**The Challenge**

Most of the world’s poor people earn their living — and feed themselves and their families — through growing crops and raising livestock. The World Bank estimates that growth in the agriculture sector is two to four times more effective in raising incomes among the poorest, compared to other sectors.

But an increasingly erratic climate, difficulties transporting water for irrigation, and displacement of farming families by conflict are just some of the challenges facing food production today.

**Our Approach**

The majority of people Concern works with are involved in some way with farming and food production. In countries like Malawi and Afghanistan, it’s essentially everyone. Many of these communities are also on the frontlines of climate change. We work with rural communities to promote new growing techniques, source improved seeds, trial alternative crops, and implement soil protection practices.

We support communities to adopt Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA) practices in order to become more resilient to a less-predictable climate. We also work to strengthen links with the private sector to facilitate access to supplies and equipment. We are committed to rolling out CSA to 600,000 farmers as part of our strategic plan, while also supporting the African Union to roll out CSA to 6 million farmers on the continent by 2021.

**Agriculture by Numbers**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Value</th>
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<tr>
<td>65% of poor working adults rely on agriculture</td>
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<td>Agriculture accounts for 1/3 of the global GDP</td>
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<td>Agriculture accounts for 70% of global water use</td>
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<td>By 2050, there will be 9.7 billion people on earth to feed</td>
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Read more about our work in agriculture: concernusa.org/ag
Our Programs

Concern promotes CSA as an approach in order to sustainably increase farm productivity, adapt to climate change, and (where possible) reduce greenhouse gas emissions resulting from agriculture.

“There’s a big difference for my family. With this same field I used to harvest one bag of maize — now I harvest 8 bags.”
Esimie Jenaia, Malawi

One prominent CSA technique is Conservation Agriculture (CA), which has enabled subsistence farmers to achieve better harvests with less rainfall, while also using local resources to improve soil health. Concern promotes CA in countries as diverse as Liberia, Chad, North Korea, and Malawi.

In Sierra Leone, we have been working with small-holder farmers to experiment with growing improved rice varieties, meaning bigger yields and more frequent harvests. In the highlands of Ethiopia, where barley was the traditional crop of choice, our team have successfully piloted potatoes as an alternative. Farmers there have seen spectacular results and this “new” crop is to be found growing across the region.

For most of his farming life in the highlands of Ethiopia, Ali Assen has been growing barley. When the Concern team first suggested he try growing potatoes, he was skeptical. But after 3 years he was producing nearly 7 tons of potatoes from 660 lbs of seed — and had dramatically increased his income. “Now we live in a two-floor house. I have an ox, two cows, and a herd of goats.” Previously the family went hungry for 6 months a year. Now, he says, “We have three meals a day every day of the year.”

Our Impact

Concern has agriculture-focused programs in 19 countries.

In 2018, we worked directly with over 166,000 people on agriculture-related projects.

Supports UN Sustainable Development Goals including Zero Hunger and Climate Action

Concern Worldwide is a global community of humanitarian professionals, individual donors, corporate partners, and supporters, who share a common vision of a world where no one lives in poverty, fear, or oppression. We believe everyone has the right to a decent standard of living, should have access to the opportunities and choices essential to a long, healthy, and creative life, and be treated with dignity and respect.