

For a just and green world

impact

magazine 2021

**Responding with
compassion in Ethiopia**

**Building a chorus
that cries for the
earth**

**The sweet taste of
success in El Salvador**

Hair-raising fundraising!

Compelled by Christ's love, we work with those in the world's poorest places to end poverty, protect our Common Home, and help people recover from disaster.



We helped over 2.2 million people to have a brighter future



We supported more than 500,000 people in emergency situations across the world

We spent over £7 million on 138 projects, working with more than 90 overseas partners, in 29 countries



...in 2020

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Photographs

Achuoth Deng, Barnaby Skinner, Colin Hattersley, Simon Murphy, Maggie Andresen

Cover image: Harriet Kwaja, Malawi



“The climate is a common good, belonging to all and meant for all.”

Pope Francis



Malia, South Sudan



For as long as I can remember, I've always loved spending time outdoors – jumping in rivers, climbing mountains, and sleeping under big skies! And, on the few occasions this has been possible over the past year or so, I've found trips into Scotland's natural spaces to be totally restorative, as I know many of you have too.

But since I began working for SCIAF this year, the way we have mistreated our Common Home, and the impacts this is having on people living on the front line of the climate crisis, has really come into focus for me. However, thanks to your generous support, we are able to help tackle this existential threat – by encouraging decision-makers to enact just and green policies here in Scotland (pages 26 and 27), and supporting the uptake of climate-resilient farming techniques and practices in places such as El Salvador (pages 30 and 31).

As Pope Francis teaches us, “the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor” are inextricably linked; they are overlapping and require one joined-up response. And, in the year that the UN climate talks come to Glasgow, we are committed to helping COP26 become a global success. Together, we will raise up a chorus of voices

from around the world, all of them calling for a bright, green and just future for all (pages 10 and 11).

In this edition, we will also be reflecting on the difficult months just gone, and the work we have done to support those most affected by the COVID-19 pandemic (page 16 and 17). Without your continued support during this difficult period, none of this would have been possible. You have remained a beacon of hope for us here in Scotland (page 4 and 5), as well as for the millions of people you have helped around the world (page 15).

We hope you enjoy reading this new-look Impact Magazine, which incorporates our refreshed design and feel, and new strapline – “Uniting for a just world”. We believe this encapsulates our continued desire to work together as one SCIAF family to make the world a fairer and more compassionate place for generations to come. For your part in making this a reality, we can't thank you enough.

Happy reading!



James Cave
Editor

Keep in touch

To keep up-to-date with all the latest digital news, events, campaigns and appeals, join our mailing list at sciaf.org.uk/join

News and events

WEE BOX

Thanks to your fantastic fundraising and generous gifts we raised a huge **£2,877,391** for our WEE BOX, BIG CHANGE appeal in 2021, including **£1,313,478** of match funding from the UK government! Your kind acts of love will provide children with disabilities in South Sudan with the education and tools they need to build a bright future.

£2.81 million



WEE BOX walkies

St Dominic's Primary School, Crieff

Our school supporters really stepped into their fundraising this year, walking and running thousands of miles in support of our WEE BOX, BIG CHANGE appeal!

St Francis Xavier Primary in Falkirk completed their #StepUpForSCIAF challenge, completing as many steps as it would take to summit some of the biggest mountains in the world!

In East Kilbride, St Andrew's and St Bride's High School raised more than £11,000 through a collective marathon which measured more than 6,500km!

But the cutest fundraisers were from St Dominic's Primary School in Crieff who participated in our annual Kiltwalk, and provided this adorable photo!

Thank you for putting your faith – and bodies – into action!



7 year old superstar

Throughout Lent, seven-year-old superstar Dominic Murphy planned six weeks of fundraising including sports challenges, picking up litter in his local area, and climbing Tinto Hill on Holy Saturday. **He raised a superhuman £525!**



Coming to a catwalk near you soon!

In March, the children of St Gerard's Primary School got creative, making and selling 96 jazzy t-shirts to support our work!

A close shave

Stephen Deans of St Joseph's Parish, Bonnybridge, completed a daring "close shave" for us during Lent. In total, he gave a hair-raising £524!



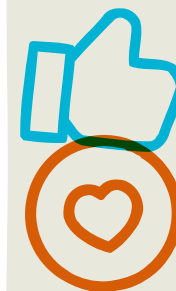
Emergency in Gaza

In May, the world was once again shocked as violence erupted in Gaza. Thanks to your love and compassion, we have now raised more than £80,000 to support our colleagues at Caritas Jerusalem to provide essential medical care, psychological support, food, and other basic items to the affected populations in the Gaza Strip.



Archbishop Tartaglia

We were saddened to hear of the passing of Archbishop Philip Tartaglia on 13th January 2021. This fell on the feast day of St Mungo, Patron Saint of Glasgow – the city in which the Archbishop was born, and for which he reserved so much love. May he rest in peace and rise in glory.



Sharing is caring

One of the easiest ways you can support our work is by interacting with our social media on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and YouTube. Please like our content, comment on posts, and click 'share' to encourage your friends and family to get involved!

[/sciaf](https://www.facebook.com/sciaf) [@sciaf](https://twitter.com/sciaf) [@sciaf_insta](https://www.instagram.com/sciaf_insta)

SCIAF social

This year, we've received lots of lovely messages through the post and on social media. As our staff have all been working remotely, they have served as great inspiration to keep us going during the pandemic! Here are some of our favourites:



Earlier today I placed a donation of £500, and purchased 10 warm blankets and 10 emergency shelters from your Real Gifts catalogue. These gifts were offered in memory of Ella Quinn. And I wanted to reach out to explain why.

Ella, my nanny, was an incredibly religious woman, and an incredible supporter of SCIAF. Every year, she would ask us to donate to SCIAF in lieu of birthday or Christmas presents. And every Christmas, she bought us Real Gifts of chickens, goats and other items too.

I couldn't even begin to imagine how much money my nanny donated to SCIAF throughout her life, and how much of a help her various gifts and cash donations must have been.

Sadly, after a short battle with cancer, she passed in August 2020. Ever since I was a child, she would always tell us that she wanted the cheapest funeral possible – nothing fancy, and for a substantial donation to be made to SCIAF instead. She left behind a husband, three daughters and six grandchildren, which is why we chose to donate 10 of each of the Real Gifts as above.

She was an incredibly humble, generous and charitable woman. And if she was still here, she would be giving me a severe telling off for sharing her story! She wasn't the type of person to do things for praise or attention.

From Hannah Quinn, North Lanarkshire

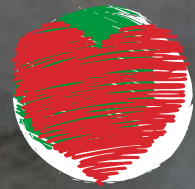
f Mary Harris "Glad I met the deadline for my WEE BOX, BIG CHANGE donation. Thanks for your letter of acknowledgement. SCIAF is my favorite charity. Thanks for all your good work."

t @SoePastoral Received a lovely card today from @sciaf: "The Lord is a refuge for the oppressed, a place of safety in times of trouble." (Psalm 9:9)

ig @fabnfunkyfaces I received my Syria T-shirt from @sciaf_insta yesterday, but someone has taken a fancy to it #TenYearsTooLong



Rebuilding lives in Syria: Fadia's story



عشر سنوات طويلة جدا
TEN YEARS TOO LONG

This year marks 10 years since the onset of the conflict in Syria. The scale of the suffering is immense. And the equivalent of more than twice the population of Scotland have now fled their homes since the conflict began.

Today, more than 80% of Syrians live below the world poverty line. And an estimated three million of our sisters and brothers have some form of disability or lifelong impairment due to a combination of violence and a broken health system.

This is a humanitarian emergency of an unimaginable scale.

Yet, thanks to supporters like you, our partners are working to provide essentials, and offering medical assistance and food in Syria and neighbouring countries. We're helping families to rebuild homes and livelihoods damaged and destroyed in the violent conflict. And we're supporting refugees to secure a brighter future.

The worst of the violence is over, and slowly the experiences of fear, hunger and suffering are being replaced by the hope that families and communities can rejuvenate, grow and thrive once again. But the people of Syria will need our support to rebuild and renew, finding lasting and just solutions to the conflict. 10 years is too long.

Fadia, Syrian architect

For 29-year-old Fadia, Syria's story has remained unchanged for most of her adult life. But, along with a group of dedicated women, she is committed to rewriting Syria's one-dimensional narrative of war and pain.

As an architect, Fadia has been on the front line of Syria's rebuild, working on rehabilitation projects that SCIAF is helping to support. This is her story.

"Everyone has heard about the conflict, where in 2011 violent protests led to a full-scale war that has now killed over 500,000 people, made over 5.6 million people refugees, and left over 11.7 million Syrians in need of aid.

"Now cited by many as the worst humanitarian crisis of our time, it has become Syria's only story – and our identity as Syrian women has become intertwined with this narrative of war.

"I know Syria, and its women, are so much more than this, as I am part of the group rebuilding it. Together, we are rewriting the story.

"Our personal experiences make us determined."

"One of the unseen impacts of the war is the effect that it has had on my generation. Those in their twenties, thirties and people who were in university during the intense fighting, want to make up for lost time. They have lived through the bad years and want to combat this with positive actions.

"I always had the ambition to continue studying. When the war happened, everything became a bit harder. But I knew I had a mission: to continue my education, help the people in my city, and get better at what I do.

"I am not alone. Syrian women are very interested in education. Women are working. They want to improve themselves and their country, and secure their future.

"Action helps women reclaim their agency."

"Initially, I was pessimistic about the possibility of bringing the city back to the state it was before the war. But we started talking to families and visiting their homes. Through their stories of strength and resilience, it encouraged me to continue.



"We completed the first pilot project in 2017 and, since then, we have helped to restore houses for hundreds of families. It's great visiting a family living in a newly renovated home – there is always such a feeling of joy and hope.

"Syria was one of the most beautiful countries in the world – and can be again."

"Damascus, for example, is the oldest city in the world. Having such historic buildings damaged was a loss that was felt across the whole country. But there is a glimmer of hope. As many building materials were locally sourced, it gives me confidence that they can be restored, and become symbols of hope for the nation.

"Around the city, things are beginning to change too. The conflict sparked young people's interest in things like cultural centres, music lessons, and drawing classes.

"Although it will take many years and a lot of money to repair all the damage, I have hope that Syria can be restored and that we can help all the people of the city to return."

10 years since the outbreak of the Syrian Civil War, the conflict continues to cause immense suffering. Please keep our sisters and brothers in your thoughts and prayers.

EMERGENCY IN ETHIOPIA

Ethiopia is engulfed in a devastating humanitarian crisis. Violence has killed thousands of people and millions more are in desperate need of emergency relief.



Your support may be the difference between life and death



At least **1.3 million people** have fled their homes and are in need of shelter

Through the global Caritas network, we are working round the clock to provide food, water, shelter, and other essentials to men, women and children who are experiencing unimaginable suffering.



5.5 million people need emergency food, more than the population of Scotland

We know that many of you have already responded with compassion to this crisis, through your heartfelt prayers, donations and regular gifts to SCIAF. We can't thank you enough for acting with love, and lifting up the lives of those so desperately in need.

But we urgently need more help to reach even more of our sisters and brothers with vital life-saving support. Please donate today and help the thousands of women, men and children of Ethiopia who have lost everything.

IF YOU'VE ALREADY RESPONDED TO HELP THOSE IN NEED, THANK YOU. If you can reach out to help families in Ethiopia please donate at sciaf.org.uk/donate or by calling **0141 354 5555**

Watching this conflict take hold of the Tigray region, I am saddened to know that the flourishing and prosperous area I once visited is now ravaged by violence. Having experienced such horrors, the people in Tigray need us to show them our love and compassion by offering prayers and donating today. Please pray with me:



Lord God of Peace hear the call from our sisters and brothers in Ethiopia.

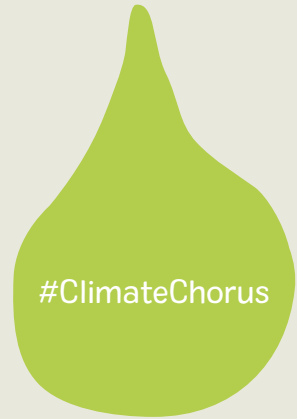
Reach out with love and compassion so that all people may live free from violence, in safety and security, and with hope for the future.

Give courage to people who are working to build peace in these communities: that they may inspire others by their example and be strengthened to carry on, even in the hardest times.

We ask this through your Son, Jesus Christ, Our Lord. Amen

Bishop Joseph Toal
Bishop of Motherwell and Bishop President of SCIAF

A chorus that cries for the earth



This November, the world's most powerful people are gathering in Glasgow for the UN COP26 conference on the climate crisis.

Climate change affects us all. We cannot be silent. The world's leaders must listen to the chorus that cries for the earth.

In Scotland, we see it as fires on Arthur's Seat in February. In Malawi, they see it as storms that destroy homes and crops. In Colombia, as dry lakes that don't return.

All around the world the signs are different, and none of them are good. That's why we dedicate so much of our energy to the issue of climate change. To encourage solutions here in Scotland. And mitigate the impact overseas.

The calls for action are loud and clear. By opening our hearts and listening to the voices of many, we can demand change before it's too late.

Participants in our programmes tell us that the climate is changing before their eyes.

Our partners in Africa, Latin America and Asia call out the injustice of a climate crisis they did not cause.

Our volunteers demand a just and green world.

Our staff speak out as they fear what the future might hold.

And our Church Leaders teach us that by destroying the earth, we destroy ourselves.

Together, they tell the story that we are in grave danger. But with faith, love and courage we can heal our Common Home.

These voices represent the coalition that exists among people of goodwill all over the world, and the hunger to solve this crisis.

Because if we act now, we can repair the damage, save this world for our children, and create a better one for our grandchildren.

Hear more at sciaf.org.uk/climatechorus



"The land here is not as fertile as it used to be; the rains are less reliable. So we need to change things, to set an example. I am a leader – I want my daughters and other young women here to listen and see that change is possible."

Harriet Kwaja | Farmer | Malawi

"Cambodia is a country suffering from climate change. Every two, three years now there is a big flood. Climate change kills progress. All the work we do with farmers, to diversify crops, expand their business, graze animals – it is washed away and we must start again."

Mam Sambath | Executive Director DPA | Cambodia



"Climate change is making the challenges we face in the DRC – conflict, food insecurity, gender-based violence – much worse and harder to fix. When the weather is unstable, it destabilises lives."

Thérèse Mema Mapenzi | Director Olame Centre, Bukavu | DRC

"We received this world as an inheritance from past generations, but also as a loan from future generations, to whom we will have to return it!"

Pope Francis



"What frightens me most is the acceleration. Droughts, famines, floods, fires, sea-level rises, and more frequent hurricanes are all in the news far more now. It feels like the window of opportunity is closing down."

Andrea Batchelor | SCIAF Volunteer | Scotland

"As I grew up, droughts were uncommon in this area and we could just about manage one if it occurred. But over the past 15 or 20 years, droughts have occurred repeatedly, each time destroying another community and rewinding all our progress."

Garbicha Dida | Farmer | Ethiopia



Food for thought at harvest time

Florida Nyiramana, Rwanda



No bread. No milk. No pasta.

I'm sure you all remember the panic at the start of the pandemic last year when the supermarkets ran out of all sorts of food.

But can you imagine a life where there are no shops nearby? No supplies on their way? Where your life relies solely on what you can harvest from the earth?

For many of our sisters and brothers around the world, that is their reality. And in an increasingly unstable world, surviving each new harvest is becoming more difficult than the last.

Right now in Zambia, lives are being threatened by devastating climate change. Farmers don't know when to plant their seeds, and unexpected storms are washing away all their hope.

Right now in Ethiopia, lives are being turned upside down by an atrocious conflict. Crops have been destroyed and animals have been slaughtered.

Right now in Colombia, lives are being poisoned by reckless mining. Rivers have been polluted, fish have died, and livelihoods have been destroyed.

Around the world, as COVID-19 spreads, these precarious situations are becoming even more insecure. While life is returning to normal here in Scotland, the vaccination rate in the world's poorest countries remains low. Together, these overlapping crises are killing the poorest people first.

Every night, one in nine people go to bed hungry. And as the poverty pandemic bites harder, food shortages and malnutrition are set to deepen.

As we approach the coming of autumn and harvest time, it's good to pause and reflect on how different our lives really are.

Why not donate the cost of eating a meal out here in Scotland?

Just £25 could support a vegetable garden for someone overseas whose livelihood has been devastated by the pandemic.

sciaf.org.uk/donate



Annual Report 2020

"I am a leader – I want my daughters and other young women here to listen and see that change is possible."

Harriet Kwaja



Harriet Kwaja is one of 418 women who have taken up leadership roles within the Climate Challenge Programme Malawi, a Scottish Government funded initiative administered by SCIAF.

This £4.7 million programme has worked with rural communities in southern Malawi to identify and implement solutions to the climate challenges they face.

Dear friends



Last year, your generosity helped 2.2 million of our sisters and brothers build a brighter, greener and more hopeful future. Whether that was by donating to emergency appeals,

volunteering online, raising funds in your local community, or praying at home, your love and compassion has helped transform people's lives in some of the world's poorest places.

Of course, the past year has been difficult for everybody – and was the first time the Catholic community here in Scotland has experienced the same crisis as the people we serve around the world. However, it is testament to your compassion, humanity, kindness, sense of community and faith that you looked beyond your own struggles and offered gifts in support of our work overseas.

In response to the pandemic, we were able to dedicate more than £210,000 to the families and communities we were already working with, ensuring they could weather the worst impacts of the crisis. We also offered extra funds to assist particularly vulnerable groups through the provision of food, protection, sanitation kits and educational materials.

In addition to our emergency work, we continued to build community resilience and skills in our main focus countries, enabling people to lift themselves out of poverty and better cope with what the future might throw at them next, including crises such as climate change. This work, delivered by the people we serve and our partners, has allowed millions to survive and pursue their dreams despite the most difficult of times.

While there are still many more people we must reach out to, I hope this report from 2020 inspires you to continue your relationship with SCIAF, and join with us to build the just and green world we all want to see. For everything you do, thank you from the bottom of my heart.

Alistair

Alistair Dutton, Chief Executive



Millions of people around the world have been offered a hand up out of poverty because of your love and compassion. Inspired by your faith, you have helped develop savings and loans groups, so families can afford to send their children to school and

respond to their basic needs. You have contributed to the development of more peaceful communities, through participation in sports. You have helped encourage local people to fight for their rights, so vulnerable groups such as women, girls, refugees and people with disability can access the services they are entitled to. You have offered light in the darkness during the most difficult of years. Thank you for putting your faith into action. Stay blessed.

Thérèse Mema Mapenzi, Board Member and Chair of Integral Human Development Committee



Stung Treng province, Cambodia

In 2020 you helped



Over **2.2 million** people to have a brighter future



We spent over **£7 million** on **138 projects**, working with more than **90 overseas partners**, in **29 countries**

We responded to more than **45 emergencies** in **20 countries**



53% of all the people we helped were women

More than 1,000 supporters encouraged UK leaders to **'Build Back Better'** after the pandemic



Over **262,956** were directly supported



152,975 people now grow food and earn money to support themselves and their families



14,262 people now live in peace and have access to justice



88,390 people were provided with emergency relief when disaster struck



7,329 vulnerable children and adults received an education or skills training



29,753 people

were assisted to start or improve a business, enabling them to support themselves and their families

A snapshot

Responding to the COVID-19 pandemic

We moved quickly to support our partners and the communities they work with during the pandemic, making funds available from our reserves to pay their staff, re-design projects to comply with local COVID-19 regulations, and purchase PPE. In addition, we contributed towards 22 specific COVID-19 relief projects, providing over £210,000 to protect the most at-risk groups.

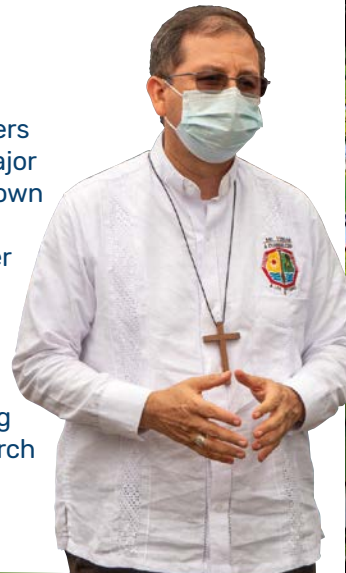
Our response in Malawi

In Malawi we supported the Catholic Church's national COVID-19 response in 26 districts, through the production and distribution of public information materials such as posters and adverts on how to stay safe and protect others, and the supply of PPE including:

- 10,000** bottles of hand sanitiser
- 10,000** boxes of surgical masks
- 10,000** boxes of latex gloves
- 100,000** aprons
- 400** cleaning buckets

Innovative funding in Colombia

We are keen to support our partners to access money directly from major funders, to help them grow their own projects and help more people. In 2020, we supported our partner the Diocese of Quibdo to secure £150,000 for their COVID-19 emergency response. We are grateful to the University of Glasgow and the Scottish Funding Council/Global Challenges Research Fund for their contribution to this innovative funding project!



Marie Claire, Rwanda



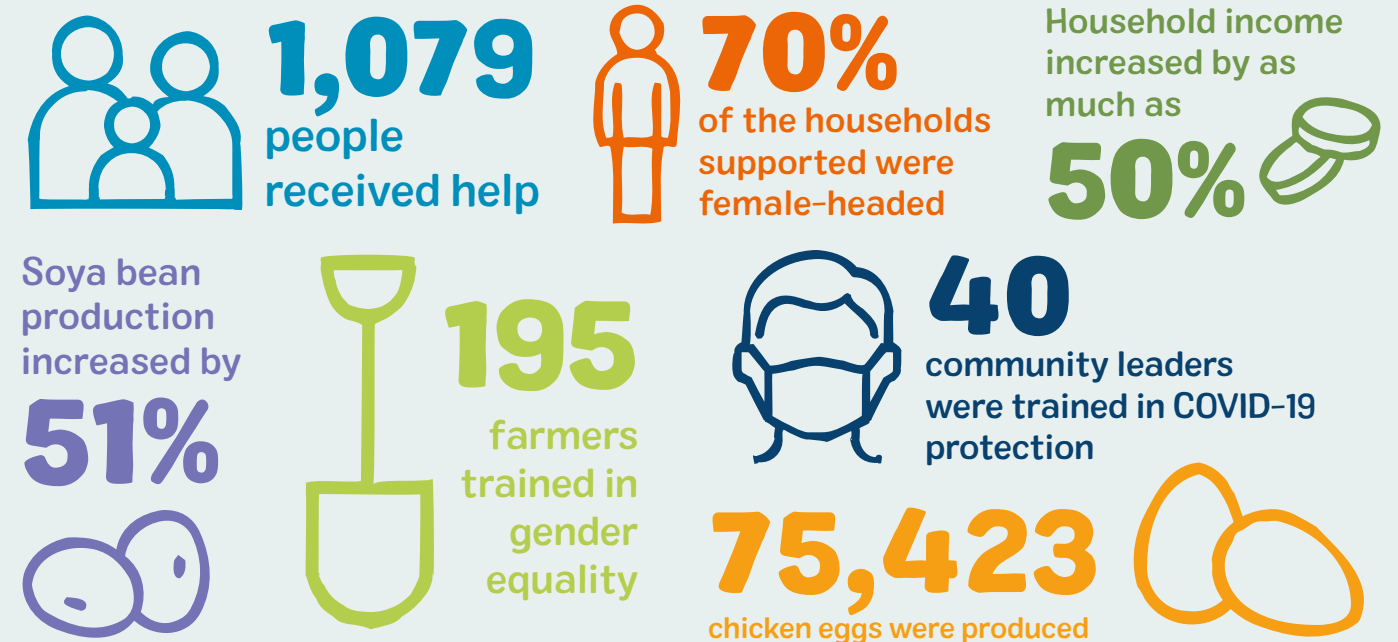
Shouting about climate justice

The Scottish Government established a Climate Justice Fund in 2012 to support communities in countries such as Malawi, Zambia and Rwanda to adapt to a changing world. For the past five years, this fund was capped at £3 million per year – which we felt was not enough to tackle the increasing scale and severity of the climate emergency. However, thanks to your support and our partnership with Stop Climate Chaos Scotland, the Scottish Government has now committed to doubling this amount to £6 million. Through your continued hard work on this issue, which culminated in the recent 'Share, Show, Shout' campaign, you demonstrated your passion for action through posts on social media, letters to MSPs and attendance at virtual meetings.

Thank you for campaigning for climate justice!

Real change in Rwanda

In February 2020, we began a one-year project in Rwanda supported by the Guernsey Overseas Aid and Development Commission to support small farm businesses, and improve food security and nutrition for 200 vulnerable households. This project was completed successfully despite the impact of COVID-19 delays and restrictions.



Income 2020

Our generous supporters raised over £5 million to change lives in Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Middle East!

Institutional grants £2.7m

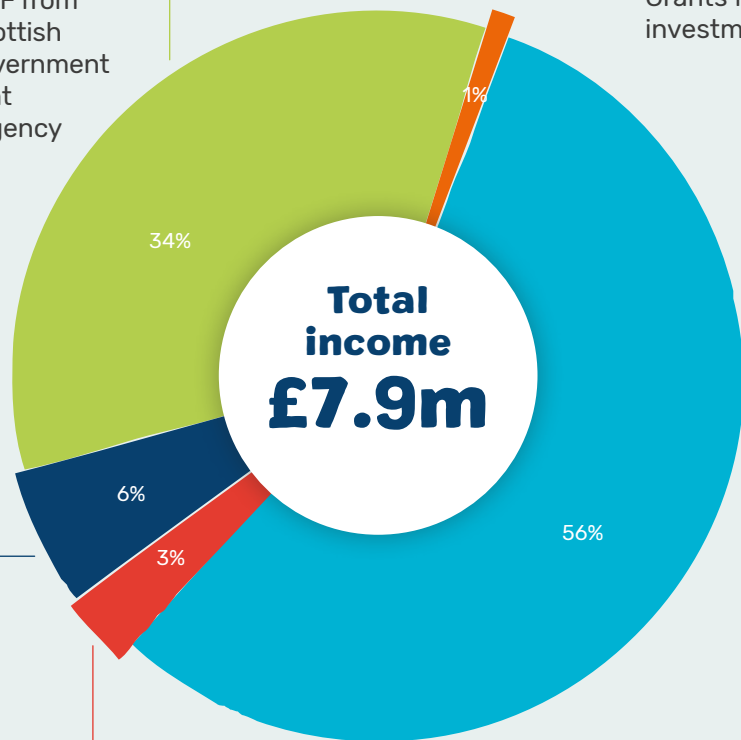
Grants awarded to SCIAF from sources such as the Scottish Government and UK government to fund our development programmes and emergency response work.

Other income £136,000

Grants for UK staffing and investment returns.

Gift aid £478,000

Gift aid collected on donations allows money to go further.



General donations £4.4m

Gifts from individuals, parishes, legacies, and fundraising events and activities.

Emergency appeals £183,000

Gifts in aid of natural disasters and emergencies, including money from individuals, parishes, fundraising events and activities.

Thank you!

Trust in our work

Across all our work we place a strong emphasis on safeguarding, quality, transparency and accountability to ensure the continued safety and dignity of all those we serve. As an organisation, we work to recognised national and international standards, abiding by all relevant legislation and regulations. In short, we honour the trust given to us by the whole SCIAF family, and take pride in being accountable to all our stakeholders.

SCIAF is signed up to the leading international standard for humanitarian response. This ensures that the people we are helping are at the centre of our work and assisted in the best possible way.



Expenditure 2020

Your generous donations were used to change the lives of over 2.2 million people around the world, working with more than 90 international partners.

Education in Scotland £603,000

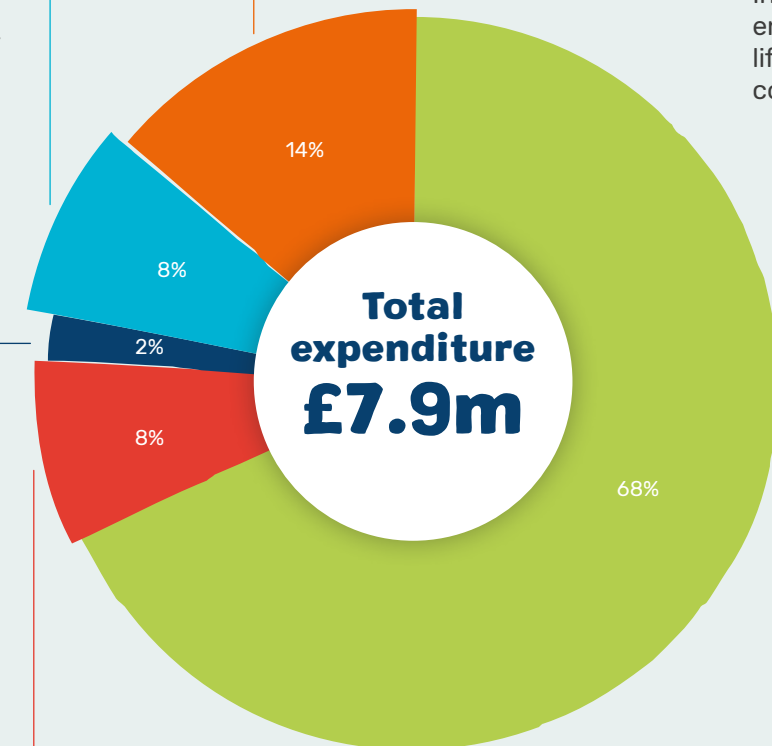
We take seriously our mandate from the Bishops' Conference to educate and communicate about global justice and international development.

Advocacy £197,000

We work with the Scottish public, parishes, schools and our partners to put pressure on governments to create a fairer and more peaceful world.

Fundraising £1.1m

Investing in fundraising ensures our vital and life-changing work can continue.



Development programmes £5.4m

Working through local partners, we support families in poor countries to free themselves from hunger, poverty and injustice, live in peace, learn new skills, and fully recover when disaster strikes.

Emergency response £636,000

We respond to emergencies as part of the Caritas family, providing immediate life-saving relief and long-term support, rebuilding lives and communities.

As a necessary part of delivering effective programmes, SCIAF administration support costs are directly incorporated into the areas of work outlined above.

We consider our institutional donors important allies in our work. In 2020, we were thankful for generous support from major institutional donors such as governments and trust funds, allowing us to maintain the scale and scope of our work.



Scottish Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba
gov.scot



Supported by
States of Guernsey
Overseas Aid



Changing lives in Cambodia

Khoeu No lives on the front line of the climate crisis. As a fisherman and farmer in rural Cambodia, his family's health and happiness are closely tied to the welfare of the local environment.

"Farming and fishing help me to support my household," he explained, "But there are many challenges.

"Right now, it is time to plant rice – but there is no rain. The only time we seem to get water is during storms. And it appears to be getting hotter too.



"I have a great concern that the weather will continue to affect our rice farming. This would leave me with no other option than to go fishing. But there is a decline in fishing too as it is hard to predict what the water will do."

However, thanks to your support, and that of the UK government, we worked with local partners DPA to make it easier for Khoeu to support his wife and child.

Khoeu and his family have received seeds to cultivate long beans, cabbage, morning glory and rice, as well as a hoe and bucket. Khoeu's wife Chanthan has noticed the huge difference this hand up has made.

"Before SCIAF helped us, we faced great poverty and didn't have seeds to grow food, or the knowledge to grow more food. But now our situation has improved."

Khoeu added, "I would like to thank the people of Scotland very much and wish them a long life."

Hear more at sciaf.org.uk/climatechorus



Khoeu No and his son No Khamkorn



Get inspired.



Get involved.



Get going!

Here in Scotland, we can put our faith into action in lots of different ways, and demonstrate our love and compassion for our poorest sisters and brothers around the world. For those who like to push their limits, one of the best ways to make a difference could be signing up for a sponsored challenge event – which is not only great fun but raises money too!

Coming up in the next few months

We can offer charity places to all of these events, each of which has a fundraising target we'd love you to aim for. If you've already got a place though, you can still fundraise for SCIAF!

2021 Scottish Half and 10K

Sunday 19th September 2021
Musselburgh

Fast and flat, this route is ideal for a personal best! Starting and finishing just outside Edinburgh at Musselburgh Racecourse, this run takes in the magnificent Golf Coast before sprinting along the final furlong of Scotland's oldest racecourse.

2021 Supernova Run

Sunday 14th November 2021
Falkirk

This fantastic 5K route is a great opportunity to explore the home of two 30-metre high horses, each one weighing over 300 tonnes! These Kelpies, set in Helix Park, Falkirk, are mythical creatures which will be lit up as you run through the evening light.

2022 Edinburgh Marathon Festival

Sat 28th to Sun 29th May 2022
Edinburgh

We can offer free places to three different events at this celebration of running! These include the 'Hairy Haggis Team Relay', the half marathon, and the full 26.2 miler – the latter of which has been named the fastest marathon in the UK! We'd love you to aim to fundraise £300 for the half, and £600 for the relay and the full marathon.

*While it is expected these events will go ahead, please keep an eye on our website for updates during these uncertain times.

Sign Up Now

If you've been inspired to get involved, please sign up now by visiting sciaf.org.uk/get-involved/events or contact getinvolved@sciaf.org.uk if you need a helping hand!



For everyone who signs up, we'll send a fundraising pack plus a SCIAF t-shirt to help you get going!

Integral Human Development: How we change lives

Aciro Welsey (front) and other villagers, walking to work in their fields, Gulu region, Uganda

The way we help people at SCIAF is unique. Like other Catholic organisations, we are inspired by our faith, the Gospel and the principles of Catholic Social Teaching. But, beyond this, our way of doing things is guided by a distinct philosophy called Integral Human Development (IHD). But what exactly is IHD?

A hand up, not a handout

Each year, we help change the lives of more than two million people living in some of the world's poorest countries. Thanks to your support, we participate in the building of peaceful communities and sustainable livelihoods and environments. We work with local partners to provide education and skills training. And we are on hand when emergencies strike.

But, while we understand the importance of economic support to help bring about such change, IHD teaches us that a financial 'hand out' is simply not enough. We must provide the skills, tools and education people require to lift themselves out of poverty, as well as the support they need to fight for their rights and break down oppressive barriers. Only by offering a 'hand up' can our sisters and brothers take charge of their lives, and build their own futures.

Helping people thrive

Human beings are complex – we are at our best when we feel in control of our lives, and when all our needs are met, including our **social, environmental, personal, spiritual, economic** and **citizenship** requirements. And this, in essence, is what IHD is all about. Our guiding philosophy ensures that we support all aspects of people's lives, the 'whole person', so that our sisters and brothers do not just survive, they thrive.

IHD in action

Because IHD focuses on developing all aspects of people's lives, it encourages us to tackle lots of different challenges. And as these stories show, our impact goes beyond just numbers too – it is psychological, emotional, complex and innately human.

Did you know?

When we begin a new project in one of our focus countries, we co-create our plan with local experts and the participants that will be involved too. This ensures that people remain at the heart of our work, and that families and communities have control over their own futures.

“Human beings are complex – we are at our best when we feel in control of our lives, and when all our needs are met, including our social, environmental, personal, spiritual, economic and citizenship requirements.”

A tailor in Gulu town, Uganda





Eunice, Zambia

Meeting spiritual needs in Zambia

In Zambia, thanks to your donations and funding from the Scottish Government, we work with partners Caritas Kabwe and Caritas Zambia to support livelihoods in areas impacted by climate change. We teach organic farming techniques, and develop businesses that convert raw products such as peanuts into more valuable goods such as peanut butter.

Of course, this work has a focus on education, skills training and financial support, but we also foster the spiritual development of the participants, thanks to the leadership of Sister Marcella.

“Through all our work, we emphasise the need for reconciliation, and for community members to see each other as brothers and sisters, working together for a common good. Participants embrace the ubuntu phrase, ‘I am because you are’. This phrase reflects the idea that human beings cannot exist in isolation.”

Sister Marcella has also encouraged a spiritual connection between the participants and their natural environment, inspiring them to reflect on the contribution they can make.

“This spirituality in the environment has led to innovation and creative responses in youth. Many have developed organic kitchen gardens which they call ‘spiritual gardens’ and ‘reflective outdoor spaces’. They have sessions where they meet and reflect on their lives.”

Citizenship in Malawi

38-year-old Emmie Chiumia believes that every human being should be treated with dignity. But, for her, that’s not always been the case: “The most challenging thing for people with albinism is that we are looked down upon”, she explains, “it is not common for people like me to be given an opportunity.”

Emmie first realised this discrimination in school. “I had troubles during my primary days because my teachers did not understand my needs. We learnt under a tree and, quite often, I used to leave early because of the sun.”

Coupled with discrimination, Emmie now also lives in constant fear given the rising number of violent attacks against people with albinism in Malawi.

To help tackle this problem, we have been working with the Catholic Commission for Justice and Peace in Malawi to promote and protect the human rights of people with albinism, and ensure they can access healthcare and justice.

Part of the project’s work, which is supported by the EU, is to reduce stigma and increase social interactions between people with albinism and their families and communities. Emmie, along with 23 other volunteers, has been chosen to serve as a Community Rights Group representative. She conducts awareness campaigns, monitors the accessibility and availability of sunscreen in local health facilities, and reports any human rights violations against people with albinism to authorities.

“I am now able to report cases of violence against fellow people with albinism to different government institutions such as the police. I am also now confident enough to stand before an audience and share with them knowledge on human rights and albinism.”



A community awareness campaign in Zomba, Malawi, raising awareness about the rights of people with albinism



If you’d like to find out more about Integral Human Development (IHD), we’ve created a new parish resource focused on this topic, including videos, presentations, prayers and reflections! Please visit sciaf.org.uk/IHD or contact getinvolved@sciaf.org.uk



Hairdressers in training thanks to SCIAF partner Comboni Samaritans of Gulu, in Gulu town, Uganda



Joseph, Malawi

Personal progress for Joseph

It was a difficult start to Joseph’s life. As a teenager, he was withdrawn from school as his family couldn’t afford to pay his school fees. With his prospects cut short, and his personal development halted, he was worried about what his future might hold. But thanks to our Hope for Youth project in Malawi, funded by your support and money from the EU, Joseph’s life is back on track.

With our partners CADECOM Mangochi, we provided vocational training for Joseph, as well as access to suitable tools, which allowed him to set up his own carpentry and joinery shop from his home.

Countdown to COP26: How you can make a difference

The countdown to COP26 has begun.

But there's still time to add your voice to the chorus calling for climate action. Here's a few ways you can get involved in the run-up to these historic climate talks.



To find out more about getting involved with COP26, please visit sciaf.org.uk/COP26 and keep an eye on our social media!

3 asks. 2 weeks. 1 planet.

Join the chorus today!

This November, in Glasgow, world leaders have a fortnight to put us on track to solve the climate crisis. With climate change already having a devastating impact on the world's poorest communities, time is running out.

To join the chorus calling for bold action at COP26, please visit sciaf.org.uk/timeforaction

3 asks:

- **Pay to protect the poorest communities**
Make sure financial support is given to those impacted by climate change so they can adapt and recover.
- **Act now to stop runaway climate change**
Make sure world leaders commit to keeping rises in global temperatures below the disastrous 1.5°C threshold.
- **Listen to those on the front line of the climate crisis**
Make sure that people worst affected by the crisis are at the heart of the climate talks.

2 weeks:

- This November in Glasgow, world leaders have a fortnight to put us on track to solve the climate crisis.

1 planet:

- With faith, love and courage we can heal our Common Home.

Climate Scotland – Act now!

Climate Scotland is another easy way to make your voice heard in the run-up to COP26. By visiting climatescotland.org you can send a message to our political leaders demanding strong and meaningful action to protect the things you love. You can even specify why you care so deeply about our Common Home – whether that's because you want to stand in solidarity with our global neighbours, to protect wildlife and nature, or to pass on a healthy planet to future generations.

We are working on this campaign with our partners **Stop Climate Chaos Scotland** who are hoping to attract more than 10,000 messages. Act now at climatescotland.org



Season of Creation

1st September to 4th October

Look out for our St Francis of Assisi Feast Day Resource, and the Prayer for COP26 service held at St Peter's Partick on 3rd October, plus much much more!

Pilgrimage in Scotland

19th October to 29th October

A group of pilgrims from across Europe will be walking to Glasgow for COP26. We'll be on hand to welcome them in traditional Scottish style!

COP26

31st October to 12th November

- **6th November** - there will be a march through Glasgow to demand bold action at COP26.
- **7th November** - Glasgow Archdiocese will be hosting a Mass at St. Aloysius Church.
- **We will be producing a range of content on our social media channels including quotes, prayers, videos, stories and pictures!** Please like us on Facebook, Instagram or Twitter to keep up-to-date.

Exciting education

Development Education is vital in raising awareness and increasing understanding of how global issues affect our everyday lives. We make no apologies at SCIAF for the time, effort and resources that go into educating not only our young people in schools but the wider Catholic community too.

In our schools, dedicated and enthusiastic teachers are absolutely vital in engaging young people with our work.

Kris Thomas, Head Teacher of St John Paul II Primary School in Viewpark, Uddingston, is one such example. We sat down with him to understand a little bit more about his relationship with SCIAF, and why he inspires support for SCIAF in his school.



Kris Thomas

How did you first hear about SCIAF?

SCIAF has always been a part of my life, both at school and in my parish. I remember fundraising for SCIAF as a pupil, and learning about the good work happening in places I knew very little about. As a teacher and latterly a head teacher, I've always tried to take a lead role in promoting SCIAF and forging strong links for the schools and children I work with.

Are there lessons that children can learn from SCIAF's work?

The work of SCIAF helps to teach children that we are part of a Universal Church reaching the farthest parts of the world. It helps children learn that, with a little support, communities can become stronger and self-sufficient. They learn about putting their faith into action – and how our Catholic values and our school ethos can make a huge impact on the wider community.

What part does SCIAF play in the school year?

SCIAF is a huge part in the school calendar! During Lent we focus on praying, fasting and giving – it is wonderful to link the children's efforts during this period to SCIAF's very tangible work. Beyond Lent, SCIAF plays a part in our curriculum both in Religious Education and cross-curricular ways. Our school is a 'Gold Award Rights Respecting School' and we have a focus on the Environment and Fairtrade. All of these themes sit well with the educational benefits of SCIAF whilst playing a huge part in our Catholic ethos.

We can't thank you enough for fundraising for our WEE BOX Appeal. How did you get on?

Our families and our wider community were as generous as ever, and we raised a whopping £1,100. The overall amount is important, but it is less important than the valuable lessons the children learn. Hopefully, it will fuel their passion to become active and caring members of society, putting their faith into action in their daily lives.

It is important to understand that Development Education is not about telling people the right answer, rather it is about promoting and facilitating critical thinking about really important issues. It should challenge our global perceptions and lead us to act for a just and green world.

Resources for everyone!

SCIAF's Guide to COP26

We've created a short and informative new resource explaining the ins and outs of COP26, so you can make the most of this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity, and allow your voice to be heard.



Education for All

A level two primary resource exploring the rights of the child to education and, in particular, sharing stories of children living with disabilities in South Sudan. This resource includes a lesson plan, classroom activities and opportunities for prayer.



SCIAF's Children's Liturgy

We've prepared three different ordinary time liturgies for each liturgical year (A, B and C), each one carefully chosen in relation to our work. As part of this resource there are easy-to-use liturgist guides, engaging case studies, suggested activities, crafts and prayers.



Climate Justice

This new resource for Geography National 4/5 learners provides real-life perspectives on the effects of climate change on people living in some of the world's poorest countries. Over several activities, the resource provides opportunities to deepen their learning on global issues and to respond in prayer and action.



School students from the Batwa community in Rwanda

Visit sciaf.org.uk/resources to download all these resources, and more. You can contact our Development Education team at schools@sciaf.org.uk or by calling 0141 354 5555

Reflecting on the sweet taste of success in El Salvador

As part of our new five-year strategy, we are reducing the number of countries we work in. This will allow us to deepen our impact, and focus on the people and communities that need the biggest hand up.

In El Salvador, we have cherished working with CESTA, Friends of the Earth El Salvador, for more than 10 years and will be sorry to end this chapter together.

We are planning our departure from countries like El Salvador together with local partners, ensuring the foundations are in place for their good work to continue in the future.



Street scenes in Arce town, near San Salvador



Silvia Quiroa, the Executive Director of our partner CESTA, Friends of the Earth El Salvador, reflects on a decade of collaborating with SCIAF.

In El Salvador, the population's diet is based around four main foods: beans, corn, rice and some vegetables. But, in some of the poorest parts of the country, this simple diet is resulting in health issues for many families.

However, thanks to support from SCIAF and the people of Scotland over the past 10 years, we have transformed the lives of hundreds of local people by improving and diversifying their diets, particularly in the region of Cuscatlán.

Farming for the future

In Cuscatlán, we have supported local farmers to move away from producing just one type of crop, to cultivating a broad, exciting and healthy mix, which is beneficial for the whole community. We have also promoted organic practices, and discouraged the use of chemical fertilisers which can have a really damaging impact on the environment.

"We have learned all about organic farming," said Mrs Gertrudis, one of the project participants living in Tenancingo, "we now know how to produce compost that requires only natural litter, as well as how we can encourage beneficial micro-organisms in the soil."

"We have also diversified our plots which means we no longer depend solely on the consumption of corn and beans. Today, we produce vegetables, fruits, aromatic herbs, and raise animals such as birds, pigs and goats that improve the nutrition and health of our families."

The sweet taste of success

Another member of the community, Clelia Flores, is a 42-year-old farmer who looks after her three children and her elderly parents. For five years, she attended our meetings and learned about the most sustainable ways to cultivate her land – without chemicals, using native seeds, and by utilising cattle manure to make organic fertilisers.

However, the past year has been particularly hard as the pandemic left her husband Mauricio, a teacher, unemployed. To overcome this precarious situation, we provided advice to enable Mauricio to begin

successfully cultivating vegetables in the family garden. Now, they work together to produce a rich assortment of foods – cucumbers, green beans, peppers and pipián (a tropical squash), as well as leafy greens in the orchard, plantains and bananas. During the pandemic, Clelia was also given the opportunity to take a course on sweet making. This, combined with her entrepreneurial flair, provided a platform for her to set up a small business selling her products, which has really helped the family economy. And this success story has had an inspirational knock-on effect, as Clelia has been encouraging other women in the community to learn new skills from us, enabling more local families to build resilience in the face of the pandemic and future crises.

A legacy of hope

The skills, education and training SCIAF and CESTA have developed in El Salvador over the past 10 years have allowed families and communities to survive the worst impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. When the toughest lockdowns were imposed, participants were able to access a well-rounded diet without leaving their local area.

With climate change already having a devastating impact on the world's poorest people, it is this resilience, education and understanding that will enable communities to survive.

Our collaboration with SCIAF will leave a legacy of hope in El Salvador that will not be forgotten. Thank you for your support and here's to a bright future.





Daily life in the Stung Treng region
of Cambodia

Give a gift in memory of your loved one

If you have lost someone close to you recently, please accept our heartfelt condolences.

Giving a gift in memory of your loved one celebrates their life and honours their faith and compassion. Their memory will live on, and your kindness will bring hope to our sisters and brothers living in some of the world's poorest places.

To find out more, or to give a gift in memory of your loved one, please contact us on **0141 345 5555** or go to **sciaf.org.uk/inmemory**

Scottish Catholic International Aid Fund

SCIAF is the official relief and development agency of the Catholic Church in Scotland and a proud member of the Caritas family. 7 West Nile Street, Glasgow G1 2PR. Tel: 0141 354 5555. Scottish Charity No: SC012302. Company No: SC197327. Photo: Simon Murphy.

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