

RESEARCH, EVIDENCE AND IMPACT

Three Decades of Learning

Worldwide Research Symposium 2026

Concern worldwide

10.30am–4pm (GMT) **Thursday, 26th November 2026**

Webinar Registration **– Zoom** (Languages: Simultaneous French and Arabic)

MORNING PROGRAMME

Time	Session & Speaker Details
10.00–10.05	**Welcome and Agenda Overview** ***Réiseal Ní Chéilleachair***, Director of Strategy, Advocacy and Learning (SAL) Directorate, Concern Worldwide (Moderator)
10.05 – 10.25	**OPENING KEYNOTE ADDRESS** **"The Strategic Value of Research: Driving Policy, Informing Practice, and Centring Communities"** ***Dr. Farah Mihlar,*** Director, Centre for Development and Emergency Practice (CENDEP), Oxford Brookes University
10.25–10.30	**Closing and Transition to Session 1** ***Réiseal Ní Chéilleachair***
10.30 – 12.00	**SESSION 1: Tackling Child Malnutrition — Building Evidence for Effective Treatment and Prevention at Scale** – Moderator: ***Jody Harris*** (Co-Director Food Equity Centre, Institute of Development Studies) **Introduction and Session Overview** Presentations (30 Mins): **Overview of Concern's 25-year journey to bring treatment and prevention of child malnutrition to scale – *Kate Golden***, Head of Health, Nutrition and WASH Technical Support, Concern Worldwide • **Community Management of Acute Malnutrition (CMAM): 25 years of research to policy and scaled practice and examples of ongoing research to refine it** – ***Kate Golden***, Concern Worldwide • **Community Resilience to Acute Malnutrition (CRAM) in Eastern Chad: RCT impact evaluation** – ***Dr. Anastasia (Ana) Marshak***, Assistant Research Professor (Friedman School), Senior Researcher, Feinstein International Center, Tufts University • **Hanaano in the cross-border area of Somalia, Ethiopia and Kenya: Formative research on the seasonal drivers of acute malnutrition** – ***Prof. Sophie Ochola***, Associate Professor, Department of Food, Nutrition, and Dietetics, Kenyatta University • **Cash for Nutrition: Three phases of research in Somalia** – ***Bishar Osman Hussein***, Programme Coordinator, Health and Nutrition, Concern Somalia **Panel Discussion and Audience Q&A** (45 Mins) **Summary and Wrap-Up** (5 Mins)
12.00–12.30	***Morning Break***

Associated Presidency Event of Ireland's Presidency of the Council of the EU 2026

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AFTERNOON PROGRAMME

Time	Session and Speaker Details
12.30–14.00	**SESSION 2: Pathways out of Extreme Poverty — How Research has Influenced Programme Design, Delivery, and Policy** – Moderator: ***Alessandro Bini***, Deputy Regional Director, Concern Worldwide **Introduction and Session Overview** Presentations (30 Mins): **Overview of Concern's Experience and Learning from the Graduation Approach – *Regine Kopplow***, Senior Global Technical Advisor Livelihoods, Technical Assistance, Concern Worldwide • **Graduation Trajectories in Burundi** – ***Keetie Roelen***, Professor of Poverty and Social Protection, Deputy Director at the Centre for the Study of Global Development (CSGD), Faculty of Wellbeing, Education and Language Studies (WELS), Open University, UK • **Graduation and Gender Research in Malawi (Tiwoloke): Effects of gender-transformative dialogue** – ***Tara Bedi***, Trinity College Dublin, Assistant Professor in Development Practice, Department of Geography, Trinity College Dublin • **Cash and Voucher Assistance (CVA): Efficiency and Effectiveness in Humanitarian Response** – ***Lynn Yoshikawa***, Head of Network Development, CaLP Network • **Shock-Responsive Social Protection in Fragile Contexts: Lessons from Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia and Mauritania** – ***Hélène Juillard***, Co-Founder and Director, Key Aid Consulting **Panel Discussion and Audience Q&A** (45 Mins) **Summary and Wrap-Up** (5 Mins)
14.00–14.30	***Afternoon Break***
14.30–15.30	**Concluding Plenary: The Future of Operational Research and Evidence Generation** – Reflecting on Gaps, Data Integrity, and Local Leadership in an Era of Constrained Resources Moderator: ***Danny Harvey***, Concern Worldwide Reflective Panellists: • ***Lucy Mwangi***, Country Director, Concern Worldwide Malawi • ***Mark Finegan***, Director, Civil Society Unit, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade • ***Nathanael Bevan***, Director Research and Evidence, Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) • ***Louino Robillard***, Co-Founder, Gwoup Konbit, Haiti
15.30–15.45	**Event Synthesis and Closing Remarks** Summary of key takeaways, action research recommendations, and official close