

About World Concern

World Concern, part of CRISTA Ministries, is a Christian humanitarian organization that helps lift people out of poverty. World Concern works with the poor in 22 countries, with the goal of transforming the lives of those we touch, leading them on a path to self-sustainability. Worldwide, World Concern offers life, opportunity and hope to nearly six million people. For more information on our work around the world, please visit www.worldconcern.org.

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PART OF THE CRISTA FAMILY

Vocational Training

PROJECT PROFILE

One of the most valuable strategies in fighting extreme poverty is teaching people skills so they can learn to provide for themselves. During a disaster, emergency food and shelter are critical to save lives in the short term. But what about long-term opportunities? World Concern's work in poor communities strives to influence long-term change. Teaching people marketable job skills helps lift them and their families out of poverty for good, changing the direction of generations to come.

How We Help

In Africa

Our vocational training programs are carefully matched with the needs of the community where we work to ensure students and participants are able to use their skills and get a job after completion. In South Sudan, for example, people rely on motorbikes for transportation, but many of them sit broken and abandoned. World Concern opened a vocational training center to teach young men mechanical skills so they can repair motorcycles for income, and at the same time, meet a vital need in the community.

In the same community, people were not able to afford new clothes because they were all imported. The vocational school offers classes in sewing and tailoring so women can make clothing, earning an income and providing affordable clothing to the people who live there.

In Southeast Asia

In Southeast Asia, we protect children from being trafficked into slavery and give them a basic education. Adults also have the same opportunity to learn a skill so they can lift their families out of poverty.

Where We Work

World Concern offers vocational training, providing job skills and income opportunities in Cambodia, Chad, Bangladesh, Thailand, Sudan and Vietnam.



A Vietnamese man who was stigmatized and couldn't find work learns how to style hair. It is a marketable skill that will earn him a decent income.

Who We Help

In all of our work, we target the poorest and most vulnerable people. We place a special emphasis on women in our vocational training programs, who are treated unequally and also are expected to support their families. We also help children in areas where trafficking is a danger. However, men and women of all ages have the opportunity to learn a skill through our programs.

Komsoet's Story: Job Skills Lead to Freedom

Komsoet is the second youngest of 12 siblings. Her family lives in Poipet, Cambodia—a city that borders Thailand and is known for its gambling and cross-border child trafficking. Young girls like Komsoet looking for work are at risk for being lured into forced prostitution or slave labor.

Inside an unassuming hut, amidst the whir of sewing machines, Komsoet is learning to sew in a World Concern vocational training class. “I would like to make a business to help my family,” explains Komsoet. Her family currently needs about \$5 a day to survive. With the income she generates from being a seamstress, she’ll be able to help her family reach that goal. And with World Concern’s intervention, she now knows about trafficking and is getting an education.



After learning to sew, Komsoet is now able to earn an income and avoid the danger of child trafficking.

Another woman we helped is Awal, who lives in a poor village in South Sudan. Most of the people who live there have fled violence and left everything behind, including homes and businesses. Awal has five children. Her husband moved away, abandoning the family with no support.



With help from World Concern, Awal learned how to bake and now serves her fresh baked rolls at a restaurant she opened in the market. Though it’s not much more than a cooking area covered with tarps held up by wood poles, she earned a \$30 profit in her first 12 days of business.

“I’m thankful to the World Concern staff who taught me to bake in a way my customers like,” she said.

Awal (left) is a great example of a life being transformed by learning a skill.

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