

# DDoS Attacks

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The CyberPeace Institute warns of a worrying increase in **DDoS** (Distributed Denial of Service) attacks since the Ukraine invasion, a trend also occurring in the Middle East and posing risks to NGOs. These cyberattacks can disrupt vital services.

If you are deploying operations in regions with heightened tensions such as Ukraine, Gaza, or Israel, cybersecurity should be a top priority. The complex geopolitical landscape in these areas translates into an elevated risk of cyber threats, such as DDoS attacks, that can compromise your mission's integrity and continuity.

## What is a DDoS attack and what is the impact?

A DDoS attack is a malicious **attempt to disrupt the availability of an online resource** (for example, a website) by overwhelming it with excessive internet traffic. In practice, DDoS attacks cause an online resource, such as a website with crucial information or an online service portal, to become inaccessible or unavailable to visitors for a period of time during or following an attack.

For instance, a humanitarian NGO providing emergency medical aid in a conflict zone might suffer a DDoS attack, rendering its website unavailable to users. This downtime means that **critical information and services may not be reachable**, for example the location of a field hospital. Donors can't make contributions, and locals may not be able to access life-saving assistance. Additionally, the NGO's credibility is at stake as consistent website failures may suggest to supporters and beneficiaries alike that the organisation is unreliable.

## Enroll in a DDoS Protection Service

DDoS protection services are essential cybersecurity measures that safeguard websites and networks from DDoS attacks. These services work by absorbing or deflecting the overwhelming traffic floods that characterise DDoS attacks, ensuring that an organisation's online presence remains uninterrupted and secure.

Here's a list of some free DDoS protection services that as an NGOs you can consider:

- **Project Galileo** is one of Cloudflare's initiatives to offer free DDoS protection: <https://www.cloudflare.com/en-gb/galileo/>
- **Project Shield** from Google: <https://projectshield.withgoogle.com/>
- **Deflect**: <https://deflect.ca/non-profits/>

## Is your NGO part of the CyberPeace Builders Programme?

Do not hesitate to reach back to us if you need extra support. If you're looking for more information on the CyberPeace Builders Programme, follow this link:

<https://cyberpeacebuilders.org/ngo>