



Individual Self Reflection 2020 on World Humanitarian Summit Commitments and Initiatives - Concern Worldwide



Stakeholder Information

Organisation Name
Concern Worldwide

Organisational Type
NGO - International

City and Country where Headquartered
Dublin, Ireland

Focal Point Name
Dominic Crowley

Region
Global

Twitter ID
@Concern



1B Act early

Individual Commitments

Commitment	Commitment Type	Core Responsibility
Concern Worldwide commits to disseminate across the humanitarian community evidence of innovative and effective programming that addresses conflict.	Policy	Political Leadership to Prevent and End Conflicts

Core Commitments

Commitment	Core Responsibility
Commit to act early upon potential conflict situations based on early warning findings and shared conflict analysis, in accordance with international law.	Political Leadership to Prevent and End Conflicts
Commit to make successful conflict prevention visible by capturing, consolidating and sharing good practices and lessons learnt.	Political Leadership to Prevent and End Conflicts

1. A. Highlight concrete actions taken between 1 January – 31 December 2019 to implement the commitments which contribute to achieving this transformation. Be as specific as possible and include any relevant data/figures as well as any good practices and examples of innovation.

In line with this commitment, in April 2018, Concern finalized its organizational Strategy on Violent Conflict, which aims to establish clarity and consistency in terms of what Concern understands violent conflict to mean and to have a greater impact on populations affected by such conflict. Between June and September 2018, Concern launched three reports documenting the humanitarian consequences of violent conflict and learning from our own peacebuilding programming: Conflict and Displacement: Voices of Displacement and Return in Central African Republic; Conflict and Hunger: The Lived Experience of Conflict and Food Insecurity in South Sudan; and Breaking the Cycle of Conflict, Hunger and Human Suffering. In September 2018, Concern held a high-profile conference, Resurge, with a focus on conflict, with representatives of the UN, EU, Irish Government, and wider humanitarian and policy sectors to disseminate findings and generate recommendations for addressing conflict. Programmatically, Concern also brought learning and recommendations forward internally to strengthen our own response. Concern's research and strategy highlighted the essential role conflict sensitivity plays in delivering more effective, accountable and sustainable response in conflict-affected contexts. To strengthen this, in 2018, we have:

- Undertaken conflict sensitivity assessments of two programme countries, with further planned for 2019;
- Piloted approaches to further integrate conflict sensitivity into programme design and monitoring and evaluation; and
- Completed a series of interviews and FGDs with senior and frontline staff across the organisation for a forthcoming learning paper on conflict sensitivity.

Lastly, programming which directly addresses conflict has continued in a number of programme countries. These include in Haiti and Central African Republic, where social cohesion programming forms part of innovative, integrated responses, and Chad and Lebanon, where programmes work to prevent conflict and rebuild relationships after crisis.

B. Please select if your report relates to any initiatives launched at World Humanitarian summit

- Grand Bargain

2. A. Please select no more than 3 key challenges faced in implementing the commitments related to this transformation. Only the categories selected by the organisation will be seen below.

- Field conditions, including insecurity and access
 Funding amounts
 Gender and/or vulnerable group inclusion

B. How are these challenges impacting achievement of this transformation?

Funding modalities that are insufficiently long-term and flexible also affect teams' capacity to deliver high-quality, adaptive and conflict-sensitive programming to address conflict. Concern is integrating gender equality and gender based violence programming as part of its peacebuilding programming.



3. What steps or actions are needed to make collective progress to achieve this transformation?

- UN Member States supporting the sustaining peace agenda;
- National governments creating meaningful forums for local civil society, women and youth leadership in peace processes;
- Donors investing in conflict sensitivity in all interventions;
- Humanitarian and development organisations supporting local-level peacebuilding in integrated responses.

Keywords

Gender



2B Ensure full access to and protection of the humanitarian and medical missions

Individual Commitments

Commitment	Commitment Type	Core Responsibility
By 2018, all key Concern programme staff will receive training in the guiding principles of humanitarian action.	Training	Uphold the Norms that Safeguard Humanity
Concern Worldwide commits to advocate for the full and unimpeded access of populations affected by disaster and conflict to humanitarian assistance.	Advocacy	Uphold the Norms that Safeguard Humanity

Core Commitments

Commitment	Core Responsibility
Commit to ensure all populations in need receive rapid and unimpeded humanitarian assistance.	Uphold the Norms that Safeguard Humanity
Commit to promote and enhance efforts to respect and protect medical personnel, transports and facilities, as well as humanitarian relief personnel and assets against attacks, threats or other violent acts.	Uphold the Norms that Safeguard Humanity

1. A. Highlight concrete actions taken between 1 January – 31 December 2019 to implement the commitments which contribute to achieving this transformation. Be as specific as possible and include any relevant data/figures as well as any good practices and examples of innovation.

Ensuring full access to, and protection of, the humanitarian mission requires an understanding of the guiding principles of humanitarian action by all staff. To that end, guiding principles of humanitarian action is included in the on-boarding process of all key programme staff undertaken after being hired for the first time by Concern. In addition to this being part of the on-boarding process, Concern utilizes three e-learning courses to further disseminate and reinforce knowledge regarding this information: “National NGO Program on Humanitarian Leadership Program”, where we trained 55 humanitarians from 20 countries in 2018, one entitled ‘Being Humanitarian’ on the internal Concern Learn 365 platform and one entitled ‘Building a Better Response - BBR’ designed by International Medical Corps, Harvard Humanitarian Initiative and Concern Worldwide. In 2018, Concern had 9,130 registered BBR users. Finally, as one of the non-governmental organization (NGO) representatives on the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) Emergency Directorate, Concern takes part in assessments, missions, and meetings always with an eye to access constraints and advocates accordingly.

B. Please select if your report relates to any initiatives launched at World Humanitarian summit

Grand Bargain

2. A. Please select no more than 3 key challenges faced in implementing the commitments related to this transformation. Only the categories selected by the organisation will be seen below.

- Adherence to standards and/or humanitarian principles
 Field conditions, including insecurity and access

B. How are these challenges impacting achievement of this transformation?

Concern tracks training data regarding humanitarian principles including numbers accessing trainings and basic qualitative data on knowledge improvement. Concern has an advocacy strategy with output and deliverables which measure advocacy activities.

3. What steps or actions are needed to make collective progress to achieve this transformation?

System wide reaffirmation to principles of humanitarian action and IHL are needed in order to achieve this transformation. Governments and international bodies need to hold violators to account and force change in this regard



Keywords

Humanitarian principles



2D Take concrete steps to improve compliance and accountability

Individual Commitments

Commitment	Commitment Type	Core Responsibility
Concern Worldwide commits to continue to expand knowledge of, and adherence to, the Programme Participant Protection Policy to all staff and partner organisations to reduce the incidence of sexual exploitation and abuse of local populations.	Training	Uphold the Norms that Safeguard Humanity
Concern Worldwide will develop and implement strategies, to the extent possible, for the engagement of men and boys as part of the solution to prevent and respond to gender-based violence in crisis settings by 2018.	Operational	Uphold the Norms that Safeguard Humanity
Concern Worldwide will ensure that all of its humanitarian responses are informed by detailed protection and GBV analysis, and that all programmes will be designed to include actions to prevent and respond to all forms GBV by 2018.	Operational	Uphold the Norms that Safeguard Humanity
Concern Worldwide will sign on to the Call to Action and its roadmap on the prevention of gender based violence in emergencies, and implement the IASC Guidelines for Integrating Gender-Based Violence Interventions in Humanitarian Action by 2018.	Policy	Uphold the Norms that Safeguard Humanity
Concern Worldwide will use its leadership of the Irish Consortium on Gender Based Violence to support a coordinated global approach to prevent and respond to gender based violence in conflicts and disasters.	Partnership	Uphold the Norms that Safeguard Humanity

Core Commitments

Commitment	Core Responsibility
Commit to promote and enhance respect for international humanitarian law, international human rights law, and refugee law, where applicable.	Uphold the Norms that Safeguard Humanity
Implement a coordinated global approach to prevent and respond to gender-based violence in crisis contexts, including through the Call to Action on Protection from Gender-based Violence in Emergencies.	Uphold the Norms that Safeguard Humanity
Fully comply with humanitarian policies, frameworks and legally binding documents related to gender equality, women's empowerment, and women's rights.	Uphold the Norms that Safeguard Humanity Leave No One Behind

1. A. Highlight concrete actions taken between 1 January – 31 December 2019 to implement the commitments which contribute to achieving this transformation. Be as specific as possible and include any relevant data/figures as well as any good practices and examples of innovation.

Gender-based violence prevention and response

In order to strengthen Concern's internal capacity on promoting gender equality both within the workplace and at programme level, Concern continued its strategic partnership with South African based Sonke Gender Justice, which flourished this year. A facilitator manual, *Breaking the Barriers*, was jointly developed in English and French while 11 countries out of the planned 10



hosted Sonke-led gender transformation and integration workshops. Malawi, Liberia, Kenya, Burundi, Rwanda, Bangladesh, Niger, South Sudan, Central African Republic and Ethiopia hosted their first visits while Sierra Leone hosted their second. Recommendations were made to each country programme (four pending) on how to improve the promotion of gender equality internally, starting with staff attitudes, as well as programmatically and some follow up remote support was provided. The Equality Advisors took the lead in providing this technical support to countries due to the high level of travel carried out by Sonke facilitators. As per the strategy, the gender role attitude score was used as an indicator at nine pre and post Sonke workshops with staff and has made some positive gains: Liberia increased from 8.35 to 8.56; Bangladesh from 8.29 to 8.8 and Rwanda from 7.77 to 9.41 out of 10

Protection against sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA)

Concern is committed to safeguarding and has set up a Safeguarding Task Force and hired two full time Safeguarding staff members to lead improvements and ensure consistent implementation. This increased focus requires additional financial and personnel investment from Concern which can drive indirect costs at a country level but is considered vital given our requirement to do no harm and to build trust with beneficiaries.

B. Please select if your report relates to any initiatives launched at World Humanitarian summit

- Grand Bargain

2. A. Please select no more than 3 key challenges faced in implementing the commitments related to this transformation. Only the categories selected by the organisation will be seen below.

- Data and analysis
 Funding amounts
 Human resources/capacity

B. How are these challenges impacting achievement of this transformation?

Sufficient funding isn't always available for work on gender based violence (GBV) so having dedicated staff is not always possible, also in larger programmes. Unless it is a specific objective of a programme, insufficient attention is often given to it.

3. What steps or actions are needed to make collective progress to achieve this transformation?

Local organizations with relevant experience in GBV must be actively involved and funded; more sharing of good practice and lessons learned should be encouraged and facilitated

Keywords

Gender, PSEA



3A Reduce and address displacement

Individual Commitments

Commitment	Commitment Type	Core Responsibility
Concern and its Alliance2015 partners commit to having a programme presence in up to ten of the countries with the greatest level of displacement.	Operational	Leave No One Behind
Concern Worldwide will advocate for and develop creative solutions to end protracted displacement.	Advocacy	Leave No One Behind
Concern Worldwide will raise public and political awareness of the causes and consequences of displacement, to enhance public empathy and help reduce growing levels of intolerance and discrimination.	Advocacy	Leave No One Behind

Core Commitments

Commitment	Core Responsibility
Commit to a new approach to addressing forced displacement that not only meets immediate humanitarian needs but reduces vulnerability and improves the resilience, self-reliance and protection of refugees and IDPs. Commit to implementing this new approach through coherent international, regional and national efforts that recognize both the humanitarian and development challenges of displacement. Commit to take the necessary political, policy, legal and financial steps required to address these challenges for the specific context.	Leave No One Behind

1. A. Highlight concrete actions taken between 1 January – 31 December 2019 to implement the commitments which contribute to achieving this transformation. Be as specific as possible and include any relevant data/figures as well as any good practices and examples of innovation.

IDPs (due to conflict, violence, and disaster)

In 2018, Concern produced a research series on hunger, conflict and human suffering. *Breaking the Cycle* featured a series of studies on displacement, inequality and peace building, drawing on Concern's experience and country programmes in Somalia, South Sudan, Syria, CAR and Chad.

The report was publicised widely and the recommendations presented to donors, peers and policy makers. The research will be utilised through Concern's work in 2019 to inform good practice in supporting displaced people and promoting and supporting peace-building.

The Global Hunger Index for 2018 featured migration and displacement as the focus. In collaboration with Alliance 2015 partner Welthunger Hilfe, the report was launched in 10 capitals. In addition to raising awareness and highlighting the protracted nature of displacement, Concern's programmes continue to collaborate with both displaced people and host communities, governments and policy makers to identify realistic durable solutions to displacement. Concern is a member of the Regional Durable Solutions Secretariat, a network of NGOs promoting forward thinking and policy development on durable solutions. As a member of No Lost Generation, Concern, in collaboration with other networks, advocates for continued quality education for displaced children

B. Please select if your report relates to any initiatives launched at World Humanitarian summit

- Education Cannot Wait
- Grand Bargain

2. A. Please select no more than 3 key challenges faced in implementing the commitments related to this transformation. Only the categories selected by the organisation will be seen below.



- Buy-in
- Human resources/capacity
- Institutional/Internal constraints

B. How are these challenges impacting achievement of this transformation?

Concern's role is and will continue to be in highlighting situations, the needs of affected communities and ensuring they have access to adequate assistance. Ongoing conflict in fragile states requires commitment to programming that recognise and include host communities.

3. What steps or actions are needed to make collective progress to achieve this transformation?

Political will, conflict prevention and conflict resolution to prevent further large-scale displacement, address current displacement situations and find tangible solutions to long-term protracted displacement settings. Serious engagement with the Global Compact on Refugees and the Global Compact on Migration is needed to ensure there is collective progress.

Keywords

Displacement, Education



3D Empower and protect women and girls

Individual Commitments

Commitment	Commitment Type	Core Responsibility
Concern Worldwide will ensure that all of its humanitarian responses are informed by gender and protection analysis, increasing the meaningful participation of women and adolescent girls in the design, delivery and review of all interventions.	Operational	Leave No One Behind

Core Commitments

Commitment	Core Responsibility
Empower Women and Girls as change agents and leaders, including by increasing support for local women's groups to participate meaningfully in humanitarian action.	Leave No One Behind
Ensure that humanitarian programming is gender responsive.	Leave No One Behind
Fully comply with humanitarian policies, frameworks and legally binding documents related to gender equality, women's empowerment, and women's rights.	Uphold the Norms that Safeguard Humanity Leave No One Behind

1. A. Highlight concrete actions taken between 1 January – 31 December 2019 to implement the commitments which contribute to achieving this transformation. Be as specific as possible and include any relevant data/figures as well as any good practices and examples of innovation.

Gender equality programming

Inequality is a driving and perpetuating factor of extreme poverty. Concern has taken significant steps to address this issue. In 2018, the global equality strategy was developed and includes three main pillars covering leadership and commitment to addressing gender inequality; systems, policies and strategies that strengthen gender equality and non-discrimination; and programmes that effectively address gender equality and is on track with the progress of the majority of tasks. Inequalities are addressed by more focused, deliberate and meaningful engagement of men and boys in our maternal, newborn and child health and nutrition work and by encouraging a more equal division of labour within households. Concern South Sudan has engaged men as Male Change Agents and conducted training on prevention of malnutrition, gender roles at home, maternal feeding and care, family planning and child nutrition and care. Concern is working more with adolescents. In many of the contexts where Concern is operational, up to 60% of the population can be under the age of 24. Concern's approach to adolescent sexual reproductive health has been presented in a new technical brief that will help country programmes design, implement and measure appropriate and high quality adolescent health programmes.

B. Please select if your report relates to any initiatives launched at World Humanitarian summit

Grand Bargain

2. A. Please select no more than 3 key challenges faced in implementing the commitments related to this transformation. Only the categories selected by the organisation will be seen below.

- Data and analysis
- Funding amounts
- Human resources/capacity

B. How are these challenges impacting achievement of this transformation?

The lack of sufficient internal capacity and short donor timeframes make conducting comprehensive gender and protection analyses at needs assessment and proposal stage difficult. More dedicated gender-based violence (GBV) or gender staff are required.

3. What steps or actions are needed to make collective progress to achieve this transformation?



More coordination is required within countries to have joint gender analysis and needs assessments as well as a sharing of capacity, tools and resources around gender and protection analysis. Further support to countries needs to be provided to improve gender sensitive programme design, implementation and monitoring

Keywords

Gender, Youth



4A Reinforce, do not replace, national and local systems

Individual Commitments

Commitment	Commitment Type	Core Responsibility
Concern Worldwide commits to expand and deepen national NGOs' understanding of humanitarian systems through continued training.	Training	Change People's Lives: From Delivering Aid to Ending Need
Concern Worldwide promotes the participation of all affected populations, specifically women and girls, to ensure their full engagement in the design and delivery of programmes.	Advocacy	Change People's Lives: From Delivering Aid to Ending Need
Concern Worldwide will deepen its engagement with and accountability to disaster and conflict affected populations through its commitment to the Core Humanitarian Standards (CHS) and other key good practice standards.	Policy	Change People's Lives: From Delivering Aid to Ending Need
Concern Worldwide will only respond when needed, and only establish direct responses when there are clear identified gaps and unmet needs.	Operational	Change People's Lives: From Delivering Aid to Ending Need
Concern Worldwide will reinforce, rather than replace, in-country efforts for humanitarian preparedness and response, recognising that communities themselves are critical first responders.	Operational	Change People's Lives: From Delivering Aid to Ending Need

Core Commitments

Commitment	Core Responsibility
Commit to a new way of working that meets people's immediate humanitarian needs, while at the same time reducing risk and vulnerability over multiple years through the achievement of collective outcomes. To achieve this, commit to the following: a) Anticipate, Do Not Wait: to invest in risk analysis and to incentivize early action in order to minimize the impact and frequency of known risks and hazards on people. b) Reinforce, Do Not Replace: to support and invest in local, national and regional leadership, capacity strengthening and response systems, avoiding duplicative international mechanisms wherever possible. c) Preserve and retain emergency capacity: to deliver predictable and flexible urgent and life-saving assistance and protection in accordance with humanitarian principles. d) Transcend Humanitarian-Development Divides: work together, toward collective outcomes that ensure humanitarian needs are met, while at the same time reducing risk and vulnerability over multiple years and based on the comparative advantage of a diverse range of actors. The primacy of humanitarian principles will continue to underpin humanitarian action.	Change People's Lives: From Delivering Aid to Ending Need
Commit to reinforce national and local leadership and capacities in managing disaster and climate-related risks through strengthened preparedness and predictable response and recovery arrangements.	Change People's Lives: From Delivering Aid to Ending Need



<p>Commit to increase investment in building community resilience as a critical first line of response, with the full and effective participation of women.</p>	<p>Change People's Lives: From Delivering Aid to Ending Need</p>
<p>Commit to increase substantially and diversify global support and share of resources for humanitarian assistance aimed to address the differentiated needs of populations affected by humanitarian crises in fragile situations and complex emergencies, including increasing cash-based programming in situations where relevant.</p>	<p>Change People's Lives: From Delivering Aid to Ending Need Invest in Humanity</p>
<p>Commit to empower national and local humanitarian action by increasing the share of financing accessible to local and national humanitarian actors and supporting the enhancement of their national delivery systems, capacities and preparedness planning.</p>	<p>Change People's Lives: From Delivering Aid to Ending Need Invest in Humanity</p>

1. A. Highlight concrete actions taken between 1 January – 31 December 2019 to implement the commitments which contribute to achieving this transformation. Be as specific as possible and include any relevant data/figures as well as any good practices and examples of innovation.

Strengthening national/local leadership and systems

Strengthening in-country leadership and systems was an integral part of much of Concern's humanitarian response in 2018. Concern scaled up its implementation of Community Management of Acute Malnutrition (CMAM) Surge, an approach to strengthen health systems and health staff capacity to respond to and manage surges in caseloads of malnourished children, adding Burundi, Chad and Ethiopia to the existing four countries of implementation. The year has also seen the rapid adoption and scale up of the approach by other NGOs in West Africa and the creation of a CMAM Surge Task Force for the region, on which Concern is one of the lead members. Concern held a regional workshop in Niger for partners who have started implementation to share best practices and lessons learned and inform future updates to existing guidance. The Afghanistan Resilience Consortium, of which Concern is a member, developed community self-help capacities for emergency planning and responding. The introduction of community and school-based disaster risk reduction (DRR) committees has changed patterns of early warning and emergency response in the target communities and DRR plans at the community and school-levels have been successfully implemented (ARC Final Evaluation 2019).

Cash-based programming

Concern systematically considers the use of cash transfers and vouchers based on response analysis and market analysis. In 2018, cash-based assistance was provided in 17 out of 24 Concern country programmes. Total transfer in 2018 was 19% of total spend on overseas programmes.

Concern works with telecommunications companies and financial services to extend the use of electronic transfers and to mitigate risks. In 2018, Concern was able to scale up within 48 hours cash transfers in Somalia using mobile money to respond to the urgent needs following flood and cyclones. In 2018, 44% of cash-based assistance was transferred electronically through SMART cards, mobile money, bank or post transfers.

Concern is member of different cash working groups, such as the Collaborative Cash Delivery (CCD) Network and the Alliance 2015, and contributes to develop standards and guidelines. Concern is part of the Cash Learning Partnership (CaLP) and actively engages with other initiatives to scaling up Graduation approaches.

Concern works closely with other agencies and local partners to coordinate and harmonise approaches and led the Cash Consortium in Somalia (20.8 million EUR), reaching 43,841 households.

Adherence to quality and accountability standards (e.g. CHS, SPHERE)

As a member of the Core Humanitarian Standard on Quality and Accountability (CHS), Concern continuously strengthens and expands systems and processes to ensure accountability across its programmes. In late 2017, Concern was the first Irish agency to be accredited with CHS certification based on a rigorous external process including country visits to Liberia and Burundi. Humanitarian Quality Assurance Initiative (HQAI) is seeking its accreditation against ISO/IEC 17065 standard for certification bodies and following on from this process it is envisaged that annual audits will be conducted.

In October 2018, HQAI conducted a Maintenance Audit, the process was finalised in December. The audit confirmed Concern's ongoing compliance with the standard with three minor corrective action requests. The corrective action requests relate to the complaints response mechanism, the environment and unintended impacts of the programmes. Three Concern staff members have completed the CHS Alliance Trainer Of Trainers course on the Standard. These staff members organised a training for staff across different departments over a four month period covering each of the nine commitments. In 2018, one member of the Concern's Emergency Directorate was elected to the SPHERE Board.



B. Please select if your report relates to any initiatives launched at World Humanitarian summit

- Grand Bargain

2. A. Please select no more than 3 key challenges faced in implementing the commitments related to this transformation. Only the categories selected by the organisation will be seen below.

- Funding amounts
 Funding modalities (earmarking, priorities, yearly agreements, risk aversion measures)
 Human resources/capacity

B. How are these challenges impacting achievement of this transformation?

Initiatives under this transformation require significant allocation of resources, both financial and human; allocations which are not always covered by institutional donors. Concern therefore often is forced to use unrestricted funding sources.

3. What steps or actions are needed to make collective progress to achieve this transformation?

Local coordination and mapping of national stakeholders; more evidence on international vs national NGOs added value (on all project cycle phases)

Keywords

Cash, Community resilience, Disaster Risk Reduction, Local action, Quality and accountability standards, Strengthening local systems



5A Invest in local capacities

Individual Commitments

Commitment	Commitment Type	Core Responsibility
Concern Worldwide continues to work through and provide funding for national partners (the current average over six years is 25% of its annual humanitarian budget) and clearly show national NGO partner funding allocations in its annual report.	Financial	Invest in Humanity
Concern Worldwide will increase its investment in actions that build the emergency response capacity of national NGOs and civil society organizations, ensuring that it has a memoranda of understanding with partners that reflect and build on the Principles of Partnership.	Operational	Invest in Humanity

Core Commitments

Commitment	Core Responsibility
Commit to empower national and local humanitarian action by increasing the share of financing accessible to local and national humanitarian actors and supporting the enhancement of their national delivery systems, capacities and preparedness planning.	Change People's Lives: From Delivering Aid to Ending Need Invest in Humanity

1. A. Highlight concrete actions taken between 1 January – 31 December 2019 to implement the commitments which contribute to achieving this transformation. Be as specific as possible and include any relevant data/figures as well as any good practices and examples of innovation.

Capacity building of national/local actors

Concern built the capacity of local and national actors in a variety of ways; group training was very common, however other methods such as coaching, on-the-job training, providing technical advice and providing financial resources were also utilised. Concern worked with local implementing NGO partners in humanitarian responses in Nepal, Pakistan, Somalia, South Sudan and Bangladesh among others. Partner staff were included in trainings for Concern's own staff on topics such as accountability and the Core Humanitarian Standards, child safeguarding, and security management.

Concern in Bangladesh conducted Preparing for Effective Emergency Response (PEER) training with selected partner NGO staff. 50% of partner NGOs now have their own emergency contingency plans, and are able to respond to emergencies more effectively. In addition, many of Bangladesh's emergency partner NGO staff have attended different trainings as organised by different INGOs and UN, which Concern has linked them to. Following one emergency response, the team handed over soft copies of flood preparedness messages developed during the response to local community radio stations so that they can reuse those messages next year before flooding.

B. Please select if your report relates to any initiatives launched at World Humanitarian summit

Grand Bargain

2. A. Please select no more than 3 key challenges faced in implementing the commitments related to this transformation. Only the categories selected by the organisation will be seen below.

- Adherence to standards and/or humanitarian principles
- Field conditions, including insecurity and access
- Human resources/capacity

B. How are these challenges impacting achievement of this transformation?

As Concern continues to focus programming on complex and conflict affected emergencies it is often difficult to find suitable local partners which would allow for principled, timely, and effective response.



3. What steps or actions are needed to make collective progress to achieve this transformation?

Capacity building and strengthening of local actors in difficult and complex environments would be needed to achieve this transformation.

Keywords

Local action, Strengthening local systems



5D Finance outcomes, not fragmentation: shift from funding to financing

Individual Commitments

Commitment	Commitment Type	Core Responsibility
Concern Worldwide commits to advocate with donors for predictable multi-year funding commitments and instruments that enable humanitarian programming to look at longer term resilience-oriented solutions.	Advocacy	Invest in Humanity
Concern Worldwide commits to advocate with donors to close the funding gap and to ensure that all inter-agency humanitarian appeals are fully funded.	Advocacy	Invest in Humanity

Core Commitments

Commitment	Core Responsibility
Commit to promote and increase predictable, multi-year, unearmarked, collaborative and flexible humanitarian funding toward greater efficiency, effectiveness, transparency and accountability of humanitarian action for affected people.	Invest in Humanity

1. A. Highlight concrete actions taken between 1 January – 31 December 2019 to implement the commitments which contribute to achieving this transformation. Be as specific as possible and include any relevant data/figures as well as any good practices and examples of innovation.

Multi-year funding is a key advocacy ask in all of Concern's engagement with donors and with UN agencies. In Concern's major report of 2018, *Breaking the Cycle of Conflict, Hunger and Human Suffering*, there are a set of recommendations specifically focusing on funding, specifying that donors end single-year, annual pledging conferences and deliver on existing commitments to increase flexible, multi-year humanitarian funding to address and prevent protracted displacement. Concern made specific recommendations to the Irish Government on three occasions in 2017/18 relating to multi-year funding. In a joint submission with Irish humanitarian NGOs to the Foreign Affairs Committee review of Irish Aid (Oct 2017), Concern recommended an increase in multi-year, collaborative and flexible planning and multi-year funding instruments and document the impacts on programme efficiency and effectiveness, ensuring that recipients apply the same funding arrangements to their implementing partners. Concern's submission to the development of the White Paper on International Development: A better World commended Irish Aid's progress on providing multi-year flexible funding to NGOs working in fragile contexts and encouraged continued multi-annual humanitarian funding to allow NGOs to prevent, prepare for, support recovery from and build resilience to crises and disasters, and to mitigate conflict and foster community peace-building.

B. Please select if your report relates to any initiatives launched at World Humanitarian summit

- Education Cannot Wait
- Grand Bargain
- The Inclusion Charter

2. A. Please select no more than 3 key challenges faced in implementing the commitments related to this transformation. Only the categories selected by the organisation will be seen below.

- Funding modalities (earmarking, priorities, yearly agreements, risk aversion measures)
- Joined-up humanitarian-development analysis, planning, funding and/or response
- Multi-stakeholder coordination

B. How are these challenges impacting achievement of this transformation?

Short-term funding is still a major challenge for organisations working in protracted settings. Being able to hire and retain staff with strong capacities, provide consistent high quality assistance to programme participants, which in turn prevents programme participants from having to resort to harmful practices.

3. What steps or actions are needed to make collective progress to achieve this transformation?



More progress is needed on multi-year funding commitments of significant value to provide adequate assistance. Additionally lighter reporting and greater flexibility on how funding is used is a necessity in complex settings.



5E Diversify the resource base and increase cost-efficiency

Individual Commitments

Commitment	Commitment Type	Core Responsibility
Concern Worldwide commits to continue to engage NGO-led financing mechanisms, and influence donors to increase their support for these effective disbursement processes.	Policy	Invest in Humanity
Concern Worldwide commits to remain consistent with international standards, continue to implement transparent programme planning and reporting processes.	Operational	Invest in Humanity
Concern Worldwide fully engages with the outcomes of the Grand Bargain for improved efficiency of humanitarian resources.	Policy	Invest in Humanity

Core Commitments

Commitment	Core Responsibility
Commit to increase substantially and diversify global support and share of resources for humanitarian assistance aimed to address the differentiated needs of populations affected by humanitarian crises in fragile situations and complex emergencies, including increasing cash-based programming in situations where relevant.	Change People's Lives: From Delivering Aid to Ending Need Invest in Humanity
Commit to promote and increase predictable, multi-year, unearmarked, collaborative and flexible humanitarian funding toward greater efficiency, effectiveness, transparency and accountability of humanitarian action for affected people.	Invest in Humanity

1. A. Highlight concrete actions taken between 1 January – 31 December 2019 to implement the commitments which contribute to achieving this transformation. Be as specific as possible and include any relevant data/figures as well as any good practices and examples of innovation.

Concern has actively participated in various activities related to the Country Based Pooled Fund (CBPF) working groups and instruments. Concern has had discussions and fed information and in country experience to various donor governments as well as in country funding bodies. Regarding standards, Concern has been actively involved in the design and roll out of the new Sphere standards, including having a senior staff member on the board of Sphere, hosting a launch event in New York and disseminating the product widely. Concern has been certified by the Core Humanitarian Standards and is constantly working to fulfil the commitments related to this. Concern has continued to engage with the outcomes of the Grand Bargain and has fed information into InterAction research regarding donor efficiency, counter terrorism, and reporting.

B. Please select if your report relates to any initiatives launched at World Humanitarian summit

- Charter for Change
- Grand Bargain
- New Way of Working

2. A. Please select no more than 3 key challenges faced in implementing the commitments related to this transformation. Only the categories selected by the organisation will be seen below.

- Field conditions, including insecurity and access
- Funding amounts
- Human resources/capacity



B. How are these challenges impacting achievement of this transformation?

On the ground, conditions coupled with donor requirements continue to be one of the main constraints to achieving this transformation. Reporting and compliance related activities and responsibilities have increased greatly since the WHS.

3. What steps or actions are needed to make collective progress to achieve this transformation?

Donors must lead in regards to many of these commitments as the power dynamic is not often equal. Concern can and does utilize it's on the ground experience to attempt to influence said donors, but in order to achieve the transformation it must be led by those in the power position.

Keywords

Quality and accountability standards



Additional Reports

Attachment

[conflict_and_displacement-voices_of_displacement_and_return_in_central_african_republics_neglected_crisis.pdf](#)