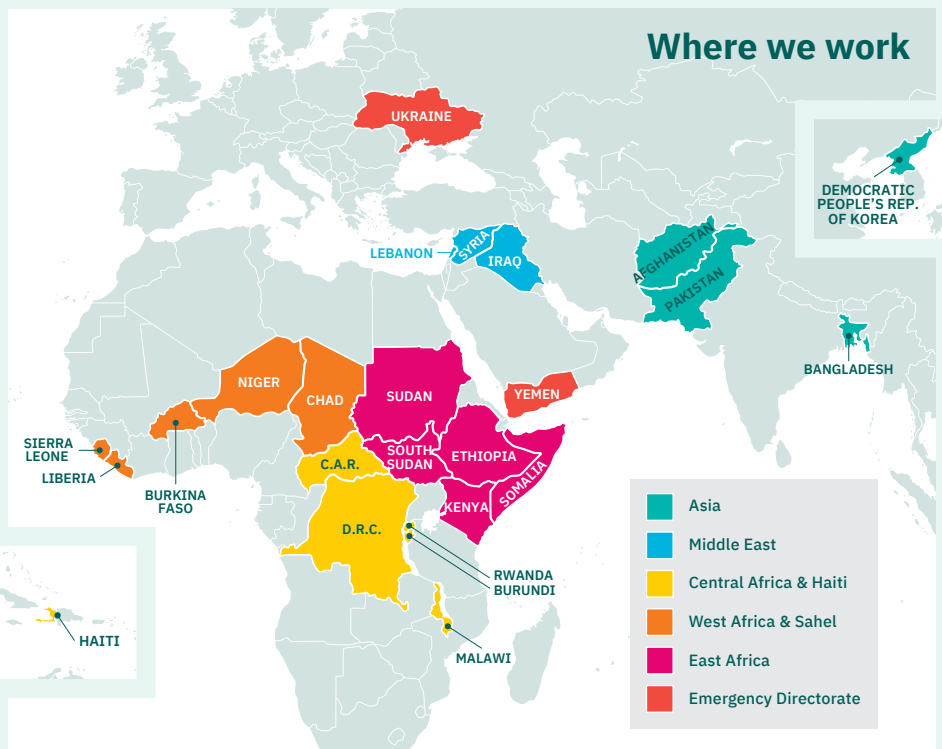


General Election Asks

November 2024

CONCERN
worldwide

Concern Worldwide works with communities across 25 countries in some of the hardest to reach and most fragile places, where people are experiencing extreme poverty as a result of conflict, climate change and hunger. In 2024, Concern reached 30 million people living in extreme poverty.



In 2024, nearly 300 million people around the world are in need humanitarian assistance due to conflict climate emergencies and food insecurity.

For almost a decade, hunger levels have been rising. 148.1 million children are stunted, and 45 million children under the age of five are wasted due to extreme malnutrition. In Gaza alone, half the population is facing famine.

The number of people forcibly displaced from their homes is rising with an expected 130.8 million people impacted by the end of the year. Globally, that is one in every 69th person forcibly displaced.

Yet, funding for humanitarian aid is in decline with a shortfall of €20.3 billion in 2024.

There are 120 active conflicts in the world today, the highest number since the end of World War II. While a few capture global attention, from Haiti to Lebanon, millions of people are suffering in crises that rarely make the headlines. The escalating violence in Sudan has left tens of thousands of people dead, nearly 12 million

displaced and eight million people, more than double the population of Ireland, are facing famine.

2024 has been the hottest year on record. Climate change is now a reality spilling over into every aspect of our lives. It disproportionately impacts those who have contributed the least to climate change.

Its time to act. Ireland has a long-standing history of global solidarity. As a country, we have a proud history of taking action and speaking up for those most at risk around the world.

We need to leverage our position with European Union member states to keep solidarity at the core of the EU and ensure the EU urgently increases political and diplomatic efforts to prevent and resolve crises, and to promote and maintain peace and prosperity.

Concern is calling on the next Irish government to think globally, elevate Ireland's positive role on the global stage and accelerate efforts to fight against extreme poverty, inequality and injustice.

Our Asks

! **Increase commitment to Official Development Aid (ODA)**

We urge the next government to deliver Ireland's OECD DAC commitment to the of spending 0.7% GNI on ODA by 2030. Conflicts, protracted crises and the impacts of climate change are reversing decades of progress in international development with hunger, poverty and displacement increasing.

! **Advocate for Fairer Climate Financing**

We call on the Irish government to recognise the deep injustices of climate change. Irish Government policy should reflect fair climate funding by prioritising grant-based and public financing. Currently, loans make up 69% of all international public climate finance, increasing the debt burden for low-income countries. Climate finance must be in the form of grants and not loans.

! **Accelerate action to combat hunger and malnutrition**

We urge the next Irish Government to do more to end malnutrition and food insecurity by enhancing partnerships that integrate nutrition across food, health and climate policy, scaling up investments, advocating for nutrition-sensitive programming and making ambitious and actionable commitments at the upcoming *Nutrition 4 Growth* Summit. Hunger and malnutrition are entirely political and completely avoidable. Now is the time to accelerate action to combat hunger and malnutrition for the most vulnerable communities.

! **Demand sustained EU humanitarian support**

We call on the Irish government to show leadership amongst EU member states to ensure the EU's main humanitarian aid budget (HUMA) is increased to a minimum of €2.6 billion per year to allow the European Commission to continue funding their humanitarian partners who are responding to global crises. The next government must advocate for resources from the EU Emergency Aid Reserve (EAR) to be fully mobilised to respond to humanitarian crises in EU partner countries. Humanitarian funding alone is not sufficient.

! **Invest in Global Citizenship Education**

We ask the Irish government to invest in Global Citizenship Education (GCE) to meet the European benchmark (3% of ODA). GCE enables people to explore key issues such as equality, climate justice, discrimination and human rights locally and globally. It develops critical thinking skills, understanding of good sources of information and a greater understanding of the interconnectedness of Ireland with the rest of the world.

! **Deliver on SDG Commitments and govern with future generations in mind**

We call upon the Irish government to ensure policy coherence and support for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) across the entire government.

We ask the Irish government to create the role of an independent Future Generations Ombudsman who will ensure the policies made today meet the needs of the present while also taking future generations into account. In addition, the Irish government should establish a permanent Oireachtas Committee for the Future.