HAITI 2012: THE PATH TO RECOVERY
Concern Worldwide is a non-governmental, international, humanitarian organisation dedicated to the reduction of suffering and working towards the ultimate elimination of extreme poverty in the world’s poorest countries.

Founded in 1968, Concern Worldwide – through its work in emergencies and long-term development – has saved countless lives, relieved suffering and provided opportunities for a better standard of living for millions of people.

We have more than 3,200 personnel working in 25 countries in Africa, Asia and the Caribbean. We target the root causes of extreme poverty through programmes in emergency response; education; food, income and markets; health; and HIV and AIDS.

Concern works in partnership with local organisations and people in their own communities to develop practical and lasting solutions to extreme poverty. We target the underlying key drivers of poverty and empower people to meet their basic survival needs and gain a voice in decisions that affect them.

We use our knowledge and experience on the ground to influence policy decisions at the local, national and international level, thus ensuring that we have the greatest possible impact on the lives of the world’s poorest people.
Our Mission
Our mission is to help people living in extreme poverty achieve major improvements in their lives which last and spread without ongoing support from Concern. To achieve this mission we engage in long term development work, respond to emergency situations, and seek to address the root cause of poverty through our development education and advocacy work.

Our Vision for Change
A world where no-one lives in poverty, fear or oppression; where all have access to a decent standard of living and the opportunities and choices essential to a long, healthy and creative life; a world where everyone is treated with dignity and respect.

In the past year Concern’s programmes directly reached more than 9.5 million people.

Where We Work
- Afghanistan
- Bangladesh
- Burundi
- Cambodia
- Chad
- Democratic People’s Republic of Korea
- Democratic Republic of Congo
- Ethiopia
- Haiti
- India
- Kenya
- Liberia
- Malawi
- Mozambique
- Niger
- Pakistan
- Republic of Sudan
- Rwanda
- Sierra Leone
- Somalia
- South Sudan
- Tanzania
- Uganda
- Zambia
- Zimbabwe

ABOUT HAITI
Haiti’s prolonged history of political instability has left it the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere. It was the world’s first independent black republic, but turbulent occupations, revolts, and dictatorships have significantly hindered the country’s human, social, and economic development.

After a coup, and the forced resignation and exile of President Jean-Bertrand Aristide in February 2004, an interim government organised new elections under the auspices of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH). Despite ongoing violence and delays, Haiti finally inaugurated a democratically elected president and parliament in May of 2006. However in 2008, Haiti suffered food riots triggered by dramatic spikes in prices. It was devastated by back-to-back hurricanes that affected an estimated 800,000 people. Before the 2010 earthquake, 70 per cent of Haiti’s population was living in poverty, surviving on less than $2 a day, 45 per cent of the population was illiterate, and 54 per cent of the population was living without access to clean, safe water.

The 2010 “Mega-disaster”
On 12 January 2010, a 7.0-magnitude earthquake delivered a crippling blow to Haiti’s capital, Port-au-Prince, and the surrounding areas. An estimated 230,000 people were killed and another 1.5 million were left homeless. Much of Haiti’s already weak infrastructure was destroyed, including the offices of the Ministries of Finance, Health, and Education; the UN headquarters; roads and ports; as well countless schools, health facilities, markets, and water systems.

The disaster was exacerbated by a cholera epidemic which took its first victims in October 2010. To date, cholera has resulted in the deaths of nearly 7,000 people.
Two years after the earthquake, Haiti is on the long road to recovery. Half a million of the poorest people are still without long-term shelter solutions, half a million children are out of school; and thousands lack access to income and basic health care services.

CONCERN IN HAITI

Concern has been working in Haiti since 1994, responding to emergencies and helping communities overcome extreme poverty by strengthening infrastructure and improving access to education, clean water, sanitation, health care, and livelihoods.

Concern is deeply committed to working with communities in Haiti to reduce poverty and inequality, and to help the most vulnerable people rebuild and recover from the earthquake. Concern has a team of more than 500 personnel in Haiti, the majority of whom are Haitian.

Where We Work

Concern has programmes in the capital Port-au-Prince, Saut d’Eau in the Central Department, and on the island of La Gonâve.

Who We Target

Concern’s programmes benefit displaced and highly vulnerable families in Port-au-Prince, and extremely poor communities in Haiti’s rural areas, with a particular focus on women and children, who are always worst affected by disasters and crises. We work closely with local partners and stakeholders to ensure we improve the lives of the most vulnerable and marginalised men, women, boys and girls, and deliver responses tailored to local contexts and needs.

Our Partners

Concern Haiti’s programmes are implemented in collaboration with local and international NGOs, government ministries and donors who share our commitment to the elimination of extreme poverty. We work closely with the communities in which we operate, so that the people we serve help to decide how our programmes are designed, implemented and monitored. Communities also make important contributions to projects in terms of time and resources.

Local organisations are critical in Haiti’s rebuilding and in 2011, Concern implemented projects in the areas of food, income and markets, education and health with the support of five national NGOs and twenty-one community-based organisations. With our support, many of these community organisations led the day-to-day management of key projects providing communities with knowledge and skills to maintain water and sanitation systems, train teachers and kick-start agricultural production and small business projects.

Haiti at a Glance

- Area: 28,000,000 sq km
- Population: 9.7m
- GDP per capita: $1,200
- Infant mortality (per thousand births): 54
- Life expectancy: 62.2
- Living with HIV and AIDS: 1.9 per cent
- Literacy rate: 52.9 per cent
- Unemployment rate: 40.6 per cent
- Human development rank: 158 (out of 187)

Two Years after the Earthquake

- 1 million displaced people in Port-au-Prince are no longer living in camps
- More people in Port-au-Prince have access to clean drinking water today than before the earthquake
- 4 million cubic meters of rubble have been removed from the city
- 485,000 people have been treated for cholera
EMERGENCY RESPONSE

Sustaining the Lives and Dignity of Earthquake and Cholera Survivors

In the past two years, Concern has provided 237,276 people with lifesaving humanitarian assistance, including water, sanitation, shelter, food and emergency treatment of malnutrition, cholera, health services, cash-for-work, and essential relief supplies.

Key Achievements

- **CAMP MANAGEMENT**: Managed humanitarian and protection services in 15 camps, benefitting 55,000 displaced people in Port-au-Prince
- **SHELTER**: Provided emergency shelter materials to 88,977 people affected by the earthquake. This included the building of 1,484 transitional shelters providing temporary homes for 7,420 people
- **WATER**: Provided 75,000 people with access to clean water and sanitation
- **INCOME**: Provided 42,681 people with a source of income through cash-for-work opportunities, such as rubble removal, drain-cleaning, and garbage collection
- **EDUCATION**: Provided basic education to more than 15,000 children by rehabilitating 33 schools and setting up 5 temporary learning spaces, as well as training teachers and supplying classrooms with learning resources
- **HEALTH & NUTRITION**: Delivered critical services and support to more than 30,000 children under the age of five and over 11,000 pregnant women
- **RURAL RESPONSE**: 127,476 people living in rural areas have benefitted from activities to restore agricultural production, rehabilitate homes and repair damaged community water facilities
- **CHOLERA RESPONSE**: Reached 147,000 people through public awareness campaigns and cholera prevention activities. Concern distributed 80,000 treatment kits to 68 access points in the most vulnerable urban and rural areas

RECOVERY

Rebuilding Infrastructure and Increasing Resilience

Two years after the earthquake, Concern is now focused early recovery and rehabilitation activities, prioritising support to displaced families seeking to move out of make-shift camps and return to their homes and neighbourhoods.

**Shelter**

Concern piloted a ‘Return to Neighbourhoods’ project with the residents of Camp Oscar in Port-au-Prince. This project aims to empower families to leave camps in favour of longer term accommodation, and has now expanded to include Place de la Paix. The programme not only offers the poorest people housing options, but also delivers small business training, financial support, and education vouchers to assist people to set up sustainable businesses and get their children back to school. The Government of Haiti singled out Concern’s programme as an example of best-practice in recovery initiatives and our intervention model was considered in the development of the national strategy.

By the end of 2012, Concern hopes to have helped 14,000 displaced people to leave the camps and return to longer-term homes.

**Infrastructure**

Concern is also working to rehabilitate the neighbourhoods to which displaced people will return by improving access to water and sanitation, health care, and education, and most importantly building the capacity of communities and local organisations to deliver these services themselves. To minimise the risk of future disasters and to reduce the vulnerability of the poorest, we are ensuring that new shelters, schools, and other new facilities are earthquake and hurricane-proof. Concern teams are assisting communities to protect themselves from future crises.
Empowering Disaster Survivors in Haiti

Education

Prior to the earthquake, more than 500,000 children did not attend school at all. Haitian children attend primary school on average for less than four years. This is largely because many Haitian parents cannot afford to pay school fees. The government has recently announced that primary education will now be free for all, but widespread access will take time to achieve. In addition, the earthquake damaged or destroyed 87 per cent of Haiti’s schools, and those that are safe for children are often overcrowded. Large numbers of teachers were killed in the earthquake, thus necessitating large-scale efforts to recruit and train teachers. Many of Haiti’s children experienced significant trauma as a result of the disaster. Thousands were separated from their families after the earthquake, while hundreds of thousands were left homeless and without a school to attend.

To provide children with a safe place to play and learn and to offer a sense of stability and routine in the wake of the crisis, Concern established Child Friendly Spaces in Port-au-Prince’s camps and communities. In these spaces, trained facilitators provided children with basic education, recreation, and psycho-social support to help them prepare for the transition back to formal schools as efforts to rebuild and repair progressed.

Today, Concern is running Transitional Learning Spaces in camps and communities, providing more than 2,000 children with access to quality education. True to our commitment to ensure that children exercise their basic, human right to education, we will continue work with government-run and private schools to find permanent school places for displaced children, rehabilitate and rebuild schools, provide classrooms with learning materials, and train teachers so that children receive the quality education to which they are entitled.

From left to right:
Deborah Fero attending Preschool, Daniel Fignole Transitional Learning Space, Port-au-Prince
Pic: Rosin Gallagher, 2011
Girls dancing in a child-friendly space, Port-au-Prince
Pic: Allison Shelley, 2010

Concern’s ‘Education for the Poor’ programme, in rural Saut d’Eau, has improved the access of 11,000 children to quality education through school construction activities, distribution of classroom furniture and learning materials and teacher training.

Food, Income and Markets

In Haiti, most people live on less than $2 a day and are entirely dependent on imported staple foods. While crop and livestock production remains the main source of livelihoods in rural areas, Haitians living in urban centres rely on income from micro-enterprises to meet their ever rising daily living costs. Many Haitian families lost everything in the earthquake, including livestock, market stalls and savings. These families now face serious challenges in meeting their basic needs.

In response, over the last two years, Concern has prioritised small business rehabilitation, as well as efforts to restore the assets of those earning a living through agriculture and fisheries. In the months following Haiti’s earthquake, we offered cash-for-work opportunities so that Haitian families could earn much-needed cash, decide their own priorities and take care of their household needs with dignity. We targeted the most vulnerable families within communities for this work. Since the earthquake, Concern has reached nearly 43,000 people with cash-for-work opportunities. Access to credit has also been one of the major challenges of launching small businesses in Haiti. To address this, we help earthquake-affected families to access credit by providing cash transfer payments to the most vulnerable families. These payments, complemented by small business training, provide families with the capital they need to restart their businesses and get back on their feet. For the poorest and most vulnerable, Concern offers a holistic support package of asset transfers, skills training, education and healthcare to support the most vulnerable families in breaking the cycle of poverty.

To restore Haiti’s agricultural production and promote food security, Concern has provided tools, seeds, irrigation services in rural communities. Since the earthquake, Concern Haiti has reached 9,400 families with agricultural support activities.
Haiti’s turbulent history has left a legacy of deep social, political and economic divides, and the urban communities of Martissant and St. Martin are no exception. Violence has been a major obstacle to development in these areas and it posed significant challenges to post-earthquake relief and reconstruction.

Since 2004, Concern and the Glencree Centre for Peace and Reconciliation in Ireland have developed and supported an inclusive peace-building process in these two neighbourhoods. Training is provided on conflict mediation for a core group of facilitators, who then help all sections of the local community to discuss problems and local issues in a neutral space without resorting to violence. Local governance has also been strengthened, and work has begun to engage the national police and government in the process. As part of the peace-building process, a local initiative that focuses on encouraging investments in the area, 3PSM (Partnership for Peace and Prosperity in Saint Martin), was launched to promote links between the private sector and the local community.

Preliminary results have already proved extremely positive. While violence erupted in other areas of Port-au-Prince due to food riots in April 2008, the people in these communities engaged in dialogue which prevented the outbreak of violence in their areas.

“I have met and worked with persons from all backgrounds including former gang members, and now I see them in a different light than before, as human beings. Now I can engage in a dialogue with them, instead of a confrontation.”

—Antoine Marcelin, local Port-au-Prince businessman and facilitator for Concern’s Peacebuilding initiative

Nutrition

Before Haiti’s earthquake, a quarter of children in the country were born underweight while the growth of approximately 30 per cent of children under five was stunted due to malnutrition. Haiti’s earthquake has further limited the access to basic services. The consequences are severe: 57 per cent of children under five living in camps have symptoms of early-childhood illnesses such as diarrhea and respiratory infection and only 24 per cent of women give birth under the supervision of medical personnel. Most go through pregnancy and child birth without pre or post-natal care. UNAIDS estimates that 120,000 Haitians are living with HIV and AIDS, and transmission rates are expected to rise after the earthquake.

In response, Concern’s feeding programmes offered nutritional support to more than 21,000 children under five and more than 3,500 pregnant women living in camps in and around Port-au-Prince. In addition, mothers and their young children received health support in baby tents constructed in 12 camps, which provided education on breastfeeding, and safe birthing practices as well as essential psycho-social support.

Since the earthquake, Concern’s nutrition programmes and supported health centres have treated more than 3,000 children under the age of five for acute malnutrition and have treated nearly 7,000 children under five for early childhood illnesses. Today, our health and nutrition team is building the capacity of local health centre staff to treat and prevent malnutrition and childhood illness. Concern has trained teams of community health and nutrition volunteers to educate communities, identify malnutrition and refer mothers and children to health facilities for medical care and treatment.
Water and Sanitation

Before the earthquake, Haiti was ranked as one of the lowest in the world for water provision and the vast majority had no access to basic sanitation facilities such as latrines and garbage collection services. In rural areas, people walk for many hours to collect clean drinking water, while urban residents cannot afford to buy water to meet their most basic needs of drinking, cooking and washing.

The situation significantly deteriorated following Haiti’s earthquake, and Concern responded immediately by delivering safe drinking water to affected people living in camps and communities. Since then, hygiene promotion messages have been shared with the community in Port-au-Prince and in rural areas on a continual basis to prevent the spread of waterborne illnesses, such as cholera.

In response to the lack of water and sanitation services in Saut d’Eau and on the island of La Gonâve, Concern trained and supported 285 families to build family latrines and educated communities about hygiene, sanitation, and cholera prevention. In addition, Concern has built water supply systems, which are serving over 77,000 people with clean water sources close to homes. On La Gonâve, Concern is drilling 25 boreholes with its own drilling rig.

As part of Concern’s education programmes in Port-au-Prince and Saut d’Eau, we have built latrines, water reservoirs and hand-washing stations in 38 schools and temporary learning spaces.

Concern collaborates closely with DINEPA, the national authority for water, to rehabilitate water and sanitation infrastructure and to ensure proper management of the infrastructure we install. We also establish and train local committees to collect small fees at set prices for water so that the community can maintain their water sources for many years to come.

Building resilience

The social and environmental context in Haiti is extremely fragile. Rural landscapes have suffered decades of deforestation with severe environmental and human consequences. The movement of thousands of people from rural areas to the capital Port-au-Prince, coupled with poor urban planning, has resulted in thousands of families living extremely vulnerable lives in urban slums. Environmental degradation and migration have resulted in high levels of poverty, recurrent social unrest, crime and the widespread violation of human rights. Many of these highly vulnerable communities, while most affected by emergency situations, are the least prepared for these events and lack the capacity to respond to them.

Concern works in partnership with local people and government authorities to build stronger communities, to identify potential risks, take preventative action and respond to emergencies when needed. In one such initiative we planted over 1,400 trees on La Gonâve to restore local forests.

Protection

Following the 2010 earthquake, Concern supported the creation of eighteen women’s groups in earthquake-affected camps and communities, and worked with five community-based organisations to increase their understanding of human rights and Haitian law. These organisations now actively identify and support the most vulnerable individuals – orphans, single mothers, gender-based violence survivors, the disabled and the elderly – living in earthquake affected camps and communities.

Risk reduction

In 2011, Concern launched its new disaster risk reduction programme in Port-au-Prince and on the island of La Gonâve, which will help communities identify risks in their neighbourhoods, take action to prevent these risks from becoming a reality and increase their capacity to respond when the worst happens. This programme will reinforce the capacity of existing local disaster response committees and link these local bodies to national disaster prevention and response systems.
STORIES OF CHANGE

Shelter, Security and Support to go Home:

Marie’s Story

Having lost her home and everything she owned in the earthquake, Marie, like many displaced mothers living in the camps of Port-au-Prince, struggles to meet the basic needs of her three children. Marie and her children live in Place de la Paix, one of Port-au-Prince’s largest makeshift camps, in which each person has an average of just four square-meters of living space.

Without a source of income or any possessions of her own, Marie received from Concern Worldwide plastic sheeting, blankets, food, water, and hygiene supplies—the day-to-day essentials for survival. Concern provided all 2,700 families living in Place de la Paix with this lifesaving assistance in the days and months after the earthquake.

Today, Marie is an active member of the Concern-supported women’s group in Place de la Paix camp. This group gives women support, training and a voice in the management of services in the camp. Soon, thanks to Concern, Marie and the other 2,300 families still living in Place de la Paix will also have a new home, as Concern offers camp residents support in finding a new home or repairing their old home, capital to start small businesses and vouchers to get their children back to school.

Marie says, “Concern arrived at the right time, and they have never left us yet.”

Ilera’s Story

Ilera Schella, 29, lives in Dartiguenave, Port-au-Prince, where most residents do not have access to the city’s water network. Prior to the earthquake, most residents bought water from private water kiosks, set up by community members to generate an income. Many community water kiosks were damaged or destroyed by the earthquake, leaving residents dependent on organisations like Concern for access to safe water and private kiosk owners without an income.

Following Concern’s assistance to private kiosk owners, Ilera has been able to repair the damage to her kiosk and pay for the two deliveries of water needed to re-establish her community water kiosk.

Ilera is now providing affordable water to 200 families, with the cost she charges regulated by a community water committee. Her competitive prices have resulted in increased sales and have enabled her to pay for the third delivery of water herself. Ilera now makes about $3–4 per day, almost double the amount she earned from the same business activity before the earthquake, and uses this money to take care of her family. “After the earthquake, my business had more or less collapsed and now I am back on my feet!” she said.
Promoting Empowerment and Self-Sufficiency: Mertyl’s Story

Mertyl Dieula is a 36-year-old mother of five, and lives in rural Haiti. When Concern arrived in the village of Pagesse, Mertyl’s family was quickly identified by fellow community members and field staff as one of the poorest in the village. Mertyl lived in a poorly constructed shelter made from mud and her children did not attend school.

As one of the poorest families in her community, Mertyl’s family was asked if they would like to participate in the Pathway to a Better Life programme, which focuses on helping the poorest families break the cycle of poverty. Over the last eighteen months, Mertyl and her family have received training in running small businesses, animal rearing, hygiene and nutrition, as well as assistance to build a proper home, install a pit latrine and access free health care.

Following a comprehensive evaluation, it is now safe to say that Mertyl’s family is no longer extremely poor. Mertyl now owns three goats and has used a small cash grant received from Concern to set up a small business selling rice, poultry and beans in neighbouring markets. With her new income, she later bought more livestock and rented some land where she now cultivates beans and peanuts.

Most importantly, Mertyl’s family no longer needs Concern: she has her own assets and can now access formal micro-finance credit should she wish to expand her business. “Thanks to Pathway to a Better Life, I have a house to sleep in and my children and I are no longer hungry,” she said. “We don’t wear ragged clothes anymore and my children can go to school. But most importantly, I no longer have to ask anything of anybody, I can rely on myself.”

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We would like to thank all our donors and funders who have supported our emergency work and our long term development work. We have received grants and donations from over 25 institutions, trusts, and philanthropical organisations, from countless businesses, schools and community groups and tens of thousands of members of the public in Ireland, the United Kingdom and the United States. There isn’t space to name all of you here, but we want you to know that every cent and penny counts and we could not have supported so many people in Haiti without your contribution.

THANK YOU!
Cover Image:
Relase Jetro and Daughter Mary Machine (2) at Concern housing project outside the capital of Haiti in Tabarre Issa, Port-au-Prince
Pic: Jennifer O’Gorman, 2011

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