

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: Leyla\*, from the hillside village of Adiyaman, Turkey.

Photo: Eugene Ikua/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. 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

Photo: Abdiwali Ali/Concern Worldwide

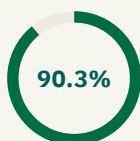


## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

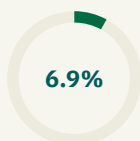
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**Get in touch:** Email us at [corporate@concern.net](mailto:corporate@concern.net)

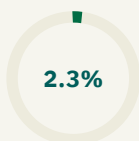
## Where your money goes



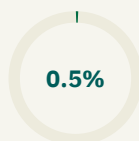
Relief and Development



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**

Photo: Ed Ram/Concern Worldwide



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.

Photo: Lisa Murray/Concern Worldwide



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



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](https://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 support from companies like yours, 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 was 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 was 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. Since February 6th Concern and our partners have reached over 161,000 people with food, hygiene supplies and shelter in Turkey and Syria, giving them the means to begin rebuilding their lives again



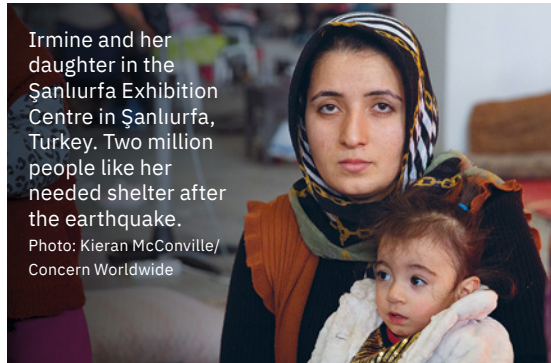
**5,430 HYGIENE  
KITS SUPPLIED**



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



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



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 to Concern today, you could help provide more food and support to families like Irmine's, as they work to restore the livelihoods they've lost to disaster.**





Jaro Duba, programme participant in North Horr, Kenya

Photo: Ed Ram/Concern Worldwide

# THE CONCERN HUMANITARIAN FUND

**Concern has been working with people living in extreme poverty for more than 55 years, helping people in the most vulnerable and remote regions of the world to improve their lives.**

Significant progress over the last 25 years is stalling due to the devastating impacts of climate change and conflict. In the last ten years, global humanitarian funding needs have quadrupled.

We need to continue to act and expand our efforts, responding faster to the needs of vulnerable communities worldwide. This is why we have launched the **Concern Humanitarian Fund**. **We need your business's help.**

Join our community of corporate organisations and individuals and become an **Emergency Response** or **Sustainable Futures Leader** and help us change the lives of hundreds of thousands of people every year.

Contact [corporate@concern.net](mailto:corporate@concern.net) for more information on how the **Concern Humanitarian Fund** can change lives and engage your employees.



Northern Aleppo district in northwest Syria after the 6 February 2023 earthquake, with many buildings destroyed and damaged.

Photo: Kieran McConville/Concern Worldwide





# PARTNER SPOTLIGHT:

## Mason Hayes & Curran and ElectricAid

### Mason Hayes & Curran supports education in Chad

Mason Hayes & Curran's corporate social responsibility programme focuses on education as one of the most powerful tools in tackling disadvantage. Concern also believes education is at the heart of development and critical to breaking the poverty cycle, and improving health, nutrition, income and opportunities for all children.

Employees raised additional funds to support educational opportunities in Chad this summer by hosting a staff BBQ afternoon. We are so grateful to Mason Hayes & Curran for supporting our educational programme in Chad and for the fundraising activities of its staff.

MASON  
HAYES &  
CURRAN

Mason Hayes & Curran funded a project in the Sila province of Chad from October 2021 to November 2022 which improved access to education and supported the well-being of 2,200 children in seven primary schools in the region. This project delivered vital social impact and has ensured thousands of children have the chance of a brighter future.



School child in Tchiraw, Sila, Chad.  
Photo: Pierre Maget/Concern Worldwide

### Thank you to ElectricAid

Concern wishes to recognise the incredible support from ElectricAid, one of our longest standing supporters who has been funding Concern projects for over 30 years. ElectricAid funds have contributed to many projects all around the world, helping vulnerable communities in places like Somalia, South Sudan, Burkina Faso and Lebanon.

drought. With the construction of the dam the community benefits from having access to a clean, safe water source.

We'd like to say a huge thank you to ElectricAid for your continued support of our work, it makes a real difference!



In one recent project in the Odweyne district in Togdheer region, Somaliland, ElectricAid funds allowed for the construction of a slow sand filtration unit onto a surface water storage system, improving access to safe drinking water and sanitation for over 1,300 households. The Odweyne district regularly experiences water scarcity and



Completed dam and slow sand filtration unit in Odweyne district, Togdheer region, Somaliland.

When the drought killed Ayaan's livestock in Odewiye, Somaliland, Concern's supporters 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 from businesses 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.



# CELEBRATE WOMEN

## Women of Concern Annual Awards Luncheon

Friday, 13 October 2023  
12.00 – 3.30pm  
The Round Room  
at The Mansion House

Proudly  
sponsored by

**CONCERN**  
worldwide



## WOMEN OF CONCERN ANNUAL AWARDS LUNCHEON

Friday, 13 October 2023  
The Round Room  
at The Mansion House

### Limited availability:

To enquire about how  
your company can attend,  
please contact:

[womenofconcern@concern.net](mailto:womenofconcern@concern.net)

Join us to celebrate the  
lives of women and girls  
worldwide as the most  
powerful agents of change.



### In Honour of: Ifrah Ahmed

Irish/Somali Activist and  
campaigner who has  
dedicated her life to helping  
to eradicate female genital  
mutilation (FGM) and to  
ending gender-based  
violence through her work  
in Ireland and Somalia.

Concern has been working in Somalia for over 35 years, responding to emergencies such as drought, floods, famine and population displacements caused by conflict and ongoing insecurity, and helping to build systems and solutions for economic stability and financial empowerment.

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worldwide

ENDING  
EXTREME POVERTY  
WHATEVER  
IT TAKES

**Top photo:** Mwanajuma Ghamaharo is a participant in one of Concern's livelihoods programmes, in Tana River County, Kenya. Photo: Lisa Murray/Concern

Registered Charity Number: 20009090





# CONCERN WORLDWIDE ONLINE BRIEFING ON THE CONFLICT IN SUDAN

**Want to find out more about the humanitarian implications of the conflict in Sudan?**

Why not join our free online Zoom meeting on **13 September at 1pm** and hear about Concern's work in Sudan and Chad to meet the huge humanitarian needs and devastating consequences of the conflict. This event features updates from key staff at Concern Worldwide: **Carol Morgan**, International Programmes Director, **Reka Sztopa**, Concern's Regional Director, West Africa & Sahel, and **Michelle O'Dea**, Desk Officer for the Republic of Sudan. This event will outline the background

context to the current situation in Sudan, and the desperate need for humanitarian aid in Sudan and neighbouring Chad where many have fled to escape the violence. There will also be a brief opportunity to ask questions at the end of the event.

**We hope you will be able to attend.**

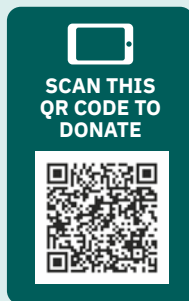
**To receive registration details, please email: [corporate@concern.net](mailto:corporate@concern.net)**

Above: Concern Regional Director for West Africa and Sahel Reka Sztopa speaks to a focus group of women at a Chad refugee camp 2km from the Sudan-Chad border.

Photo: Concern Worldwide

## SUDAN CHAD APPEAL

The situation in Sudan is critical and a humanitarian disaster is looming. Since 15 April more than 3.3 million people have fled their homes seeking safety from the conflict and its violence. More than 24 million people currently need humanitarian assistance. The vast majority of refugees are women and children. The current international call for aid is **only 22% funded**. Please donate what you can by scanning this QR code or contact **[corporate@concern.net](mailto:corporate@concern.net)** for more options.



# Headlines from home

Take a look at some of the exciting things our corporate supporters have been getting up to over the past 12 months!



Accenture volunteers at staff second-hand book sale.

  
**accenture**

## BOOKWORMS FOR CONCERN

Thank you to the team in Accenture who held a two-day second-hand book sale in July to raise funds for Concern's work. What a fantastic and sustainable way of fundraising to support vulnerable communities around the world! Thank you to all staff volunteers.

There are hundreds of fun activities you and your colleagues can run to support Concern and help people in extreme poverty. Motivate your staff and highlight your business values whilst making a difference. Email us if you are interested in hosting your own staff fundraising activities to support Concern: [corporate@concern.net](mailto:corporate@concern.net).

**KERRY**



Sustainable Business  
Impact Awards 2023

SHORTLISTED

## KERRY GROUP SHORTLISTED FOR PARTNERSHIP AWARD

We are delighted to announce that our four-year partnership with Kerry Group in Niger has been shortlisted for the **Chambers Ireland Sustainable Business Impact Awards** in the Partnership with a Charity category. The project, Realigning Agriculture to Improve Nutrition (RAIN) in Niger, improved the food and nutritional security and agricultural livelihoods of 1,000 of the most vulnerable households in 7 villages in the Tahoua region of Niger. Winners are announced on 14th September. Best of luck Kerry Group!



Community group in the village of Toungailli. Photo: Ollivier Girard/Concern

## PREPAY POWER STAFF FUNDRAISE FOR UKRAINE!

We'd like to say a big thank you to **Prepay Power**, who chose us as their charity partner for 2022.

Staff ran fundraising activities throughout 2022 including a spinathon, raffles, fancy dress days, pub quiz, bake sales and a Christmas giving tree to support Concern's response in Ukraine. Thank you to staff at Prepay Power!

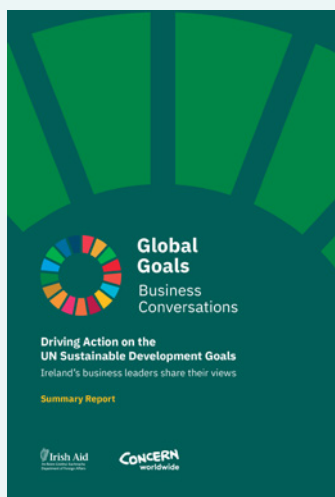
Please choose Concern as your charity partner in 2024! We'd welcome the chance to work with you and your staff, support you to make the most of your activities and meet your business goals too.

Please contact: [corporate@concern.net](mailto:corporate@concern.net).

## Prepay Power



Prepay Power staff spinathon event for Concern.



## GLOBAL GOALS: DRIVING ACTION ON THE UN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

**At Concern, our corporate supporters share in our mission to leave no one behind.**

With an increasingly connected world, global sustainability is an integral part of any business. We recently published a report on the outcomes from United Nations Global Goals business conversations we facilitated with 60 organisations, thanks to Irish Aid, and key recommendations we made to Government as a result. This summary report explores the drivers and the barriers around the delivery of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Please contact us on [corporate@concern.net](mailto:corporate@concern.net) to request a digital copy of the report.





**CONCERN**  
worldwide

# JOIN THE CONCERN HUMANITARIAN FUND

A community of leading humanitarian donors supporting Concern's rapid response and sustainable futures programmes.

Concern supports rural family by providing nutrition services

Photo: Jennifer Nolan/Concern Worldwide

If you are interested in hearing more about the Concern Humanitarian Fund please contact [corporate@concern.net](mailto:corporate@concern.net)



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