



Invitation to Tender

Evaluation of Ireland's Civil Society Programme, Concern Worldwide

1. Background

Concern Worldwide seeks to engage a consultant(s) to evaluate programmes funded under Ireland's Civil Society Partnership (ICSP) for A Better World scheme.

ICSP for A Better World is a five-year funding mechanism (2023 – 2027) that supports ten Irish civil society partners. It is a requirement of the ICSP scheme to conduct an external, independent evaluation of programmes funded under the scheme. This evaluation will satisfy this requirement for Concern Worldwide as a partner in the scheme.

This evaluation will take place in the fourth year of a five-year programme (in 2026) and will be a **cross-sectional, theory-based evaluation**. It will assess the programme at a defined point in time, drawing on available evidence from 2023 to 2026 to examine causal pathways, actual and emerging outcomes.

The closing date for proposals is 12pm (Dublin time) 7th May 2026.

To receive the full Terms of Reference and relevant annexes, interested parties should email ICSP.Evaluation@concern.net with the subject '*Request for full ToR – ICSP Final Evaluation*'.

2. Description of the programme being evaluated

Programmes funded under ICSP contribute to Ireland's foreign policy priorities, particularly Ireland's overseas development policy, [A Better World](#).

The ICSP is composed of four funding streams: Long-term Development (LTD), Chronic Humanitarian Crises (CHC), Acute Humanitarian Crises Stream (ACS), and Global Citizenship Education (GCE). Additionally, there is a climate allocation integrated into the programme.

The ICSP streams are implemented by Concern in the following modalities:

- The Long-term Development programme reduces hunger, extreme poverty and the impacts of climate change through five thematic programmes and support to research and actions to improve programme quality;
- The Chronic Humanitarian Crises programme delivers responses that link relief to early recovery, reduces communities’ vulnerability and builds capacity to respond to future disasters;
- The Acute Humanitarian Crisis Stream supports immediate response to rapid onset emergencies;
- The all-island GCE programme explores the root causes of poverty, encourage critical thinking and promote meaningful action. evaluation. **The GCE stream falls outside the scope of this ToR and will be evaluated separately.**

The ICSP programme is implemented by Concern in 22 countries including 16 countries as part of the LTD stream, 12 countries as part of the CHC stream, and in 2025, seven responses were implemented as part of the ACS stream for which country selection is determined by the emergency responses in any one year.

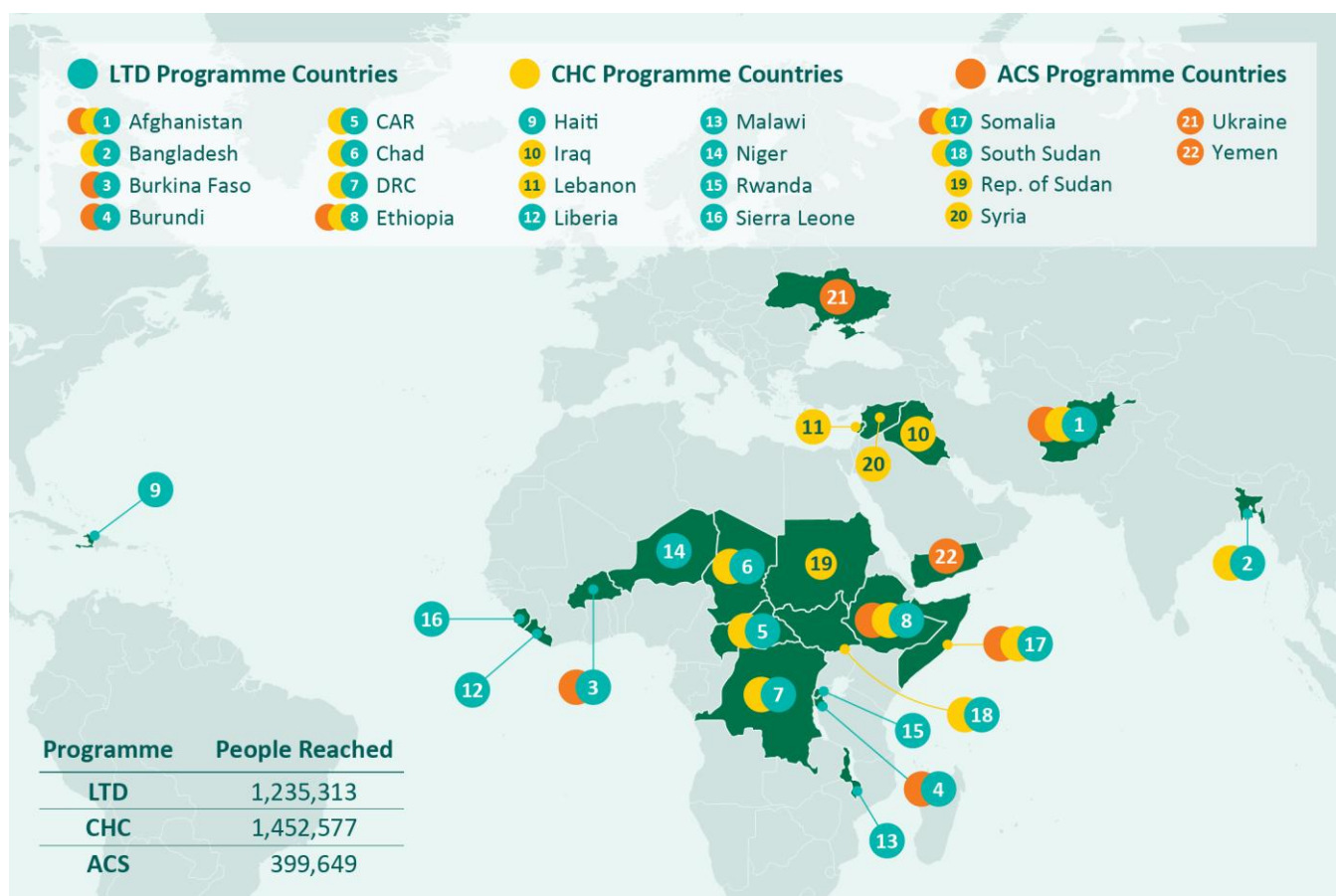


Figure 1: Map of Concern’s ICSP LTD and CHC programmes and ACS-funded responses in 2025

3. Purpose and objectives of the evaluation

To support Concern’s commitment to accountability to programme participants, institutional and public donors, through assessing the good practices, gaps and adjusting the learnings in future programmes, this independent evaluation seeks to:

- Assess the performance, delivery and impact of the ICSP programme implemented by Concern both in terms of the **contribution of the individual streams** (LTD, CHC, ACS) and in terms of the **overall portfolio and programme of work**.
- Assess Concern’s ICSP programme and the individual streams against **the thematic and process outcomes of the ICSP strategic framework** and against the relevant **OECD-DAC criteria** and **core Concern policies and approaches**.
- Identify learning and good practice to inform **the design of the successor to the next iteration of the ICSP** and the **work and programmes of Concern Worldwide** in fragile and conflict affected contexts.
- Identify learning and good practice from the **individual streams** of the ICSP and the **overall programmatic approach** from design through implementation and adaptation, with specific focus on the following themes – reaching the **Furthest Behind First, Locally Led Development and the Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus**. The evaluators are expected to provide **actionable recommendations** against all of these elements.

This evaluation is structured to address the **mandatory ICSP evaluation questions set out in the Irish Aid guidance**, with additional questions included to reflect Concern’s programme priorities.

4. Evaluation scope

The evaluation will cover **the following components of the ICSP programme implemented by Concern**:

- LTD stream and the research and climate elements of this stream;
- CHC stream;
- ACS responses;
- Country programmes where ICSP activities are implemented (see figure 1: Map of ICSP);
- Head office initiatives focused on programme quality.

As a Year 4 cross-sectional evaluation, the evaluation will assess programme performance and emerging results over the period 2023–2026, drawing on available documentation, monitoring data, and primary data collected during the evaluation. A limitation of this approach is that, at the time of the evaluation, monitoring data against the baseline are only available up to the end of Year 3 (2025). The overall evaluation will include **at least 5 country programme evaluations** (country-level evaluations).

5. Plan for Evaluation implementation (including key dates)

The evaluation must be completed and all reports finalised by **30th November 2026**.

An initial tentative timeline for the evaluation is presented below. Proposals are expected to be feasible and include a recommended workplan. The final timeline / workplan will be agreed jointly with the consultants(s) and Concern.

Activity	Deliverable	Timing/Deadline
Tender closing date		12pm Dublin time 7 th May 2026
Interviews of shortlisted bidders	Tender award	Week of 18 th May
Contracting	Applicants informed and contract negotiation starts	Week of 25 th May
Desk review of available data	Inception report presented to Steering Committee	Week of 30 th June
Evaluation across sample countries and support offices	At least 5 country-level evaluation reports	By 30 th September
Synthesis	Validation workshop	October 2026
Draft report		By 31 st October
Feedback and discussions, final report and findings	Final validated report	By 30 th November 2026

6. Technical and financial offer for proposals

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