



With an estimated 1.3 billion people living in absolute poverty, most of whom regularly experience health problems, Concern Worldwide recognizes that poverty, inequality, and marginalization are both the root causes and consequences of poor health. For more than thirty five years, Concern has been assisting the poorest people in the least developed countries across Africa, Asia, and the Caribbean to attain their fundamental right to adequate food and health care.

UNDERSTANDING BARRIERS TO HEALTH

Despite countless medical discoveries and significant improvements in global health during the 20th century, nearly 30,000 children under the age of five die every day. We know that the most prevalent health problems contributing to these deaths are malnutrition, diarrhea, measles, malaria and respiratory infections. Equally alarming, maternal mortality is by far the greatest cause of premature death among poor women in developing countries. Every day the lives of women and children are put at risk because of stressed health care systems.

CONFRONTING THE CHALLENGE

It may seem like an insurmountable task, but improved health for the most vulnerable, despite extraordinary challenges, is achievable. In fact, the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), adopted by world leaders in 2000, is a global initiative to meet the needs of the world's poorest by 2015. Within the context of the health related MDGs, Concern's objective is to contribute to improved health and nutrition for the poor.

Concern knows from experience that simple and cost-effective health care solutions are available to prevent and treat conditions that lead to the death of children and that basic prenatal care and skilled birth attendants at the time of delivery will save the lives of mothers.

IMPACTING GLOBAL HEALTH

Concern is a leader in child health, nutrition, and water and environmental health. Operating health programs in 22 countries, Concern collaborates with local communities to develop sustainable, life-saving health solutions benefiting the most vulnerable by:

- Building the capacity of communities to carry out comprehensive health programming, particularly in the area of maternal and child health
- Developing cutting-edge emergency and development interventions to combat acute and chronic malnutrition
- Creating improved access to clean, safe water and sanitation

Concern's Child Survival (CSP) and Community-based Therapeutic Care (CTC) programs are examples of innovative and effective health programming, which demonstrate that collectively we can affordably save children and mothers from preventable death.



SUPPORTING MOTHERS & CHILDREN

Concern is recognized as a leader in maternal and child health by CORE Inc., the foremost international network of maternal and child health practitioners. Concern's approach to CSP represents a philosophical shift from the direct provision of services to programs specifically designed to enable local residents and leaders to use and coordinate existing health service resources. From its inception nine years ago, CSP now impacts the lives of more than three million people in Bangladesh, Haiti and Rwanda.

EFFECTIVELY TREATING MALNUTRITION

Community-Based Therapeutic Care (CTC) aims to mobilize communities and support local health systems to effectively manage severe malnutrition. Most emergency nutrition interventions have traditionally focused on resource intensive Therapeutic Feeding Centers which require people to travel to distant sites for long periods of time away from their families. The CTC approach, pioneered by Valid International and Concern Worldwide in Ethiopia, Malawi and Sudan, seeks to provide rapid, effective, low-cost assistance with the least disruption to family life.

With this community-based approach, there is no centralized TFC. Instead, networks of trained community health workers travel into villages to identify and refer malnourished children to semi-permanent CTC centers. In South Sudan, where hunger is the norm, the average cost of providing CTC care to a malnourished child, from program admission to cure, is \$139. If a child is not reached in these early stages, cost of care can increase to almost seven times as much.

Concern Worldwide is an international, non-denominational humanitarian organization committed to the relief, assistance and advancement of the poorest people in the least developed countries in the world. Founded in Ireland in 1968, Concern Worldwide works in 30 countries throughout Africa, Asia and the Caribbean, providing emergency relief and long-term assistance in the areas of education, health, livelihoods (including agriculture training and microfinance) and HIV&AIDS.

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