

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report documents Concern Worldwide's approach to disaster risk reduction (DRR) in Ethiopia. Concern first started working in Ethiopia in 1973. It operates today mainly in two zones (South Wollo, in Amhara Region and Woliyita in SNNP Region) and the capital, Addis Ababa, performing both short emergency activities that save lives and alleviate suffering as well as longer-term development programmes that address the root causes of poverty. Its emergency activities are not limited to these areas—the organisation intervenes when and where necessary. The overarching goal of its programmes is to improve community resilience to shocks.

Ethiopia staff were first exposed to the concept of DRR in 2005 as part of livelihood programmes and today DRR is embedded in all parts of all programmes. DRR is a vital component of community resilience because it is focused on reducing the impact or frequency of shocks. Concern's DRR programmes include interventions designed to build preparedness, mitigate hazards and vulnerabilities, and influence the wider stakeholder environment. It takes a broad view of hazards focused beyond simply large-scale natural hazards and includes extensive risks and social hazards like policies, institutions, and processes (PIPs). Concern starts programmes with risk analysis (using a number of techniques) and monitors and evaluates throughout.

Concern's DRR focused community resilience perspective helps it to make connections and address hazards in a holistic and comprehensive manner. From design to implementation, the organisation works closely with government officials and beneficiaries. Working with multiple stakeholders provides a more comprehensive overview of hazards, helps prioritise which hazards should be addressed, increases innovation, and builds project buy-in and support and post-project sustainability and replication. The organisation tends to focus on high-quality interventions in a small geographic area rather than a larger number of lower quality interventions in a broad geographic area.

There was wide consensus among stakeholders about the appropriateness of Concern's DRR approach for the Ethiopian risk context as well as on the high quality of Concern's programmes. There was also qualitative and quantitative evidence that Concern's interventions had resulted in positive short term and long-term changes in people's lives. For example, emergency programmes reduced the prevalence of malnutrition and development programmes increased assets and returns on assets and reduced the frequency and scale of certain hazards.

Concern's integrated, multi-stakeholder, community based approach, could be considered an example of good practice and should be further documented for learning and influencing purposes. There were a few hazards and drivers that the organisation was not addressing. In order to better address these, the organisation should continue with its plan to undertake more comprehensive risk assessments, and should also continue its improvements in macro-level influencing.

Concern's DRR activities in Ethiopia can be summarised within the Hyogo Framework for Action:

<b>How Concern contributes to the Hyogo Framework for Action</b>	
<b>Action area</b>	<b>Concern's contribution to HFA per action area</b>
<b>1</b> <i>prioritise DRR in governance at all levels</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Supports government committees at all levels in DRR</li> <li>• Provides trainings and best practices to government and beneficiaries</li> <li>• Disseminates knowledge through close collaboration and documentation</li> </ul>
<b>2</b> <i>identify, assess and monitor disaster risks and enhance early warning</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monitors risks regularly, using multiple social and natural indicators</li> <li>• Feeds information back to the government early warning systems</li> <li>• Uses multiple forms of knowledge when assessing risks and constructing interventions</li> <li>• Takes a multi-hazard, multi-scale risk reduction perspective that includes PIPs and extensive risk</li> </ul>
<b>3</b> <i>use knowledge, innovation and education to build a culture of safety at all levels</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fosters innovative practices of staff and beneficiaries through bottom up programmatic approaches</li> <li>• Encourages proactive preventative approaches through designing programmes focused around addressing the causes of disasters</li> <li>• Discusses risk and brings stakeholders together through participatory risk assessment processes, which also improves overall awareness</li> </ul>
<b>4</b> <i>reduce underlying risk factors</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Builds assets of local communities to improve resilience to shocks and avoid negative coping strategies</li> <li>• Reduces magnitude of hydro-meteorological shocks with activities like watershed management</li> <li>• Addresses the root causes of disasters by focusing on the social factors of risk</li> </ul>
<b>5</b> <i>strengthen preparedness at all levels</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strengthens bottom-up preparedness through social safety net programmes</li> <li>• Participated in PEER process for organisational preparedness</li> <li>• Monitors risk trends and provides information to all levels</li> <li>• Trains government officials so they can respond in event of emergencies</li> </ul>

