The Challenge

The UN estimates that 70% of disasters are now climate related. By 2030, climate change could force more than 100 million people into extreme poverty. By that same year, half the world’s population is expected to live in a water-stressed area — currently, just under 25% of the world’s population already faces this struggle.

Those who bear the least responsibility for climate change suffer its effects the most. This includes food and water scarcity, lost livelihoods, lower education levels, and gender-based violence. In short, climate change perpetuates poverty.

Our Approach

Many of the communities in which Concern works rely on agriculture for both food and income.

Faced with degraded land and extreme weather, farmers often contend with food insecurity and unreliable income. In the event of a climate disaster (including hurricane, cyclone, and drought), we address the first-response needs, while looking for ways to reduce the impacts of hazards on the lives and livelihoods of the people with whom we work.

We promote eco-friendly farming techniques that are tailored to local environments and designed to improve food security and nutrition, helping communities sustainably manage water and other natural resources.

Climate Change by the Numbers

- 700 million people live in a water-stressed area
- The planet has lost 33% of its arable land in the last 40 years
- 29 million people in 2018 faced climate-caused hunger
- 17.2 million people fled their home in 2018 due to climate crises and disasters

Read more about our work in climate response: concernusa.org/climate
Our Programs

Climate Smart Agriculture is a core part of our resilience strategy. In the context of climate change, the frequency and intensity of extreme weather events will increase. Resilience programming aims to strengthen systems that help vulnerable people withstand and mitigate the most negative impacts of recurrent crises, and adapt to new and evolving climatic patterns.

These practices protect crops from increasing incidences of dry spells or pest outbreaks that otherwise drastically reduce yields and, consequently, have negative impacts on livelihoods for small-holder farmers.

“We all have to change our way of thinking about this global challenge. There is no longer a choice.”

— Dominic MacSorley, Concern Worldwide CEO

We support communities to become more robust, so that they in turn are prepared and able to cope with unpredictability. For example, in Bangladesh, we introduced Paribartan (“Transformation”). Through a series of meetings and workshops, communities formed their own task forces that, in tandem with the government, set up action plans for the next climate disaster, saving lives with quick and coordinated response.

Our Impact

Growing up in drought-plagued Malawi, Esime Jenaia went to school hungry. In 2017, she was introduced to Conservation Agriculture, which transformed her life. “There’s a big difference for my family, because with the same field I used to harvest one bag of maize but now I harvest 8 bags.” That big difference means Esime’s children go to school with a full belly — and a bag of books paid for by selling the extra maize.

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.