

NEWS | EMERGENCIES | ENTERPRISE | IMPACT | COMMUNITY

Concerned

SUMMER 2025



CONCERN
worldwide

Introducing Concerned, your supporter newsletter filled with inspiring updates from the projects you're helping to power around the world.



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Welcome to Concerned

I am delighted to introduce this new edition of Concerned, your supporter newsletter. You will see that we have made some changes, based on the thoughtful feedback of supporters like you. In this edition, you will find behind-the-scenes updates, as well as stories from our entrepreneurial programmes. We have also increased the type size to make it easier to read, and reduced the use of coloured ink to lower our production costs.

Over the following pages, you will discover stories about the life-changing work people like you are making possible around the world. You will also meet incredible and dedicated members of the Concern community in Ireland who are taking action at home.

Wherever there is poverty, injustice or inequality, we take action together as a global community. So I want to thank you, on behalf of all of us at Concern, for doing whatever it takes to help end extreme poverty. Now, more than ever, your support is invaluable and I am so grateful to have you on our side.

Yours sincerely,

D. Crowley

Dominic Crowley
CEO of Concern Worldwide



ON THE COVER

Urban Green Graduation participant, Parvin (38), harvests vegetables flourishing in her garden in Bangladesh. Photo: Mumit M/Concern Worldwide



Left: Masan (40) and Fatima (30) carrying emergency kits, provided by Concern. Photo: Nicola Brennan/Concern Worldwide

Below: Seven-month-old Tahani* receives life-saving nutrition at a Concern-supported health clinic. Photo: Kieran McConville/Concern Worldwide



Sudan in focus

In a year marked by multiple crises, Sudan remains one of the world's most urgent humanitarian emergencies. Here's an update on our life-saving emergency response, made possible by supporters like you.

A combination of conflict, climate disasters, displacement and a hunger crisis have created a complex emergency that's affecting nearly half of the population of Sudan.

Thanks to the solidarity of our supporters in Ireland, our teams and local partners are making a life-changing difference in Sudan.

Looking back on the past year, we are deeply moved by our donors' generosity. We want to thank everyone, from those who give monthly to the 4,000 people who answered our Christmas appeal.

Over the last year, we've expanded our emergency response, supporting health clinics that are lifelines for communities. In extremely challenging circumstances, the dedicated teams of doctors and healthcare workers we partner with have travelled to health facilities in hard-hit regions.

Together, we provided vital medication and nutrition supplies while staffing health clinics that offer life-saving treatment and care. We're also providing emergency survival

kits to many families who have been displaced.

As always, children are most vulnerable to hunger. Concern-supported health clinics are a vital service for thousands of malnourished children in Sudan. One of these children was Tahani*, a seven-month-old baby boy who arrived at a Concern-supported health clinic severely malnourished. Thanks to the therapeutic food provided by donors like you, we're glad to report that Tahani is now recovering.

Our work in Sudan is far from over, and we are determined to do whatever it takes to reach even more vulnerable families. As this crisis continues, your support remains the heartbeat of our life-saving work. Together, we will keep bringing relief and hope to those who need it most.

483,991
people supported in Sudan

8,312
children treated for severe malnutrition

*Names have been changed to protect identities.

A community enterprise

Bangladesh is a nation with an unshakable spirit, but much of its population are facing some of the worst effects of the climate crisis. Its location and low-lying land make it vulnerable to floods, as well as droughts. In urban areas, many people live with serious economic instability. With your support, Concern is working with people in urban areas to build sustainable incomes.



THE URBAN GREEN GRADUATION PROGRAMME

Our enterprise-focused programme provides start-up grants and training in areas like agriculture, textiles and technology to give people the resources they need to support their families in the long term.

Crucially for Bangladesh, the work includes disaster and climate-risk management, with community-led projects such as how to manage and mitigate the effects of waterlogging after heavy rainfall or flooding.

PARVIN'S STORY

One incredible success story is Parvin (pictured above), who

Above: Parvin (38), harvesting vegetables from her garden to sell in the local market.

transformed a plot of disused land beside her home into a thriving commercial farm.

Thanks to the training you've helped fund, she now grows vegetables and raises chickens, supporting her family of six while contributing to her community's food supply. Parvin said:

"I am now self-sufficient, growing my own food and selling my own produce. I never imagined this was possible before!"

12,500

lives changed through this programme

A RADICAL APPROACH

To have maximum impact, our programme focuses on the most marginalised communities, giving people the support and resources they need to start eco-friendly and sustainable businesses.

In doing so, people can leave poverty behind and generate incomes that also protect the natural environment. Over time, this will help 20,000 families to create lasting and resilient livelihoods.

Below: Programme participant, Md. Khalil (51), is now raising goats and chickens, as well as birds like these as pets.



RABEYA'S STORY

The effect of the programme has been life changing, especially for people like Rabeya (pictured above).

Once uncertain about her future, she completed vocational training in how to assemble solar panel circuits. By working with Concern, Rabeya has secured a job that is enabling her to financially support her family. Now, she is saving for her undergraduate studies and her dreams of higher education are becoming reality.

Rabeya told us, "I never dreamed I would be able to get a job and continue my studies. Now, I am dreaming even bigger – of completing my degree and reaching the top jobs in my field!"

Above: Rabeya (20) assembling circuits for solar controller boxes.

CHANGE FOR GENERATIONS TO COME

There are thousands more success stories, alongside Rabeya's and Parvin's. Thanks to the support of donors like you, over 12,500 individuals have already built sustainable livelihoods, all while safeguarding their communities from environmental threats. The ripple effect of this change

is immense: as families gain financial independence, entire communities grow stronger. With each new opportunity, futures are rewritten, hopes are reignited, and people can leave poverty for good.

This change is only possible because of you. Your generosity is having a lasting impact – not just for today, but for generations to come.

Progress in pictures

When the news is full of devastating headlines, here are some stories of hope. These pictures are snapshots of the progress, resilience and joy made possible by your kind support.



“LEARNING TOGETHER” IN NIGER

In Niger, our “Learning Together” partnership with the French Development Agency has seen the construction of 213 school buildings across 62 schools, training for 1,500 teachers and the launch of remote learning so children affected by the conflict can keep learning and build a better future.

Photo: Concern Worldwide

REBUILDING LIVELIHOODS IN UKRAINE

Due to war, Ivan and his family had to flee their home and thriving garlic farm in search of safety in west Ukraine. But with a grant from Concern, Ivan was able to buy the equipment he needed to start over in the family’s new home.

Photo: Iryna Kotelnikova/JERU

“
The grant gave us hope. We realised that we can do something. This is the most important thing.”

Ivan, Ukraine



WATER RESTORATION IN YEMEN

While conflict and climate change have led to ongoing drought in Yemen, Concern teams are working hard alongside communities to make sure more people can access clean water.

Photo: Ammar Khalaf/Concern Worldwide



13,000

people supported at
this health clinic



HELPING MOTHERS DELIVER SAFELY IN THE DRC

In the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), we’re supporting health clinics like the M’toa Health Centre, which is a lifeline for 13,000 people. Here, we’re helping to provide free maternity care, so that mothers like Elisa can give birth safely.

Photo: Eugene Ikua/Concern Worldwide

GET THE LATEST STORY

You can keep up with all the latest updates about the progress you’re helping power, and our hopes for the future, at concern.net/news

Raising each other up

In Malawi, our RAISE Project has been working with families such as Hariet and Alani's to help them start businesses and support themselves, by providing cash transfers along with training in farming and business management. Here's their story.

What was life like before the project started?

Hariet: In the past, we had problems with food shortages. We weren't able to run a business, so we had to do small jobs for other people. But now we see poverty is declining, and in a few years' time we hope we will no longer be struggling with poverty.

“

Life started to change. We started living happily.”

Hariet, Malawi

What support did you have with the RAISE Project?

Hariet: Concern helped us with training in farming and running a business, and gave us monthly cash transfers. With that, we have started a grocery shop, and bought goats and chickens.

We've also been able to expand our irrigation farm, so we can collect and distribute water to our crops even during dry periods.

Has the project helped your children?

Alani: Since we started receiving the money, we can buy pens and school uniforms for the children so

Alani (60) and Hariet (50) live in Kasuza village with their children. Their main work is farming and they run a grocery shop.



that they can attend school. This is very important because they are the future.

What are your hopes for the future?

Hariet: We don't want the progress to finish at this level. If possible in the future, we want to buy land where we can raise cows and more goats.

We profit a lot from the training and crop diversification, and we are also able to help others with the same crops.

Hariet and her daughter, Roda, with a family goat bought with help from Concern.



Left: Concern's partner, CESVI, distributes water to displaced people in Deir Al-Balah, Gaza.

Below: In Gaza, thousands of families like Fatima's have been displaced by the conflict and need urgent support.



Ready for anything

Your support means that when an emergency strikes, we're able to act quickly and save lives. Emergency Director, Peter Doyle, shares the inside track on how we respond to a crisis.

When an emergency strikes, our teams look to take action within the first 24-48 hours. In conflict or a natural disaster, our initial response depends on whether Concern is already in the country, or if we need to rapidly deploy somewhere new.

In 2024, we responded to 50 emergencies in 22 countries, reaching over 6.8 million people.

In all cases, we look to maximise our impact by going to places other organisations might struggle to get to. The loyalty of our supporters is essential: donations and, in particular, monthly gifts mean that we can act immediately.

We work closely with local communities as they are always the first responders in a crisis. And in every kind of emergency, we channel our resources and expertise to where they are needed most.

Right now, we're responding to severe crises around the world, notably Sudan, Yemen, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Ukraine and Gaza.

In Gaza, we're having to adapt to meet the severe challenges of getting support to the region.

To do this, we're working with our partner CESVI, who

have been working in Gaza for decades and have a strong Palestinian team on the ground.

Together, we're supporting life-saving work around water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) projects. In addition, our Concern WASH engineer is providing technical assistance to Palestinian teams to help fix problems remotely, and provide more water and sanitation.

The facts are, right now, the need for humanitarian support is rising, while aid budgets have been cut. Today, our emergency response work would not be possible without the generosity of the Irish public. So, on behalf of all of us – thank you.

In these difficult times, your support is more important than ever.

The reality of the refugee crisis

The global refugee crisis is one of the greatest humanitarian challenges of our time. Today, 123 million people worldwide have been forced to flee their homes because of war, the climate crisis and political instability. Sadly, there is also a lot of misinformation that can have harmful consequences for people everywhere.

While the number of people being displaced is huge, it's also true that 60% of people who have had to flee remain in their home countries.

Most people who do have to leave their country of origin flee to neighbouring countries. Lebanon, for example, has taken in 1.5 million Syrian refugees, while Chad has welcomed 1.2 million people from Sudan, despite facing their own troubles as a country.

More than half of all refugees are women and children, holding onto hope for a

better future. The Concern community is committed to being there to support them. Thanks to the kindness of people like you we can provide assistance to families who have lost everything, as well as the communities who welcome them.

But our long-term goals go far beyond immediate relief; we are working to create lasting solutions that help families to return home safely and start anew. From restoring wells in Yemen to rebuilding schools in Syria and helping Ukrainian families regain their livelihoods, every action taken is a step towards recovery for communities.

The compassion shown to those forced from their homes is remarkable. Ireland understands hardship – we have lived it, endured it and risen above it with strength and generosity. That spirit of resilience and solidarity is woven into our identity and it is because of supporters like you that we can continue to extend a hand to those in need.

KEY STATISTICS ABOUT THE CRISIS

- 123 million people worldwide have been forced to flee their homes
- 73.5 million refugees are displaced within their own countries
- Over half of all refugees are women and children



Above: Dalia's* (39) life was dramatically altered when the war in Syria forced her to flee her home and seek safety in Lebanon. Concern is working to help more Syrian refugees and the Lebanese communities who are hosting them. Photo: Concern Worldwide

Your generosity transforms hardship into hope, fear into courage, and uncertainty into new beginnings. With you, change is not just possible – it is happening.

WATCH TO LEARN MORE

To understand more about contributing factors to the refugee crisis, watch our informative videos [here: youtube.com/concernworldwide](https://www.youtube.com/concernworldwide)



A MARATHON EFFORT!

A huge thank you to all our incredible fundraisers who ran marathons, climbed mountains, collected donations and organised amazing community events. A special shoutout to everyone running the Dublin Marathon this year – just one inspiring example of the many who continue to go above and beyond.

Above: Dublin Marathon runner Aisling getting a boost from the Concern staff team – every cheer counts on the road to the finish line! Photo: Karen Morgan/Concern Worldwide

THINGS ARE LUCAN BRIGHT!

Students of St Joseph's College in Lucan raised an incredible €1,172 for Concern with their annual sponsored walk. With every step along the trail, they carried a message of compassion and community spirit to raise funds for people in the world's poorest and most vulnerable countries.

Below: Staff and students of St Joseph's College Lucan and Olga Brodescu, Concern Debates and Volunteers Programme Officer. Photo: Concern Worldwide



Community in action

From fabulous fundraisers to lively debates, have a read of what your amazing Concern community has been up to over the past year, in Ireland.



VOICES OF THE FUTURE

Concern's school debates are an annual highlight, giving young people the opportunity to engage with complex global issues. We're so proud of all the schools across Ireland who debated so passionately. Congratulations to Laurel Hill Secondary School FCJ, Limerick, for their win!

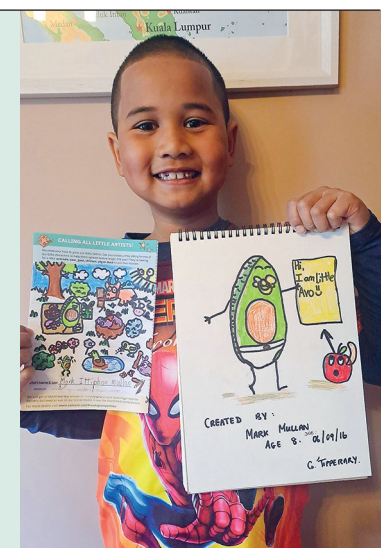
Above: Laurel Hill Secondary School winners from left to right: Zoe Norris-Cable, Ellie McCaffrey, Aida Hehir and Prisca Afolabi. Photo: Karen Morgan/Concern Worldwide

GIFTED YOUNG ARTISTS

Thank you to everyone who entered our Concern Gifts art competition, spreading joy with their amazing creations. Congratulations to eight-year-old Mark from

Tipperary, who won our bonus "Best Worldbuilding" prize. Keep an eye out for this year's Christmas Gifts campaign to see the winning character!

Above: Mark, age eight, with his fantastic creation. Photo: Mark's parents



WHAT A GIFT IN YOUR WILL CAN DO

Including Concern in your Will can transform lives for countless families long into the future.

Leaving a legacy with Concern could support vulnerable families like Marium* (pictured below) and her daughter Tayma* in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh. Your gift can provide life-saving nutritional support and long-term agricultural training, ensuring brighter futures for generations to come.

Together, we can help people leave extreme poverty behind, whatever it takes.

For more information on leaving a gift in your Will, tick the box on the donation form and post it back to us, or contact our Legacy Manager Siobhán O'Connor.

Tel: 01 417 8020 **Email:** legacy@concern.net