

CONCERN IN THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO – 2025

CONCERN
worldwide

Factsheet compiled in 2026



*Kyakimwa Dorcas (46), displaced by armed attacks, attends tailoring training to help rebuild her household's livelihood in Beni, North Kivu, as part of the FCDO-funded EAST programme.
Photo: Concern Worldwide*

Humanitarian Overview

For decades, one of the world's deadliest, longest running crises has been unfolding in the DRC and the humanitarian situation deteriorated significantly in 2025, as intensifying armed conflict in the eastern provinces, repeated population displacements, disease outbreaks, and economic disruption deepened the suffering of affected communities. Despite diplomatic efforts throughout the year, clashes continued on the ground, with North Kivu recording some of the highest levels of forced displacement. OCHA estimates that **one in twenty people is currently displaced** in the country. Rising insecurity severely restricted access to essential services, and the collapse of basic infrastructure deepened the acute nutrition crisis and facilitated the spread of diseases. The crisis in the DRC has therefore become chronic, encompassing political instability, security challenges, and a severe humanitarian crisis.

According to OCHA, **21.2 million people in the DRC required humanitarian assistance** in 2025, including emergency food assistance (17.6 million), urgent health services (12.9 million), civilian protection (7.9 million), and gender-based violence and WASH support (6.2 million people in each category).

Total Number of Direct Programme Participants in 2025: 480,289

Concern Worldwide in the DRC

Concern has been working in DRC since 1994. Part of our work has been to address the country's decades long humanitarian crisis, particularly in Eastern DRC. In 2025, **Concern continued to provide emergency support to vulnerable communities through livelihoods support, cash assistance, protection, health and nutrition and WASH interventions**, while integrating protection and gender-transformative approaches across all activities. Changing contexts required adaptability in our programmes to respond effectively to emerging needs, adapting our response to displacement from displacement sites to host communities when those closed, and maintaining our work and presence through contextual changes. Concern also continued implementing development interventions and community resilience-building projects, ensuring that all initiatives promoted gender equality, inclusion, and protection.

In 2025 and thanks to funding from Irish Aid, FCDO, and ECHO, Concern supported **480,289** people across Goma, Masisi, Beni, Rutshuru, Lubero, Kalemie, Kabalo, and Nyunzu through emergency and integrated multisectoral programmes, reaching over 53% women and girls.

In 2026, our team will continue to work to deliver the greatest possible impact for those left furthest behind.

Emergency Programmes

The DRC mission continues to maintain a strong operational focus on emergency response, with three active programmes. Concern responds through integrated, multisectoral approaches combining MPCA, WASH, protection and livelihoods, enabling a rapid yet comprehensive response to urgent needs while mitigating protection risks and supporting early recovery. All our emergency programming in 2025 was concentrated in North Kivu, where protracted and evolving armed conflict continues to drive large-scale displacement, repeated shocks and acute humanitarian needs among displaced, returnee and host communities.

11 emergency responses were conducted, 8 as part of SAFER, our emergency response dedicated programme.

In total, an emergency response was provided to **384,102** people, either through programmes designed for emergency response, or through the adaptation of existing programmes to meet the urgent needs of the communities.

369,405 people received emergency assistance through our SAFER programme, responding to OCHA alerts, and focusing on MPCA, WASH and integrated protection.

Water, Hygiene, Sanitation (WASH)

In 2025, four multisectoral programmes with an integrated WASH component were implemented in the North Kivu and Tanganyika provinces, combining emergency, resilience, and development activities. Overall, a total of 361,861 people, benefited from Concern's WASH interventions and expertise.

26,500 people benefited from sanitation interventions, and construction of 1,325 emergency family latrines in North Kivu.

86,917 people were reached in Tanganyika through the rehabilitation of health facility infrastructure and new construction, including water systems, latrines, showers, and lighting.

Hygiene promotion activities reached **29,000** people, and 500 hygiene kits, 500 menstrual hygiene kits, and 500 cholera kits were distributed or prepositioned in health facilities in Masisi territory, in North Kivu.

In Kabalo, Tanganyika, water supply interventions benefited **10,062** people through ten boreholes, and the water treatment unit served 12,300 people per month.

Food Security and Livelihood

Across the DRC mission, the livelihood component is a core pillar underpinning both emergency and recovery programming, combining cash assistance, income-generating activities, savings mechanisms and skills development to strengthen household resilience in fragile contexts. Livelihoods interventions are tailored to context, linking short-term coping support with longer-term economic recovery, financial inclusion and asset building. While approaches differ between conflict-affected emergency settings and more stable contexts, Concern's livelihoods programming in DRC emphasises sustainability, promotes social cohesion and strengthens the capacity of vulnerable households to withstand recurrent shocks, including climate related shocks that threaten communities impacted by them.

701 households graduated through Concern's Green Graduation Programme, funded by Irish Aid and implemented in Tanganyika. The programme combines cash assistance, livelihoods support, environmental protection, and income generating activities.

Distribution of **1,000** fruit trees (orange and lemon) and **6,500** eucalyptus seedlings, and the establishment of six environmental Farmer Field Schools

1,412 households were supported to start income-generating activities. In parallel, **2,622** households took part in for Cash for Work activities.

Health and Nutrition

In 2025, Concern continued the implementation of its health and nutrition programming in Tanganyika under the EAST project in Nyunzu and Kalemie. The nutrition component focused on treating children under five with severe acute malnutrition. The health component focused on strengthening community health workers with trainings, while supporting supply and transport of medicines. Concern supported primary healthcare services, providing free care for children under five, as well as for pregnant and lactating women. For women, free services covered reproductive health, including antenatal care, childbirth, postnatal follow-up, newborn care and care during pregnancy.

1,031 children aged 6–59 months were treated through our nutrition programming.

19,600 children were screened for malnutrition.

2,593 deliveries were assisted by qualified health personnel.

ACROSS OUR PROGRAMMES

Gender transformative approach and equality and inclusion

Concern delivered gender-transformative and inclusion-focused activities to a total of 1,726 households engaged in livelihood programmes, including 1,450 female-headed households. The programme's awareness-raising activities reached over 84,000 people across all sectors, covering gender equity, social cohesion, and community dialogue. These interventions **strengthened women's economic and social decision-making power, improved community cohesion, and promoted inclusive participation**, including for marginalized groups.

Individuals received targeted training, couples participated in sessions aimed at **transforming harmful social norms**, and awareness raising campaigns reached a total of 13,810 people, contributing to reduced risks of violence and more inclusive participation across programme activities. Through our work, we saw an increase in the conjoined decision-making between men and women in the household, and efficient prevention of violence against women.



Nyemba, Tanganyika – In their courtyard, a simple gesture tells a powerful story of change. Gislain Kakudji helps his wife prepare sombé after attending gender-transformative awareness sessions.

Climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction

The effects of climate change are increasingly visible in DRC, with communities facing recurrent flooding, rising water levels around Lake Tanganyika, soil erosion, heatwaves and more frequent climatic shocks. In response, **Concern integrated climate adaptation measures within key programmes**. Technical, social, and organisational measures ensured that WASH, agricultural, and livelihood activities strengthened community capacity to anticipate and respond to climatic shocks. By promoting renewable energy through solar installations, responsible water and waste management, reforestation, and active community stewardship, interventions contributed to **longterm sustainability and resilience in vulnerable communities**.

Protection and Conflict transformation

Conflict sensitivity has become a critical programming priority in 2025, particularly in North Kivu. Our teams focused on adapting activities and revising gender and protection tools, thereby **strengthening community acceptance while enhancing staff safety**.

Concern strengthened its presence in humanitarian coordination fora, including national and provincial protection clusters and GBV sub-clusters. Concern DRC implemented a number of protection specific activities, including reaching 97,969 people through awareness-raising sessions in North-Kivu and Tanganyika, protection cash assistance, psychosocial support, referencing and case management for gender-based violence victims, as well as **conflict-sensitivity approaches integrated in all our programmes**. In 2026, the mission will strengthen its capacity in Community-Based Protection and conflict transformation while continuing to **adapt to a changing context** and the resulting operational difficulties in implementing protection activities.

Partnerships

Recognising the added value of local ownership, Concern collaborated with eight local and national NGO partners on resilience and development projects. **Tailored capacity-strengthening plans were developed** for each partner to ensure quality programming. Concern engaged extensively with state structures, community leaders, and local focal points across all projects. These partnerships enabled Concern to involve government authorities and communities at multiple levels of project execution, **fostering ownership, continuity, and the institutionalisation of good practices**.

Representation, Advocacy and Influencing

Strategic advocacy and communication contributed to the recognition of growing humanitarian needs amid underfunding and helped redirect attention to neglected regions and issues. **Despite the acute crisis, Concern maintained a continuous presence on the ground**, enhancing community acceptance and reinforcing its reputation as a reliable and committed actor, which **facilitated direct dialogue and improved humanitarian access**. Multimedia content, including exhibitions in Belfast and London, further increased visibility of the humanitarian crisis, and influenced partners to integrate key advocacy messages into their communications and operational priorities. All year, Concern works alongside other INGOs present in DRC to **guarantee access in all zones and continuously support the furthest behind**. Our advocacy priorities for 2026 will focus on training and capacity strengthening for Concern and its local partners, as well as the development of research and evidence to support our advocacy efforts.