



**AN INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND REFUGEE AID ORGANIZATION**

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Thanksgiving 2013 Appeal

Dear Friends of Concern America,

As a nonprofit organization, the most important indicator of success that we can measure is our impact in alleviating poverty. Do the children of a village have fewer illnesses as a result of the water system we built together with the community members? Can the village water committee maintain and repair the system, ensuring access to clean water for 10-20 years? Is the local Health Promoter Practitioner (HPP) working with her/his community on other sanitation and health projects that, in addition to the water system, further improve health in the village?

Asking such questions helps ensure that we are, indeed, *making a difference*, and that we are also *responsible stewards* of every donation we receive from you, our generous donors.

Consider some recent data that highlight Concern America's impact and how we can do so much with your generous support:

- In Guatemala, the area covered by Concern America's program has an **average doctor/patient ratio of 1/5,000 (compared to the U.S. average of 1/400)**. Amazingly, as a result of our training in the region, the ratio of health care provider to patient is **now only 1/500**, and **HPPs provided 150,000 patient consults in 2012**.
- Also in Guatemala, the expense of health care is inaccessible to most of the population. Without the Concern America-trained HPPs, it is conservatively estimated that the average patient consult in the region would cost more than \$20 (for many families who earn only \$2.00/day!), taking into account travel expenses, costs of medicines, and consultation fees. **The average cost of each consult in a village with a Concern America HPP is only \$3.00.**
- A recent survey was conducted with 94 families with fuel-efficient, improved stoves built between 3-12 years ago, and it was found that, on average, there was a **40% reduction in the use of firewood**. The issues identified through the survey primarily related to deterioration of some stove components, resulting in **five new and improved stoves** that were designed, built, and are being tested to develop a lower-cost, more effective stove for future projects.

In addition to such statistics, Concern America values deeply the stories from our field personnel and local leaders that paint a picture of our transformative impact.

*Work on the community's water system began on a misty Monday morning on the 16th of January. Eighteen days later there were 3 finished tanks, 4 kilometers of pipe laid and buried, one bridge crossing and water coming out of every tap. With only 30 people working, this is the fastest system we've seen. Or to put it another way: in under 3 weeks and at US\$230 per family you can get a safe water supply to a community for 10, 15, hopefully 20 years or more...*

- Oliver Style, Appropriate Technology Specialist, Concern America Field Volunteer and Field Advisor, 2000-present

Please consider supporting these and other Concern America efforts with a year-end gift, and know that your donation will enable the training and accompaniment of people in materially impoverished villages, providing them with the skills and support they need to provide their own health care, build their own water systems, start their own cooperative businesses, and, as a result of this integrated approach, lift themselves out of poverty.

In this season of giving thanks, we at Concern America "thank" you for your "giving"! May this season also be a time of peace and meaning for you, your family, your community, and our world.

With gratitude and in peace,

John Straw  
Executive Director

