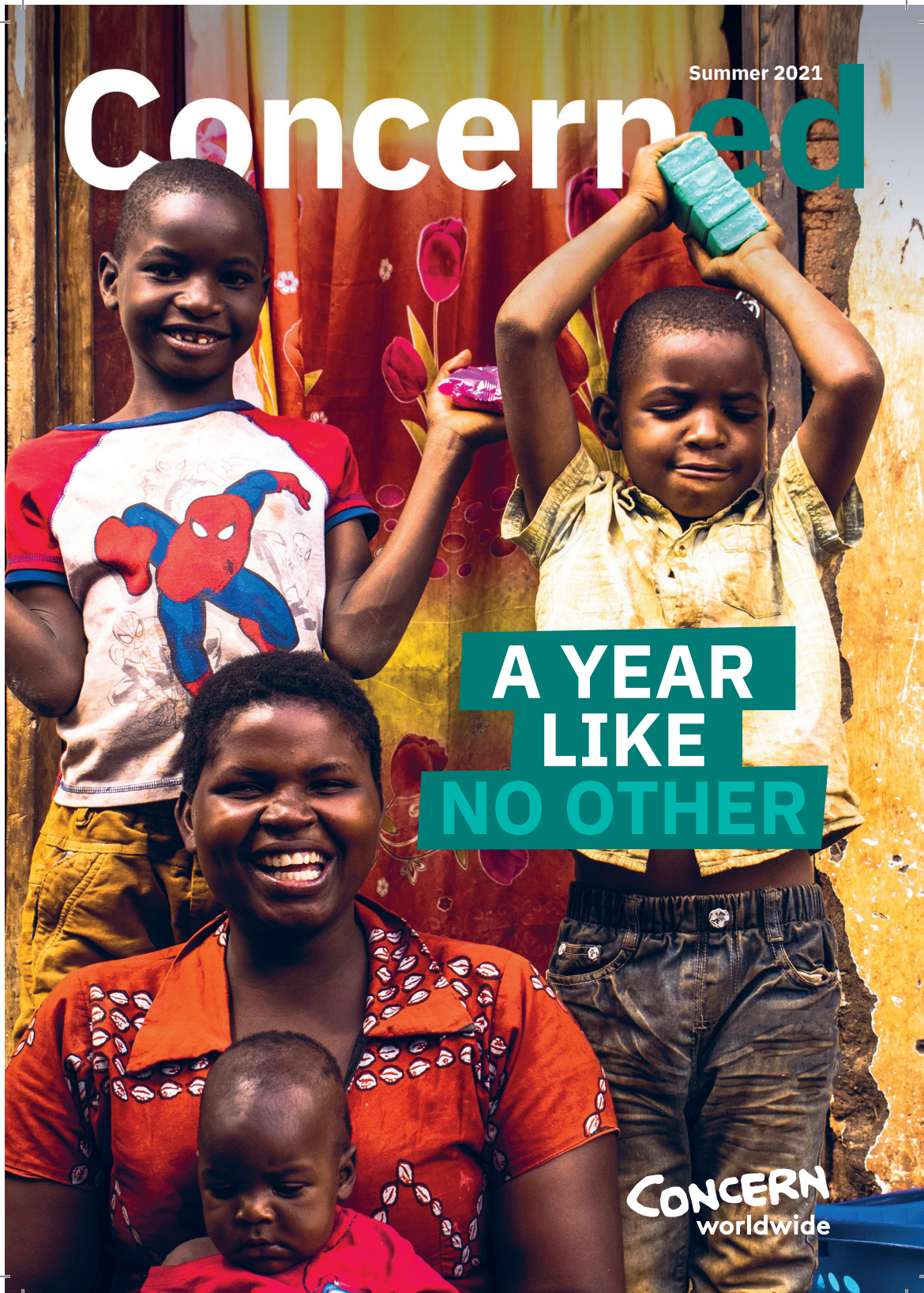


Summer 2021

Concerned

A YEAR
LIKE
NO OTHER

CONCERN
worldwide



Thank you for standing with us



Welcome to your 2021 edition of *Concerned* – which is your chance to see the incredible work that your kindness and compassion has helped to power over the last twelve months.

This past year has been incredibly tough for us all, with COVID-19 changing life as we know it. But for so many vulnerable people around the world, the pandemic has made their already difficult situations even worse. That's why I'm so grateful you've been there for them, when they've needed it most.

Whether it's providing emergency supplies in Syria or setting up life-changing beekeeping programmes in Ethiopia, I hope you feel incredibly proud as you read about what your generosity has helped to make possible. It's only because of people like you that we can help millions of people recover in times of crisis – so thank you for standing by us, even during these challenging times.


Dominic MacSorley, CEO

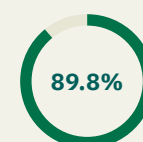


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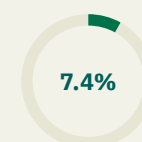
- 4 A look at what you've helped achieve this past year
- 6 10 years on – our response to the Syrian crisis
- 9 How beekeeping is changing lives in Ethiopia
- 10 COVID-19 in Malawi: the power of community
- 13 Home news, and how you can get involved!

Want to get in touch?
Email us at info@concern.net

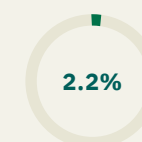
Where your money goes



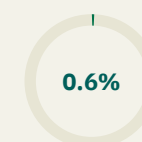
Relief and Development



Fundraising



Development education and advocacy



Governance

3

Thanks to you, we're working in vulnerable communities over the world to help end extreme poverty – whatever it takes.

Asia

- 1 Afghanistan
- 2 Pakistan
- 3 Bangladesh
- 4 Democratic People's Republic of Korea

Middle East

- 5 Lebanon
- 6 Turkey
- 7 Syria
- 8 Iraq

Africa

- 9 Burundi
- 10 Republic of Sudan
- 11 Chad
- 12 Rwanda
- 13 Ethiopia
- 14 Sierra Leone
- 15 Kenya
- 16 Somalia
- 17 Liberia
- 18 South Sudan
- 19 Malawi

- 20 Central African Republic
- 21 Niger
- 22 Democratic Republic of Congo

Caribbean

- 23 Haiti

Our work takes us to different countries depending on how severe the situation is. We might enter or leave a country depending on how much we are needed. Please visit our website for an up-to-date view of the countries we're currently working in.

**ENDING
EXTREME POVERTY
WHATEVER
IT TAKES**

Cover image: Gladys and her children are delighted to have received soap from Concern – a vital tool to protect them from COVID-19.

Photo: Concern Malawi

Place of registration Dublin, Ireland.

Registered no 39647 Registered Charity no 20009090

Your briefing...

Just some of the ways your kindness has supported families worldwide during this challenging year...



SIERRA LEONE

Your gifts mean Concern can support families like Ramatu's, in Makumbu village, who were at risk of losing their children to malnutrition.

Ramatu and her husband had to sell everything they grew to make a living, and still struggled to put enough food on the table. But because of the projects you've been helping to fund, we've been able to support families like theirs to grow a more diverse range of crops in their own backyards. Now, they can make a stable income, and produce enough food to keep their children safe from devastating hunger.



"The biggest change I have seen is in my children, they are healthier and my husband is happier!" Ramatu Kamara

Photo: Charlotte Woellwarth / Concern Worldwide



HAITI

Thanks to supporters like you, we could host a summer camp for children in Cité Soleil using Playdagogy – a technique that teaches children about their rights and equality through games, sports and theatre.



KENYA

When swarms of locusts descended on Turkana and ate the grassy pastures, much of the area's livestock grew weak – leaving them unable to produce milk, and countless families with no way of feeding their children.

But thanks to people like you, Concern could provide cash transfers to 5,690 families, so they could buy the essentials they need to survive – and bring their children back from the brink of malnutrition.



BANGLADESH

With your support, we were able to help 22,707 young children recover from severe malnutrition – providing the vital screenings and treatment they needed to nourish their bodies, and stay safe from hunger.



Photo: Stefanie Glinski / Concern Worldwide

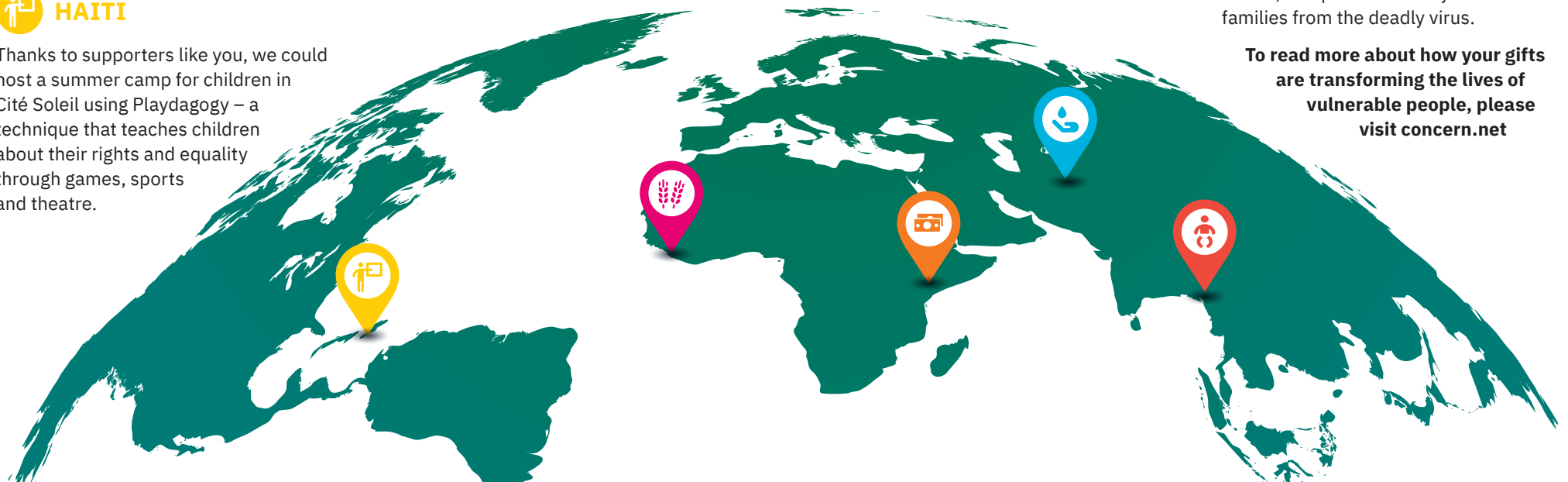


AFGHANISTAN

The pandemic hit Afghanistan when the country was already grappling with conflict, food insecurity and dangerously limited health facilities.

That's why your support was so vital – as it helped us to install vital hand-washing stations and provide hygiene awareness sessions in public spaces. By doing this, we could help prevent the spread of COVID-19 in the areas most at-risk, and protect already vulnerable families from the deadly virus.

To read more about how your gifts are transforming the lives of vulnerable people, please visit concern.net





Since 2013, we have been helping Syrian families like Josiane's* to find safe accommodation and help them rebuild their lives.

Photo: Crystal Wells / Concern Worldwide

Supporting the people of Syria – 10 years on

The conflict in Syria is one of the biggest crises of our time. It has claimed more than half a million lives, caused immeasurable suffering and triggered the highest level of global displacement since World War II.

Now, over a decade since it first began, there are still more than 13 million people inside Syria who need urgent assistance, as well as the 5.5 million who have had to flee to

neighbouring countries such as Turkey, Lebanon and Iraq.

Thanks to supporters like you, we've been able to help the people worst affected by the conflict since 2013 – responding to the ever-changing circumstances on the ground, and helping people get the support they need, whenever they need it.

We began by launching our emergency appeal, which helped raise vital funds for our programmes when the conflict first hit. Thanks to the astounding response from donors, this appeal allowed us to deliver life-saving supplies such as food, medicine and clean water to the thousands of innocent people affected by the conflict.

Then, as the refugee crisis unfolded, we extended our support to nearby countries in order to help the families who had no choice but to flee to safety. Many were living in unimaginable conditions, bearing the brunt of freezing winters in flimsy tents, rented garages or abandoned buildings. Our teams worked tirelessly to deliver everything people needed to make their situation safer and more bearable –

OVER 1.1 MILLION PEOPLE HAVE BEEN SUPPORTED BY CONCERN'S EMERGENCY PROGRAMMES IN 2020, COVERING PROTECTION, EDUCATION AND LIVELIHOODS

from blankets and mattresses, to stoves, fuel and solar lighting.

With no end to the conflict in sight, we are also working hard to help families rebuild their shattered lives. With your support, we've been setting up child-friendly learning spaces in Syria and the surrounding countries, to support children who are traumatised from their experiences, help them continue their education – and avoid becoming a lost generation.

And, thanks to people like you, we've been helping families stay safe from disease by providing hygiene kits, clean water systems and promoting good hygiene practices – support that has been scaled up even more since COVID-19.

A decade of conflict – and how we have responded

2011 – The conflict began when a political uprising turned into a civil war.



2013 – Concern launched an emergency response in Syria and neighbouring countries, supporting thousands of people with food and clean water.



2014 – Language classes are set up in Turkey to help give Syrian children the best chance of getting an education.



2015 2016



2017 – Over 1,500 women in Syria hired to help maintain living standards in displacement camps – providing them with a vital source of income.

2019 – Emergency shelter provided to 55,000 Syrian refugees in Lebanon after their settlement was destroyed by severe flooding.



Present – Concern responds to the impact of COVID-19, with refugees and internally displaced people more vulnerable due to their living conditions.



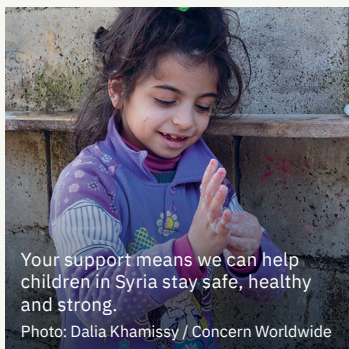


Thanks to people like you, Lama is hopeful for her future again – and is even encouraging other women in her community to get involved!
Photo: Jason Kennedy / Concern Worldwide

“

I'M LEARNING NEW SKILLS EVERY DAY. I WOULD LIKE TO OPEN A SMALL SEWING BUSINESS. IF I CAN WORK, I CAN FEED MY CHILDREN AND BUY THINGS FOR THEM ALL BY MYSELF.” LAMA

*All names have been changed to protect the person's identity, but their stories are real.



Your support means we can help children in Syria stay safe, healthy and strong.
Photo: Dalia Khamissy / Concern Worldwide

To donate today and help transform the lives of even more vulnerable families, please visit concern.net/donate

Life-changing, long-term support

Your support is also helping to fund our training programmes, which help people like Lama* provide for their families while they wait to return home.

Lama had a happy life in Syria with her three children. But when the conflict began, they were forced to flee to a makeshift shelter in Lebanon – where there were hardly any opportunities to work, leaving her terrified she wouldn't be able to provide for her family.

“All we could do here is sit in our tents, or see if there is any help being offered,” she told us. “Our options are limited.”

Lama decided to enrol in embroidery classes as part of Concern's training programme, which supporters like you help to make possible. Not only has this given her some much-needed joy, but it's also given her skills that she can use to carve a better future for her family – and a have sense of ownership over her life again.

WE MUST NOT FORGET SYRIA

With supporters like you on our side, our teams can continue to reach more Syrian families with the life-saving food, clean water and emergency shelter they need, for as long as they need it.

And, with the conflict still ongoing, Concern is working hard to provide long-term support – so children can get an education and families can find hope for the future again after years of trauma.



A SWEETER LIFE FOR ODANGI

Pictured are: Aixeli Omod and Ojulu Ochangi Beekeeping.
Photos: Kieran McConville / Concern Worldwide

“

I LOVE HONEY, IT'S EVEN BETTER NOW THAT I DO NOT HAVE TO CLIMB ANY TREES.”

ODANGI, 55



The programme has provided employment and financial security to so many people like Odangi (pictured) – thanks to your support.

Beekeeping is one of the oldest agricultural traditions in Ethiopia – and honey has always been a key source of food and income. But in villages like Odangi's, collecting honey has become too difficult, which is why the beekeeping programme has been life-changing.

Beekeeping is a group effort, and 55-year-old Odangi has always been in charge of collecting the honey. But with hives usually formed on top of trees 50 feet high, it was tough for Odangi to reach – and even when he did, there was never enough to go around.

But thanks to supporters like you we have set up a beekeeping programme, to give Odangi and 150 others in his community the beehives, keeper suits and training they needed to produce honey more efficiently. Now their honey is easy to harvest, and although they will keep some to eat, they can also sell it at the market for a decent profit.

Helping families stay strong during COVID-19

How families in Malawi have been able to protect themselves during the pandemic



Your support has helped people like Lizzie and her children Trust, Given and Mathews, get the soap they need to stay safe from COVID-19.

Photo: Concern Malawi

COVID-19 has had a devastating effect on the world's poorest countries, which were already struggling with the impacts of malnutrition, conflict and climate change. But thanks to donors like you, we've been able to support families in places like Malawi this past year, and give them the tools to stay safe from this deadly virus.

Over half of the population in Malawi live below the poverty line, and around one million people are living with HIV, making people here incredibly vulnerable to illness. But with just 25 intensive care unit beds and 20 ventilators for a population of 17 million, the country is just not equipped to cope with a pandemic. This is why we must help stop the spread in the most vulnerable areas.

Thanks to supporters like you, we could help families stay strong in the face of this virus. We were able to act fast when cases started to rise – providing hygiene supplies like soap and detergent for families living in extreme poverty, as well as PPE for our volunteers so they could keep working in their local communities. This, along with the installation of handwashing stations, has been vital to stopping the spread, and saving already-vulnerable people's lives.

We have also been working with the government to spread information about the virus through leaflets, posters and radio campaigns. This meant local people were armed with the facts about COVID-19 and its dangers, and could take this vital information back to their communities to ensure more families were kept safe from the virus.

And, we've been training over 350 health care workers on how to administer the COVID-19 vaccine. This next phase of our response is crucial to ensure people have the right to be protected from the virus – no matter how remote or limited the health services are.

All of this has been possible because of amazing people like you, so thank you. If you'd like to know more about our COVID-19 response, please visit concern.net/covid

WHAT WE'VE ACHIEVED IN MALAWI DURING THE PANDEMIC



8,104 FAMILIES PROVIDED WITH SOAP AND INFORMATION ABOUT GOOD HYGIENE.



886 HEALTH WORKERS TRAINED IN COVID-19 PREVENTION METHODS.



700 COMMUNITY LEADERS APPOINTED AND BRIEFED TO RAISE AWARENESS ABOUT THE IMPORTANCE OF VACCINATION.



59 HEALTH FACILITIES SUPPORTED WITH VITAL WASH SUPPLIES.

Q&A

A Q&A with Eleanor Carty, a member of the incredible team who helped fight COVID-19 in Malawi

Eleanor, from Wicklow, was due to be evacuated from Malawi when the first lockdown hit – but instead, she decided to stay and help vulnerable families stay safe...

Q Why did you decide to stay in Malawi?

A When it became clear that COVID-19 was going to have a global impact, every member of the Concern team went above and beyond to roll out the emergency response. It was incredible to be part of such a passionate team, dedicated to supporting communities in need.

Q What was it like seeing Concern's impact here first-hand?

A It was extremely motivating. Seeing the difference the whole Malawi team were making – from providing hygiene products to information on COVID-19 – reaffirmed why I want to work in this sector. Because everybody has the right to receive humanitarian assistance when they need it.

Q What did gifts from supporters mean?

A Without their support, a lot of what we do would not be possible. Donations from Concern's supporters really do transform lives – whether it pays for emergency food and shelter, or an education that will give a young child a brighter future.

Q What's your latest assignment with Concern?

A I'm now working in South Sudan, helping to provide emergency support to families displaced by conflict. This line of work isn't just a job, it becomes part of you. The focus of development workers is always to help, and I just want to keep doing that.

If you want to help fund more vital emergency programmes like this, please visit concern.net/donate



Photo: Concern Malawi

Headlines from home

Discover how our passionate supporters and staff are changing lives across the globe!



Photo: Andrew Tholley/ Concern Worldwide

A WHEELY BIG THANK YOU!

A very special thank you to our long-term corporate partner, Electric Aid, who provided vital support to our work in Sierra Leone last year. Because of their funding, we were able to deliver more than 100 bicycles to community healers and influential women, so they could travel between communities and provide essential medical support to people in need.

THREE'S A CHARM

Concern has won three awards this year – including Charity of the Year at the Charity Excellence Awards.

We couldn't be prouder of these awards, and we're so grateful for the support of the Irish public, who have helped us make such a life-changing impact.

Charities Institute Ireland said of our Charity of the Year win:

"Despite the immense daily pressures on its work, Concern is an organisation that has always operated to the highest standards of integrity and transparency."



Photo: L-R: Stephanie Doyle, Katie Doyle, Stanislav Ustinov, Dylan O'Neill, Coach Leon Power, Presentation De La Salle Bagenalstown.



Photo: L-R: Holly Thompson, Eden Wilson, Alice Francey, Beth Eccles, Friends' School Lisburn.

CONGRATULATIONS!

Congratulations to the All-Ireland Debates Cup Champions 2020-21 Presentation De La Salle Bagenalstown, and the Shield Champions 2020-21 Friends' School Lisburn for competing in the Debates Programme virtually for the first time.

Both finals can be viewed on Concern's YouTube channel.

If you want to get your school involved email debates@concern.net



Your Concern

There are so many fun ways that you can get involved in our work – whether it's buying alternative gifts for friends, or trying your luck in our raffle!



THE GREATEST GIFT YOU CAN SEND

Whether you've missed birthdays, wedding celebrations or baby showers due to lockdown, a Concern Gift always makes for an amazing present. Send your family and friends one of our heart-warming gifts – and help change the lives of some of the most vulnerable people around the world.

Visit gifts.concern.net to choose yours today!

NAME THAT FLAG!

How many of these world flags do you recognise? If you get stuck, they're all countries that we work in – and are mentioned in this issue!



RAFFLE: NOT LONG TO GO!

There's still time to return your tickets for our Raffle – but you only have until 3rd September! Be quick and return your tickets today.

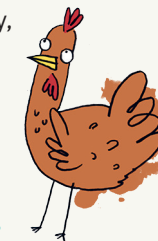
Visit concern.net/raffle to enter the draw and be in with the chance of winning some amazing prizes.



RAISE MONEY – AND FAST

Hungry for a challenge? Take part in the Concern FAST on 18th November. Go without food for just one day, get sponsored to do it, and help some of the world's poorest families get the food they urgently need.

Sign up at concern.net/fast



HELP UNLOCK EXTRA FUNDS

Don't forget to return your Taxback form, so Concern can claim tax back on your donations – and help more mothers like Akiru feed their children in times of crisis.

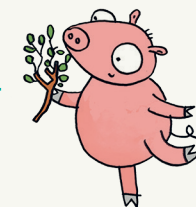
Return yours today, or call 01 417 7777 to request a new form.

WORDSEARCH

We've hidden some of our favourite Concern Gifts in this wordsearch... can you find them all?

E	R	M	J	D	Y	H	H	D	F	K	C	P	K
W	A	N	I	I	C	W	X	R	F	U	I	Y	C
V	E	M	E	R	G	E	N	C	Y	F	O	O	D
G	B	N	Y	I	P	A	J	H	E	W	N	Q	Y
Q	U	C	P	N	S	J	W	X	N	X	K	T	M
H	S	D	F	F	N	X	O	V	S	X	C	U	O
B	A	U	R	O	O	F	Y	I	J	U	P	G	P
L	N	L	U	B	L	M	A	Z	Y	R	U	N	M
A	P	P	R	E	N	T	I	C	E	S	H	I	P
L	U	X	R	E	C	O	S	T	O	V	E	L	B
E	B	N	C	Z	C	V	A	S	R	O	F	J	R
J	E	O	Y	I	T	W	M	K	J	A	Y	A	P
R	V	F	U	Q	K	B	C	M	V	V	D	R	L
Y	B	D	O	W	B	O	I	Z	Z	J	Y	I	G
A	I	Z	Z	I	H	E	Z	M	Y	H	D	E	O

Hint: there are 5 gifts hidden in here somewhere!



MINI CROSSWORD

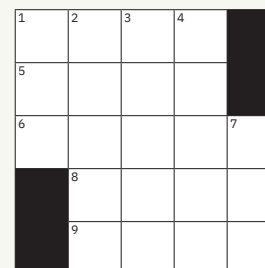
Across

- Not dark
- Reduced without warning
- Furiously angry
- Head (French)
- Formally (old English)

Down

- A good friend
- Smokeless gunpowder
- Machine control
- Prepares for publication
- Title, ___ Insp

Crossword kindly donated by Patricia Young





LET YOUR LEGACY LAST A LIFETIME

With a gift in your Will, you could help people like Sori, in Kenya, grow their own food even in the most extreme weather conditions. Now, she and her children never have to go hungry, no matter what challenges climate change brings.

Sori, who can now grow food to feed her children, and sell at the market – thanks to Concern's life-changing kitchen gardening scheme.

Photo: Jennifer Nolan / Concern Worldwide

If you would like to know more, please contact our Legacy Manager, Siobhán O'Connor on **01 417 8020**, **Siobhan.oconnor@concern.net** - or tick the box on your donation form to request a FREE legacy brochure.

CONCERN
worldwide