The Challenge

The first 1,000 days of a child’s life are crucial for determining their future. Well-nourished children are more likely to reach their full cognitive potential, possess higher socio-emotional skills, and see greater economic and health potential. One study showed that they’re 33% more likely to escape poverty. Yet malnutrition still prevails in many parts of the world. As of July 2019, an estimated 2 billion people (or over 26% of the world population) are experiencing moderate or severe food insecurity. This means that a quarter of the world’s population is caught up in a self-perpetuating cycle of lost potential.

Our Approach

Concern’s goal of ending extreme poverty can only be achieved by tackling poverty’s root causes — top among them being poor nutrition, especially among young children and pregnant and breastfeeding mothers. We look for innovative, holistic approaches to end chronic malnutrition, which can have long-term impact on a child’s cognitive and physical abilities.

Our work includes improving agricultural techniques by teaching farmers how to grow nutritious, diverse, hardy crops. These crops also open up access to markets, thereby improving income for food in case of crop failures. What’s more, they help to rehabilitate and conserve arable land and other natural resources that are especially vulnerable to natural disasters.

We also educate people about better cooking and child feeding practices, and train community health workers and volunteers to improve the overall health of communities so that they can thrive and move out of poverty.

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

Concern was instrumental in the development of **Community Management of Acute Malnutrition (CMAM)**. This “revolution” in healthcare has decentralized the treatment process for acute malnutrition — putting power back into the hands of parents. This means that more treatment courses are carried out in full.

“Strong instruments have been put in place to protect against hunger. Instead of simply receiving aid, people own the process — and they own the achievements, too.”

Anne O’Mahony, International Programme Director

In 2007, the World Health Organization, UNICEF, and the World Food Programme issued a joint statement recognizing CMAM as a best practice, setting into motion a transformative approach that is now global. And our nutrition teams are at the forefront of that transformation, in countries as diverse as Ethiopia, Bangladesh, and South Sudan.

Concern’s work with nutrition also focuses on agriculture. In communities like the Tigray region of Ethiopia, we distribute seeds, tools, and training to women to practice backyard gardening. This allows them to diversify both their own diets as well as those of their children, thereby preventing malnutrition. We’ve also begun a multi-year, multi-million dollar program in Niger to help realign agriculture and improve nutrition.

Our Impact

| In 2018, our health and nutrition programming reached **9.2 million people in 21 countries** | In 2018, our CMAM work benefitted over **700,000 people** in Niger alone | Supports UN Sustainable Development Goals including **Zero Hunger** |

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.