



SCI AF
Strategic Framework 2011-2015
(Summarised Version)

SCIAF

SCIAF is the Scottish Catholic International Aid Fund, the official aid agency of the Catholic Church in Scotland. It is one of Scotland's biggest aid agencies with an income of over £8 million in 2010, and over 45 years' experience of tackling poverty in developing countries. We are part of Caritas Internationalis, the global network of Catholic agencies dedicated to ending poverty and working alongside the world's poorest people, whatever their faith.

Our VISION is of:

a world in which all people, especially the poor and oppressed, have the means and opportunity to live life, and live it to the full.

Our MISSION STATEMENT guides all that we do:

Inspired by the Gospel call to build a just world, SCIAF challenges injustice by strengthening poor and oppressed people and by stimulating the Scottish public to share in our common struggle for human dignity.

We raise money in Scotland to help people in Africa, Asia and Latin America who are affected by hunger, conflict and disease. Our approach is to empower people to find lasting solutions to poverty.

As well as providing practical support, we are passionate about challenging the underlying causes of poverty through education and campaigning. We aim to influence policy on issues like unfair trade, debt and climate change, and raise awareness of the need for change through our education work in schools and parishes in Scotland.

We respond to disasters like floods and earthquakes - through local organisations in countries where we work, or through Caritas Internationalis, one of the biggest humanitarian organisations in the world.

For every £1 raised in 2010 we spent

- 82p on our international development and emergency work
- 9p on campaigning, education and influencing policy
- 9p on raising the essential funds to maintain and grow our work.

The VALUES which underpin our work are:

Dignity: We believe in the intrinsic dignity of every person and their human rights regardless of gender, ethnicity, religion or politics. We see this diversity as a strength that helps us to respond to a rapidly changing world.

Common good: We will work not only for the good of individuals and their communities, but also for the wider good of society in the belief that our efforts are a requirement of justice and charity.

Solidarity: We stand with poor and marginalised communities making their cause ours and uniting with them in prayer. We share our resources and skills with them in order to challenge the policies and structures that keep people poor, so that all of humanity may flourish.

Partnership: We strive to build equitable relationships with our international partners through cooperation that is built around shared values and clear goals.

Sustainability: We recognise the intimate relationship between protecting and sustaining the environment and promoting human development. We strive to take proper account of ecological, social and economic sustainability in our work and lifestyle.

Stewardship: We are committed to the highest professional standards. We strive to be good stewards of the resources entrusted to us, cost-effective in our activities, accountable for our work, transparent in decision making, systematic in evaluating our effectiveness and demonstrating our impact.

The reasons behind our work

“The hungry nations of the world cry out to the peoples blessed with abundance. And the church, cut to the quick, asks each of us to hear the plea and respond lovingly.”ⁱ

SCI AF was set up by the bishops of Scotland in 1965 to enable the Scottish Catholic community to respond to the cry of the poor. As an agency of the church, SCI AF’s approach to development is shaped by the Gospel and the church’s social teaching, especially its teaching on development. In his social teachingⁱⁱ, Pope Benedict underlines the urgency and complexity of the task, and the Christian obligation to address the causes of poverty. He reminds us that development is about the whole person and that progress of a merely economic and technological kind is not sufficient.

SCI AF’s role is to strengthen the efforts of people in developing countries, working in partnership with them, and providing practical support.

“We don’t see SCI AF as a donor; we see you as a partner because we work side by side. SCI AF helps us to reach out to the most traumatised people. You are unique partners with us. All the success which we have achieved with Saint Monica’s would not have been possible without SCI AF’s help.”

Sister Rosemary Nyirumbe runs the Saint Monica’s Girls Tailoring Centre in Gulu, Uganda, rehabilitating girls kidnapped during the civil war

Addressing the causes of poverty

Poverty is not inevitable.

*"It is caused and kept going by decisions taken by us or in our name."*ⁱⁱⁱ

Pope Benedict calls this *"the political path of charity, no less excellent and effective than the kind of charity which encounters the neighbour directly."*^{iv} SCIAF helps Scottish communities to express solidarity by raising awareness of the causes of poverty, and campaigning for change.

Being church

Present among the poorest communities across the world, and able to raise their concerns at the highest levels, the church speaks out on issues of justice and development. In our understanding of development and the range of its work, SCIAF reflects the breadth and depth of the church's teaching, faithful to the vision of SCIAF's founders that we *"arouse among the Catholics of Scotland a lively awareness of the obligations arising from Christian charity."*^v

Our STRATEGIC AIMS for 2011-2015

1. We will engage in partnerships that deliver effective, sustainable projects that contribute to reducing poverty and injustice

"I look after the cows like they are my children. I take them to the co-operative and they register the milk and you get money. We used to worry about what we would eat the next day. Now we eat two to three times a day and we rent oxen to plough. I have also rented land. I have improved my income. I can send my children to school. Three of my children have graduated, one is a nurse, one is a lawyer and one is a secretary."

Gebrekiros' family were given a cow, animal feed and seeds by SCIAF

"I have seen two times: a horrible time when I was seriously damaged by the disease and a hopeful time being able to care and provide for my children."

Tsega, Ethiopia, talking about her experience of HIV

Key objectives

1. To increase food security, income, assets and employment for poor and marginalised people
2. To help people affected by conflict to exercise their right to justice and to participate in building a lasting peace.
3. To help people affected by HIV and AIDS to access human rights and comprehensive services.

2. We will provide a timely and effective response to humanitarian crises in collaboration with our long term partners and Caritas Internationalis.

"Haiti is in a lot of pain. I want to thank the people of Scotland for helping us. I hope that you won't forget us. I hope that you will always have an eye on Haiti."

Dieudline, Haiti

3. We will develop and deliver effective advocacy work that directly addresses the root causes of poverty and injustice

"It must be remembered that for most impoverished people, climate change is already a struggle for survival. Scotland is assuming the historical responsibility of urgently reducing greenhouse gas emissions according to real needs. The world would be in a better position to confront climate change if all industrial nations would follow the Scottish example."

Dr Ricardo Navarro, CESTA (SCI AF partner in El Salvador)

Key objectives

1. To help people benefit from their countries' natural resources.
2. To help people benefit from the activities of UK companies in their countries.
3. To help minimise the negative impact of climate change on poor and marginalised people.

4. We will build partnerships for international development with schools, parishes, the media and the general public

"SCI AF is a fantastic Scottish charity which works with some of the poorest people in the world to help them work their way out of poverty and overcome difficulties we can only imagine."

The Proclaimers' Charlie and Craig Reid

"Our experience has been amazing, it's built our confidence and has helped us to learn about the different countries."

Primary Six pupils Cara MacBride and Jessica McKeever, St Cadoc's Primary School,
Newton Mearns

Key objectives

1. To raise £5 million of voluntary income by 2015.
2. To continue to build SCI AF's profile across Scotland as a trusted and effective aid agency.
3. To strengthen relationships with Catholic and non-denominational schools.

In order to achieve our four strategic aims, we have also identified six supporting strategies to help build organisational capacity, competence and performance.

We will strengthen culture and communication by investing in staff training and development, including deepening our understanding of Catholic Social Teaching and achieving the *Investors in People* standard.

We will develop an organisational monitoring and evaluation framework to understand better the impact of our work.

We will work to ensure that there is a strong customer-focused culture throughout SCIAF.

We will continue to strive to meet high standards in governance and regulatory compliance and will ensure we have the internal systems needed to achieve this.

22 November 2010

ⁱ Populorum Progressio 3

ⁱⁱ Caritas in Veritate 11, 23

ⁱⁱⁱ Pastoral Letter of the Bishops of Scotland on the 40th anniversary of SCIAF, 2005

^{iv} Caritas in Veritate 7

^v SCIAF's constitution 1965