A close-up portrait of a smiling woman with dark skin. She is wearing a brown headband with yellow and white embroidered patterns. She has a beaded necklace with yellow, red, and black beads. She is wearing a light-colored, possibly white, garment. The background is dark and out of focus.

Summer 2023

Concerned

WEATHERING THE STORM

Inside: how the power of your kindness
is supporting families through climate
change, conflict and natural disaster.

CONCERN
worldwide



You've been a vital part of our work over the past 12 months. As vulnerable communities face a growing multitude of challenges, your kindness has meant we have helped over 29 million people adapt and survive. Across the world, your support is changing lives, and providing the foundations for change.

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
- 23 Burkina Faso

Caribbean

- 24 Haiti

Europe

- 25 Ukraine*

*Emergency operations began in March 2022

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: Mwanajuma at home in Tana River County, Kenya.

Photo: Lisa Murray/Concern Worldwide

Place of registration Dublin, Ireland.

Registered no 39647 Registered Charity no 20009090

This year, you've helped families recover and rebuild



I'm thrilled to share our 2023 edition of *Concerned* with you, one of our kind and compassionate supporters. In these pages, you'll see just how life-changing your support has been over the past year.

When I first volunteered for Concern during Ethiopia's deadly famine in the 1980s, I saw first-hand how support like yours can help transform the lives of people facing extreme hunger. Today as Concern Worldwide's new CEO, I am still as inspired. Through your ongoing generosity, we can continue helping families around the world to weather the storm in the face of crisis.

Tragically, the challenges for vulnerable communities worldwide are growing. From climate to conflict, countless people are being forced into worsening poverty. But thanks to you, we can be there for families around the world for as long as they need, and wherever they are. From the hardest to reach places in Turkey, Syria and the Horn of Africa, to the ongoing crisis in Ukraine, your support means we can truly make a difference – thank you.

David Regan, Chief Executive Officer



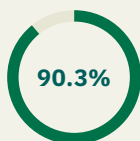
INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 4** Highlights of your support this year
- 6** Our response to the crisis in Turkey and Syria
- 8** Bringing hope in Ukraine
- 9** The life-changing impact of a Kenyan girl's education
- 11** Q&A: Horn of Africa's ongoing climate crisis
- 12** Breaking the cycle of maternal malnutrition in Pakistan
- 14** Headlines from home

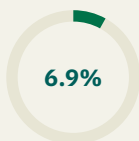
Get in touch

Email us at info@concern.net

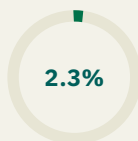
Where your money goes



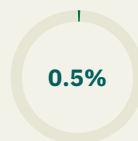
Relief and Development



Fundraising



Development, Education
and Advocacy



Governance

Your briefing...

Take a look at some of the worldwide highlights your support has helped achieve this year.



CAR



With training provided by Concern, Nataali advises families in need of nutritional support.

Meet Nataali, a community worker at a clinic in Boyali, Central African Republic. As the civil war worsened in her area, Nataali and her community were forced to flee. And, when they finally returned, they were left with nothing. “Most of the children were sick with malaria and dehydrated,” Nataali says. But thanks to the training we were able to provide, Nataali could help her community by teaching her neighbours about their wellbeing. By educating families on malnutrition, they know when to seek aid and improve their health – and she’s already seen a change; “Since Concern has come, the amount of malnourished children has reduced.”



KENYA

Your kindness is helping Kenyan families break the cycle of poverty. When rising costs caused by drought meant Mwanajuma was unable to afford food, Concern-provided training and water pumps helped her irrigate her land. Part of our Lifesaving Education and Assistance to Farmers (LEAF) Programme, Mwanajuma will soon be able to harvest her first crop of mung beans. Her family is one of almost 7,000 members of the programme who can use these drought-resistant seeds to keep safe from the threat of hunger – giving them the chance to begin building sustainable livelihoods they can rely on for years to come.



Through Concern’s LEAF Programme, Mwanajuma tends to her mung bean crops – sustainable food for her family.

Photo: Ed Ram/Concern Worldwide

Photo: Lisa Murray/Concern Worldwide

Students drinking water from their school water kiosk in Mogadishu, Somalia.

Photo: Mohamed Abdiwahab/Concern Worldwide



SOMALIA

World Water Day 2022 led with the theme, 'Groundwater: Making the Invisible Visible'. For countries like Somalia, where access to water is scarce, groundwater – found in cracks in the earth – is a vital resource.

Part of our World Water Day celebrations included safe water awareness sessions in Somalia's schools. Children learnt all about sanitation and hygiene practices. Meanwhile our partners, YouthLink Somalia, organised community events to spread the message that groundwater is safe to drink. These community events, made possible thanks to your support, are helping students stay healthy, and communities find sustainable sources of water in the climate crisis.



BANGLADESH

Thanks to your generosity, our urban development programme is boosting both the skills and resilience of the Bangladesh community – where we've been working for over 50 years. As part of an exciting project supporting vulnerable families into employment, we've provided grants to women like Laily (below right) to get training and assistance to start her own sewing business. She now earns an income that provides for her family, and trains other local girls so they too can begin supporting themselves.



Laily has started her own sewing business thanks to support provided by Concern in Dhaka, Bangladesh.

Photo: Emdadul Islam Bitu/Concern Worldwide

You can read even more about how your gifts are transforming the lives of people facing crisis and poverty – just head to concern.net



A LIFELINE WHEN DISASTER STRIKES

The earthquakes left 26.3 million people like Mehmet in need of support across Turkey and Syria.

The full extent of ruin and heartbreak caused by the earthquakes in Turkey and Syria cannot be measured. But thanks to supporters like you, we were able to reach those affected within hours.

At 4.17am local time on Monday, 6th February 2023, a 7.8 magnitude earthquake hit southeast Turkey and neighbouring countries, Syria and Lebanon. The homes, communities and lives of thousands of people were destroyed. Just hours later, a second, 7.5 magnitude quake struck, leaving yet more destruction in its wake. It's estimated that these deadly quakes took the lives of over 50,000 people, and left another 100,000 injured.



Responding within hours

Freezing temperatures, little to no electricity and aftershocks meant rescue efforts were extremely challenging. But with our dedicated staff already on the ground, Concern were able to respond to the crisis within hours of the first earthquake – providing immediate emergency support.



Your support meant we could reach thousands in need of food.

Photo: Kieran McConville/Concern Worldwide

Safe place to sleep

With homes turned to rubble, families were left with little protection from the bitter cold. Our teams constructed sleeping areas in safe buildings, erected tents and provided blankets and mattresses to thousands of people.

Preventing hunger

In addition to the horrific loss of life, at least 870,000 people urgently needed food. Our teams worked around the clock to provide hot meals to those most affected, and made sure clean water was readily available.

Essential kits

Along with shelter and food, Concern made sure vital hygiene kits were also provided to families who had lost everything, protecting them from the spread of disease.

Looking towards the future

With your support, Concern were able to respond swiftly to those greatly affected by the disaster. And, with your kindness, we've continued our life-saving work to get supplies to even the hardest to reach communities. By the end of July 2023, we will have reached over 194,000 people, giving them the means to begin rebuilding their lives again.

Irmine and her daughter in the Şanlıurfa Exhibition Centre in Şanlıurfa, Turkey. Two million people like her needed shelter after the earthquake.

Photo: Kieran McConville/
Concern Worldwide

Providing foundations to recover and rebuild

When Irmine's building was hit, four of her neighbours were tragically killed.

With nowhere to call home, Irmine and her family came to the Şanlıurfa Exhibition Centre, where they and 9,000 others were given food and blankets by Concern. At such a frightening time, the shelter has been a lifeline for Irmine and her family as they now begin the difficult process of finding a new home.

You can help provide the foundation a family like Irmine's needs to start again



Thanks to generosity like yours, 38,156 people have already received essential items – but the journey to recovery is long. **By donating €30 to Concern today, you could help provide more food and support that families like Irmine's need, as they work to restore the livelihoods they've lost to disaster.**



**5,430 HYGIENE
KITS SUPPLIED**



**DAILY HOT MEALS
PROVIDED TO 2,204
FOLLOWING INITIAL DISASTER**



**11,479 BLANKETS AND
SLEEPING MATS GIVEN OUT**

HERE FOR AS LONG AS IT TAKES



At Concern, protecting those in crisis is a priority. When our work brought us closer to home almost a year and a half ago, your support meant we could reach 65,000 internally displaced Ukrainians. By providing vital monthly food kits and cash transfers, our Concern community helped bring normality to thousands in distress, and gave light to so many in darkness.



“WE ARE SO GRATEFUL FOR YOUR SUPPORT.”

Darina* and her 2 ½ year old son Petro* have been living in Ternopil, Ukraine since March 2022. When the fighting and violence reached them, Darina only had time to run. But thanks to Concern and its partners in the Joint Emergency Response for Ukraine (JERU), the family received food assistance and warm clothes quickly. And, when a serious energy crisis swept Ukraine, Darina was given a gas heater to keep them warm in their temporary home. “This feeling of support lifts you up,” she says. “When I first came here I was scared of everything... but this support helped to open me up.”



“THEY GAVE US BOOKS AND MAGAZINES WHEN WE CAME HERE, AND DIDN'T ASK FOR ANYTHING IN RETURN.”

Your generosity helps us provide more than just the essentials: it gives people the chance to feel themselves again. When shelling forced librarian Kateryna* to flee home, she felt too scared to sleep – the conflict haunted her dreams. But after arriving at a Concern-supported shelter, she received PSS (psychosocial support) and discovered a library. “You just need things that make your heart warm,” she told us. “Your soul just wants something to lift it up.” Kateryna now spends her days at the shelter, reading about love.



Both photos: Simona Supino/Concern Worldwide

*Names have been changed to protect their real identities.

Your support means girls can access education and dare to dream! Through Concern's 'Let Every Girl Succeed' Programme, Marystella was able to continue her studies, becoming student president and finishing school.

Programme spotlight – Kenya

Photo: Gavin Douglas/Concern Worldwide

EVERY GIRL'S RIGHT TO LEARN

In many of the world's most vulnerable communities, the education of girls is often neglected. When income is low, or an extra hand is needed at home, girls are the first to feel the effects – but through your support, we're giving girls the chance to shape their own futures.



When rising fees forced Marystella out of school in Nairobi, Kenya, she was left heartbroken and her ambitions shattered. But with assistance from Concern's 'Let Every Girl Succeed' Programme – also known as Wasichana Wetu Wafaulu – Marystella's future became brighter again.

Thanks to supporters like you, Marystella was able to receive a Concern-funded bursary she could use to complete both her primary and secondary education. An inspiration to her siblings, there is no limit on Marystella's ambitions, as she sets her sights on going to university to study teaching or nursing.

“

CONCERN ENABLED US TO HAVE AN EDUCATION. THEY HAD TIME FOR US. THEY TAUGHT US THAT WE CAN SPEAK UP. THAT MADE ME GROW AND CHANGE COMPLETELY.

And she's not stopping there. After becoming a mentor to other girls aiming to finish their secondary education, Marystella has promised to pass on everything she has learnt to help others fulfil their dreams. "I have goals to achieve," she says. "I want to help my young sisters out there... If it were not for Concern, I don't know where I would be."

When the drought killed Ayaan's livestock in Odewiye, Somaliland, your support helped provide her family with the gift of a cash transfer: "It helped us a lot, to survive."

Photo: Ed Ram/
Concern Worldwide

UNITING AS ONE IN THE FACE OF DEVASTATION



Right now, the Horn of Africa is suffering one of the worst droughts in history. Across the region, more than 36 million people are struggling to grow food to eat as land turns dust dry. As a result, over 28 million people in Ethiopia, Kenya and Somalia are facing life-threatening hunger.

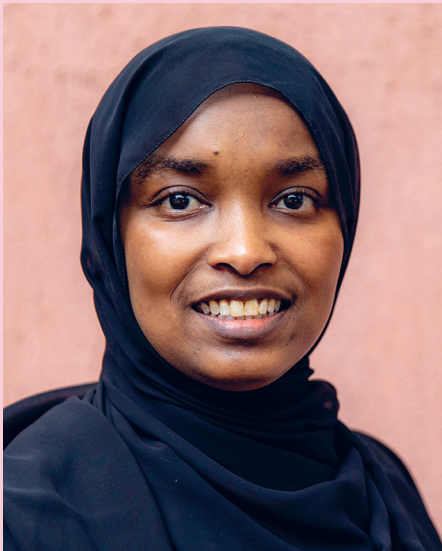
But, with generous supporters like you, we can be there to help.

Together, we're delivering urgent assistance to families like Ayaan and her children – including vital cash transfers and therapeutic food, which helps to boost their diets as food grows scarce. And, by introducing longer-term solutions, such as providing drought-resistant seeds and tools, families can grow their own crops – even when rains don't come. Because of support like yours, we can be there for the millions impacted by climate change, providing the life-saving essentials they need.

Q&A

Q Can you explain the ongoing crisis in the region?

A To put it simply, five failed rainy seasons, and potentially a sixth on the way, has caused a drought across the Horn of Africa. While droughts are a common phenomenon, because of climate change, the time between one drought and another has reduced. Where historically we'd have ten years between droughts, they're now occurring every two years – so the land has completely dried up.



Amina Abdulla, Concern's Regional Director for Horn of Africa.

Photo: Ed Ram/Concern Worldwide

Amina Abdulla, Regional Director for Horn of Africa, oversees Concern's response to the ongoing hunger crisis across the region.

Q How is the drought affecting communities?

A The farming techniques we've relied on for years just don't work anymore. Many are unable to grow their own harvests, causing the price of food to skyrocket. People trek for days to find water and health facilities, and the resilience communities had when facing droughts previously is gone. The drought has caused so many problems – hunger is just one of them.

Q What is Concern doing to help tackle the crisis?

A We have set up nutrition sites in affected communities, where malnourished children and mothers can receive food. We've also provided communities with drought-resistant seeds, training and tools, so they can grow harvests they can rely on, even when the rain doesn't come.

Q What can we do to help prevent the crisis getting worse?

A If we all rally together, we can avert the crisis from becoming catastrophic. I always say that whatever little is given will save a life. If we are able to scale up our interventions – which Concern is trying to do – we will not have to declare a famine in parts of the region. We need the support to make sure things don't get worse.

Maternal health – Pakistan

Mother Jamna with her children in
Umerkot District, Pakistan.

Photo: Khaula Jamil/Concern Worldwide

PUTTING AN END TO MATERNAL MALNUTRITION

Pakistan

When food is scarce, mothers are often the first to miss meals so their children can eat. For pregnant women, surviving on so little means malnutrition is all the more likely. And, for their unborn children, malnutrition puts them at greater risk of undernourishment and premature death.

But your support is helping us break the cycle.

In Pakistan's Umerkot District, expectant mother Jamna was surviving on leftovers to protect her young family, leaving her weak and in pain.

But, with the help of your generous donations, Concern teams were able to reach and diagnose Jamna with acute malnutrition six months into her pregnancy. Providing assistance in five key areas – breastfeeding, complementary feeding, micronutrient supplements, pregnancy supplements and management – Jamna received the support she needed. And, as Jamna grew stronger, so did her baby, who was getting the nutrients they needed to begin life stronger and healthier.



**OUR
HEALTH
WORKERS
SCREENED**

**OVER 119,000
PREGNANT AND
BREASTFEEDING
WOMEN FOR
MALNUTRITION
IN 2022.**

YOUR LEGACY WILL LAST LIFETIMES

In my 35 years with Concern, I've seen first-hand how gifts in Wills have been crucial in supporting our work in the world's poorest communities. By leaving a gift in your Will to Concern, you'll create a legacy that lives on for years to come.

A gift in your Will to Concern is a wonderful way to support families with hopes of a better future. You can help create stability as families adapt to the changing climate and build long-term resilience. Your legacy can have a huge impact in reducing extreme poverty, hunger and suffering around the world.

We understand that leaving a gift in your Will is a very personal decision, and we know it's important that your loved ones are taken care of. But rest assured, any

gift you choose to leave will make the world of difference, should you make the incredible decision to leave a gift in your Will to Concern.

If you have any questions, or want to know more about where to start, you can call 01 417 8020.

**Thank you for thinking of us,
Kevin Byrne,
Legacy Administrator**



UNLOCKING VITAL EXTRA FUNDS

Did you know that donating €250 or more in any one year means Concern can claim an extra 45% in tax back? By signing and completing a simple form, every €1 given will be worth up to €1.45 – at no extra cost to you.



Photo: Gavin Douglas/Concern Worldwide

After failed rainy seasons in Kenya led to food scarcity, one-year-old Josephine's weight dropped to just 6.9kg. Her mother Evelyn was heartbroken: her baby was malnourished. But thanks to our generous supporters, Josephine received emergency therapeutic food at a Concern health centre, helping her reach a healthy weight of 7.7kg. By unlocking extra funds, you can help save the lives of more children like Josephine.

If you received a form about unlocking tax on your donations, please do return it – you can help more families like Evelyn's receive life-saving support.

Headlines from home

Take a look at some of the exciting things our at-home Concern community has been getting up to over the past 12 months!

Photo: Karen Morgan/Concern Worldwide



Left to right: Deirdre Smith, Katie McCaffrey, Amy-Jo Kierans (captain), Aoibhbeann McLoughlin.

NEW CHAMPIONS!

This year, the Concern Debates programme gave over 170 post-primary schools the chance to debate some of the defining global issues of our time. In the 39th All-Ireland final, The High School, Rathgar and Largy College, Clones helped deliver a brilliant and passionate debate, with Largy College being crowned this year's winners. Congratulations! **If you would like to get your school involved, or become a volunteer adjudicator, then please email us at debates@concern.net**

JOIN THE FIGHT

1Planet4All is a campaign which aims to inspire young activists to lead our fight against the climate crisis. We're challenging common behaviours and attitudes fuelling the climate crisis, and holding those in positions of power to account on their Paris Agreement pledges.

To find out more, or to get involved, please contact our Campaign Officer Sinead Morgan at sinead.morgan@concern.net



1Planet4All members address climate change. Photo: Emma Kelly/Concern Worldwide

DO YOU KNOW YOUR MAPS?

How many of these countries or regions do you recognise? If you get stuck, here's a hint: every map represents places we work – and they've been mentioned in this issue!





Push the limits and support families in Ireland's Hell & Back challenge.

FUNDRAISE WITH US

There are so many ways to help Concern raise money. From singing your heart out at a karaoke night to running a marathon or baking some delicious cakes, why not organise your own fundraising event?

Want to raise money for Concern and challenge yourself too? Get together with loved ones and take part in Ireland's toughest physical and mental challenge 'Hell & Back'! **To secure your spot in September's event, contact info.challenge@concern.net**

YOUR CONCERN RAFFLE



BE QUICK: THERE'S A TICKET WITH YOUR NAME ON IT!

You've still got time to take part in Concern's 2023 raffle – and this year we're celebrating you, our compassionate supporters. **Visit concern.net/raffle or scan the QR code here** to be in with a chance of winning big, whilst changing lives. But hurry, you've only got until **18th August** to enter!

SCAN HERE



Tamandani with one of the family's new chickens.

Photo: Chris Gagnon/Concern Worldwide

A GIFT THAT KEEPS ON GIVING



Giving a Concern gift never goes out of style! Perfect for every occasion, you can help change lives in the world's most vulnerable communities with every gift, whilst also showing your loved ones how much you care. To see our gift range, head to **gifts.concern.net**

YOUR LEGACY, THEIR FUTURE

When you make the personal decision to leave a gift in your Will to Concern, you promise to support vulnerable communities for generations to come – so they can adapt and thrive long into the future.

To receive your **FREE** legacy brochure and find out more about leaving a gift in your Will, use the form enclosed or contact our Legacy Manager, Siobhán O'Connor, on 01 417 8020 or email siobhan.oconnor@concern.net

Photo: Chris Gagnon/Concern Worldwide



“

**WE WANT TO REACH A POINT
WHERE WE HAVE DEFEATED
HUNGER. WE ARE DONE WITH IT.**

Joseph, chief of Mkulira village, Malawi