



Your **impact** magazine ²⁰²³

**A door to a
brighter future**

**Fixing the
food system**

**Breakthroughs
in Loss and Damage**

**Candles of hope
in Ukraine**

Thanks to you, we support people to lift themselves out of poverty. We work to protect our common home. And we help people recover from disaster.

Join us now to build a just world, free of poverty, where everyone flourishes.



We helped **1,070,060** people have a brighter future



We supported **30** emergency responses in **16** countries

We spent over **£6 million** working on **101** projects, alongside **68** partners, in **26** countries



...in 2022

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Photographs

Zacharias Abubeker, James Cave (SCIAF), Achuoth Deng, Colin Hattersley, Simon Murphy, Santiago Ramirez, Barnaby Skinner, Mark Swaroop.

Cover image: 18-year-old Elina with her son Lucky, Rwanda, by Colin Hattersley



FSC Logo to go here!



Vincent, Rwanda



When I'm meeting with our participants overseas, I always like to break the ice and have a good giggle before we begin our work together. Unfortunately for me, the most effective way of provoking all-round hilarity is to ask people how old they think I am. Without exception, the guesses are always 'at least 50' – so, when I reveal I've just turned 30, children's jaws drop open, mothers fall off their seats, and belly laughter quickly follows. I'm assuming it's because of the beard...

I'm proud to be part of the SCIAF family because we don't just meet people's basic needs, much as this is a vital part of our work. At SCIAF, we support the whole person: their personal life, their social and family life, their faith, and their community too. Through our partners, our projects, and our encounters, we treat people like people – like we would our sisters and brothers – with love, with compassion and with laughter where possible. And none of this would happen without your loving donations, actions and prayers.

Throughout this edition, our work on alleviating hunger is a recurring theme. On page 8, there is an update from our emergency response in Ethiopia, where we are helping those on the brink of famine with critical cash transfers and skills training. And, for our long read on pages 22 to 26, we provide a deeper look at global hunger and how you can help fix the food system and serve up change for those who need it most.

Another thread running through this magazine is our climate change work on Loss and Damage – and 2023 has certainly been a successful year on this front, getting off to a fast start in January as we travelled with the BBC to Malawi. This profile-raising visit to our innovative programmes, alongside other international recognition of our work (page 17), has cemented SCIAF and our partners as world experts on this issue. But without you, our progress in supporting those affected first and worst by the climate crisis would not have been possible – head to page 28 to find out more!

"Hope in darkness is lit one candle at a time until it becomes a blazing fire!" – so writes our partner Tetiana Stawnychy as she concludes this year's magazine on pages 30 and 31. Not only does it perfectly encapsulate the difference you are helping make in Ukraine, but also in every country you are enabling SCIAF to work. Your support – small or big – is having a huge impact on every person and community we serve, creating a planet that is more just, more green, and more peaceful for all.

For everything you give to SCIAF, thank you from the bottom of my heart – I hope you receive a smile or two reading the stories that follow!



James Cave
Editor



We've given our website a refresh! We hope you like the new layout, enjoy learning more about our work, and that it helps you put your faith into action!
Visit sciaf.org.uk now



To change more lives visit sciaf.org.uk/donate

News and events

WEE BOX

This Lent, we asked you to act against hunger by donating to our WEE BOX appeal. Your generosity, as ever, helped raise more than **£900,000** to support families in Zambia and around the world. Thank you for your love, kindness and commitment to tackling injustice!

£900,000+

Leo litter picker

7-year-old Leo from St Francis Xavier's Primary in Falkirk picked up five bags of litter, cleaning up his local environment and collecting £130 in sponsorship. **Little Leo is a local hero, making a BIG DIFFERENCE in our world!**



Poverty supper

During Lent, a simple meal of soup, bread and cheese was offered up at the Immaculate Conception Parish in Glasgow in return for donations to our WEE BOX appeal. **This lovely tradition raised £240 and serves as a reminder of how generous you all are.**



Masked Singer

Perhaps the first ever masked singer event for SCIAF was held in March by Taylor High School in Lanarkshire! Which teacher was behind which mask, we'll never know... But what we do know is that the £3,300 the school raised in total will support our sisters and brothers living in the world's poorest places. **Thanks!**



Fundraising no obstacle

In East Ayrshire, nothing could stop the P7s at St Patrick's Primary raising money for our WEE BOX appeal. They created a challenging obstacle course for the school to take on, helping raise more than £800 in the process. **Thank you!**



Knock on my door **494**

This Lent, a tense night of bingo and a generous raffle helped St Vincent de Paul's Parish in Glasgow act against hunger. **A big number, £494, was raised!**



14,081 people received direct emergency relief

Türkiye-Syria Earthquake

In the aftermath of the emergency in February, your donations of more than £320,000 ensured life-saving materials were delivered quickly by our local partners, including clean water supplies, medicine and food. Short-term refuge was also offered in safe locations such as church facilities.

Caritas Cup

St. John Ogilvie High School in Hamilton were singing 'Yes Sir, I Can Boogie' in March after winning the second Caritas Cup! This annual tournament brings together teams from Motherwell Diocese for a feast of football fundraising, which this year was in aid of SCIAF's Türkiye-Syria appeal.



Showing solidarity

In February, the families of Our Lady of the Annunciation Primary in Merrylee filled the school playground to pray the Rosary, helping collect donations of £312. Thank you for standing in solidarity with those affected by the earthquake.



Caritas calling

Our Chief Executive Alistair Dutton was appointed the new Secretary General of Caritas Internationalis, the umbrella organisation overseeing humanitarian and development work for the global Catholic Church. "Leading and serving SCIAF for the last nine years has been an enormous privilege and pleasure," he said, "I'm not leaving, just moving into a different room in our Father's house, labouring in a different part of the Caritas vineyard." Alistair started his new role in July; the hunt for the new Chief Executive of SCIAF is underway! **Thanks for everything and Godspeed, Alistair!**



West Highland Way in a day

Setting off at 6am, teacher Steven Charters cycled the 96 miles from Milngavie to Fort William, arriving at 11pm that night. He said, "Never again! It was without doubt the hardest challenge I have ever done. But the amazing support I've received, and the faith people put in me and SCIAF carried me through somehow. **I'm delighted to have raised £1,300 for this amazing charity.**"

SCIAF social



We are so fortunate to receive so many lovely messages, either through the post or online. It serves as a constant reminder of how dedicated you – our supporters – are.

In writing

Hello! Please find a cheque enclosed for £50 – it's being donated by Daniel Dillon, aged 10, who raised the money during Lent. He raised £1 per day from me for not eating chocolate. He was totally focused and so I have made this up to £50! Daniel chose SCIAF for his monies, as his class have been raising funds at school. **Mary McCormick (Daniel's proud Auntie)**

P.S. Please can you send Daniel a thank you note, he would be so pleased – I've attached a stamp, so you do not incur any costs for the charity.

On the phone

Parishioners at St Ninian's Parish, Gourrock were given the opportunity to add the name of a loved one to a suite of new hymn books being printed, in return for a donation to SCIAF. Tommy Dobbin called to tell us about this lovely gesture which raised £800.

On social media

The liturgy may have changed since the last time I went regularly to Mass, but it's reassuring to see that you still require an engineering degree to assemble the SCIAF WEE BOX! **Elaine Ferguson @fergusonelaine**



Sign up today at sciaf.org.uk/newsletter to receive our monthly newsletter, including prayers, stories about our work and much more!

A door to a brighter future



**Watch a video
about Swema now!**

Swema, Malawi

Thanks to you – and the support of the EU – we've helped more than 1,400 young people in Malawi learn new vocational skills, so they can build brighter futures. We wanted to bring you Swema's shining success story!

Long shafts of light stretch across the road as vendors set up their stalls. Shoppers begin bartering, buying fresh fruit and veg for the day ahead. Local artisans continue with their latest product, heads down in concentration.

In southern Malawi, it's the start of another busy market day.

Among the throng of activity is 26-year-old carpenter Swema, who co-owns a carpentry shop near the town of Balaka. This morning, she's carving intricate designs into a long piece of wood, sanding as she goes.

For her, crafting beautiful doors and woodwork is the culmination of all her dreams. But life has not always been so good for Swema.

Trapped in poverty

"I stopped school early" Swema explains. "To make money, I'd do casual labour in farms or carry water for moulding bricks."

But this back-breaking work left her unable to provide for her six-year-old daughter who she is raising on her own.

"I struggled to find money. I never knew what to do to find money – to even just buy soap for my child. Food was short and I also struggled with budgeting the little that I earned.

"It was painful. I always wished someone had helped me to learn a trade. Whenever I saw my friends building – especially boys – I always wished it was me."

Learning a new skill

Thanks to SCIAF's EU-funded project 'Hope for Youth', Swema enrolled in a training course aimed at young people who had struggled to complete their education.

SCIAF's local partner Caritas Malawi led the college-style programme which specialised in teaching vocational skills such as electrical engineering, metalwork and carpentry, and which organised business classes to make more than 700 fledgling careers a success.

"I went to register and started learning. I can now produce a wooden door without any challenges.

I also produce door frames and windows that people are proud of – they even tell me that my work is better than the boys!"

On graduation, Swema and her classmates were supported in setting up small businesses, allowing them to grow their independence and earn an income.

"I own this carpentry shop with my friend." Swema beams, "At first, we had to borrow tools, but then we slowly saved up to buy our own."

"I'm very happy and proud because people thought I wouldn't excel in this trade as a woman. But now they know: women can be breadwinners!"

A brighter future

"I'm very happy. My child's future is bright. I can provide whatever she needs for her education. We can buy food each day, and we don't go to sleep hungry any more."

In addition to meeting her basic needs, Swema's new skills and flourishing career have boosted her self-confidence, improved her mental wellbeing, and shown her the importance of fighting for gender equality.

"My message to women is that they should never look down on themselves. Women have the potential to do anything. Every woman is capable of doing any vocational work. There's no specific work for men or women. Anyone can earn an income. Women can build houses and be carpenters.

"As a woman you might be worried about earning an income. But this is not the time for crying. Face forward and work without any self-doubt."

Use the QR code on the previous page to watch Swema in action!



Emergency in Ethiopia

With no water, families have no way to grow animal feed. With no feed, livestock perish. With no livestock, livelihoods are destroyed and there is no way to earn money.

Ethiopia is experiencing its worst drought in recent history. For years now, the rains have failed. And there is no sign of the situation improving.

With more than 80% of their cattle dead and nowhere left to turn, millions of people are facing famine.

But, with your support, we are working to help alleviate people's suffering in the south of the country.

As the crisis continues, we are ensuring families can survive by providing immediate access to critical food supplies and financial support.

"One of our methods of helping in this crisis is to give money to meet people's basic needs," said Dejene Fikre, our partner in Ethiopia. "It's dignified, it gives power to the communities we support, and allows local people to choose what to spend the money on."

"It's hard to know the exact needs of every household, every individual, because basic needs are so diverse. Some will use the money for healthcare or education. But, of course, many will buy food."

"Cash transfers are important in helping households meet multiple needs in addition to the other training and support we are providing."

With your donations, SCIAF and our expert partners can make a huge difference to the lives of our sisters and brothers in Ethiopia. Please continue to stand in solidarity with them.

Act against hunger today. Visit sciaf.org.uk/ethiopia or call 0141 354 5555.



Borena, Ethiopia



Ayoyo's Story

With her pastoralist livelihood destroyed by the drought, Ayoyo is only able to support her family through cash handouts. It is vital emergency relief.

"I don't know what I would have done – I think I might have lost my family members without SCIAF's support."

As a trusted and familiar face in her community, Ayoyo was chosen to help with the cash distribution process and handle any problems people were facing accessing money.

"When I was chosen it made me feel respected among the community – like I'm doing something valuable to help solve the problem."



▶ 80% of cattle have died, with 3.1 million dying in Borena alone

People in Borena are pastoralists. 50% of their income comes from livestock produce, which also forms a large part of their diet. Our partner Dejene Fikre explained, "We are seeing lots of malnutrition in children, which is not common in pastoral communities like Borena."



Ethiopia

Borena

SCIAF is one body but with many parts. What part will you play?

Volunteers are the lifeblood of SCIAF's work. They encourage the Catholic community here in Scotland to pray, act and give, providing us with the faith and funds we need to support millions of people around the world.

But, we need more of you to put your faith into action and to offer up your gifts and talents. We want to reach more people, change more lives, and build a just and green world for all – **but we can't do it without you!**



St John's Academy, Perth.

Can you spare just a few hours a month?

In every **parish in Scotland**, we need contacts who will promote our appeals, organise workshops, sell our Real Gifts, and lead our reflections.

In **Catholic schools** across the country, we need experienced teachers to visit classrooms and present our innovative lesson plans and activities.

And, in **each community**, we need more of you to come together to arrange big fundraisers to support our sisters and brothers in need.

Along the way, our expert Community Team will provide everything you need to thrive, welcoming you with open arms into a friendly and committed network of SCIAF volunteers.

So, what are you waiting for? Get inspired. Get involved. Get going. sciaf.org.uk/volunteer



Fundraising Supergroup

A supergroup of parishes from across the Diocese of Dunkeld came together in March to raise more than £800 from their annual coffee morning. Held in Dundee, it included gift stalls, a tombola, and a super array of raffle prizes!

"It is uplifting to find people from other parishes who are keen to take an active part in the mission of the Church, and support SCIAF with fundraising activities. With more people involved, more can be achieved!"
Jack Smith and Nick Marra, Dundee



To get involved, visit sciaf.org.uk/volunteer or contact our Community Engagement Team via getinvolved@sciaf.org.uk or by calling 0141 354 5555

Retirement revolutionised!

"I started volunteering for SCIAF in 2016, speaking regularly in schools across Scotland. Immediately, I saw how important it was to give pupils a practical way to help those in need in the many countries we studied together.

"Earlier this year, I spoke about the earthquake in Türkiye-Syria, as one primary school was raising funds for this emergency. I explained alternative ways to earthquake-proof houses using strong but light bamboo canes, strapped together to make a frame.

"At the end, a small group of P7 pupils asked if I had any bamboo seeds – they wanted to take some home so they could grow them and send them to those in need. It was a lovely, heartfelt gesture, showing just how much they cared and wanted to help. Instead, I encouraged them to raise money for SCIAF, if they were able.

"SCIAF's team is so welcoming and inclusive – I just love being a part of it; it's revolutionised my retirement!"

Frank Turbet
SCIAF Schools Volunteer



Our emergency response

This year, we've responded to 30 emergencies in 16 countries around the world. Thanks to your donations, and specific funding from the Scottish Government and its Humanitarian Emergency Fund, we've been able to provide emergency relief in the following places:



+ Afghanistan

Severe hunger and malnutrition have skyrocketed, propelled by climate degradation, widespread drought, and economic and political instability. We've been providing cash assistance, enabling 600 families to buy what they need most, such as basic food items and critical farming inputs such as seeds and fodder.



+ Pakistan

The flooding in Pakistan in July left people across the country homeless, without crops and livestock, and exposed to the threat of malaria, dengue, and diarrhoea. Through our local partner, we helped co-ordinate search and rescue operations while delivering food, shelter, and emergency hygiene projects for 1,000 households.



+ Malawi

In recent years, Malawi has been battered by a succession of extreme climate events, including Tropical Storm Freddy in February 2023. Through our long-standing relationship with Caritas Malawi, we provided immediate humanitarian assistance.



+ Ethiopia

In addition to your generous support this summer, the Scottish Government has helped us provide a hand-up to those suffering from continuous drought in east Africa.

"With the people of Scotland by our side, we've been able to support people during their darkest hours. Hygiene packs have helped women and girls regain their dignity, and food aid has allowed families to eat together again. Thank you for always responding in love."

Chimwemwe Sakunda,
National Co-ordinator,
Caritas Malawi



We respond to emergencies through Caritas Internationalis, a network of partners working at the grassroots in almost every country of the world. It means we are already there when disaster strikes.

Annual Report 2022



18-year-old Elina with her son Lucky, Rwanda

DID YOU KNOW?

Did you know that as much as 20% of SCIAF's funding each year comes from gifts in Wills? Visit sciaf.org.uk/wills to find out more.

Dear friends



I'm pleased to be writing this introduction as your new Bishop President, having taken on the responsibility as Chair of the Board from Bishop Toal a few months ago.

It will be a great honour to serve SCIAF and this inspirational arm of the Church as it continues its mission in the world.

But this is not the only change to SCIAF's management this year – our Chief Executive, Alistair Dutton, was recently elected as Secretary General of Caritas Internationalis, the umbrella organisation that oversees the Catholic Church's global humanitarian and development work. Being elected to such a prestigious role is testament to the dynamism and effectiveness of SCIAF, and I am sincerely grateful to both Alistair and Bishop Toal for their care and stewardship of the charity over their respective tenures.

Reflecting on my first months as Bishop President, I have – most of all – been blown away and deeply moved by the lengths you go to support our work. Despite rising costs and challenges at home, you have continued to dig deep and make big sacrifices in your lives to provide SCIAF with your heartfelt prayers, selfless donations, and precious voluntary time. From the bottom of my heart, thank you.

In 2022, we have been pleased to continue deepening our impact in our long-term focus countries, implementing complex projects in the most challenging places, and ensuring the most in need are reached first. Having visited drought-stricken Ethiopia earlier in the year, I can attest to this wholeheartedly. In addition, we also responded to 30 emergencies around the world, of which Ukraine was the largest. Your phenomenal donations in the wake of this conflict – alongside generous support from the Scottish Government – allowed us to quickly translate your love into real, on-the-ground assistance for the most vulnerable.

The past year has also seen us cement our position as leaders in the field of 'Loss and Damage'. Increasingly, policy experts, development professionals and media organisations are seeking our input and viewing our Loss and Damage work as international best practice.

Together, we're helping change lives, enabling people to overcome their daily struggles, and breaking the structures – such as Loss and Damage – that keep them poor. Thank you for putting your faith into action, and for doing everything you do.

May you have a blessed year ahead.

+ Brian McGee

Bishop Brian McGee
Bishop President of SCIAF
Bishop of Argyll and the Isles

In 2022 you helped

1,070,060 people to have a brighter future – 53% were women and girls!



512,486 people received an education or skills training



769,801 people now grow more food and earn more money to support themselves and their families



285,833 people received emergency relief when disaster struck



655,798 people now have better access to clean water for drinking, washing and irrigation systems to help their crops grow



7,696 people with disabilities were offered a hand-up out of poverty



We supported 30 emergency responses in 16 countries



We spent over £6 million on 101 projects, alongside 68 partners, in 26 countries



499,178 people now benefit from safer communities, and can influence the decisions that affect them most



256,289 people were made aware of gender inequality in their communities, helping women and girls raise their voices and tackle the issues that keep them poor



Playing with water, Malawi

Rebuilding lives in DR Congo

Leading on Loss and Damage





Centre Olame, DR Congo

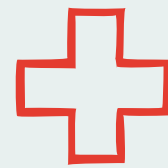
Thanks to your generous donations to our WEE BOX appeal in 2020, and match funding from the UK government, we are continuing to support thousands of survivors of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) in the Democratic Republic of Congo. With expert local partners, we are providing women and girls with access to critical healthcare, legal counsel, skills training and loans so they can rebuild their lives. And we've been working in the wider community to challenge gender inequality in the longer term.



Over the first two years of the project, your help has meant:


 More than **6,000** survivors supported

 Income increased for **94%** of those in savings groups

 More than **1,695** survivors received medical care

195 children of survivors gained citizenship through birth certificates

 **900** survivors organised into 45 savings and loans groups

 More than **1,695** survivors received medical care

 **457** community professionals trained in SGBV prevention

30 boys and **60 girls** trained on rights, leadership and positive masculinity 

 **16 days** of community activism against SGBV

 Antenatal and post-natal care provided for **328** children

Our Loss and Damage programme in Malawi concluded in 2022, helping more than 85,000 people rebuild their lives after climate change had ripped them apart. Funded by the Scottish Government, this first-of-its-kind work has given us great insight into how these types of programmes can best support the needs of communities now and in the future, as well as helping establish SCIAF and our partners as international experts in this field.



This innovative Loss and Damage work has received recognition on the international stage and repeated interest from media outlets, including the BBC who visited the programme in Malawi in January 2022. This is wonderful for the people we serve, shining a light on one of the most important issues of our times and encouraging global action. Read more about our Loss and Damage advocacy and campaigning work on pages 28-29.



Sustainability Award,
Caritas Europa Innovation Festival

Awarded for our work with partners across the world to influence governments and church leaders to champion the issue of Loss and Damage. This contributed to the major success at COP27 where a new Loss and Damage Fund was established (see pages 28-29). The prize money from this award was used to fund a partner-led conference in Malawi dedicated to Loss and Damage and how the new fund can best support those most in need.



Best Film,
Third Sector Awards

One of our recent films has been nominated for shining a light on Agatha's heart-breaking story of Loss and Damage in Malawi. The film was used as part of our 2022 'Time To Pay Up' campaign which encouraged the UK government to act on Loss and Damage.



Watch the video now,
and keep your fingers crossed we scoop the award in September.



Moses, Malawi

This project was delivered in partnership with Trocaire Malawi, CARD, CADECOM Zomba and CISONECC.

Income 2022

Our generous supporters raised over £4.9 million to change lives around the world!

Institutional grants £2m

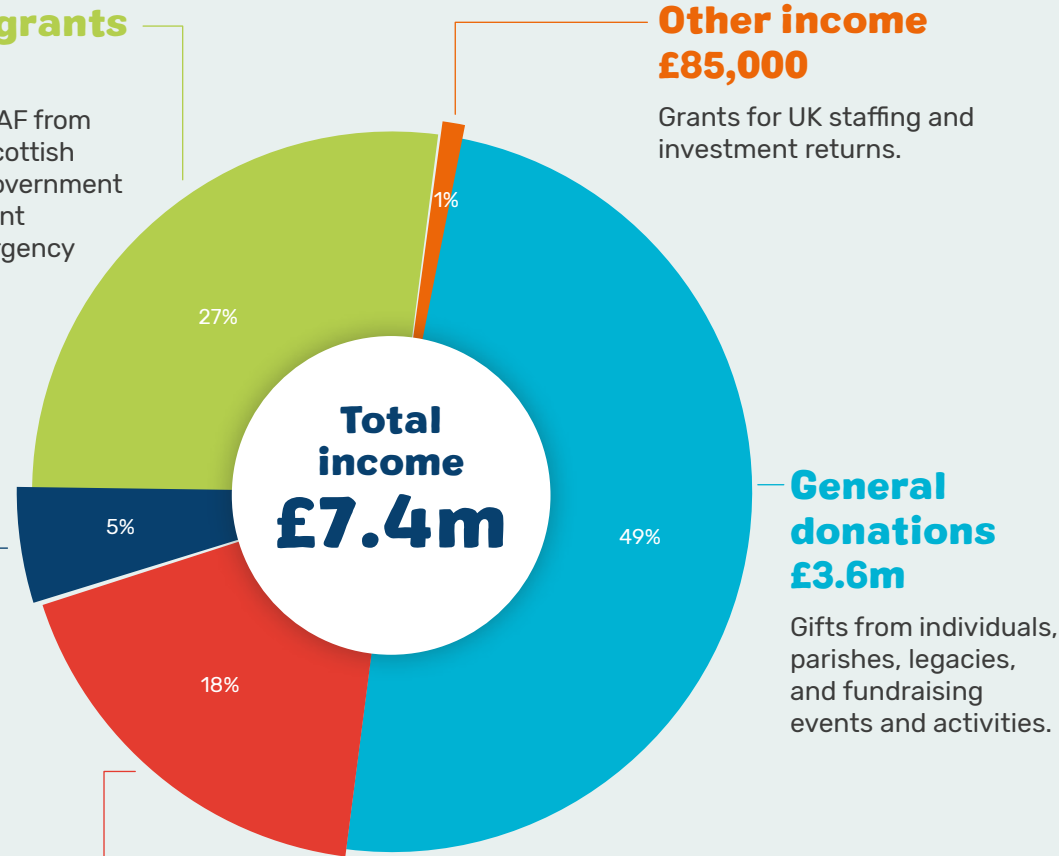
Grants awarded to SCIAF from sources such as the Scottish Government and UK government to fund our development programmes and emergency response work.

Other income £85,000

Grants for UK staffing and investment returns.

Gift aid £383,000

Gift aid collected on donations allows money to go further.



Emergency appeals £1.3m

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

General donations £3.6m

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

Thank you!

Expenditure 2022

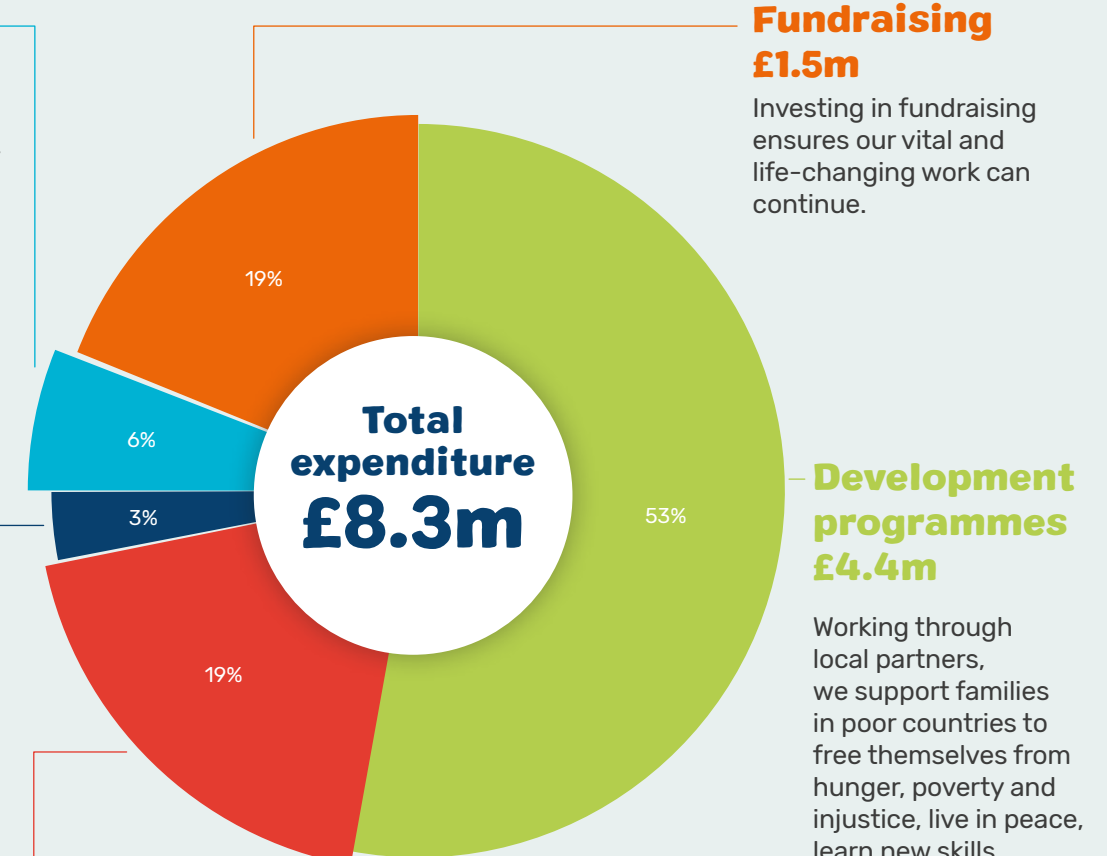
Your generous donations were used to change the lives of over 1 million people around the world, working with more than 68 international partners.

Education in Scotland £480,000

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

Advocacy £277,000

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 £1.5m

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

Development programmes £4.4m

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 £1.6m

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.

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 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.



We consider our institutional donors important allies in our work. In 2022, we were thankful for generous support from major institutional donors, allowing us to increase the scale and scope of our work.



Helpful Hydroponics



Delivered with CAFOD, our partners in England and Wales

An estimated 1.5 million Syrian refugees now live in Lebanon. Thanks to your generous donations of more than £1m, we've been working in the region since the outbreak of the Syrian war in 2016, providing both immediate emergency relief in Syria and longer-term recovery and rehabilitation work in the region.



Fatat, Lebanon

One of our most innovative projects focuses on hydroponic farming – a style of agriculture that does not require soil but instead uses minerals dissolved in water. In countries like Lebanon that are food insecure and short of space, it serves as a very cost-effective, efficient and reliable way of growing crops and improving people's livelihoods.

With our partner Basmeh and Zeitooneh, we've taught 12 Lebanese locals and 18 Syrian refugees the science behind the process, while giving them hands-on opportunities to plant seeds, harvest vegetables and sell produce.

"Some of the people who attended reapplied the techniques they learned in their homes or on their rooftops, or in a small area in front of their house," said Project Manager Rayan Osman. Fawzi, a project participant, added, "I was able to implement the learnings on a very small scale on our balcony at home. I planted peppers – my family loves peppers!"



Hydroponics in action

To watch how hydroponics have helped people like Fawzi, watch the video at sciaf.org.uk/hydroponics

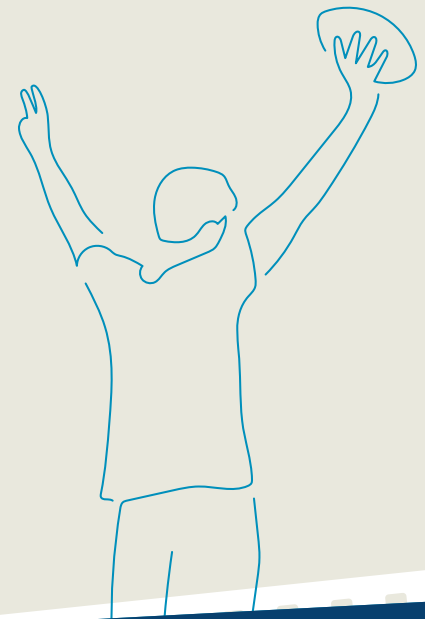
Change in numbers

Our long-term programmes in Syria and the surrounding region have been going seven years. In this time, thanks to your help:

More than **20,000** people supported

Changed lives for **310** people with disabilities

RUGBY FOR PEACE



At the end of 2022, we premiered our first documentary at Cineworld in Glasgow to a crowd of dedicated SCIAF supporters – as well as stars from the world of rugby!

The film, Rugby for Peace, showcased how our innovative project in the poorest region of Colombia is helping young people navigate away from the threat of the drugs trade – instead encouraging them to engage with positive activities such as sports.



LEARNING FOR PEACE

With the film at our fingertips, we're kick-starting the school term (and the rugby season) with a fantastic new educational resource for schools, parishes and community groups, to accompany the documentary.

Schools

The school resources have been written specifically for young people in 5th and 6th Year, linking to the Catholic RE curriculum, 'This is Our Faith'. The resources include a Teacher Guide and activities to lead pupils in their learning and prayer.

Parishes and community groups

Arrange your own screening of Rugby for Peace in your parish or community group. Use the accompanying education resources to lead a special event focused on faith, sport and prayer, or consider turning the viewing into a fundraiser to support SCIAF's work.

"A masterpiece of storytelling and humanity with an oval ball at its heart."

Mark Palmer, The Times and Sunday Times

Rugby for Peace will be released for wider viewing this autumn. In the meantime, get in touch to arrange a screening of the 45-minute film in your school, parish or community group. getinvolved@sciaf.org.uk

ACROSTIC PRAYER

Radiant God, source of all peace,
Unite us in Your divine love.
Guide SCIAF's partners in their work,
Bless all those whom they serve and all who
Yearn for peace and justice.

We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, Amen

Global hunger: how can we serve up change?

Written by Anne Callaghan and Ben Wilson, SCIAF Advocacy Team

Around the world, more than 820 million people are going hungry. And, as we write, this number is sadly rising. Yet hunger is not an accident, a surprise out of nowhere – it's the direct consequence of unjust choices and decisions made by the rich and powerful.

Even here in Scotland, we see that food poverty is hitting more of our sisters and brothers than ever before. And in the countries we work in overseas, millions more are at risk – hungry, malnourished and on the brink of famine.

In this long read, we look at what causes world hunger today, how we can understand this from a Catholic perspective, and why we must take action to help serve up change.



Village scenes, Rwanda

Millions going hungry

Over the past year, we've witnessed the effects of our broken food system, as a global food crisis has spiralled out of control. According to the UN Food and Agriculture Organization, "Those most affected are overwhelmingly farmers, fishers, herders and foresters, whose most basic means of survival have been devastated by conflict or extreme weather (drought, floods), pests, disease or the steady disruption of economic turbulence and instability."

As a result, more than two billion people today do not have regular access to enough food, and tens of millions of people are now facing the bleak reality of famine. Some of the most hard-hit countries include those where SCIAF is working, such as DR Congo, Ethiopia, Malawi, South Sudan and Syria.

There are a number of factors that have driven this crisis, some which are long-standing and systemic; some which are shorter-term, propelling the crisis today. We'll take a look at a few of these factors next.

Global Hunger Snapshot

- ▶ **1 in 10 people** worldwide suffer from continuous **undernourishment** ¹
- ▶ More than **two billion people** globally do not have regular access to enough food ¹
- ▶ Around **148 million** children under the age of 6 are **stunted due to malnutrition** ²
- ▶ **45% of child deaths** under the age of five are linked to malnutrition, which weakens their immune systems, making them more susceptible to diseases and increasing the **risk of dying** ³
- ▶ The economic cost of malnutrition is estimated to be **\$3.5 trillion per year** ⁴

All statistics from the ¹Food and Agriculture Organization, ²World Health Organization, ³UNICEF and ⁴Global Nutrition Report.

Long-term causes

The global food system is set up in a way that prioritises private profits over meeting the basic needs of farmers and families. For example, in many poorer countries, larger farms are incentivised by higher market prices to grow a small number of crops, like maize, wheat and rice, for export to richer countries.

This focus on maximising exports results in the poorest countries, which often have the highest rates of hunger, being left with no choice but to import food for their own populations. This is expensive and leaves the poorest countries exposed to fluctuations in the international market – fluctuations which are driven by the likes of COVID-19, conflict and climate change.

At the same time, small holder farmers – who are the majority of growers in the places SCIAF works around the world – don't get the support they need. They grow one-third of the world's food (much more as a percentage in the places SCIAF works), yet national governments introduce laws and policies which hinder them.

Under pressure from large agricultural corporations and organisations such as the World Bank, the sharing of seeds between communities, for example, is discouraged, so farmers have to buy new seeds each year from private companies. Local people are also encouraged to use expensive fertiliser on their fields instead of organic manure, again serving company profits rather than creating a sustainable farming system that is good for both people and planet.



Joseph and his daughter, Malawi

COVID-19, conflict and climate change

Food prices were already at a 10-year high before the war in Ukraine because of the economic impact of COVID-19. So, when war broke out in 2022, prices shot up to an even higher level because much less grain, sunflower oil and fertiliser was available for export from the giant breadbasket that is Ukraine and Russia. As a result, costs for grain and sunflower oil on the international market, including for food aid, became prohibitive. In the poorest countries, millions more went hungry.

But, of course, the war in Ukraine is not the only conflict in the world – though the consequences for food supply often follow a similar pattern. When conflict breaks out, as has been the case recently in Ethiopia and DR Congo, the safety of those trying to grow and harvest food is compromised. People often flee from their homes, leaving their crops and farming tools behind. And then internally displaced people or refugees are forced to relocate to areas which cannot support them with an adequate supply of food.

Another critical factor driving world hunger is the climate crisis which is altering weather systems and affecting the rains needed to grow food. It is also driving the frequency and severity of extreme weather events such as floods and droughts, which destroy the likes of seed stores, crops, fields and irrigation schemes.



90m more people faced hunger between 2019–2020 because of COVID-19

And, as warming continues, the losses and damages suffered by farmers in the poorest parts of the world will only get worse. In the latter part of 2023, for example, a natural weather event called El Niño – which has been altered by climate change – is predicted to cause dry spells during critical agricultural seasons in Southern Africa, West Africa and Central America, as well as flooding in the Horn of Africa, doing considerable damage to the growing of crops.

Food Crisis in the Horn of Africa

As highlighted in our Emergency Appeal for Ethiopia this summer (pages 8–9), millions of people in East Africa are facing the worst hunger crisis in living memory. In Ethiopia alone, this has left an estimated 29 million people in need of external financial support. Or, as Oxfam grimly calculated, a situation where one person was dying approximately every 28 seconds during the summer months.

Despite being warned of the risks as early as 2020, the international community failed to provide the money needed for food aid and emergency projects to prevent this catastrophe from happening. The richest countries did not step up to the plate.

In 2020, for example, the UK government announced that they would cut the international aid budget from the legally binding minimum of 0.7% of Gross National Income, and diverted a large proportion of the money to UK-based activities. This meant that when the crisis struck, the UK did not play a big enough role in averting hunger. Indeed, in this financial year, the UK has pledged just £156m – a fraction of the £861m that helped to avert famine in 2017 in East Africa.

Mali's Story, Ethiopia

"I search for leaves in the forest around here to feed my children. When times are good, we feed them two times a day. Now, it's only once."

For Mali and her eight children, life in Ethiopia is extremely challenging. For the fifth consecutive season, the rains have failed, destroying Mali's pastoralist livelihood and leaving her family with almost nothing.

"We had goats, but many died because of the drought. I used to have more than twenty – now I have three."

"We have no crops left – they are all dry and dead. We don't know what will happen next because we need to plant the crops for next season but there is no water. I don't know what we will do."



70% of the world's hungry live in areas of conflict

DID YOU KNOW?

Despite the complexity of our global food system, the myriad challenges faced, and the overwhelming numbers of people suffering from hunger, the world does produce enough food for everyone, everywhere. That's a fact.

It's just that our food system is broken, prioritising the greedy not the needy. This is a crisis based on access to food, production in key parts of the world, and distribution. This is a crisis we could avert.



Justin, South Sudan

Catholic Social Teaching

At SCIAF, we apply the principles of Catholic Social Teaching to help us understand global issues and discern what we are called to do in response to them. These principles, informed by church teaching, the sacred Scriptures and the signs of the times, guide everything we do. In relation to the issue of food justice, we can reflect on the following three principles:

Reciprocity and the Common Good: We are called to give freely to others, recognising that what is good for others is good for the whole, that "I am because we are". This means recognising that we all are diminished when any of our global family go to bed hungry.

Preferential Option for the Poor: We are called to interpret the signs of the times and recognise that our primary duty is to serve the poor. While millions suffer from hunger and malnutrition, addressing this issue must be our priority.

Universal Destination of Goods: All goods come from God and are intended to be shared fairly amongst all his people. That the world produces enough food, yet millions still suffer, is an affront to this fundamental principle and an affront to God. We are called to correct this injustice by putting our faith into action.

How can we respond?

Seeing the state of our world – and the injustices that shape people's lives – can leave us feeling hopeless and despondent. But there are ways to make change.

Your continued support for SCIAF, through prayers and donations, ensures our work in the Horn of Africa and around the world can continue, providing food relief in the short term and the skills, training and support people need to grow more food and build a more secure future.

But we must also call on our political leaders to fix the food system. They must be encouraged to do all they can to help deliver food to those who need it in times of crisis and keep their promises on international aid and development. Millions of our sisters and brothers are relying on it.

To demand action on the global food system, please visit sciaf.org.uk/food-action. Or sign and return the slip enclosed with this magazine.



Talented Fundraisers



Talented Fundraisers is a fundraising enterprise project inspired by Scripture and the way SCIAF works overseas. It helps students learn about international development and provides an opportunity for them to use their creativity, enterprise, and God-given talents to raise awareness and funds for SCIAF.

Drawing on the 'Parable of the Talents', pupils are encouraged to put their faith into action by investing an initial £50 loan into an innovative business idea of their own. This allows them to take control of the project and learn through doing. In a simplified way, this reflects how many of our projects work overseas, empowering people to work themselves out of poverty.

To find out more about Talented Fundraisers visit sciaf.org.uk/talented-fundraisers



Talented Fundraisers works well in the classroom or as an extracurricular project for a fundraising or enterprise club.

It could also form part of a student's Caritas Award or Pope Francis Faith Award and fits well into preparations for confirmation. Primary children can be guided through the process by a teacher.



Assefash, Ethiopia

"We've done Talented Fundraisers for nearly 10 years. It brings to the children an opportunity to interact with charity work in a really fun and engaging way. Not only do they enjoy creating things and learn a range of new skills, but it also helps them understand where the money is going to, and how they can help around the world. The children get so much out of it."

Claire Monaghan, P7 Teacher, St John's Academy, Perth



Julia's business

1. SCIAF's Community Engagement team visits St John's Academy in Perth
2. Julia learns about the 'Parable of the Talents'
3. Julia identifies her talent for crafts and feels inspired to use them to do good in the world
4. With her class, Julia works on the 'enterprise action plan' with her teacher to create bespoke Christmas decorations
5. SCIAF provides the class with a £50 loan so students can kick-start their businesses
6. Julia and her class spend money on materials, and production begins
7. Julia sells products of different sizes with a price range of 50p to £1.10
8. Products sell at breaktimes in the run-up to Christmas
9. Julia donates profits to SCIAF to support people overseas
10. St John's Academy donates a total of £344.30 through the Talented Fundraisers scheme, and Julia's class return the initial £50 loan to SCIAF

"I felt really good giving the money to SCIAF as people around the world really need it!"

Julia, age 11, Scotland



Christine's business

1. SCIAF's partners visit Christine to find out how they can support her
2. Christine is encouraged to join a savings and loans group so she can access money
3. Partners support Christine to develop a small business producing and selling banana beer, offering her a grant of 30,000 Rwandan francs (£20)
4. Christine takes out an additional loan of 30,000 Rwandan francs (£20) from savings and loans group
5. Christine uses investment to produce up to 120 litres of banana beer per week, using 200kg of bananas per batch
6. 1 litre of beer is sold in her local community for 500 Rwandan francs (33p), allowing her to make profit on each sale
7. Christine earns at least 100,000 Rwandan francs (£67) in the first two years
8. Christine's burgeoning business allows her to pay for family essentials such as school fees, clothes, food and soap

"SCIAF helped us so much – and not just by providing things, knowledge too. So when the time comes that SCIAF are no longer working in the community, we can still help ourselves!"

Christine, Rwanda

DID YOU KNOW?

Did you know that the only information needed to remember SCIAF in your next Will is our registered charity name and number? **Find out more at sciaf.org.uk/wills**

Loss & Damage

How SCIAF supporters helped create a breakthrough at COP27

Loss and Damage refers to the devastating impacts of climate change already happening. This could be through increases in droughts, flooding or storms, or processes such as sea-level rise. The impacts can be economic, such as the destruction of property or infrastructure, or non-economic, like loss of life, impacts on culture or worsening mental health. For 30 years, rich countries had blocked this issue from appearing on the official agenda at UN meetings – afraid that they would be forced to pay for the damages caused by pollution.

September 2019
COP26 announced for Glasgow

We identified the issue of Loss and Damage as a key priority for COP26.

April 2021
Share, Show, Shout

You took part in the 'Share, Show, Shout' campaign which helped secure a commitment to double the Climate Justice Fund. This government money supports those affected by climate change first and worst.

3 2 1 **Autumn 2021**
Build up to COP26

More than 4,000 of you signed our '3 asks, 2 weeks, 1 planet' petition. Many of you marched on the Global Day of Action. And we raised up the voices of our partners at the conference. Together, we took cries for climate justice to the heart of the Glasgow conference.

'In the run up to COP – and as a result of what we heard during the Glasgow Climate Dialogues – the Scottish Government decided to champion the issue of Loss and Damage.'
First Minister, Nicola Sturgeon



Left to right: Mac and Tank, Malawi



2020
Calls on the Scottish Government

With your support, we pushed the Scottish Government to be champions of Loss and Damage at COP26. We met with ministers, civil servants and politicians; we published papers and newspaper articles; we made our voice loud and clear that the Scottish Government could help make a breakthrough on this issue.

September 2021
Glasgow Climate Dialogues

We pressured the Scottish Government to co-host a series of dialogues with representatives of the people most impacted by climate change in the Global South, including many of our partners. The message came through loud and clear: the Scottish Government should put money on the table for Loss and Damage at COP26!



BREAKTHROUGH **November 2021**
COP26 in Glasgow

On the first day of COP26, the Scottish Government became the first in the world to pledge money for Loss and Damage.
However, COP26 did not deliver, and no deal was reached on Loss and Damage. But seeds were sown. In 2022, we got back to work.

2022
Time to Pay Up!

You sent in 1,875 campaign actions, willing the UK Government to 'pay up' and follow Scotland's lead on Loss and Damage.

2022
Loss and Damage in Malawi

SCIAF received £500,000 of the COP26 Loss and Damage money from the Scottish Government. An innovative programme was then co-created with our partners in Malawi as 'action research' to understand Loss and Damage from the perspective of those affected, and to inform how a future fund might work.

Loss and Damage funding in Malawi

Thanks to the Scottish Government's Loss and Damage funding, we helped rebuild a childcare centre in rural Malawi which was damaged due to extreme weather. Climate-resilient building techniques were employed, restoring hope for the future and an important hub for rural life.



Moses, Malawi



Cardinal Besungu, DR Congo

September 2022
African Climate Dialogues

We helped organise the African Climate Dialogues, an initiative bringing together church leaders and civil society to understand the key climate-related issues affecting people in Africa. Calls were made, loud and clear, that a global fund for Loss and Damage must be established at COP27.

BREAKTHROUGH

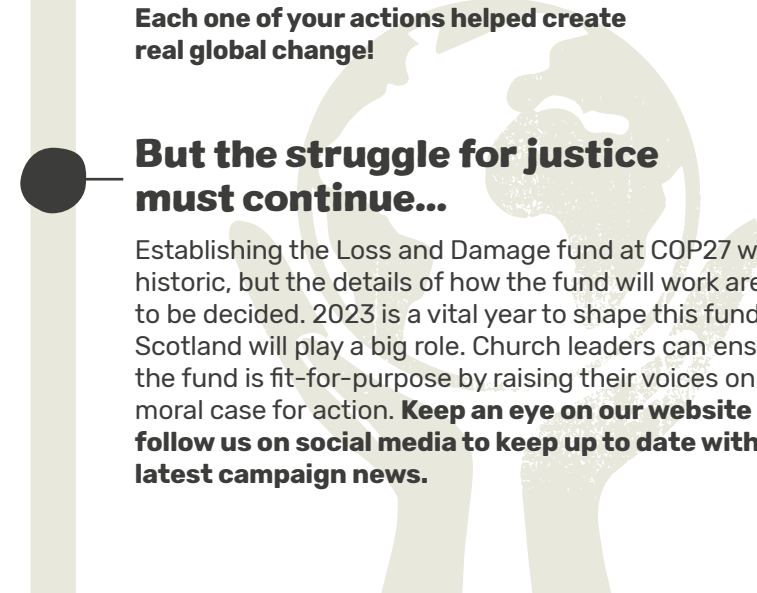
November 2022
COP27 in Sharm-El-Sheikh

A global fund for Loss and Damage was established. This, though not yet filled, will channel money from polluters to those who are already suffering from the impacts of climate change. The role of Scotland in this breakthrough was hugely important.

Each one of your actions helped create real global change!

But the struggle for justice must continue...

Establishing the Loss and Damage fund at COP27 was historic, but the details of how the fund will work are yet to be decided. 2023 is a vital year to shape this fund and Scotland will play a big role. Church leaders can ensure the fund is fit-for-purpose by raising their voices on the moral case for action. **Keep an eye on our website or follow us on social media to keep up to date with our latest campaign news.**

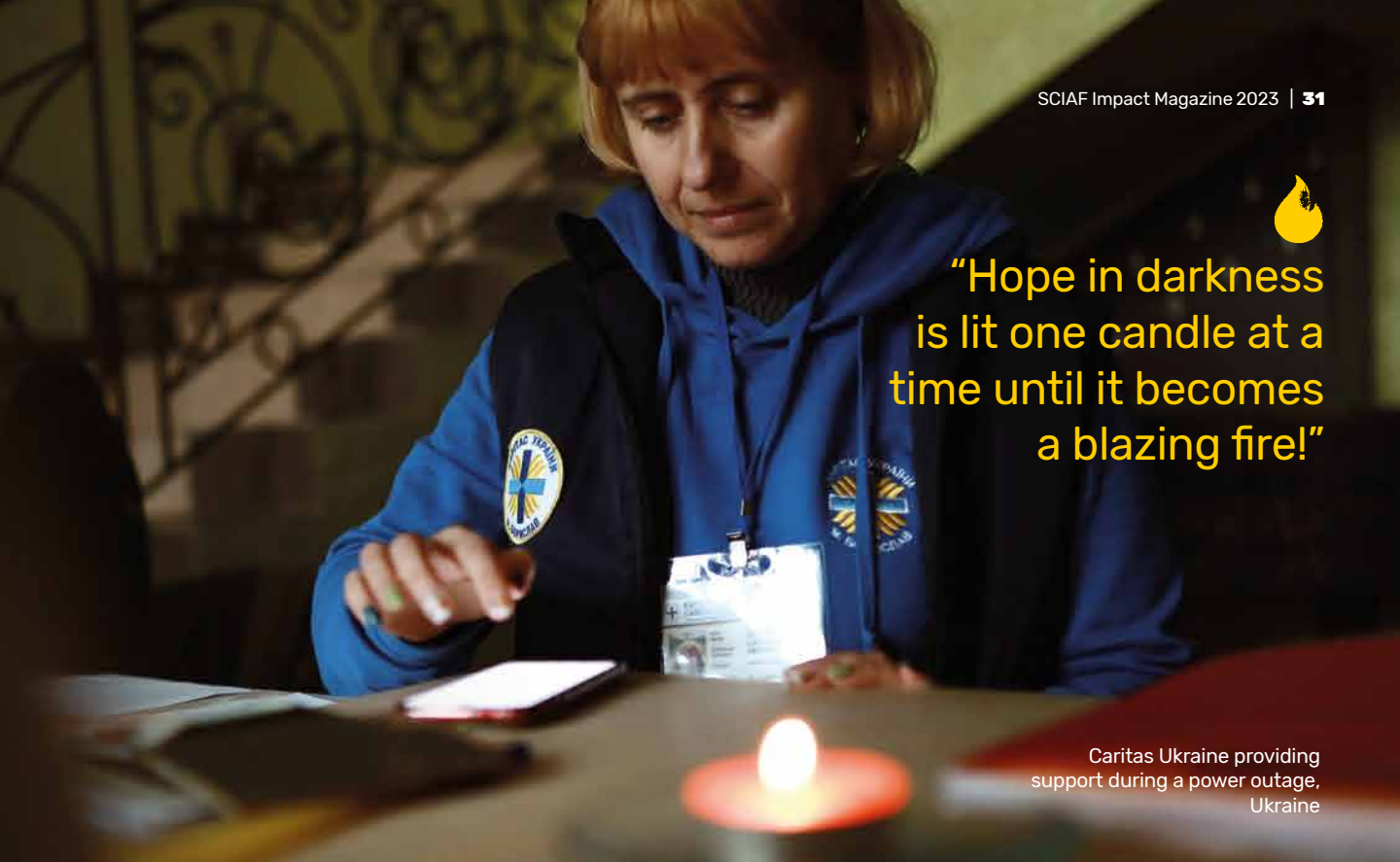


Light in the darkness:



a reflection from Ukraine

In 2022, in solidarity with our sisters and brothers in Ukraine, £2.1m was lovingly raised to support the humanitarian effort, including £875,000 from the Scottish government. **Tetiana Stawnychy**, the President of our partner organisation Caritas Ukraine, reflects on the horrors of war, her Catholic faith, and how the Caritas family has lit a blazing fire of hope in the darkness.



“Hope in darkness is lit one candle at a time until it becomes a blazing fire!”

Caritas Ukraine providing support during a power outage, Ukraine

What happened?

On February 24th 2022, Russian troops began their invasion of Ukraine, and that same day over 100 missiles were launched at targets throughout the country. Although the war had been ongoing on a much smaller scale since 2014 – and even though we did prepare contingency plans – the level of full assault came as a surprise and shock.

Those first days and weeks saw the start of a humanitarian crisis of immense proportions, almost unimaginable, in the heart of Europe, and completely man-made. Millions of Ukrainians – mostly women, children and the elderly – fled their homes. And yet, we all remember that with this crisis there was also an outpouring of solidarity, both inside the country and abroad.

Has the war challenged your Catholic faith?

There was a moment in those first days that the question ‘why?’ cut deeply. I could barely utter it. With the help of a good friend, I heard the invitation – to express it and then to take an internal step in trust. To trust that we are being called to walk through this time. To walk through in hope, in love and with community.

This love, this opportunity to do good for our neighbour, is quite powerful. It gives strength, I think, because it expresses a deep truth of what we were created for – to be a gift to one another.

This contrasts sharply with the experience of war. And so that question ‘why?’ does still linger, but it is quieter now. Its quiet presence is somehow comforting, as it reminds me that what we are experiencing, what we are living, is not ‘normal’.

How did the Caritas network respond with love?

As the full-scale invasion began, the Caritas network activated immediately. Caritas is really more than an organisation – it is a movement of the heart, and it is a community that acts together for the good of the other.

From the first days, our local Caritas organisations became community hubs that offered help and created hope. We were flooded with the supplies we needed. First, from local citizens: food, warm clothes, baby supplies and thousands of volunteers offering their hands and hearts to help. And with each day, that circle of love, that circle of response, that circle of action, expanded further and further.

I’m not sure that I can explain what it is like to be under the stress of war, struggling and working, and then to realise suddenly that you are not alone, that there are others who see you and who are also acting to help. The strength we feel in Ukraine by being in community, in solidarity, is multiplied by the love pouring in from the worldwide network of Caritas – and SCIAF has been an important part of that.

How did this outpouring make you feel?

It is hard to explain what this outpouring of support feels like. It heals that deepest part of your heart that was wounded. War, in its essence, rips at the core of what we were created for – because it destroys relationship and trust. Caritas, on the other hand, restores the heart because it restores relationship in a very practical and tangible way. It strengthens. It helps you to stand up and face the next day. It gives life.

In the midst of the horror of war – and missiles and destruction and death – in Caritas you find the seeds of hope by being part of the mystery of giving and receiving, receiving and giving.

Has your faith helped you during this time?

My faith, this gift of a relationship with our Creator, has been my anchor, my strength, my all. Over the course of the last 16 months, my faith has grown to be less formal, more organic, more a part of every moment.

I see God present every day. In each staff member that gets up every morning to do their part in the chain of action which results in helping those in need. In people whom we have helped, whose faces light up when they tell me that Caritas has helped them to turn a page after losing everything.

Each step is a step forward in that trust. The question ‘why?’ moves to the side – and love enters, sometimes quietly and gently, sometimes boldly. There is so much to do. We live a miracle every day in Ukraine.

What is your reflection on the future?

The same principles that have driven us to this point: care for the most vulnerable, belief you can help and make a difference, the gift of acting in community.

For Caritas, humanitarian relief is never just about giving material aid, as vital and important as it is. The human element – kindness and community and psychosocial support – goes hand in hand with everything that we do.

This principle of humanity guides us now and will be guiding us into the future, colouring all our future activities: continued assistance with basic needs, where it is needed; repair of homes and renewing access to drinking water; work with children, their parents and teachers to help process war trauma; further expanding our crisis centres; and helping Internally Displaced Persons to integrate into their host communities.

“Together we are already moving mountains. Let’s continue to do so.”



Stung Treng, Cambodia



Sign up for our free monthly prayer resource!

Spending time in prayer is a powerful way of standing in solidarity with people living in some of the poorest parts of the world.

To help guide your prayers for our sisters and brothers overseas, you can sign up to SCIAF's monthly prayer resource today.

Each edition focuses on a different issue or one of the countries SCIAF works in, providing prayers, reflections and stories to keep you inspired.

**To get SCIAF's monthly prayer resource straight to your inbox
visit sciaf.org.uk/pray**

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 G12PR. Tel: 0141 354 5555. Scottish Charity No: SC012302. Company No: SC197327. Photo by: Colin Hattersley.