

Key Asks – 2024 European Elections

Concern Worldwide works with communities across 26 countries, where people are experiencing extreme poverty as a result of conflict, climate change and hunger. In 2024 Concern reached 30 million people living in extreme poverty. Concern works with both rural and urban communities to address the damage already caused by climate change and support people to strengthen their resilience to climate related hazards and disasters.

1. Addressing the Humanitarian Aid Gap



The EU is the world's largest Humanitarian Aid donor, responding to humanitarian crises across the world, including in Europe. Some 364.6 million people are in

need of humanitarian assistance globally.¹ With the continued emergence of interrelated and often forgotten crises, these numbers are set to increase. The EU's role as a humanitarian actor is more vital than ever before.

We call on Irish MEPs to ensure the European Union's main humanitarian aid budget (HUMA) is increased to a minimum of €2.6 billion per year to allow the European Commission to continue funding their humanitarian partners who are responding to crises across the globe. Humanitarian funding alone is not sufficient. The EU must play its role in preventing and resolving crises, to maintain peace and promote prosperity.

2. Food Security



Conflict, economic shocks, climate extremes and soaring fertilizer prices are combining to create a deteriorating food crisis. As many as 783 million people are facing chronic hunger. To end hunger, achieve food security, improve nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture, the world urgently needs a more sustainable food system. Food production will have to increase globally by 50% by 2050 to feed and provide nutrition to a UN estimated global population of 9.8 billion people. We

need a food system that works for the extreme poor, delivers to improve global nutrition and can supply local and global food markets without compromising the environmental bases on which agriculture is dependent.

We call on Irish MEPs to ensure that the next phase of the EU's nutrition policy focuses on delivering food security with a targeted emphasis on health and nutrition. The policy must be underpinned by comprehensive financing, programming, and political commitments for the Nutrition for Growth Summit in March 2025.

3. Climate Finance



Combatting climate change and adapting to its impact is one of the greatest modern challenges.

Climate change is deadly, unpredictable and indiscriminate. The impact of climate-related crises is unequal. While climate change is causing disruption and crises across the world, it is being felt worse in countries that have contributed least to the challenge, and countries least prepared to cope with the devastation of climate change.

We call on Irish MEPs to support fair and transparent funding for climate resilience. Climate finance must be used to invest in long term resilience building in countries experiencing climate change now. Climate change is not a future problem. It is our problem, and our responsibility and Europe must do more to recognise the injustice of climate change and act. We call on Irish MEPs to invest in climate adaptation and resilience programmes.

4. Deliver on the SDGs

As a co-facilitator of the 2015 Sustainable Development Goals, Ireland has a vital role to play at the European level to ensure the upcoming mandate delivers on the SDGs, so everyone has a better standard of living. Yet, in 2023, UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said, “Only 15 per cent of the targets are on track, and many are going in reverse. Instead of leaving no one behind, we risk leaving the SDGs behind.”²

We call on Irish MEPs to champion the SDGs and work collectively to ensure coherence in EU policy development to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Five years remain to implement the SDGs. Failure cannot be an option.



5. Protect and promote civic space and democracy



A fully functioning civil society is the cornerstone of any democracy promoting social and human rights, raising the voices of citizens and giving a platform to the marginalised voices within society.

We call on Irish MEPs to not only protect and promote civil society space in Ireland, across Europe and the rest of the world but to also advocate for increased EU investment in civil society.

In 2023, Concern reached 30 million people. Almost 75% of our work is funded through government and institutional donors with €39.2million coming from EU funding. In fact, the EU was Concern’s second highest institutional donor in 2023 helping us deliver vital programmes in Bangladesh, Central African Republic, Chad, Lebanon, Niger, Somalia, Sudan and Syria.

1 VOICE statement on Revision of the EU’s long-term budget: a step backwards for EU humanitarian funding (See here) Accessed April 2024.
2 Statement by UNSG Antonio Guterres, September 18, 2023, (See here) Accessed May 2024.