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Concerned

SUMMER 2026



CONCERN
worldwide

Read and enjoy *Concerned*, your supporter newsletter filled with inspiring updates from the people you're empowering around the world.



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Welcome to Concerned

It is my pleasure to welcome you to this year's edition of *Concerned*, bringing you important stories and updates on the progress you are helping to power around the world.

We are living through challenging times, but your compassion is a constant reminder that strength comes from unity – and that incredible things are possible when we work together. In the pages ahead, you will hear the stories of people whose lives have changed because of this collective work.

I am especially glad to share an incredible milestone. After years in Rwanda, our programmes have helped transform lives, and now our local partners can carry people forward. We are saying a fond farewell to the country, knowing we have truly helped others.

I also want to thank everyone who sent us such encouraging messages of support and shared their thoughts on last year's newsletter. This work would not be possible without the generosity of the people of Ireland, so we shaped this edition around what you told us you care about: from finding hope amid conflict to helping children grow and thrive around the world.

I hope you enjoy reading this edition.
Go raibh míle maith agat,

D. Crowley

Dominic Crowley
CEO of Concern Worldwide



ON THE COVER

Women walking to immunise their babies
at an outreach station in Rwanda (2002).
Photo: Pieterella Pieterse/Concern Worldwide



Beating hunger together

Over the past year, many of you generously responded to our appeals to help families facing hunger. Thanks to your generosity, thousands of children like Basam* have received the urgent care they needed – helping them recover from life-threatening malnutrition and giving them a chance at a healthy start.

Around the world, conflict and climate shocks have pushed hunger to devastating levels. But we're responding.

By acting early and effectively, we can reach families with practical, life-saving care.

This care includes providing therapeutic food to help malnourished children recover, and fortified flour that prevents hunger from taking hold.

It also means backing dedicated Community Health Workers and clinic staff treating malnutrition every single day, and supporting mobile health clinics to get care to displaced families rapidly. Together, we are working towards a future without hunger.

638,966
people helped through
our health and nutrition
programmes in 2025

Left: Marie* (28), mother of Celéstin* (10 months), visited the Buguri Health Centre to collect nutritional supplements for her daughter, who has been receiving treatment for acute malnutrition. Photo: Concern Worldwide

Below: 10-month-old Basam* has now recovered from malnutrition thanks to treatment provided by Concern. Photo: Ammar Khalaf/Concern Worldwide



BASAM'S* STORY

You may remember Basam from our Baby Hunger Appeal last Christmas. When he arrived at a Concern-supported clinic, he was dangerously undernourished.

Today, thanks to consistent treatment and follow-up care, Basam has fully recovered and is now healthy and thriving. The impact of your support is truly life-saving.

While this progress is remarkable, the work is far from over. The recovery of children like Basam depends on the commitment of supporters like you. Together, we can continue changing lives in devastating circumstances.

Farewell to Rwanda

Responding to a humanitarian crisis means acting fast to save lives. But the true measure of our work is not only in our actions – it’s how we help communities recover and build a future where they can truly flourish. After 32 years of partnership, we are saying a proud and heartfelt farewell to Rwanda.

Together, we are looking back at the powerful recovery made by communities, and how our early response work helped lay the foundations for people to rebuild their lives in the long term.

50%
Since the early 2000s, Rwanda has more than halved its poverty rates



Our work in Rwanda began in 1994 in response to the genocide, when more than 800,000 people were killed in under 100 days.

Our first priority was providing life-saving assistance to families, children and communities affected, including emergency food,

The construction of 46 houses in Kibayi region with the support of Concern, UNHCR and UNWFP (1998). Photo: Lucy Enfield/Concern Worldwide

shelter and healthcare, and supporting refugee camps.

Helping people to recover from such devastation can

take decades of compassionate support and careful planning. From reuniting families and loved ones to working with communities for long-term recovery, we made sure we were there every step of the way to help people overcome hunger and poverty.

By the 2010s, the green shoots of recovery were starting to show, leading the way to real transformation. Our Graduation programmes provided families with the tools, training and financial support they needed to start their own livelihoods and build for the future. Over time, families became more economically secure and started to thrive.

In June of this year, we reached an important milestone that represents everything that we hoped to achieve, thanks to your generous support. We have now left Rwanda, having

“
*I have peace
in my heart.”*

*Charlotte, Green
Graduation participant*

supported local leaders and communities to continue on their incredible progress. We see this departure as the truest measure of success: leaving communities equipped with the strength and resilience to blossom without any external support.

As we reflect, we do so with deep gratitude. To the Rwandan communities who welcomed and guided us. To the national and international staff whose dedication shaped this work.

And to our supporters, whose steadfast generosity made lasting change possible. Thank you.



CHARLOTTE’S STORY
Charlotte and her husband, Joel, are just one family whose lives have been transformed through our Green Graduation Programme. “Before, our life was not going well,” she told us. “Then Concern gave us support to build a house.”

With a new kitchen garden, Charlotte was able to grow and sell crops. She also received money to buy some chickens and a goat. Charlotte now has a sustainable supply of nourishing eggs and milk for her family, as well as more produce to sell. “We have made money to send both of our children to school. Other people learn from us. We are happy. This is a good change.”

Above: Charlotte Bankundiye (33) and Joel Nkurunziza (37) live and farm in Muganza, Gisagara. Photo: Eugene Ikua/Concern Worldwide



1994

In the aftermath of the genocide, we delivered life-saving assistance including providing food and shelter, and reuniting separated families.



1995-2010

As well as continuing to help people recover, we focused on tackling malnutrition, supporting farmers and helping to reduce poverty.



2011-2022

The Graduation Programme began, supporting lasting solutions by enabling communities to build their livelihoods.



2024

With communities making strong recoveries, we focused our efforts on supporting local leadership so that progress powers on.



2026

This year, with our programmes proudly handed over, communities in Rwanda are building strong futures for generations to come.

Photos: Liam Burke/Press 22; Pieterella Pieterse/Concern Worldwide/Concern Worldwide; Robin Wyatt/Concern Worldwide

Both photos: Eugene Ikua/Concern Worldwide



GROWING HEALTHY IN YEMEN

Years of conflict and the worsening climate crisis have pushed many families in Yemen into poverty. But thanks to Concern's supporters, over 10,400 people, including thousands of children like Rahim*, can now access essential care and nutrition through our specialist health programmes.

Photo: Concern Worldwide



BABY HOMECARE IN BURUNDI

In Burundi, we're supporting infant health through our maternal and primary care services. By providing home visits, more mothers like Prisca and her seven-month-old baby, Bruno, can stay healthy, nourished and protected from diseases.

Photo: Eugene Ikua/Concern Worldwide

Progress in pictures

When we work together, we can help children flourish now and in the future. These snapshots are just a few examples of this work in action, made possible because of kind people like you.

RESTORING WATER FOR GAZA'S SCHOOLCHILDREN

We are working with our partner, CESVI, to ensure children in Gaza can access a reliable source of clean drinking water. This includes 11-year-old Nadeem's* school, where the repaired system is now reaching thousands of students.

Photo: Aya Matrabie/Fairpicture/DEC

1,400

students in Gaza provided with clean drinking water



CLEAN WATER FOR PAKISTAN'S CHILDREN

As drought continues to affect communities across Pakistan, we're building more water pumps and wells so children and families can always access clean, safe water.

Photo: Arif Shad/Concern Worldwide



KEEPING CHILDREN LEARNING IN LIBERIA

In Liberia, children who have previously missed out on school for financial reasons can now go to a Concern-supported learning centre. Here, they are learning to read and write as part of an accelerated programme, with many beginning to imagine new possibilities for their future.

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 the people whose lives are changed thanks to you, at concern.net/news

Care that changes lives

In remote areas of Afghanistan, women and children face severe barriers to healthcare. In response, we have opened eight women-led clinics to support children and their families. Masouda Jamshidi, our Reproductive Health Specialist, trains midwives there and shares her experience from the frontline of care.

What is your clinic like?

The atmosphere inside our clinic is welcoming, safe and supportive for women and their families. From the moment they arrive, women feel respected and comfortable when discussing their health concerns, knowing they will be cared for by a skilled, female-led team.

500+

children were born safely in our clinics in the first year

What do you do?

For mothers, we offer antenatal care, early detection of pregnancy complications and safe delivery services. Our postnatal services support both mothers and children, including breastfeeding support, monitoring for complications and management of common illnesses. Importantly, we also provide urgent treatment for moderate and severe acute malnutrition.

What's the impact?

Before the clinics were established, preventable maternal and neonatal deaths, and infectious



Seven-month-old Farid* was treated alongside his siblings at one of our women-led clinics. Photo: Nava Jamshidi/Concern Worldwide

diseases were significantly higher because care was delayed or simply inaccessible. Today, the new health facility means mothers can access the support they need quickly and safely.

Do you have a message for supporters?

The women we work with every day are incredibly resilient. Despite facing extreme challenges, including limited access to education, healthcare restrictions and economic hardships, they continue to fight for the health and wellbeing of themselves and their children.

This project with Concern means not only delivering urgent care, but also creating a lasting positive impact for vulnerable families.

With support, baby Armin* has recovered from severe acute malnutrition. Photo: Nava Jamshidi/Concern Worldwide



Left: Natalia* (8) and Sofia* (7) attend a children's PSS play therapy session in Kharkiv. Photo: Jon Hozier-Byrne/Concern Worldwide

Below: Previously based in Kharkiv city, Larysa* and her family had to flee home as a result of aerial bombardment in 2022. Photo: Jon Hozier-Byrne/Concern Worldwide



Resilience and recovery

For families across Ukraine, the war has brought years of uncertainty, disruption and loss. Air raid alerts, damaged homes, power cuts and separation from loved ones have become devastating parts of daily life. This is why psychosocial support is such a vital part of Concern's response in Ukraine.

Alongside our local partners, we're helping people who have been living with the effects of war for years. We provide cash support for essentials, like food, as well as psychosocial support to help adults and children start processing trauma. This helps them rebuild a sense of control

over their lives and connect with their community.

Larysa* is one of the many mothers who have been attending these sessions. For her, they offer both practical tools and something just as important: solidarity. In group sessions, they learn techniques like breathing exercises to help manage anxiety. And they share experiences with others who truly understand what they are going through.

"People take the opportunity to share their stories in these sessions and seek support, especially those who have lost loved ones or have family still

serving," Larysa says. "This training is very important to them."

She describes how powerful it is to realise you are not alone, even after years of conflict and loss. "Ukrainians are so strong mentally and physically and I am proud to be Ukrainian," she adds.

For children, psychosocial support takes place in safe spaces where the counselling sessions involve play and gentle art-based activities. These sessions give children rare moments of calm where they can express their feelings, and to simply be children again.

Your support means people like Larysa receive help that truly makes a difference: support that helps them cope, connect and keep going.

“People take the opportunity to share their stories in these sessions.”

Larysa*, session attendee

Our Shared Ground



Our email series, *Shared Ground*, explores the connections between people in Ireland and the communities we work with around the world, such as the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). These connections are shaped by history, culture and our shared values such as resilience, care for the land – and hope for the future.

As August begins, many of us recognise Lughnasa – an old Irish turning point of the year when the first fruits are gathered.

Traditionally, it was a time for neighbours to come together; for gratitude, fairs, music and food. It also invites us to acknowledge something enduring – how deeply we

depend on the land and on one another.

For the farming families Concern works with in the DRC, this moment carries the same weight. Harvest is not symbolic; it is survival, determining whether children eat, whether seeds are saved and whether families can face the months ahead with dignity.

But despite the country’s vast agricultural potential, many people rely on small plots and a narrow range of staple crops, just as Ireland once had.

With the support of people like you, we have provided

Kyungu Yuayako shells harvested groundnuts in Tanganyika. Photo: Concern Worldwide

Left: Farmers making hay stooks on a farm in Donegal. Photo: Alamy. Right: Ilunga Emiliane helps maintain a farmer field school with her community in Tanganyika, where crops like maize are cultivated. Photo: Concern Worldwide

families in the DRC with seeds and agricultural kits, including essential tools, as well as climate-focused training to build secure, long-term livelihoods.

This Lughnasa, as we think of shared fields and shared meals, we are recognising something deeper: across continents and cultures, people are guided by the same rhythms of soil, season and care. Thank you for being part of that shared ground.

SIGN UP TO LEARN MORE
If you’d like to receive our Shared Ground emails and other updates from Concern by email, please contact us and opt in at: preferences@concern.net



COOK FOR GAZA
Last October, hundreds of you helped to raise money for families in Gaza – and the result was astonishing. By cooking, baking and gathering together, you helped raise a whopping €161,000, ensuring more communities facing the most difficult circumstances can access clean water. Thank you!
Photo: Joy Beattie/Concern Worldwide

MOVING MOUNTAINS
Ain’t no mountain high enough to keep us from raising vital funds! In June, our community came together to take on Ireland’s highest peak: Carrauntoohil. Together, we raised over €20,000 to support vulnerable families around the world.
Photo: TBC/Concern Worldwide



Community in action



CREATE FOR CONCERN
Students at Trinity College Dublin brought creativity and community together through their ‘sip and paint’ event, which produced some brilliant art and also raised €1,207.55. Thank you!
Above: caption here. Photo: credit tbc

CONGRATULATIONS TEAM
A huge round of applause for the students at Ursuline Secondary School in Co. Tipperary for winning the annual Concern school debates! Against fierce competition, the students successfully proposed the motion ‘It’s time to increase international aid, not walk away from it.’
Photo from left to right: Lily Marchand, Éabha Cahill, Lily Murphy, Trudy Wilson and Aoibhin Rae. Photo: Karen Morgan/Concern Worldwide



PUT THE FUN BACK IN FUNDRAISING! This September, we’re challenging you to sleep out in solidarity with the 1 in 67 people who are displaced globally. Grab your family, friends, teammates or colleagues, and host your own sleep out under the stars. To find out more, head to camp.concern.net

YOUR SUPPORT CAN UNLOCK LIFE-SAVING FUNDS

**Did you know that your signature can help
children survive deadly malnutrition?**

If you donate €250 or more in any one year, Concern can claim up to 45% in tax back, potentially turning every €1 of your donations into €1.45. All you need to do is sign and return the Taxback form that we'll send you.

Your support can unlock funds that will make a huge difference

to families like Angelina's* from South Sudan (pictured with her daughter, Nyachar*). When Nyachar became malnourished, emergency therapeutic food provided at a Concern-supported clinic saved her life.

Please return your Tax Back form now and help us reach more families like theirs.

To learn more about the Tax Back scheme or receive a new form, visit [Concern.net/tax](https://concern.net/tax) or contact our Tax Back Co-ordinator, Ivana.

Tel: 01 417 7777 Email: info@concern.net

Photo: Eugene Ikua/Concern Worldwide

*Names have been changed to protect identities