 **Countries** engaged from around the world.

71 **Partners mobilized** to support airport development.

1,164

Beneficiaries took part in our 2025 activities.

685

Beneficiaries trained through our 8 regional workshops.

218 Aviation leaders completed our Master in Sustainable Air Transport Management (MATSM) and Diploma in International Airport Management.

208 Airport professionals and personnel from emergency response organizations completed our courses on Autism, Breastfeeding Education, and Air Bridge: Emergency Response.

407 Airport personnel reached through our Education and Awareness Programmes.

1.

Building Capacities for Sustainable Airports

1.1 Message from the Executive Director

Airports occupy a unique position within our global transport and development systems. As strategic hubs, they are not only gateways for mobility but powerful drivers of economic growth, social inclusion, and environmental progress. Today, airports support an estimated 11.6 million jobs worldwide and contribute approximately USD 1.1 trillion to global GDP[1]. Beyond these economic contributions, they play a vital role in advancing innovation, supporting humanitarian response, improving accessibility, and promoting inclusive and gender-responsive mobility. When aligned with global frameworks such as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, airports become catalysts for holistic and sustainable development.

Over the past year, UNITAR's Airports Global Training Programme has focused on strengthening the institutional capacity needed to translate this potential into practice. Through trainings delivered across four continents, the Programme reached 35 Civil Aviation Authorities and 283 airports from 76 countries. Our work has been structured around four core pillars: smart technologies, disaster resilience, social inclusion, and environmental sustainability. Particular emphasis has been placed on artificial intelligence, cybersecurity, and emergency preparedness. Through partnerships with leading airports, academic institutions, and the CIFAL Global Network, UNITAR facilitated airport-to-airport knowledge exchange, prioritising participants from Least Developed Countries, Small Island Developing States, and Landlocked Developing Countries.

Meeting global climate objectives requires airports to build institutional capacity alongside technological solutions. UNITAR supports this effort through advanced education programmes, including the Master in Sustainable Air Transport Management, as well as targeted trainings on smart operations and climate resilience. Smart Airports workshops equip leaders with the skills to leverage data and artificial intelligence to improve energy efficiency and reduce emissions. At the same time, Resilient Airports trainings enhance infrastructure planning and emergency preparedness in the face of increasing climate-related risks. By integrating leadership development, smart technologies, and resilience planning, airports are better positioned to operationalize climate commitments and contribute meaningfully to SDG 13.

Looking ahead to the United Nations Decade of Sustainable Transport 2025–2036, UNITAR remains committed to supporting governments and institutions through capacity building and knowledge exchange. Our approach prioritizes the strengthening of skills at both individual and institutional levels, as well as the development of robust knowledge systems. This is essential to reducing persistent gaps in technical, technological, and institutional capacity between developed and developing countries. At the same time, we seek to advance cross-sectoral partnerships that bring together public, private, and academic actors, enabling the exchange of expertise, technology, and financial resources. By leveraging the strengths of diverse stakeholders, we aim to support tangible progress toward more sustainable, resilient, and inclusive transport systems worldwide.

<div align="right">

Michelle Gyles-McDonnough

United Nations Assistant Secretary-General, Executive Director
of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (**UNITAR**)

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[1]Airports Council International. (2025). Global gateways: How airports drive economic development and sustainability. Results report.
https://blog.aci.aero/environment-and-sustainability/global-gateways-how-airports-drive-economic-development-and-sustainability/

> *By strengthening the institutional capacities of civil aviation authorities, airport systems, and aviation stakeholders, UNITAR aims to translate the vision of the UN Decade of Sustainable Transport into quantifiable and lasting action.*

1.2 More Than Transportation Hubs

Airports represent far more than transit points for passengers and cargo. They constitute critical infrastructure that underpins economic prosperity, regional connectivity, and global integration. Airports are critical infrastructure assets that generate direct, indirect and induced economic value.

In 2023 the global airport sector:

- Supported **86.5 million jobs**
- Contributed **USD 4.1 trillion to world GDP** (3.9% of output)
- Enabled **USD 8 trillion in air-borne trade** (33% of all international trade by value)
- Carried **58% of international tourists**

The concept of an Aerotropolis was introduced by John Kasarda in 2000, encapsulating this influence: "An aerotropolis is a metropolitan subregion whose infrastructure, land use, and economy are centred on an airport"
(Kasarda, 2019).

If aviation were a country, it would rank 20th in size by GDP (similar to Switzerland or Argentina)

Every direct airport job in Small-Island Developing States creates, on average, 37 additional jobs across the economy, indicating a multiplier effect that outperforms most other infrastructure categories.

For land-locked, least-developed and small-island countries, airports provide the fastest, often the only, connection to global supply chains and medical supply networks. In 2023 air transport generated:

- **USD 26 billion GDP and 6 million jobs** in Least-Developed Countries
- **USD 46 billion GDP and 2 million jobs** in Small-Island Developing States
- **USD 24 billion GDP and 2.9 million jobs** in Land-Locked Developing Countries

Beyond commerce, airports function as strategic public assets during emergencies. They serve as:

- Logistic hubs for disaster-relief cargo
- Evacuation points for civilians and medical patients
- Command-and-control platforms for post-disaster response

Investment in airport capacity therefore translates into three simultaneous returns:

- Accelerated economic integration
- Strengthened public-health security
- Enhanced national and regional disaster resilience

The data show that where airports expand, adjacent clusters in logistics, light manufacturing and tourism follow within a decade. Conversely, where airport capacity is constrained, per-shipment costs rise and foreign direct investment declines.

Sustainable development strategies should treat airports not as standalone terminals but as **multi-modal nodes** that can anchor low-carbon freight corridors, inclusive urban mobility plans and climate-adaptation infrastructure.

1.3 The Sustainability Imperative

The global airport sector's next growth cycle must now be reconciled with hard planetary, regulatory and social boundaries. By 2040 passenger numbers will double, yet only 42 % of the world's 150 busiest airports currently align with any Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) and only 23 % apply measurable indicators. Closing that gap is no longer optional.

Key pressure points:

- **Climate:** Net-zero 2050 targets pressure airport energy systems and infrastructure design.

- **Cost risk:** Carbon pricing, energy volatility, and EU/UK regulations increase financial exposure for airports with inefficient energy systems.

- **Physical risk:** Sea-level rise threatens 56 cm of coastal-runway elevation under SSP2-4.5; extreme-heat days (>35 °C) are projected to triple at Middle-East hubs by 2050.

- **Social licence:** Since 2018, 18% of European airport projects were delayed or canceled due to noise and air quality litigation.

- **Equity deficit:** Europe leads SDG alignment, while Africa has only 2 SDG-aligned airports despite handling 12% of passengers.

Regional variations are stark: Europe leads with **27 aligned airports** (a 71.1% alignment rate). Conversely, Asia represents the world's largest **"SDG gap,"** with **38 major airports** in the region currently unaligned. This gap must be closed through targeted capacity building if the sector's forecast growth is to be reconciled with net-zero mandates and the sector's own climate reporting standards.

Figure 2: Percentage of Global Airports SDGs Alignment by Region
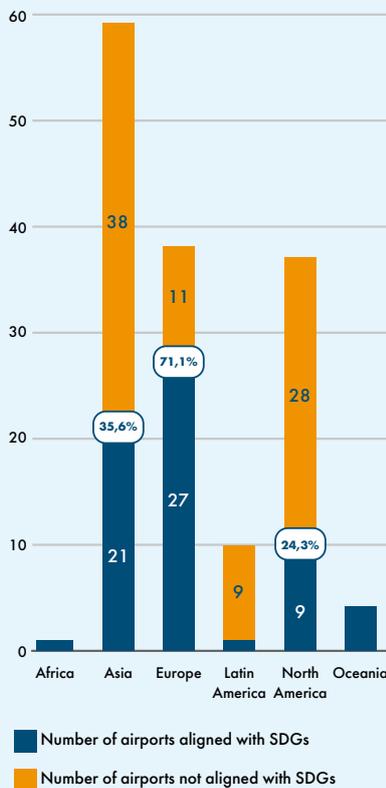

Figure 3: Percentage of SDGs Alignment by Airports Globally
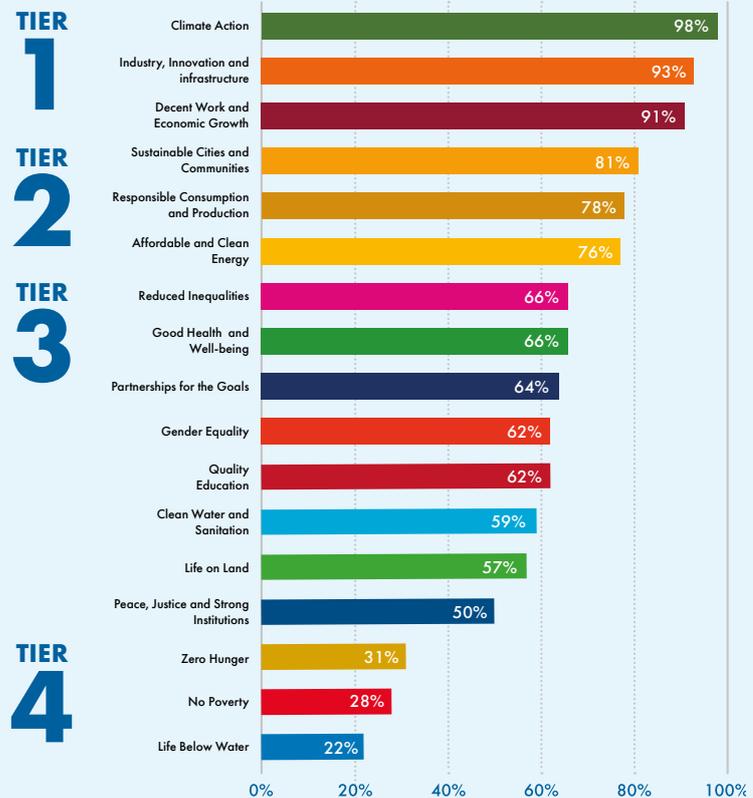
Source: *Jia, X., Macário, R., & Buyle, S. (2024). How do airports align with sustainability? An analysis of the world's 150 busiest airports. Sustainable Development, 32(6), 7409-7433.* https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/epdf/10.1002/sd.3029
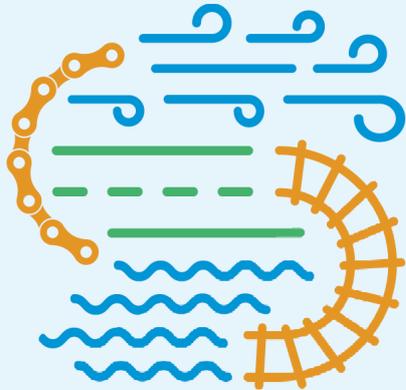
United Nations Decade of Sustainable Transport 2026–2035

In 2023, the United Nations General Assembly adopted resolution **A/78/148, declaring the UN Decade of Sustainable Transport 2026–2035**. This landmark resolution recognizes sustainable transport as a critical enabler of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and calls for a decade of accelerated, coordinated, and inclusive action across all modes of transport: road, rail, aviation, maritime, and inland waterways.

The Decade aims to **transform transport systems**, so they contribute to **economic growth**, **social equity**, and **environmental sustainability**. It emphasizes the need for integrated, low-carbon, resilient, and inclusive transport solutions that leave no one behind, particularly in developing countries and vulnerable communities.

Global Context and the Need for Action

Transport is central to human development. It connects people to jobs, education, healthcare, and markets. It enables trade, supports supply chains, and drives industrialization. Yet, the current transport paradigm is unsustainable:

- Transport accounts for **nearly a quarter** of global energy-related CO_2 emissions.
- Over **1.3 million people die each year** in road traffic crashes, with millions more injured.

- More than **1 billion people** still lack access to an all-season road.
- Urban congestion, air pollution, and noise are undermining public health and quality of life.
- Climate-related disruptions are increasingly affecting transport infrastructure and services.

The UN Decade of Sustainable Transport responds to these challenges by offering a **10-year window of opportunity** to **rethink**, **retool**, and **retune** transport systems for a sustainable future.

Vision and Goals of the Decade

The UN Decade of Sustainable Transport 2026–2035 is guided by a **shared global vision**:

"To transform transport systems so they are safe, clean, accessible, efficient, and resilient, and contribute to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Paris Agreement on climate change."

To realize this vision, the Decade pursues the following global goals:

- **Ensure universal access** to safe, reliable, and affordable transport for all.

- **Reduce greenhouse gas emissions** from transport in line with the 1.5°C climate target.

- **Halve road traffic deaths and injuries** by 2030, in alignment with the Decade of Action for Road Safety.

- **Improve air quality** and reduce transport-related pollution.

- **Enhance the resilience** of transport systems to climate change and other shocks.

- **Promote inclusive and equitable mobility**, especially for women, children, persons with disabilities, and vulnerable populations.

- **Mobilize finance**, **innovation**, **and partnerships** to accelerate sustainable transport solutions.

The Decade builds on the Safe System Approach pioneered in the Decade of Action for Road Safety and extends it to all modes of transport. It recognizes that no single intervention, whether technological, behavioural, or regulatory, can deliver sustainable transport. Instead, it calls for integrated strategies that address infrastructure, vehicles, user behaviour, services, and governance.

Enabling Conditions for Success

To unlock the full potential of sustainable transport, the Decade emphasizes the need to strengthen:

- **Partnerships and collaboration** among governments, private sector, civil society, academia, and international organizations.

- **Integrated policymaking** and governance across sectors and levels of government.

- **Financing mechanisms** that scale up public and private investment in sustainable transport.

- **Capacity-building and peer learning**, especially in developing countries.

- **Data and monitoring systems** to track progress and inform policy.
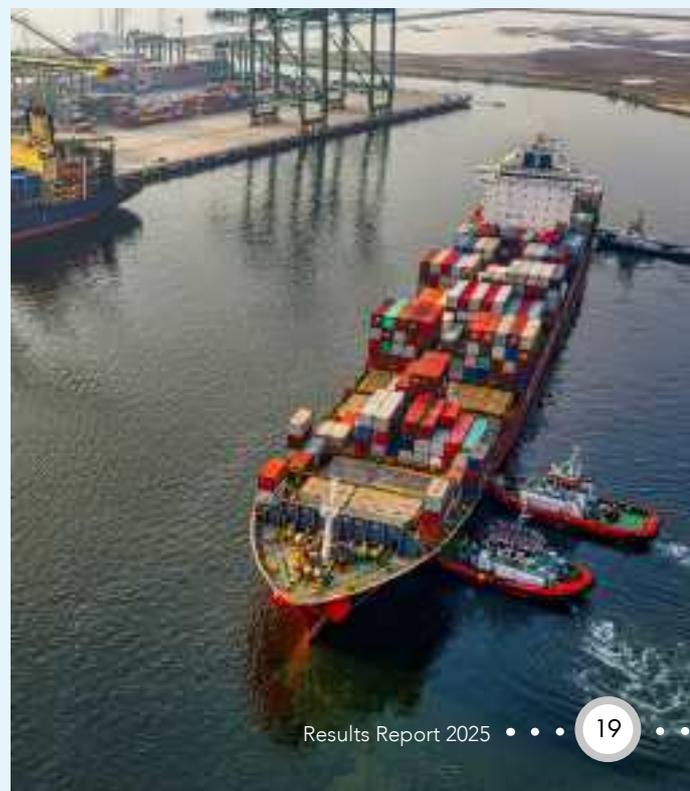
2.

Towards Smart, Resilient, Inclusive, and Sustainable Airports

2.1 Transport and Mobility Portfolio

Recognizing transport's fundamental role in economic growth, social equity, and environmental sustainability, the **Transport and Mobility Portfolio** addresses land transport and road safety, airports and aviation, ports and maritime transport.

The portfolio also integrates cross-cutting areas such as disaster resilience, technology and artificial intelligence, and behavioural science. This integrated approach ensures solutions are context-appropriate, evidence-based, and scalable across diverse geographic and institutional contexts.

The **Airports Global Training Programme** leverages UNITAR's expertise and its global network of training centres to strengthen institutional capacity across the airport ecosystem to address systemic challenges while promoting peer learning and knowledge exchange.

In line with the UN Decade of Sustainable Transport (2026-2035) and the Second Decade of Action for Road Safety (2021-2030), the portfolio supports governments and institutions to strengthen transport systems through effective training, policy innovation, and cross-sectoral partnerships. The emphasis on leaving no one behind ensures particular attention to capacity building in low- and middle-income countries, where transport infrastructure gaps most significantly constrain development opportunities.

2.2 The Airports Global Training Programme

The Airports Global Training Programme launched through strategic partnerships with Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport and Georgia Institute of Technology's Enterprise Innovation Institute, aims to serve as a key platform for knowledge exchange, collaboration, and institutional strengthening across the global airport sector.

Navigating the complexities of the modern airport industry requires a multidimensional approach. The Airports Global Training Programme is structured around four strategic pillars that are interconnected and provide the foundation for airports to evolve into engines of sustainable development.

4 Training Pillars

Smart Airports

Resilient Airports

Inclusive Airports

Sustainable Airports

"Future-proofing demands that we build airports that are not only efficient and profitable, but also resilient, inclusive, and sustainable infrastructure that serves all people while respecting planetary boundaries."

David Bridges, Vice President of the Enterprise Innovation Institute, Georgia Institute of Technology

Programme Objectives

1 Equip airport executives, civil aviation authorities, and airport sector stakeholders with advanced strategies, frameworks, and tools for enhancing airport competitiveness, operational quality, and sustainable development contributions. Training addresses technical competencies, strategic management capabilities, and leadership skills necessary for navigating complex operational environments.

2 Foster global collaboration and knowledge exchange among airport sector stakeholders, creating peer learning networks that transcend geographic and developmental boundaries. By facilitating direct engagement between airports at different development stages, the programme enables mutual learning, avoids repetition of mistakes, and accelerates adoption of good practices.

3 Strengthen institutional capacity for implementing smart, resilient, inclusive, and sustainable airport operations. Capacity building emphasizes not only individual skill development but also organizational strengthening, policy integration, and stakeholder coordination necessary for systemic transformation.

Target Beneficiaries

The programme prioritizes capacity building for:

- **Representatives of civil aviation authorities** and regulatory bodies responsible for policy development, safety oversight, and sector regulation.

- **Airport executives and senior management** personnel including general managers, chief operating officers, and directors of operations, planning, commercial development, safety, security, and sustainability departments.

- **Economic development officials** from governments, regional authorities, and chambers of commerce seeking to leverage airport infrastructure for broader economic growth strategies.

- **Airport industry stakeholders** including airlines, ground handling companies, technology providers, and consulting firms engaged in airport development and operations.

- Particular emphasis is placed on participants from **LDCs**, **SIDS**, **and LLDCs**, where capacity gaps most significantly constrain airport development potential. By prioritizing these countries, the programme contributes to reducing global inequalities in airport sector capacity.

Delivery Methodology

The programme employs diverse delivery modalities to maximize learning effectiveness and global reach:

In-person workshops provide immersive learning experiences combining expert presentations, interactive discussions, case studies, tabletop exercises, site visits, and peer exchange sessions. Two-day formats balance theoretical foundations with practical applications.

Hybrid formats integrate virtual and in-person elements, enabling broader participation while maintaining engagement quality. Digital platforms facilitate pre-workshop preparation, post-workshop follow-up, and ongoing peer networking.

Airport-to-airport collaboration agreements formalize knowledge exchange relationships, creating sustained partnerships that extend beyond individual training events. Sister airport partnerships between established and emerging airports enable mentorship, technical assistance, and operational guidance.

Hands-on exercises and simulations provide practical skill development in emergency response, crisis management, and complex decision-making under pressure. These experiential learning opportunities enhance retention and application of training content.

Digital tools extend learning beyond the classroom, enabling anytime rehearsal of crisis response, hazard assessment, and operational decision-making.

Beyond the Certificate

Participants completing programme workshops receive UNITAR certification recognizing their enhanced competencies in specific thematic areas. This certification carries significant professional value, demonstrating commitment to continuous learning and adherence to international standards in airport management. Beyond formal recognition, the programme emphasizes actionable insights, equipping participants to implement meaningful change within their airports and broader airport ecosystems.

The programme also facilitates professional networking through alumni communities, enabling continued knowledge exchange and collaboration beyond formal training events. Regional clusters strengthen south-south cooperation and peer learning among airports facing similar challenges, allowing lessons to multiply throughout the industry as participants influence peers, teams, and institutional practices, becoming catalysts for systemic transformation.

3.

Training Pillar 1: Smart Airports

The airport sector stands at an inflection point where technological advancement offers massive opportunities to transform airport operations, enhance passenger experiences, strengthen security, and improve sustainability performance. Artificial intelligence, machine learning, Internet of Things sensors, biometric identification systems, autonomous vehicles, robotics, advanced data analytics, and blockchain applications are reshaping every aspect of airport functionality.

Smart airport development encompasses integrating digital technologies throughout passenger journeys, operational processes, and infrastructure management. From biometric boarding gates that streamline processing to AI-powered predictive maintenance systems that prevent equipment failures, from autonomous baggage handling to real-time passenger flow optimization, technology enables airports to deliver superior service while improving efficiency and reducing environmental impacts.

However, technology deployment must be strategic, ethical, and human-centered. Airports must balance automation's efficiency gains with preservation of human interaction's value, particularly for passengers requiring assistance or facing challenges. Cybersecurity assumes paramount importance as digitization expands attack surfaces, demanding robust defences, incident response capabilities, and resilience planning.

The Smart pillar of the Airports Global Training Programme addresses these imperatives by building institutional capacity for technology adoption, cybersecurity management, and strategic digital transformation aligned with operational priorities and passenger needs.

3.1 Future-Proofing Airport Development: Leveraging Technological Innovations, Artificial Intelligence, and Cybersecurity

San Salvador, El Salvador
3-4 March 2025

CIFAL Atlanta
In-Person Training Workshop

In partnership with the Executive Autonomous Port Commission (CEPA) of the Republic of El Salvador, **convened 71 civil aviation authorities and senior airport officials from 10 countries across the Americas** to explore digital technologies' potential in the global air transport sector.

Regional Context and Relevance

Latin America's airport sector has experienced robust recovery from pandemic disruptions, with El Salvador strategically positioned as a connectivity hub linking North and South America. The country's commitment to infrastructure modernization, embodied in CEPA's comprehensive airport development strategy, provided an ideal context for examining technological transformation's role in airport competitiveness.

"El Salvador recognizes that investing in airport infrastructure is a commitment to the country's future. Airports are more than just connection points; they are gateways that open opportunities for development, economic growth, tourism, and competitiveness."

Federico Gerardo Anliker, President, Autonomous Executive Port Commission (CEPA), El Salvador

Key Technological Focus Areas

Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning Applications

- **AI opportunities and challenges for the air transport sector**, covering algorithmic bias mitigation, transparency, ethical deployment, privacy protection, and human oversight.

- **AI applications across airport operations**, including predictive maintenance, passenger flow management, enhanced security screening, baggage handling optimisation, and resource allocation.

- **Technology adoption strategies suited to different resource contexts**, with guidance on phased implementation, identifying quick wins, and planning for scalable growth.

Cybersecurity and Digital Resilience

- **Cybersecurity strategy and leadership guidance**, examining risk assessment methodologies, threat landscape analysis, defence architecture design, incident response protocols, and resilience planning.

- **Practical cybersecurity exercises**, enabling participants to assess current vulnerabilities and develop targeted action plans to strengthen their airports' defensive posture.

Smart Airport Operations and Passenger Experience

- **Role of robust connectivity infrastructure in enabling smart airport systems**, supporting AI-driven predictive maintenance, passenger flow management, security improvements, and efficient resource use.

- **Integration of new technologies into airport systems**, informed by extensive operational experience across diverse airport environments.

Airport Infrastructure and Strategic Development:

- **Airports as strategic hubs within larger logistics networks**, exploring how technology improves cargo operations, supply chain visibility, and multimodal connectivity.

- **Regional collaboration opportunities**, focusing on shared technological infrastructure, pooled expertise, and harmonized standards across Latin American airports.

Sister Airport Partnership Agreement

A major milestone during the workshop was the signing of a Sister Airport Cooperation Agreement between Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport (ATL) and Autonomous Executive Port Commission (CEPA)'s El Salvador International Airport, ATL's thirteenth such partnership. The agreement establishes a framework for sustained collaboration in operational best practices, passenger services, air cargo management, technology exchange, and capacity building. It reflects the programme's commitment to fostering long-term airport-to-airport partnerships that enable continuous knowledge sharing, technical assistance, and mutual learning.

3.2 Future-Proofing Airport Development: Harnessing Technology to Streamline Terminal Operations

Rabat, Morocco
24-25 June 2025

CIFAL Atlanta
In-Person Training Workshop

The Morocco workshop strategically positioned Africa and the Middle East at the forefront of terminal operations innovation, addressing the region's ambitious airport modernization agendas and preparation for major international events including Morocco's co-hosting of the 2030 FIFA World Cup. **The workshop convened 27 airport executives and senior officials from 12 countries across the African region.**

Regional Context and Relevance

Morocco's airport sector has experienced significant growth, with strategic investments in airport infrastructure positioning the country as Africa's gateway to Europe and a Mediterranean airport hub.

Mr. Abdennebi Manar, Director-General of the Arab Civil Aviation Organization (ACAO), provided crucial regional context highlighting that air transport in Arab countries contributes over $300 billion USD annually to GDP, representing 4-5% of regional economic output and supporting approximately 6 million jobs.

"Build trust with passengers by enhancing convenience, efficiency, and transparency through demonstrating tangible benefits such as reduced wait times, streamlined processes, and enhanced security."

Abdennemi Manar, Director General, Arab Civil Aviation Organization (ACAO), Morocco

He emphasized the strategic importance of technology adoption in addressing unique regional challenges including tenuous security environments, inadequate infrastructure funding, and gaps in cybersecurity maturity compared to global standards.

Key Technological Focus Areas

Smart Terminal Infrastructure and Passenger Experience Innovation

- **Connectivity infrastructure as the backbone of smart terminal systems**, including wireless ethernet, distributed antenna systems, and other enablers of mission-critical and mobile-dependent terminal operations.

- **AI-supported optimisation of terminal processes**, covering passenger flow management, queue optimisation, predictive analytics for resource allocation, and real-time operational dashboards.

- **Biometric technologies for seamless passenger processing**, addressing privacy protection needs, accuracy requirements, interoperability standards, and integration with border control systems.

- **Inclusive digital services**, including AI-enhanced baggage tracking, self-service tools, and accessible wayfinding solutions such as 3D kiosk technology.

Cybersecurity and Digital Resilience

- **Implementation of resilience frameworks such as NIST and ISO 27001**, guided by lessons from real incident cases to strengthen defence architecture for connected airport ecosystems.

- **Protection of IoT and interconnected systems**, focusing on threat analysis, risk assessment, and secure design principles for modern digital infrastructure.

Sustainability Through Technology

- **Digital solutions supporting environmental performance**, including energy management systems, solar integration, electric vehicle infrastructure, carbon monitoring platforms, and smart waste-reduction tools.

- **Environmental reporting frameworks and certification pathways**, showing how technology supports measurable sustainability outcomes and continuous improvement.

Autonomous Systems and Advanced Applications:

- **Technologies reshaping airside operations**, such as autonomous ground vehicles, AI-assisted air traffic tools, and computer vision systems that improve aircraft turnaround efficiency.

- **Drone-based operational safety applications**, particularly runway surveillance and foreign object debris detection.

3.3 Future-Proofing Airport Development: Leveraging Technological Innovations for Enhanced Terminal Operations

Singapore, Singapore,
22-23 October 2025

CIFAL Atlanta, CIFAL Singapore
In-Person Training Workshop

Hosted by UNITAR in partnership with the Civil Aviation Authority of Singapore (CAAS), Singapore Aviation Academy (SAA), Changi Airport Group, and CIFAL Singapore at Nanyang Technological University, **the workshop convened 64 airport professionals from 12 countries across Asia-Pacific and Middle East** to explore advanced technologies transforming terminal operations.

Regional Context and Relevance

Asia-Pacific stands as the world's fastest-expanding air travel market, with passenger volumes surging beyond historic peaks. The region's airports face unprecedented challenges in managing capacity constraints, meeting evolving security requirements, addressing environmental sustainability mandates, and integrating artificial intelligence responsibly. Singapore's Changi Airport, consistently ranked among the globe's top facilities, provides an excellent example for understanding how technology, policy, and human expertise converge to create next-generation airports.

"Singapore's world-class airport ecosystem demonstrates how integrated planning and technology adoption enable airports to leverage connectivity for regional investment attraction and economic growth,"

noted Peh Ke-Wei, Vice President of Passenger Development at Changi Airport Group, highlighting the critical balance between technological advancement and passenger experience.

Key Technological Focus Areas

Smart Terminal Operations

- **Integrated passenger flow management and automated processing systems**, drawing on seamless travel models that unify check-in, bag drop, immigration, and other touchpoints.

- **Biometric-enabled Fast and Seamless Travel (FAST) processes**, reducing friction across the passenger journey while maintaining accuracy, privacy safeguards, and interoperability with border systems.

- **Autonomous mobility and robotics fleet management**, including coordinated deployment of cleaning robots and AI-driven task allocation across terminal environments.

Digital Transformation Frameworks

- **Airport-wide digital maturity assessment approaches**, used to evaluate data-driven operations, strategic investment planning, organizational readiness, talent development, service digitalisation, and technology integration.

- **Total Airport Management (TAM) concepts**, promoting coordinated operations from airside to landside through centralised data sharing and collaborative decision-making.

Infrastructure and Capacity Enhancement

- **Strategies for addressing capacity constraints and ageing infrastructure**, ensuring continuous service during major renewal or expansion programmes.

- **Management of large-scale capital improvement programmes in active terminals**, supported by data-informed resource planning and scenario-based forecasting.

Cybersecurity for Connected Airports

- **Cybersecurity as a frontline operational priority**, especially for hyper-connected smart airports managing biometric systems, IoT logistics, cloud-based air traffic platforms, and data-sharing ecosystems.

- **Hands-on crisis simulation exercises**, including ransomware scenarios affecting identity verification, logistics, and air traffic functions, designed to strengthen coordinated response capabilities.

Regional Perspectives and Knowledge Exchange

The workshop served as a forum for Directors of UNITAR's International Training Centres for Authorities and Leaders (CIFAL) network from Atlanta (USA), Bangkok (Thailand), Lebanon, Newcastle (Australia), Saudi Arabia, and Singapore to share regional insights on airport development priorities and country-specific challenges.

Ms. Burcak Sezer, Executive General Manager from Newcastle International Airport, Australia, shared her airport's strategic transition from a domestic hub to an emerging international facility, emphasizing that transformation requires not just infrastructure investment but complete reimagining of workforce capabilities, stakeholder engagement, and positioning airports as both critical infrastructure and consumer-facing brands.

4.

Training Pillar 2: Resilient Airports

Climate change intensification, increasing frequency and severity of extreme weather events, pandemic threats, cybersecurity vulnerabilities, and geopolitical instability have elevated disaster preparedness and emergency management to strategic priorities for airport operations. Airports must maintain operational continuity during crises, operate as critical lifelines for humanitarian response, and demonstrate resilience that inspires stakeholder confidence.

For Least Developed Countries, Small Island Developing States, and Landlocked Developing Countries, disaster resilience assumes particular urgency. These countries face structural vulnerabilities to climate-related disruptions, limited resources for emergency preparedness investments, and disproportionate impacts from natural hazards.

Building resilient airport infrastructure and operational capacity constitutes an essential foundation for sustainable development in these contexts.

Effective disaster preparedness requires comprehensive approaches encompassing prevention, mitigation, preparedness, response, recovery, and adaptation. Airports must develop robust emergency management systems, coordinate with multiple stakeholders, invest in resilient infrastructure, train personnel for crisis scenarios, and establish business continuity protocols ensuring rapid recovery.

The Resilient pillar of the Airports Global Training Programme strengthens institutional capacity for disaster risk management through practical training, tabletop exercises, live simulations, and exchange of experiences among airports that have navigated major crises.
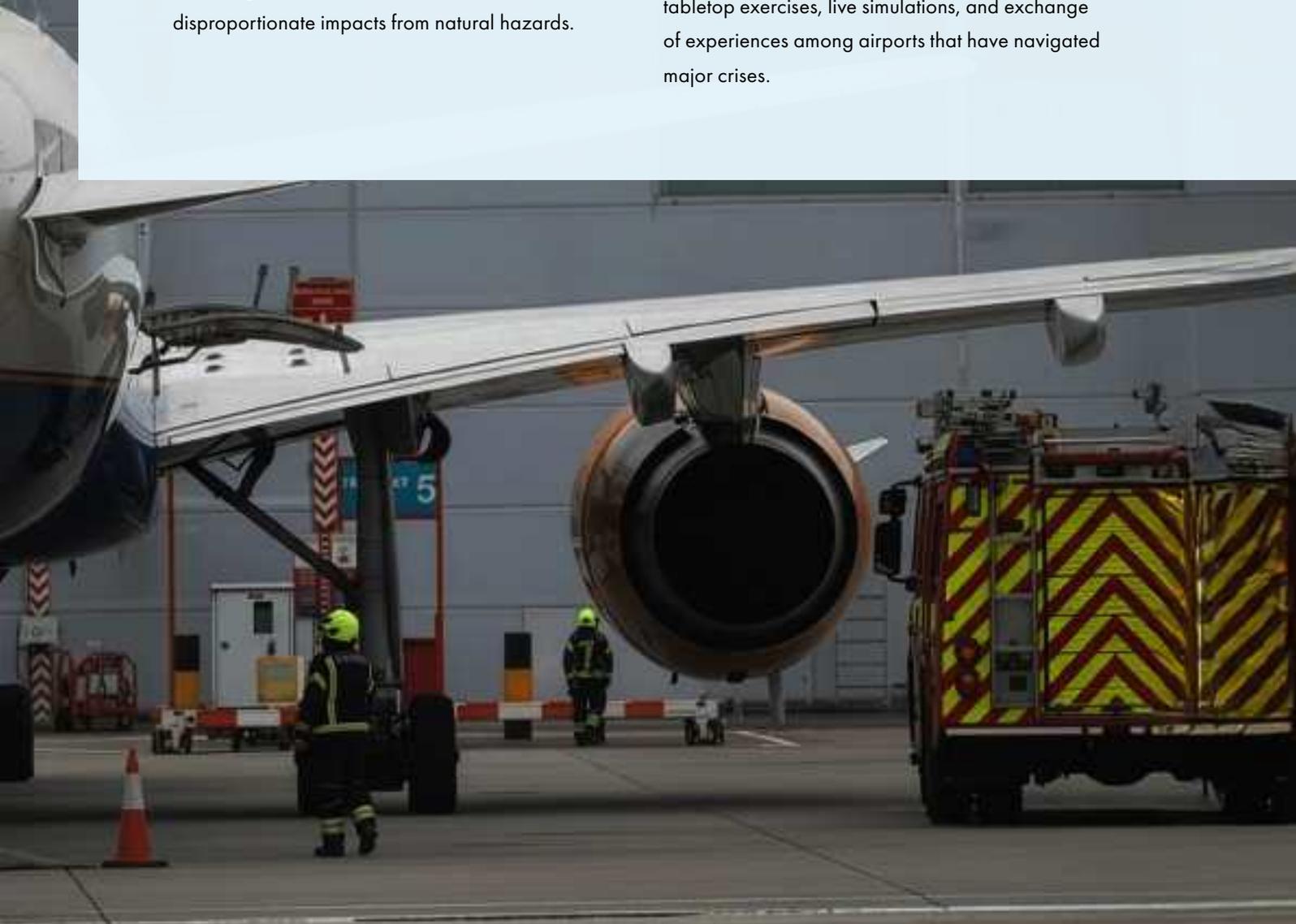
4.1 20th International Hurricane Preparedness Seminar

Merida, Mexico
3-4 March 2025

CIFAL Merida
In-Person Training Seminar

The 20th edition of the International Hurricane Seminar **brought 202 participants including airport leaders from Mexico, Latin America, and the Caribbean** for collaborative learning, strategic dialogue, and forward-looking action. Hosted by CIFAL Mérida in partnership with UNITAR, Grupo ASUR, and Mérida International Airport, this milestone edition reaffirmed the seminar's role as a useful platform for strengthening airport safety and emergency preparedness in regions vulnerable to tropical cyclones.

Regional Context and Relevance

The Yucatán Peninsula's geographic position makes it one of the **most hurricane-vulnerable regions in the Americas**, experiencing regular impacts from tropical cyclones originating in both the Atlantic and Caribbean. This vulnerability, intensified by climate change driving more powerful and unpredictable storm systems, underscores the critical importance of airport infrastructure resilience.

"Over these two decades, we've learned that prevention and international cooperation are essential to guarantee continuity of airport operations and, above all, to protect lives. In this forum, we continue exploring new tools, best practices, and strategies that allow us to stay one step ahead in risk management,"

Héctor Navarrete Muñoz, Director of Regional Airports, Grupo ASUR and Director of CIFAL Mérida, Mexico

Key Disaster Preparedness Focus Areas

Strategic Crisis Communication and Leadership

- **Emergency communication strategies that balance speed, accuracy, and stakeholder needs**, ensuring information reaches government agencies, airlines, ground handlers, media, and affected communities in a coordinated way.

- **Structured decision-making under pressure**, supported through tabletop simulations that tested command roles, information flow, and coordination during cascading failure scenarios.

- **Business continuity planning frameworks**, including post-event damage assessment methods and phased reopening protocols that support rapid operational recovery.

Emergency Response and Aircraft Operations

- **Advanced hurricane forecasting interpretation for operational decision-making**, with guidance on using lead times to optimise protective actions, staffing, and resource deployment.

- **Prepositioning and aircraft positioning strategies**, aimed at protecting fleets while maximising availability for emergency response and the eventual resumption of commercial operations.

- **Emergency aircraft procedures and rapid return-to-service workflows**, including protocols for converting commercial airports into humanitarian logistics hubs when needed.

Critical Infrastructure Protection

- **Targeted infrastructure protection investments**, prioritising measures that deliver the highest return on resilience enhancement, such as terminal structural reinforcement and safeguarding of fuel storage and mechanical systems.

- **Protocols for maintaining and restoring essential utilities**, including power, water, navigation systems, and communications, to support continuous or rapid recovery of airport operations.

- **Damage assessment methodologies**, enabling operators to evaluate infrastructure conditions and guide restoration planning.

Humanitarian Aid Coordination

- **Humanitarian logistics planning that optimises airport capacity for relief operations**, while minimising disruption to scheduled services.

- **Coordination with relief organizations**, customs, and supply-chain partners, enabling fast tracking of emergency materials and efficient warehouse management for incoming aid.

Commemorative Publication

A key milestone was the presentation of **"Twenty Years of the International Hurricane Seminar,"** a commemorative book consolidating two decades of research findings, scientific advancements, and analytical studies. The publication features contributions from meteorologists, climatologists, disaster risk management experts, and civil protection authorities, examining hurricane evolution within climate change contexts and documenting technological advancements in monitoring and forecasting.

4.2 Disaster Preparedness at Strategic Ports and Airports

Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic
22-23 May 2025

CIFAL Miami
In-Person Training Seminar

Organized by CIFAL Miami in partnership with the Ports and Communities Disaster Preparedness and Resilience Programme (C-PReP), CIFAL Dominican Republic, the Dominican Municipal League (LMD), AERODOM, and the Civil Aviation Board (JAC), the seminar brought together 183 participants (97 in person and 86 virtually) including airport and port operators, civil aviation authorities, emergency responders, and private sector stakeholders. The event facilitated intensive collaborative learning and strategic dialogue, reaffirming its role as a key platform for advancing multi-hazard preparedness across critical infrastructure.

Regional Context and Relevance

The Caribbean region stands as one of the most disaster-prone areas globally, facing annual threats from hurricanes, seismic activity, and other extreme weather events intensified by climate change. The Dominican Republic's strategic geographic position, coupled with its extensive coastlines and major tourism infrastructure, creates complex vulnerabilities for ports and airports that serve as essential lifelines during emergencies.

"Airports and ports are vital centres for immediate aid supply and evacuation of affected persons. Poor management at these points can generate logistical bottlenecks and put citizens and tourists at risk"

Mónika Infante Henríquez, Chief Executive Officer, Aerodom; President, ACI-LAC, Dominican Republic.

Key Disaster Preparedness Focus Areas

Interagency Coordination and Strategic Planning

- **Comprehensive vulnerability assessments**, identifying capability gaps without institutional defensiveness to inform planning and resource allocation.

- **Tiered emergency response protocols**, scalable from routine incidents to catastrophic events, ensuring clear escalation paths and operational continuity.

- **Interagency coordination frameworks**, aligning civil aviation, maritime, emergency services, and local authorities to support unified and timely responses.

Tactical Response and Real-World Operations

- **Distinction between strategic oversight and on-scene essential actions**, emphasising independent evaluation by first responders during hazardous materials incidents or complex emergencies.

- **Operational improvisation and rapid infrastructure adaptation**, such as repurposing terminal areas or converting spaces for emergency logistics while maintaining responder safety and sustenance.

- **Integration of humanitarian logistics into standard procedures**, reducing post-event improvisation and supporting effective relief operations.

Intelligent Technology and Communication Systems

- **Centralised cloud-based data systems**, enabling predictive analysis, real-time monitoring, and multi-stakeholder coordination.

- **Robust communication protocols**, including contingency measures to maintain notifications and alerts when primary systems fail.

- **Predictive monitoring tools and intelligent alert platforms**, allowing rapid, actionable information dissemination to all relevant stakeholders, improving situational awareness and decision-making.

Business Continuity and Workforce Resilience

- **Employee welfare programmes**, ensuring workforce availability and operational continuity during prolonged crises, including family support initiatives.

- **Understanding cascading disaster effects**, recognising that organizational recovery depends on stabilising and supporting the workforce.

4.3 Future-Proofing Airport Development: Building Resilience Through Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Management

Atlanta, USA, 28-29 May 2025

CIFAL Atlanta
In-Person Training Workshop
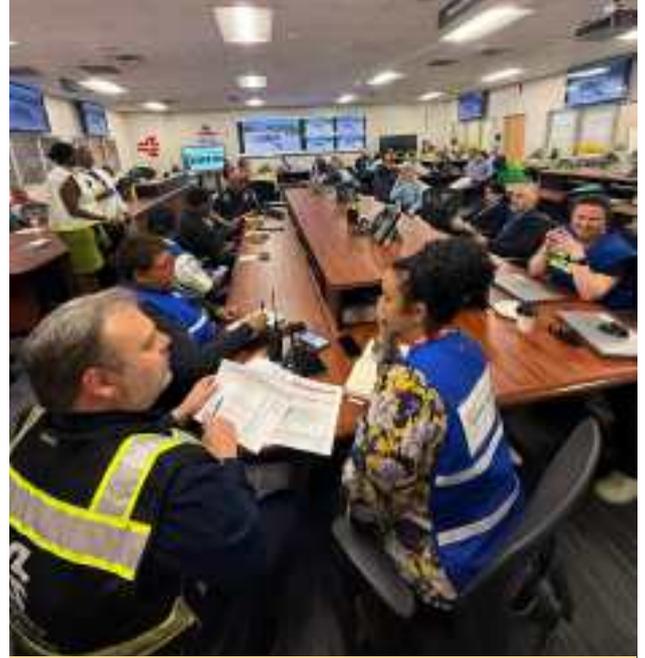
This training workshop, hosted by UNITAR in partnership with Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport (ATL) and the Georgia Institute of Technology's Enterprise Innovation Institute (EI²), **convened 40 senior airport officials and civil aviation authorities from 12 countries across North America, the Caribbean, and Central America** to strengthen emergency management capabilities for an era of intensifying global disruptions.

Regional Context and Relevance

Atlanta's strategic significance as host is notable, home to the world's busiest and most efficient airport, the region has developed sophisticated emergency response systems tested by real-world events ranging from severe weather to security incidents. The city's position as a global connectivity hub makes its resilience frameworks directly relevant to airports worldwide grappling with similar passenger volumes and operational complexities.

"Disasters are a defining feature of the 21st century, with direct losses estimated at over $200 billion annually. Building resilience is a fundamental pillar of sustainable development. This workshop aims to provide good practices in building resilient airports through planning, disaster preparedness and emergency response,"

Jan Lennon, Executive Deputy General Manager, Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport (ATL), USA

Key Disaster Preparedness Focus Areas

Airport Emergency Planning and Multi-Agency Coordination

- **Comprehensive emergency plan development**, addressing aircraft incidents, natural disasters, and public health emergencies while meeting FAA Part 139, TSA, and regulatory requirements.
- **Unified Command implementation**, establishing clear ICS roles, delegating decision authority, and coordinating across multiple agencies with overlapping jurisdictions.
- **After-Action Reviews and post-incident improvement**, identifying strengths, documenting lessons learned, and implementing corrective actions to strengthen future responses.

Crisis Communication and Public Information Management

- **Emergency communication strategies under pressure**, balancing speed, accuracy, and stakeholder needs across internal teams, public agencies, and affected communities.
- **Structured "battle rhythms" for tactical and recovery communications**, ensuring consistent messaging during and after events.

Technology Integration and AI-Enabled Emergency Response

- **Technology-enabled resilience**, including AI for predictive analytics, redundant communication networks, and cybersecurity protections for operational systems.
- **Social AI and situational awareness tools**, supporting real-time decision-making, resource allocation, and multi-agency coordination.
- **Integration of advanced monitoring systems**, providing actionable insights for proactive emergency management.

EOC Capabilities and Business Continuity

- **Immersive Emergency Operations Centre simulations**, using dashboards and crisis management technologies to build institutional memory.
- **Exercise and training design**, including progressive drills, tabletop exercises, and full-scale simulations that test decision-making and operational readiness.
- **Business continuity and workforce resilience**, addressing cascading effects on operations, suppliers, infrastructure, and employee families.
- **Public–private partnerships for resource acquisition and allocation**, ensuring critical support and continuity during prolonged crises.

4.4 Air Bridge: Emergency Response

**Stratford, Canada,
27 September 2025**

CIFAL York
In-Person Training Exercise

The AirBridge 2025 Exercise tested an innovative model for leveraging general aviation as a surge resource during large-scale disasters, validating volunteer pilot networks as a critical component of regional emergency response architecture.

Date and Location

September 27, 2025, at Stratford Municipal Airport (CYSA), serving as the central coordination hub for Ontario's inaugural General Aviation Emergency Response Plan.

Participation

Approximately 100 participants from 15+ organizations attended this non-public exercise, including:

- **Partners:** City of Stratford and CYSA Airport team, ImpactWX - Genesis Grant, Salvation Army Emergency Disaster Services, Stolport FBO CYTZ, COPA/Covalen Insurance, CIFAL York & York University ADERSIM Lab

- **Emergency Response Organizations:** Canadian Disaster Response Organization (CDRO), Global Medic, Salvation Army Emergency Disaster Services, OSARVA K-9 Teams, Queen's University Wilderness Medical teams, The Canadian Wings of Rescue (CWoR), Radio Amateurs of Canada (RAC), City of Stratford Emergency Services

Volunteer Pilot Activation

The exercise assessed the Volunteer Emergency Air Corps (VEAC) operational model:

- **Registered Pilots:** 23 pilots enrolled as VEAC volunteers

- **Planned Flights:** 18 missions scheduled

- **Executed Flights:** 12 pilots/aircraft completed assigned flights despite weather cancellations

- **Mission Types:** Simulated emergency response support including supply airlifts, aerial reconnaissance, specialized evacuee transport for vulnerable passengers, and emergency worker transfer flights

Key Outcomes

The exercise confirmed the viability of integrating private aviation into official emergency management frameworks, demonstrating efficient flight request processing, multi-transport coordination, and logistical capacity for critical supply and personnel deployment. Results are informing Ontario's first General Aviation Emergency Response Plan and providing a replicable model for other jurisdictions.

4.5 Emergency Preparedness and Management

Miami, USA, 7-8 October 2025

CIFAL Miami
In-Person Training Workshop

Hosted by CIFAL Miami in partnership with Florida International University (FIU), Miami International Airport (MIA), and Outreach Aid to the Americas (OAA), the workshop convened 63 airport professionals, emergency planners, and government officials from seven countries in the Caribbean and Southeastern United States to address critical challenges in one of the world's most disaster-prone regions.

"With over 56,000 students and extensive research capabilities, FIU stands ready to support our communities in building resilience against the disasters that regularly threaten our region"

emphasized Elizabeth Béjar, FIU Provost and Executive Vice President, highlighting the academic-community partnership essential for sustainable preparedness.

"Life with a disability is about finding ways to live ingeniously,"

Matthew Shaw, Head of Accessibility Practice for the Rick Hansen Foundation explained, sharing his perspective as someone with a degenerative deafblind condition.

"Emergency planning must embrace this ingenuity to create truly inclusive response protocols."

Key Disaster Preparedness Focus Areas

Multi-Agency Coordination and Unified Command

- **Multi-agency coordination models**, establishing unified command structures across federal, state, local, and private-sector stakeholders to ensure aligned decision-making during crises.

- **Tiered emergency response frameworks**, scalable from routine incidents to catastrophic events, integrating regulatory guidance from FAA, ICAO, and local authorities.

- **Pre-established communication protocols and authority delegation**, enabling rapid coordination and operational continuity.

- **Scenario-based exercises, such as tabletop simulations**, designed to test decision-making under pressure while building institutional competence.

Community Engagement and Inclusive Emergency Planning

- **Community engagement strategies**, transforming airports into integrated partners that support both operational and humanitarian needs during crises.

- **Disability-inclusive protocols**, ensuring equitable access to emergency services, shelter, and transportation for travellers with diverse needs.

- **Integrated Operations Centers and centralised coordination**, enhancing communication and situational awareness across all airport functions.

Continuity of Operations, Supply Chain, and Simulation

- **Business continuity and supply chain resilience**, maintaining critical resource flows during emergencies while balancing operational constraints.

- **Advanced situational awareness technologies**, including AI, VR, and drone-enabled modelling, supporting predictive analysis and decision-making in real-time.

- **Hands-on operational simulations**, providing participants with practical experience in emergency response, building institutional memory and confidence through realistic scenarios.

- **Workforce resilience and preparedness**, ensuring that staff welfare, role clarity, and training support effective crisis management.

4.6 Digital Simulation and Risk Mapping

CIFAL York
Digital Tools

Complementing hands-on workshops, CIFAL York has developed a suite of proprietary digital tools that extend capacity-building beyond physical events, creating reusable assets for airport risk assessment and emergency preparedness training globally.

VR Airport Emergency Simulation App

Developed by CIFAL York and the Advanced Disaster, Emergency and Rapid Response Simulation (ADERSIM) Lab, this immersive VR training platform places users inside realistic airport emergencies. Participants experience and manage critical scenarios

including main runway crashes, terminal fires and earthquake damage, and develop resilience strategies against severe weather events such as flooding and blizzards. The app creates a common operational picture essential for decision-making readiness in complex, multi-hazard environments.

Click here to view the Airport Disaster Simulation Video

AeroHazard Mapping Platform

AeroHazard is an all-in-one web map platform designed to evaluate the global hazard landscape for airports. It plays an important role in disaster preparedness and airport growth planning. **The platform systematically maps the exposure of 45,516 airports worldwide.** These are categorized as Small, Medium, or Large. It visualizes risk factors and hotspots for several natural hazards, including earthquakes, flooding, tropical storms, wildfires, and volcanic eruptions. AeroHazard uses layered thematic maps and statistical data to show the frequency and severity of these events. This supports airport planners and risk managers in assessing vulnerabilities, strengthening infrastructure and operational resilience, and developing comprehensive emergency plans.

Scan the QR code to view the AeroHazard Map

Airport Emergency Simulations (AnyLogic)

The airplane crash simulations developed by York University's Advanced Disaster, Emergency and Rapid Response Simulation (ADERSIM) Lab in collaboration with CIFAL York are sophisticated, multi-method training tools. These applications, built with software such as AnyLogic, create digital twin environments that replicate high-impact aviation incidents and their cascading effects, including fires, structural failures, and power outages. The simulations are primarily used to train emergency management partners by allowing them to test and refine complex operational responses. This includes resource coordination, patient triage, and evaluating the effectiveness of different evacuation and communication protocols, all within a risk-free, controlled environment.

Virtual Airport Emergency Simulation (Second Life)

CIFAL York has built a large-scale virtual online emergency operations space using the Second Life platform, enabling geographically distributed participants to conduct coordinated virtual exercises for airport emergency management.

Social Sensing and AI for Airports

An ongoing research and advisory initiative focusing on artificial intelligence applications in airport crisis management, particularly social sensing technologies that monitor and analyze real-time data streams to enhance situational awareness and emergency response capabilities.

Scan the QR code to view the Haneda Airport Plane Crash Simulation

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4.7 General Aviation Emergency Response Certificate (GAERC)

CIFAL York
Online

Building on practical exercise experience, CIFAL York developed the General Aviation Emergency Response Certificate (GAERC) Course as a structured introductory programme for private pilots preparing to volunteer their aircraft and services during significant emergencies or disasters.

Description

The course equips pilots with the confidence, knowledge, and tools necessary to serve as trusted aviation surge support for communities in need. Completion enables graduates to "Fly with Purpose" and "Stand Out" as part of an elite group of trained volunteers formally acknowledged by emergency management partners.

Curriculum

Disaster Management Frameworks: Comprehensive overview of Canadian disaster management systems, key terminology, and Incident Management/Command Systems (ICS/IMS) protocols essential for coordinated multi-agency responses

Hazard Awareness: Examination of Canada's principal natural hazards (wildfires, floods, severe storms) with geographic distribution analysis and accurate detection strategies

Operational Resilience: Practical skills development in pre-planning methodologies, logistical coordination, aircraft readiness protocols, and psychological resilience training to manage high-pressure situations, operational fatigue, and stress during real-world deployments

Alumni

The GAERC Course institutionalizes volunteer pilot capacity, transforming ad-hoc general aviation responses into a disciplined, protocol-driven surge resource fully compatible with official emergency management systems.

5.

Training Pillar 3: Inclusive Airports

Inclusive airport development represents fundamental commitment to human dignity, social equity, and universal accessibility. People-centred policies and implementations prioritize individuals across all demographics, including considerations for gender, persons with disabilities, elderly travellers, families with young children, individuals with invisible disabilities such as autism spectrum disorders, pregnant and breastfeeding mothers, and those requiring special medical care.

Inclusive design transcends compliance with accessibility regulations, embodying proactive commitment to creating environments where all travellers can navigate airport facilities with dignity, comfort, and independence. Universal design principles ensure infrastructure, services, and communication accommodate diverse needs without requiring specialized adaptations or assistance requests.

Beyond physical accessibility, inclusivity encompasses culturally sensitive service delivery, multilingual communication, respectful treatment of diverse identities, and recognition of varying passenger needs. Airports serve as public spaces where inclusive practices can model broader social values and contribute to normalizing accessibility as standard rather than exception.

The Inclusive pillar of the Airports Global Training Programme advances people-centred airports by building capacity for implementing inclusive policies, infrastructure, and services that prioritize human wellbeing alongside operational efficiency.

5.1 Anti-Human Trafficking

Atlanta, USA
January 2025

CIFAL Atlanta
In-Person Awareness Campaign

This initiative implemented by Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport (ATL) in partnership with End Child Prostitution, Child Pornography and Trafficking of Children for Sexual Purposes (ECPAT-USA), the Georgia Attorney General's Office, and the City of Atlanta, the initiative convened federal law enforcement, airport security personnel, airline representatives, and community organizations to strengthen detection capabilities and coordinate multi-agency response protocols. The initiative marked a continuation of ATL's pioneering commitment as the first U.S. airport to sign the Tourism Child-Protection Code of Conduct, reinforcing its role as a sentinel against exploitation in global transportation networks.

Regional Context and Relevance

The human trafficking crisis in the Southeastern United States demands urgent, coordinated intervention, with airports serving as critical intervention points in trafficking networks. Georgia's trafficking economy is estimated at $290 million annually. The average victim age is 12-14 years, and Atlanta's status as a global connectivity hub makes its airport a primary transit corridor for traffickers. ATL's strategic significance is high, with over 100 million passengers annually and 63,000 employees, it represents both a high-risk environment and a significant platform for detection and prevention.
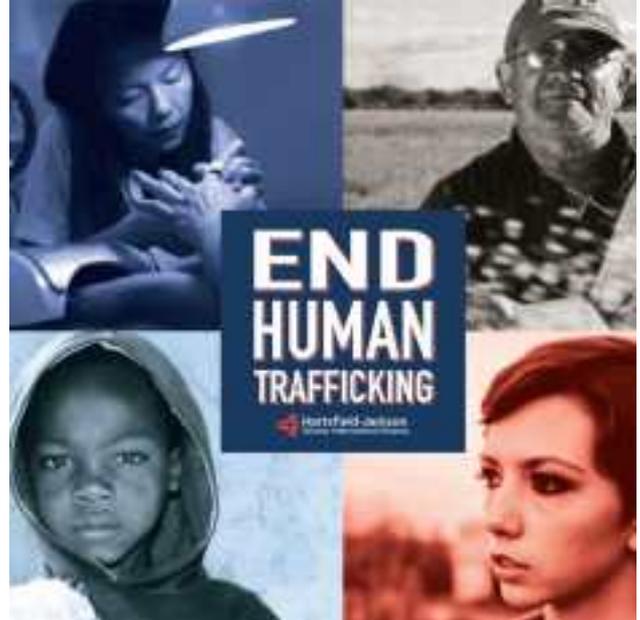
"ATL has integrated anti-trafficking protocols into its security architecture, requiring personnel training, signage deployment, and real-time reporting coordination across its 4,700-acre campus."

Ricky Smith, General Manager, Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport (ATL), USA.

"Every year, thousands of children, women and men fall prey to this insidious practice. Whether victims are entrapped in or transported to Atlanta, we know our city faces a human trafficking challenge disproportionate to its size,"

Andrew Dickens, Mayor, City of Atlanta, USA

Initiative Focus Areas

The initiative addressed critical security and humanitarian priorities through comprehensive sessions:

Victim Identification and Workforce Training

- **Victim identification protocols** using systematic observation techniques to distinguish trafficking from other crimes, focusing on control dynamics and vulnerability indicators.

- **Review of trafficking indicators** on official resources, covering physical signs (branding, lack of ID) and behavioral cues (scripted answers, avoidance of eye contact).

- **Employee training design** with progressive modules that build institutional awareness, including scenario-based exercises and trauma-informed response techniques.

- **Data collection and impact measurement** by tracking training completion rates, suspicious activity reports, victim rescues, and prosecutions linked to airport-based intelligence.

Public Awareness and Emergency Response

- **Public engagement strategies** using high-impact signage and digital messaging to educate passengers without causing alarm, incorporating clear calls-to-action such as "If you see something, say something."

- **Emergency reporting procedures** including direct hotline access, 911 protocols, and real-time communication with the Centralized Command and Control Centre for immediate law enforcement response.

- **Federal partnerships** supporting operational readiness and awareness initiatives.

Multi-Agency Coordination and Policy Frameworks

- **Collaboration among federal and state agencies and NGOs** to strengthen coordination on trafficking prevention and victim support.

- **Policy implementation frameworks** including vendor contract clauses, employee conduct policies, and annual reporting mechanisms aligned with child-protection codes.

- **Legislative alignment** with Safe Harbor amendments and adherence to international child-protection standards, including zero-tolerance policies.

5.2 Breastfeeding in Airports

Merida, Mexico
6 August 2025

CIFAL Merida
In-Person Awareness Campaign

Hosted by CIFAL Merida in partnership with Grupo ASUR and UNICEF Mexico, the 6 August 2025 Breastfeeding Support Webinar in Mérida International Airport convened **64 airport professionals and stakeholders** during World Breastfeeding Week to address implementation gaps in breastfeeding support policies across southeastern Mexico's airports.

This webinar represents one component of a comprehensive collaboration agreement signed on 28 May 2025 between CIFAL Merida and UNICEF Mexico, formalizing a multi-year commitment to child rights across southeastern Mexico's airports.

"Children need more allies, and this agreement is an example of how the private sector and the United Nations system can work together for children's rights. This effort is not only logistical; it is a powerful communication action that raises awareness among the thousands of people who pass through these airports each day,"

Fernando Carrera, Representative, UNICEF, Mexico.

Key Inclusivity Focus Areas

Legislative Framework and Implementation Gaps:

- **Legal compliance frameworks**, interpreting and implementing civil aviation law reforms at operational levels, including staff training curricula.
- **Monitoring and evaluation systems**, establishing metrics to track facility usage, passenger satisfaction, and policy adherence.
- **Staff training and policy enforcement**, ensuring consistent application of inclusivity standards across checkpoints, airline counters, and service areas.

Infrastructure and Supportive Environments

- **Facility design standards for lactation rooms**, meeting international guidelines for accessibility, privacy, hygiene, and functionality.
- **Comprehensive supportive systems**, including baby-changing facilities in all restrooms, priority queues for families, and educational materials.
- **Budget allocation strategies**, identifying funding sources through corporate social responsibility initiatives, public health grants, and airport operational budgets.
- **Expansion and scalability plans**, ensuring inclusive infrastructure extends across multiple airports to improve regional accessibility.

Cultural Sensitivity and Cross-Sector Collaboration:

- **Gender-sensitive service protocols**, training frontline staff to support breastfeeding mothers respectfully, reducing stigma, and preventing discrimination.
- **Culturally appropriate public health messaging**, using multiple languages and visual tools to normalize breastfeeding and engage diverse communities.
- **Cross-sector coordination and harmonized protocols**, fostering collaboration among airport operators, airlines, and security agencies to remove conflicting requirements and reduce obstacles for mothers and caregivers.
- **Community engagement strategies**, incorporating local perspectives to ensure policies and infrastructure are inclusive and responsive to passenger needs.

Lactation Rooms

CIFAL Merida has championed breastfeeding support infrastructure for over a decade, **establishing lactation rooms in all 8 ASUR-operated airports across southeastern Mexico**. The airport in Merida has pioneered culturally sensitive approaches, naming its facilities **"Chuchu Rooms,"** incorporating the Mayan language to honour indigenous heritage and create welcoming spaces for local and indigenous mothers.

Lactation Rooms in El Salvador and Miami.

5.3 Safe Organ Transport and Donation

Merida, Mexico
12 August 2025

CIFAL Merida
In-Person Awareness Campaign

Hosted by CIFAL Mérida in partnership with the Yucatán State Transplant Centre (CEETRY), Grupo ASUR, and Mérida International Airport, the Safe Organ Transport and Donation Workshop in Mérida International Airport convened **53 senior airport officials, transplant coordinators, civil aviation authorities, and healthcare professionals from across Mexico** to strengthen the critical infrastructure supporting organ and tissue transportation.

Regional Context and Relevance

Mexico's transplant sector operates within a context of profound need and logistical complexity, with airports serving as vital arteries for time-sensitive medical cargo. This strategic significance cannot be overstated, the region's transplant waiting list reveals the human stakes: 16,400 patients awaiting kidney transplants and 3,340 awaiting corneal transplants, with each case representing a race against biological time constraints.

"These actions reinforce the airport's commitment to public health and community well-being, aligning operations with principles of sustainability and social responsibility,"

Óscar Carrillo Maldonado, Administrator, Mérida International Airport, Mexico

Key Organ Transport and Donation Focus Areas

Regulatory Compliance Framework

- **Biological cargo documentation**, including standardized transport manifests that meet health, airport, and security requirements while ensuring an unbroken chain of custody.

- **Container design, temperature control, and labeling requirements**, ensuring all shipments comply with legal standards and safety protocols.

- **Mandatory container markings**, including the legend "ORGANS, TISSUES AND CELLS FOR TRANSPLANTATION" with clear origin and destination information for traceability.

- **Staff training and operational compliance**, ensuring personnel understand and consistently apply regulatory and procedural requirements.

Priority Transport Protocols

- **Preferential boarding and expedited processing**, coordinating with airlines and civil aviation authorities to maintain organ viability.

- **Dedicated escort procedures and security fast-tracks**, ensuring timely and secure movement of organs through airport infrastructure.

- **Priority protocol activation**, including decision trees for airline notification, customs pre-clearance, and security screening exemptions.

- **Integration with emergency and operational continuity plans**, enabling rapid response in case of delays or logistical disruptions.

Cross-Sector Coordination Mechanisms

- **Ongoing collaboration between airport operations and health agencies**, formalizing roles, communication channels, and response protocols.

- **Joint governance structures**, including steering committees with health ministries, aviation authorities, and airport operators to ensure sustained policy alignment and resource commitment.

- **Performance monitoring**, tracking metrics such as registration conversion rates, transport time reductions, and successful transplant outcomes linked to airport-coordinated logistics.

- **Operational alignment across sectors**, ensuring organ transport procedures are consistently applied and integrated with broader emergency and health systems.

5.4 Autism Training Course: Towards a More Inclusive Airport

Merida, Mexico
12 September 2025

📢 CIFAL Merida
In-Person Awareness Campaign

Hosted by CIFAL Mérida in partnership with Grupo ASUR, Mérida International Airport, and the Centro de Formación Educadora del Espectro, the Autism Training Course convened **47 private sector airport professionals, airline representatives, and service providers from across southeastern Mexico** to address the urgent need for autism-informed passenger services in a region where invisible disabilities remain largely unrecognized in airport protocols.

Regional Context and Relevance

The world's airport sector faces a critical gap in supporting passengers with invisible disabilities, particularly autism spectrum disorders, which are not formally categorized as disabilities under existing Mexican disability frameworks.

This legislative oversight creates operational blind spots, leaving airport personnel without standardized training to recognize or accommodate the unique needs of neurodiverse travellers. The Caribbean and southeastern Mexico experience intensifying pressure to align airport operations with international human rights conventions and the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, making capacity building a strategic imperative rather than optional enhancement.

Key Inclusivity Focus Areas

The three-hour in-person session covered foundational knowledge areas:

1. **Understanding Autism Spectrum Levels and Social Impact:** The module established baseline knowledge of autism diagnostic criteria, emphasizing the social impact of exclusion and the business case for inclusion through case studies of successful accommodations.

2. **Legal Framework and Service Obligations:** The session included analysis of Mexico's disability inclusion law to identify gaps between statutory requirements and airport practice, covering reasonable accommodation needs for autistic passengers.

3. **Practical Sensitization Strategies:** The workshop delivered techniques for recognizing and responding to autistic passengers through communication alternatives, de-escalation approaches, and environmental considerations for sensory overload scenarios. The methodology included briefings, background studies, success cases, testimonies, participation and reflection exercises, and projections.

4. **Testimonials and Reflection:** The programme incorporated lived experience perspectives through testimonies, followed by facilitated reflection sessions where participants discussed concerns and developed peer support networks.

Practical Applications and Takeaways

Participants completed a final survey measuring immediate outcomes. Of 47 respondents: 36 ranked the course overall as high quality (4-5 scale), 42 found content relevant to their work, 38 reported learning new information, 45 indicated likelihood of using acquired information, and 46 found the activity useful. The training produced general awareness and staff confidence in assisting neurodiverse passengers, establishing foundational knowledge for potential operational improvements across airport services.

5.5 Early Detection of Breast Cancer

Merida, Mexico
12 August 2025

CIFAL Merida
In-Person Awareness Campaign

Organized by CIFAL Mérida in partnership with UNITAR, the Mexican Social Security Institute (IMSS), and Grupo ASUR, a two-hour breast cancer detection workshop was held. The session was attended by **35 members of the Mérida International Airport community**, including airline representatives, service providers, and airport authorities. Participants received specialized medical guidance, enhancing early detection skills and promoting preventive health practices.

Regional Context and Relevance

Mexico's fight against breast cancer demands urgent, decentralized action, with Yucatán facing rising incidence rates that reflect national challenges. The region's health landscape reveals stark realities: **approximately 22 women die daily from breast cancer across Mexico, while Yucatán alone reported 349 new cases in 2024**, representing an increase from the previous year. These figures underscore a critical gap in early detection, as many deaths result from delayed diagnosis of a disease that is highly curable when caught early. Airports, as major employers and community anchors, are uniquely positioned to bridge healthcare access barriers for shift workers and service industry personnel who often struggle to attend traditional medical appointments.

Key Breast Cancer Awareness and Screening Focus Areas

The two-hour session followed a presentation and Q&A methodology addressing four documented areas:

Epidemiological Context

- **Current incidence and prevalence data**, highlighting regional breast cancer trends and risk factors to inform targeted prevention strategies.

- **Importance of early detection**, emphasizing diagnostic mammography as a fundamental tool for reducing mortality.

- **Leveraging institutional preventive services**, encouraging participants to utilize available screening and diagnostic programmes.

- **Risk factor recognition**, enabling participants to identify personal and family risk factors that may necessitate earlier or more frequent screening and communicate these to healthcare providers.

Self-Examination Techniques and Institutional Services

- **Systematic self-exploration methods**, providing step-by-step techniques for monthly breast self-checks, including timing, positioning, and red-flag identification.

- **Hands-on practice**, using training models to reinforce proper technique.

- **Overview of institutional services**, including screening campaigns, diagnostic evaluations, and personalized counseling programmes.

Service Access Pathways

- **Screening eligibility and appointment procedures**, clarifying institutional requirements and facilitating navigation of clinic services.

- **IMSS preventive care pathways**, including required documentation and procedures for timely access to mammography and follow-up services.

- **Emergency response preparedness**, recognizing early symptoms requiring immediate medical consultation and understanding rapid referral processes to expedite diagnosis.

Workplace Integration and Peer Advocacy

- **Incorporating preventive health into the workplace**, including messaging in shift briefings, newsletters, and occupational health programmes within airport operations.

- **Peer advocacy strategies**, providing approaches for discussing preventive health with colleagues, encouraging screening participation, and reducing stigma around cancer discussions in workplace settings.

- **Patient-centered support strategies**, ensuring information and services are accessible, culturally sensitive, and inclusive.

6.

Training Pillar 4: Sustainable Airports

The global air transport sector stands at a critical sustainability crossroads. With passenger demand projected to double by 2040, the industry faces intensifying pressure to decarbonize operations and align with the Paris Agreement. Meeting this challenge requires a dual approach, addressing both aircraft in the sky and infrastructure on the ground.

For aviation, sustainability focuses on systemic carbon reduction. Fuel costs, often exceeding 30% of total operational expenses, are increasingly linked to carbon pricing and the transition to Sustainable Aviation Fuels (SAF), making emissions mitigation the sector's key medium-term challenge.

For airports, sustainable development means evolving from transit hubs into low-carbon, resource-efficient nodes of regional growth. Beyond supporting cleaner flights, airport sustainability involves greening extensive physical footprints through renewable energy microgrids, energy-efficient terminal design, and electrified Ground Support Equipment (GSE). It also requires a "social license to operate," grounded in effective noise management, circular waste practices, and support for the economic well-being of surrounding communities.

Sustainability is both a challenge and a strategic opportunity. Organizations that embed sustainable practices, from runway to boardroom, enhance competitiveness, operational efficiency, and resilience. By bridging environmental responsibility with operational excellence, airlines and airports can transform from carbon-intensive industries into engines of inclusive, green, and long-term development.

6.1 Master in Sustainable Air Transport Management (MATSM)

🎓 CIFAL Merida & ITAérea Aeronautical Business School Online

In 2025, Master in Sustainable Air Transport Management (MATSM) has reached **102 aviation leaders** from different countries to integrate sustainable development principles into airport operations, airline management, air navigation systems, and aeronautical manufacturing.

Advanced Modular Curriculum (600 hours)

The programme's five specialised modules, plus an applied master thesis, deliver comprehensive coverage through immersive case studies, live expert sessions, and workplace-relevant assessments:

1. **Unit I: Sustainable Management of the Airports (170 hours)** covers airport business, master planning, infrastructure capacity, operations management, slots, safety and security, asset management, construction management, environmental management, commercial management, IT management, and future airport concepts.

   🔍 **Case studies include:** Salvador Bahia Airport (Brazil's most sustainable airport), UK airport asset management, small Nordic airport efficiency, South American airports under 10M passengers, and the airports of the future.

2. **Unit II: Sustainable Management of the Airlines (80 hours)** explores airline business structure, economic review, route development, fleet management, aircraft maintenance, operations concepts, ground handling, air cargo, business aviation, and sustainable aviation.

   🔍 **Case study:** Environmental Management System in Air Europa.

3. **Unit III: International Air Law (90 hours)** examines air law concepts and sources, liability in air transport, aircraft financing and sales, operator licences, airline mergers

and acquisitions, aeronautical labour law, legal aircraft status, aviation insurance, and town planning/environmental aspects.

Legal expertise: Taught by professionals

4. **Unit IV: Sustainable Management of the Air Navigation (80 hours)** addresses air navigation systems fundamentals, navaids, air traffic services, sustainable management, meteorology, aeronautical communications, ATC service, AIS, airspace sustainability, and human resources.

Case studies: Sustainability of airspace and new navigation concepts.

5. **Unit V: Sustainable Management of the Aeronautical Industry (100 hours)** focuses on industry introduction, sustainability in the sector, programme design and development, supply chain, industrialization, digitalization, lean manufacturing, and sustainable aviation innovations.

Case studies: Lean manufacturing of aircraft; electric and hybrid aircraft.

6. **Master Thesis Component (80 hours)** requires individual study of a sustainability-related subject in air transport, demonstrating applied research capabilities

Advanced e-Learning Methodology and e5 Framework

MATSM employs ITAérea's proprietary e5 methodology: e-learning, expertise, efficiency, employability, and enhancement.

- **e-Learning:** Asynchronous multimedia content accessible 24/7 through ITAérea's Virtual Campus

- **Expertise:** Live sessions with teachers via Zoom featuring 32+ top-level professionals from 10+ nationalities holding senior positions at organizations including Arup, AENA, Airbus, easyJet, ENAIRE, IAG Cargo, KPMG, Mott MacDonald, Ryanair, and Vinci Airports

- **Efficiency:** Self-paced progression with periodic monitoring, control reports, and evaluation exams after each unit

- **Employability:** Integrated job bank connects graduates with aviation sector partners

- **Enhancement:** Continuous content updates reflecting industry developments and regulatory changes

6.2 International Diploma in Airport Management

🎓 CIFAL Merida & ITAérea Aeronautical Business School

Online

The airport management sector faces serious operational and economic complexity. Effective airport management requires robust economic-financial analysis, commercial development acumen, and systemic implementation of management frameworks that guarantee success across diverse functional areas. The International Diploma in Airport Management equips professionals with integrated competencies to navigate these challenges through a comprehensive, practice-oriented approach. In 2025, **the Diploma has had a total registration of 116 participants from 21 different Latin American and Caribbean Countries.**

The programme's strategic relevance is reinforced through partnerships with Airports Council International-Latin America & Caribbean (ACI-LAC), advancing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Sustainable Development Goals across the aviation ecosystem in Spanish-speaking markets.

Advanced Modular Curriculum (120 hours)

The programme's six integrated modules combine asynchronous learning with 24 live expert sessions via Zoom, each culminating in applied assessments designed for immediate workplace implementation.

- **Module A: The Airport Business** examines value chain economics, low-cost carrier competitive dynamics, commercial revenue optimization, and the transformation of airport management models in Spain and Latin America.

- **Module B: Airport Infrastructure and Capacity Management** addresses capacity metrics, bottleneck elimination, airside and landside operations, maintenance protocols, and construction safety planning, featuring real-world cases from Malaga, Heathrow, Luton, Tegel, and Brandenburg airports.

- **Module C: Air Cargo and Airport Logistics** analyses integrator operations, logistics infrastructure requirements, and development opportunities within airport cargo ecosystems.

- **Module D: Integrated Airport Security (20 hours)**: ICAO SMS/SeMS frameworks for Latin American threat landscapes. Case studies: Tijuana's cross-border CBP coordination, Lima's 40% faster cargo screening. Simulation: aircraft emergency during terminal construction.

- **Module E: Environmental Management** implements air quality monitoring, water management, energy efficiency, waste management, and wildlife control measures aligned with ICAO environmental standards.

- **Module F: Business Administration & Management:** Integrates strategic planning, balanced scorecard methodology, business model design, marketing direction, and information technology systems for airport enterprises.

6.3 Course in Environmental Management and Wildlife Control in Airports

CIFAL Merida & ITAérea Aeronautical Business School
Online

The airport environmental management and wildlife control sector is vital to maintaining safe and sustainable airport operations, responding to increasing ecological and regulatory demands. It is an 80-hour course designed to provide airport professionals specialized training on legal, operational, and procedural aspects of managing environmental impacts and wildlife hazards in airport settings.

This course offers participants knowledge and skills necessary to address environmental compliance, assess and mitigate wildlife risks, and apply relevant national and international standards. Delivered primarily through e-learning with expert-led sessions, the curriculum focuses on practical implementation of wildlife control programmes and sustainable environmental management aligned with ICAO guidelines and regulatory frameworks.

Key components covered in the course include:

- Regulatory frameworks for airport environmental management

- Identification and control techniques for wildlife hazards

- Risk assessment and mitigation methods related to fauna

- Operational procedures to minimize wildlife-related disruptions

- Best practices in habitat and ecosystem management adapted to airport environments

The course targets airport operational staff, environmental managers, and wildlife control professionals, promoting an interdisciplinary approach to airport safety, compliance, and sustainability. Graduates are equipped to support operational safety and contribute towards sustainable development goals within the aviation sector.

This programme complements broader airport management training by focusing on environmental and fauna risk management challenges, making it a valuable resource for airports in Spanish-speaking regions seeking to balance ecological responsibility with operational excellence.

7.

Sister Airports: Knowledge Exchange and Transfer of Skills

Sister Airports

Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport (ATL)'s commitment to airport-to-airport collaboration extends across a strategically diverse portfolio of 13 signed agreements with 12 airport systems worldwide, creating a global network that advances airport operations:

These partnerships collectively demonstrate how established airports can leverage their expertise, resources, and credibility to support global airport development while gaining insights from diverse operational contexts. The relationships embody spirit of global solidarity and recognition that airport sector's strength depends on strength of all its components, regardless of geographic location or development level.

Americas (4):

- El Salvador International Airport (SAL); Autonomous Executive Port Commission (CEPA): March 2025.
- Edmonton Airports (YEG, ZVL).
- Jamaica Airports Authority (JAA).
- Savannah/Hilton Head International Airport (SAV).

Europe (2):

- Prague Airport (PRG).
- Paris Charles de Gaulle Airport (CDG).

Africa (5):

- Airports Company South Africa (ACSA).
- Namibia Airports Company.
- Federal Airports Authority of Nigeria (FAAN).
- Liberia Airport Authority (LAA).
- Côte d'Ivoire International Airport (ABJ).

Asia & Middle East (2):

- Tel Aviv Ben Gurion International Airport (TLV).
- Shanghai Pudong International Airport (PVG).

In 2025: Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport (ATL) & Comisión Ejecutiva Portuaria Autónoma (CEPA)

The Sister Airport Cooperation Agreement signed between ATL and CEPA on 5 March 2025 in San Salvador exemplifies effective airport-to-airport collaboration. This partnership between the world's busiest airport and El Salvador's strategic connectivity hub creates a framework for sustained engagement across multiple dimensions.

The agreement establishes collaboration in key areas:

- **Information Exchange:** Regular sharing of operational data, performance metrics, passenger flow patterns, and efficiency benchmarks enables both airports to identify improvement opportunities and adopt proven practices.

"The signing of this Sister Airport Agreement is a strategic alliance that will drive innovation, strengthen security, and expand economic opportunities for both airports. Strengthening air service connectivity between our airports will drive trade, tourism, and investment, fostering new business opportunities that benefit both of our regions."

Alrene Barr, Senior Director, Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport (ATL), USA.

- **Technology Transfer:** ATL's advanced technology implementations in AI, cybersecurity, biometric systems, and operational optimization provide learning opportunities for CEPA, while CEPA's innovative approaches to regional connectivity offer insights for ATL.

- **Operational Best Practices:** Exchange of protocols for passenger processing, baggage handling, aircraft turnaround, emergency response, and business continuity planning strengthens operational resilience at both airports.

- **Workforce Development:** Training exchanges, professional development programmes, and technical assistance build human capital while fostering personal relationships that sustain collaboration.

- **Air Service Development:** Collaborative efforts to strengthen connectivity between Atlanta and El Salvador, promote tourism and trade, and position both airports competitively in their respective regions.

8.

Mapping Our Footprint in 2025

Total activities in 2025: 22

Figure 4: Activities by Type (Jan 2025 - Nov 2025)

8
Workshops

5
Digital Tools

5
Education and
Awareness Campaigns

2
Courses

2
Advanced Degrees

Figure 5: Percentage of Activities by Training Pillar (Jan 2025 – Nov 2025)

Smart Airports	Resilient Airports	Inclusive Airports	Sustainable Airports
14%	**50%**	**23%**	**13%**

8.2 Beneficiaries

Total Beneficiaries in 2025: 1164

Total Airports Reached in 2025:

283

Through 48 Individual Airports and 41 Airport Systems encompassing: Civil Aviation Authorities, international aviation organizations, and related aviation institutions.

Total Least Developed Countries (LDCs), Small Island Developing States (SIDSs), and Landlocked Developing Countries (LDCs) Reached in 2025:

28

Total Countries Reached in 2025:

76

Figure 6: Percentage of Beneficiaries by Region (Jan 2025 – Nov 2025)

- 15%
- 12%
- 0%
- 4%
- 4%
- 3%
- 62%

- ■ Europe
- ■ Asia
- ■ North America
- ■ Oceania
- ■ Africa
- ■ International
- ■ Latin America and the Caribbean

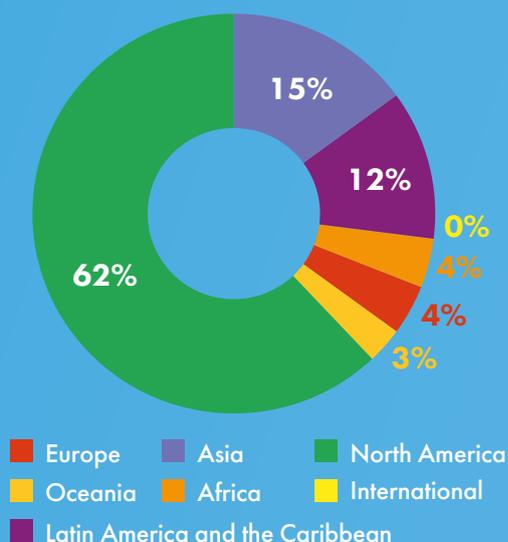**Figure 7: Percentage of Beneficiaries by Gender (Jan 2025 – Nov 2025)**

66%   34%
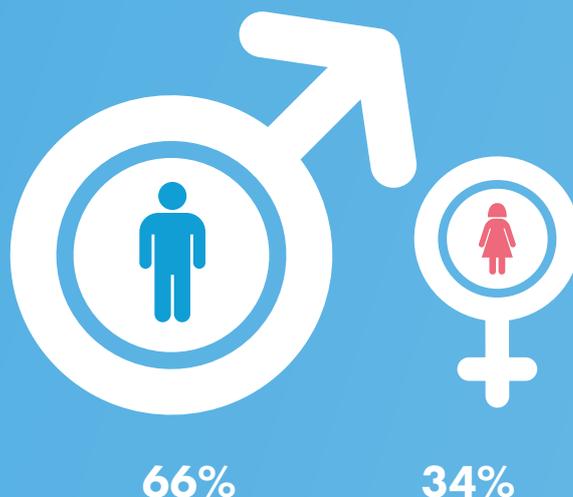
Figure 8: Beneficiaries by Organizational Affiliation (Jan 2025 – Nov 2025)

- 604
- 279
- 54
- 52
- 31
- 25
- 5
- 1

- ■ Private sector (PRI)
- ■ Government (GOV)
- ■ UN/UN System
- ■ Regional Organization (REG)
- ■ Academia (ACA)
- ■ Other
- ■ NGO (NGO)
- ■ International Organization (Non UN)
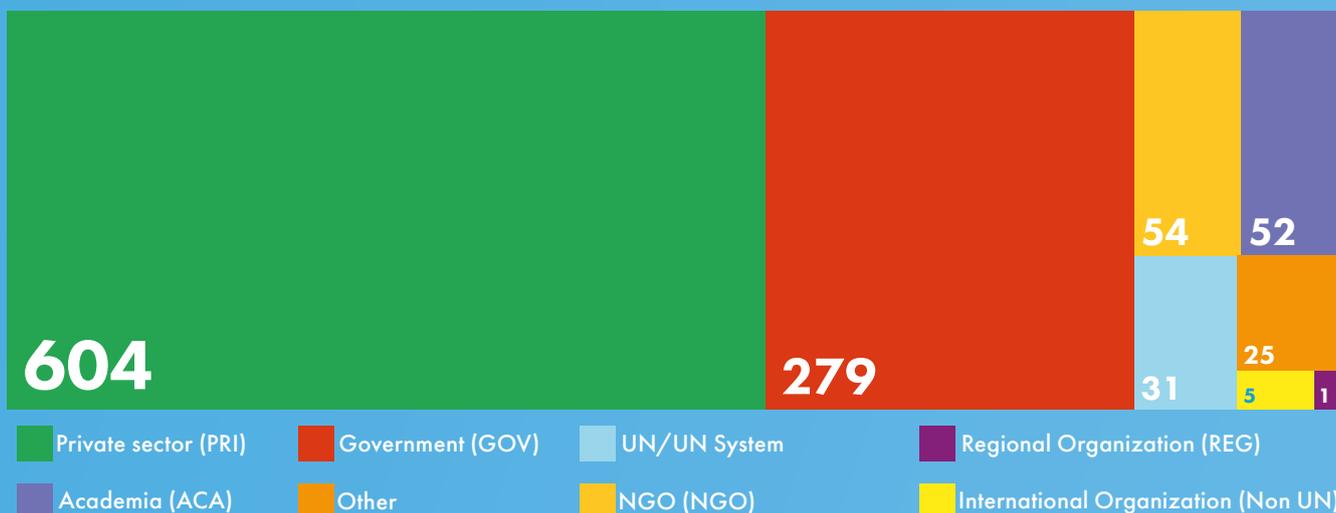
9.

Partnerships

9.1 Partners

The Airports Global Training Programme has brought together **71 partners** to deliver transformative capacity-building results that aim to position airports as engines of smart, resilient, inclusive and sustainable development.

Figure 9: Partners by Type (71)

| 21 Government | 16 Not-for Profit Organization | 15 Private Sector | 10 CIFAL Centre | 9 Academia |

Legend:
- Private Sector
- CIFAL Centre
- Academia
- Government
- Not-for Profit Organization

Figure 10: Partners by Region (71)

- 62% North America
- 15% Asia
- 12% Latin America and the Caribbean
- 4% Africa
- 4% Europe
- 3% Oceania

Legend:
- Africa
- Asia
- Europe
- Latin America and the Caribbean
- North America
- Oceania
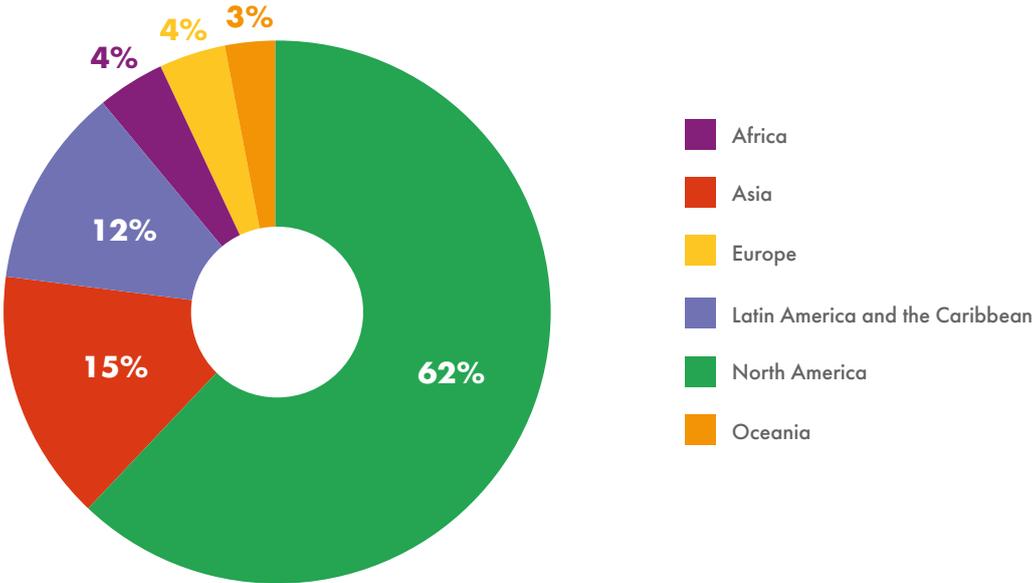
Table 1: Partners (71)

Academia (9)	
1	Asian Institute of Technology (AIT)
2	Florida International University (FIU)
3	Georgia Institute of Technology (Georgia Tech)
4	Nanyang Technological University (NTU)
5	Queen's University (Wilderness Medical Teams)
6	University of Guadalajara (Institute of Astronomy and Meteorology)
7	University of Newcastle
8	York University (YorkU)
9	Centro de Formación Educadora del Espectro (Educational Training Center)

Not-for Profit Organization (16)	
10	Airports Council International (ACI)
11	Arab Civil Aviation Organization (ACAO)
12	Asociación de Funcionarios de Aeropuertos de Centroamérica y el Caribe (AFAC)
13	Canadian Disaster Response Organization (CDRO)
14	Canadian Owners and Pilots Association (COPA)
15	ECPAT-USA
16	Global Medic
17	International Civil Aviation Org. (ICAO)
18	OSARVA K-9 Teams
19	Outreach Aid to the Americas (OAA)
20	Radio Amateurs of Canada (RAC)
21	Rick Hansen Foundation
22	Salvation Army Emergency Disaster Services
23	The Canadian Wings of Rescue (CWoR)
24	UNICEF Mexico
25	youthSpark

Government (21)	
26	City of Atlanta
27	City of Atlanta Fire Rescue Department
28	City of Atlanta Police Department
29	City of Stratford (Canada)
30	Civil Aviation Authority of Singapore (CAAS)
31	Civil Aviation Board (JAC) - Dominican Republic
32	Comisión Ejecutiva Portuaria Autónoma (CEPA)
33	Dominican Municipal League (LMD)
34	Dominican Republic Navy
35	Federal Electricity Commission (CFE) - Mexico
36	Georgia Attorney General's Office
37	Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta Int'l Airport (ATL)
38	Mexican Social Security Institute (IMSS)
39	Miami International Airport (MIA)
40	Miami-Dade County Emergency Management
41	Office National des Aéroports (ONDA)
42	Singapore Aviation Academy (SAA)
43	U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
44	U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP)
45	U.S. Transportation Security Administration (TSA)
46	Yucatán State Transplant Center (CEETRY)

Private Sector (15)

47	AERODOM
48	Changi Airport Group
49	FedEx
50	Grupo Aeroportuario del Sureste (Grupo ASUR)
51	ImpactWX
52	Incheon International Airport
53	Integratec / F24
54	ITAérea Aeronautical Business School
55	Mérida International Airport
56	Newcastle International Airport (Australia)
57	OMA Group (Grupo Aeroportuario del Centro Norte)
58	Royal Air Maroc
59	SITA Lab
60	Stolport FBO CYTZ
61	VINCI Airports

CIFAL Centres (10)

62	CIFAL Atlanta
63	CIFAL Bangkok
64	CIFAL Dominican Republic
65	CIFAL Lebanon
66	CIFAL Merida
67	CIFAL Miami
68	CIFAL Newcastle
69	CIFAL Saudi Arabia
70	CIFAL Singapore
71	CIFAL York

9.2　Acknowledgements

A　Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport (ATL)

The world's busiest and most efficient airport, generating over $70 billion annually for Georgia's economy. ATL's 4,700-acre campus houses the Emergency Management Bureau, including the Airport Operations Center, Emergency Operations Center, Mobile Command Vehicle, and Fire Training Center. Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport (ATL) provides unparalleled access to real-world operational excellence, proven emergency management frameworks tested during actual crises, and a scalable model for implementing the four training pillars approach across massive infrastructure. Its status as a global connectivity hub enables peer learning that bridges developed and developing airport contexts, while its commitment to social inclusion demonstrates how operational priorities can align with sustainable development goals.

B　Georgia Institute of Technology's Enterprise Innovation Institute (EI²)

The largest university-based economic development organization in the United States, contributing advanced research capabilities and practical training expertise. Its Enterprise Innovation Institute (EI²) provides cybersecurity leadership, logistics innovation via the Centre for Research and Innovation in Logistics, and academic rigor that transforms operational challenges into research-driven solutions. The Georgia Institute of Technology bridges the gap between cutting-edge research and immediate airport application, offering evidence-based methodologies for technology adoption, workforce development, and sustainable infrastructure design. The partnership ensures capacity building rests on peer-reviewed innovation rather than anecdotal practice, enabling airports to future-proof operations through data-driven decision-making and systematic technology integration.

C　The CIFAL Global Network

The CIFAL (International Training Centre for Authorities and Leaders) Global Network represents 31 centres worldwide that deliver localized capacity building aligned with Sustainable Development Goals. Within this network, five CIFAL centres specialize in airports and aviation, providing regional expertise and coordinating programme delivery across their geographic areas. These specialized centres combine local knowledge, regional networks, and airport sector expertise, enabling culturally appropriate, context-sensitive training delivery. Their positioning within airport environments provides unique access to facilities, personnel, and operational systems that enrich learning experiences.

CIFAL Atlanta

In partnership with the Georgia Institute of Technology (GT) and support of Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport (ATL), the CIFAL Atlanta centre's expertise encompasses operational efficiency, technological innovation, emergency management, sustainability initiatives, and economic development strategies.

Areas of Specialization:

- Airport operations optimization and efficiency enhancement
- Technology integration and digital transformation
- Emergency preparedness and crisis management
- Economic development and aerotropolis planning
- Stakeholder coordination and multi-agency collaboration
- Sustainability and environmental management
- Air cargo operations and logistics

Flagship Programme

- Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Management
- Preparedness for Mega Events

CIFAL Merida

Based at Mérida International Airport in Mexico's Yucatán Peninsula, CIFAL Mérida specializes in disaster preparedness for tropical regions, inclusivity initiatives, and sustainable airport management.

Areas of Specialization:

- Hurricane preparedness and tropical cyclone management

- Inclusive airport design and accessibility

- Breastfeeding support and child-friendly airports

- Public health initiatives through airports

- Autism awareness and invisible disability accommodation

CIFAL Mérida organizes the International Hurricane Seminar, celebrating 20 years as premier platform for hurricane risk management capacity building.

Flagship Programme

- Hurricane Preparedness

- Inclusivity

CIFAL Miami

Based at Florida International University, CIFAL Miami combines academic expertise with practical focus on disaster preparedness for Caribbean and Southeastern U.S. aviation. The centre leverages FIU's Academy for International Disaster Preparedness (AIDP) and strong relationships with regional airports and emergency management agencies.

Areas of Specialization:

- Hurricane preparedness and disaster response

- Multi-agency coordination and emergency operations

- Humanitarian response and airport roles in relief operations

- Federal emergency management system navigation

Flagship Programme

- Disaster Preparedness

CIFAL York

Based at York University in Toronto, CIFAL York brings academic research capabilities and disaster management expertise to airport capacity building. The centre is home to ADERSIM (Advanced Disaster, Emergency and Rapid Response Simulation), providing advanced simulation technologies and methodologies.

Areas of Specialization:

- Disaster preparedness and emergency management

- Crisis simulation and scenario-based training

- Business continuity planning and organizational resilience

- Technology applications in emergency response

- Airport safety management systems

Flagship Programme

- Disaster Preparedness & Emergency Management

unitar

United Nations
Institute for Training and Research

7 bis, Avenue de la Paix CH-1202
Geneva 2, Switzerland

unitar.org

transport@unitar.org

Airports
Global Training Programme