



Headlines Fade

BUT THE STORY CONTINUES.

Ambassador Newsletter
June 2022

CONCERN
worldwide US

Message from the CEO



Pivot. Adapt. Transform. We used these three words more times than we can count over this past year and the duration of the pandemic. **With our programming, we had to pivot.** We focused not only on ensuring our participants received their basic needs but also essential healthcare, including mobile testing and contract tracing for COVID-19. **With our Concern Worldwide US team, we had to adapt.** Within a week, we went from in-person everything to two years of virtual everything. **And we transformed.** From inside our offices to the world over, our mission to end extreme poverty – whatever it takes – took on heightened meaning. It had to at a time when conflict, climate, and COVID-19 threatened to erase decades of hard-won work.

When confronted with these compounding emergencies, from COVID-19 pushing an additional 124 million people into extreme poverty to the Ukraine Crisis displacing more people in Europe than WWII, it was you - our Concern Ambassadors - that we counted on. And when we called on you to help those hardest hit by these disasters, you answered. **I'm so proud to share that we reached 39 million people with your support last year.**

While I'm forever grateful for all we've been able to accomplish, our work knows no end while communities within our 24 countries of operation teeter on the brink of survival on any given day. **To exist without the possibility to thrive is no way to live.** But this is a harsh reality for millions who still face several threats:

- In Afghanistan, over 4.2 million children – 60% of which are girls – are out of school.
- In the Horn of Africa, 20 million people are on the brink of starvation from drought and the Ukraine Crisis' impact on global hunger.
- In Haiti, 46% of the population faces acute food insecurity – the fifth highest per-capita figure in the world.

Having served as CEO for 5 years, I know, and I've seen, the difference between surviving extreme poverty and thriving by breaking its cycle. While the former leaves populations susceptible to generational poverty, the latter enables people to meet their basic needs, achieve their rights, and withstand the harrowing consequences of conflict. To illustrate this vision, Annie Marsh Ryerson, Vice President of Development, explains **why we seek out the most vulnerable** and what it means when your support allows us to reach these communities on page 3.

Often, where we're needed the most are with the communities who risk being forgotten – whose stories are lost when the next emergency begins. Because of you, we don't let that happen. **Your generous gifts allow us to be present when the breaking news of a crisis begins, and your continued support helps us stay as the story of those affected continues to unfold.** One such noteworthy story is that of the drought-impacted communities in Turkana County, detailed by Candance Patel-Taylor, Vice President of Communications from her trip to Northern Kenya on page 7.

Because of you, we don't stop when the camera crews leave. Our team of over 4,700 humanitarians across 24 countries continues to pivot, adapt, and transform our approaches and programs. By using the enclosed form to give a gift now, we'll continue to find the most vulnerable populations living in the hardest-to-reach places to end extreme poverty - whatever it takes.

With deepest gratitude,

Colleen Kelly
CEO, Concern Worldwide US

Highlights from 2021



We responded to **66 emergencies** in **23 countries**, reaching **17.8 million** people.



Our health and nutrition programs reached **11.4 million** people.



We distributed **500 health kits** and **500 dignity kits** which contain items specific to the needs of women and girls in Burkina Faso.



We reached **2 million children** through our education programs.



In Ethiopia, we worked with over **18,200 people** to enable them to earn an income and improve their food and nutrition security.



In northern Iraq our emergency response activities include improving access to and the quality of water, sanitation and hygiene services to **over 96,300 vulnerable people living in camps for displaced people.**

When a crisis hits, some can leave first and fast. BUT THAT'S NOT ALWAYS THE CASE.



Nyaboth (26) and her 11-month-old baby boy Makur are in the program for severely malnourished children at the Concern Worldwide nutrition clinics in Juba, South Sudan.



By: Annie Marsh Ryerson
Vice President, Development,
Concern Worldwide US

Those who Concern Worldwide works with live on less than \$1.90 a day: the individuals, families, and communities who, in the face of natural disasters and conflict, are left to fend for themselves against the onslaught of crisis-induced outcomes (think: hunger, malnutrition, gender-based violence, and loss of livelihoods).

From my start at Concern Worldwide as a Development Officer to my new role as the Vice President of Development, the plight of vulnerable populations to survive across our 24 countries of operations never ceases to motivate me to inspire others to support our mission. Whether it's a pregnant mother attempting to flee Ukraine or a grandmother walking miles to save her grandchild from malnutrition, I'm proud of what it means to Concern to seek out, and to operate in a way that benefits, the most vulnerable.

I remember it was only in my first year that we responded to the South Sudanese refugee crisis in 2016. When the number of refugees grew by 64% during the second half of 2016 from 854,100 to over 1.4 million – a majority of which were infants, children, and pregnant women – the magnitude of Concern Worldwide's focus on the most vulnerable communities was amplified. It was the first time I ever supported an organization responding to a crisis of this extent. But over the years, I've learned that Concern's work, whether it be responding to the world's worst crises or building sustainable solutions, has always revolved around those who stand to be forgotten in the hardest-to-reach places.

Vulnerability is complex and unique to different countries, regions, communities, and families. Yet it has one unifying attribute: the fact that being amongst the most vulnerable leaves one the most susceptible to the impacts of emergencies and least able to withstand the shocks. Those who are vulnerable are often the casualties of the insurmountable challenges conflict and climate change cause.

WHEN WE SAY THAT WE SEEK OUT THE MOST VULNERABLE, WE MEAN THE INDIVIDUALS WITHIN OUR COMMUNITIES ENDURING EXTREME POVERTY WHO ARE:



WOMEN AND GIRLS: the ones who are targets of gender-based violence in a crisis, domestic violence in their home every day, face increased risks while pregnant and who are robbed of the right to a decent standard of living by gender inequality.



CHILDREN: young boys and girls whose development is stunted by the aches and pains of starvation and whose childhoods are stolen by armed conflict, abuse, forced labor, and exploitation.



PEOPLE WITH IMPAIRMENTS: those who have injuries or chronic illnesses whose urgency to flee an emergency is met with an inability to escape or cope due to physical or mental impairments, leaving them exposed to the elements and violence of others.



ELDERLY: those whose age prevents them from earning a living, leaving them dependent on the community for caregiving but who often must still provide care for their grandchildren.

These individuals who face increased risks are the ones I am so proud to say we will continue reaching – who we are able to seek out and impact because of those who believe in our mission.

Concern midwife Rebekka at a Mobile Health Clinic in a remote rural area of Aweil, South Sudan. The mobile clinic visits five locations once a week. In the picture, Rebekka is seeing Chagawa (28) who is visiting for a checkup as she is 9 months pregnant with her ninth child.



Concern Worldwide Emergency Response Fund

WHAT IS THE EMERGENCY RESPONSE FUND?

There's no such thing as a one-size-fits-all approach to emergency response for Concern Worldwide. This is why Concern's Emergency Response Fund is an always-on approach to collect and deploy funds immediately when a disaster strikes.

The Ukraine Crisis alone risks tipping up to 1.7 billion people — over one-fifth of humanity — into poverty, destitution, and hunger due to the disrupted global supply of staple grains, agricultural inputs, and natural gas imports.

As we operate across 24 countries facing compounding conflict, hunger, and climate change crises, our communities, who rely on the disrupted essential imports from Ukraine and Russia, will feel the worst impacts.

We know this, and because of Concern's Emergency Response Fund, we stand ready to deliver food, clean water, shelter, medicine, cash transfers, and other assistance to meet the needs of the world's most vulnerable populations.

And when a crisis fades from the headlines and funding begins to decline, Concern's Emergency Response Fund becomes the lifeline for communities who need it most.

HOW THE EMERGENCY RESPONSE FUND WORKS:

HUMANITARIAN CRISIS



Concern Worldwide is called on to respond to an emergency.

CONTRIBUTIONS



Donors contribute to Concern's Emergency Response Fund year-round.

IDENTIFY MOST VULNERABLE



Concern's global staff assess the needs of the impacted community, identifying the most vulnerable amidst each crisis.

ALLOCATING FUNDS



Concern consults with United Nations partners, national agencies, and local authorities to allocate funds.

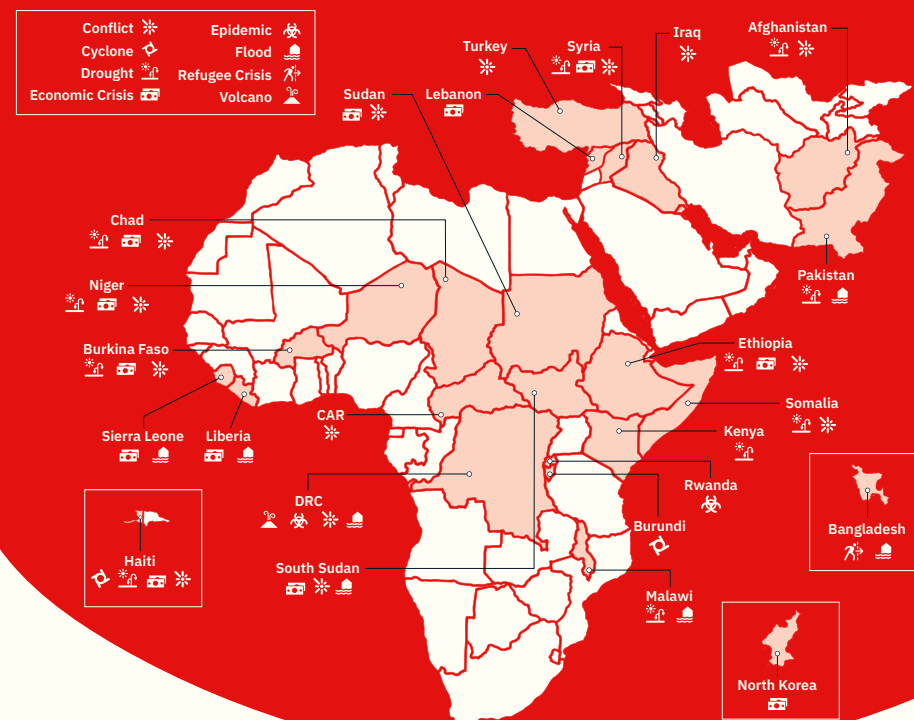
DELIVER LIFESAVING AID



Concern's emergency response team delivers life-saving aid on the ground.

THE NEED FOR THE EMERGENCY FUND

In 2021, we responded to 66 emergencies in 23 countries and reached 17.8 million people. Below is a snapshot of the multiple types of emergencies Concern was simultaneously called on to respond to:



THE IMPACT OF CONCERN'S EMERGENCY RESPONSE FUND:



350,000 of the 1.4 million severely malnourished children in the country may die while relying on over 90% of wheat imports that are disrupted from Russia and Ukraine and enduring a fourth consecutive season without rain.



Concern is supporting 24 health centers to treat tens of thousands of children and adults suffering from severe malnutrition and other illnesses.



Decades of conflict, high exposure to natural disasters and deepening poverty have left nearly 20 million people in Afghanistan — almost half the population — facing acute hunger.



Concern is distributing chickens, food for the chickens and hencoop construction materials to families to help provide both food and income.



100% of donated funds are directed to Concern's life-saving emergency response program.



Scan to Donate Today

To reach the most vulnerable, we go where others won't.



By: Candance Patel-Taylor
Vice President, Communications,
Concern Worldwide US

When I began working at Concern four years ago, I regularly heard that, **“Concern goes the furthest, and goes where others won’t, to end extreme poverty.”** It wouldn’t be until this March, on a trip to Turkana County in Northern Kenya that I would understand just how accurate and important that statement is.

Right now, Turkana County is at the epicenter of a three-year drought across the Horn of Africa, which has left a startling **13 million people in desperate need of humanitarian assistance.** It is, however, more than the climate crisis that’s at play. Ukraine and the Russian Federation’s impact on the global agricultural markets is putting already vulnerable regions at risk. In East Africa alone, where wheat and wheat products account for one-third of average cereal consumption, 90 percent of all wheat imports come from the two countries (WFP, March 2022c). Nearby countries – South Sudan and Somalia – are experiencing decades of conflict with some taking refuge in Turkana Country – areas of which are still disputed land.



Photo Credit: Rachel Isely/
Concern Worldwide

The journey to Turkana was long, but worth it to see how Concern Worldwide is **supporting these semi-nomadic pastoralist communities** – that are deeply affected by climate change – with malnutrition screening and treatment, water and cash transfers.

Our first stop, an hour and a half outside of the capital Lodwar, brought us down a long and bumpy desert road to Lochor Edome. Underneath desert trees were dozens of people, and their camels, enjoying the only shade I remember seeing throughout our visit. Here Concern rehabilitated a borehole, which can be used for both human and livestock consumption. **People, mostly women, walk for miles in the sweltering heat just to reach this water supply,** but it wasn’t until the community leaders showed us the alternative that I understood why. Just out from under the shade, a couple hundred yards from this borehole, in the middle of a dry riverbed was a man-dug hole some 15ft deep where both man, woman, child and animal have lost their lives just to fetch a dirty pale of water.



TRADITIONAL BOREHOLE



CONCERN BOREHOLE

From there we journeyed down “roads” that had no names to one of the most remote areas Concern works, Nayanae Emoni. I can’t tell you how many times I’ve reviewed photos from mass malnutrition screening sites in some of the direst scenarios. **Nothing, however, would prepare me for seeing it with my own eyes.** Most of the photos I took here, I’ll never share, because it’s my personal mission and vision for our team that dignity be the foundation of our storytelling, so I trust you’ll believe me when I say that no human should be subject to this amount of suffering, especially at the expense of manmade crises for which there are solutions.

What I can share is the moment 18-month year-old *Akuj made his way through the screening process.



*Akuj is nearing the red zone and at the end of his screening he received, and immediately dug into, Plumpy’nut a therapeutic food treatment pioneered by Concern 22 years ago. Nothing is more effective at treating malnutrition and in a couple months *Akuj should be back up to a normal weight. But in case it’s not yet obvious, these are not normal circumstances. Soon after this a health worker confided to us that, **“This is the worst I’ve seen it; therapeutic food rations are being divided by the whole family. Everyone is hungry and the children aren’t getting better because of it.”**

Worse yet, every Health Center we visited in Turkana reported the same problems: dwindling medical and food supplies thought to be due to supply chain breakdowns, inflation, global shortages of everything, and now the knock down effects of war in Russia and Ukraine.

You’re probably wondering when I’ll get to the uplifting part and normally, I would. **But not this time.** What’s happening in our world, in the Horn of Africa, to millions of innocent people is not okay. The last time this happened, in Somalia, the world responded far too late after thousands of children died and we vowed, “never again”.

But here we are. As history begins to repeat itself, we count on our supporters to be the reason this crisis doesn’t happen again.

Foreign aid to address the crisis is limited. For example, in Somalia, the humanitarian need is only 3.8% funded, but this is exactly why we created the Emergency Response Fund. Last year, Concern responded to 66 emergencies, only a handful of which made the news or received adequate funding. The Emergency Response Fund uses 100% of the money donated to ensure our emergency response goes farther and reaches more people. It ensures that money goes where it is actually needed; to the most vulnerable, like those in Turkana and the Horn of Africa.

A gift to the fund gives me hope that maybe, just maybe, we meant it when we said, “never again”.

Upcoming Events

For more information on our events, please visit concernusa.org/events

ANNUAL GOLF OUTINGS

Each year's golf outing is an opportunity to help Concern raise critical funds for our life-saving programming around the world. This year's golf outing will take place at **Hamilton Farm Golf Club, Pottersville Road, Gladstone, NJ on July 11th** and another at **Chicago Highlands Club, Westchester, IL on July 25th**.

CONCERN GLOBAL GALA

Experience the power of food this fall. Continuing the tradition of Concern's take on dinner and a show, the Concern Global Gala will be a journey around the globe with music, dancing, and celebration of the human spirit! Mouthwatering flavors come together with the colorful stories of work and life across Concern's program areas with celebrity guests and musical performances.

We will host in-person events in New York and Chicago, as well as a virtual event for everyone to join.

For more information, to become a sponsor, or RSVP for these events, please email **Marisa Maltese** marisa.maltese@concern.net.

Recently Seen On



Madame Moisehas lived in Ti Ayiti in the Cité Soleil area of Port au Prince, Haiti for all her life. It is one of the most vulnerable communities in the city, with houses subject to regular flooding and families experiencing anti-social activities. Photo: Kieran McConville/Concern Worldwide

Impact of the Ambassador Community

As an Ambassador, your support greatly increases our capacity to create and implement long-term solutions to extreme poverty and respond quickly to urgent humanitarian needs. You ensure that our strong staff go to the hardest-to-reach places to make sure that no one is left behind – and give us the ability to:

- Respond quickly to disasters that never make the news
- Support programs in places that typically receive little donor attention
- Spur innovation and take thoughtful risks that increase the effectiveness of our work

You can give a gift online at go.concernusa.org/newslettergiving.

BENEFITS OF THE AMBASSADOR COMMUNITY

The Ambassador Program provides committed supporters with personal and in-depth access to the work of Concern. Each level receives the benefits of the preceding levels.

The Humanitarian Circle

\$5,000–\$24,999

- Subscription to the Ambassador newsletter
- Invitations to program presentations and exclusive Ambassador gatherings
- Recognition in the annual report
- Direct access to Concern staff

The Transformation Circle

\$25,000–\$49,999

- Direct access to Concern's program experts
- Lunch with a senior team member
- Opportunity to visit a country Concern supports

The Innovation Circle

\$50,000–\$99,999

- Lunch with the CEO
- Private dinners with visiting field staff
- Opportunity to visit a country Concern supports with a senior team member

The Leadership Circle

\$100,000+ per year

- Lunch with the Board Chairman and CEO
- Private dinners with visiting country directors
- Opportunity to visit a country
- Concern supports with the CEO
- Custom benefits to reflect your interests

YOUR LEGACY: A BETTER WORLD

We all dream of a better world – not just for the people we love, but for people everywhere – and your generosity helps make that future possible. There are many ways our dedicated supporters help empower future generations. We would be honored to help find the right way for you to make eliminating extreme poverty part of your lasting legacy, whether that be through a bequest in your will or a beneficiary gift of life insurance, retirement plans, donor-advised funds, or accounts. Please contact us or visit concernusa.org/legacy to learn more about how you can include Concern in your estate plans.

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