A MESSAGE FROM
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER COLLEEN KELLY
& BOARD OF DIRECTORS CHAIR JOANNA GERAGHTY

On behalf of the Concern Worldwide US board and staff, we are proud to share our 2018 annual report. In addition to providing clear impact metrics and key data points from the past year, it tells the story of a vital global organization that has been driving lasting change, hand in hand with the world’s poorest communities, since 1968. After 50 years, we are continuing a legacy of relentless compassion and lifesaving, life-changing impact.

This is a commitment that is shared by our community of partners and donors in the United States. Individuals, institutions, and government agencies alike have made a careful decision to invest in us. We value the generosity and trust you place in us. The pages that follow include some of our results from 2018 – a year when Concern helped 24.2 million of the world’s poorest and most vulnerable people lift themselves out of poverty and hunger. We also responded to 66 different emergencies in 20 countries.

We are more inspired and committed than ever to work toward the end of extreme poverty and hunger in our lifetimes. Many will tell us it’s an impossible goal. We have evidence to the contrary. In September 2018, the World Bank reported that, between 1990 and 2015, the extreme poverty rate dropped an average of one percentage point per year – from nearly 36% to 10%. Over the last 25 years, more than one billion people have lifted themselves out of extreme poverty. The global poverty rate is now lower than it has ever been in recorded history. World Bank Group President Jim Young Kim calls it “one of the greatest human achievements of our time.” We all have a vital part to play in changing the story.

Tom leaves behind millions of people across the world whose lives were changed and saved through his generosity. We honor his legacy by emulating his relentless spirit to continue building a committed community and to make more of an impact wherever we are most needed.

Together, since 1968, we have been changing the world. Concern brought relief to war-torn Biafra, saving millions of lives in the face of seemingly insurmountable odds. We went into Bangladesh, working with people devastated by war and hunger. Remaining there now for more than 40 years, we’ve revolutionized maternal and child health. We were in Cambodia, helping a country crawl back from genocide while pioneering microfinance as part of its emergence from extreme poverty.

In places like Ethiopia and Malawi, we helped create Community Management of Acute Malnutrition (CMAM), a new model for the treatment of malnutrition in children. It was adopted as a best practice by the UN in 2007 and continues to save millions of young lives every year in more than 60 countries. We brought compassion, dignity, and safe medical procedures to thousands of Sierra Leoneans during the West African Ebola epidemic, ultimately stemming the disease’s spread.

And today, we are there in a time of unprecedented need with communities in places like Syria, South Sudan, Afghanistan, the Democratic Republic of Congo, and Haiti.

In this report, you will learn much more about our work. Beyond an accounting of our operations, it is the story of a community that is building on half a century of impact and innovation.

We are inspired by the prospect that the end of the story – the end of extreme poverty and hunger – will not require another 50 years.

We thank you for your investment and for being part of the Concern community.

Colleen Kelly
Chief Executive Officer

Joanna Geraghty
Chair, Board of Directors
1968

With no humanitarian or fundraising experience – only a driving impulse to act in the face of great suffering – a group of young volunteers launched an ambitious fundraising campaign to support relief efforts on the ground in Biafra. Tapping into the conscience of a nation that had itself suffered the ravages of famine, their efforts led to the largest ever humanitarian response mounted out of Ireland up to this time. It started with sending shipments of relief goods to Biafra channelled into the hands of Irish people on the ground, including Aengus and Jack Finucane, who went on to build the organization that is now Concern Worldwide.

In 1968, starvation in the breakaway state of Biafra, caused by war with Nigeria, reached truly catastrophic levels. When Biafra became the first famine to play out nightly on television screens around the world, a young Dublin couple named John and Kay O’Loughlin Kennedy decided they had to do something. They gathered over 40 concerned people into their apartment and began what would then be known as Concern Africa.

2018

Over the course of 50 years, Concern has grown into one of the world’s most respected humanitarian organizations. But we have never forgotten our roots. Working with the most vulnerable people in the world’s poorest countries, we have responded to countless disasters and worked hand in hand with communities to rebuild, recover, and create lasting change for tens of millions of people in more than 40 countries.

Cover: Clotilde Ndayisenga (25) with her two-year-old daughter, Arlene Akimana, at their home in Rugombo, Cibitoke in Burundi. Photo: Abbie Trayler-Smith

Above: As a participant in Concern’s graduation program in Cibitoke, Burundi, Violette Bukeyense started a small business selling banana juice, earning enough to buy a goat. She now plans to convert her front room into a small grocery shop. Photo: Darren Vaughan / Concern Worldwide

Left: Bien-Aimé Marc Onel participated in six months of life skills training as part of the Building Hope and Opportunities in Haiti program. Formerly involved in anti-social activities, he says, “Concern changed my whole attitude to life. I went from a negative person to a positive person.” Photo: Kieran McConville / Concern Worldwide

Above: The Columcille sailing from Dublin with a cargo of aid for Biafra on September 6, 1968. Photo: Concern Worldwide

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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 working towards the ultimate elimination of extreme poverty in the world’s poorest 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; and 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 that 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

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 poorest and 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. We go 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 2018, Concern helped 24.2 million people in 25 of the world’s poorest and most vulnerable countries to alleviate poverty and hunger.

AFGHANISTAN
BANGLADESH
BURUNDI
CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC
CHAD
DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE’S REPUBLIC OF KOREA
DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

ETHIOPIA
HAITI
KENYA
LEBANON
LIBERIA
MALAWI
NEPAL
NIGER
PAKISTAN

REPUBLIC OF SUDAN
RWANDA
SIERRA LEONE
SOMALIA
SOUTH SUDAN
SYRIA/IRAQ
TURKEY
YEMEN*
ZAMBIA

*Working in conjunction with our Alliance2015 partner, ACTED

24.2 MILLION
People Helped

25
Countries

66
Emergency Responses
2018 HIGHLIGHTS

**Ethiopia**
- **Kenya**
- **Republic of Sudan**
- **Somalia**
- **South Sudan**

**SOMALIA**
Over 576,000 people reached

**KENYA**
Over 4.2 million people reached

**ETHIOPIA**
Over 2.4 million people reached

**SOUTH SUDAN**
Over 886,000 people reached

**REPUBLIC OF SUDAN**
Over 2.1 million people reached

**177,000**
In South Sudan, we provided emergency shelter and non-food items, such as kitchen utensils and jerry cans, to people living in protection of civilian sites as well as to people who were newly displaced and returning to their home areas. We reached over 177,000 people in 2018 with these essential supplies.

**332,000**
Our emergency nutrition programs reached over 332,000 people across six regions in Ethiopia with a combination of food distributions, child malnutrition prevention and treatment, education on preparing nutritious meals, training on good hygiene practices, and providing safe water.

**43,400**
Over 43,400 people attended cookery demonstrations in Tigray, Ethiopia to learn how to improve dietary diversity and nutrition for their families.

**85,600**
In Somalia and Somaliland, we reached just over 85,600 people through our health and nutrition interventions. This included providing over 51,000 out-patient consultations, performing 5,000 antenatal check-ups, and immunizing over 1,300 children.

**150,000**
In Marsabit in northern Kenya, at least 81% of the population relies on livestock as a main source of food and income. When livestock was in danger of infection by Rift Valley Fever, we supported the Country Department of Agriculture, Livestock, and Veterinary Services to vaccinate over 150,000 animals, which both protected the herds from infection and ensured their productivity.

**9,700**
In Moyale in northern Kenya, we supported 9,700 asylum seekers displaced by conflict in Ethiopia. By working with the local business community, within two days we sourced emergency household kits with supplies like jerry cans, kitchen utensils, and shelter materials. In two camps for the displaced, we also supplied 18,500 gallons of water, built 72 pit latrines, and managed waste disposal.

**29,000**
We worked in 21 villages in West Darfur in the Republic of Sudan to enhance local communities’ ability to manage shocks and stresses and improve their livelihoods. This integrated program reached over 29,000 people directly through the provision of clean water, training in agricultural techniques, distribution of seeds and livestock, and support to village development groups.

Above: A child flies a homemade kite on the streets of Juba’s protection of civilians site in South Sudan.
Photo: Steve De Neef

Left: A Concern team member prepares for a food distribution organized by Concern in Juba, South Sudan.
Photo: Steve De Neef
In Syria, we targeted 998 vulnerable farming households with vouchers to enable them to buy agricultural supplies such as seeds and fertilizers. As a result, farmers were able to increase their harvest. Overall, the estimated average yield increased by nearly 1,900 pounds from the previous year.

In Iraq, we reached over 1,200 Syrian refugee children and their caregivers through our protection program, which provides child-friendly spaces and psychosocial support. Here, children – many of whom have lost family members, been subjected to domestic violence, and/or been displaced several times – are able to play, learn, and make new friends in a safe and caring environment.

Employment opportunities for Syrian refugees living in Turkey are limited and what jobs do exist are often irregular, low skilled, and low paying, forcing families to live in extreme poverty. We supported 375 Syrian refugees with language training, vocational skills development, and assistance with work permit applications to enable them to enter the formal labor market and become self-sufficient.

In response to the needs of Syrian refugees living in informal tented settlements in Lebanon, we worked across 22 of the most vulnerable settlements, reaching over 31,600 people. We built 115 latrines, supplied safe water to over 10,000 people, and carried out hygiene training, reaching 3,000 people per month.

Khadija* (42), a mother of three, is a Syrian refugee living in northern Lebanon. She was very happy in her town in southern Syria before the conflict broke out. In fact, she wants everyone to know that Syria was a nice place to be before the war. Her most treasured possession is the key to her home in Syria. “I may have lost my home, but my keys are still with me,” she says. “I aim to go back to Syria someday, rebuild my home, and use the same keys.”

*Names changed to protect the identity of the individual.

Photo: Jason Kennedy / Concern Worldwide

Syrian refugees Alya* (5) and her cousin Sultan* (4) sit together in the home they share with their extended family in northern Lebanon. The house has been refurbished by Concern.

*Names changed to protect the identity of the individuals.

Photo: Mary Turner / Panos Pictures
In 2018, Concern reached approximately 24 million people in 25 of the world’s poorest and most vulnerable countries. Our work spans five main areas: emergencies, livelihoods, health, education, and integrated programs. Our broad program goals, objectives, and some illustrative examples of our work in each area are described in the following pages.
In 2018, we responded to 66 emergencies in 20 countries, reaching over four million people directly and 7.6 million indirectly, six million of whom were female.

Many of the countries we work in are susceptible to frequent natural disasters and outbreaks of conflict, resulting in already vulnerable people losing their homes and livelihoods. In the immediate aftermath of an emergency, we provide life-saving support to families and communities and we then work alongside them to get people 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 program is to fulfill our humanitarian mandate to respond effectively to and mitigate against natural and human-influenced disasters.

We aim 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 of our achievements in 2018:
- Respond rapidly in order to save lives and reduce suffering
  In late August, the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea suffered the devastating effects of Typhoon Soulik, which hit communities that were already vulnerable. In North and South Hwanghae provinces, over 10,000 people were affected. We responded to the immediate needs in North Hwanghae by supplying over 1,700 hygiene kits along with water tanks, blankets, and warm clothes for children. In addition, we provided approximately 2,000 children in 45 childcare institutions with rice, soybeans, and dried vegetables over a three-month period.

An outbreak of Ebola took hold in several parts of the Democratic Republic of Congo in 2018. The first outbreak occurred in Mbandaka in the northwest of the country, followed by another in North Kivu and Ituri Province, where cholera was also present. Concern responded to the situation in North Kivu by training

Above: A healthy meal prepared by the lead mothers of Concern’s nutrition program at the protection of civilians (PoC) site in Bentiu, South Sudan. Photo: Steve De Neef

Top Right: Anna George (39) sits inside her home at the PoC site in Bentiu with her sons Malech Jal (16), Chieng (3), and Bijiek (11) and her nephew Gien Gal (5). Chieng (pictured in the photo at bottom right with his mother) was suffering from edema and was diagnosed as severely malnourished. He was admitted immediately into Concern’s nutrition program. His edema was so severe that he was also referred for immediate medical care in a health center. Photo: Steve De Neef

Above: Food preparation inside a communal shelter at the PoC site in Bentiu. Photo: Steve De Neef
360 health workers on how to diagnose and treat suspected Ebola cases and delivering hygiene kits to approximately 27,000 people. In addition, we reached nearly 62,000 people with messaging about the risks of Ebola and cholera.

In July, a hailstorm hit in West Kordofan in the Republic of Sudan, was hit by flash flooding that destroyed homes and badly affected people’s livelihoods, with farmland and livestock lost to the floods. Overall, 218,800 people were affected. Concern was the first agency to respond, getting emergency supplies to the stricken community within three days. We also ran health and hygiene awareness campaigns and carried out preventative measures such as disinfection and chlorination. This helped ensure that there were no incidents of waterborne diseases, which often occur after flooding incidents and can result in high rates of illness and death.

Improved access to food, healthcare, and water

In Bangladesh, the Rohingya refugee crisis continued to be the focus of our emergency programming. Across nine camps, volunteers screened approximately 49,500 children under the age of five for signs of severe malnutrition every month, admitting over 6,140 to our outpatient clinics, where we achieved a cure rate of 97%.

In Kirundo, Burundi, a combination of factors have led to high levels of malnutrition among children. In July, we treated over 250,000 children under the age of five who were suffering from severe malnutrition in six health centers. We also rehabilitated 22 springs, built 25 roof-water harvesting systems, and constructed five pipelines, which gave over 85,600 people access to clean water to help prevent disease. In addition, we strengthened the capacity of district health staff to spot and treat malnutrition by training 64 health workers and a further 113 health extension workers.

Prevent and reduce the impact of emergencies

In Akkar, Lebanon, we responded to multiple fires in five informal tented settlements that are home to thousands of Syrian refugees. Fifty-six tents and 300 inhabitants, including 160 children, were affected. Recognizing the ongoing risks from fire, we provided equipment and training to vulnerable families.

In Pakistan, 136 million people – 40% of the population – are exposed to natural hazards due to a combination of climate change, poor governance, and weak infrastructure. In South Punjab, we are working with over 25,000 households to provide disaster-resilient handpumps, 56 water facilities, and latrines in communal shelters; and delivering 400 training sessions on climate-smart agriculture and conservation agriculture.

In the Amhara region of Ethiopia, we worked with over 25,000 households to reduce incidences of acute malnutrition in children under five. We also rehabilitated 22 springs, built 25 roof-water harvesting systems, and constructed five pipelines, which gave over 85,600 people access to clean water to help prevent disease. In addition, we strengthened the capacity of district health staff to spot and treat malnutrition by training 64 health workers and a further 113 health extension workers.

Mika Abdu (37) cultivates zucchinis, amaranth, and cabbage in several vegetable sacks in his backyard in Sudan Kalgo in Tabia, Niger. The sacks require only a limited amount of water for leafy vegetables to grow all year round. “It wasn’t easy to grow plants in a salt – it used to get burnt,” Mika says. “But it’s only now when I see what has been produced that I understand. I now realize that what Concern has done for us is something good. It provides us with additional food to eat.”

Photo: Darren Vaughan / Concern Worldwide

In 2018, we improved the food security and livelihoods of approximately 1.5 million people directly and three million indirectly. Of these, 2.3 million were female.

Our Programs

LIVELIHOODS

We aim to:

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

Some of our achievements in 2018:

Reduce hunger

In Sierra Leone, where the repercussions of the 2014 Ebola outbreak continue to affect livelihoods, we worked with over 4,000 of the most vulnerable households to help improve food production, reduce post-harvest food loss, and increase income. Some 685 households, who were part of a Concern program in 2018. We also established and trained nine new farmer field school groups to improve farming practices. Additionally, we built or rehabilitated eight grain stores, installed five rice-milling machines, completed 13 culverts, and rehabilitated 11 miles of road to link farmers to traders.

Through a range of projects including the cultivation of for work, seed distributions, agricultural training, and animal disease control, over 10,600 vulnerable people in Afghanistan are now better able to earn a living.

For people aiming to improve their livelihoods, not being able to reach larger markets to buy and sell goods and produce can be a significant barrier. To help overcome this, in the Central African Republic, we rehabilitated 30 miles of roads as well as three bridges, which improved access to both markets and health services for remote communities. The roads were built by 1,100 people through a cash-for-work program that allowed participants to buy basic necessities such as food and medicine.

We supplied over 1,000 households in the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea with vegetable seeds, pesticide sprayers, plastic sheets, and shovels to make kitchen gardens. Between April and October, each household produced an average 770 pounds of vegetables.
Strengthen our social protection programming, work skills, and support systems

In our urban programs in Bangladesh, over 1,220 households were provided with training in a range of skills to enable them to start small businesses and were then provided with cash grants to set them up. Program participants became members of a community savings system, which improved their ability to manage savings and make sound investments, helping them to look forward to a more secure future.

Opportunities for paid work for Syrian refugees in Lebanon are limited – they are allowed to work in only three sectors: construction, agriculture, and the environment. We supported nearly 5,000 people to earn a sustainable income by helping them to establish small businesses such as cheese-making and carpentry and to learn new skills that can be used in the future. Most of the income they earn is spent in local shops and businesses, thereby benefitting the economy of the whole region.

In five districts in Syria, we are working with vulnerable conflict-affected communities both to address their immediate food needs and to increase their opportunities to find work. We reached over 38,500 people in 2018. Food vouchers were distributed to over 3,900 households, 1,874 families took part in cash-for-work projects, and 489 people received vocational training in activities such as carpet weaving, sewing, and mobile phone repair.

Promote graduation to economic productivity

Over 3,000 households in Burundi and a further 1,300 in Rwanda were supported through our graduation program, which supports extremely poor people to learn a range of skills, gain knowledge, and take part in activities that increase their capacity to earn a living and move out of poverty and hunger.

In a survey conducted in 2018, the number of months that families taking part in the program that suffered a “hunger gap” – the number of months in which they struggle to meet their minimum daily food requirements – decreased in Rwanda from 3.91 in 2017 to 2.31 in 2018. In Burundi, that number decreased from 4.02 in 2017 to 2.41 in 2018.

Our graduation program in Malawi, now in its second year, has made a significant impact on its participants. The households involved in the program have seen an appreciable decrease in poverty levels. They have been able to send their children to school, buy kerosene, improve their homes, eat a more varied diet, and start saving money. We reached over 23,190 people through this program in 2018.

Strengthen our climate-smart agriculture program

Our livelihoods program in Somaliland reached 2,180 of the most vulnerable people, which included female-headed households, unemployed youth, drought-prone farmers, and marginalized groups. We trained farmers in climate-smart agriculture and provided seeds and tools. We also established self-help groups and equipped them with the start-up grants and the skills they needed to create their own small businesses. Eight of these groups have increased their income to over $74 per month.

In Chad, where the effects of climate change – including erratic rainfall patterns, droughts, and flash floods – have been devastating for the most vulnerable people, we set up environmental committees in 26 villages. Those committees spread messages about how to protect the environment to an estimated 1,200 people in their communities. We also trained six groups of women to construct fuel-efficient stoves that use less firewood and therefore place less pressure on the environment.

The impact of climate change continues to be a threat in Liberia, with the rural poor being particularly vulnerable. We supported 30 small-scale farmer groups with gardening tools, seeds, and hands-on training about climate-smart agriculture in order to establish demonstration plots so they could test different farming techniques and choose the one that would work best for them.
HEALTH

In 2018, our health programs reached over 9.2 million people, nearly three million of whom were direct beneficiaries. Five million were female.

The communities we work with around the world are often unable to get the help they need to prevent suffering from undernutrition and preventable diseases. To help overcome this, we work with local and national governments to strengthen healthcare systems and increase access to good healthcare, nutrition, and water and sanitation services.

Objectives and activities

The goal of our health programs is to contribute to the achievement of health and nutrition security for poor people.

We aim to:
- Prevent undernutrition and extreme hunger
- Strengthen maternal and child health
- Strengthen health facilities
- Improve access to clean water and sanitation

Some of our achievements in 2018:

Prevent undernutrition and extreme hunger

Concern is recognized as the leading technical agency around Community Management of Acute Malnutrition (CMAM) in Nigeria, where malnutrition is persistent due to a range of causes. In Tahoua district, we provided support to 42 health centers, 21 health posts, and two intensive nutritional rehabilitation centers to increase the skills of health workers around malnutrition. At the community level, over 18,700 mothers across 201 villages were trained to spot the early signs of malnutrition, and radio messages about good health practices were broadcast throughout the year. An estimated 70,000 people benefited from this program, 64% of whom were under the age of five.

In the Tigray region of Ethiopia, over 3,000 women were given seeds, tools, and training to practice backyard gardening so they could diversify both their own diet as well as that of their children’s to prevent malnutrition. The resulting vegetable and fruit plantations covered over 1,200 acres of land and yielded a wide variety of produce, including sweet chard, carrots, beets, mung beans, and bananas.

Strengthens maternal and child health

In Chad, where there is a strong sociocultural barrier to giving birth at a health clinic or bringing sick children to receive treatment, we conducted training for health center workers on how to manage childhood illnesses better and gave awareness training to traditional birth attendants and community leaders about the importance of people using the clinics. The results of an annual household survey showed that behavioral changes are happening – 38% of people now take their child to a health center within 24 hours of that child becoming sick with fever, an increase of 16%.

The way in which babies and young children are fed for the first two years of their life has a major impact on their future well-being. Our urban programs in Bangladesh are designed to improve health, hygiene, and nutrition to combat malnutrition. Among our program participants, we have seen an increase from 37% to 67% of young children who are being exclusively breastfed because of our education and awareness training.

Strengthen health facilities

In Sudan, we worked to improve the health systems providing basic health and nutrition services to vulnerable communities in the Jebel Moon and Kulbus localities. Activities included technical training for health workers, financial support for staff from the local health authority to enable the health centers to function, and training for lead mother/mother support groups about how to manage malnutrition as well as best practices around feeding infants and young children. We directly reached over 125,000 people through this program in 2018.

Our community-led approach to health improvements in Sierra Leone has been successful in giving ownership and joint responsibility for projects to the community. In Tonkolli district, we trained 50 traditional healers, 100 influential women, and staff in 25 health facilities on the prevention and treatment of malaria. Prior to this project, traditional healers and health unit staff were in competition to provide treatment for malaria, but they now work together and there has been a steady increase in the number of people visiting the health units for treatment.

Despite working in very difficult circumstances due to security and logistical challenges in the Central African Republic, there has been good progress in improving health, nutrition, and hygiene behaviors in the communities where we work. In Lobaye, trained community health volunteers taught good hygiene practices to nearly 9,000 people. A final survey in 2018 showed that among those surveyed, 87% carried out at least one improved hygiene practice compared to only 46% at the beginning of the project. Handwashing with soap at critical times increased from 8% to 89% and there was a noticeable decrease in the prevalence of diarrheal disease from 83% to 8%.

In 12 districts of northeast Syria, we reached over 360,000 vulnerable people through a water, sanitation, and health program. This included rehabilitating and monitoring 15 water supply systems, rehabilitating four sewage systems, conducting environmental health campaigns, trucking emergency water to four camps, and installing 444 water tanks and 145 latrines in 13 camps and centers.

Improve access to clean water and sanitation

We provided four gravity-fed water systems on cooperative farms in the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, which gave over 5,000 people access to safe drinking water as well as water for cleaning, washing, kitchen gardens, and livestock. The new water systems have made a significant improvement to peoples’ livelihoods and decreased the prevalence of disease.

In Bannu in northwest Pakistan, we reached nearly 10,500 people who were either temporarily displaced by ongoing conflict or who were host community members with improved access to clean water and knowledge about good hygiene, nutrition, and sanitation. As the program drew to a close, our endline survey showed that access to clean water had improved from 3.1 to 4.5 gallons per person per day, with 100% of respondents being satisfied with the quality of and access to water. Handwashing with soap at critical times increased from 8% to 89% and there was a noticeable decrease in the prevalence of diarrheal disease from 83% to 8%.

In 21 countries, we worked to improve the health systems providing basic health and nutrition services to vulnerable communities in the Jebel Moon and Kulbus localities. Activities included technical training for health workers, financial support for staff from the local health authority to enable the health centers to function, and training for lead mother/mother support groups about how to manage malnutrition as well as best practices around feeding infants and young children. We directly reached over 125,000 people through this program in 2018.

Our health programs were direct beneficiaries. Five nearly three million of whom were directly reached over 9.2 million people, nearly three million of whom were direct beneficiaries. Five million were female.

The communities we work with around the world are often unable to get the help they need to prevent suffering from undernutrition and preventable diseases. To help overcome this, we work with local and national governments to strengthen healthcare systems and increase access to good healthcare, nutrition, and water and sanitation services.

Objectives and activities

The goal of our health programs is to contribute to the achievement of health and nutrition security for poor people.

We aim to:
- Prevent undernutrition and extreme hunger
- Strengthen maternal and child health
- Strengthen health facilities
- Improve access to clean water and sanitation

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In Chad, where there is a strong sociocultural barrier to giving birth at a health clinic or bringing sick children to receive treatment, we conducted training for health center workers on how to manage childhood illnesses better and gave awareness training to traditional birth attendants and community leaders about the importance of people using the clinics. The results of an annual household survey showed that behavioral changes are happening – 38% of people now take their child to a health center within 24 hours of that child becoming sick with fever, an increase of 16%.

The way in which babies and young children are fed for the first two years of their life has a major impact on their future well-being. Our urban programs in Bangladesh are designed to improve health, hygiene, and nutrition to combat malnutrition. Among our program participants, we have seen an increase from 37% to 67% of young children who are being exclusively breastfed because of our education and awareness training.

Strengthen health facilities

In Sudan, we worked to improve the health systems providing basic health and nutrition services to vulnerable communities in the Jebel Moon and Kulbus localities. Activities included technical training for health workers, financial support for staff from the local health authority to enable the health centers to function, and training for lead mother/mother support groups about how to manage malnutrition as well as best practices around feeding infants and young children. We directly reached over 125,000 people through this program in 2018.

Our community-led approach to health improvements in Sierra Leone has been successful in giving ownership and joint responsibility for projects to the community. In Tonkolli district, we trained 50 traditional healers, 100 influential women, and staff in 25 health facilities on the prevention and treatment of malaria. Prior to this project, traditional healers and health unit staff were in competition to provide treatment for malaria, but they now work together and there has been a steady increase in the number of people visiting the health units for treatment.

Despite working in very difficult circumstances due to security and logistical challenges in the Central African Republic, there has been good progress in improving health, nutrition, and hygiene behaviors in the communities where we work. In Lobaye, trained community health volunteers taught good hygiene practices to nearly 9,000 people. A final survey in 2018 showed that among those surveyed, 87% carried out at least one improved hygiene practice compared to only 46% at the beginning of the project. Handwashing with soap at critical times increased from 8% to 89% and there was a noticeable decrease in the prevalence of diarrheal disease from 83% to 8%.

In 12 districts of northeast Syria, we reached over 360,000 vulnerable people through a water, sanitation, and health program. This included rehabilitating and monitoring 15 water supply systems, rehabilitating four sewage systems, conducting environmental health campaigns, trucking emergency water to four camps, and installing 444 water tanks and 145 latrines in 13 camps and centers.

Improve access to clean water and sanitation

We provided four gravity-fed water systems on cooperative farms in the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, which gave over 5,000 people access to safe drinking water as well as water for cleaning, washing, kitchen gardens, and livestock. The new water systems have made a significant improvement to peoples’ livelihoods and decreased the prevalence of disease.

In Bannu in northwest Pakistan, we reached nearly 10,500 people who were either temporarily displaced by ongoing conflict or who were host community members with improved access to clean water and knowledge about good hygiene, nutrition, and sanitation. As the program drew to a close, our endline survey showed that access to clean water had improved from 3.1 to 4.5 gallons per person per day, with 100% of respondents being satisfied with the quality of and access to water. Handwashing with soap at critical times increased from 8% to 89% and there was a noticeable decrease in the prevalence of diarrheal disease from 83% to 8%.

In 12 districts of northeast Syria, we reached over 360,000 vulnerable people through a water, sanitation, and health program. This included rehabilitating and monitoring 15 water supply systems, rehabilitating four sewage systems, conducting environmental health campaigns, trucking emergency water to four camps, and installing 444 water tanks and 145 latrines in 13 camps and centers.

 Jacqueline brought her daughter Faith (18 months) to Malnoury Health Center in Kenya where she was screened, diagnosed as malnourished, and received treatment.

Photo: Jennifer Nolan / Concern Worldwide

9.2 million people
21 countries
In 2018, our education programs directly benefited almost 350,000 people and 372,000 indirectly. Over 360,000 were female.

Concern’s work in primary education is grounded in the belief that all children have a right to education. We believe education is one of the best routes out of poverty and we integrate it into both our development and emergency work to give extremely poor children more opportunities in life and to support their overall well-being.

Objectives and activities

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

We aim to:
- Increase school access
- Improve learning outcomes
- Improve school facilities
- Provide access to education for children in emergencies

Some of our achievements in 2018:

Increase school access

Promoting quality education requires a number of factors present at the community level, including having a school close to home to encourage parents to send their children, especially girls. In Takhar Province in Afghanistan, we established or supported 31 community-based schools and 32 literacy classes for women, built or renovated separate latrines for girls and boys, and recruited or supported 63 teachers, reaching almost 6,500 children, women, and men in 22 villages.

Improve learning outcomes

Our education program “Let Our Girls Succeed” supported girls in Marsabit County in Kenya to stay in school beyond the primary level. Seventy percent of the population is illiterate, and of those children who do attend primary school, only 31.5% go on to secondary school. Working through a network of communities, 205 girls in 29 project schools were assisted in 2018, 86% of whom went on to secondary school or to a vocational training center.

In Mogadishu, Somalia, we supported quality primary education to over 5,500 children. Together with the Ministry of Education, we provided training for 196 teachers and 35 education committees in a number of areas, including lesson planning and positive class management techniques. We also procured and distributed 6,000 Somali-language reading books and over 26,000 primary school syllabus textbooks.

Improve school facilities

A deteriorating humanitarian and security situation over the last three years in neighboring Chad and Nigeria has resulted in over 250,000 displaced people fleeing to the Diffa region of Niger to seek refuge. Providing a safe learning environment for children in these circumstances is paramount. In 2018, we provided access to quality education to over 22,300 children in 25 schools and built 13 extra emergency classrooms as well as 17 separate boys’ and girls’ latrines.

Provide access to education for children in emergencies

Eighty percent of Syrian refugee children living in Lebanon aged three to five as well as 77% aged 15 to 17 are not enrolled in school. Our non-formal education programs reached over 3,000 children, giving them the relevant and necessary education to prepare them to enter a formal school for the first time and to prevent students from dropping out.

In Turkey, our emergency education program continued to fill gaps and support Syrian children to receive an education. The provision of teaching materials, cleaning supplies, and furniture to three temporary education centers helped ensure that almost 1,700 children were able to receive a good, quality education in a safe place.

Our Programs

In 2018, we reached approximately 3.5 million people directly through our integrated programs and 6.5 million indirectly. Over 4.7 million were female.

Communities and individuals often remain locked in extreme poverty due to multiple interconnected factors. 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

Our goal is to improve the lives of extremely poor people by addressing their needs in a holistic way and tackling the interrelated barriers that impede development.

Some of our achievements in 2018:

In Cildir, Söke, a marginalized urban area in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, gang violence, conflict, and a lack of opportunities combine to keep people locked in poverty. Our program to create opportunities and tackle conflict reached almost 10,000 people, including 400 who completed life skills training to help them either start their own business or to enter a vocational training program. Around 240 gang members and eight neighborhood committees received training on peaceful conflict management and a further 181 young people took part in training on behavior change.

Our emergency response program across five regions of Somalia/Somaliland provided a fully integrated response to drought, floods, and displacement, reaching almost 186,000 affected people. Life-saving help for internally displaced people and other marginalized groups included providing cash payments to buy food; household items to improve shelter and hygiene; access to clean, safe water; emergency education services for their children; and the provision of health services.

In Liberia, where 50% of children under five suffer from chronic malnutrition, we are working with 120 communities to reduce levels of childhood illness and death. In 2018, we reached over 14,500 people directly through projects that included training 91 groups of mothers and caregivers about nutrition as well as supporting kitchen gardens, establishing 58 savings and loans associations, constructing 45 handpumps (with another 25 underway), and establishing and training 68 village committees on the sustainable management and use of water resources.

In Northern Bahir Dar, Gondar, and the Amhara region of Ethiopia, we are working to improve the health and nutrition of vulnerable women and children through integrated programs that focus on health, nutrition, and livelihoods as well as building community resilience to shocks such as flooding and erratic weather. In 2018, the program reached over 250,000 people with activities that included supporting 49 health facilities with nutrition services and training for Ministry of Health staff on Community Management of Acute Malnutrition as well as infant and child nutrition. We also established mobile schools to get to remote communities, which were able to treat over 14,000 children who otherwise might not have been reached.

We directly reached over 22,000 vulnerable Syrian refugees in three target locations in Turkey through our protection programs, which helps them better manage the burdens of life as a refugee. The program includes psychosocial support, information sessions for refugees about their rights and obligations, and referrals to additional services. In 2018, we also began implementing a protection support program for out-of-school children and others at high risk of dropping out to ensure they were better equipped from a well-being perspective to enter the Turkish school system. Over 300 children attended a 12-week course covering areas such as identity, stress management, interpersonal relations, and rights and responsibilities.
**2018 HIGHLIGHTS**

**AFGHANISTAN**
- 774 households in the Rustaq, Chail, and Kohistan districts of Afghanistan gained better access to clean and drinkable water.

**BANGLADESH**
- 126,800 in our urban programs, which target the extreme poor living in slums, in squatter settlements, and on the streets, we have introduced innovative health financing initiatives, distributing 31,000 health vouchers that allowed 126,800 people access to free, basic primary healthcare packages, including nutrition services. Those participating in the program have seen their average annual expenditure on healthcare reduced from $90 to zero.

- Over 870,000 people were directly helped through our urban integrated program in Bangladesh, which improves the livelihoods, resilience, health, and nutrition of extremely poor people living in slums, in squatter settlements, or on the streets.

---

*Sakina Begum (14) lives in a Concern pavement dweller center in Dhaaka, Bangladesh with her brother Kasim. Some of the assistance they receive from Concern includes shelter, food, education, and lockers to keep their personal belongings safe.

*Name changed to protect the identity of the individual.*

Photo: Jennifer Nolan / Concern Worldwide
In Tahoua, Niger, our integrated program reached over 32,000 people, directly focusing on projects including conservation agriculture, livestock care, kitchen gardens, water source rehabilitation to provide access to clean water, the promotion of good health and nutrition practices, and education.

In Chad, we have been developing an early warning system in collaboration with Radio Sila to alert communities to potential incoming hazards, giving them more time to take action. During the year, results showed that 47% of community action committees, which receive and then disseminate messages in the community, benefited from an early warning around the drought that affected the district.

In Tanganyika Province in the Democratic Republic of Congo, we worked with extremely poor and marginalized households to enable them to work their way out of poverty through our graduation program. In 2018, we reached over 481 households through this approach. An important element of the program is to ensure that women play a full part in the decision-making process, and results from an annual survey showed that two-thirds of both men and women say that women are consulted in decision-making.

In the crowded slums of Freetown, Sierra Leone, we are working alongside key partners to give low-income families access to clean, sustainable water supplies and better sanitation facilities. In 2018, more than 10,000 people benefited from the construction of seven innovative, solar-powered water systems, and 23,000 learned about sanitation and latrine services through a sanitation promotion project.

In Mangochi district in Malawi, we reached 58,500 extremely poor people. In return for a monthly cash payment, program participants dug trenches to improve irrigation, built structures to reduce erosion, and created tree nurseries, all of which will ultimately help reduce soil and land degradation and improve its productivity.

Ache (19) is a mother of two children under the age of five, including a newborn, in Fararo, Chad. Through Concern’s nutrition program, Ache learned the importance of exclusive breastfeeding.

Village chief Tilo Saidi and Diaba Idrissa, a member of a water management committee, are in charge of maintaining their well in Agaye, Niger.

Ache (19) is a mother of two children under the age of five, including a newborn, in Fararo, Chad. Through Concern’s nutrition program, Ache learned the importance of exclusive breastfeeding.

Photo: Darrell Vaughan / Concern Worldwide

Photo: Lucy Bloxham / Concern Worldwide

CHAD
Over 188,000 people reached

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO
Over 1.2 million people reached

MALAWI
Over 1 million people reached

NIGER
Over 620,000 people reached

SIERRA LEONE
Over 236,000 people reached
A MILESTONE YEAR

During 2018, we held over 20 events, big and small, across our field offices and in Ireland, the UK, the US, and South Korea.

Women of Concern Chicago
More than 500 guests joined us in Chicago for the 2018 Women of Concern Awards Luncheon. We were deeply honored to celebrate the monumental achievements of the Honorable Madeleine K. Albright (right) and Dr. Joanne C. Smith (left). These extraordinary women are shining examples of courage, visionary leadership, unwavering strength, and humanity. Photo: Mike Fan

Resurgence Conference
The Resurgence of Humanity Conference in September was a great success with over 300 world leaders, policymakers, and experts on conflict and the humanitarian system coming together in Dublin Castle to discuss how the cycle of conflict, hunger, and human suffering might be broken. Over 100,000 people watched our videos across social media and the livestream, showing that there was a phenomenal level of interest in the conference.

Seeds of Hope
The annual Seeds of Hope Dinner in New York was an extra special event in 2018 with singer and activist Bono in attendance. That night, he spoke about his passion for the work that Concern does and how spending time with Concern in Ethiopia in the 1980s changed his life forever. Photo: Concern Worldwide

Above: World-famous photographer Alexi Lubomirski (left) with Sharon Niona (right), a member of a community conversations group in Sinai community, Nairobi, Kenya. Alexi, a Concern Ambassador, visited Concern’s programs in Kenya to see some of the amazing things that are being accomplished in one of the world’s most challenging places. Photo: Kieran McConville / Concern Worldwide

Above: Kayce Freed Jennings (left) and Concern Worldwide CEO Dominic MacSorley (right) speak at the first Concern Leadership Summit, which celebrated Concern’s 50-year legacy and showcased how today’s humanitarians, policymakers, and community influencers are paving the way for a future of health and hope. Photo: Zach Hetrick

Above: Former US President Bill Clinton speaks at the Concern 50th Anniversary Resurgence of Humanity Conference held at Dublin Castle in Ireland. Photo: Photocall Ireland

Above: More than 500 guests joined us in Chicago for the 2018 Women of Concern Awards Luncheon. We were deeply honored to celebrate the monumental achievements of the Honorable Madeleine K. Albright (right) and Dr. Joanne C. Smith (left). These extraordinary women are shining examples of courage, visionary leadership, unwavering strength, and humanity. Photo: Mike Fan

Above: World-famous fashion photographer Alexi Lubomirski (left) with Sharon Niona (right), a member of a community conversations group in Sinai community, Nairobi, Kenya. Alexi, a Concern Ambassador, visited Concern’s programs in Kenya to see some of the amazing things that are being accomplished in one of the world’s most challenging places. Photo: Kieran McConville / Concern Worldwide

Above: Former US President Bill Clinton speaks at the Concern 50th Anniversary Resurgence of Humanity Conference held at Dublin Castle in Ireland. Photo: Photocall Ireland
Working with Partners

Concern cannot achieve its mission in isolation. We believe we can achieve greater impact by working in collaboration with other organizations and institutions.

Our partners include other international and local NGOs, government bodies, research institutions, and private-sector companies. Partnerships may involve collaborating in joint operations, supporting and monitoring work, providing and benefiting from technical expertise, or engaging and funding local organizations to implement a project together with Concern.

In 18 of the countries where we operated in 2018, programs were partially or fully implemented through local partners, including local governments. In all of our program sectors, partnerships were evident to different degrees, with livelihoods representing 20% of partners, integrated 17%, health 9%, education 2%, and emergencies 43%. In 2018, the largest number of partners continued to be in Pakistan.

A workshop to review our partnership approach was held during the year; recommendations around partnership management, building staff capacity, and updating tools and guidelines will be taken forward in 2019.

In the private sector, Concern works in partnership with Philips, which supports solutions to healthcare in Kenya; the Zurich Foundation, which engages in flood mapping in Bangladesh; Kerry Group, which supports food security programming; and Nethope, which promotes the use of technology in development programs.

As a founding member of Alliance2015, a partnership of seven European organizations with a presence in 89 countries, we continue to work in collaboration with our fellow members at a program and policy level.

Jaafar*, who fled with his family from the conflict in Syria, at his home in Lebanon, which Concern outfitted with toilets, water tanks, blankets, and insulation.

*Name changed to protect the identity of the individual.

Photo: Mary Turner / Panos Pictures
Without the support of many individuals, governments, and co-funders, a small number of whom are recognized here, our work would not be possible. Together, we have helped over 24 million people in 25 of the world’s poorest countries.

We particularly want to thank our engaged network of supporters and volunteers for their hard work and everyone who supports us regularly, giving us the confidence to plan ahead. We are also very grateful to our supporters who have thoughtfully left us a legacy.

“Tom was not born to interpret this world but to change it. And change it he did. For men and women who were given little or nothing, he gave his all. Millions of children across the world have never had a better friend whose name they may never know.”

- Joanna Geraghty, Board Chair, Concern Worldwide US
OUR SUPPORTERS

Our sincere thanks for the most generous support of the United States Government.

US Agency for International Development
US Department of State

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

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The International Rescue Committee
The Spalding Fund

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John Mahon
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Axe Exchange
Barry McConnell
Ben Staz
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SUPPORT OUR WORK

Become a Changemaker

Concern would like to thank those individuals who have chosen to make monthly gifts. Our Changemakers share our belief that the end to extreme poverty is achievable.

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 today with your tax-deductible, monthly gift: concernusa.org/monthly.

Join Our Legacy Society

Planned gifts, including bequests, gifts of life insurance, and gifts of retirement plans, enable us to change the world 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

SUPPORT OUR WORK

Generously participates in Concern’s monthly giving program. Please see above to learn more about how to become a Changemaker.

Our Supporters

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Concern Worldwide US 2018 Annual Report

Concern by the Numbers

Concern Worldwide US financial summary statement of activities for year ending December 31, 2018 (with summarized amounts for 2017)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2018 Total</th>
<th>2017 Total</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Support and Revenue</strong></td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Contributions and non-government grants</td>
<td>3,134,987</td>
<td>4,542,364</td>
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<td>Support from Concern Worldwide</td>
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<td>Special Events - net</td>
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<td>Other Income</td>
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<td>6,746</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Revenue and Support</strong></td>
<td><strong>39,985,818</strong></td>
<td><strong>36,727,847</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| **Expenses**             |                  |                  |
| Program Activities       | 34,880,021       | 32,096,204       |
| Overseas Relief          | 33,889,761       | 30,624,517       |
| Innovations              | -                | 471,679          |
| Development Education    | 890,260          | 993,656          |
| General and Administrative| **1,694,677**    | **1,651,506**    |
| **Fundraising**          | 2,412,220        | 2,074,037        |
| **Total Expenses**       | 38,887,118       | 35,821,747       |

| **Change in Net Assets** |                  |                  |
| Change in Net Assets     | 998,700          | 906,100          |
| Net Assets at Beginning of Year | 7,887,532 | 6,981,432 |
| Net Assets at End of Year | 8,986,232       | 7,887,532        |

Analysis of Expenditure (Gross)

- Program Activities 30%
- General and Administrative 4%
- Fundraising 6%

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