

Your Generosity Changes Lives for Generations

CONCERN
worldwide



Lenge wa Mbuyi Ervestine, mother and grandmother of a large family, sells sugar and flour on the road, an income-generating activity she began with the help of Concern's Graduation Project in Manono, Tanganyika, DRC.

PHOTO: Pamela Tulizo/Panos/Concern Worldwide

Investing for a moment.

CREATING CHANGE THAT LASTS A LIFETIME.



We don't only show up when there's a crisis – We stay when the world stops watching.



It takes a single moment to change a life and a series of moments to change lives for generations. Extreme poverty and suffering are not the results of singular moments: they are the result of generational conflicts that ignite cycles of poverty, devastate livelihoods, and dismantle food systems for decades. Nowhere is the extent of this reality more magnified than the Democratic Republic of Congo. While the situation is complex, Concern's approach to breaking the cycle of poverty by focusing on addressing marginalization and risk, works.

Democratic Republic of Congo

In the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), where we've operated for over a quarter of a century, there is no shortage of natural resources. The beauty of which clashes against one of the longest-standing and most complex humanitarian crises in the world. For over two decades, recurring epidemics of cholera, measles, Ebola, and now the global COVID-19 pandemic have mixed with factors of violence, displacement, and climate change. **Creating a toxic cocktail of devastation – with millions of Congolese on the precipice of famine.**

For over 500 years, DRC has been exploited for forced labor and natural resources leaving a legacy of scarcity despite the landscape of abundance. Amongst the thousands of civilians struggling for survival and internally displaced fleeing from

horrendous human rights violations are the over half a million refugees from neighboring countries. Despite the country's first-ever peaceful transition of presidential power in 2019, security situations worsened in several provinces in the east in 2020, leaving **5.3 million people displaced – the highest level in Africa.**

A staggering 27.3 million, a number greater than the population of New York State - enough to fit over 370 football stadiums - are facing acute levels of hunger or higher in DRC.

Please see the gift request slip enclosed and give generously to help us **#CancelHunger**.

Kiambi Health Center

To end extreme poverty, we must end hunger. For over 50 years as an organization, Concern has led the way with standard-setting programs that strengthen local health systems and provide quality nutrition support and education to the world's most vulnerable communities. Our work in DRC, at the Kiambi Health Center, is no different.

Concern supports the humble Kiambi Health Center because it is strategically located to support eight key areas to ensure the health needs of an extremely vulnerable conflict-affected population. The center provides amoxicillin, vitamin A, albendazole and ready-to-use therapeutic food to address acute malnutrition in children and pregnant and lactating women in the area. With training and resources, Concern aims to lessen the statistics of 7% of children under five who are acutely malnourished or wasted and 42% of children under five who are stunted in DRC.

But more importantly, the Kiambi Health Center provides hope for caregivers like Caustasie Kisoke.



Pierre Legume Mbuyu, 30, coordinator of Kiambi Health Center, Manono Territory.

PHOTO: Hugh Kinsella Cunningham/Concern Worldwide

Caustasie's Story

Caustasie is a widow and primary caregiver of her two grandchildren, 4-year-old Gloria and 1-year-and-eight-month old Emmanuel. Her daughter-in-law passed away after the birth of her second child, not long before that violent conflict took the life of Caustasie's husband and forced the family into a vicious cycle of displacement and despair.

When fighting began,

“ We had to flee at this moment. It was either stay and die or run away altogether...And this fear of death motivated us to flee without worrying about our destination. ”

To live in displacement is to survive but not thrive. “I hate the life I lead here. I only have two old loincloths that I use to put on and at the same time cover the children with. Even the conditions in which we sleep are inhumane.”

Without electricity and drinking water, the threat of illness intensifies.

Through Caustasie's eyes, she watched her grandson develop malnutrition. “His hair had changed color. He had lost too much weight. He had become a real skinny guy. He no longer had an appetite to eat. It was with these signs that I brought him to the Kiambi Health Center. Doctors diagnosed him with malnutrition.”

The difficulty of getting aid to those like Caustasie's grandson escalates in times of conflict. As a highly isolated zone with

no mobile network, poor roads, and natural barriers of rivers, Kiambi is incredibly challenging to deliver life-saving aid. **Yet, with your support, this is where Concern goes.**

“I felt badly when he fell ill. I was too worried that he was dying of the same disease as his poor mother. When I took him to the hospital, he weighed only three kilograms. The doctors made us feel welcome at the hospital. They were nice to him.”

For Caustasie's grandson, Concern used Plumpy'nut, a high-energy peanut paste enriched with vitamins and minerals to increase his weight. It's part of Community Management of Acute Malnutrition (CMAM), a method Concern pioneered more than 10 years ago.

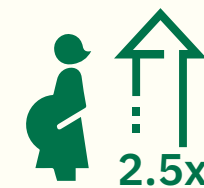
“ And when the doctors started his treatment, I started to see change and to regain hope...and he was healed. ”

Because of our 53+ years of experience, we know what is required to end extreme poverty. Because you believe in us, we have the tools to alleviate suffering. Because of a series of actions that provide children with enough food to grow, women like Caustasie can regain hope.

IN DRC, AND AROUND THE WORLD, WE CAN AND WILL MAKE AN IMPACT FOR GENERATIONS TO COME.



Women and children are disproportionately affected by conflict and represent 80% of the millions of refugees and displaced people around the world.



Conflict increases maternal mortality rates to 2.5 times higher than the average – in countries experiencing active conflict and also in those trying to recover from it.



In 2019, 96% of conflict-related sexual violence cases targeted women and girls.



Conflict is the main cause of hunger accounting for more than 60% of acute food insecurity.



Our Mission

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

Our Vision for Change

We believe in 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; and where everyone is treated with dignity and respect.

Our Impact

In 2020, 93 cents of every dollar went directly to our programs around the world.

Program Activities | **93%**

Fundraising | **4%**

General & Admin | **3%**

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Caustasie Kisoke Mukala, 61, poses for a portrait in Kiambi, Manono Territory.

PHOTO: Hugh Kinsella Cunningham / Concern Worldwide