

OUR RESPONSE

Airlink has activated its Europe Regional Response Plan following the recent invasion and escalation of conflict in Ukraine. We are currently connecting with humanitarian, logistics, and airline partners in the region to assess main needs and response capabilities. Please reach out to ops@airlinkflight.org if your organization is planning to respond and/or has a request for transportation assistance.

Airlink will be hosting a coordination call on Tuesday, March 1. We hope our partners are able to attend to share updates on responses and identified needs. [Please RSVP here.](#)

THE SITUATION

Following recent escalation along eastern Ukraine's border with Russia, the Russian Federation mobilized a full-scale military operation, invading Ukraine by land, sea, and air on February 24. Armed conflict in eastern Ukraine has been active for 8 years, has led to at least 3,400 civilian deaths, left 854,000 internally displaced, and taken a heavy toll on the region's population of 3.4 million.

Populations in both government and non-government-controlled areas have been in need of humanitarian assistance, and the recent invasion exacerbates those needs. Shelling and fighting has damaged water, sanitation and hygiene infrastructure, and impacted access to electricity.

Escalation throughout the first day of the invasion drove an estimated 100,000 people throughout Ukraine to flee their homes seeking safety. Large groups of Ukrainians have already started to arrive in neighboring countries. Governments are preparing for numbers to increase and have set up refugee reception points along borders, mobilized surge operations for healthcare and prepped shelter locations. Humanitarian groups have raised concerns of how a prolonged conflict could disproportionately impact civilians and trigger a health emergency. The current invasion has already caused dozens of deaths and overwhelmed emergency services after several civilian infrastructures were struck by shelling.

Needs: International humanitarian organizations have identified priority needs as water, sanitation and hygiene services and items; support of healthcare systems, and preparedness efforts to avoid large scale disruptions to service delivery; protection of populations in Ukraine and displaced persons in nearby countries

Challenges: Interruptions to responses due to the current, unpredictable and deteriorating security situation.

RESPONDING PARTNER AGENCIES

Active NGOs:

- Afya Foundation
- Convoy of Hope
- International Health Partners UK
- International Medical Corps
- Project C.U.R.E.
- Project HOPE

SERVICE DELIVERY

Cargo Support

Airlink is supporting the humanitarian community through identifying flight options into the region. Due to Ukraine's closed airspace, options will include destinations in neighboring countries. We will continue to monitor other destinations supported by our network.

Personnel Flights

Airlink is currently monitoring flight options for response teams. All civilian flights are canceled due to the closed airspace. Moldova and parts of Belarus have additionally closed their airspace to flights. Borders remain open to personnel traveling by land.