



**Concern
Worldwide**

Annual
Report
2020

A year like no other

CONCERN
worldwide

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Front cover: Pakistan

A boy uses the handwashing station installed by Concern Worldwide to encourage students to follow hygiene protocols as schools reopened after the COVID-19 lockdown in Pakistan.

Photo: Khaula Jamil/Concern Worldwide





Niger

RAIN (Realigning Agriculture to Nutrition) program in Niger focuses on improving food and nutrition security and enhancing the livelihoods of the most vulnerable households in Tahoua. **Photo:** Ollivier Girard / Concern Worldwide

Who We Are and What We Do

Our Identity – Who We Are

Concern Worldwide is a non-governmental, international, humanitarian organization dedicated to the reduction of suffering and working towards the ultimate elimination of extreme poverty in the world's poorest countries.

Our Vision for Change

A world where no one lives in poverty, fear or oppression; where all have access to a decent standard of living and the opportunities and choices essential to a long, healthy, and creative life; a world where everyone is treated with dignity and respect.

Our Mission – What We Do

Our mission is to help people living in extreme poverty achieve major improvements in their lives, which last and spread without ongoing support from Concern.

To achieve this mission, we engage in long-term development work, build resilience, respond to emergency situations, and seek to address the root causes of poverty through our development, education, and advocacy work.





Alpina, Bangladesh

Alpina misses her friends while schools are closed due to COVID-19. Photo: Mohammad Rakibul Hasan / Concern Worldwide

Our Core Values

These are built on our history and the voluntary, compassionate commitment of Concern's founders:

- **We focus on extreme poverty:** We are driven by a clear focus on eliminating poverty in the most vulnerable places and responding to humanitarian crises.
- **We believe in equality:** People are equal in rights and must be treated with respect and dignity.
- **We listen:** Listening and partnership are key to empowering the poorest and most vulnerable to transform their own lives.
- **We respond rapidly:** People affected by disasters are entitled to have their most basic needs met through rapid, effective, and principled responses.
- **We are courageous:** Taking necessary risks, balanced with sound judgement, allows us to work in the most challenging contexts.
- **We are committed:** Going the extra mile to support communities in times of need and in the face of very difficult operating environments.
- **We are innovative:** Finding effective solutions requires innovative thinking combined with a pragmatic approach.
- **We are accountable:** Accountability and transparency are central to all of our actions and use of resources.

Where We Work

- AFGHANISTAN
- BANGLADESH
- BURUNDI
- CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC
- CHAD
- DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF KOREA
- DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO
- ETHIOPIA
- HAITI
- IRAQ
- KENYA
- LEBANON
- LIBERIA
- MALAWI
- NIGER
- PAKISTAN
- RWANDA
- SIERRA LEONE
- SOMALIA
- SOUTH SUDAN
- SUDAN
- SYRIA
- TURKEY

• Haiti

Sierra Leone •
Liberia •



36.9m

People Reached



\$258m

Total Income



23

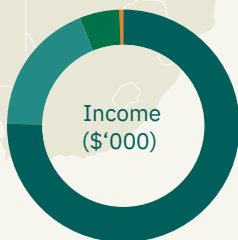
Countries



\$250m

Total Expenditure

In 2020 Concern worked in 23 of the world's poorest and most vulnerable countries to alleviate poverty and hunger.

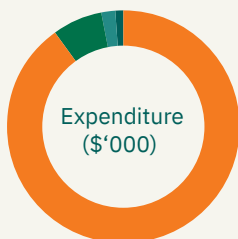


75.3%
Grants from Governments and Other Co-funders (\$180,937)

18.7%
Donations and Legacies (\$44,971)

5.6%
Donated Commodities (\$13,359)

0.4%
Other Income (\$1,055)



89.8%
Overseas Relief and Development (\$207,97)

7.4%
Fundraising (\$17,195)

2.2%
Development, Education and Advocacy (\$5,086)

0.6%
Governance (\$1,253)

Message from the CEO/Chair

In a year like no other, our mission held strong while our team redefined the nature – and impact – of our work.

For the first time in our 52-year history, a crisis affected all of the countries where Concern works. Our history of emergency response and commitment to doing “whatever it takes” took on new meaning as we continued to deliver on three core priorities: ensuring the health and safety of our almost 4,000 staff members; scaling up COVID-19 awareness and prevention across the communities we serve; and adapting existing programs to keep them running.

We were fortunate in that Concern’s considerable investment in governance and management systems over the last few years helped to increase our overall agility. This, combined with an extraordinary effort across all parts of the organization and the support of our community of humanitarians like you, meant that Concern delivered even more than we thought possible in 2020. As our bedrooms became boardrooms and most of our annual events went virtual in the United States, our teams across 23 countries responded to both ongoing and new emergencies.

But it wasn’t just the virus that impacted our staff last year; it was also the mental and emotional tolls of lockdown, and the very real implications of social injustice that received renewed attention last year.

At Concern, we know that extreme poverty is fuelled in part by inequality, and that changing those inequalities begins at home and requires us to incorporate that change into our systems. Which is exactly what we are striving to do.

Every five years, Concern revisits its global strategic plan in order to reaffirm our commitment to those who are left furthest behind (at increasing numbers and greater distances). The timing of our latest plan allowed us to account for the ongoing uncertainty and volatility in the world in these new objectives and goals. You’ll see our plans to expand our areas of work, including entering Burkina Faso, which is in the throes of ongoing crisis, as well as to expand our understanding of the principles that drive that work. You can learn more about our 2021-25 Strategic Plan on p. 10.

Thanks to you, our generous donors and supporters, we will continue to work with those who are hit hardest by crisis and poverty. Thanks to you, we will continue towards our vision of extreme poverty ending in our lifetime.

Sincerely



Colleen A. Kelly
Colleen Kelly
Chief Executive Officer



Joanna Geraghty
Joanna Geraghty
Chair, Board of Directors.

Christina, Malawi

Christina Kamangira is a student at the Mwanza Primary School in Nchalo. She loves being part of the Skillz Program, an initiative, implemented with the help of Concern, that uses the medium of soccer to teach life skills, gender equality, hygiene skills, and life goals to the students. Photo: Jason Kennedy / Concern Worldwide



Strategic Report

Our Five-Year Goals
and Objectives

Concern's strategic plan will run from 2021 to 2025, and will commit the organization to making progress on four key goals.

Our five-year goals

GOAL 1:

Reaching the furthest behind first

Some of what we'll do

1. Reach the world's poorest people and those most vulnerable to extreme poverty, conflict, hunger, and climate change
2. Provide more resources to support more programs to reach more people, without compromising on quality
3. Enhance the quality of Concern's programs in regard to efficiency, effectiveness, and compliance
4. Better meet the needs of affected populations by strengthening the leadership and coordination capacity of local humanitarian actors
5. Pilot new funding and partnership models to multiply impact and sustain engagement

GOAL 2:

Driving urgent action on hunger, conflict, and the climate crisis

1. Influence the public, the media, and key decision makers on policies and strategies that have the greatest impact on extremely poor people via focused thought leadership, advocacy, branding, marketing, PR, and other avenues, with special focus on inadequate action to address conflict, the climate crisis, and hunger
2. Expand our professional networks by focusing on building relationships with key media figures, institutional decision makers, socially responsible corporations, and culturally-relevant influencers.
3. Utilize our global network to amplify the voices and experiences of communities caught up in conflict, hunger, and the climate crisis.

GOAL 3:

Galvanizing global support across every generation to end extreme poverty

1. Expand our reach and engagement within existing and new markets by appealing to a new generation of donors through meaningful and creative initiatives that interweave the personal interests of our donors with global development and humanitarian issues.
2. Nourish and grow our support from mission- and value-aligned institutional and corporate donors, civil society organizations, and the private sector, through a clearly defined and enhanced PR, influencer, and corporate engagement strategy.
3. Continue to grow and expand first time donors acquisition efforts while increasing the overall value of donors through engaging multi-channel marketing tactics including direct mail, digital, and social; ultimately building a healthy pipeline of donors.

GOAL 4:

Being a diverse, inclusive and people-focused organization

1. Achieve a diverse, empowered, and committed Board and workforce who feel that they belong at Concern and who reflect the diversity within the United States and our world at large.
2. Achieve greater equality of opportunity and outcome within Concern, with a specific focus on racial equality.
3. Use our US platform, resources, and voice to meaningfully increase country-level inclusion in how we tell the stories of our programs and the communities we serve.
4. Be an adaptable organization with optimal culture, engaged and skilled talent, and an efficient operating structure that positions us for success and sustainability, ensures our workforce is supported to succeed, and that staff have access to planned professional development and career growth opportunities within the organization

Our Programs

In 2020, Concern Worldwide reached approximately 36.8 million people in 23 of the poorest and most vulnerable countries in the world. Our work spanned five main program areas: emergencies, livelihoods, health and nutrition, education, and integrated programming.



36.9m

People reached



23

Countries





Razia, Pakistan

Razia is a participant in Concern Worldwide's livelihood program that supports small-scale entrepreneurs. Following a course in tailoring, she received a sewing machine to get her business started. **Photo:** Khaula Jamil / Concern Worldwide

In a year like no other, the COVID-19 pandemic presented an unprecedented challenge for the countries where we work. We focused on maintaining our existing programs, raising awareness of the tools used to fight the spread of the infection, and supporting the communities most impacted by the crisis.

Our broad program goals, along with key objectives and impact, are described below. (See p. 26 for examples of our COVID-19 response).

In 2020, we responded to 78 emergencies in 23 countries and reached 17.9 million people, 4.9 million of whom were direct beneficiaries.

Increasingly fragile contexts and high levels of insecurity are often most in need of emergency assistance, but also pose some of the highest challenges. Aid workers are frequently the targets of violent attacks and/or kidnappings. Accessing hard-to-reach communities — often the most vulnerable and with the most urgent humanitarian needs — can be challenging due to both lack of infrastructure and the presence of armed groups.

In many of these countries, COVID presents a compound risk on top of the “everyday” hazards of natural disaster and conflict. This, in turn, jeopardizes the homes and livelihoods of already-vulnerable communities. Concern added COVID-19 emergency response to each of the 23 countries we operated in in 2020. In the immediate aftermath any emergency, we provide lifesaving support to families and communities. We stay to help them get back on their feet, rebuilding livelihoods and infrastructure, and working to reduce the risk and impact of future crises.

In 2021, our work continues to expand with the launch of operations in Burkina Faso, a country where many communities are suffering from extreme hunger.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES:

The goal of our emergency program is to fulfill our humanitarian mandate, and effectively respond to and mitigate against both natural and human-influenced disasters.

Our main objectives are to:

- Respond rapidly in order to save lives and reduce suffering
- Improve access to food, healthcare, and water
- Prevent and reduce the impact of emergencies

EXAMPLES OF OUR ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2020:

We continued to provide urgently needed assistance to almost 160,000 people affected by ongoing conflict in northern **Syria**. General food rations were distributed to nearly 25,000 individuals in camps, collective centers, and informal settlements. Food vouchers were provided to approximately 116,000.

Several consecutive years of drought in southern **Ethiopia** have led to worsening food security and disrupted the livelihoods of hundreds of thousands of farmers and herders. Our emergency nutrition response programs reached over 253,000 of the most vulnerable people. This included treating over 75,000 cases of moderate or acute malnutrition in children and pregnant women at 230 sites, and reaching almost 154,000 people with information and education about how to ensure good nutrition and health for babies and young children.



17.9m

People reached



Since the beginning of 2020, the humanitarian situation in the **Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)** has worsened: Armed conflicts and natural disasters continue to provoke massive population movements, mainly in the east of the country. The DRC is now home to the largest population of internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Africa, with 5.5 million people displaced. Our mobile Rapid Response team responded to five displacement crises, providing emergency support to households fleeing conflict or natural disasters and helping them to buy food, access clean water, and obtain hygiene kits. In total, 159,000 recently displaced people were supported by Concern.

Deteriorating food security due to ongoing conflict and climate change remains a persistent challenge for a large section of the population in **South Sudan**. We provided lifesaving emergency nutrition and health services to acutely malnourished children and women in some of the most affected regions, reaching over 142,000 people. Our 78 nutrition centers both treated malnutrition and worked to prevent it by educating mothers about best practices in

feeding their children and keeping their families healthy. Through mobile clinics, we also delivered health services in five hard-to-reach areas in Aweil North and West counties. Altogether, more than 68,000 children and mothers received consultation and/or treatment; and more than 90,000 individuals attended nutrition sessions.

Parts of **Pakistan** are extremely vulnerable to the effects of climate change and are frequently impacted by floods, droughts, and heat waves. In an effort to lessen the often catastrophic impact of natural disasters on vulnerable communities, Concern took the lead in a consortium working on a five-year program, Building Disaster Resilience in Pakistan (BDRP). The program is aimed to increase the capacity of communities in nine districts that face acute risk for natural disasters, allowing them to better deal with these risks through better planning, preparedness, response, and resource allocation at the government and community levels. During the final year of the program, Concern reached almost 87,000 participants.

Our shelter program in **Lebanon** is designed to ensure that Syrian families and host communities have access to safe and affordable shelters through a number of approaches. In 2020, this included assessing more than 2,000 households to determine their eligibility for shelter services, rehabilitating 180 occupied shelters, upgrading the common areas in eight collective shelters, and ensuring the availability of 110 empty housing units to relocate vulnerable families. Many Syrian families are living in temporary, informal settlements and are especially vulnerable during the harsh winter months. To help protect them, we supplied 4,790 families with shelter weatherproofing kits and carried out site improvements in 18 informal settlements that were prone to flooding.

Limene, Haiti

Limene Florville carries the items she salvaged from her home after it was flooded during tropical storm Laura in Cité Soleil commune. Photo: Dieu Nalio Chery / Concern Worldwide

In 2020, we improved food security and livelihoods for over 580,000 people directly and 3.6 million indirectly.

People living in extreme poverty struggle to earn what's needed to ensure that their families have enough to eat, get adequate health care, and receive an education. Our livelihoods programs aim to give them the tools to ensure they are able to earn a sustainable living, help them to learn new skills, improve the productivity and nutritional value of their crops, and set up small businesses to generate more income.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES:

The goal of our livelihoods program is to enable people living in extreme poverty to have secure livelihoods.

Our main objectives are to:

- Reduce hunger
- Strengthen our social protection programming, work skills, and support systems
- Promote graduation to economic productivity
- Strengthen our Climate Smart Agriculture program

EXAMPLES OF OUR WORK AND ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2020:

In the Sila region of **Chad** we worked with over 33,500 farmers and pastoralists who are severely affected by climate change and struggle to provide enough food for their families. Our livelihoods program aims to improve their food security through

a range of activities. Last year, over 1,200 households received agricultural and market gardening training and support. Protecting natural resources is recognised as an important element in ensuring food security. We trained 210 young people in natural resource management, and more than 1,100 women on how to build fuel-efficient stoves. As a result, 2,600 trees were planted and almost 1,000 stoves constructed. Community animal health workers helped over 700 livestock breeders keep their herds healthy. We also supported six pastoralist groups in cattle food protection. Six cowpea fields were established and harvested, with the crops being stored to see the cattle through the lean season next year.

The flood-prone Char (river islands) areas of **Bangladesh** are home to some of the lowest-income and most vulnerable people who have few opportunities to earn enough to support their families. For women, opportunities are even more limited. To support 13,000 women living under the extreme poverty line to earn an income, we used an approach based on our Graduation model of breaking the cycle of poverty. This included training sessions on different types of income-generating work such as tailoring and dressmaking. In addition, we helped these women access the funds needed to start a small business by supporting group savings initiatives. Nearly 80% of the project participants were able to get the necessary capital to start their businesses and build their livelihoods.



4.3m

People reached

In Cité Soleil, a marginalized area of Port-au-Prince, **Haiti**, vulnerable people are unable to move out of poverty due to a lack of employment opportunities. We supported 1,159 households in extreme poverty to improve their livelihoods through vocational training, coaching, and mentoring; life and business skills training; and cash grants to support small business development.

Over 4,295 households in **Burundi** and a further 1,400 in **Rwanda** were supported through our Graduation program, which helps people living in extreme poverty to learn a range of skills, take part in activities that increase their capacity to earn a living, and sustainably move out of poverty. In both countries, households participating in the program increased their monthly income as a result of the income generating activities and the small businesses they set up. Another important outcome of the program: Participating households were also able to improve their nutrition.

The **Democratic People's Republic of Korea** faces a multitude of challenges in the agriculture and food security sector primarily due to increased demand, a decline in arable land due to limited irrigation facilities, reduction in soil fertility due to harmful practices, and the impact of natural disasters. Our livelihoods and agriculture programs work to improve the food security and livelihood options of resource-poor communities through the adoption of Climate Smart Agriculture, which aims to restore soil fertility and stabilise food production. The program is being implemented at 26 cooperative farms in eight



counties reaching over 50,000 people. We continued to support farmers with various training opportunities around practices to increase rice production and good results have been achieved with yields increasing and less seed and labour being used than with traditional agricultural practices.

In the Phalombe and Mangochi districts of **Malawi**, Concern works with poor and vulnerable rural households to build their livelihoods and climate resilience. A key aspect of the work is to identify, train, and support lead farmers who then share their learnings with others, thereby increasing the knowledge base of the community and improving food security. Last year, 577 new lead farmers were identified and trained on Climate Smart Agriculture, bringing the project total up to 1,050. Between them, lead farmers in Malawi have reached nearly 32,000 households.

Nyabiel, Ethiopia

Nyabiel Nyang, a South Sudanese refugee, in her kitchen garden, which she started with the support of Concern. Photo: Kieran McConville / Concern Worldwide

In 2020, our health and nutrition programs reached over 1.8 million people directly and 7.3 million indirectly.

The communities we work with around the world are often unable to get the support they need to reduce cases of under-nutrition and preventable diseases. To help overcome this, we work with local and national governments to strengthen healthcare systems and increase access to good healthcare, nutrition, and water and sanitation services.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES:

The goal of our health programs is to contribute to the achievement of health and nutrition security for poor people.

Our main objectives are to:

- Prevent under-nutrition and extreme hunger
- Strengthen maternal and child health
- Strengthen health facilities
- Improve access to clean water and sanitation

EXAMPLES OF OUR WORK AND ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2020:

In Grand Bassa and Rivercess counties in **Liberia**, lack of dietary diversity and nutritional literacy has led to high rates of under-nutrition, especially among mothers and children under-five. As part of an integrated program, we worked with over 4,200 women in mothers' groups to improve their and their children's health and nutrition. This involved helping to establish

2,224 kitchen gardens to grow a variety of crops, and conducting 141 cooking demonstrations to teach mothers about different food groups and show them recommended food preparation practices for children aged 6-23 months.

In **Kenya**, we work both in the urban areas of Nairobi County and in the remote rural counties of Marsabit, Tana River, and Turkana to improve the health and nutrition of children and pregnant and breastfeeding women. In 2020, working in partnership with local and national organizations and authorities, our programs successfully reached over 614,000 people directly. We supported the training and equipping of over 1,500 community health volunteers to improve community-level health services, thereby encouraging more people to make use of them. We also supported the roll-out and continuation of the Baby Friendly Community Initiative (BFCI), a program which teaches mothers about the benefits of exclusive breastfeeding for babies. In order to promote good hygiene practices, almost 240,000 people received hygiene promotion messaging through community health volunteers, outreach activities, and mass media campaigns.

Sierra Leone suffers from some of the highest maternal, newborn, and child mortality and morbidity rates in the world. Concern is part of a consortium of agencies working with the government of Sierra Leone to address this by strengthening the quality of, expanding access to, and building the demand for appropriate



9.2m

People reached



**Margret &
Charlyne, Kenya**

Charlyne (nine months old) and her mother, Margret outside their house in Kibera, Nairobi, where Concern supports the local health center.
Photo: Ed Ram / Concern Worldwide

health services. Taking the lead in four districts — Western Area Urban and Rural, Tonkolili, and Port Loko — we aim to indirectly reach about 1.16 million people. This includes 563 health workers, over 660,000 women of childbearing age, and just under 500,000 children under-five. Building the capacity of health workers is key to improving outcomes, and in 2020 almost 2,500 individuals attended at least one Concern-supported health training session. 84 healthcare workers received regular on-the-job mentoring from our team of clinical mentors, and we supported health care workers in remote facilities to take part in monthly district meetings to enable the sharing of crucial health data.

The ongoing and deepening crisis in the **Central African Republic (CAR)** continues to severely affect the livelihoods, living conditions, and health of about 2.6 million people. Our health work in western CAR

reaches over 24,000 people while working to improve both the quality of and access to health and nutrition. In 2020 we supported 13 health facilities, organizing the training of health staff in the assessment and treatment of malnutrition, administering immunizations, and providing basic emergency obstetrics and neonatal care. In addition, 13 mobile clinics were organized every two weeks to carry out health awareness activities and provide health services in remote villages. We provided free healthcare to more than 13,000 extremely vulnerable people who would otherwise have been forced to spend a considerable amount of their household income on health services. To complement the services provided at the clinics, we also supported community healthcare in 23 communities, reaching 15,000 households.

In **South Sudan**, over 4 million people have been displaced by conflict, half of whom have fled to neighboring countries. The numbers of internally displaced people remain extremely high with little prospect of them being able to return home in the near future. In 2020, over 150,000 conflict-affected and vulnerable people in Unity State and Northern Bahr el Ghazal were reached through our water, sanitation, and health programs. This included providing regular access to safe water and sanitation services to almost 34,000 people living in Bentiu displacement camp. A further 62,000 living in areas outside the camps were provided with safe water through a number of Concern-managed water treatment plants, bore holes, and rainwater harvesting systems. Over 131,000 people were reached with hygiene messaging to promote good health practices.

In 2020, our education programs reached 177,000 people directly and 517,000 indirectly.

All children have the right to an education, which we believe provides one of the best routes out of poverty. We integrate our education programs into both our development and emergency work to give children living in extreme poverty more opportunities in life and greater support for their overall well-being.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES:

The goal of our education program is to sustainably improve the lives of children living in extreme poverty by increasing their access to quality primary education.

Our main objectives are to:

- Increase school access
- Improve learning outcomes
- Provide access to education for children in emergencies
- Improve school facilities

EXAMPLES OF OUR WORK AND ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2020:

Over many years, Concern has built a reputation as a key stakeholder in the education sector in **Somalia**. In 2020, we supported the Ministry of Education, Culture and Higher Education (MoECHE), in the implementation of the national Education Sector Strategic Plan which aims to ensure equitable access to education for all. A key part of

strengthening the education system is developing and supporting Community Education Committees (CECs), which are responsible for school management and encouraging the local community to send their children to school. Concern was chosen by the MoECHE to lead CEC strengthening in schools countrywide, which included standardizing the CEC training manual and rolling out training to over 4,600 CEC members in 658 schools.

On a national level, 2020 was an incredibly challenging year for education in **Afghanistan**. In addition to a six-month countrywide suspension of classes in response to COVID-19, there were inadequate resources for effective home learning, and further winter restrictions preventing classes from resuming. Despite these significant challenges, our program in Takhar Province — which aims to provide quality education services for girls, boys, men, and women — reached almost 5,500 people. Among a number of activities, we established and/or supported 36 community-based education classes and 12 government-run schools, providing an education to over 4,000 children. To improve the quality of education, we hired 34 qualified teachers and facilitated a 10-day training course on subject upgrading and child-friendly teaching methods. Children are more likely to succeed at school if their parents are also educated and understand the benefits of an education. To that end, 236 students took part in adult literacy classes, and child protection training for parent, teacher and student associations was also conducted.



0.7m

People reached

Syria has suffered from one of the greatest reversals in educational progress ever recorded. Prior to the outbreak of conflict in 2011, nearly 100% of children were enrolled in school. In 2019 the Humanitarian Needs Overview noted that 5.9 million children in Syria were in need of education support. 2.1 million girls and boys are out of school and 1.3 million are at risk of dropping out. Our education program in northeast **Syria** aims to give out-of-school and conflict-affected children access to quality primary-level education, providing support in both non-formal education centers and formal schools. In 2020, this effort reached nearly 6,000 students. Despite the challenges posed by COVID-19, we were still able to expand our program opening two new non-formal education centers (bringing the total to six), rehabilitating seven primary schools, and beginning our first homework support component in formal schools to help support pupil retention.

Our program Building Tomorrow integrated emergency programs provide education and livelihoods support for Syrians under temporary protection in four provinces in southeast **Turkey** and reached over 13,500 people in 2020. The education element of the program has been implemented at 30 public education centers (PECs) and 20 vocational and technical high schools (TVETs). Since language barriers impede progress, the program provides Turkish language classes to 12,000 children at PECs, ages 6-13. It also seeks to improve access to formal educational opportunities for school-aged Syrians under temporary protection through outreach, learning-support programs, and the provision of learning and psychosocial support materials.

Conflict and insecurity in **Niger** have multiple detrimental impacts on the education system in affected areas. Many schools have suffered attacks by armed groups, resulting in the destruction of teaching materials and the deterioration of infrastructure and equipment. As a result, many displaced children are at risk of dropping out or not attending school. In this context, Concern is implementing emergency education

projects in the regions of Diffa, Tahoua, and Tillabéry. In 2020, the programs reached almost 46,000 children and adults with activities that included school enrollment; providing of materials such as pens, notebooks, and books for children and course materials for teachers; training for teachers and community members; and the construction and equipping of classrooms.

Grace, Kenya

Grace is a student at a school Concern supports in Nairobi, Kenya. **Photo:** Jennifer Nolan / Concern Worldwide



There are multiple interrelated reasons that keep people locked in poverty.

For that reason, many of our programs are integrated. We might bring together agriculture and livelihoods with other sectors, and education to tackle the multiple needs of a community in a coordinated and personalized way. In 2020 we reached over 1.2 million people directly through our integrated programs and approximately 3.6 million indirectly.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES:

The goal of our integrated program is to improve the lives of those living in extreme poverty by addressing their needs in a holistic way, tackling the interrelated barriers that impede development.

The objective of the program is to deliver sustained improvements in the overall living conditions of the targeted communities.

EXAMPLES OF OUR WORK AND ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2020:

Our program in 12 districts in northeast **Syria** integrated livelihoods, health and sanitation, protection, shelter and food security work to help over 523,000 of the most vulnerable people affected by the conflict. In 2020, among other activities, we rehabilitated six water networks and two critical water stations and improved the water and sanitation facilities in 24 primary health centers to provide clean water and prevent disease. In addition, hygiene vouchers and kits were distributed to almost 127,000

people to help them remain healthy. 10,515 people benefited from cash-for-work activities, which provided them with much-needed employment opportunities for three months. Children have been particularly affected by the conflict, and we supported just under 780 with psychosocial support through child- and adolescent-friendly spaces in some of the most vulnerable communities.

In the Aweil West and Aweil North counties of **South Sudan**, our integrated program seeks to improve the health and nutrition of vulnerable women and children through a complementary package of activities, reaching 43,000 people. In 2020, we continued to improve access to quality health and nutrition services to marginalized communities who would otherwise have no healthcare services. We increased the number of nutrition sites from 49 in 2019 to 53 in 2020; continued to support mobile clinics in six hard-to-reach locations; and facilitated community mobilization as well as outreach activities for active case-finding of children suffering from malnutrition, and provision of health and nutrition education. To support households with providing more and better-quality food for their families, almost 19,000 people took part in cash-for-seed activities and were also supported with hand tools and improved staple crop seeds. The program also supported 50 demonstration plots where farmers could learn and share knowledge about farming techniques such as Climate Smart Agriculture (in which almost 800 farmers were trained).



4.8m

People reached

In West Darfur in the **Sudan**, we worked with just over 53,500 people to help them maintain or improve their well-being despite the challenges of weather-related shocks and stresses such as droughts. An integrated package of livelihoods, health and nutrition, and water and sanitation projects has resulted in the hunger gap (the number of months during which the most vulnerable households do not have enough to eat) decreasing from 3.65 at the beginning of the project to 1.8 in 2020. Activities included the distribution of seeds and tools to almost 1,500 farmers, the training of over 1,900 farmers on Climate Smart Agriculture, the renovation of 18 old water points, the drilling of four new ones, and the delivery of 51 hygiene training sessions. In addition, 13 Village Savings and Loans Associations were established, and Village Development Associations in four villages were supported to develop plans to better mitigate against future risks.

Niger remains one of the poorest countries in the world, ranking 189th of 189 countries on the Human Development Index. Concern works with the most vulnerable households

and individuals in Tahoua, one of the poorest regions, and last year reached close to 110,000 people through a combination of livelihoods, education, and water, sanitation and health programs. Agricultural support activities — which included training farmers on improved techniques — significantly increased productivity and contributed to households having a greater quantity of food and a more diverse diet. The average yield of fortified organic millet was 708 pounds per acre on average (compared to 505 pounds per acre in 2019), and the use of irrigation enabled households to diversify their food sources during the off-season. Significant progress was also made in the maternal and child health component of the program, which showed that 38.5% of children were being exclusively breastfed (which protects against common childhood diseases and diarrhea), an increase of nearly 10% since last year (29%, 2019), and 15.5% since the project began.

In eastern **Democratic Republic of Congo**, we worked with over 140,000 people displaced by the ongoing security crisis in the country to improve their living conditions and

their livelihoods. Over the course of the year, 92 water points were rehabilitated, giving improved water supplies to 92,000 people. In addition, 832 community health volunteers were trained to promote good hygiene practices and reached over 125,000 people with good results: 93% of people surveyed at the end of the project knew at least three of the five critical moments for handwashing that are vital to reducing the spread of disease. Over 15,000 people were helped to rebuild their livelihoods through training and/or cash transfers, and another 2,200 were helped to earn an income through cash for work opportunities.

Pakistan

A young boy collecting water from a solar powered water pump made by Concern Worldwide and its implementing partners to make water collection convenient for the local community. Photo: Khaula Jamil / Concern Worldwide



Humanitarian Training and Advocacy



15,000+

people reached
through our capacity
strengthening programs



\$9M

of new funding
secured for future
humanitarian training

HUMANITARIAN TRAINING & CAPACITY STRENGTHENING

More than any other crisis in recent history, the COVID-19 pandemic underscored why we need humanitarian actors who are ready to lead coherent response and recovery efforts in complex emergencies. Since 2012, Concern has provided trainings to improve the effectiveness of the humanitarian system as a whole; ensuring that individuals and organizations responding to crises from Syria to South Sudan have the tools and information they need to save lives.

The goal of our **Humanitarian Training** programming is to strengthen the capacity of all humanitarian actors to deliver stronger, better-coordinated response efforts during the most unprecedented of times.

Our humanitarian training work spans across three key areas:

- coordination
- leadership, and
- system strengthening.

Our main program objectives are to:

- Contribute to an overall improved humanitarian response by providing access to **free** training on the foundations of humanitarian action and the international coordination system
- Increase the leadership capacity of emergency first responders so they can tackle the most pressing humanitarian challenges of today
- Reduce risk to and improve preparedness for future humanitarian emergencies by providing pathways to operational capacity strengthening
- Improve the quality of Concern's emergency programming by providing access to humanitarian training opportunities for our global staff and our implementing partners

OUR PROGRAMS AND ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2020

Despite many of the challenges for implementing our programs in 2020, we adapted to life online and thrived. With in-person training no longer feasible as the global COVID-19 pandemic halted international travel and in-person gatherings, we found new and dynamic ways to engage our program participants and to contribute to effective and coordinated humanitarian responses efforts around the world.

2020 started out with our **Building a Better Response Project (BBR)** team traveling to Malawi to host trainings for NGO staff working on Cyclone Idai recovery efforts in Malawi, Mozambique, and Zimbabwe — followed by an intensive workshop in Dhaka for first responders working on Rohingya response efforts in Bangladesh. When the pandemic began to gather pace, we quickly shifted gears to design a remote training to support our network of 2,000+ workshop alumni in order to help them navigate challenges in their work and changes to the humanitarian coordination structures. Our trainings provided crucial guidance on how to access funding, manage program partnerships, and ensure quality and standards of emergency programming.

Our biggest programming adaptation was taking **the National NGO Program on Humanitarian Leadership (NNPHL)** — a rigorous, six-month training program — and transitioning it to a three-month entirely remote experience in order to suit the needs of our participants who were serving on the front lines of the pandemic response. By utilizing best practices in remote and adult learning, we trained three regional cohorts from the Middle East, Asia, and Africa through interactive and engaging week-long intensive trainings, reaching more program participants in 2020 than ever before!

We continued to grow our humanitarian programming by developing a third capacity strengthening program which was awarded two years of funding in early 2021. The **Local Capacity Strengthening for Response (LCS4R) Program** will work to increase and improve the organizational, operational, and knowledge management capacity of local and national NGOs in order to improve preparedness and response to humanitarian crises.

What We Did

- Reached 15,000+ people reached through our capacity strengthening programs last year
- Conducted 8 intensive workshop-based trainings for participants working in more than 30 different humanitarian contexts
- Applied for and secured more than \$9M of new funding to carry our capacity building programs into 2021 and beyond

Our Team & Consortia

Funded by the US Agency for International Development's Bureau of Humanitarian Assistance (BHA), our programs are implemented through a consortium that brings together a unique combination of operational and technical expertise led by Concern in collaboration with International Medical Corps and the Harvard Humanitarian Initiative.

ADVOCACY

While the bulk of Concern's work focuses on providing people in need with on-the-ground assistance, we also advocate to influence policies that affect our operations and the lives of those living in extreme poverty around the world. The goal of Concern's advocacy work is to contribute to sustainable improvements in the lives of people living in extreme poverty by influencing national and international policies; the actions and practices of governments; and the actions and attitudes of the UN, donors, NGO partners, the private sector, and the general public. We do this by ensuring that Concern's voice and program experience are heard in the places where decisions are made.

OUR WORK AND ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2020:

Concern created a new advocacy strategy in 2020 which builds on our extensive expertise in the areas of conflict, climate change, and hunger. This provided a new structure and direction for our work that has made us stronger and more focused.

The COVID-19 pandemic forced us to rethink our advocacy approaches in 2020. Face-to-face influencing was no longer possible in many parts of the world — particularly in our HQ offices. However, we found creative ways to meet with others and host virtual events that maintained our seat at the table of global policy discussions. In tandem with this, we suddenly were faced with a plethora of advocacy issues as a result of the pandemic, including massive spikes in global poverty, COVID-19 mitigation measures that prevented aid from reaching those in need, and ongoing concerns about equitable access to vaccines. Across many of our program countries in 2020, the virus itself was less of an issue compared to its secondary impacts, such as job loss, school closures, and lack of access to routine healthcare. In late 2020, we published a series of papers about these impacts based on first-hand evidence from country programs, COVID-19 Research. We also published COVID-19 Spares No One: a report that examined the severity of these effects in program countries reporting low COVID-19 case numbers, based on a large-scale data collection initiative we participated in with our Alliance2015 partners. This evidence was used to inform our messaging across the organization and influence COVID-19 policies in the countries where we work.

Not coincidentally, many of the countries that experienced the worst effects of the pandemic were also those caught up in conflict. Much of Concern's advocacy — especially in

the US — was directed at addressing the drivers of conflict and reducing its impact on poor and vulnerable communities. We worked closely with Concern Ireland as they prepared to take a seat on the UN Security Council to help them identify conflict and hunger and humanitarian access as two key issues to champion during their term. We also worked together with other NGOs through meetings, joint statements, and research to influence a variety of policies affecting people in conflict-affected countries.

Concern was also happy to see the climate change agenda gain more traction with governments and UN agencies in the last year, and renewed our efforts to increase funding for climate resilience programming, and to improve awareness of the urgency for greater investment in climate finance. Concern is also a member of the Zurich Flood Resilience Alliance, and co-published a series of reports and recommendations on flood resilience and resilience in fragile and conflict-affected crises.

At the nexus of climate change and hunger, Concern and Welthungerhilfe published the 2020 Global Hunger Index. This year's report explored the connection between people, animals, and plants within their shared environment, focusing on the need to approach climate and hunger problems holistically in order to bring about sustainable change.

Finally, while the COVID-19 pandemic prevented the global pledging summit on Nutrition for Growth (N4G) from proceeding as planned, Concern continued to work with donors, parliamentarians, and government committees; holding them accountable to their commitments to end wasting and malnutrition, and increase global financing for nutrition. We are also planning a major conference in 2021 to mark 20 years of Community-based Management of Acute Malnutrition (CMAM), an approach to malnutrition co-developed by Concern that is now the gold standard for humanitarian nutrition programming.

Liberia

Liberia's Minister for Agriculture Jeanine Cooper launches the GHI 2020 in Monrovia. Photo: Concern Worldwide



CONCERN COVID-19 GLOBAL RESPONSE

The COVID-19 pandemic presented an exceptional challenge for countries all over the world. Given the impact of the disease on countries with strong health systems, COVID-19 posed an even larger threat to densely-populated countries already struggling with the impacts of conflict, climate change, and hunger.

As the outbreak unfolded, our teams focused on maintaining and adapting existing programs, raising awareness of the tools that can be used to fight the spread of the infection. We also supported communities impacted by the crisis by providing clean water, soap, sanitizer, and hygiene kits. We provided cash assistance to people who could not earn an income due to lockdown restrictions.



20,000

Food baskets and hygiene kits distributed to vulnerable people in Syria



345,268

People received hand sanitizer and soap in Pakistan



55,366

People supplied with soap and hand sanitizer in Somalia



802,246

People reached with COVID-19 awareness messaging in Bangladesh





James, South Sudan

On the opposite page: Concern staff member, James Kiir works in the Nutrition Center in a Protection of Civilians Site in Juba. His work includes the assessment of mothers and children for signs of malnutrition. Because of COVID-19 he now wears a face mask while with patients and promotes social distancing in the Center. **Photo:** Samir Bol / Concern Worldwide

Somalia

Left: Mothers and children queuing at a safe distance outside a Concern supported health and nutrition center, Somalia. **Photo:** Concern Worldwide



14,000

Students reached with COVID-19 prevention information in Afghanistan



20,000

People received cash transfers in Kenya



5,000

Boreholes rehabilitated to increase access to clean water in Chad



25

Health facilities rehabilitated in Syria



50

Installed handwashing points* at 50 locations, including transport areas, gas stations, and markets in Sierra Leone



84,500

Distributed detergent, hand soap, and hygiene products to 84,500 people in Iraq



49,000

Provided over 49,000 people with improved access to water in South Sudan



75

Trained staff in 75 health centers in COVID-19 infection control and response in the Central African Republic



Distributed emergency cash assistance to refugee households that have lost their source of income due to the pandemic in Lebanon



Distributed Personal Protective Equipment for health workers in both urban and rural areas, as well as training Community Health Workers on the risks and prevention of COVID-19 in Malawi



Distributed radios and spare batteries to children so they could access the curriculum broadcast on radio in Sierra Leone



Rehabilitated a 50-room disused school to be used as an Isolation Facility in Lebanon

* These handwashing stations include Veronica Buckets (a big bucket with a lid and a tap) and stands for the bucket, hand soap, and large plastic water storage tanks.

US Government Partnership

The last year brought with it unprecedented challenges to the way the world worked. However, it didn't halt our commitment to ensuring that the most vulnerable communities were able to cope with the unexpected shocks of lockdowns, social distancing, and a global pandemic. In fact, it renewed that commitment, as well as the commitment of our partners and supporters at the US Agency for International Development (USAID) and the US Department of State.

Concern received more than \$46 million from the US Government in 2020 to support 38 awards in more than 15 countries. That's impressive. But what we're most proud of is expanding our US government supported programming to three new countries: Haiti, Lebanon and Bangladesh.

In mid-2020, Concern Haiti launched the program Manje Byen, La Sante (Eat Well, Good Health) with \$2 million of funding from USAID's Office of Food for Peace. The program is expanding access to food and providing vital education in best nutrition practices for more than 15,000 residents of Port-au-Prince's Cité Soleil, likely the poorest neighborhood in the Western Hemisphere.

Concern also commenced the Value Chains Support Program in 2020, providing comprehensive support to 1,310 members of Syrian refugee and the Lebanese host communities. With \$1.4 million of investment in the first year, the US Department of State's Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration (PRM) supports our work to increase income generation among vulnerable Syrian and Lebanese farmers, while maintaining safe and dignified working conditions.

Finally, our team in Bangladesh is collaborating closely with the International Rescue Committee to implement a PRM funded response to the humanitarian crisis in Cox's Bazar. Concern's contribution to the program comprises a range of tools and services to 36,340 members of the Rohingya refugee and Bangladeshi host communities with \$2.2 million in funding for the first year.

These three programs reach more than 52,000 people and have a huge impact. Never forget the power that a positive change in one person's life can have on the lives of their family – and their entire community. The entire world for that matter.

As poet Amanda Gorman said earlier this year: "We will raise this wounded world into a wondrous one." The work Concern achieved in 23 countries last year, reaching more people in one year than ever before in our 50+ year history, is thanks to the US Government, and the Americans it serves, rising to the occasion. We are grateful to you for sharing our vision of a world raised from wounded to wondrous.



Marin & Peter,
Kenya

Concern is providing nutritious food for Marin Lemotou's baby Peter. **Photo:** Ed Ram / Concern Worldwide

Kenya & Ethiopia: Turning Over a New LEAF

A partnership with Archer Daniels Midland (ADM) demonstrates a model for private sector partnership based on the resources of international corporations, and the expertise of humanitarian and development organizations to develop unique solutions to the world's most complex issues.

Lifesaving Education and Assistance to Farmers, aka the LEAF project, launched in late 2019 and concluded its initial run in mid-2021. In just 18 months and in two countries, it harnessed the power of nutrition to save lives today — and to enrich them tomorrow.

THE INITIAL CHALLENGE

LEAF's roots can be traced to Kenya's Tana River County, a semi-arid region six hours east of Nairobi. Here, generations have relied on small farming and pastoral livestock to make enough income and food to get by. But climate change has made "getting by" a much more difficult task over time.

"There isn't enough," said Halima Diramu Jilu, who witnessed this shift firsthand. "It's a big worry, brought on to a large extent by a lack of water."

1,000 miles to the north of Tana River, Ethiopia's Wolayita zone faced a different set of challenges, including a denser population that places serious pressure on available land.

"Finding food for them is a challenge," Tarkuwa Debsa, a widowed mother of 5 who farms a plot of land smaller than the average backyard, told us of raising her family. "It is a matter of survival — I am trying to survive."

DESIGNING A COMMUNITY- BASED SOLUTION

Faced with this challenge and the ripple effects that can come with it, Concern — in collaboration with local community leaders and government officials — designed LEAF, a dual-pronged approach to ending hunger through two simultaneous actions:

1. Diagnosing and treating current cases of acute malnutrition
2. Preventing future cases of malnutrition through sustainable livelihoods

To make this plan a reality, Illinois-based food processing company ADM came on as a supporter.

KENYA: LIFESAVING NUTRITION IN REAL- TIME, AND BEYOND

Community-level outreach is a critical ingredient in detecting and treating acute malnutrition in a timely manner. In cooperation with the Tana River County Government Department of Health, Concern supported trained community health volunteers and assistants to conduct screenings for malnutrition in children and pregnant/lactating women, and also provide advice on key health and nutrition practices.

Meanwhile, Concern also worked with Tana River farmers to adapt their agriculture methods in the face of a changing climate. We provided drought-tolerant seeds based on each family's preferred varieties (including black-eyed peas, tomatoes, kale, and watermelon), along with pumps and access to irrigation canals to ensure affordable access to water.



Mestawat Sorsa, Ethiopia

Mestawat Sorsa started a grain milling business, acquired a donkey, a cow, and a sheep, and carried out major improvements to the family home, including new windows, doors, and furniture. She plans to buy an ox. She is pictured with her sons Abinet and Zekiyos.

Photo: Kieran McConville / Concern Worldwide

“Our aspiration is to have an acre and a half of land under cultivation for each family, providing enough food for their own use and for commercial purposes,” said Hassan Olow, who oversaw LEAF for Concern in Kenya.

ETHIOPIA: ADDING ONE STRENGTH TO ANOTHER

Meanwhile, we modified our approach to LEAF in Ethiopia, implementing it alongside our Resilience, Graduation with Evidence (REGRADE) program.

REGRADE builds job and food security among families in the Wolayita zone by improving harvest quality and yields, while also building resilience against the risks of climate-related disasters. LEAF built on this by working with over 1,700 families to further their economic stability by diversifying their income, assets, and skills, while ensuring that they also had access to financial services, capital, and assets. One special focus was working with female-headed households in Wolayita, who are often left further behind in terms of confidence, assets, and access.

A nutrition-sensitive component meant that, as LEAF participants grew their income, they also knew how to invest when it came to the food security and nutritional health of their families.

A POWERFUL COMBINATION, AND A HISTORIC FIRST

“Since we started this project, our lives have changed,” Halim Diramu Jilu told us mid-project in Tana River. “We have planted lots of crops. We get water from canals; we have enough water now.” In Kenya, Concern worked with 6,404 families — exceeding our goal of 6,000, and directly reached nearly 40,000 people, who collectively harvested 1.67 million pounds of nutrient-rich crops (an estimated value of nearly \$250,000).

This increase in crop gains had its own compound interest. Child malnutrition rates in Tana River dropped from 4% in March 2020 to 1% in March 2021. Even more critical a success: For the first time in three decades, there was no need for relief food distribution in the Tana River Country communities participating in LEAF.

Meanwhile, in Ethiopia, we reached 10,260 people directly with LEAF, including 624 families that, like Tarkuwa Debsa’s, are female-headed. Tarkuwa beamed when she told us that she was now providing for her family just as well as her husband had before his death. She harvested over 550 pounds of navy beans, and 110 pounds of the local grain teff — enough to feed her family and sell the surplus for profit. She used her start-up capital from LEAF to diversify her income with the purchase of four goats.

“Now, I am able to send my children to school, feed them nutritious food, and engage in social institutions like SACCOs for better financial access,” she says.

“We’re so proud of our partnership with Concern Worldwide, where we have helped make a difference in the dire nutrition situation for thousands of residents in Ethiopia and Kenya, while being good stewards of the environment,” said Juan Luciano, ADM Chairman and CEO. “We’re hopeful that the success of this project can serve as a model as we work together to end food insecurity globally, unlocking the power of nature to save lives today, to enrich them tomorrow.”

Our Supporters

\$500,000+

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* Our special thanks to those who furthered the impact of their gift(s) with a matching gift(s).

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A Socially Distanced Year

Despite the significant challenges that tested our resilience, we were tremendously grateful for the public’s support and compassion in 2020, allowing us to never waver from our commitment to creating a world where no one lives in poverty, fear or oppression.

While in-person events were limited, we continued our engagement through virtual events, campaigns, direct mail, monthly giving, major gifts, legacy giving, and virtual conversations. With your help, over \$4.4 million was raised from the public – an exceptional amount given the disruption caused by COVID-19. Here are a few of the highlights from 2020:



Live Conversation: Concern’s COVID-19 Response

On April 9, Concern hosted a 30-minute live presentation with a Q&A session, led by Kirk Prichard, VP of Humanitarian Programs. The webinar welcomed 160 participants and reviewed the impact of COVID-19 on Concern’s ongoing work to help vulnerable communities as they now faced a global health crisis.

Celebrating International Women’s Day in LA

On the eve of the pandemic, the West Region hosted Concern’s last in-person event: a celebration of International Women’s Day in Los Angeles on March 8, 2020. More than 60 women gathered for an uplifting and impactful afternoon that focused on women’s empowerment, hosted in the beautiful Blackbird House, a co-working productivity and wellness collective for women of color and their allies, founded by event speaker Bridgid Coulter. Concern’s Katie Waller also spoke, discussing how our programming is always conducted through a gender lens. “Women and girls are at the center of Concern’s work – because we know that’s where real change begins.”



Virtual Conversation with Alison Taylor

COVID-19 also cancelled our Women of Concern Luncheon in Chicago. Instead, we were thrilled to welcome 128 registrants in May instead for a conversation with Alison Taylor, Chief Sustainability Officer for Archer Daniels Midland, and Concern CEO Colleen Kelly. The conversation highlighted the LEAF Project (see more on p. 30), and also discussed the impact of COVID-19 on women and girls.

Concern Fund for Women and Girls

When COVID-19 hit in March 2020, we moved our in-person Women of Concern Luncheon in New York online and launched the Concern Fund for Women and Girls. The June webinar featured a lively discussion with Concern Kenya Country Director Amina Abdulla, Concern Board members Deirdre O’Connor and Kate Waters, and Concern’s Director of the National NGO Program on Humanitarian Leadership, Allyson Brown Kenney. Over \$300,000 was raised in support of women and girls globally.

Remembering Concern's Founder Aengus Finucane

While saddened to not be able to gather at Woodway Country Club in July for our annual Aengus Finucane Memorial Golf Tournament, Concern launched instead a special Aengus Finucane Memorial Fund to continue the legacy of Concern's founder, and raise critical funds to continue his vision. The event raised \$100,000 thanks to our generous supporters!



Socially Distanced on the Links in Chicago

On August 3, 2020 we hosted our socially distanced Concern Chicago Golf Outing Against COVID, allowing 100 golfers a chance to safely reconnect and honor Concern's frontline workers at the Chicago Highlands Club in Westchester, IL. We're thrilled that we surpassed our goal and raised over \$100,000. [photo #5]



Concern Global Gala: Unite to Fight Hunger

On November 13, over \$1.2 million was raised during our star-studded Concern Global Gala: Unite to Fight Hunger, a virtual experience that took audiences around the world to witness the transformative impact of their support. Celebrity guests included Shakira, Usain Bolt, Bono, Irish president Michael D. Higgins, Liam Neeson, Toni Collette, Judy Collins, vocalist Loah, Broadway star and actor Brian D'Arcy James, photographer Alexi Lubomirski, influencer and dancer Morgan Bullock, Irish boxer and actor John Duddy, Wexford Herler Lee Chin, and Irish influencer Louise Cooney.

Virtual Spring Run Against Hunger

Our annual Concern Spring Run in Central Park also became a socially distanced race, yet participants still came together to raise close to \$50,000 through peer-to-peer fundraising, culminating in an active weekend. Runners logged their activities, participated in virtual challenges, and still won prizes (including JetBlue airfare).

Leaps for Lebanon

In response to last summer's devastating Beirut port explosion, board member Jeff Assaf connected Concern with New York's famed Broadway Dance Center. In partnership with World Dance Movement and Caracalla Dance Theater in Beirut, BDC launched Leaps for Lebanon. This singular sensation of a fundraiser devoted 100% of the proceeds raised from a series of livestreamed classes led by acclaimed instructors to support our emergency response efforts in Beirut.

Fireside Chat

Concern Board member Scott Gutterson hosted an intimate, virtual fireside chat and fundraiser for his network on October 28, along with Concern's East Coast Director of Major Gifts, Annie Marsh Ryerson, and Concern's VP of Humanitarian Programs, Kirk Prichard.

Syria: Keeping Hope Alive After 10 Years of Conflict

“I wish I had met you in Syria when we had a normal life there,” Ahmed* told us a few years ago from a refugee settlement in Turkey. “You would come to Syria as tourists and have fun there, and I would host you at my house.”

For nearly 20 million Syrians, the last decade has effectively been lost to a conflict that began in March, 2011. There hasn't been much by way of a “normal life” for a long time — especially for the more-than 13.4 million Syrians in the country who require humanitarian aid and 6.6 million who, like Ahmed, are living abroad as refugees with hopes to return and rebuild. Ahmed's Syrian sense of hospitality persists, but he's also pragmatic: “We need to face reality [today] and see what will happen in the future.”

AN UNCERTAIN FUTURE

That future remains uncertain. “The situation is still really directionless,” Concern Syria Country Director Taimur Ahmed told us in March of this year. “Mainly related to the peace-building efforts: Any kind of political consensus has not materialized, and this high level of uncertainty and unpredictability is not really helping anyone.”

Indeed, a decade of uncertainty has all but decimated the country. Before March 2011, poverty rates were as low as 10% in Syria. Now, more than 80% of Syrians still in the country live below the poverty line, many of them dependent on humanitarian assistance. Food shortages are a reality and the healthcare system was already severely compromised, even before the spread of COVID-19.

Taimur also pointed to one of the other challenges of a long-term crisis: empathy fatigue. International humanitarian funding to Syria dropped by \$52 million in 2020. “Even if you don't see big news stories, the conflict is still there; the need is still there,” he said.

COMPOUND INTEREST

The longer a crisis lasts, the greater the compounding effect on civilians. That includes refugee communities living in other countries (currently, 1 in 4 of the world's total refugees comes from Syria). While life in a host community may be *more* secure, it's not necessarily better.

Lebanon, for example, has the highest per capita refugee population in the world, and hosts over 1.5 million of its Syrian neighbors. While Lebanon provides a more secure refuge for Syrians fleeing war in their country, life is still extremely difficult there: The economy is weak, the healthcare system is fragile, and the events of 2020 — including COVID-19 and the Beirut Port explosion — have led to spikes in poverty. Collectively, Syrian refugees are one of the poorest groups in the country, and among those most impacted by these issues. This extra strain on resources is one part of a domino effect that could result in the country's own humanitarian crisis: Lebanon's economy is weak, the healthcare system fragile, and the events of 2020 — including the pandemic and the Beirut Port explosion — have only heightened tensions.



Syria

Syrian refugee children listen during a hygiene promotion session for Syrian refugee children at an informal tented settlement in the village of Samounniye, Akkar, north of Lebanon.

Photo: Dalia Khamissy/
Concern Worldwide
*names substituted

“We need to really be supportive and not think of Syrian refugees or vulnerable Lebanese as separate,” said Concern Lebanon Country Director Anita Shah. “We just need to be thinking of vulnerable populations on the whole in Lebanon, throughout the country.”

WHAT NEEDS TO HAPPEN

Concern is part of a coalition of international organizations advocating with governments and international bodies to find that solution. With so many different stakeholders involved in the conflict, it’s an uphill struggle, but, as Concern Policy and Advocacy Manager Makayla Palazzo puts it: “We still have champions for the crisis in

Syria, like the Irish and Norwegian governments who spent the first part of this year tirelessly pushing the UN Security Council to continue its authorization of cross-border aid to Syria from Turkey.”

Optimism may not be a word widely associated with the Syrian situation, but for those most affected by the conflict it is their most precious resource. Ibrahim*, who escaped to Lebanon with his wife and extended family 7 years ago, spoke to us at a small refugee settlement in the north of the country. “We have discovered that humans — when they have hope in life — can do anything. Hope is what is keeping us alive; hope for a better tomorrow.”

Nearby, another couple, Salma* and Latif*, share a small space with their 5 children. Latif tells us “Life is better when your dreams come true, but I wish my dreams could come true in Syria. I miss everything: the smell of the land, my family, my neighbors. Life was very simple, our dreams were very big.”

Latif says the war destroyed his dreams, but finding new dreams in the middle of this nightmare has been a thread of normal in the last ten years. “We will still dream,” he says.

Salma nods in agreement: “We will continue dreaming, we will not stop.”

**Names changed for security purposes*

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Mukuru, Nairobi

A nurse screens 11 month-old, Mark, for malnutrition at a Concern-funded Health Center.
Photo: Ed Ram / Concern Worldwide

Concern by the Numbers

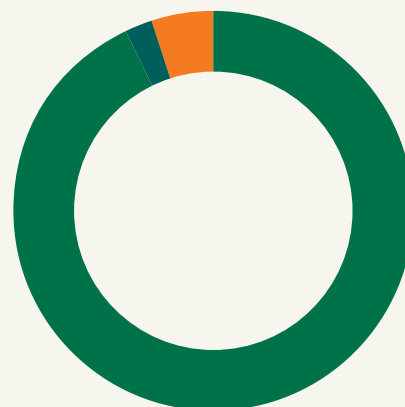
Concern Worldwide US financial summary statement of activities for year ending December 31, 2020 (with summarized amounts for 2019)

2020 Financial Performance

	2020 Total	2019 Total
Support and Revenue		
Contributions and non-government grants	3,028,329	5,021,659
Support from Concern Worldwide	1,851,698	1,608,327
Government Grants	46,595,727	41,177,262
Special Events - net	1,386,071	1,970,934
Other Income	87,853	102,068
Total Revenue and Support	52,949,678	49,880,250
Expenses		
Program Activities	48,366,506	44,530,904
<i>Overseas Relief</i>	47,548,448	43,600,889
<i>Development Education</i>	818,058	930,015
Management and General Administrative	1,539,189	1,606,869
Fundraising	2,623,447	1,966,454
Total Expenses	52,529,142	48,104,227
Change in Net Assets	420,536	1,776,023
Net Assets at Beginning of Year	10,662,255	8,886,232
Net Assets at End of Year	11,082,791	10,662,255
Analysis of Expenditure (Gross)		
Program Activities	93%	93%
General and Administrative	2%	3%
Fundraising	5%	4%

Analysis of Expenditure (Gross)

- Program Activities — 93%
- General and Administrative — 2%
- Fundraising — 5%



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concernusa.org

NEW YORK

355 Lexington Avenue
16th Floor
New York, NY 10017
212-557-8000

CHICAGO

332 South Michigan Avenue
9th Floor
Chicago, IL 60604
312-431-8400

LOS ANGELES

10586 West Pico Boulevard
#139
Los Angeles, CA 90064

info.usa@concern.net

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