

Africa Humanitarian Action (AHA), Ethiopia

Mr. Wossen Taye Tesfaye

Organisation Profile

Africa Humanitarian Action (AHA) is an Ethiopia-based and Africa-focused regional NGO founded in 1994 in response to the atrocities in Rwanda. AHA provides emergency and long-term humanitarian assistance, development-focused interventions, and advocacy initiatives that seek to save lives and improve the wellbeing of forcibly displaced persons and vulnerable communities throughout Africa. In nearly 30 years of our history, AHA has extended its programmes to 20 African countries and reaching over 26 million people affected by crises. Guided by universal humanitarian principles and values, and upholding its independence, impartiality and integrity, AHA advocates on humanitarian issues. AHA takes responsibility for its actions and is accountable to those with whom it works and its programme supporters.

Nominee Information

Mr. Wossen Taye Tesfaye

Video presentation



Gender: Male

Job title: Director of Operations for East and Horn of Africa

The nominee, Mr. Wossen Taye Tesfaye, has 30 years of managing humanitarian programmes and projects in Africa and is currently working for Africa Humanitarian Action (AHA) in the capacity of Director of Operations for East and Horn of Africa Region, based in AHA's Country Office in Uganda. Wossen has also served as a Board Member for the current ICVA Board since 2018. He is a strong team player with deep understanding of the dynamics involved in the humanitarian work regionally and globally. Wossen has consistently sought to represent the voices of African NGOs during his tenure on the ICVA Board, and we believe he will continue to contribute his wealth of experience to the board if given the chance to serve in another term. Wossen has also been part of various initiatives at the global stage especially working with UNHCR on partnership matters. These include the Network organizations group as well as the field resource persons group working with UNHCR's Implementing Partnership Management Guidance. He was also part of the ICVA governance body that oversaw the development of the ICVA 2030 Strategy and its ongoing implementation.

Please indicate whether, if elected as a member of the Board, you would be willing to stand for election for

- **Chair –No**

Airlink, USA

Mr. Steve Smith

Organisation Profile

Airlink is an international humanitarian organization providing free transport and logistical solutions for a global network of 200+ NGO partners. Airlink's mission is to ensure transport costs are not a barrier to NGOs responding to disasters and other humanitarian crises. It supports NGO programs covering five key areas of humanitarian need: Rapid Onset Disasters (earthquakes, hurricanes, floods, outbreak of war, etc.), Health Systems Strengthening, Food Insecurity, WASH, Complex Crises, Displaced and Migrant Populations, and Medium and Long-term Recovery.

Airlink's partner network comprises an even split of small-medium and large NGOs, many of which are ICVA members. We provide free transport and coordinating services through a funding mix of in-kind donations from over 50 airline and logistics partners, as well as cash donations from businesses in the aviation sector, the public, government bodies such as USAID / BHA, and grants from foundations such as the Hilton Foundation and Tzu Chi Charitable Foundation. In addition to transporting humanitarian cargo and responders for its NGO network, Airlink provides regular coordination calls during disaster responses and training sessions throughout the year to help NGOs better understand the complex compliance processes for transporting humanitarian cargo.

Airlink is a long-term member of InterAction and regularly engages with regional coordination bodies including ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on Disaster Management (AHA Centre), Pacific Islands Association of NGOs (PIANGO), and Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA), UN Logistics Cluster, and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) in the US. In addition, Airlink has a working partnership with the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and several international transport-focused trade bodies, including the International Air Transport Association (IATA). Airlink operates a Regional Response Framework model aiming to improve responses to regional disasters and ensure the needs of each regional community are met in the most efficient and timely way by building localized NGO and airline partnerships. The Framework addresses the globe in six regions – Asia and the Pacific, Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean, the Middle East and North Africa, North America, and Sub-Saharan Africa.

In 2023, Airlink delivered aid to over 13.7 million people, aiding 122 NGOs, moving 2,237 tons of aid and 1,686 responders. We have responded to 48 individual disasters spread across 52 countries, providing transport cost savings of \$10.8 million to our NGO partners. Airlink's experience, connections, and expertise have found us increasingly establishing and running multi-modal transport aid bridges for partners, often being the only cost-effective transport solution for operating aid programs in countries experiencing complex crises; this was the case in Haiti, Sudan, Yemen, Iraq, Syria, and Afghanistan. Additionally, Airlink has developed a substantial on-the-ground partner base, enabling capacity expansion in aid missions where NGOs hoping to operate programs lacked those direct local links. This was the case in our health systems' strengthening programs in Moldova, India, and Nepal in response to COVID- 19 outbreaks and, most recently, Trigray, Israel/Gaza, and Türkiye in response to the earthquakes of 2023.

Logistics is the little-understood keystone of humanitarian response. As Airlink has grown over its 14-year history, we have filled a critical gap in the global humanitarian and disaster response ecosystem. This is evidenced by the year-on-year increase in demand for our services through an expanding NGO partner network.