

Together, we can end poverty

IMPACT

MAGAZINE 2019

- + How your money makes a difference
- + The fight for climate justice
- + Cyclone Idai update
- + Reflecting on reconciliation in Rwanda



WE WANT A WORLD WITHOUT POVERTY, WHERE THE POOREST CAN SURVIVE AND THRIVE.

Together, in 2018 we...



Gave **2,752,000** people the opportunity of a brighter future

Responded to **36** emergencies across the world



Supported **15,865** people to start or improve a business, enabling them to support themselves and their families

Contents

Welcome	3
News & events	4
How your money makes a difference	6
The gift that keeps on giving	8
Walking with SCIAF	10
Cyclone Idai emergency update	12
Annual report	13
A very special birthday gift	21
Small steps, big changes	22
The fight for climate justice	26
Bringing the world to your classrooms	28
Reflecting on reconciliation in Rwanda	30

Photographs:
Colin Hattersley, Simon Murphy, Paul McSherry,
Robin Mitchell, Thomas Omondi.
Thank you.

Welcome to SCIAF's new magazine, designed especially for you – SCIAF's dedicated supporters. We wanted to show you how your support is making an impact in the lives of our poorest brothers and sisters around the world.



I really enjoyed bringing together the news and stories for this magazine, and really understanding the difference that our supporters and funders are making. Stories like Godfrey and Swaiba's (pages 6 & 7), who

I had the privilege of meeting on a trip to Uganda last year. I was deeply moved by their hard work and determination to lift their family out of poverty and the remarkable journey they've made, from living in a dilapidated hut to becoming role models within the community. Their story really highlighted to me how effective a gift to SCIAF can be.

I hope these stories help to bring you closer to the impact your support has made, and to understand that we really couldn't do it without you! The remarkable figures in this year's Annual Report (pages 13 – 19) speak for themselves. It really is ordinary

people, like 12 year old Ava from Falkirk (page 21), who are doing extraordinary things and helping to change millions of lives across the world.

Whether supporting SCIAF through fundraising, making a monthly gift, volunteering, campaigning, or in prayer, you're an essential part of the SCIAF family. We're so grateful for your support.

I welcome your feedback on our new magazine, and would love to know which stories resonated with you the most and what you'd like to see more of in future.

Thank you once again for all of your wonderful support,

Sarah Swaroop

Sarah Swaroop
Editor



GET IN TOUCH

Let us know what you think of your new look magazine, and which stories you'd like to see more of in the next issue. Email us at comms@sciaf.org.uk



NEWS & EVENTS

WEE BOX, BIG THANK YOU

A huge thank you to all of you who gave your time, money, creativity and efforts to raise money for our WEE BOX, BIG CHANGE appeal this Lent. This year we raised a brilliant £925,869! Your generosity will change the lives of people devastated by hunger, poverty, war and natural disasters in some of the poorest countries in the world.

There's still time to get your donation in and help us reach £1 million! If you haven't sent us your donation already, you can get it to us by donating online at www.sciaf.org.uk/donate, by calling 0141 354 5555, or get a cheque in the post to Freepost SCIAF.



WEE BOX

^ **Fantastic pupils from Holyrood Secondary School** in Glasgow kicked off the appeal with Scotland's National Chef, Gary Maclean, who taught them how to make the perfect pancake on Shrove Tuesday.



^ **Enterprising P7 Pupils from St Francis Xavier's Primary School** in Falkirk teamed up with the Howgate Shopping Centre to launch pop-up shops stocked with sweet treats. Through this and other fantastic fundraising work they raised over £4,000 this Lent!



^ **Sgoil Bhàgh a' Chaisteil (Castlebay Community School)** on the Isle of Barra hosted a fabulous 'Coffee with Caritas' event, raising over £1,600. Local people organised a wonderful feast of delicious home-baked cakes, fresh sandwiches and soup to raise funds for the WEE BOX, BIG CHANGE appeal.

RUNNING FOR CHANGE

We had a fantastic turn out in our third 6K Family Fun Run in May. Over 400 people took part to raise money so that more people have access to clean water.

✓



WE'RE ON THE MOVE!

We're excited to let you know we're moving office at the end of August to Glasgow city centre.

Our current building in Park Circus has served us well for 20 years, but now needs extensive and costly maintenance and repairs that can't be justified. The move will allow us to be in a more energy efficient, modern building, saving money on bills and keeping our costs to a minimum, so we can spend more supporting people in need.

Our new address is 7 West Nile Street, Glasgow, G1 2PR. Being in central Glasgow will mean fewer car journeys for staff, volunteers and visitors as we're closer to bus, train and underground networks.

It'll be business as usual. Our telephone number and email addresses will remain the same, and our mail will be redirected. If there are any glitches in the course of our move, please bear with us as we make the transition.

Thanks for your ongoing support.



🐦 **Mr Fitzpatrick @MrFitzpatrick1**
- S3 Modern Studies are saving up to buy a goat from @sciaf's Real Gift store. Great show of altruism from our young people at this time of year.

🐦 **St John's RC Academy @st_johnsacademy**
- Our @sciaf Talented Fundraisers raised the fantastic amount of £612! Pupils applied their enterprise skills to make a big difference in improving the lives of those less fortunate than themselves. Bringing the Parables of the Talents to life!

🐦 **David Linden MP @DavidLinden**
Just finished @sciaf's 6k family fun run around Strathclyde Park. Thank you to all those parishes in the East End who've been sponsoring me to raise cash for the Scottish Catholic International Aid Fund. Off for a family picnic now!

🐦 **Miss Downie @MissDownieP7**
Thank you to Mark Booker from @sciaf yesterday for your lovely visit to talk to the class about how we can make changes to care for our world. Some very interesting facts learned about how much water is wasted!

🐦 **Justice & Peace Scotland @JandPScotland**
This month we are lending our support to the @sciaf campaign to urge @GOVUK to meet its climate obligations! Please click the link and add your support also - Thank You! #ClimateEmergency #OorFuture

🐦 **CSRBOX @csrboxorg**
Caritas India, with the support from @sciaf, initiated 'Swaraksha', an Indo-Nepal Cross Border Anti-Human Trafficking program to combat human trafficking. The programme is structured around: Prevention, Protection, Prosecution and Partnership

HOW YOUR MONEY MAKES A DIFFERENCE

It only takes a little to make a huge change in someone's life. SCIAF supporter 'Marian's' gift of £65 was life changing for Godfrey (26), Swaiba (23) and their three small children Tracey (6), Ruth (5) and Sula (3).

'MARIAN'

BIRTHDAY GIFT

To mark her 65th birthday, 'Marian' decides to donate **£65** to SCIAF. She gift aids her donation, bringing the total to **£81.25**.

DONATING TO SCIAF

'Marian's' donation goes to SCIAF's fund for work in some of the world's poorest countries.

MONEY SENT OVERSEAS

SCIAF allocates 'Marian's' **£81.25** to a project in Uganda run by SCIAF's partner Caritas Lugazi.

GODFREY & SWAIBA

1 TRAPPED IN POVERTY

Godfrey, Swaiba and their three young children live in a small, old hut, plagued by a leaking roof and vermin. Godfrey works in the sand mines but it's backbreaking work.

"When it rained, it came into the house. I had to make sure the children were safe in a dry corner." - Swaiba

2 STRUGGLING TO SURVIVE

After developing severe chest pains from the heavy work, Godfrey is forced to leave his job. The family struggle to buy food or clothing, surviving on less than **£11** a month.

"Life became so hard for me. I couldn't even afford food for us to eat." - Godfrey

3 SIGNS OF HOPE

Godfrey hears an advert on the radio about the project for young, unemployed people, being run by Caritas Lugazi. After applying, he's selected to receive support.

4

ESSENTIAL SKILLS

Godfrey attends training courses on organic farming, record keeping, leadership and hygiene. He also receives essential tools like a watering can, a hoe and a wheelbarrow, and joins a community savings and loans group.

All this costs just £80!

SEEDS OF CHANGE

With the skills and tools he received, Godfrey begins to grow maize, starts a vegetable garden, begins to grow coffee beans, and starts keeping bees.

5



6

A DRAMATIC INCREASE

Godfrey begins to see the fruits of his labour, as his income increases dramatically.

In a good year, he makes:

£420 from harvesting and selling his own honey

£1,300 from selling coffee beans

£105 from selling 10 bags of maize

£108 from selling vegetables at the market each week

That's around £160 a month - an incredible 15 times more than he used to make!

7 SAVING FOR THE FUTURE

Godfrey and Swaiba now have enough money for food, essentials like clothing and medication, and can pay for the children's school fees. Through their savings and loans group they're also able to save money for the future.

8

A NEW HOME

With the money they've saved, Godfrey and Swaiba are able to build a new house, made from bricks, just next to their old hut. They can finally afford a mattress and chairs and install solar lighting so the children can do their homework in the evening.

"Thanks to Caritas for equipping me with the skills and resources I needed to build a permanent house. My family are now safe."

- Godfrey

ROLE MODELS

"Our lives have changed a lot. I feel safe and happy. Thank you so much for the support from Scotland - it's really transformed our lives. The community now see our family as role models."

- Swaiba

9



THE GIFT THAT KEEPS ON GIVING

Our faith is an incredible gift. It inspires us to reach out to those in need and encourages us to make a difference. With faith, we can change the world.

Pheor Kamphat
with the pig she received,
in Cambodia



Every month, thousands of wonderful SCIAF supporters put their faith into action and give a gift by direct debit. These acts of kindness add up to make a huge impact.

A monthly gift from you will mean lasting change for our sisters and brothers in need.

In Cambodia, £12 a month for a year could provide four families with a pig each.

A pig means a huge change for a family, providing high quality, free manure which can help increase how much food they can grow. When the pigs breed, they can also sell the piglets to earn even more money.

A pig made a massive difference to Pheor Kamphat's family. She told us,

"I got a pig and it gave birth to nine piglets. We experienced difficult times but this has helped to raise us up."

Right now, you have the power to make a difference in the lives of people living in poverty. Your monthly donation can bring hope to those who have fled their homes in Syria, help families grow enough to eat in Malawi, and enable mothers to obtain a birth certificate for their child in the Democratic Republic of Congo, securing their rights.



4,191

SCIAF supporters gave a monthly gift in 2018



10%

of SCIAF's income comes from monthly gifts



These monthly gifts are a meaningful contribution to make the world a better, fairer place.

To find out more about setting up your monthly gift call us on **0141 354 5555** for a friendly chat, or go to **www.sciaf.org.uk** to get set up. We're happy to answer any questions you may have.

£15



could help a mother in the Democratic Republic of Congo to register her child for a birth certificate, giving them vital access to healthcare.

£25



could provide the tools and training a family needs to grow their own food. Over a year that's 12 different families able to feed themselves and earn an income.

£35



a month for a year could help run five mobile medical centres, bringing vital healthcare to hundreds of people fleeing their homes in war-torn Syria.

WALKING WITH SCIAF



Kenneth Sadler has supported SCIAF as a Parish Contact at St Mary's Cathedral in Aberdeen for 13 years. He took some time to tell us about his role, his motivations, and what being involved in SCIAF's work means to him.

STEPPING OUT IN FAITH

I was not brought up as a Catholic, but I was formally received into the Catholic Church at Easter in 2005. Very soon afterwards, I started to support SCIAF. After attending an event at which SCIAF's Chief Executive was present, I was asked if I could take on the role of Parish Contact for St Mary's Cathedral. I thought it would be good to get involved and was happy to accept the offer, even if I was far from certain what it would entail and recognised that I had much to learn.

Little did I know this was the beginning of a journey that has, so far, lasted 13 years.

WEE BOX, BIG INSPIRATION

For many people, SCIAF is strongly associated with the Lenten WEE BOX, BIG CHANGE appeal. Although this is a busy time for Parish Contacts, every year I look forward to the opportunity to give a talk at Mass, describing the conditions faced by people living in poverty around the world, and thanking parishioners for their prayers and support. It is a privilege to bring to life inspiring figures like David and Maté of Zambia, the Lang family of Cambodia and Lydia, the remarkable single mother from Uganda whose story was told this year.



< Claude and his family in Burundi, who featured on SCIAF's 2013 WEE BOX.



One Lenten WEE BOX story that I found especially moving and powerful was the tale of Claude from Burundi, who featured on the 2013 WEE BOX. A former child soldier who, with SCIAF's help, became a peacebuilder in his community, able to talk to and forgive the man who had killed his father. Claude went on to create a new life with his wife and daughter as a rice farmer in a co-operative. His heroic example is astonishing and has stayed with me ever since.

SERVING GOD BY SERVING OTHERS

The patron saints of SCIAF are Margaret of Scotland and Oscar Romero. These are inspiring champions of Christian love in action, with Margaret symbolising SCIAF's deep Scottish roots and works of charity and Romero a shining, modern example of somebody committed to opposing oppression and poverty while working tirelessly for social justice, even to the cost of his own life. These are, to me, the values that SCIAF embodies.

SCIAF does not arrogantly enter challenging situations in Africa, Latin America, Asia and the Middle East, and start telling people how they should organise their lives. By working with local partners on the ground, SCIAF works tirelessly to challenge the policies and structures that keep people in poverty and unable to live their lives with dignity. I have always been deeply struck by this comprehensive approach, emphasising both charity and justice. It strongly resonates with me.

It is an honour to be part of the SCIAF family and to represent SCIAF in my parish community. I am glad to be a SCIAF volunteer.

If you're thinking about stepping forward to do more for SCIAF, I recommend you do so. My years as the Cathedral's Parish Contact have been immensely rewarding and satisfying. It is an honour to be part of the SCIAF family and to represent SCIAF in my parish community. I am glad to be a SCIAF volunteer.

WE NEED YOU!

Our work is made possible thanks to the time and effort of our dedicated volunteers all over the country. If you're interested in volunteering with SCIAF, please visit www.sciaf.org.uk/volunteer

CYCLONE IDAI EMERGENCY UPDATE

More than a thousand people lost their lives and millions were left homeless across Malawi, Mozambique and Zimbabwe when a devastating cyclone struck in March. The UN called it the worst weather-related disaster ever to hit the southern hemisphere. In Malawi alone, their government said nearly a million people were in need of immediate humanitarian aid including food, shelter, clean water and medical supplies. As weather is becoming more unpredictable due to climate change, storms, floods and droughts are becoming more frequent and severe.



Emergency food distribution in Mozambique after Cyclone Idai

With your help we're responding to the disaster as part of the global Caritas network of Catholic international development charities which is providing support to almost 76,000 survivors.

Your generosity raised over £235,000 to help survivors in Malawi whose lives were turned upside down by the cyclone. This helped to provide families with food and other essentials like sleeping mats, blankets, mosquito nets and pans for cooking.

As well as providing immediate help, your support will ensure we can work with families in Malawi and Mozambique in the months and years ahead to help them rebuild their homes, livelihoods, and ensure they can make a full recovery. Thank you!



HELP US RESPOND WHEN DISASTER STRIKES

Visit www.sciaf.org.uk/donate or call us on **0141 354 5555** to donate to our life saving work around the world.

ANNUAL REPORT 2018

I really wish I could show you how everything has grown and changed. You've done great things.

Sylvia, 38, Rwanda
Supported by SCIAF partner CDJP Kabgayi



DEAR FRIENDS



Last year, you helped 2,752,000 people overcome the enormous challenges they faced such as hunger, poverty, war, natural disasters and injustice

– your love, prayers and generosity enabled so many people to move from despair to hope.

Over the course of the year, you gave hard-working people in difficult situations, who simply need a hand up, the ability to support themselves and their families in the long term. By continuing to put your faith into action with SCIAF you're helping some of our poorest brothers and sisters work towards a brighter future.

All of us at SCIAF are proud to serve you in reaching out to vulnerable communities around the world. We work tirelessly, with professionalism, to make sure people in need get direct help. Whether it's help to

grow more food so they have enough to eat, a loan to start up a small business or savings group so they can send their children to school, or immediate help including clean water, shelter and medicine when natural disasters strike. Working with our local partners we uphold the highest standards in our relationships with those we work with overseas and here in Scotland.

This report outlines an overview of our achievements in 2018 and how, by working together, we have changed lives in 26 countries around the world.

Real progress is being made in reducing global poverty, with fewer people than ever before going hungry. But many still need your help. Thank you for your continuing support.

Alistair Dutton
Chief Executive



<
Thongtheng, 17, Cambodia
Supported by SCIAF partner DPA

YOU HELPED



Over **2,752,000** people to have a brighter future



15,865 people assisted to start or improve a business, enabling them to support themselves and their families



Over **261,300** people were directly supported



97,500 people now grow food and earn money to support themselves and their families



50,600 people now live in peace and have access to justice

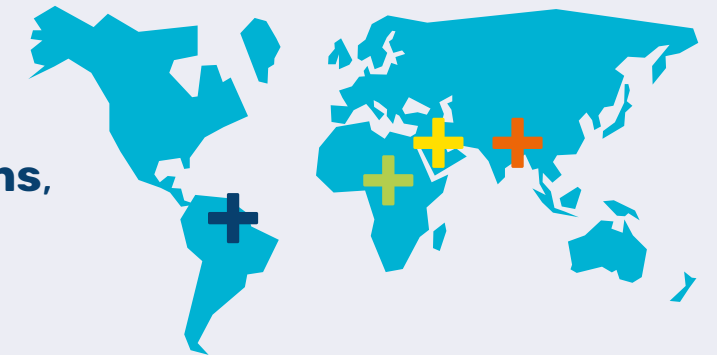


108,600 people received emergency aid when disaster struck



4,600 vulnerable children and adults received an education

We spent over **£7m** on **145** projects, with **75** partner organisations, in **26** countries, across **4** continents



16,775 people

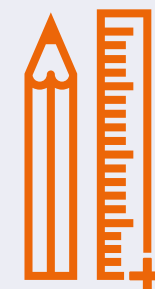


were trained in life-changing topics such as increasing their harvest and growing a greater variety of food



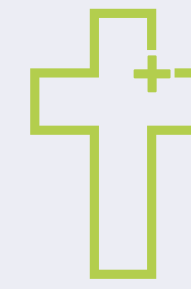
54% of all the people helped were women

We responded to **36** emergencies across the world



226 schools

actively supported SCIAF through fundraising activities and generous donations



Over **400** parishes

actively supported SCIAF through fundraising activities and generous donations

A SNAPSHOT

WHEN DISASTERS STRIKE

When disasters strike, we act immediately as part the Caritas family. We continued our work with CAFOD in Syria, Lebanon and Jordan, helping refugees, people displaced internally, and others whose lives have been torn apart.



< **Adnan, 43, Homs**
Devastated by the conflict and after losing their house in a bombing, Mouhamad and his family are receiving support to rebuild their home from SCIAF partner Caritas Syria.



< **NYIRAKANANI Collette, 55, Rwanda**
Supported by CDJP Kigali as part of the UK Aid Match programme

SCOTLAND IN ACTION

53 wonderful supporters left a gift to SCIAF in their will, totalling over £1.7 million! We can't thank these supporters enough for what they have done for people in need around the world. We will always remember them in our prayers, may they rest in peace.

ADVOCATING FOR CHANGE

We campaigned for an ambitious **Scottish Government Climate Change Bill**, highlighting the **injustice that the countries who do the least to cause climate change are hit the hardest**, calling for Scotland to set ambitious targets to reduce emissions. Over 1,700 people joined us to call for the Scottish Government to adopt a stronger Climate Bill to reduce emissions by 2030.

SEEDS OF CHANGE IN LATIN AMERICA

2018 marked the end of a three year programme supported by the Big Lottery Fund and the EU, changing the lives of rural farmers in Nicaragua and El Salvador, as they learnt how to grow more food and become resistant to the effects of climate change.

3,547 people were trained in sustainable methods of growing food

87% OF FAMILIES involved saw an increase in their income

OVER 400 FAMILIES gained access to water for regular irrigation, through the instillation of new water harvesting, storage and irrigation systems

59 community-run seedbanks were set up

74% of families said the quantity and quality of their food had increased

REJOICING IN AFRICA'S GREAT LAKES

2018 was the final year of a three year community programme funded by the UK government's Aid Match programme, working in 25 villages across Rwanda, the Democratic Republic of Congo and Malawi to transform the lives of poor farming communities.

2,000 people got direct help

73% of those helped were women

OVER 10,000 family members benefitted

In the DR Congo, the number of families who were able to eat at least two meals a day increased by around **40%**

In Rwanda, **6 VILLAGES** were trained in disaster risk reduction, and community groups developed strategies to prepare for environmental emergencies

In the DR Congo the number of women who gained a say in how their finances were spent, increased by **34%**

In Malawi, **80%** of people involved said their lives had improved as a result of the project

In 2018 a large number of our valued supporters opted in to receive mail, email, or both from us. Opting in ensures you receive updates, appeals and opportunities to get involved. We're approaching 10,000 opt-ins which is amazing! **If you want to opt in and keep up to date with all things SCIAF, please visit www.sciaf.org.uk/sign-up**



INCOME 2018

Our generous supporters raised over £5.3m to change lives in Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Middle East!

Government grants £2.7m

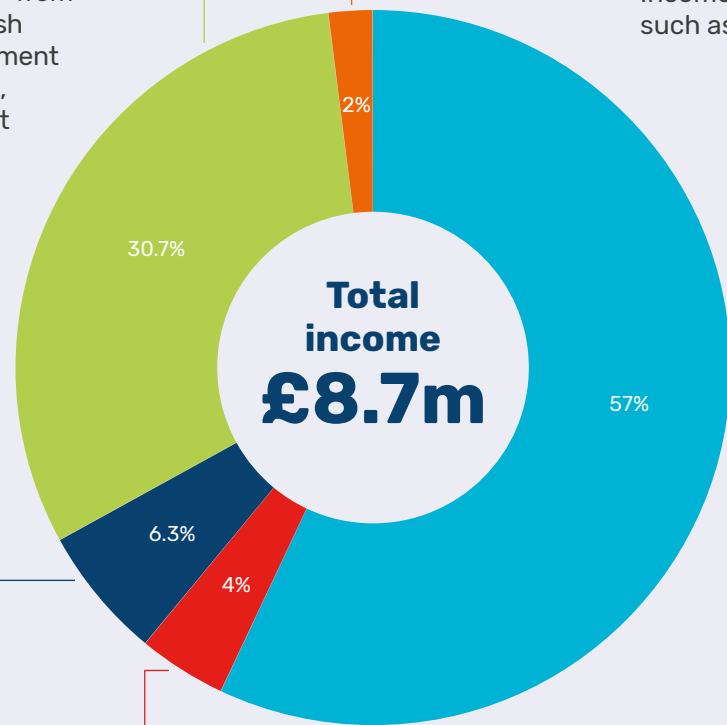
Grants awarded to SCIAF from sources such as the Scottish Government, UK government and the European Union, to fund our Development programmes and Emergency response work.

Other income £148,000

Income from additional sources such as investments and sales.

Gift aid £560,000

Gift aid collected on supporter donations, allowing supporter gifts to go further.



General donations £5m

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

Emergency appeals £336,000

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

Thank you!

EXPENDITURE 2018

Your generous donations were used to fund life-changing work in 26 countries. Last year over 2,752,000 people benefited from your support.

Education in Scotland £709,000

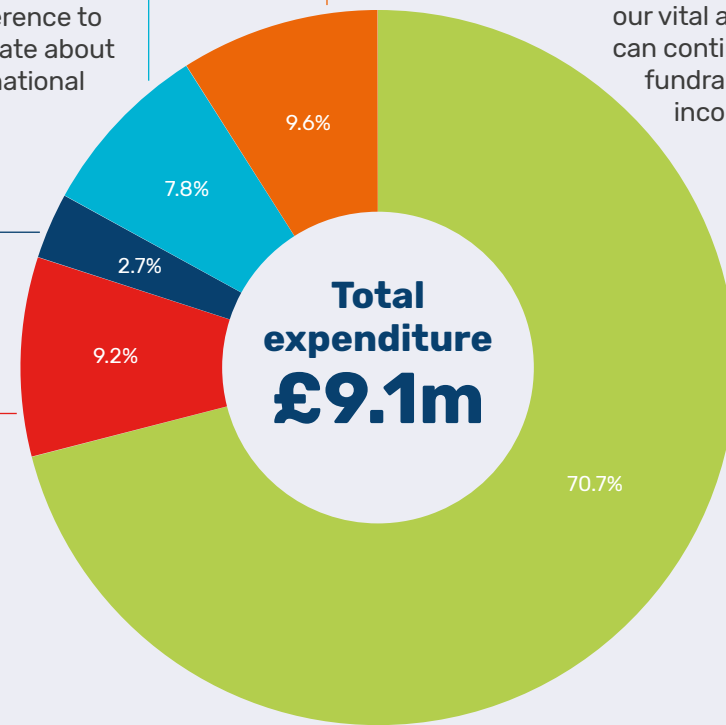
We take seriously our mandate from the Bishop's Conference to educate and communicate about global justice and international development.

Fundraising £873,000

Investing in fundraising ensures our vital and life changing work can continue. Every £1 spent on fundraising generates £7 in income.

Advocacy £253,000

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



Development programmes £6.4m

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 £827,000

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

As part of the Strategic Plan approval process in 2015, it was identified that reserves were higher than necessary and an amount of £2.9m was approved to invest in the organisation and our partners, over the five years of the Plan.

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



SAFEGUARDING AT SCIAF

We are committed to creating a better world, in which everyone is safe and treated with respect. We are implementing a three year Safeguarding Action Plan. An independent review of our safeguarding systems in 2017 by an external consultant concluded that our policies and procedures were fit for purpose and that the two cases reported to us had been handled well. Throughout 2018 we focused on strengthening SCIAF and our partners' capacity, policies and procedures to prevent and respond to safeguarding issues effectively.



When you donate to SCIAF, 90p in every pound goes to our charitable work. The additional 10p is invested to create a further 70p in income!



SYLVIA'S STORY



Sylvia (61) and her daughter Barbara (22) in their clothing shop.

In Uganda we're working with Comboni Samaritans of Gulu to enable those living with HIV and AIDS to support themselves and their families and break down the stigma of the illness so that they can become active members of the community.



"Living with HIV is difficult. My life is not good. It is hard to take care of myself.

"I received seeds – cabbage, oranges, mangoes, bananas. I also received training in financial and business management. I was given a loan and also a grant.

"I am very grateful. Firstly, I have been able to feed myself the right diet, prescribed by the hospital. We used to only eat one meal a day, but now we eat three. I have been in a position to buy goats and chickens. And I can now pay school fees for my grandchildren.

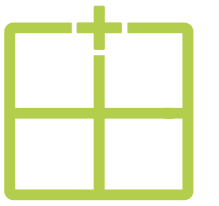
"My daughter also received money. We joined together and started a clothes shop. My daughter manages the business, and I stay and look after the children.

"My life has seen so many changes. I now live openly as someone with HIV. The community has learnt to accept and include me in everything.

"I am very happy. I am very grateful for everything given to us. Thank you for your good heart. I wish God will bless you abundantly so you can continue providing for people who face challenges."

Sylvia, 61, Uganda

A VERY SPECIAL BIRTHDAY GIFT



12 year old Ava from Falkirk decided to do something special for her birthday this year.

Rather than receive birthday presents, Ava asked her friends for donations to SCIAF. After a great party at an indoor playground Ava discovered that, thanks to the generosity of her friends and classmates, she'd raised over £200!

Ava told us, "I am lucky that I have lots of things. I learned this year that the people SCIAF helps don't have many things, so I wanted to help them. It's a way to help people who are less fortunate and it makes me feel good that my school and SCIAF can help them.

"The party was lots of fun, but my favourite thing was being able to count up the donations and knowing it would really help others."

Ava's mum Eleanor explained, "Ava knows how lucky she is both in terms of family and friends; she knows that not every child has what she has. She takes time to watch the news and see what's going on all over the world and how many people need our help.

"I wasn't surprised when she decided to give up her birthday gifts to support SCIAF's work, but I was very proud of her."

The money Ava raised will go towards helping some of the poorest people in the world, like Rahul in India, who now has enough food to eat and is able to go to school.

Ava added, "The gap between rich and poor is getting bigger. Instead of thinking about ourselves, we should try and help other people."



12 year old Ava gave up her birthday presents to raise money for SCIAF.



The money Ava raised will go to help projects like this one in India, enabling people to overcome the impact of climate change by learning organic processes to grow more food.

There are so many fun and interesting ways to get involved in fundraising and play your part in supporting some of the world's poorest people.

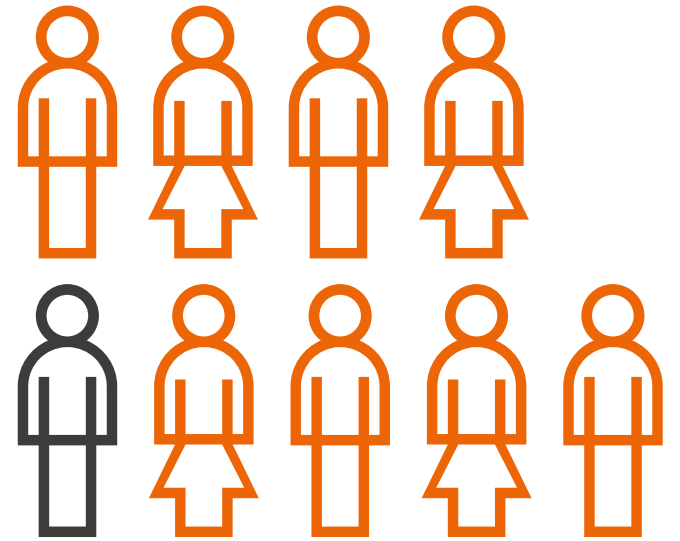
Find out more at www.sciaf.org.uk/get-involved/fundraise

SMALL STEPS, BIG CHANGES

Written by Laura Hamilton, SCIAF

Ensuring our poorest brothers and sisters in the world have enough to eat, are able to support themselves in the long term and live a life with dignity is central to the teachings of the Church. Laura Hamilton examines how your support for some of the poorest people in the world to help them grow more food and earn a living is giving people the hand up they need to change their lives for the better.

> **Michael Alfredo Aburto**
on his farm in Nicaragua, supported by
SCIAF's partner CANTERA



Across the world tonight, one in nine people will go to bed hungry. That's 821 million people who don't have enough to eat, roughly 150 times the population of Scotland.

This is a staggering statistic, and one that inspires us all to act.

Thanks to your support, together we're working with people in some of the poorest countries in the world. Each community has its own unique challenges, and those living there all face different problems.

We work with them alongside our local partners to identify what support they need to overcome the problems they face and become self-sufficient in the long term. **This means that while our ultimate aim is always the same - to empower people to build a sustainable future for themselves - our projects vary greatly from country to country.**

SEEDS, TOOLS AND TRAINING

More than a quarter of the world's population earn their living through small-scale farming, and so much of our work is focused on equipping many of the world's poorest people with the seeds, tools and training they need to grow more food.

Many are already being hit by the harmful effects of climate change, including more frequent and severe storms and floods, together with increasingly unpredictable seasons making it hard for families to know when to plant and harvest their crops. Helping people to grow different varieties of crops and diversify their income are important ways to help people cope.

I don't need to buy my son food from the market, I can give him food from the farm. I know my son is eating fresh, good food.

Establishing seed banks is another way to help make sure farmers can recover if their crops are destroyed. Seed banks act like an insurance policy and provide a safe place for local people to store and exchange their best seeds in areas vulnerable to failing harvests.

In the village of La Chorrera in Nicaragua, thanks to support from the EU and the Big Lottery Fund, we worked with our local partner CANTERA to set up a seed bank, and provide training and support to farmers so they could diversify their crops.

Michael Alfredo Aburto has seen a total transformation in his six acres of land since he started receiving that help. Before, the 41-year-old father couldn't guarantee his family would have enough to eat, but now things are different.

"I don't need to buy my son food from the market, I can give him food from the farm. I know my son is eating fresh, good food."

WORKING TOGETHER

Support in the community is key to making projects like these a success. In rural areas, families don't develop their farms in isolation, but live side-by-side with their neighbours and wider family. Community

support networks, like savings and loans groups or farmers' co-operatives, can help families build up their assets, get more for their produce and access loans in emergencies or to reinvest in their businesses.

Michael was the first in his area to begin to grow crops on his land, but he has since inspired others to do the same. Now, fifty other families are following his example – that's almost half the community.

THRIVING, NOT JUST SURVIVING

In Africa, where around 62%* of people live in rural areas, farming is the only option for many people to earn a living. We're working with our local partner in Uganda, Caritas Lugazi, to help vulnerable young people grow more food to feed their families, and then sell the surplus.

This means providing farm tools and seeds along with training in sustainable farming. The young people also receive continued support and guidance to ensure their crops thrive.

Father John Lule, the Director of Caritas Lugazi, says the impact of this project has been profound,

"There used to be many cases of people who couldn't afford to eat. But now, because of our interventions and training, we're seeing this change. People who didn't smile are now smiling because they have a meal. They have a roof over their head. People who had given up on life have changed their attitude."

BREAKING DOWN BARRIERS

But, farming is not the only way we help people to become self-sufficient.

Vocational training in areas like tailoring, metal work, building and carpentry provides young people with the skills they need to find a good job or start their own business.

Promoting the rights and well-being of women is key to improving the health and prospects of

Today I can dream again of a brighter future as I am planning to establish my own business.

families in poor communities. In Malawi, thanks to you and with support from the EU, we're helping young women break into previously male-dominated industries. Today Chilesto Moyo can make tables, beds, gates, door frames and many other metal products. The 21-year-old is now an apprentice welder, having completed a six month course at a technical college. She was part of a project aiming to improve the economic prospects of vulnerable young people.

"Today I can dream again of a brighter future as I am planning to establish my own business."

FINDING APPROPRIATE SOLUTIONS

In Cambodia, the answer to more financial security for some families is fish.

Married couple Yin Hon and Mai Kek once struggled to support themselves and their children. Working with our local partner, DPA, they received 450 catfish and a freestanding fish pond so they could start a fish farm. Now their lives have changed for the better, for good.

"We sell fish to neighbours and use some of the money to buy meat. The extra cash also comes in useful to buy school supplies for the children. We eat much better now thanks to the additional protein we get from the fish."

While our work differs from country to country, and even community to community, the common thread is that we give people a hand up, not a hand out. It is about helping people to help themselves so they can be self-sufficient in the long term and live a life with dignity.

This is only possible because of your fantastic support. Thanks to you, and with the additional support of donors like the EU and The Big Lottery Fund, and the UK Aid Match funding provided by the UK Government, who allow us to do even more, fewer people all around the world are going to bed hungry tonight. **Great progress is being made in eradicating global poverty but, for now, we must continue to work together to help the poorest amongst us not only survive, but thrive.**

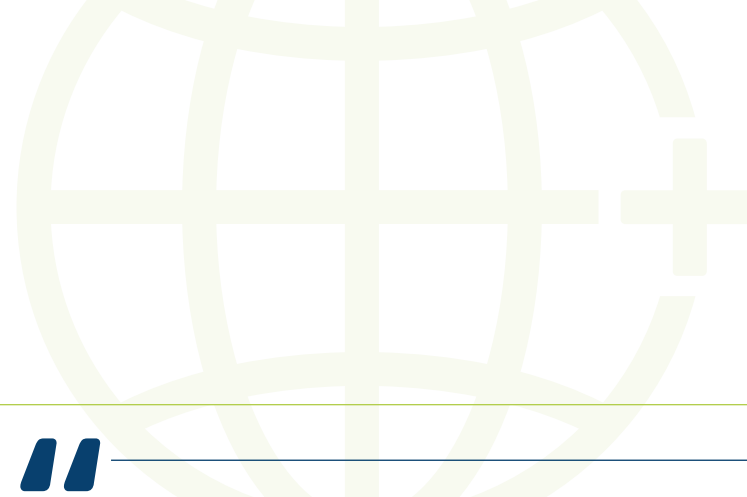


Amos, Rubinah and their children Justine and Carro, with their community maize machine in Uganda, supported by SCIAF partner Caritas Lugazi

THE FIGHT FOR CLIMATE JUSTICE

Communities all over the world are already being hit hard by the impacts of climate change. Every day we're working with our partners across the globe to help people who've been the worst affected.

However, the solution to the climate emergency lies in developed countries. To prevent a climate catastrophe, richer countries must urgently reduce their greenhouse gas emissions. We are campaigning for Scotland and the UK to do more to tackle climate change in the name of the poorest and most vulnerable, who have done the least to cause this crisis.



“For us to survive, we need to take the environmental situation much more seriously. We need environmental laws to be stricter. We have to understand that if we continue to destroy the planet, we are destroying ourselves. The laws should protect all of us, so we can continue on this planet.”



Ricardo Navarro, Director of CESTA, SCIAF's partner in El Salvador, and renowned climate change campaigner

1

CLIMATE EMERGENCY

Climate change is already devastating the lives of some of the world's poorest people.



^ **“The changing climate really affects us. In the rainy season, many houses collapse. But we could not harvest beans and soya because it was too dry.”**
Claire, Rwanda

2

WE HAVE TO ACT

In 2017 the Scottish Government brought forward a Climate Change Bill to reduce Scotland's greenhouse gas emissions to 90% by 2050. We didn't feel that this was enough, so we stepped up our campaign for more ambitious targets.



^ Our love, prayers and support can only do so much to help people while a key structural issue that pushes them further into poverty, like climate change, goes unanswered. We brought together faith leaders from across Scotland's religious traditions to urge the Scottish Parliament to do more.

3

MOBILISING ACTION

SCIAF allies and supporters called on our political leaders to do more to tackle the climate emergency.



^ As a Catholic aid agency we are able to bring both the lived experiences of the people we work with in the global south and the moral force of the Church to the forefront of political debates. Earlier this year, we brought Fr Chiti from Zambia to the Scottish Parliament to meet with MSPs.

4

SUPPORTER SUCCESS!

Eventually, our leaders heard our cries for more action. Our campaigning changed the hearts and minds of politicians. The Scottish Government, UK government, and opposition parties within parliament are now supporting some of the most ambitious climate targets in the world.



^ SCIAF campaigners took our message to meetings with dozens of MSPs, thousands sent campaign postcards, and many attended events to put pressure on the Scottish Government to hear the cry of the poor.

5

PUSHING FURTHER

We will continue to call for urgent action for climate justice at both the Scottish and UK Parliament, to ensure they meet their ambitious climate targets. The poorest are already suffering the impacts of climate change - they can't wait.



^ By working with politicians of all parties, we're effective in creating change. SCIAF Policy Officer Ben Wilson and SCIAF supporter Molly McGavigan met with MSP Maurice Golden to discuss the Scottish Government's response to climate change.



WE NEED YOUR HELP TO BRING THE VOICES OF OUR BROTHERS AND SISTERS IN THE DEVELOPING WORLD TO OUR POLITICIANS

Please complete the "Stop Climate Chaos Scotland" petition to Scottish political party leaders and urge them to act NOW to end our contribution to the climate crisis.

www.stopclimatechaos.scot/petition

It only takes a minute and makes a real difference.

No matter how much free time you have or how involved you want to be, there are opportunities to make your voice heard. Please join with us and put your faith into action.

Visit www.sciaf.org.uk/get-involved/campaign or contact our Campaigns Officer Thomas Mulvey at tmulvey@sciaf.org.uk for more information.

BRINGING THE WORLD TO YOUR CLASSROOMS

Staff and pupils from St Andrews RC Secondary School in Glasgow spent the last year learning about global inequality, injustice and the issues facing some of the poorest people in the world. Through learning and taking action, our young people have a crucial role to play in creating a brighter future for everyone.



Debbie Robertson, Principal Teacher of Religious Education at St Andrews, explains the impact that learning about SCIAF's work has in her classrooms.

"I think it is vital for pupils to learn about development education - it encourages them to look outward beyond their own experiences. Learning about SCIAF's work really helps pupils to realise the realities of poverty around the world. I've seen many pupils who weren't aware of the issues facing those outwith their own communities, come to recognise what they have in their lives, become thankful, and realise the importance of treating one another with dignity and respect.

One of the highlights for the pupils was having someone from SCIAF come and speak to them. They found great joy in hearing firsthand how their fundraising and prayers had benefitted the communities they were learning about. They found renewed purpose in continuing their efforts to help more communities in need.

Working with SCIAF also provides opportunities for inspiration and action. The pupils witness what following in the footsteps of Christ looks like in the world today. This year, some of our S5 pupils took part in the sponsored 24hour fast and our lower school pupils undertook a sponsored silence. In a new initiative this year, our Caritas pupils became SCIAF ambassadors and travelled to some of our feeder primary schools to teach them about SCIAF's WEE BOX, BIG CHANGE appeal and to encourage them to become more involved in fundraising."



"I now know where the money goes when I donate to SCIAF, and that it costs very little to help someone. I'd now like to work for a charity when I am older and, if I have money, to always think of others and give to those in need."

Josh, S1



"I am now inspired to raise awareness of the great work that SCIAF does and how they can change someone's future for the better. Learning through SCIAF has opened my eyes to the things that I may take for granted. I plan to always encourage others to donate to charity and raise awareness and hopefully organise my own events in the future."

Emma, S4



We're committed to our mandate from the Bishops' Conference of Scotland to educate young people about global justice and international development. We provide resources linked to the Curriculum for Excellence and This is our Faith, which encourage pupils to put their faith into action through prayer, fundraising, campaigning and awareness raising.

For more information or to arrange a visit, go to www.sciaf.org.uk or contact schools@sciaf.org.uk



I've really learned a lot about the horrible situations many people find themselves in just because of where they live - like a lack of education or employment, and war. It taught me that you never know when these things can happen and that, as Christians, we should respond by helping others in any way we can.

Patrycja, S4

REFLECTING ON RECONCILIATION IN RWANDA



1994

2019

This year marks 25 years since the devastating genocide in Rwanda.

SCIAF has a long history of working in partnership with the Church in Rwanda, supporting the peacebuilding process and helping some of the poorest communities to lift themselves out of poverty.



Archbishop Antoine KAMBANDA of Kigali, the most senior Catholic clergyman in Rwanda, reflects on the devastating impact of the genocide and the vital role of the Church in the reconciliation process.

After the war and genocide against the Tutsis in Rwanda in 1994, the country was ruined, and the Rwandans who had survived were deeply wounded. Many survivors were widows and orphans who were leading a very miserable life. Many were prisoners. All institutions, including the Catholic Church, were terribly affected. There was a great need for spiritual, physical and social reconstruction, with reconciliation the most basic and urgent need. We knew that this could only be achieved by working together, to address all dimensions of what had happened.

The Episcopal Justice and Peace Commission in Rwanda (CEJP) saw an opportunity to play a vital role in the reconciliation process. The Gospel of Jesus Christ is based on love, which is expressed by works of mercy in order to improve our relationship with God and our neighbours. The Catholic Church in Rwanda knew that effective reconciliation meant coming together with our Anglican neighbours, to work together to heal divisions and tackle poverty and injustice in the community.

Together, we have been able to contribute to the reconciliation and peace building process, by seeking to address the needs of some of the poorest and most vulnerable people in Rwanda. SCIAF worked with us to define our vision, and ensure our joint initiative could have the best possible impact.

In the Diocese of Kabgayi, women were particularly affected by domestic violence and, as a consequence, poverty was intensified.

Together we're running a programme helping women to earn a living, increase their assets, get justice, be active members of their community and improve their self-esteem. The Catholic and Anglican churches are also working with SCIAF to engage national and international institutions to promote peace today. We're working with pastors, priests and teachers to develop a community based approach to tackling domestic violence and abuse against women.

After the genocide, which degraded so much human life in Rwanda, the promotion of human dignity was and still is the most important mission of the Catholic Church. We are committed to making our churches places of safety, care, compassion, education and justice for all, focusing on justice and reconciliation within and outside of the Church.

On behalf of the Catholic and Anglican Episcopal Conferences, I would like to express our gratitude to all in Scotland who support SCIAF, and offer their money, time and prayers, to support our ecumenical programme which in itself gives a message of unity in diversity. **This is a real expression of the effort of both Churches to create a closer relationship and better understanding amongst our communities, and achieve a common goal for humanity and enhancing the Kingdom of God in Rwanda. We are very grateful to you for helping us to realise this mission.**

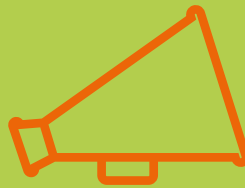
Mgr Antoine KAMBANDA
Archbishop of Kigali and Chairperson of Justice and Peace Commission

< Antionette and her daughter Carmelle in Rwanda. After suffering extreme domestic violence at the hands of her husband, Antionette was supported by SCIAF partner CDJP Kabgayi to join a self-help and savings and loans group and given rabbits and chickens, bringing in additional income.

JOIN US!



REFLECT



ACT



GIVE

 www.sciaf.org.uk/join

 **0141 354 5555**



Scottish Catholic International Aid Fund
7 West Nile Street,
Glasgow G1 2PR
sciaf@sciaf.org.uk

We've updated our Privacy and Cookies Statement which you can find on our website www.sciaf.org.uk/privacy

SCIAF is the official overseas aid and development charity of the Catholic Church in Scotland and a proud member of the Caritas family.
Registered Charity No: SC012302 Company No: SC197327.



Printed on 100% recycled paper
Please recycle again