

Summer 2024

Concerned

**WHATEVER
IT TAKES**

Inside:

From life-saving nutrition in Pakistan to delivering revolutionary agriculture in Malawi, together we're doing whatever it takes to leave no one behind.

CONCERN
worldwide

FIND THE CONCERN LOGO

We've hidden our logo across the newsletter!

Make sure to check every page, and jot down how many you find here:

The answer is on your donation form!

You are at the heart of incredible progress



I'd like to welcome you to our 2024 edition of *Concerned* – a chance to reflect on the life-changing impact supporters like you are making.

Over the past year, the challenges of climate, conflict and rocketing food prices have had a devastating impact on communities around the world. The need to find ways of adapting has never been greater. From farmers on the frontline of the climate crisis in Malawi to women in Bangladesh building security through new businesses, our Concern community plays a vital role in helping provide immediate and long-term support, whatever it takes.

When I say 'whatever it takes', I mean just that. At the start of the year, supporters like you helped us launch our first crisis response programme in Yemen, supporting families struggling to survive the long-lasting effects of a ten-year war. It's only the first step in what will be years of hard work, but I know that, together, we can make a real and lasting difference.

So thank you, for your compassion and commitment – we couldn't do it without you.

David Regan, Chief Executive Officer



Photo: Aamar Khalaf/Concern Worldwide

Our teams distribute life-saving cholera and hygiene kits in displaced communities.

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Get in touch

Email us at info@concern.net

Thanks to the ongoing generosity of our Concern community we've reached 30 million people in 26 countries with the support they need.

Asia

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

Middle East

- 5 Lebanon
- 6 Turkey
- 7 Syria
- 8 Iraq
- 9 Yemen**

Africa

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

- 22 Niger
- 23 Democratic Republic of Congo
- 24 Burkina Faso

Caribbean

- 25 Haiti

Europe

- 26 Ukraine*

**Operations began in 2024

*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: Jamna with her daughter, Shanti, in Pakistan's Sindh province.

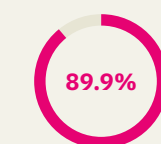
Photo: Arif Shad/Ingenious Captures/Concern Worldwide

Place of registration Dublin, Ireland.

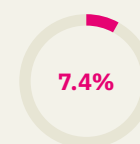
Registered no 39647 Registered Charity no 20009090

Where your money goes

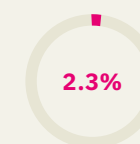
*Figures correct for 2023



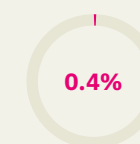
Relief and Development



Fundraising



Development, Education and Advocacy



Governance

Your impact is global!

Here are just a few of the inspiring projects you've helped make happen this year.

UKRAINE

Lesya* and her family became displaced within Ukraine when they fled from the violence. While they found safe shelter, the conditions left them at risk to harsh weather – but emergency cash transfers from Concern helped to keep them safe.

“This money has been a tremendous help,” Lesya told us. “Not only are we using it to repair the roof, but we’ve also set aside a certain amount for firewood and purchased fuel. It has also allowed me to buy medicine when the children fell ill.”



Cash transfers helped Lesya buy necessities to protect her family.

Photo: Mykhaylo Palinchak / Concern Worldwide

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

In the Central African Republic, your generosity is helping women like Fardos out of poverty. Supported by Concern and our partners, Fardos has been able to grow her dress-making business with new work tools and training in both management and sewing skills. She's already earning more and building savings to protect her livelihood. She beamed as she told us, “I can provide for myself and my family.”



Fardos received training and a new sewing machine to boost business.

Photo: Concern Worldwide

GAZA

Right now, Gaza is facing a catastrophic humanitarian crisis, with tens of thousands of lives lost and homes destroyed. When security and access allow, our trusted NGO partner in Gaza, working through the ongoing support of the community, will resume the distribution of urgent supplies in both Rafah and De al-Balah. This includes delivering life-saving food, as well as water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) services, to meet the increasing needs.



Concern is working to provide essential aid to people like Raed in Gaza.

Photo: Concern Worldwide

PAKISTAN



Jamna's little girl, Shanti, was saved with emergency therapeutic food.

Photo: Arif Shad / Ingenious Captures / Concern Worldwide

As a member of the Concern community, you don't just change lives – you help save them.

After devastating floods washed away the family crops in Pakistan, Jamna's daughter, Shanti, grew sick with deadly malnutrition. But at a Concern-supported health centre, Shanti received the emergency therapeutic food that saved her life. Within weeks, Jamna had seen her little girl make an amazing recovery.

Read more about how we're responding to ongoing crises and how support like yours is helping at concern.net

*Names have been changed to protect identities.



BUILDING FROM THE GROUND UP

The support Jean received from Concern's Green Graduation Programme helped him grow food for his family, set up a thriving business and begin dreaming of the future.

In some of Rwanda's provinces, chronic malnutrition and poverty have left people desperately struggling. But thanks to the generosity of people like you, Concern has been able to support thousands of families out of hardship.



Programme participant Jean stands with his wife Riberi, and their baby, Keza, in his shop in Gisagara, Rwanda.

Photo: Eugene Ikua/Concern Worldwide



With funds raised from his business, Jean was able to buy a new bicycle and transport more goods, for more customers. Photos: Eugene Ikua/Concern Worldwide

"We only ate once a day"

In Muganza village, food shortages meant Jean and his family could only eat once a day. "Life was not easy," he said. "Finding food and earning money was hard." Without a plot of land to grow crops, there was a constant danger of malnutrition and Jean knew his family was at risk.

Supporting a blossoming business

It was while searching for work that Jean was invited to join Concern's Green Graduation Programme – an initiative dedicated to supporting people living in extreme poverty to find a pathway out of it. Jean was given funds and training to set up his own business and was also taught how to grow vegetables.

"I was determined to have a business – I put my strength into it," Jean told us. At first, he bought plots of land, which he sold to make a profit and open up his own shop. He was able to harvest food at the same time, including 100kg of beans!

Programme graduates have

 **178%**
higher financial security

But his entrepreneurial spirit didn't stop there. Jean recognised a profitable opportunity, and a great way to support the environment: with the income raised from his shop, he bought land to plant a forest as a long-term investment.

Towards the future

"When I put my skills together with the training and advice I received – it helped me," Jean says. Now, his family buys what they need from their profits. And he has bigger dreams too: "I want to focus on growing the forest. If we sell it, we can help our child continue studying. I want to be a good example to my family." ■

LAUNCHING OUR YEMEN RESPONSE

Thanks to the support of people like you, Concern officially launched our first programme in Yemen to respond to the growing humanitarian crisis. Now, thousands of families on the brink of survival are being supported with vital healthcare, clean water and emergency nutrition and hygiene.



A child and his father return home with a Concern-distributed hygiene kit.
Photo: Aamar Khalaf/Concern Worldwide



Our Country Director for Yemen, Victor Moses, is on the ground leading this life-saving programme. Here he describes how

you're supporting families in one of the world's worst humanitarian crises.

When Fr. Aengus Finucane, one of Concern's founders, was asked to describe our community's mission, he said; "Do as much as you can, as well as you can, as long as you can, for as many as you can."

It's that commitment that led to the launch of our first programme in Yemen, where more than 18 million people are in need of humanitarian assistance.

Over the past few months, the Concern community has been part of a crisis response programme. By focusing on three key areas – Health, Nutrition and Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) – supporters like you have helped us bring critical support to families in need. And that's only the beginning.

Since conflict broke out in 2014, one in eight people have been forced from their homes, into camps without basic facilities and where only the luckiest are able to share a latrine. There has been a tragic rise in hunger and preventable diseases, such as cholera, which children are particularly vulnerable to, and scarcely available water has become a luxury.



Thousands of families now have safe, clean water to drink.

Photo: Concern Worldwide

“THERE IS NO OTHER WAY TO DESCRIBE IT: THE DAILY LIFE FOR MOST PEOPLE IN YEMEN IS A STRUGGLE FOR SURVIVAL.”

Our teams and partners are working tirelessly to support families. We've set up health clinics where we provide free services and vaccinations for children. Our volunteers refer anyone who needs treatment, and they also distribute cholera and hygiene kits to prevent the



€105
today could
provide eight
families with
life-saving
cholera and
hygiene kits.

Vital sanitation supplies are keeping
children safe from deadly disease.

Photo: Concern Worldwide

spread of diseases. In various camps, we're also constructing toilets to improve sanitation, and solarising wells and a borehole so more people can access safe water.

The generosity of Concern supporters has had a hugely positive impact. It's meant we can provide critical services to thousands of people suffering from years of conflict, disease outbreaks and displacement. Thank you, Concern community, for the support and goodwill you have shown so far.

The work we're doing here is invaluable. As a community, we have already done so much in such a short time. But we cannot ignore the ongoing cries of people. Please continue to support our vital work, thank you. ■

If you'd like to support our ongoing work in Yemen with an additional gift today, please use the donation form enclosed or go to concern.net

OUR IMPACT SO FAR



11,000
people
accessed
healthcare in
the first
four months

34

latrines built
across two
camps



358
children supported
through our vital
nutrition
programme

650
hygiene kits
distributed
across three
camps



Nutrition update – Niger

Mothers like Aminatou feed their
children this highly nutritious porridge
at our cookery demonstration.

Photo: Darren Vaughan/Concern Worldwide

THE POWER OF PORRIDGE

As the impacts of the climate crisis push families in Niger into hunger, you're helping provide the innovative flour that's saving lives.

After food shortages left Aminatou with little to protect her family, she had no choice but to watch as her 10-month-old son grew weak with hunger. But thankfully, with help from Concern, Aminatou was able to receive six kilos of fortified flour – flour packed full of the vitamins and proteins a child needs to stay safe from malnutrition.

“

MY SON NOW SMILES TO HIS BROTHERS AND SISTERS, AND HE IS EATING WELL AND DRINKS LOTS OF WATER.

As well as receiving flour, Aminatou attended a cooking demonstration held by our team, where she learnt to make nutritious porridge for her little boy. This innovative programme is helping protect more children from malnutrition. ■

THE FUTURE: SUPPORTED BY YOU

In Malawi's Mwanza district, a devastating combination of drought and flooding destroyed Elvis' land, leaving her farming group unable to grow crops. As their harvests failed, the group lost more of their income – which meant they had less food to feed their families.

But with funds raised largely by legacy supporters, Concern's local team was able to share innovative new farming techniques with the farmers to overcome immediate challenges, as well as the long-term impacts of climate change – a powerful lasting legacy from gifts left in Wills.

"We used to use buckets for irrigation, but after receiving a solar pump from Concern, we could work faster and expand," Elvis explained. "We were able to harvest a lot, we don't struggle."

It's because of those who have left a gift in their Will to Concern that Elvis and her group have begun building long-term resilience against climate change. It's the first step to protecting their harvests, a powerful legacy that future members will be able to rely on for generations to come. ■

To receive your **FREE** legacy brochure and find out how you can support our work in your Will, contact our Legacy Manager, Siobhán O'Connor, on **01 417 8020** or email legacy@concern.net

Legacy gifts help farmers like Elvis to thrive – even in the face of climate change.

Photo: Chris Gagnon/Concern Worldwide

“FROM THE PROJECT, I HAVE CHANGED MYSELF TOTALLY. I'M AN INSPIRATION FOR OTHER WOMEN.



In some of the world's most vulnerable areas, we're helping women become self-sufficient and break the cycle of poverty.

When Salma in Dhaka, Bangladesh, received personal business training and a grant from Concern to kickstart her jewellery-making business, she had no idea just how successful she'd be.

Despite starting off small, Salma now has over 40 staff, many of whom are women. She's bought the office where she works and has made enough income to move to a more secure home and send her daughter to school.

And her aspirations haven't stopped there. After receiving gender equality training, Salma has become a councillor, helping others in the local area: "I help to solve problems. Women come to me for help, but I've also helped make developments in the community." ■



Salma makes jewellery from her own designs.

Photo: Gavin Douglas/Concern Worldwide

Headlines from home

Exciting things are happening here at home. Here's just a peek at what some of your Concern community have been doing this year!



Photo: Concern Worldwide

Our TY Academy empowers students to learn more about Concern's work.

GET BEHIND THE SCENES

Our Transition Year (TY) Academy is an exciting week-long work experience for students who want to get a backstage look at the ins and outs of an international NGO. Based in our Dublin office, students hear from some of our experts about gender inequality, climate change and more – leaving them empowered and ready to make change happen! To find out more, visit concern.net/sign-ty-academy

FOUR DECADES OF CONCERN DEBATES!

This September, Concern Debates turns 40 – making it Ireland's longest-running Global Citizenship Education programme. Over the past four decades, we've welcomed thousands of schools from across the country, helping students develop their knowledge, awareness and critical-thinking skills about some of the world's issues. Now that's something to celebrate!



Photo: Karen Morgan/Concern Worldwide

Concern Debates 2024 Champions Aisling O'Connor, Amy O'Gorman, Regina Burke and Lucy O'Gorman.



Curious about the world and want to know what's happening in countries that don't make the news? Pod Worldwide is the monthly Concern podcast bringing you stories from the countries we work in – from chatting to colleagues on the ground to innovating new ways of tackling challenges. Search for Pod Worldwide on Spotify, Apple Podcasts or wherever you get your podcasts!



Put the fun in fundraise and save lives this year!

TIME TO FUNDRAISE

Want to fundraise for Concern but don't know where to start? There are so many ways you can raise money to change and save lives around the world.

Why not host your own pub quiz? Simply pick a theme, set an entry fee and select a prize worthy of winning! Or release your inner Mary Berry and hold a bake sale in your local community or at work. For more information and ideas, contact Aybike at info.challenge@concern.net today.



BAG YOURSELF €4,000!

There's not long left to enter and play Concern's Summer Raffle! This year, you could win your dream holiday, or treats to spruce up the garden – all while supporting children in Ethiopia recover from malnutrition. You've got until 16 August 2024 to enter at concern.net/raffle

Photo: Eugene Ikua/Concern Worldwide



You're helping mothers like Amint to protect her children from malnutrition.



Photo: Eugene Ikua/Concern Worldwide

Abdia holds the family goat, and Concern gift, in Tana River, Kenya.

MAKE MINI MIRACLES HAPPEN

Fancy giving your nearest and dearest a present to remember? Concern gifts come in every shape and size – from goats to books to avocados – and help support families around the world when they most need it. To browse our gift range, visit gifts.concern.net

• UNLOCK LIFE-SAVING FUNDS • UNLOCK LIFE-SAVING FUNDS •



UNLOCK VITAL EXTRA FUNDS

If you donate €250 or more in any one year, Concern can claim an extra 45% in tax back – turning every €1 of your donations into €1.45. All you have to do is sign one simple form and you can unlock essential funds to help support children like Malilla in Niger.

At just two years old, little Malilla was severely malnourished. But with funds raised from tax, she was able to receive emergency therapeutic food at a Concern-supported health clinic, which saved her life.

If you received a form about unlocking tax on your donations, please return it to Concern and help more children like Malilla survive malnutrition.

To learn more, visit concern.net/tax. Or, to request a Taxback form or for any questions, call Ivana on 01 417 7777.

Rachida and her daughter, Malilla, who received treatment for malnutrition.

Photo: Darren Vaughan/Concern Worldwide

This newsletter costs just 56 cents to produce.