



A photograph of a woman in a pink and gold sari holding a young goat. She has a red bindi on her forehead and is smiling. The background is dark with some green foliage. The image is set against a teal background with a thin yellow line.

Female farmers are tackling climate change in Bangladesh



Read more about climate smart techniques
and the difference they are making on page 8

Cover:

Nila Boiragi is growing a variety of early winter vegetables alongside the paddy field, maximizing the utilization of space by adopting composite agriculture practices in Tildanga, Dacope, Bangladesh. Photo: Mumit/Concern Worldwide



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This page:

Shriti Ray participated in a livestock training program and also received cash grants to help improve her livelihood options. Photo: Mumit M/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 is working towards the ultimate elimination of extreme poverty in 26 countries.

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; 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.

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 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.

* Concern's understanding is that extreme poverty is driven by people's lack of access to basic assets or, where basic assets are available, their existence does not generate sufficient returns to meet human needs. We also recognize that inequality, insecurity, risk, and vulnerability need to be tackled if people are to move sustainably out of extreme poverty.

**Malawi**

Concern provided Mano Irrigation Scheme with a solar pump, and now Makifodi and the community have a direct water supply to their crops.
Photo: Chris Gagnon/Concern Worldwide

WHERE WE WORK

In 2023, Concern worked in 26 countries to alleviate poverty and hunger:

Afghanistan

Bangladesh

Burkina Faso

Burundi

Central African Republic

Chad

Democratic People's Republic of Korea

Democratic Republic of Congo

Ethiopia

Haiti

Iraq

Kenya

Lebanon

Liberia

Malawi

Niger

Pakistan

Republic of Sudan

Rwanda

Sierra Leone

Somalia

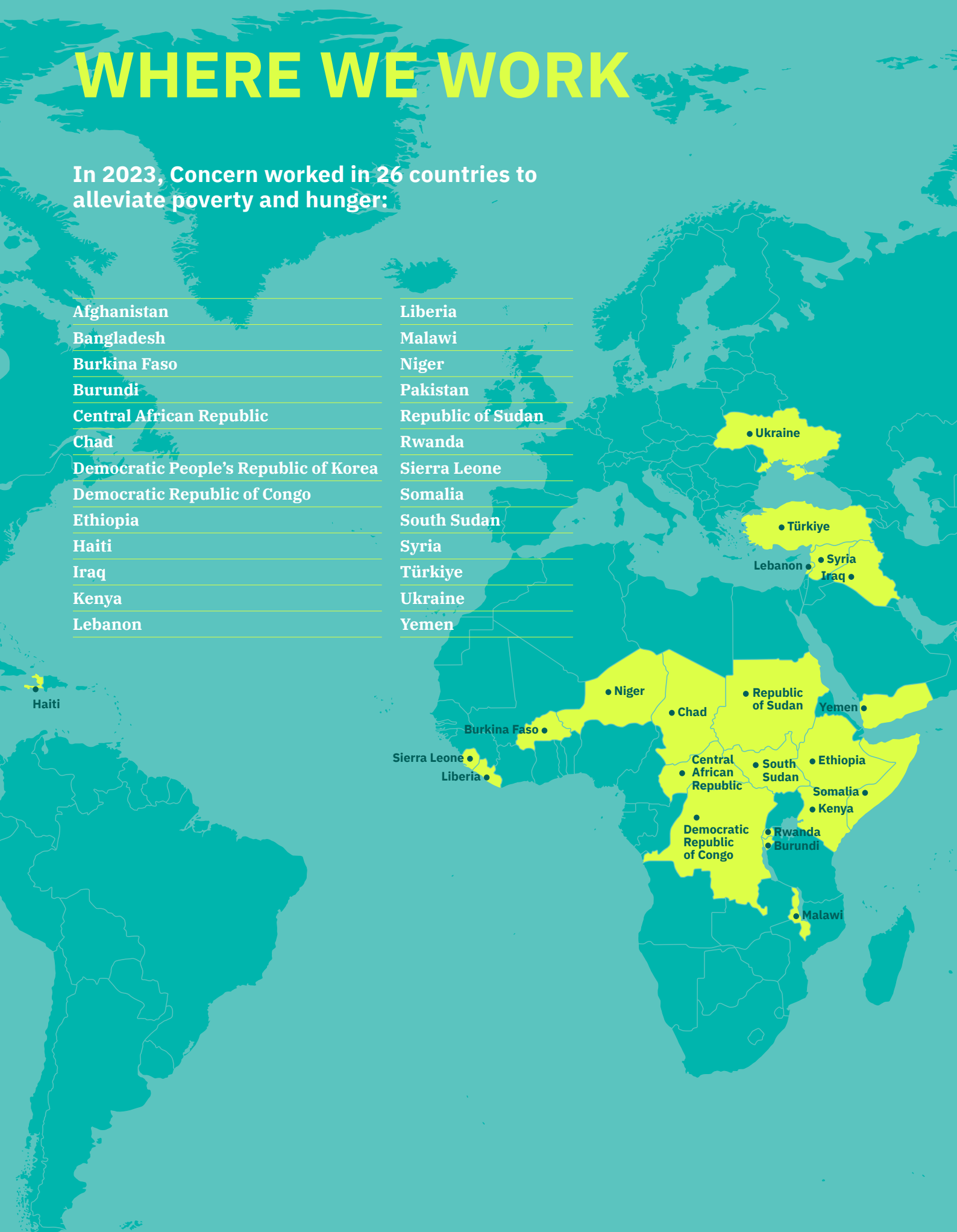
South Sudan

Syria

Türkiye

Ukraine

Yemen



Haiti

Sierra Leone

Liberia

Burkina Faso

Niger

Chad

Republic of Sudan

Yemen

Central African Republic

South Sudan

Ethiopia

Somalia

Kenya

Democratic Republic of Congo

Rwanda

Burundi

Malawi

OUR IMPACT IN 2023

30m

people reached in

26

countries

96%

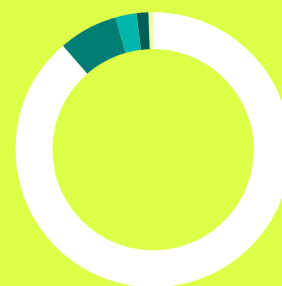
of donations go to
International Relief
and Development.

● Afghanistan

● Pakistan

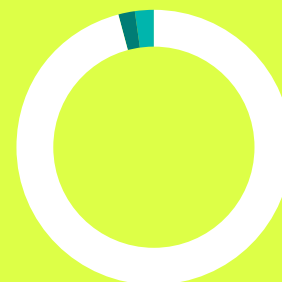
● Bangladesh

● Democratic People's
Republic of Korea



Support and Revenue (\$84 Million)

- **88.8%**
Governments Grants (\$74.6m)
- **6.9%**
Contributions and non-government grants (\$5.8m)
- **2.5%**
Support from Concern Worldwide (\$2.1m)
- **1.4%**
Special Events - net (\$1.2m)
- **0.4%**
Other Sources (\$0.3m)



Expenses (\$85 Million)

- **96%**
Program Activities (\$80.9m)
- **2%**
Fundraising (\$2.3m)
- **2%**
General and Administrative (\$1.8m)

MESSAGE FROM THE CEO AND BOARD CHAIR

2023 was a year of new and evolving challenges, yet Concern's supporters, staff, institutional donors, and local partners remained steadfast in their commitment to our vision to make this work possible.

Last year, we witnessed many millions of lives changed by the emergence of conflicts, new and old, the proliferation of climate shocks, the escalation of economic instability, and the enduring drivers of extreme hunger. But in light of these circumstances, we rose to many challenges in commitment to our mission of ending extreme poverty. In 2023, we are proud to say we reached 30 million people across 26 countries.

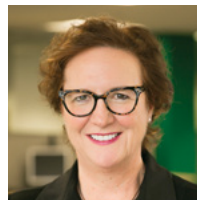
This level of reach is no small feat within this time of polycrisis, fanned by the flames of disparate crises and shocks that consistently hit the most vulnerable communities the hardest. Nevertheless, we've noticed a pivotal shift occurring, transcending the notion of these challenges being "theirs" to an acknowledgment that they are undeniably "ours." Concern has embodied this perspective from our inception. With our Irish roots dating back to a grassroots movement during the Biafran War, we have remained committed to addressing the world's most pressing issues and facing them head on with hope for our future and the courage to act on our vision for a better world.

This past year, when the earthquakes in February devastated Türkiye and Northwest Syria, millions of lives were upended, including many of Concern's colleagues and family members, as entire cities were reduced to rubble. This didn't stop them from activating an emergency response with the resources they had, to deliver food, water, and shelter. In Sudan, where Concern has operated for 35 years, an outbreak of conflict in April displaced 8 million people and abruptly halted our programming. However, our team would not give up. Our unwavering commitment to the communities we partner with meant Concern returned to programming within weeks to deliver vital emergency assistance to communities despite the immense challenges. And in September, when called on to establish programming in Yemen, now in its ninth year of conflict and with more than 18 million people in need of humanitarian assistance, we mobilized an expert team to establish an emergency response.

It is a testament to your support that amidst these emergencies, which were only a few of the 66 emergencies across 20 countries we were called to respond to, we reached 15.5 million people while making extensive gains with our sustainable, community-driven development work. For just two examples of how your support helped communities create positive change in the face of climate extremes, you can find spotlights on our work in Bangladesh (pg. 8) and across the Horn of Africa (pg. 24).

Though needs remain high, as we reflect on the year, Concern is poised to lead the charge towards meaningful and impactful change with your support. With that, we are proud to share our 2023 Annual Report and we thank you for moving us closer to a world free of fear, poverty, and oppression.

Sincerely,



Colleen A. Kelly

Colleen Kelly
Chief Executive Officer



Joanna Geraghty

Joanna Geraghty
Chair, Board of Directors

**Haiti**

Young people taking part in activities run by Sakala, a local partner of Concern Worldwide in Port-au-Prince, Haiti. They provide a safe space for children and teenagers to engage in normal activities, away from the dangers of gang activity. Photo: Kieran McConville/Concern Worldwide

FEATURE

Sharing seeds, knowledge, and hope in Bangladesh

Bangladesh

Hosenare Aktar took part in a training program and received seeds and some animals. She employs a lot of climate-smart agriculture methods including vertical growing and making compost. Photo: Gavin Douglas/ Concern Worldwide



Combating climate change is one of the greatest challenges the world has ever faced, its deadly repercussions having a disproportionate effect on the people living in the most vulnerable situations. Concern works with communities living in extreme poverty to mitigate the damage already caused by climate change and build their resilience to climate-related hazards and disasters.

Central to this work is the introduction and support of innovative techniques designed to bolster community resilience. We work with individuals to identify the risks they face and the steps they can take to protect themselves. This includes introducing climate-smart agricultural techniques such as providing new weather-resistant seed varieties, so people can grow different, more weather-resistant vegetables and providing training about the best methods to grow food.

Bangladesh is vulnerable to climate change, including droughts and flooding. These factors make growing food particularly difficult. In Bangladesh, a country particularly badly affected by climate change, frequent droughts and flooding leave populations struggling to grow enough food. Concern's training program in climate-smart agriculture is helping communities move towards a more secure future.

Hosenare Aktar is one of the many individuals we work with who are seeing the transformative potential of climate-smart agriculture. Hosenare has lived in Bagerhat in southern Bangladesh for seven years, during which time she has noticed the effects of climate change.

The rainy season, on which she depends for drinking water and land cultivation, has become erratic. However, thanks to training she received in agriculture, cultivation, climate-smart technology, and nutrition, she is able to grow food in the increasingly difficult conditions.

Hosenare employs a number of climate-smart agriculture techniques, including the tower technique also known as vertical growing.

The vertical growing structure is made from bamboo, and the idea is simple: produce is grown up the structure to keep it off the ground where it is vulnerable to floods, saline water and other climate-induced problems. At the same time, mixing compost and/or cow dung with the soil helps with moisture conservation to reduce excessive irrigation costs when water resources dwindle.

Hosenare's life has changed significantly since she received the training. She is able to feed her family and help out her neighbors with what she grows, and she sells any excess produce at the market, using the income to pay for her child's education. Her success exemplifies the tangible benefits derived from climate-smart agriculture, which, coupled with her own hard work and determination, leave her more secure in the face of climate-induced adversity.

“Hosenare’s life has changed significantly since she received the training. She is able to feed her family and help out her neighbors with what she grows, and she sells any excess produce at the market, using the income to pay for her child’s education.”



Bangladesh

Momota Rani Bala has become an icon in her area for her thriving garden, livestock, and fishing. Momota and her husband also manage a shop near their garden, helping them grow their income. She received training under the Collective Responsibility, Action, and Accountability for Improved Nutrition (CRAAIN) program run by Concern Worldwide and its consortium with WaterAid and two other local NGOs, Rupantar and Jagrata Juba Shangha (JJS).

Photo: Mohammad Rakibul Hasan/Concern Worldwide

OUR PROGRAMS

Concern Worldwide reached over 30 million people across 26 countries in 2023.



Our work spans six main program areas; emergencies, livelihoods, health and nutrition, education, integrated, humanitarian training, and advocacy.

A person is reached directly when they have received supplies, services, treatment or support from Concern, or have participated in training or education activities. A person is reached indirectly when their life is enhanced through the impact of Concern's program on the wider community.

Our broad program goals, the objectives and some examples of our work in each area are described in the following pages.



Kenya

Concern supported the village of Naoros by rehabilitating its water system. The borehole water system, powered by solar panels, provides water for five days after being turned on. Locals were trained in operating the borehole system, which sustains 460 households in the village. Animals that previously had nowhere to graze and had to walk to the river to get water, can now graze at the trough. The borehole also provided water via taps and hoses to the local primary school – and the women's farm. Photo: Natalia Jidovanu/Concern Worldwide

EMERGENCIES

See page 12

LIVELIHOODS

See page 14

HEALTH AND NUTRITION

See page 16

EDUCATION

See page 18

INTEGRATED

See page 20

HUMANITARIAN RESEARCH AND TRAINING, AND ADVOCACY

See page 22

OUR IMPACT IN 2023

30m

people reached in

26

Countries



EMERGENCY PROGRAMS

In 2023, we responded to 66 emergencies in 20 countries, reaching 5.5 million people directly and almost 10 million indirectly.

Many countries we work in are susceptible to frequent natural disasters and outbreaks of conflict resulting in people losing their homes and livelihoods. In the immediate aftermath of an emergency, we provide life-saving support to families and communities. We then stay to help them get back on their feet, rebuilding livelihoods and infrastructure and working to reduce the risk and impact of future crises.

Objectives and activities

The goal of our emergency programs is to fulfill our humanitarian mandate and effectively respond to and mitigate against 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

Türkiye
 Mehmet Taar (3rd from left) and members of his family stay warm outside a tent which has become their temporary home in Adiyaman, Türkiye. Most of the city center, including their building, was destroyed by a powerful earthquake on February 6, 2023. Temperatures at night are below freezing and there are few facilities. Photo: Kieran McConville/Concern Worldwide

OUR IMPACT IN 2023

66

Emergencies

20

Countries

5.5m

People reached directly

10m

People reached indirectly

Some examples of our achievements and performance in 2023 are set out below:

On February 6, 2023, a series of devastating earthquakes struck **Türkiye**, taking the lives of over 50,000 people, injuring over 100,000, displacing three million and directly affecting an estimated 9.1 million people across Türkiye and Northwest Syria (NWS). More than half a million buildings were significantly damaged. A state of emergency was called in 10 provinces. Concern's response was swift. We provided assistance to just under 250,000 people, working directly and through partner organizations in Türkiye and through partners in Northwest Syria. We distributed food vouchers to households in some of the worst-hit areas for use at supermarkets, and we ensured that people had access to essential water, sanitation and hygiene services by installing water tanks, toilets and by providing hygiene supplies. We also provided over 65,000 people with sleeping mats, tarpaulins, kitchen sets, blankets and solar lamps.

The conflict in **Ukraine** continues to impact food security, livelihoods, shelter, protection and other basic needs of the population. The United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) reports that the conflict left at least 14.6 million people in need of humanitarian assistance in 2023. During the year, we continued to work with our partners to operate the Joint Emergency Response program in Ukraine (JERU), expanding our programming in the north, east and south of the country to reach people residing in front line regions and areas with international borders to Russia. Our emergency response reached over 144,000 people and is predominately delivered by providing cash assistance for families to meet their immediate needs. However, where markets or financial systems were not functional, or where the cost of items in the markets was extremely inflated, we directly supplied food and hygiene items. To help people withstand the harsh weather, we provided winter assistance in the form of cash to help cover utility costs for those in remote and rural areas. Integrated with this, specific assistance was provided for 16,500 traumatized adults and children through community-based psychosocial support, one-to-one structured counseling and referrals for more specialized care when needed.

In the **Republic of Sudan**, the power struggle between the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) escalated in April 2023. This conflict dramatically escalated humanitarian needs in the already fragile country. According to OCHA, over 8 million people have fled their homes, taking refuge inside and outside the country leaving Sudan with the highest number of displaced people globally. Due to the conflict, key program and system staff relocated from Khartoum to Port Sudan and our programs needed to be redesigned so they all aligned to an emergency response. Despite these significant challenges, we reached 346,377 people across our operational locations in West Darfur, West and South Kordofan and Red Sea State, providing life-saving health, nutrition, food security and water and sanitation services. Among key activities, we resumed support to the 73 health facilities in West Darfur and Kordofan where over 5,200 children under five years old were treated for severe/acute malnutrition. Expanding our operation in Red Sea State strengthened the government-run health facilities in Sawakin and Port Sudan localities through capacity building, coaching and mentoring and improvements to water,

sanitation and hygiene activities. This included mounting a cholera response to the rising cases in Sawakin.

An estimated 500,000 people fled Sudan to seek safety in **Chad**. The sudden influx of displaced people exacerbated the declared food emergency in the east of the country, where the majority of refugees have settled. In Sila Province we assisted more than 7,300 refugees and returnees in crowded camps. This included the distribution of essential household items such as jerry cans and cooking sets, together with hygiene and sanitation items. We also supplied materials and equipment for shelter construction and prepared the drilling of boreholes to provide safe water. We ran public health campaigns around good water, sanitation and hygiene practices and used mobile clinics to provide medical services.

Burkina Faso has suffered frequent spikes in conflict, with fighting and attacks by radical armed groups against the government army. This has an impact on the security of many villages, leading to massive population displacement. Our emergency programs in the Centre-Est region of the country aim to respond to the urgent humanitarian needs of both the displaced and host households. In the communes of Koupela and Pouytenga we supported access to quality health and nutrition services for over 122,000 people. Local health centers where we provide training as well as medical and technical equipment have treated children suffering from malnutrition quickly and effectively. Increased levels of food insecurity, arising from population displacement, were addressed through a food security and livelihoods program reaching over 11,000 people. Cash transfers and food distributions have helped meet immediate basic needs and we started livelihoods activities to help households develop the ability to earn a sustainable income.

Lebanon struggled with a deepening economic and financial crisis alongside weak governance, intensifying tensions and security incidents, and the evolving crisis in the Middle East in 2023. The country continues to host the largest number of refugees in the world per capita and over half of the population relies on humanitarian aid. The economic crisis increased pressure on the housing situation for both host and refugee populations, causing an increase in rent, evictions and people seeking shelter in sub-standard conditions. Through our shelter program in Northern Lebanon we identified and addressed the critical needs of the community. This included rehabilitating unoccupied shelters and emergency temporary shelters improving living conditions for 257 families, as well as the provision of cash for rent assistance to 840 households at risk of eviction. In preparation for the harsh winter, we assessed the condition of over 9,000 tents housing 39,700 individuals living in informal settlements, evaluating them for repairs. While addressing the physical shelter needs in our areas of operation, we also conducted hygiene promotion activities in all locations to mitigate the risks of disease and carried out site improvements in sites prone to floods.



LIVELIHOOD PROGRAMS

In 2023, we helped improve the food security and livelihoods of 0.8 million people directly and 1.5 million indirectly.

People living in extreme poverty struggle to earn enough, to ensure that their families have adequate food supplies, health care and an education. Our livelihood programs aim to give them the tools to ensure they are able to earn a sustainable living, helping 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 livelihood programs is to enable people living in extreme poverty to have secure livelihoods.

Our main objectives are to:

- » Reduce hunger
- » Strengthen social protection, work skills and support systems
- » Promote graduation to economic productivity
- » Promote and strengthen climate-smart agriculture and climate change adaptation

Malawi

Josephine Kazembe and her husband Andalasani outside their home which they renovated with some of the cash transfers they received during a training program. With their new skills they have built a home garden and started a business.

Photo: Chris Gagnon/Concern Worldwide

OUR IMPACT IN 2023

75

Livelihood programs

22

Countries

0.8m

People reached directly

1.5m

People reached indirectly

Some examples of our achievements and performance in 2023 are set out below:

Burundi has experienced decades of political instability and conflict, including two civil wars which caused a deterioration in living standards and social cohesion from which the country is still recovering. The population is characterized by its extreme youth, with 65% under the age of 25. For the last three years, Concern has implemented a program in three provinces of the country which aimed to help 1,500 young people build their livelihoods and strengthen relationships and solidarity among members of the community. The program entered its final year in 2023 during which a cohort of 750 young people took part in technical training sessions and work placements, received start-up kits, developed their business plans and set up businesses. They also participated in Peace Clubs and organized communal events promoting social cohesion. A further 750 young men and women who had set up their businesses earlier in the program continued to be monitored and supported with coaching. By the end of the program, we had supported the establishment of 313 new businesses (183 collective and 130 individual) enabling the majority of participants to earn an income. The final evaluation of the project showed that as well as providing some financial security, one of the most significant impacts of the program was the improved sense of self-worth felt by participants as well as a newly gained sense of pride, accomplishment and belonging that came from gaining the respect from the community for the services they provide.

Malawi continued to struggle with a series of interrelated shocks including recurring climate disasters and rapid inflation in 2023. The latter impacted the cost of fertilizer and other agricultural inputs which increased significantly throughout the year reducing food production among rural communities. In a country where 80% of the population relies on agriculture to make their living, our livelihood programs which reached over 352,000 people focus on agriculture and food and nutrition security, while building the resilience of communities to the impacts of climate change. Across our agriculture programs, we promoted climate resilient farming practices including crop diversification, planting early maturing varieties and implementing practices such as intercropping and ridging (building up the soil bed height). These practices collectively fortified communities against climate-related shocks, particularly unpredictable rainfall patterns and dry spells. To boost community/household resilience and food security, we procured and distributed various materials for both catchment conservation and crop diversification activities. Watershed management committees were trained and provided with a set of tools to help community members build soil conservation and water harvesting systems.

During 2023, **Haiti** experienced a deterioration in its socio-economic situation and security environment. In Cité Soleil, where intense gang violence restricts the movement of people and blocks access to basic goods, notably food and water, our Manje Pi Byen project, funded by USAID, responded to the food security needs of 22,000 people. The project includes an economic recovery component that enabled 80 local vendors to increase their economic capacity. During the course of the year, we made five distributions of pre-loaded electronic coupons to 4,000 households who were linked to vendors in their respective neighborhood. Individuals used the coupons to buy what they needed to meet their basic needs. The 80 vendors were supported

with the necessary equipment and training on how to use the electronic transaction system as well as training on general business management and entrepreneurship. Results from monitoring surveys that looked at the levels of hunger reported in households and dietary diversity and frequency of eating reflected significant positive changes from the baseline. Vendors reported an increase in customers and products in stores, with a corresponding increase in sales, 90% made a profit with profit rates ranging from 15 to 20%.

Concern started two livelihood development projects in 2023 reaching people in very vulnerable situations in the Tahoua region of **Niger**. One is taking place in Bambeye and Kalfou communes where, over a five-year period, 17,500 people will be reached by a program that aims to build resilient food systems that prioritize food and nutritional security for people living in extreme poverty, while promoting the sustainable management of natural resources. Good results have already been seen in the first year of the program. Among other activities, in Kalfou, 2,000 households received Chakti millet seeds (an improved seed that is more resistant to climatic stress than local millet) and cowpea seeds which they planted during the shoulder season from June to October 2023. Harvests were good with an improved average yield of 0.61 tons per hectare for Chakti millet compared to 0.38 tons per hectare for local millet. For cowpea, the yield was 0.68 tons per hectare, compared with a local average of 0.34 tons per hectare. At a community level, we provided seven specialized production sites, each managed by 10 heads of household, with cowpea, peanut, and sesame seeds. These sites have enabled program participants to obtain enough seed to cultivate a larger area and increase production next year. In addition to agricultural production, we also supported fodder production by sowing six hectares to improve cattle feed for livestock farmers. In terms of climate change adaptation, micro-catchment areas called demi-lunes or half-moons were created on 119 hectares of degraded land to improve rainwater catchment and promote the growth of local plants and trees.

Despite facing significant challenges including restrictions on women participating in work and training, and prolonged program suspensions, our livelihood programs in **Afghanistan** provided employment and skills, and improved food security to build economic stability for communities in three provinces in the northeast of the country. We continued to implement our program to support the development and expansion of female-led agricultural businesses for 3,502 women, including the delivery of training to both men and women on issues around gender equality and the organization of four provincial trade fairs for women's agribusinesses. The women participating in the program which started in 2021 have now generated substantial savings in their self-help groups and have used these to invest further in their agribusinesses, to start additional personal income-generating activities such as tailoring, or to establish additional group businesses such as a recently established women's bakery in Kunduz Province. Many of the women are selling to the market for the first time, and incomes are reported to have increased more than tenfold since the program commenced. Women participating in the program report increased self-confidence, greater freedom in their daily lives, reduced psychological stresses, and a more positive outlook on the future. A survey in June 2023 reported that 96% of women believe they can achieve their goals compared with 0% before the program commenced.



HEALTH AND NUTRITION PROGRAMS

In 2023, our health and nutrition programs reached over 2.7 million people directly and 6.3 million indirectly.

In many of the countries we work in, the health systems are extremely fragile and communities are often unable to get the help they need to prevent under-nutrition and diseases. To help overcome this, we work with local and national governments to strengthen healthcare systems and improve access to quality maternal and child healthcare, and water and sanitation services.

Objectives and activities

The goal of our health and nutrition programs is to contribute to the achievement of health and nutrition security for people living in extreme poverty.

Our main objectives are to:

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

Bangladesh

Shalia Kenia gave birth to her baby in Sadar hospital and midwives visited her regularly after the birth. "They check up on me and my baby to make sure that both of us are healthy."

Photo: FrameIn Productions/Concern Worldwide

OUR IMPACT IN 2023

21

Countries

2.7m

People reached directly

6.3m

People reached indirectly

Some examples of our achievements and performance in 2023 are set out below:

In November 2023, we concluded a year-long project called UNIVAC which supported both mobile and community health centers to target the most remote and vulnerable groups in **Sierra Leone**. As the Ministry of Health's Expanded Program for Immunization (EPI) transitioned from emergency vaccinations to routine service delivery, Concern and EPI developed a hybrid approach to focus on communities at greater risk of exclusion from the COVID-19 vaccination and routine childhood immunizations. The UNIVAC project was implemented in all 16 districts of Sierra Leone using a health system strengthening approach in combination with service provision. We supported 16 mobile and 251 Community Health Center outreach vaccination teams to reach the most hard-to-reach and vulnerable groups in the country. This strategy not only provided health benefits for households but it also had economic benefits, saving rural families the cost of travel to health centers. Between January and August, 221,886 children from hard-to-reach and vulnerable communities received childhood immunizations through the program, a 29% increase from the same period in 2022. This will reduce the potential for large scale outbreaks as well as saving the lives of children now protected from preventable disease including Rotavirus, Diphtheria and Polio.

In **South Sudan**, 7.1 million people (about 56% of the population) are experiencing high level food insecurity due to a combination of economic decline, conflict and insecurity, climate shocks and low agricultural productivity. Children suffer in these circumstances with an estimated 1.6 million children aged between 6-59 months at risk of acute malnutrition. In 2023, Concern supported nutrition services in 39 centers across all our program locations, reaching a total of just under 131,000 people with both preventative and curative services. Strengthening malnutrition prevention approaches is a key aim and through community-based management of acute malnutrition (CMAM) we build community resilience by actively involving mothers and caregivers in screening and treating their own children to prevent them from becoming severely malnourished. Other activities include running sessions to teach about best feeding practices, the promotion of home gardening to diversify children's diets at the household level, and the distribution of soap to prevent common childhood illnesses, such as diarrhea. We established 170 mother groups and 154 father groups with a membership of more than 4,000 who actively participated in sessions.

In addition, more than 80,200 people took part in individual counseling and group sessions such as cooking demonstrations and horticultural training. We also provided seeds and farm tools to encourage participants to grow a variety of vegetables to diversify their family's diet.

Alongside these preventative measures, we provided curative services to children under five years old and to pregnant and breastfeeding women suffering from severe or moderate acute malnutrition. More than 45,200 people, including over 29,000 children, enrolled in feeding programs throughout the year. Despite facing significant challenges and obstacles in our program areas, including extensive flooding, internal conflict, displacement and household food insecurity, all of which can compromise outcomes, our feeding program recorded a cure rate of over 80%.

Providing access to safe water supply and sanitation facilities and increasing awareness and education on hygiene is crucial to the health and well-being of the communities with whom we work. In 2023, our water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) programs remained the focus of work in **Pakistan** reaching over 670,000 people. In Sindh and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa provinces where we work with communities still recovering from the catastrophic floods in 2022, we rehabilitated/ installed over 300 hand pumps, water systems and wells at schools, health facilities and in villages to supply safe, clean water and installed 135 solar powered systems to provide uninterrupted power for water supply and other uses. In terms of sanitation, we built almost 750 toilets for both individual households and institutions. In a commitment to privacy and inclusivity, we constructed separate toilets for both men and women, with adaptations made for people living with disabilities and children. We installed 21 permanent hand washing stations in health centers and schools with accompanying health education information positioned in visible places. To promote good hygiene practice, we provided over 40,000 hygiene kits containing items such as soap, buckets and towels to households, with a further 10,000 specially customized for children. We also carried out hygiene promotion sessions with close to 39,000 individuals focusing on health risks in the aftermath of floods, handwashing at critical times and personal hygiene.

In Cox's Bazar in **Bangladesh**, we continue to work with the highly vulnerable Rohingya refugee population and the host community, providing comprehensive nutrition services to both treat and prevent malnutrition in children under five years old and pregnant and breastfeeding women. One of our projects focuses on fostering long-term changes in the knowledge and behavior of almost 84,000 program participants around best practice in how to prevent malnutrition in their children, with an emphasis on the first 1,000 days (from conception to two years old). Both women and men take part in training sessions to learn about the importance of good nutrition for infants, young children and pregnant and breastfeeding women, exclusive breastfeeding, the role of fathers before, during and after pregnancy and how they can support complementary feeding practices. Over 3,200 training sessions were held with 'lead mothers' who in turn shared their knowledge with other women - more than 30,000 women received training this way and over 27,500 men also took part in sessions.

Liberia has long suffered from food insecurity and chronic malnutrition so a focus of our health programming in the country is around nutrition interventions in six counties. We work in close collaboration with the Ministry of Health nutrition division and in 2023, through our program 'Working to Improve Nutrition at Scale' supported the training of 630 health workers on the integrated management of acute malnutrition – an important element of this was to ensure health workers were aware of the importance of prevention interventions and practices. Because micronutrient deficiencies are common with 13% of young children in Liberia lacking in Vitamin A, an essential vitamin that supports healthy immunity and eyesight, and more than half of all children under five lacking iron which can lead to anemia, we ensured that more than 40,000 children aged 6-23 months received multiple micronutrients. We also reached a further 12,000 adolescent girls and more than 27,000 pregnant women with iron and folic acid supplements. During the year just over 4,700 children were admitted to out-patient therapeutic feeding programs or stabilization centers (in-patient). The overall recovery rate across all the six counties was 84.6%.



EDUCATION PROGRAMS

In 2023, our education programs reached over 0.2 million people directly and over 0.9 million people indirectly.

We believe that all children have the right to an education and that it 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 support their overall wellbeing.

Objectives and activities

The goal of our education programs is to improve the lives of children living in extreme poverty in a sustainable way, by increasing their access to quality primary education.

Our main objectives are to:

- » Increase school access
- » Improve student and teacher safety and wellbeing
- » Improve quality learning outcomes
- » Provide access to education for children in emergencies

OUR IMPACT IN 2023

10

Countries

0.2m

People reached directly

0.9m

People reached indirectly

Kenya

Midina Tura looks through a microscope during an integrated science class.

Photo: Eugene Ikua/Concern Worldwide

Some examples of our achievements and performance in 2023 are set out below:

In the Amhara region of northern **Ethiopia** where conflict has impacted educational opportunities for children, our Play Matters project ensured that almost 17,000 children could go to school in a safe environment. In addition to repairing schools and classrooms damaged during the conflict, we also supplied them with necessary items such as blackboards, chalk, tables and chairs and provided recreational materials and teaching kits. The economic impact of the conflict on the community means that parents are often unable to afford basic school materials such as exercise books, pens and pencils so these were distributed to over 10,500 children, and we ran a school feeding program which helped boost the children's ability to concentrate. The project addressed the problem of absenteeism or dropping out of school altogether because of health issues by constructing and repairing water points so children had access to safe drinking water, building toilets and promoting good hygiene practices such as handwashing. Another key aspect of the project was to build the capacity of the teachers to help them become more effective. In particular, they were trained about the 'learning through play' approach, which aims to engage children more in their lessons and enhances their social, emotional and physical development. All these activities jointly helped to increase the enrollment and retention rates of children in our target schools by 10% compared with the previous academic year.

The teaching of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) subjects is a requirement under the **Kenyan** government's Competency Based Curriculum (CBC) but many schools struggle to do so with limited resources. Teachers in the four junior secondary schools we support in Marsabit County in the north of the country had been forced to overlook science practical lessons due to a lack of laboratories. To fill this gap, we procured and distributed four mobile school laboratories which allowed almost 500 students to take part in their first practical lessons. The mobile science kits were sourced from the School Equipment Production Unit (SEPU), a government agency mandated to develop standardized school equipment which guarantees the quality and durability of the equipment. The program supported officials from SEPU to train teachers on the handling, operations and maintenance of the equipment and provided information to the schools on how they can access replenishments for the kits to ensure the sustainability of the project. To celebrate the introduction of the mobile laboratories, we organized a science fair where the learners from the four schools and another seven neighboring schools created, developed and displayed innovative STEM projects - the winning innovation came from one of our project schools.

In Northeast **Syria** we work with people displaced by the protracted conflict and living in informal settlements. The disruption to their lives has meant that children have missed years of education. The main focus of our program, which reached 23,000 people directly in 2023, is to enable out-of-school children living in these settlements to rejoin formal school. We do this in a number of ways; our six-month accelerated learning program for out-of-school 8-13 year olds provides them with the basic literacy and numeracy skills to allow them to join classes and we run a similar program for adolescents aged 14-17 years old. Throughout the year more than 1,500 children took part in these programs. A further 1,373 students, at risk of dropping out of school, were helped with three months of homework support. Assistance is also given to the parents and guardians of the children enrolled in the programs in the form of caregiver sessions, which were attended by more than 1,400 people. Another important aspect of our work is the rehabilitation of damaged schools including the provision of safe water and sanitation and supplying educational materials.

Niger continues to be affected by a combination of major protracted and recurrent humanitarian crises including those driven by conflict and political unrest. Our education programs in the Tahoua, Tillabéry and Diffa regions are targeted at children, adolescents and teachers who are living in conflict zones and last year reached almost 95,000 people in 299 formal and 118 non-formal primary schools. These projects improved access to inclusive, quality education and ensured the well-being of children through a combined approach of building and improving schools and classrooms, providing educational kits, training teachers in inclusive teaching methods to promote a positive learning environment and mobilizing the community to enroll and keep pupils in school. In Tillabéry and Tahoua, where many schools have closed due to regional insecurity, we tackled the challenge of reaching out-of-school children by piloting and then scaling-up an informal learning approach through interactive audio lessons. We worked with local partners and the Ministry of Education to record French and math audio lessons, and to establish learning clubs with radios and educational materials. Children gathered to listen to the lessons and complete schoolwork under the supervision of a facilitator from the community. Forty audio clubs are now established for the 2023-2024 school year, providing access to education to approximately 900 children living in villages where schools have closed and who otherwise would have no access to education.



INTEGRATED PROGRAMS

In 2023, we reached over 1.1 million people directly through our integrated programs and almost 1.2 million indirectly.

Multiple interrelated reasons keep people locked in extreme poverty. For that reason, many of our programs are integrated, bringing together multiple programs to tackle the needs of a community in a coordinated way.

Objectives and activities

The goal of our integrated programs is to improve the lives of people 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.

OUR IMPACT IN 2023

16

Countries

1.1m

People reached directly

1.2m

People reached indirectly

Somalia

Alkahi Dedal Jama and Faadumo Sharif Mohamed with their children, Concern is supporting them with cash through the Somali Cash Consortium.

Photo: SCC/Concern Worldwide

Some examples of our achievements and performance in 2023 are set out below:

In common with the rest of the countries in the Horn of Africa, in 2023 **Kenya** experienced its worst drought in forty years. It came on the back of five consecutive failed rainfall seasons, with the 6th season being below average, leading to a significant deterioration in food and nutrition security. Marsabit, Turkana, and Samburu counties were among the worst affected areas - over 95% of surface water dried up leaving severely limited pasture and water for both domestic and productive purposes. For the pastoralist communities who depend on livestock as their primary source of food and income, the situation was catastrophic. To prevent the loss of lives and livelihoods, reduce vulnerability and improve the way communities cope with the impact of the drought, our integrated program brought together food assistance, nutrition, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) and agricultural programs reaching more than 270,000 people. Activities included providing cash assistance which 99% of the target households used to address their immediate food needs.

Over the past 18 months, there has been a significant deterioration in the security situation in the **Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)** leading to over 2.8 million people being forced from their homes. This brought the total number of internally displaced people (IDPs) in the country up to 6.3 million. A large majority of IDPs either stay with host families or settle in informal sites close to established residences, placing significant additional pressure on minimal resources. Concern has been working with displaced people and host communities in Tanganyika and North Kivu provinces to support their recovery from crisis through an integrated program which aimed to bridge the gap between emergency response and community resilience, while mitigating the impact of displacement. The three-year program ended in July 2023 during which time it enabled families to rebuild their livelihoods and achieve self-sufficiency with program participants reporting a significant increase in income. This was achieved by strengthening the resilience of conflict-affected communities through the provision of livelihoods, water, sanitation, gender equality, protection and education projects. We worked in collaboration with a number of organizations including community protection networks, women's associations, farmers' organizations, youth associations, and government technical services to directly reach over 136,600 people. A final evaluation of the program showed 96% of households were actively practicing their new livelihoods with almost three quarters able to meet most of their basic needs.

Bangladesh is one of the countries most vulnerable to climate change, driving already at-risk communities further into poverty. In Khulna district in the southwest coastal area of Bangladesh, an area highly prone to flooding, we work to build the resilience and income of the most vulnerable households through a combination of projects to improve livelihoods while strengthening the capacity of the community and local government to prepare for and adapt to the impacts of climate-related disasters. Almost 7,500 people have been directly impacted by the program, which aimed to diversify the income sources of vulnerable households in targeted areas by providing vocational and skills training and promoting climate-smart agriculture as a sustainable livelihood option. Over 2,600 households took part in training about climate-smart agriculture, livestock, and aquaculture and were supported with follow-up cash

grants which they used to start their farming businesses. A further 276 program participants received technical and skills training, including in handicrafts and through apprenticeships and are now either working for others or self-employed. The positive impact of these interventions was reflected in the annual monitoring results for 2023, which showed that average monthly household income rose from \$49 to \$72, a 47% increase in the average monthly household income since the beginning of the program. In terms of building climate resilience and being prepared for disasters, the development of rainwater harvesting systems significantly improved access to safe drinking water for over 5,100 people even in the dry season, as well as helping to reduce the incidences of waterborne disease.

Our Resilience program in **Somalia** aims to both address the humanitarian needs and build the resilience of communities through an integrated approach, encompassing activities related to food security, livelihoods, WASH (Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene), health and nutrition. During 2023, we reached almost 34,000 people directly and over 87,000 indirectly, helping to significantly improve the lives of people who have been badly impacted by prolonged drought. Despite the challenges hampering the implementation of resilience-building activities during an emergency, the program managed to conduct interventions intended to provide long-term sustainable outcomes in the affected communities. For example, through a cash-for-work program in the Gedo region of the country, the community repaired communal assets that were both protective and productive, shielding them from the ongoing effects of climate change and providing a cash injection to stimulate the local economy. These activities focused on rangeland management and soil regeneration, and the restoration of light infrastructure damaged by recurrent flash floods. They allowed impacted populations to work locally while waiting for the next agricultural season, rather than them becoming displaced by having to move away to find a way of supporting themselves. This project reached almost 3,400 participants in the worst-affected communities.

The **Central African Republic (CAR)** remains one of the most fragile countries in the world. In 2023, 3.4 million people, 55% of the population, needed humanitarian assistance and protection. The country faces a food security and nutrition crisis. The Global Hunger Index ranked CAR 125 out of the 125 with indicators such as child mortality, undernourishment rate and child stunting being among the highest in the world. Concern works in two areas and three prefectures: the Southwest (Ombella M'Poko prefecture) and the Southeast (Ouaka and Basse-Kotto prefectures) to build community resilience through integrated approaches. Our programs are designed to address the multiple needs of our program participants and tackle several drivers of poverty at the same time. In 2023, we reached 45,325 people with integrated livelihoods, health and nutrition, WASH, conflict resolution and gender equality activities, helping to increase their resilience to shocks and stresses. Our food security and livelihood programs consider both the immediate needs and the long-term food security of communities. Activities included distributing nearly 700 metric tons of food, assisting more than 52,000 people in urgent need. To support agricultural recovery, we provided seeds and farming tool kits to more than 4,400 households together with training on market garden production methods.

HUMANITARIAN RESEARCH AND TRAINING, AND ADVOCACY



HUMANITARIAN RESEARCH & TRAINING

There are record numbers of people in need of life-saving humanitarian assistance across the globe. By the end of 2023, almost 30 million more people were in need of humanitarian assistance than at the start of the year – meaning that humanitarian actors are being asked to do more and go further with fewer resources.

That is why, for more than a decade, Concern has been working behind the scenes to invest in the capacity of local actors on the front lines of nearly every type of humanitarian crisis. Through our research and training programs, Concern equips emergency responders with the information, tools, and skills that are vital for delivering an effective and efficient response effort.

Our main program objectives are to:

- » Contribute to the strengthened humanitarian system by providing access to free training on the foundations of humanitarian action and humanitarian coordination system.
- » Increase the leadership capacity of national NGO staff so they can tackle whatever challenge may come their way.
- » Reduce risk to and improve preparedness for future crises by providing pathways to operational capacity strengthening.
- » Improve the quality of Concern’s emergency programming by providing access to in-depth training opportunities for our global staff and local partners on the ground.

OUR HUMANITARIAN RESEARCH & TRAINING SPANS FOUR CORE AREAS

- » Humanitarian Action & Coordination
- » Leadership, Effective Management, and Psychosocial Resilience
- » System Strengthening
- » Knowledge Sharing

WHAT WE'VE DONE

- » From Sudan to Afghanistan, we've trained more than **120,000 humanitarians** working in nearly every major type of humanitarian emergency.
- » Our team has gone the distance - we've delivered nearly **200 trainings** across **60+ countries**.
- » Available in **12 critical languages**, our trainings are designed to prepare them to deliver the most effective and efficient humanitarian response and recovery efforts.

LEARN MORE ABOUT OUR PROGRAMS:

- » **Building a Better Response Project (BBR)**
- » **National NGO Program on Humanitarian Leadership (NNPHL)**
- » **Beyond Barriers**
- » **Local Capacity Strengthening for Response (LCS4R)**

ADVOCACY

Concern's advocacy work aims to achieve lasting improvements in the lives of the most vulnerable communities by shaping national and international policies, actions and practices of governments, donors, aid partners, the private sector, and the public. Our work focuses on addressing the challenges of conflict, climate change, and hunger. We do this by amplifying the voices and experiences of affected communities that we work with across our 26 countries of operation.

In 2023, Concern contributed to collective advocacy work on national and international advocacy platforms, with a range of national NGO networks and across numerous global clusters and working groups. In the United States, Concern is a member of InterAction, the largest US-based alliance of international NGOs and partners in the US, and actively engages in their thematic and country-specific working groups.

Concern's Vice President of Programs, Kirk Prichard, served as an NGO representative on the Inter-Agency Steering Committee, which brings together senior representation from the United Nations and NGO community to shape and formulate humanitarian policies. Kirk sits on the Operational Advocacy and Policy Group, charged with improving humanitarian responses focusing on localization, accountability, and counterterrorism, among others.

We work closely with key UN member states, including Ireland and the US, as well as with UN agencies in New York. Concern's contribution is to bring the operational realities and voices of affected communities to key policy forums such as the UN General Assembly, Protection of Civilians Week and the ECOSOC Humanitarian Affairs Segment. We collaborate to organize side events on the margins of these conferences and work with our NGO partners to influence humanitarian resolutions negotiated by the General Assembly and the Security Council.

Concern is also a member of the Global Coalition against Conflict and Hunger, composed of a range of international NGO partners working together to reduce the impact of conflict and violence on food security and nutrition.

Some examples of our activities in 2023 are set out below:

- » With the humanitarian situation in **Haiti** deteriorating in the face of spiraling violence, human rights and food emergencies, as well as a cholera epidemic, Concern's Humanitarian Ambassador, Dominic MacSorley, joined a UN-led Emergency Directors Mission to the country in March.
- » On the margins of UN Protection of Civilians Week 2023, Concern participated as the sole NGO panelist in a side-event hosted by the United States and Ireland Permanent Missions to the UN on "**Humanitarian Carve Outs for UN Sanctions Regimes: The Impact and Implementation of Resolution 2664.**"
- » Concern co-organized a side event in June at the ECOSOC Humanitarian Affairs Segment on "**The Global Food Crisis: What are the most impacted people and communities telling us at this extraordinary time? What are the solutions?**" stressing that conflict continues to be the main driver of food insecurity, and referencing our research on the impact of conflict on food systems in Haiti, Somalia, and Sudan.
- » In September, Dominic MacSorley took up the role of interim Country Director for **Sudan** for six months. During his assignment, Dominic represented Concern at key donor meetings and, in particular, advocated for increased resources to support the humanitarian response in areas of high vulnerability, such as Darfur and Kordofan, where Concern operates. At a USAID regional workshop on Sudan hosted in Nairobi, Concern presented on key learnings from operating in areas of active conflict.

Lebanon

Sandra Ibrahim, Shelter Social Officer conducts daily checks on families living in informal settlements around North Lebanon.

Photo: Gavin Douglas/Concern Worldwide

FEATURE

Water is everything



Kenya
Before the water system was rehabilitated, Ruth Epat Koli had to fetch water from the river, carrying 20 liters in a jerry can on her head. As the water was needed for cooking, drinking and washing there was very little left to water the crops. Now she grows quality watermelons, spinach and cowpeas.
Photo: Natalia Jidovanu/Concern Worldwide

When drought hits, the vital significance of water becomes starkly evident. Without access to water, farmers are unable to cultivate their crops or keep their livestock alive; children are unable to attend school and malnutrition and disease rates rise. Communities that have thrived for generations are decimated and forced to leave their villages.

Turkana County is Kenya’s second-largest county and also its most economically vulnerable. Its fragility has been exacerbated by five successive seasons of rainfall failure across Kenya and other parts of the Horn of Africa. The scientific consensus is that climate change is a critical factor in amplifying the severity of these droughts.

The transformative power of water becomes clear when a community gains access to it. In Turkana County, the Turkwel River runs through the village of Kangalita. However, its presence did not make the lives of villagers easier; a buildup of silt had rendered the river unsuitable for irrigation as water could not flow to their farms.

Responding to their urgent needs, Concern collaborated with the community to address the issue, prioritizing the desilting of the river. Through a cash-for-work scheme we supported the community to carry out the desilting, opening up a canal to provide irrigation for over 1,200 acres. When this three-month initiative ended, the community continued to desilt the canal and are managing their own sustainable water flow.

With newfound access to irrigation Kangalita is now thriving, with 1,300 farmers already living there and new families being attracted to the area. Where there was once scorched earth and silence, with few animals roaming, healthy cattle now graze, and the villagers are healthy and happy. Thanks to the irrigation system, farmers have been able to triple or quadruple their annual harvests and thereby increase their income and ability to provide more food for their families and fodder for their livestock.

Moreover, the irrigation scheme has engendered community spirit with villagers helping each other out. For example, a farmer may share his harvest with neighbors or relatives, while others exchange crops like maize or sorghum for meat.

“We were really affected by drought, particularly breastfeeding mothers, mothers of children with disabilities, and children who were malnourished.”

FIGHTING CLIMATE EXTREMES ACROSS THE HORN OF AFRICA

Climate extremes across the Horn of Africa continued to increase in severity: record-breaking drought and catastrophic flooding destroyed agricultural land, upended vital infrastructure, displaced entire villages, and devastated livelihoods, leaving more than 23 million people across parts of Ethiopia, Kenya and Somalia facing severe hunger.

Concern delivered clean water and hygiene kits, supplied emergency cash distributions and operated mobile health clinics. In Somalia, we supported 500,000 people with health and nutrition support after El Nino supercharged the October-December rainy season, causing extreme flash flooding that displaced 1.4 million people.

**1.4
million**

People displaced



Kenya

The Kangalita Irrigation Scheme group. Community members desilted the canal, resulting in a better flow of water to their land. Photo: Natalia Jidovanu/Concern Worldwide

US GOVERNMENT PARTNERSHIPS

Humanitarian crises around the world grew increasingly complex and frequent throughout 2023, underscoring the importance of sustained funding from the US Agency for International Development (USAID) for Concern's humanitarian response and development programs. We are deeply grateful for the more than \$73 million from USAID to deliver life-saving humanitarian interventions in 13 countries in 2023. Our USAID funded programs have provided critical primary healthcare services to conflict-affected communities in Sudan, screened thousands of pregnant women and children in Ethiopia for malnutrition, and supported business owners in Haiti to help strengthen the local economy, to name just a few.

Throughout 2023, as the conflict in **Sudan** worsened and humanitarian needs skyrocketed, Concern provided critical health, nutrition, cash, and water, sanitation, and hygiene support for affected communities with over \$1 million in funding from USAID. Notably, Concern maintained 22 functional health facilities in South and West Kordofan, despite the challenging operating environment. We are proud to continue this important work in 2024 with continued funding from USAID.

In the Somali region of **Ethiopia**, ongoing drought and conflict-induced displacement caused crop failure, livestock loss, and disputes over land and water. Concern's USAID funded Integrated Life-Saving Emergency Response activity supported over 100,000 people through malnutrition screening and referral services, behavior change interventions to support healthy infant and young child feeding practices, and training on good hygiene and hand washing practices. Concern supported 39

malnutrition treatment centers and was able to reach 99.8% of the targeted population with nutrition support. Concern also trained more than 40 government staff and more than 40 community health workers to deliver these services through a gender-sensitive approach, ensuring the inclusivity of women and girls in the program.

Concern continued to respond to the ongoing crisis in **Haiti**, helping to improve the food security situation for over 4,000 of the most vulnerable households in Cité Soleil. This USAID funded program strengthens local markets by engaging 80 local vendors for food distribution through an electronic voucher system. This approach strengthened linkages between markets and vendors and built the capacity of local business owners while also significantly improving the Household Hunger Scale and Food Consumption Score for targeted households. Concern implemented creative strategies to complex situations in Haiti, by distributing tens of thousands of flyers advertising the support available for gender-based violence survivors and mobilizing 200 volunteers for door-to-door canvassing in anticipation of hurricane season.

Concern's work has a transformative and lasting impact on the world's most vulnerable communities, and we are proud to partner with USAID to deliver this life-saving support. We look forward to strengthening our approaches, widening our scope and deepening our impact through USAID support in 2024. We will continue to draw on the generous support of the American people to provide innovative and comprehensive programs that transform the lives of those most vulnerable to conflict, climate, and hunger shocks around the world.



**Haiti**

Estelle Adolphe, a participant in the USAID funded Manje Pi Byen program, uses her account to buy essential provisions from a vendor at a street market in Cité Soleil, Port-au-Prince, Haiti.

Photo: Kieran McConville/Concern Worldwide

OUR SUPPORTERS

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* Our special thanks to those who furthered the impact of their generosity by having their donation(s) increased through a corporate matching gift(s).

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Become a Monthly Donor and Join Concern(ed) Citizens

Concern would like to thank those individuals who have chosen to make recurring gifts. The work that Concern does is only possible with consistent funding that allows for planning and for long-term solutions to take hold. That's why Concern(ed) Citizens are critical to our mission: when Concern can count on donors, program participants — from Haiti to Ukraine to Burkina Faso — can count on Concern to continue our transformative work month after month. Concern(ed) Citizens enjoy access to behind-the-scenes stories that illustrate the impact of our support, as well as unique gifts to help promote Concern within our networks. Please visit concernusa.org/monthly to learn more and start your monthly gift today!

Join Our Legacy Society

Planned gifts – bequests, gifts of life insurance, and qualified charitable distributions from retirement plans – make a powerful statement against extreme poverty and are crucial in making sure our lifesaving work continues for future generations. Friends who include Concern in their estate plans are invited to join our Legacy Society. Learn how to become a member: concernusa.org/legacy

INDIVIDUAL GIVING

We are so proud of all Concern was able to accomplish last year, impacting the lives of 30 million people around the globe, and we owe it to the incredible generosity and unwavering compassion of our donor community. Thank you for being the foundation that allows us to continue our life-saving work each day; together, we raised \$4.98 million toward our mission of ending extreme poverty—no matter what it takes.

Here are a few highlights from 2023:

Concern Night Out in LA

We hosted 50 supporters at The Auld Fella Irish Pub (a proud new Concern partner!) in West LA to celebrate Concern and hear about CEO Colleen Kelly’s trip to visit Concern’s programs in Rwanda, Burundi and Kenya.



Irish Consul Event in Los Angeles

The Irish Consul Los Angeles hosted an event featuring Concern, to spotlight the 75th anniversary of the UN’s adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. VP of Programs Kirk Prichard spoke movingly about Concern’s work and history, and how our mission is essentially a declaration in support of human rights itself. The gathering was a powerful intro to Concern’s scope and impact to the assembled guests.



Chicago Student Fundraiser

A dedicated group of students and parents in the northern suburbs of Chicago organized a car wash fundraiser that not only brought in donations, but introduced many new supporters to Concern. This event was an exciting start to our desire to engage students in our mission, fostering a new generation of Concern supporters.

2nd Annual Boston Reception

The 2nd Annual Boston Reception was a huge success – welcoming 200 guests and raising over \$142,000 in support of Concern’s mission and programs. It was great to be back at the University of Massachusetts Club and we look forward to growing this event in the years to come.

Spring Run

Runners and walkers turned their concern into action by participating in the Concern Worldwide Spring Run. After the race, participants enjoyed an afterparty hosted by our friends from Sleeping Giant Restaurant Group at their newly opened, Albert’s Bar on East 41st and Lexington Avenue.



2023 TCS New York City Marathon

Team Concern joined 51,402 runners to participate in the 2023 TCS New York City Marathon. The team was made up of 14 dedicated athletes from the United States, Ireland, and the UK, who raised over \$54,000 in support of Concern’s mission.



Concern Global Gala: Unite to Fight Hunger

We were thrilled to end the year strong, exceeding \$1 million raised at the Concern Global Gala: Unite to Fight Hunger in Chicago and NYC. These events featured a journey around the globe with music, dancing, and celebration of our 55th anniversary—interwoven with powerful stories from those on the front lines of the global food crisis. We heard from CEO of the McShane Companies, Molly McShane, and Concern’s Humanitarian Programs Director, Rachel Isely, in Chicago, and the recipient of the Tom Moran Seeds of Hope Award, photographer, author and Concern Ambassador, Alexi Lubomirski, in NYC.

Women of Concern Luncheons

At the Women of Concern Annual Awards Luncheons, we welcomed 400+ business leaders and passionate supporters to recognize the outstanding leadership of women who demonstrate justice, generosity, and compassion in their work and daily lives. In Chicago, this included Kwanli Kladstrup, Concern’s Haiti Country Director, who spoke at The University Club of Chicago about our response to escalating gang violence in the communities we reach. In New York, this included Board Member Jumana Culligan, who spoke on her visit with CEO Colleen Kelly to meet with earthquake-affected communities in Türkiye, and a candid conversation with Carol Morgan, Concern’s Head of International Programs, hosted by Candance Patel-Taylor, VP of Communications on how Concern reaches millions of women and girls around the world, at the Rainbow Room in New York.



Golf Outings

Our 21st annual Chicago Golf Tournament was hosted at the Chicago Highlands Club in Westchester, IL, welcoming more than 20 foursomes for a day on the links, followed by an evening reception at the clubhouse. We then hosted nearly 100 golfers at Hamilton Farm Golf Club for the 19th Annual Aengus Finucane Memorial Golf Tournament. A great day was had by all and we were especially thrilled to welcome several new foursomes and companies. Together these events raised over \$300,000 in support of Concern’s mission.

Board-Led Event

Concern Worldwide US Board Member Scott Gutterson, along with his wife Debbie, hosted their 6th annual cocktail party in October. The Guttersons introduced many of their close friends and colleagues to Concern’s mission and raised critical funds in support of our work.



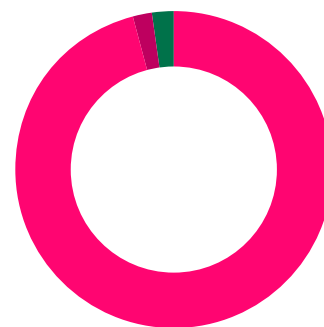
CONCERN BY THE NUMBERS

Concern Worldwide US financial summary
statement of activities for year ending
December 31, 2023

2023 Financial Performance

	2023 Total	2022 Total
Support and Revenue		
Contributions and non-government grants	5,784,590	10,930,455
Support from Concern Worldwide	2,102,382	2,185,767
Government Grants	74,628,924	63,175,275
Special Events - net	1,192,475	1,262,299
Other Income	328,219	97,255
Total Revenue and Support	84,036,590	77,651,051
Expenses		
Program Activities	80,874,962	69,502,674
<i>Overseas Relief</i>	<i>79,936,122</i>	<i>68,735,394</i>
<i>Development Education</i>	<i>938,840</i>	<i>767,280</i>
Management and General Administrative	1,833,260	2,003,639
Fundraising	2,268,060	2,739,143
Total Expenses	84,976,282	74,245,456
Change in Net Assets	(939,692)	3,405,595
Net Assets at Beginning of Year	14,191,121	10,785,526
Net Assets at End of Year	13,251,429	14,191,121
Analysis of Expenditure (Gross)		
Program Activities	96%	94%
General and Administrative	2%	2%
Fundraising	2%	4%

Analysis of Expenditure



96%

Program Activities

2%

General and Administrative

2%

Fundraising

CONCERN WORLDWIDE US BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2023/2024

LEADERSHIP

Joanna Geraghty

President and CEO, JetBlue Airways
Chairperson, Concern Worldwide (US)

Jim McShane

Founder & Chairman,
The McShane Companies
Vice-Chair, Concern Worldwide (US)

Joan Carroll

The Invus Group
Treasurer, Concern Worldwide (US)

MEMBERS

J. Jeffrey Assaf

Senior Managing Director and Chief
Investment Officer, ICG Advisors

Dolores Connolly

Chief Executive Officer,
Sterling Engineering, Inc.

Leslie Convey

Strategic Advisor

Jumana Culligan

Founder of Paper, Ribbon and Wrap, LLC

Donal D'Arcy

Chairperson, Concern Worldwide
(IRL) Principal Officer, Department of
Justice, Ireland

Scott Gutterson

Attorney, The Law Offices of
Scott Gutterson

Michael Houston

President, WPP

Colleen Kelly

Chief Executive Officer,
Concern Worldwide US

John McCarthy

Principal, Crosscheck
Consulting Services

John Murphy, Esq.,

Principal, John Murphy & Associates,
P.C.

***Denis O'Brien**

Chairman, Digicel Group

Frances O'Keeffe

Volunteer, Concern Worldwide (IRL)

Stephanie Pappas

Founder, Sum of all Senses

Brendan Ripp

Chief Executive Officer, Pushly

Margaret Smyth

Partner, QIC

Eash Sundaram

President & CEO, Utpata Ventures

Gemma Toner

Chief Executive Officer and Founder,
Chart One Media LLC, Tone Networks

John Treacy

Chief Executive Officer (retired),
Sport Ireland

Angelina Vieira

Chief Marketing Officer, Allelo

Frank Wall

Senior Vice President, Sports
Partnerships, Warner Bros. Discovery


* Left the Board of Directors in 2023


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CONCERN
worldwide US


ENDING
EXTREME POVERTY
WHATEVER
IT TAKES

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