Emergency Response

The Challenge

An unprecedented 70.8 million people around the world have been forced to leave their homes, due to climate crisis, conflict, famine, epidemic, and more.

All need assistance, and in many instances, additional help is needed in the areas they fled to treat disease and stop its spread, recover from a natural disaster and reduce risk for future events, or find basic means of survival during droughts or floods.

Our Approach

Concern has disaster response in its DNA. Our values were forged in the fires and famine of Nigeria after the Biafran War over 50 years ago. Whether it’s an earthquake, a typhoon, floods, drought, or conflict, we’ve responded to it all. And we’re ready to deliver assistance.

We focus on the most vulnerable and go wherever the need is the greatest. We respond rapidly while ensuring our actions are guided by local priorities. This means our emergency responses can vary greatly, but with the aim of consistent success.

Our work doesn’t end when the news cameras and first responders have pulled out. Leveraging the relationships we build with communities, we work in partnership with them towards long-term recovery and help safeguard against future threats.

Humanitarian Crises by the Numbers

- **6.5 million Syrian refugees** currently in need of assistance due to conflict
- **12.8 million Congolese** need assistance amid conflict and history’s second-largest Ebola outbreak
- **1.1 million Rohingya** living in makeshift refugee camps in neighboring Bangladesh
- **11.7 million food-insecure people** due to ongoing drought in the Horn of Africa

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

In 2017, Concern was one of the first agencies to respond to the Rohingya crisis in Bangladesh. We were able to do this in part because we’ve spent the last 47 years in the country and had former staff members, with good knowledge and experience, in the area of the Rohingya camps.

“The volume of need is not only overwhelming, but humanitarian aid work itself is also becoming more difficult, dangerous, and in many contexts, extremely restricted.”

— Dominic MacSorley
Chief Executive, Concern Worldwide

After we addressed the first response and met immediate needs like food and shelter, we’ve since built a program to help screen and treat child malnutrition. Our cure rate is an industry-leading 97%. We’ve also stepped in during Bangladesh’s destructive monsoon seasons and have worked with both the Rohingya and host communities to ensure that the basic needs of all those living in the area are met.

Our Impact

In 2018, we responded to 66 emergencies in 20 countries
Concern’s 2018 emergency response reached 11.6 million people
Supports UN Sustainable Development Goals including Good Health and Well-Being

Noor Fatima* is a mother of 6. She remembers their journey to a Rohingya refugee camp: “A bad massacre happened in a village nearby and so we escaped.” Her baby Laila* fell out of the canoe they traveled in. She was saved, but very sick when they arrived in Bangladesh.

Concern treated Laila who is now full of smiles. Noor Fatima also receives necessary supplies from Concern including clothing, cooking utensils, blankets, and a water tank.

(*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.