**Concern Worldwide** 

ANNUAL REPORT 2021









## CONTENTS

who we are and what we bo	
Core Values	3
Where We Work	4
Message from CEO and Board Chair	6
Afghanistan	8
Our Programs	11
Emergency Programs	12
Livelihood Programs	14
Health and Nutrition Programs	16
Education Programs	18
Integrated Programs	20
Humanitarian Research & Training and Advocacy	22
Burkina Faso	24
JS Government Partnership	26
Our Supporters	28
Individual Giving	30
By the Numbers	32
Board of Directors	33

### **Cover image: Afghanistan, Hasan\*** Millions of people including

Hasan and his family have had their lives displaced due to conflict in Afghanistan. **Photo:** Stefanie Glinski/

Concern Worldwide

\*name changed to protect the identity of the individual





#### **Our Identity - Who We Are**

Concern Worldwide (Concern) is a non-governmental, international humanitarian organization dedicated to the reduction of suffering and working towards the ultimate elimination of extreme poverty in 24 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.

## WHERE WE WORK

In 2021, Concern worked in 24 countries to alleviate poverty and hunger.



#### Support and Revenue (\$75.1 Million)



**5.1**%

Contributions and Non-Governmental Grants (\$3,851,492)

3%

Support from Concern Worldwide (\$2,308,814) **90.1**%

Government Grants (\$67,700,683)

**1.7**%

Special Events - net (\$1,242,979)

0.1%

Other Income (\$79,479)

Haiti





#### 39m

People helped



24

#### Countries

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 Turkey



\$75.1m

Total Support and Revenue



\$75.4m

Total Expenses

## MESSAGE FROM THE CEO AND BOARD CHAIR

# "Back to normal" was anything but — still, our team rose to the long-term challenges posed by a pandemic, reaching more people than ever.

How wonderful it was to see so many of you in person last year after the closures and distancing measures of 2020. Our events in Chicago and New York were a reminder of how critical Concern's community of supporters are to our mission — one that we renewed in 2021 with the launch of our new five-year strategic plan.

While 2021 may have felt like a chance to start fresh, "back to normal" was anything but. As Concern Worldwide CEO Dominic MacSorley put it, we live in a time of increasing global fragility: a deepening climate crisis, levels of conflict and displacement not seen since World War II, and dozens of protracted humanitarian emergencies — some generations long — that have upended the very definition of "normal" for millions of people trying to live in dire circumstances.

Our reach has increased steadily in recent years to meet this demand. In 2018, we reached 24.2 million people. In 2019, it was 28.6 million. In 2020, it was 36.8 million. In 2021, we reached a new record: 39 million people across 24 countries.

This is a number we're incredibly proud of. It is also a sign that much of the progress that had been made in recent years to end extreme poverty has been lost due to a fatal combination of increased conflict, more frequent and disastrous climate events, and the residual economic impact of COVID-19. With renewed conflict in Ukraine (where Concern has been responding since March of this year) and a long-simmering hunger crisis fostered by drought in the Horn of Africa, we anticipate 2022 will bring us more of the same.

But that's why we're here. And that's why you're here with us. For just two examples of how your support helped where it was needed most, you can find spotlights on our work in Afghanistan (p. 18) and Burkina Faso (p. 34) in this report. Both situations show Concern at its finest: going into hard-to-reach places, working with those furthest behind, and helping people to transform their lives despite harsh circumstances.

This transformation wouldn't be possible without our global staff of 4,700+ dedicated humanitarians; and it wouldn't be possible without you. Thank you for standing with Concern last year in the fight against extreme poverty. We have a lot of work to do, but are thrilled to present some of the work we've already accomplished in the pages that follow.

Sincerely,



Colleen Kelly

Colleen Kelly
Chief Executive
Officer



Joanna Geraghty

**Joanna Geraghty** Chair, Board of Directors



### **AFGHANISTAN**





4.2m

Over 4.2 million children - 60% of whom are girls, are out of school.



4%

Only 4% of the population is vaccinated against COVID-19.

Political instability, economic collapse, drought, and COVID-19 have created unprecedented humanitarian needs for the people of Afghanistan. An estimated 24 million people are facing acute hunger. Alongside the humanitarian response, Concern continues to respond to longer-term development needs, through education for primary school-age boys and girls and by strengthening livelihoods for very vulnerable people. Concern has been working in Afghanistan since 1998 in some of the most remote areas of the country and has established strong relationships with local communities who help us ensure that aid gets to where it is needed most.





#### Afghanistan

Concern is helping this family in Afghanistan with cash to buy food as their only source of income is from a son who earns 200 to 250 Afghanis a day as a laborer when work is available, which is less than \$3 a day.

Photo: DEC/Concern Worldwide

### Concern is supporting families with

Food baskets and cash for food to help deal with the hunger crisis

Shelter and support to help repair damaged homes

Supplying livestock and agriculture inputs and training packages to help people secure a livelihood

Community based education for primary school children

Providing basic household supplies for those who lost homes and possessions while fleeing



# PROGRAMS

**Concern Worldwide reached** approximately 39 million people during 2021. Our work spans six main program areas; emergencies, livelihoods, health and nutrition, education, integrated, humanitarian training and advocacy. Our broad program goals, the objectives and some examples of our work in each area are described in the following pages.

#### **Emergencies**

→ see page 12

#### Livelihoods

→ see page 14

#### **Health and Nutrition**

→ see page 16

#### **Education**

→ see page 18

#### **Integrated**

→ see page 20

#### **Development Education** and Advocacy

→ see page 22

Countries

People helped \*\*\*\*

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.

## **EMERGENCY PROGRAMS**

17.8 m

People helped





In 2021, we responded to 66 emergencies in 23 countries, reaching approximately 4.8 million people directly and 13 million people indirectly.

Many of the countries where we operate are increasingly fragile and challenging to work in. The high levels of insecurity mean that aid workers are frequently the targets of violent attacks. In addition, access to hard to reach vulnerable communities with urgent humanitarian needs can be challenging due to both the lack of infrastructure and the presence of armed groups.

Along with the challenges of insecurity and lack of humanitarian access, Concern has also responded to the COVID-19 crisis in countries that are susceptible to frequent natural disasters.

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.

4.8m

People reached directly

**13**m

People reached indirectly [

#### Objectives and activities

The goal of our emergency program 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

## Some examples of our achievements and performance in 2021 are set out below:

On August 14, 2021, the southwest peninsula of **Haiti** was hit by a 7.2 magnitude earthquake killing 2,248 people and leaving 690,000 people in need of humanitarian assistance. Because of our previous emergency response experience and in-house capacity we were able to mobilize a team within 72 hours. Through existing partnerships, we were able to identify and reach those most in need. Our initial response was the distribution of hygiene kits (containing essential items such as towels, soap, toothbrushes, toothpaste and feminine hygiene products) to meet the immediate needs of 2,000 vulnerable households. We then continued to collaborate with partners to provide shelter, non-food items, cash support to 1,130 households and the trucking of clean, safe drinking water. Over 8,200 people were helped through our emergency response.

Years of conflict and displacement together with high levels of food insecurity and malnutrition in South Sudan has left many millions of people in need of emergency lifesaving support. In 2021, in response to the protracted crisis, we reached close to 629,000 people with a combination of nutrition, health, shelter, livelihoods, food security, and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) programs. Through our WASH program, over 184,000 vulnerable people were helped to access safe water and sanitation. Work included repairing, installing and managing boreholes, pipelines and handpumps to ensure clean water supplies as well as building, repairing and maintaining latrines, and educating people about good hygiene practices.

Afghanistan has been affected by almost four decades of war and in 2021, more than three million people were internally displaced due to conflict. This situation was made more challenging by the ongoing impact of COVID-19 and the withdrawal of development funding following the takeover by the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan in August 2021. This was most keenly felt in the sectors of health and education. Lockdowns, border closures, the suspension of both informal and formal work opportunities plus rising food prices exacerbated food insecurity for very poor households. Concern helped an estimated 29,900 people with cash to purchase food. COVID-19 also highlighted the lack of water and sanitation facilities for these communities. We installed handwashing stations, rehabilitated damaged handpumps and provided hygiene awareness training to help stop the spread of COVID-19 and other diseases. To help people cope with the harsh winter we provided over 2,900 households with packages which included winter clothes, blankets and cash to buy fuel.

Concern started an emergency program in Burkina Faso in 2021. The impact of climate change together with a sharp deterioration in the security situation in the last two years has resulted in huge needs among a very vulnerable population. Although it was very early days for our programs in 2021, we nonetheless assisted recently displaced families, providing 325 households with emergency cash transfers and cash-forwork for 150 people from 75 households. We distributed 500 health kits and 500 dignity kits which contain items specific to the needs of women and girls. We also supported five Primary Health Centers with training sessions, the rehabilitation of infrastructure and the provision of medical supplies.

The Syrian refugee population in Lebanon remains one of the largest concentrations of refugees per capita in the world, estimated at 1.5 million Syrians with nearly 90 percent living below the poverty line. Added to this, the country is grappling with a deep economic crisis which has driven nearly half of the population of six million into poverty. The people of Lebanon, both host and refugee communities, are having to deal with chronic shortages of water, food, medicine, and other basic essentials. In North Lebanon we implemented a shelter program to ensure that vulnerable people had a

safe and secure place to live. Program activities which reached over 45,000 people included the rehabilitation of 250 occupied shelters and 265 unoccupied shelters. We also provided emergency cash assistance in 250 cases and a further 1,255 households were supported with cash for rent. We carried out site improvements in 17 informal settlements and supported the rehabilitation and expansion of a primary healthcare center to assist in the response to COVID-19. The project participants also benefitted from hygiene promotion and fire prevention awareness sessions.

Armed conflict in northern Ethiopia has displaced over 2.2 million people. More than 60,000 people have fled the violence to seek refuge in neighboring Republic of Sudan. Concern has been present since the very early stages of the crisis, responding with the distribution of non-food items such as tarpaulins, mosquito nets, solar lamps and hygiene kits to 10,000 refugees in Um-Rakuba camp in the eastern Republic of Sudan. We also provided health services to 6,000 people in the camp, in particular supporting children under five and pregnant and breastfeeding mothers with a nutrition program to identify and treat acute malnutrition. Recognizing the pressure put on host communities by an influx of refugees, we extended the health and nutrition services to 3,000 people in neighboring Um-Rakuba village.

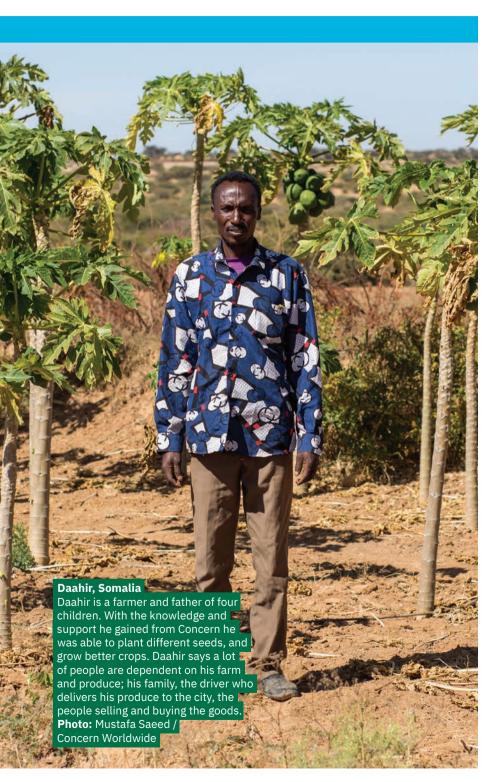
Years of conflict in Iraq have uprooted millions of people, disrupted access to basic services, destroyed livelihoods, and eroded social cohesion. With limited progress towards recovery and development, the situation has become protracted and millions of people across Irag remain in need of humanitarian assistance. 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. Extensive repairs to existing water network systems, and maintenance of them, means that each person has 69 liters of clean safe water each day for drinking, cooking and cleaning. A continuous flow of water also means that the camp latrines and shower blocks are kept functional and clean, helping to keep levels of disease down.

## LIVELIHOODS **PROGRAMS**

5.2m

People helped





In 2021, we improved the food security and livelihoods of over 1 million people directly and 4.2 million indirectly.

People living in extreme poverty struggle to earn enough to ensure that their families have enough to eat, get adequate health care and an education. Our livelihoods 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 livelihoods program is to enable extremely poor people to have secure livelihoods.

#### Our main objectives are to:

- Reduce hunger
- Strengthen our social protection programming, work skills and support systems
- Promote graduation to economic productivity
- Strengthen our climate smart agriculture program

**1**m

People reached directly

4.2m

People reached indirectly

## Some examples of our achievements and performance in 2021 are set out below:

In **Burundi** and **Rwanda** we work with extremely poor and marginalized households through our Graduation program, supporting them with a range of activities which combine to move them out of poverty. Key elements include helping program participants develop the skills they need to build secure livelihoods through training and coaching, providing cash transfers and help to access loans and savings programs. Improving the nutrition of households taking part is also key to the success of the program. In 2021, we saw particularly good results in this area in **Rwanda** with the percentage of children 6-23 months who are being given a minimum acceptable diet, doubling since 2020 to 20%. Thanks to training provided on improved agricultural techniques, distribution of inputs such as seeds and fruit trees, and awareness campaigns and cooking demonstrations organized in partnership with community health workers/health facilities, program participants were able to prepare a balanced meal and provide their children with nutritious foods in order to prevent malnutrition.

Our livelihoods program in the arid and semi-arid lands (ASALs) area of Kenya has achieved some great successes in the improvement of the agricultural productivity of extremely vulnerable households. By improving access to livestock production services and nutrition sensitive agricultural practices, families now have better food and nutrition security. The ASAL regions hosts 90% of the livestock population of **Kenya** and communities are reliant on them for their livelihoods so keeping animals healthy is of paramount importance. Through collaboration with county governments and linkages with the private sector, the program supported the vaccination, treatment and deworming of over two million livestock in 2021. Alongside this, to improve on livestock productivity we supported more than 8,200 people with training on breed improvement in Marsabit and Turkana counties. We also reached over 6,400 farming households with training on nutrition sensitive and climate smart agriculture which enabled them to produce a diverse range of crops, contributing to a significant reduction in childhood malnutrition.

In Aweil North and Aweil South counties in **South Sudan** our program to improve food security and build resilience reached almost 24,000 people. The program provides immediate lifesaving assistance by providing cash and food to the targeted households but also builds resilience as, in return, they work on projects that benefit the whole community. Through a six month cash and food distribution cycle, the program met the immediate and medium-term food needs of the program participants while restoring productive farmland and creating community assets. Almost 4,000 people took part in agricultural activities, clearing and cultivating land and were provided with seeds and training. Over 3,600 people took part in projects to repair and build infrastructure such as roads to improve access to health facilities, markets and schools, dykes to prevent flooding, and shallow wells to improve access to water for vegetable gardening.

Before the war, agriculture and livestock industries powered Syria's economy and provided sustainable livelihoods for hundreds of thousands of people. However, the ravages of protracted conflict have devastated the industry. Our program for conflictaffected farmers in northern Syria, which benefitted 60,200 people last year, aims to restore their livelihoods and improve food security. Farmers who were unable to cultivate their land as they did not have the financial resources to buy necessary agricultural inputs such as seeds, fertilizer, tools and small drip irrigation systems were given vouchers valued at between \$137 - \$233 depending on needs, to be redeemed at pre-qualified shops in the local market. They also received training in a number of areas including land preparation for vegetable cultivation, fertilizer requirements and pest management. 1,200 livestock farmers were given at least two sheep and fodder as well as training on livestock management and support through community-based para-vets.

In Manono territory, Tanganyika Province, in the **Democratic Republic** of Congo, Concern's livelihoods program follows a graduation approach to support extremely poor and marginalized households to move out of poverty. In 2021, the program benefitted over 34,500 people in 22 villages through activities including cash for work, setting up savings and loans groups and water and sanitation projects to improve health. The year was marked by several shocks affecting food security in the project area including heavy flooding in several villages, the presence of elephants which devastated several fields, as well as wood-boring insects which caused the rotting of cassava crops (the most consumed food in Manono). Responding to the change in the context due to these shocks, a particular emphasis was given to activities aiming to reduce food insecurity. The program supported participants by distributing seeds and setting up Farmer's Field and Life Schools to support food production. We also carried out practical cooking demonstration sessions on food diversification to increase household dietary diversity and carried an emergency food distribution in villages affected by the destruction of fields by elephants.

To improve the overall livelihoods security of extremely vulnerable households in Gurage Zone in Ethiopia, we worked with over 18,200 people to enable them to earn an income and improve their food and nutrition security. As part of the income generation activities, 46 households received seven sheep or goats as business start-up capital and six youth cooperatives numbering 150 individuals took up livestock trading having been trained on livestock fattening. Three hundred households were organized into four seed producer and marketing cooperatives and were given improved potato seed varieties as start-up resources for seed production. Over 1,100 households received business training and were able to get loans to start up small businesses. We supported households to improve their food and nutrition security by a number of means, including supplying improved crop varieties of wheat, barley and potato.

# HEALTH AND NUTRITION PROGRAMS

11.4m

People helped





In many of the countries where we work the health systems are extremely weak and communities are often unable to get the help they need to prevent suffering from under-nutrition and preventable diseases. To help overcome this, we work with local and national governments to strengthen healthcare systems and improve access to good 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 poor people.

#### Our main objectives are to:

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

1.8m

People reached directly

9.6m

People reached indirectly



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

estimates that there are more than 150

The World Health Organization

million children under five experiencing severe effects of malnutrition right now. A lack of proper nutrition in those early years can have long-lasting effects that are sustained right into adulthood. Drawing on over 50 years of experience in nutrition programming, we have developed ERNE - Enhanced Responses to Nutrition Emergencies - a three year EU-funded program which aims to tackle malnutrition in children under the age of five in some of the some of the world's most vulnerable communities by treating severely malnourished children while simultaneously strengthening the health system's ability to respond to surges in malnutrition and working to prevent it in the first place. The pilot program is running in five countries - Niger, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, South Sudan and Republic of Sudan - and in its first year has reached over 342,000 people. In addition to providing immediate life-saving healthcare and treatment for malnutrition, the program is helping communities prepare for and become more resilient to malnutritionrelated shocks. The ERNE program provides small cash payments directly to vulnerable parents to help them through short-term crises, such as floods or droughts or the lean season, which can put their children at risk. This small amount of cash could help ensure a parent in need does not have to sell valuable long-term assets such as livestock simply to make it through to harvest time. The program brings together mothers of the same age for peer support and provides a forum for basic education around hygiene and cooking demonstrations showing how to make the most of local foods to enrich their children's diet. Father support groups are also being formed to engage fathers more in improving the nutrition of young children.

In Democratic People's Republic of Korea, despite extremely challenging access constraints and conditions exacerbated by COVID-19 restrictions, we were able to make good progress with our water, sanitation and health (WASH) program. In total, almost 6,800 of the poorest and most vulnerable people have been reached

through the provision of improved safe drinking water and sanitation facilities. This has been achieved through the construction of water supply systems to households and institutions in rural and peri-urban areas. This will bring about a significant improvement to people's health status by decreasing incidences of diarrhea and waterborne diseases. In order to address poor sanitation which adversely affects children's health, latrines have been built in nurseries, kindergartens and clinics. These include hand washing facilities and doors on every cubicle for privacy.

Concern has built a reputation as one of the leading nutrition organizations in Pakistan, effectively helping to strengthen the capacity of health authorities at district and provincial level. In 2021, we successfully concluded a pilot project in Umerkot in Sindh province where incidences of drought leads to levels of child malnutrition frequently spiking. Through the project, 28 health facilities are now able to respond quickly and effectively to any increase in the caseload of malnourished children, using a community management of acute malnutrition approach. The project also strengthened the coordination between health facilities and their reporting at district and provincial level. The feedback from the health authorities was very positive with them asking for the continuation and upscaling of the project to other districts. An independent evaluation was conducted which confirmed that the project has strengthened the health system to manage increased caseloads of malnutrition while maintaining quality treatment outcomes.

In three districts of Kirundo province in **Burundi** we worked to prevent chronic malnutrition in children under two as well as pregnant and breastfeeding women. The project reached 80,000 people in 2021. Through a Care Group approach, 191 trained community health workers and 1,714 Care Group volunteers visited target households to share messages about positive nutrition and hygiene and how to screen for malnutrition. Undernourished mothers and children were referred to clinics for nutritional supplements. Concern's project staff provided technical support at the clinics to ensure that targeted

beneficiaries received the right quantities of the supplements and Care Group Volunteers monitored the proper use of them in homes. Noticing a reluctance from men to take part in taking care of their children, we set up 170 'Husband Schools' for 1,710 men to boost their engagement in health promotion and encourage positive behavior change in the community.

To tackle the ongoing effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, Malawi started its vaccination drive in March 2021. Concern is part of an NGO coalition supporting the Ministry of Health in the roll out of the national campaign, targeting over 600,000 people. The program is aimed at communities in hard-to-reach urban areas, promoting and delivering the vaccine through outreach clinics, creating demand and spreading awareness for the vaccine amidst the myths and misconceptions that are contributing to low vaccination take up. Concern is working with five health facilities, building the capacity of health care workers and providing logistical support. We have conducted community engagement sessions with community leaders and other influential people, attended by over 2,000 people, to encourage vaccination uptake. We also supported 18 vaccination outreach clinics by providing allowances to 30 vaccinators who were then able to vaccinate nearly 22,000 people in the target areas.

We continued to support very vulnerable communities in Grand Bassa and Rivercess counties in **Liberia** to improve their food security and health. The nutrition element of the program works to tackle high rates of under-nutrition particularly in mothers and children under five. It is implemented through the mother group approach, reaching over 3,750 beneficiaries in 150 groups. The groups received information about breastfeeding and complementary feeding, backed up by food demonstrations to show how to increase nutrient intake using locally available foods. To increase vegetable production and consumption at household level, we gave training on sack gardening which is a cheap and effective way to grow produce.

## **EDUCATION PROGRAMS**



People helped





In 2021, our education programs directly benefitted approximately 400,000 people directly and over 1.6 million 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 extremely vulnerable children more opportunities in life and support their overall well-being.

#### Objectives and activities

The goal of our education program is to improve the lives of extremely vulnerable children in a sustainable way by increasing their access to quality primary education.

#### Our main objectives are to:

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

400,000

People reached directly

1.6m

People reached indirectly

## Some examples of our achievements and performance in 2021 are set out below:

Our 'Leave No Girl Behind' program in **Ethiopia** aims to improve the life chances of highly marginalized girls who have missed out on a school education. The girls are enrolled in an adult functional literacy program so they can gain the basic literacy and numeracy skills to give them better livelihood opportunities. A total of 36 learning centers have been established in 32 kebeles (neighborhoods) where the program is being rolled out with the help of 46 adult education facilitators. In 2021, over 2,500 girls benefitted from the program including 333 who moved on to post-literacy programs, with many successfully completing short term training in tailoring, food preparation and animal production.

Our education program in Kenya seeks to enable girls in 201 primary and 21 secondary schools in Marsabit County and Nairobi City County to successfully complete their current phase of education, and transition to a productive and positive next phase, be that continuing with school or taking part in livelihoods or vocational training. Over 123,400 are directly reached by the program. A consequence of school closures due to COVID-19 in 2020 was that a large number of children dropped out so when schools reopened in 2021 we worked closely with the Ministry of Education, schools, parents and students to encourage re-enrollment. Our support included student scholarships for some girls, distribution of school kits, supporting mentorship of students and catchup classes to improve literacy and numeracy skills. Key to the reenrollment campaign were 'mother champions', women in the community who identified girls who were out of school, returned them and mobilized external and internal resources to ensure they would stay in school. Project-supported schools in the two counties saw enrollment percentages between 90% and 95%, which were higher than the national and county averages.

The Sahel region of Africa continues to be one of the areas in the world where education is most under attack with schools, teachers and students often targeted victims. In Niger, our 'Education Cannot Wait' program reached over 24,000 students in Tillabéri and Tahoua regions despite the deterioration in security with violent attacks committed by non-state armed groups on the rise in the project area. Students included almost 3,500 who had been displaced by violence. Activities included granting school allowances to a number of children to cover their basic needs in terms of food and school fees, along with placing them with a host family to allow them to continue their education. Teachers were paid an allowance to provide refresher lessons to students who had missed school either due to security concerns or COVID-19. Four community mobilization campaigns, raising awareness of the importance of schooling, encouraged parents/ caregivers to allow children to attend and stay in school.

The pandemic continued to impact children's education in Sierra Leone throughout 2021. As part of a COVID-19 education response consortium project, Concern is working in Tonkolili to ensure that children, including those with disabilities, have access to inclusive, safe, age-appropriate and genderresponsive distance learning if schools are closed, and are able to return to learning in schools when possible. 300 Concern-trained community volunteers from 150 schools and communities reached over 46,000 adults and children with messaging about safe education opportunities. Safety protocol training was conducted for 150 heads of school, and we also distributed safety materials.

2021 has been yet another challenging year for many people in **Syria** with the conflict continuing into its eleventh year. Education opportunities for conflict-affected children and young people remain limited and in the northeast of the country, Concern has been working to improve access to education and employment opportunities. In 2021, we rehabilitated 10 schools

across northern Syria and provided non-formal education learning opportunities to 520 children providing literacy, numeracy, and social and emotional learning sessions to help them integrate into the formal education system. In addition, we provided homework support sessions in formal schools to support newly enrolled children and increase retention rates, as well as offering caregiver sessions to promote children's wellbeing at home and encouraging parents to support their children's education. Concern also delivered 27 vocational training courses for 284 young women and men aged 18 to 25 supporting them to develop new technical skills to open up employment opportunities as well as the possibility of creating their own small business.

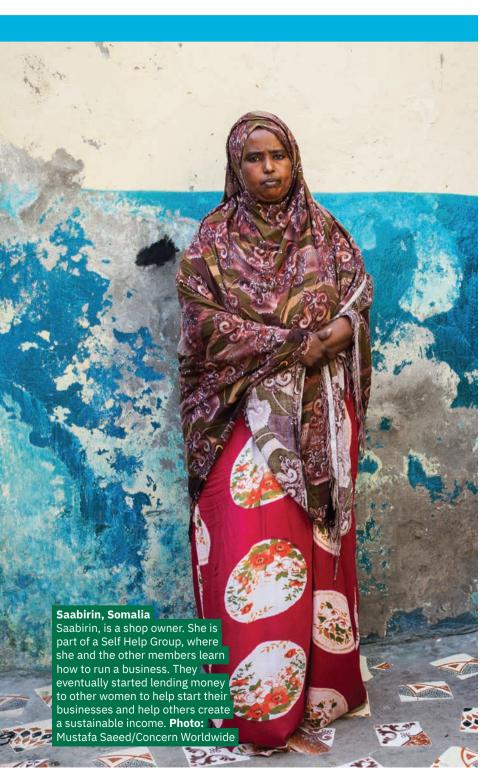
**Turkey** is home to 3.7 million Syrian refugees the large majority of whom live in urban environments where they face difficulties in accessing services (health, education, shelter, basic needs) due to language barriers, lack of up-to-date information on pathways and procedures, and capacity issues. Concern works in four provinces in the Southeast of the country to address the education and protection needs of the refugees. Barriers to education are complex and interconnected including the inability to afford schoolrelated expenses, the prevalence of child labor, lack of Turkish language skills, child disabilities and drop out due to bullying. We therefore provide tailored assistance so families are able to tackle some of these barriers and successfully enroll their children in school. In 2021, more than 1,425 children were registered in school with assistance from Concern.

## **INTEGRATED PROGRAMS**

2.6 m

People helped





In 2021 we reached almost 1.4 million people directly through our integrated programs and approximately 1.2 million indirectly.

There are multiple interrelated reasons that keep extremely vulnerable people locked in poverty. For that reason, many of our programs are integrated, bringing together, for example, agriculture and livelihoods with other sectors like water, health and education to tackle the multiple needs of a community in a coordinated way.

#### Objectives and activities

The goal of our integrated programs is to improve the lives of the most vulnerable by addressing their needs in a holistic way, tackling the inter-related barriers that impede development.

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

1.4m

People reached directly

1.2m

People reached indirectly

## Some examples of our achievements and performance in 2021 are set out below:

Despite the intensification of conflict in the first half of the year and the deteriorating security environment, Concern continued its work to build the resilience of extremely rural communities in Kunduz, Badakshan and Takhar provinces of northeastern Afghanistan. Our multi-sectoral resilience program reached over 16,000 people with projects focused on livelihoods, natural resource management, education and hygiene. Almost 3,400 people who rely on livestock for food and income benefitted from improvements in veterinarian services and an increase in the availability of fodder as well as training on pasture and livestock management. Farmer Field School sessions were conducted for 600 farmers to help them learn about new crops and techniques. In addition, 120 orchards were established, growing 66 fruit varieties and 300 women received kitchen garden training. Another key component of the program is watershed improvement, which plays a crucial role in soil and water preservation, reduces land degradation and protects against landslides, erosion and deforestation. In 2021, 48,500 drought-resistant trees were planted and 5,300lbs of alfalfa was cultivated on the edge of the watersheds to stabilize the soil and prevent landslides.

In **Bangladesh**, lack of opportunities in rural areas has driven millions of people to migrate to cities in search of a better life. Unfortunately, many end up living in slums, squatter settlements and on the pavements with few opportunities to earn a living or access health or education services. Our program to improve the lives of the vulnerable living in urban environments reached almost 37,000 people in Dhaka and Chattogram. We supported over 2,700 people with grants, business skills training and job placements and a further 5,300 with grants to use as start-up business capital. In order to prevent malnutrition in children under five years old, we provided hot food for 350 children in our daycare centers and cash support to their parents to help with food costs. We trained 150 volunteers to screen and identify malnourished children and refer them for treatment. We taught mothers and caregivers about the best ways to feed infants and young children through our 53 Community Nutrition Hubs and 87 Mother Support Groups. The program has also been successful in helping people to access basic social services and realize their rights, including supporting 3,342 households to get referral services from health providers.

Chad is one of the lowest income countries in the world, ranked 187 out of 189 in the latest Human Development Index and is highly vulnerable to the effects of climate change. Our integrated community resilience program in Sila Province in eastern Chad aims to make sustained improvements in the health, nutrition and livelihoods security of extremely vulnerable people so they can withstand frequent shocks (especially drought and floods) and the predicted changes in climate over the next 20 years. In 2021, over 43,000 people directly benefitted from the program. We saw good results with the number of months of hunger gap (the period when food supplies are low) reducing from 2.57 to 2.12. This was due to intense support provided to livelihoods program participants including training and support on conservation agriculture, market gardening, natural resource management, improved stove making and livestock management.

The Central African Republic (CAR) continues to face a deep and complex crisis leaving more than half the population in need of humanitarian assistance. Through our program to build community resilience to shocks and stresses in three subprefectures in the west of the country, we supported over 12,700 people to have access to better health and nutrition. We carried out training and capacity-building sessions for health staff and community relays (respected community members who relay messages back to their community) in 13 health facilities on infant feeding and childcare and essential family health practices, and supplied medicines and nutritional supplements. We also carried out necessary rehabilitation and structural work on the buildings themselves to ensure quality of care and the prevention of infections. In the community, messages about good nutrition practices were

passed on by community relays during home visits and via group talks and participatory cooking demonstrations.

In Somalia, nearly 86,000 internally displaced people, returning refugees and host communities benefitted from our integrated livelihoods, health and education program. One of the key objectives of the program is to enable people to increase their income and become self-reliant. To achieve this, we supported 14,250 people with a range of activities including technical and vocational education skills training, business development training, and the provision of business start-up grants. Community Self-Help Groups were supported with training, grants and mentorship. A midterm survey of the livelihood interventions found that there had been a significant increase in income levels of the program participants and an increase in the number of households able to meet their basic needs, together with a reduction in debt.

In the Tahoua region of Niger, our 'Realigning Agriculture to Improve Nutrition' (RAIN) program focuses on improving food and nutrition security and enhancing the livelihoods of the most vulnerable households in Tahoua. The program reached over 9,200 people with activities to increase food production and the diversity of nutrient-rich food and vegetables, promote key health practices to improve maternal and child nutrition, and improve access to reliable and safe water sources. Another important element of the program is to reduce inequalities experienced by the extreme poor and vulnerable, particularly women and girls, so they are able to actively participate in building a sustainable future for their communities. To help address gender equality issues, we monitored and supported 10 husbands' schools at which 106 sessions on various health and social themes were delivered including on the importance of mosquito nets, essential family practices and girls' education. The participants in these sessions also benefitted from radio messages on the same themes. 43% of households reported that women are now at least consulted in key areas of household decision-making, an important improvement from last year (18.5%).

## HUMANITARIAN RESEARCH & TRAINING

Humanitarian response is complex. Humanitarians today need to know how to juggle complex political landscapes, UN and government systems, technical standards, and international humanitarian laws, all while trying to implement the most efficient and appropriate emergency response.

For more than a decade, Concern has been providing trainings to improve the effectiveness of the humanitarian system as a whole; ensuring that individuals and organizations responding to crises from Haiti to Yemen have the tools and information they need to deliver stronger, better-coordinated response efforts in the world's most pressing humanitarian crisis.

#### OUR HUMANITARIAN RESEARCH & TRAINING WORK SPANS FOUR CORE AREAS

- → Humanitarian coordination
- → Leadership
- → System strengthening
- → Knowledge sharing

#### Our main program objectives are to:

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

#### What We Did

- → Trained 25,000+ humanitarians through our capacity strengthening programming last year
- Conducted 10+ intensive trainings for participants working across every major humanitarian crisis today

#### **ADVOCACY**

The goal of Concern's advocacy work is to contribute to securing sustainable improvements in the lives of extremely vulnerable people by influencing national and international policies, actions, and practices of governments, donors, aid counterparts, the private sector, and the public.

Our key objective is to ensure that Concern's experience influences action to address the challenges of conflict, climate change and hunger, by amplifying the voices and opinions of communities who are entitled to receive appropriate and timely support.

## Some examples of our achievements and performance in 2021 are set out below:

In 2021, the COVID-19 pandemic continued to influence our advocacy. We advocated for swift policy adjustments to minimize the impact of the pandemic on vulnerable people already experiencing extreme poverty in fragile and conflict-affected contexts. Using evidence from multi-country research we conducted with our NGO partners, we worked with governments and donors to increase vaccine access and distribution, strengthen health systems, and increase financial support. We created two reports, "COVID Spares No One" and "The Price of Inaction," which demonstrated the ways COVID affected people living in poverty and how the triple threat of conflict, climate change and COVID have created an unprecedented global food crisis.

Hunger is the cause of great suffering and hardship, and has grown in recent years due to conflict, climate change, and decades of underinvestment in systems. Concern consistently raised the issue of hunger with decision makers and donors in a variety of forums. For example, Concern Worldwide CEO Dominic MacSorley was invited to speak at a high-level UN panel on famine prevention in June 2021, where he was accompanied by Ambassadors from Ireland and Switzerland, Conflict-induced hunger is a particular challenge in many conflicts, requiring a combination of approaches to address. Concern influenced key policy makers, including the UN Security Council and UN agencies on the implementation of the Famine Conflict and UN Security Council Resolution 2417, which condemns conflict-induced hunger.

With President Biden taking office in 2021, bringing with him a change in US Government approaches to assistance, Concern worked with our partners in Washington D.C. to influence policies affecting our work and the lives of those living in extreme poverty. This included advocacy on increased funding for foreign assistance, as well as advocacy that asked for nutrition and hunger to be a priority for the new administration.



## **BURKINA FASO**





1.58m

Over 1.58 million people are internally displaced



3.5m

3.5 million people are in need of humanitarian assistance



24.9%

24.9% of children under 5 years are currently stunted

Concern entered Burkina Faso in January 2021 as a response to the rapidly evolving humanitarian crisis in the country and the largest displacement of people in Africa. Increasing violence, displacement, and COVID-19 have resulted in rising food insecurity, with 3.3 million people facing a food crisis forcing people to resort to negative coping strategies, like the reduction of meals consumed each day and the preference for low-calories and cheaper food.



Sylvie Adama Oubda, Burkina Faso Sylvie Adama Oubda, receiving a hygiene kit at Ramesim. Photo: Jean-Paul Ouedraogo/Concern Worldwide



#### **Health Activities**

Hygiene & sanitation promotion campaign and distribution of hygiene and dignity kits to recently displaced people

Rehabilitation of water and sanitation infrastructure in health centers

Logistical support to provide medical inputs to health centers

#### **Nutrition Activities**

Capacity building support to implementation of a "Simplified Protocol" for nutrition support services for insecure and hard-to-reach areas

Promote Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF) in emergencies by strengthening GASPAs (Groupes d'Apprentissage et de Suivi des Pratiques optimales d'Alimentation) and establish breastfeeding spaces in health centers. GASPAs are groups that support pregnant and lactating women/girls

Strengthen capacity of health services for the management of acute malnutrition through training/capacity building of health centers staff Concern will target the area of Kouritenga in Centre-Est province, where more than 20,000 internally displaced people (IDP) are located. The response will support 500 IDP and host community households in Centre Est province with cash transfers delivered through a cash transfer service provider. Cash distributions will be coupled with hygiene promotion campaigns.

## US GOVERNMENT PARTNERSHIP

This last year was a lesson in finding opportunities to sustain our efforts around the world where others may have seen limits. And we did. With the ongoing commitment of our partners and supporters at the US Agency for International Development (USAID) and the US Department of State, our programming adapted to the everchanging landscape of compounding humanitarian challenges to reach millions once thought to be out of reach only a year ago.

Amid increasingly violent conflict and frequent climate shocks throughout 2021, we are deeply grateful for the commitment from the US Government towards our mission, granting us more than \$67 million to support 48 awards in 12 countries.

In 2021, Concern's programs across the Horn of Africa responded to the catastrophic drought amid increased hunger, supply shortages and a global pandemic. With funding of \$2,222,001 from Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (BHA), our Emergency Nutrition Response supported 29 health facilities in Ethiopia, reaching 36,164 people to enhance communities' access to maternal health, child nutrition, and food security. In Kenya, our award of \$4,700,468 helped build an integrated drought response by harvesting flood water from the seasonal rivers running to Lake Turkana. By learning to grow drought resistant crops, this program supported 834,821 people, providing families with sustainable methods of feeding themselves and their communities.

Conflict, like climate crises, is just as impactful in destroying infrastructure, creating displacement, and increasing vulnerability. With USAID funding of \$5,020,106, Concern provided a comprehensive, integrated response to help 930 households affected by one of the world's longest standing conflicts in the Democratic Republic of the Congo with shelter construction assistance. For a family living in Tanganyika this meant having shelter from harsh weather conditions.

On reflection of 2021, we are proud of the transformative impact US Government funded programs had on the world's most vulnerable communities facing natural and human-influenced crises beyond their control. In 2022, we will continue to draw on the generous support of US citizens to provide innovative and comprehensive programs that transform the lives of the world's most vulnerable people.

Farmland is seen outside
Kapotongo village, Manono
Territory. The village is
supported by a USAID program,
which aims to build sustainable
agricultural practice in the
region, and allow communities
here better access to
nutritious and more profitable
crops. **Photo:** Hugh Kinsella
Cunningham/Concern
Worldwide





## OUR Supporters

# Our deepest thanks to our individual, corporate, and foundation donors who are leading the way in supporting Concern's mission.

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

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## \$250,000 **-** \$499,999

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#### **SUPPORT OUR WORK**

#### **Become a Monthly Donor**

Concern would like to thank those individuals who have chosen to make recurring gifts. Monthly gifts are an essential source of sustainable and dependable funds for Concern, allowing us to expand our programs without risk and respond faster when an emergency strikes. Join this group of dedicated supporters by making your first tax-deductible, monthly gift today: concernusa.org/monthly

#### **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

While the challenges of COVID-19 persisted throughout 2021, we remained encouraged by the public's unwavering compassion and dedication to our mission of ending extreme poverty, whatever it takes. Our team was able to leverage the skills we learned while operating virtually in 2020 to deepen engagement with Concern's supporters and host compelling, hybrid events during 2021, ultimately raising over \$4.8 million for our programs.

We could not be more grateful for your ongoing investment in our life-saving work, which made sure our programs could continue when they were needed the most. Here are a few highlights from 2021:

## Women of Concern presents WORK OF ART

- Virtual

We were thrilled to welcome over 300 people tuning in from 7 countries (Lebanon, Switzerland, Nepal, France, Ireland, UK and US) on May 18<sup>th</sup> for our virtual **Women of Concern presents WORK OF ART.** The event showcased the unexpected ways in which art and humanitarian work intersect, honoring Faith Atieno, founder of Art 360 Kibera and raising over \$360,000.





#### 17th Annual Aengus Finucane Memorial Golf Tournament

Woodway Country Club,
 Darien, CT

Concern hosted the 17th Annual Aengus Finucane Memorial Golf Outing on Monday, July 12 at Woodway Country Club in Darien, CT, bringing together 100 golfers and supporters, and raising over \$230,000 to support our mission and programs that stand in solidarity with displaced Syrians.



#### **Luna Coffee Campaign**

We were thrilled to announce a partnership with **Luna Coffee Roasters on World Coffee Day** in October. A Midwest staple, Luna Coffee Roasters created a single-origin Ethiopian coffee for Concern with a portion of the proceeds supporting our life-saving programs and work in the region. You can learn more about this partnership and purchase coffee at concernusa. org/lunacoffee.



#### 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Concern Chicago Golf Outing

- Chicago Highlands, IL

On Monday, July 26th, we hosted 100 golfers at Chicago Highlands for the 19th Annual Concern Chicago Golf Outing, raising over \$140,000 to support our mission and programs that stand in solidarity with displaced Syrians.

#### Milken Conference — Los Angeles

Concern global CEO Dominic MacSorley was interviewed by NBC's Anne Thompson at the prestigious **Milken Global Conference** in Los Angeles in Oct. 2021, where attendees included C-suite leaders in tech, finance and philanthropy, as well as US & international government officials. During the conference, a large reception for Concern was hosted by the Hon. Marcella Smyth, Consul General of Ireland, Los Angeles, at which Dominic spoke to the gathering about Concern's need to expand its work to respond to increasing crises and famine as a result of conflict, climate change and COVID-19.



#### **Beautycounter** — Los Angeles

Concern donor and Beautycounter representative Paola Womac hosted a series of fundraising events in Los Angeles at which 20% of all proceeds from sales of Beautycounter products (both online and in-store) were donated to Concern to support our work with women and children around the world. These events not only raised thousands for Concern but also helped raise awareness of our work with dozens of new donors and advocates.



#### **New York City Marathon**

On Sunday, November 7, 2021, the New York City Marathon made its triumphant return after a year hiatus due to COVID-19 to celebrate its 50th anniversary. Over 30,000 runners participated, 18 of which generously chose Concern Worldwide as their charity beneficiary. Together, these runners raised over \$76,000 from over 650 donors. The race itself went off without a hitch, with tremendous weather and palpable excitement from thousands of runners grateful to be racing together once again.

## Emergency Appeals: Haiti and Afghanistan

Our thanks to everyone who donated to our emergency fundraising efforts for Haiti and Afghanistan which raised a total of \$185,000 for our Haiti relief efforts and \$34,000 for Afghanistan.

#### **Scott Gutterson Events**

Concern Worldwide US Board Member Scott Gutterson, along with his wife Debbie, hosted two cocktail parties at their home in September, where attendees had the opportunity to hear exclusive updates from Chief Executive Officer Colleen Kelly and Vice President of Programs Kirk Prichard. The Guttersons introduced many of their close friends and colleagues to the mission of Concern and raised critical funds in support of our work.

#### **Concern Carbon Calculator**

In Spring 2021, we launched an interactive carbon calculator tool designed to highlight that those who contribute the most to today's climate crisis tend to feel its impacts the least. The calculator shows users their estimated annual average carbon footprint based on inputs they share regarding their daily lifestyle and habits. The final page of the calculator then compares the user's figure to the average footprint of an individual in one of the countries in which Concern operates. Using this data, the calculator then solicits a suggested donation based on the user's total carbon footprint.



#### Concern Global Gala: Unite to Fight Hunger

- Chicago, New York City and Virtual

We were thrilled to end the year strong, raising nearly \$1 million at the **Concern Global Gala: Unite to Fight Hunger** in Chicago and NYC, and the virtual event. These events featured a journey around the globe with music, dancing, and celebration of the human spirit, interwoven with chefs from around the world who shared stories of their countries and demonstrated the joy and nourishment that food brings. Our sincere thanks to everyone who generously supported one or more of these events!

## CONCERN BY THE NUMBERS

Concern Worldwide US financial summary statement of activities for year ending December 31, 2021

#### **2021 Financial Performance**

	2021 Total	2020 Total
Support and Revenue		
Contributions and non-government grants	3,851,492	3,028,329
Support from Concern Worldwide	2,308,814	1,851,698
Government Grants	67,700,683	46,595,727
Special Events - net	1,242,979	1,386,071
Other Income	79,479	87,853
Total Revenue and Support	75,183,447	52,949,678
Expenses		
Program Activities	69,614,577	48,366,506
Overseas Relief	69,048,598	47,548,448
Development Education	565,979	818,058
Management and General Administrative	2,059,131	1,539,189
Fundraising	3,815,538	2,623,447
Total Expenses	75,489,246	52,529,142
Change in Net Assets	(305,799)	420,536
Net Assets at Beginning of Year	11,082,791	10,662,255
Net Assets at End of Year	10,776,992	11,082,791
Analysis of Expenditure (Gross)		
Program Activities	93%	
General and Administrative	2%	
Fundraising	5%	



# CONCERN WORLDWIDE US BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2021/2022

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<sup>\*</sup>Left the Board of Directors in 2021

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