UKRAINE RESPONSE

6 MONTH REPORT
FEB - AUG 2022
In the first six months of the conflict in Ukraine, Airlink has launched its largest ever response. Thanks to steadfast airline support, generous donors, collaborative logistics partners, and a coalition of NGOs that is deeply connected to communities in crisis, we have delivered emergency relief to nearly 4 million civilians so far.

The question now—not only for Airlink, but for much of the humanitarian community responding in Eastern Europe—is, what's next? Much about the future of the humanitarian crisis in Ukraine and surrounding countries remains unknown; we don't know how much longer fighting will continue or the new needs that may arise. But we do know that there is a need to continue to support people affected by the armed conflict for as long as it lasts—and longer, as recovery from this crisis will stretch for years. Airlink and its airline partners remain committed to this effort, for as long as it takes.

At the same time, we know we must also give attention to the forgotten and underfunded crises happening around the world, exacerbated by this conflict. The war in Ukraine has driven a global food insecurity crisis—a combination of rising food, fuel, and fertilizer prices—that is being felt most acutely in the Horn of Africa and Afghanistan. This must be addressed through coordinated action, and Airlink and its partners across the aviation, nonprofit, and philanthropic communities are committed to supporting the response.

With appreciation,

Steven J. Smith
President & CEO
Now six months into the Ukraine conflict, conditions for civilians throughout the country remain dire and fighting has escalated in the wake of Ukrainian Independence Day. According to OCHA, **17.7 million Ukrainians are in need of humanitarian aid** as the conflict continues. Needs remain especially acute in southern and eastern Ukraine, where fierce fighting has been concentrated, putting civilian lives at risk and cutting off communities from aid.

The conflict, which has caused significant infrastructure damage, continues to fuel internal displacement and exodus of refugees. **Over 6.7 million people have fled Ukraine**, primarily to the surrounding countries of Poland, Hungary, Romania, Slovakia, and Moldova—making this Europe’s largest refugee crisis since World War II. Those affected by the continued conflict are now seeking longer-term solutions for their needs. Within Ukraine, 13 million people are stranded in areas most affected by active fighting and an additional **6.6 million people are internally displaced**—all with limited access to basic supplies. Access to clean water and hygiene items continues to be disrupted where sanitation infrastructure has been destroyed, raising the risk of waterborne diseases. Hostilities and infrastructure damage have led to heavy disruption in supply chains, resulting in unreliable access to food and essential items; half of all Ukrainians are currently food insecure.

Healthcare systems are overwhelmed due to conflict, mass displacement, and lack of supply. At least **123 healthcare facilities have been destroyed and 746 more have been damaged** in attacks; these attacks also destroyed supplies and killed or injured patients and medical personnel. Both medical aid delivery and medevac services are severely constrained, especially in areas experiencing intense fighting.
OUR CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS

AIRLIFT OF EMERGENCY SUPPLIES & RESPONDERS

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

Concept of Operations
Airlink is supporting the humanitarian response of credible NGOs. By coordinating with nonprofit partners, the UN system, the private sector, and donors, Airlink is optimizing the delivery of the extensive humanitarian aid required, minimizing duplication of effort, and channeling aviation sector resources towards priority needs. Aid will support Ukrainian communities affected by the war, as well as those in the surrounding countries hosting refugees.

Anticipated Outcomes
Airlink has committed to supporting at least 40 NGOs over a 23-month period, sending 1,000 passengers and 1,000 tons of aid by the end of 2023 and supporting sustained relief operations that will help millions of people. Six months into this response, the organization is on track to deliver against these goals, continuing to support access to medical and mental health care, shelter, WASH, food, protection, and other services for as long as needed by communities in crisis.

In 2021, across 27 responses, Airlink airlifted 1,137 responders and 767K pounds of aid to 7.5M people in 38 countries, providing 56 NGOs with almost $3M in transportation savings.
From the onset of Russia’s invasion in late February 2022, Airlink has mounted a rapid and sustained response to match the scale of the humanitarian need in Ukraine and surrounding countries. Thanks to sustained support from our airline and logistics partners, Airlink has moved nearly 600 tons of critical aid and more than 500 responders for aid agencies and their community partners in Ukraine, Poland, Moldova, Romania, Slovakia, and Hungary. In addition, Airlink has worked to foster collaboration within the NGO community throughout this emergency, convening 5 coordination calls that linked 128 participants across 63 nonprofits.

In the early months of the conflict, the organization launched three multi-agency charter flights in partnership with two airlines to accommodate large shipments of critical aid. As the war has continued, Airlink has used existing commercial capacity on an almost exclusive basis to mobilize aid across more than 70 shipments for nonprofit partners. This approach has allowed Airlink to leverage economies of scale to give multiple organizations access to efficient, fast transportation for their relief supplies—at no cost to them—while also ensuring commercial aircraft fly full.

Airlink will continue to support programs to assist those displaced in Ukraine and surrounding countries for as long as airlift and logistics services are needed by nonprofit partners.

“With Airlink’s help, Convoy of Hope has been able to provide the most essential items in some of the hardest hit areas months before we would have been able to otherwise. Airlink has made it possible to not only get supplies more quickly, but to get medical and hygiene supplies, water filters, and shelter items into the hands of our Guests of Honor as quickly and efficiently as possible.”

Ryan Grabill
Senior Director, International Disaster Services
Convoy of Hope
Airlink has helped its NGO partners reach more than 80 communities across the six countries in the region, reaching refugees as far west as Szczecin, Poland, and as far east as Luhansk, Ukraine, on the front lines of the conflict.
OUR RESPONSE: UKRAINE

With some 6.6 million people internally displaced within Ukraine, Airlink and its NGO partners are taking on the herculean task of assisting those affected with access to healthcare, clean water, hygiene items, food, emergency telecommunications, and more—in the midst of a constantly-shifting conflict.

Long delays continue to plague trucking into and within the country, and fighting in the southern and eastern parts of the country cuts off communities from needed supplies for weeks at a time. At the same time, areas reclaimed by Ukrainian defense forces are in need of medical resupply, rebuilding, and winterizing assistance.

Despite the myriad challenges of responding in a conflict setting, Airlink and its partners have reached nearly 70 communities - from major cities to small villages - throughout Ukraine. Thanks to Aeromexico, Air Canada, Amerijet, American Airlines, British Airways, Flexport.org, SEKO Logistics, United Airlines, UPS Foundation, and Virgin Atlantic, Airlink has flown 317 tons of supplies—including two multi-agency charters launched in March filled with medical and hygiene supplies—and more than 100 responders into surrounding countries and crossed the border into Ukraine.

In the coming weeks, more shipments - including food, hygiene items, and medical aid - and teams of responders will arrive, reaching more communities in need. In June, Airlink kicked off a 12-week airlift program in partnership with Air Canada and GlobalMedic to provide health and WASH supplies to locations throughout Ukraine, as well as address food security needs in neighboring Moldova; this program is expected to last at least through September.
One of Europe's poorest countries, the Republic of Moldova has a resident population of just 2.6 million people and has accepted more than 417,000 refugees from Ukraine since the start of the war.

Of the countries hosting refugees, Moldova has the highest ratio of Ukrainian refugees to resident population. The influx of refugees has caused a large burden on the country, which previously suffered from a lack of access to health care due to a weak national public health system.

In March 2022, working with Flexport.org, Airlink launched a 747 freighter filled with needed medical supplies. Since then, Airlink has worked with American Airlines, Air Canada, and United Airlines, to support the refugee relief effort in three locations in Moldova—including airlift of 73 responders and 132 tons of aid—helping organizations provide food, medical assistance, psychosocial support, and access to clean water for Ukrainians in the country.

As part of a 12-week airlift program in partnership with Air Canada, Airlink is working with GlobalMedic to send bi-weekly shipments of food aid to Chisinau to support refugees who have settled there.
In addition to the more than 6 million people displaced, more than 6.7 million Ukrainians have fled the country and dispersed throughout Europe—with the majority settling in Poland. Many of Airlink’s partners operating in Poland have launched traditional refugee response operations in the country, providing those fleeing Ukraine with hygiene kits, food, psychosocial and general medical care, and economic support to Ukrainians at congregate shelters and refugee reception centers.

Powered by miles contributions from United MileagePlus and American Airlines AAdvantage members, as well as donated cargo space from these airlines, Airlink has mobilized nearly 200 responders and 84 tons of aid to support the refugee relief effort. Among these efforts was a large shipment of food aid, sent in partnership with the Tzu Chi Foundation from Taiwan, which helped nearly 25,000 Ukrainian refugees in Poland.

As welcoming as neighboring countries can be, a large influx of people can put a strain on host communities over time. Even as some displaced Ukrainians return home, there continues to be a need for NGO personnel to provide relevant and dignified support to refugees, including access to healthcare, long-term shelter, and cash assistance programming. Airlink will continue to provide flights for skilled responders and material aid that cannot be procured locally for as long as is needed.
GRM first deployed to Ukraine just one week after the Russian invasion began. Thanks to support from Airlink and its airline partners, the organization has sustained a six-month health program that has not only treated acute injuries but also bolstered the capabilities of Ukrainian first responders and healthcare providers.

GRM has delivered on the following key initiatives:

- Teaching trauma assessment and care to more than 1,800 physicians, nurses, paramedics, and firefighters
- Distribution of 1,800 individual first aid kits containing tourniquets, compression gauze, and other life-saving materials
- Frontline surgical care at hospitals in Mykolaiv and Donetsk, scrubbing in on 526 surgeries
- Bedside teaching on complex injury management for trauma cases
- Distribution of 20 portable Butterfly ultrasounds with point-of-care ultrasound training
- Medevac programs provided care and transport in eastern and western Ukraine for 80 patients
With one in two families in Ukraine experiencing food insecurity and many refugees left without adequate access to food while displaced, a robust food aid response continues to be required. GlobalMedic’s food assistance programs have reached nearly 55,000 people so far, thanks to a large-scale distribution of their Emergency Food Kits.

These kits contain culturally appropriate dried pantry staples, along with Aquatabs for safe drinking water, as well as solar lights and first aid kits in some cases. While many of the kits have been sourced and assembled locally by refugees, Airlink has worked with GlobalMedic to send thousands of Emergency Food Kits to Ukraine, Poland, Moldova, and Romania to be distributed by their Rapid Response Team members stationed in each country.
More than 13 million people across Ukraine are in need of water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) support. Since the first days of the conflict, Water Mission has been active in partnering with local groups to meet their clean water needs. The organization is addressing the WASH need by producing clean water, providing critical and sustainable support to several affected cities inside Ukraine.

In partnership with Water Mission, Airlink coordinated the shipment of Living Water Treatment Systems to support communities where the water infrastructure was affected by conflict. These systems, now operational, are providing consistent water access for 10,000 people. Beyond the water treatment systems, Water Mission has additionally distributed hygiene kits to conflict-affected communities, as well as refugee populations in surrounding countries.
THANK YOU TO OUR PARTNERS

IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS
AVIATION & LOGISTICS PARTNERS

Thanks to all of the airline and logistics partners that have donated cargo capacity, airline tickets, trucking services, and freight forwarding capabilities to mobilize relief aid and personnel to support the response to the crisis in Ukraine. Donated and discounted airlift and other in-kind support help Airlink's funding go further. Without these ongoing partnerships, many of the programs carried out by Airlink's NGO partners this year would not have been possible on the same scale—and many times, they would not have been possible at all.
THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS

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THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS
Airlink is a global humanitarian organization delivering critical aid to communities in crisis by providing airlift and logistical solutions to nonprofit partners, changing the way the humanitarian community responds to disasters around the world.

Working with over 50 airlines and more than 130 NGOs worldwide, the organization seeks to leverage the power and speed of aviation to get the right aid to the right people at the right time.
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