Concern Universal Timeline

1968 **THE BEGINNING:** The origins of Concern Universal (CU), Concern Worldwide and Concern America stem from a group of volunteers in Dublin, Ireland, responding to a humanitarian crisis in Nigeria. A public appeal is launched in response.

1976 **CU IS REGISTERED AS A CHARITY IN THE UK:** Some of the founder members, have remained actively involved including Hon President, Don McLeish, Rachael Shirley and Joan McGee. Until the late 1980s, operated largely through volunteers and gained experience via enabling small scale development initiatives.

1988 **MALAWI:** Becoming established in Malawian communities in response to the influx of refugees from neighbouring Mozambique. The first country programme is established.

1992 **COLOMBIA:** Work on human rights in Colombia builds momentum.

1993 **THE PLAN:** A clear goal to establish substantial country programmes in ten countries, narrowing its focus having previously worked in over 30 countries. Commitment to being driven from the bottom up in developing its strategy .

1994 **BANGLADESH:** Work commences in Cox's Bazar District to ensure local people can access health care in areas straining under an influx of refugees from neighbouring Burma. Supporting partner Dhaka Ahsania Mission and others, work soon expands to other districts.

1995 **SIERRA LEONE and GUINEA**: Insecurity led to evacuations in Sierra Leone which ended operations there in 1998 . As a result of the conflict and a refugee crisis, a Guinea country programme was established in 1996.

MOZAMBIQUE: The office in Niassa Province opens following the end of civil war and a 5 year rural development programme commences.

1998 **SENEGAMBIA:** Our office opens in The Gambia focused on enterprise development through livestock and egg production. In 2001, The Gambia programme combines with Senegal.

1999 **UK:** UK Office moves from Chatham to Hereford to develop a stronger UK constituency

BRAZIL: A programme focused on Child Rights in the North East of the Country is established. This follows the development of two large crèches for children in communities in Sao Paulo.

GHANA: A permanent country programme is established in Ghana.

2000 **KENYA:** The first field office opens in Nairobi to support operations in community development and poverty alleviation

2001 **NIGERIA:** Our programme commences prioritising water and sanitation, girl and women's empowerment primary healthcare, agricultural improvement and livelihoods enhancement.

2003 **CUMO IS ESTABLISHED:** Concern Universal Micro-finance Organisation is the first finance initiative to help growers lift themselves out of poverty in Malawi.

2005 **UK:** CU reviews it's strategy and focus to expand and affirm whilst retaining core principles. By 2007 it strengthens with 3000 regular supporters and employs 15 fundraising staff.

2011 Concern Universal has **539 employees** working in **10 countries**, in Africa, Asia and Latin America, with **53** committed local partners channelling approx. **£12 million** per year to community led development