The Challenge

Among the many causes of global poverty, one factor stands out: a lack of basic education. If all children in low-income countries acquired basic reading skills, an estimated 171 million people could break the generational cycle of extreme poverty.

Yet nearly 263 million children and youth are currently not in school due to conflict, natural disasters, and lack of resources. In many countries, more than 50% of girls drop out of school before reaching the 6th grade.

Our Approach

Concern’s work is grounded in the belief that all children have a right to a quality education.

Our work in education focuses on 3 areas: Increasing access to education, improving the quality of teaching and learning, and providing safe and encouraging learning environments.

We work to bring education to villages that are off the grid, engage local community leaders to find solutions to keep girls in school, and provide mentorship for teachers to ensure that children in formal and non-formal education systems get the most out of their studies, and are able to put the skills they develop towards their future.

Education by the Numbers

263 million children around the world are currently out of school

Less than 50% of the poorest children complete primary school in many countries

At least 25% of the poorest young women are illiterate

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

To ensure that Concern works in the most effective ways to tackle extreme poverty, we are committed to building on existing strengths and developing new ones in our education programs. We do this through direct implementation of Education programs that work to strengthen systems and influence policy.

“I swear, education is the most important thing. All parents should care about the education of their children.... I can’t read or write, so I didn’t have this idea in the past. But seeing my child learning, it’s another world.”
— Nayel*, Parent, Concern Turkey

For example, many Syrian refugee children in Turkey have firsthand experience of conflict and trauma and have missed years of schooling. As such, our focus in Turkey is to provide safe learning spaces for children, where they can learn and receive the psychosocial support that they need. Providing Turkish language courses to children prepares children to enter the Turkish school system. The Caregiver Engagement Initiative builds the capacity of parents and caregivers so that they can support children in their learning and development at home.

Our Impact

In 2018, Concern’s education programming reached over 360,000 girls
Safe learning environments for 5,000 Syrian refugee children across Turkey and Lebanon
Supports UN Sustainable Development Goals including Quality Education and Gender Equality

Kareem* is as old as the conflict that forced his family out of Syria and into Lebanon. While he struggled to cope with displacement, his mother Mahira* was relieved to discover Concern’s Education program. There, Kareem learned to hold a pencil and write both Arabic and French. He also had a chance to bond with other kids his own age who had experienced similar events. “I believe that he is on the right path,” says Mahira. “I know that organizations like Concern will help him succeed.”
(*Names changed for security)

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.