



Enhanced Responses to Nutrition Emergencies

JUNE 2020 – MAY 2023



Funded by the European Union

CONCERN
worldwide

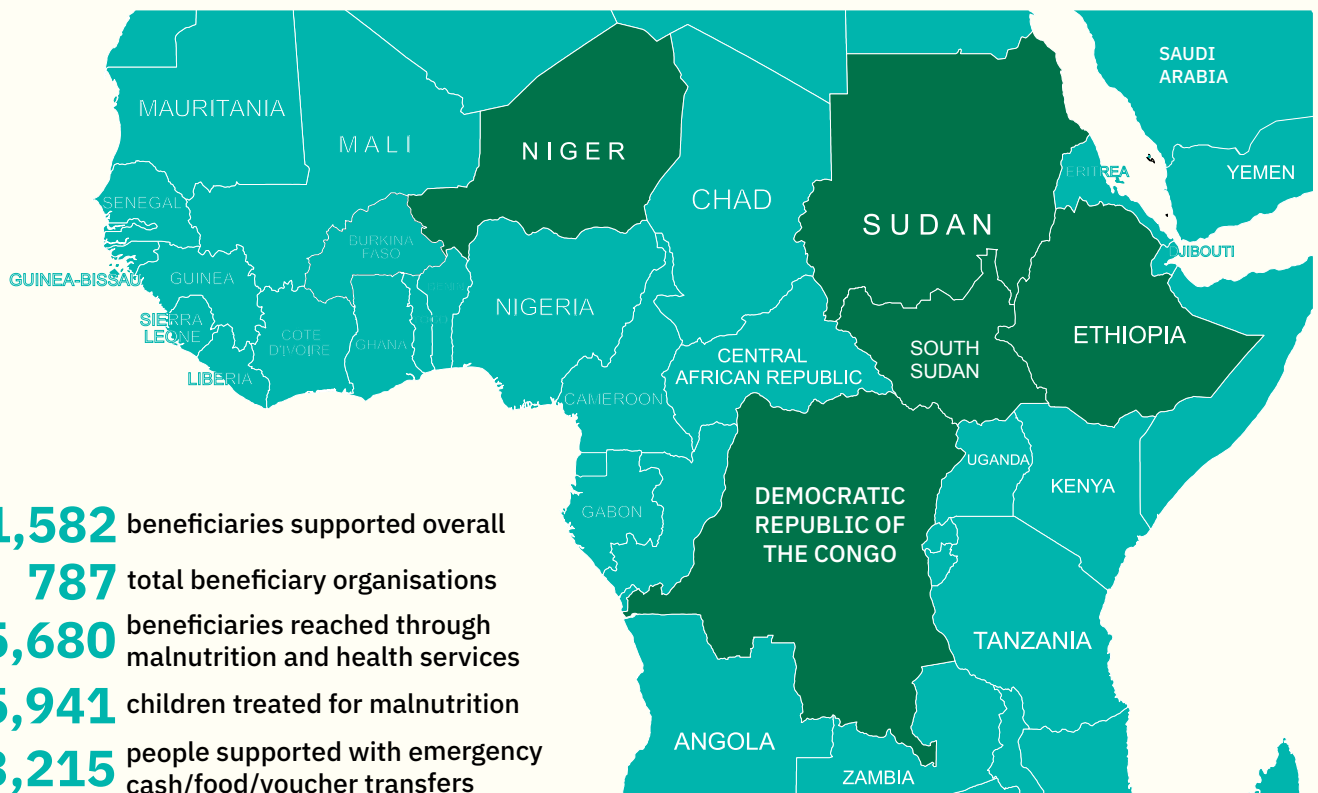
PROGRAMME PROGRESS BRIEF - YEAR 2

Introduction

This brief features an update on progress, key achievements and lessons learnt after two years of implementation of the 3-year Enhanced Responses to Nutrition Emergencies (ERNE) programme. ERNE aims to contribute to a reduction of mortality and morbidity of children under 5 years of age across Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, Niger, South Sudan and Sudan. Concern is implementing ERNE in partnership with the EU under the Pilot Programmatic Partnership.



Nimo Abdulahi Gurays at a group education session outside the local health centre in Legahida. Photo: Concern Worldwide



Halima Sheik Mahamad holds her one year daughter Alma outside their home in Legahida. Photo: Concern Worldwide

Key Achievements

In the first two years (June 2020 - May 2022), we have supported 821,582 people through activities to strengthen treatment of acute malnutrition and health systems, prevent further food insecurity, prepare communities and health systems for shocks, rapidly respond to shocks, and improve behaviours impacting nutrition of children under five years old.

PROGRESS AGAINST KEY INDICATORS

PILLAR 1 Life saving response

PILLAR 2 Preparedness and local capacity

PILLAR 3 Preventing undernutrition

Original target (100%)

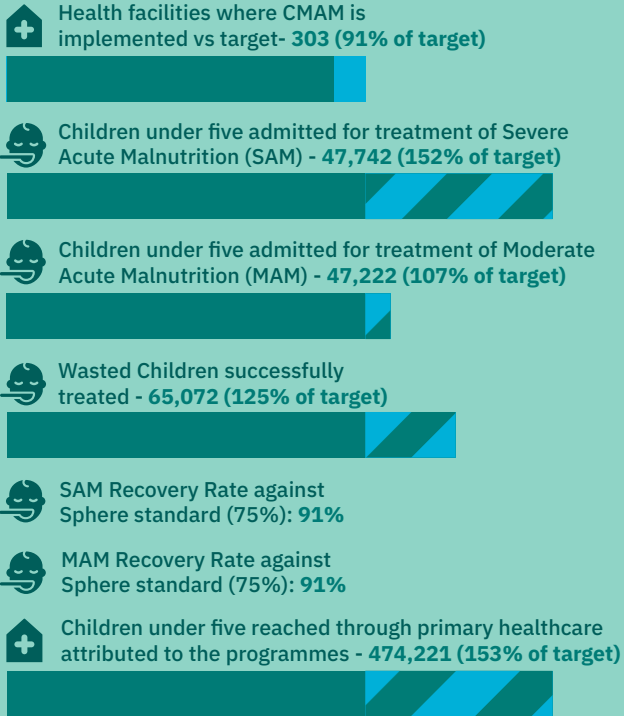
Percentage of target achieved to date

Percentage by which original target has been exceeded

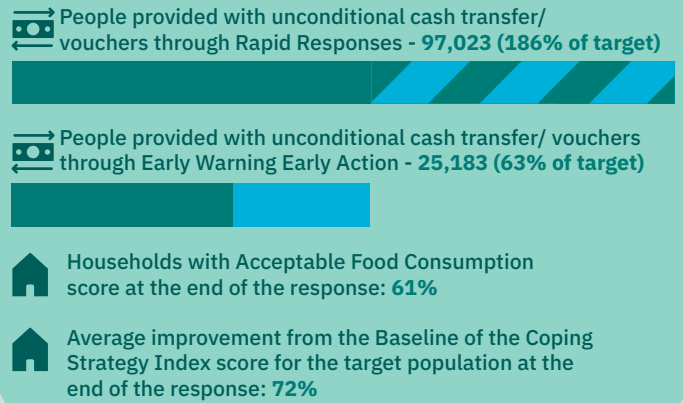
Health & Nutrition

Food Security

Treating children for malnutrition

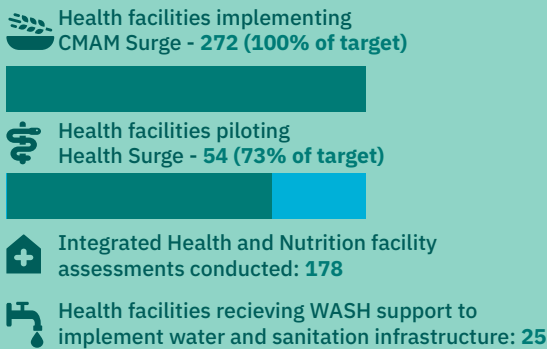


Avoiding deterioration of food security

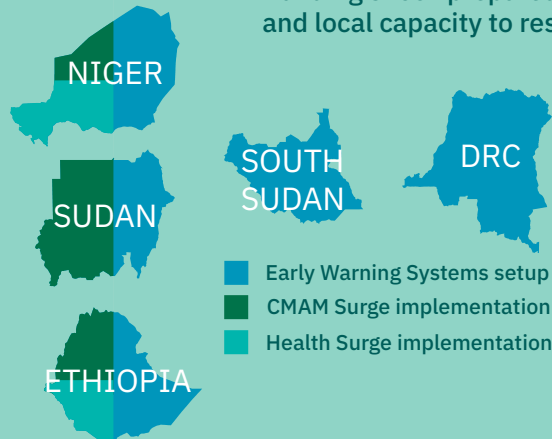


PILLAR 1

Strengthening health services

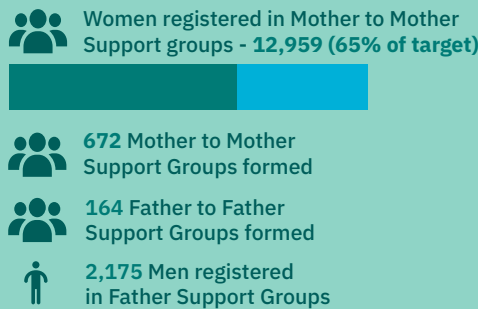


Building shock preparedness and local capacity to respond



PILLAR 2

Nutrition Resilience Building



PILLAR 3

Cross Cutting

WHAT ARE WE LEARNING?



Rapid but comprehensive health facility assessments are needed in fragile contexts, but emergency funding cycles often do not support full assessments or the comprehensive health system strengthening efforts that are required. Concern, with its government partners, has been able to undertake health facility assessments to prioritise needs and develop concrete action plans with partners in these fragile contexts via multi-year funding through the European Union's Pilot Programmatic Partnership.



Integration of Nutrition, Health and WASH is possible, even in very fragile contexts with weak health systems. For example, in South Sudan we have developed an action plan to promote practical integration of health and nutrition centres, which includes simple measures like sharing latrines and equipment, carrying out joint data analysis, cross training of staff, cross referrals, and joint supervision and monitoring.



CMAM Surge is contributing to health system strengthening. In the first two years of the ERNE programme we have seen that it can add value in contexts where the health system is fragile (e.g. in South Sudan) and the steps can be applied to other morbidities (i.e. Health Surge). The **Health Surge** pilots, established in 54 HFs in Niger and Ethiopia, have shown that the approach can also help health workers to anticipate, prepare for and manage fluctuations in the demand for **child health services**. For the **sustainability** of the Surge Approach, strong leadership within the health facility is essential. The Surge Approach should align with and contribute to reinforcing national and local health systems. In addition, Surge actions should be integrated, when feasible, into district health budgets/plans. Learning from the programme to date is being incorporated into a revised version of the Surge Operational Guide, to support practitioners in the future implementation and/or scale up of the approach.



Early Warning Early Action in fragile and conflict prone regions needs flexible and dynamic approaches, and can be more nutrition sensitive when the right type of information is monitored through both community and national level early warning systems. Setting up responsive Early Warning Systems and Cash Preparedness systems requires time. These investments contribute towards more timely responses.



The strategic, **multi-annual funding model** of DG ECHO's Pilot Programmatic Partnership (under which ERNE is funded) is supporting a nexus based approach to tackling child malnutrition in fragile contexts which combines immediate and flexible lifesaving responses with longer-term capacity building of health systems and resilience building. The longer term funding model is helping promote better planning and effectiveness of responses. In particular, the PPP has provided greater agility to respond to emerging crises in programme areas via inbuilt flexible response funds.

Find all our learning documents and more information about the ERNE programme on [our Knowledge Hub web page](#).

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