



# **Primary Teachers' notes** **and classroom activities**

SCIAF WEE BOX, BIG CHANGE Appeal 2022



## WEE BOX, BIG CHANGE 2022

Within this resource you'll find Teachers' Notes and activities specific to TIOF Experiences and Outcomes (Es+Os), though other Es+Os are referenced.

This resource will give you the real-life perspectives of people living on the front line of the Climate Emergency. Please share their stories with your class. Use the activities to learn more, and to give pupils the opportunity to show solidarity with those less fortunate than themselves in Malawi.

If you'd like a SCIAF speaker to visit your school please get in touch [getinvolved@sciaf.org.uk](mailto:getinvolved@sciaf.org.uk)

Thank you to the whole school community for your support for SCIAF, especially over these most difficult times. By learning about and supporting SCIAF this Lent, you are showing solidarity with, and providing a lifeline to, families on the front line of the Climate Emergency. Together, we can build God's Kingdom here on earth.

Have a blessed Lenten season.

**Mark Booker and Elaine McGinlay**  
Development Education Team

**If you have any comments or questions about this education resource, please get in touch with the Development Education Team [schools@sciaf.org.uk](mailto:schools@sciaf.org.uk)**



# Malawi factfile

- **Population:** 20.3 million
- **Capital:** Lilongwe
- **Main Languages:** English, Chichewa
- **Currency:** Malawi kwacha (£1 = 1,109 Malawian kwacha)
- Malawi is a landlocked country in south-eastern Africa, bordered by Tanzania, Mozambique and Zambia.
- Lake Malawi is a freshwater lake that is so large that the responsibility to look after it spreads across three countries – Malawi, Tanzania and Mozambique. It is one of the deepest lakes in the world.
- Lake Malawi National Park is a UNESCO World Heritage Park of Outstanding Universal Value, meaning that the lake is of global importance. An enormous range of native fish species inhabit the lake including small fish similar to sardines (Usipa) and larger catfish (Bombe).



Scotland has a longstanding shared history with Malawi. When learning about these historical relationships, it's important to acknowledge not only the positive partnerships formed, but also our part in British colonialism and the racism perpetrated in Malawi. To find out more about Malawi and Scotland's shared history, search for resources from members of International Development Education Association of Scotland (IDEAS; [ideas-forum.org.uk](http://ideas-forum.org.uk)), and read articles on Stride Magazine ([stridemagazine.org.uk](http://stridemagazine.org.uk)), the Global Citizenship magazine for schools.

## Climate Emergency factfile

- The Climate Emergency is happening now around the world, and it's killing the poorest people first.
- Globally, the past decade has been the hottest on record. In Malawi, the past decade has seen the largest shifts in rainfall patterns, including a mixture of rains that start later than they used to, and long dry spells during the growing and harvesting seasons.
- The majority of crops in Malawi are rain-fed. This means that changes in rainfall greatly affect those who survive by growing their own food to eat.
- More and more extreme weather events are happening around the world every year.
- Over the past five decades, Malawi has experienced more than 19 major floods and seven droughts, with these weather events increasing in frequency, size and scale over the years.
- Between the years 2000 and 2019 over 475,000 people lost their lives as a direct result of more than 11,000 extreme weather events globally. Millions more people have been affected indirectly through floods, droughts and hunger.
- In 2019, Cyclone Idai hit Malawi, completely destroying the homes of over 125,000 people. It was one of the worst tropical storms ever to hit Africa, and it sadly won't be the last as cyclones are increasing in frequency and severity.

This resource looks at the effects of climate change on some of the world's poorest people. If you'd like more information on the background science related to climate change you might find these links useful:



**Weather and  
climate change**



**Climate change  
and sustainability**



**Climate glossary  
for young people**

# SCIAF in Malawi



We're working with our partner, the Catholic Development Commission in Malawi (CADECOM), helping to provide local solutions to the devastating effects of climate change.

## Helping families

- Grow harder crops in their fields that can cope better with extreme weather.
- Set up seed nurseries for communal use by everyone in the village.
- Grow root vegetables like sweet potatoes in small pots at their homes.

## Healing the Environment

- Training families how to produce organic fertiliser which is better for the soil and less expensive than chemical fertiliser.
- Helping communities work with the local Natural Resources Management Committees (NRMC) to plant new trees in the area.

## Protecting the Environment

- Providing fuel-efficient eco stoves for cooking that use less wood, so fewer trees need be cut down.

## Providing hope for the future

- Helping to set up savings and loans groups so that families can save money for an uncertain future.
- Helping families to invest in livestock such as goats, chickens and ducks. With the help of local vets, families learn about animal nutrition and breeding to provide a high level of care for their animals.
- Training families in horticultural skills so they can produce high quality fruit tree seedlings to sell.

## Using Technology

- Installing of solar-powered irrigation pumps to water fields during dry periods and droughts.

We work as part of the global Church with our partners in Malawi. Both SCIAF and CADECOM Malawi are part of Caritas, the Catholic Church's global network of international relief and development charities. We value working in partnership to achieve our shared mission to help build a just and green world. When we begin work with our partners, we co-create our plan with local experts and the communities that will be involved too. This ensures that people remain at the heart of our work, and that families and communities have control over their own futures. Our shared values with CADECOM, derived from Scripture, Church Teaching and Catholic Social Teaching, help us to live out Christ's teaching to love your neighbour and walk in solidarity with the poor and oppressed.



**"I have hope. There's increased awareness of climate change at a local level and also there is increased action by the communities to mitigate the effects of climate change. So, I'm not scared. There is hope for the future."**

**Pieter Nthenda,**  
Director of CADECOM  
in Malawi



Julius,  
Mary and  
Collings,  
Malawi

# WEE BOX, BIG CHANGE 2022



Julius and his wife Mary live in a small village, a four-hour drive from the Malawian capital of Lilongwe, with their five children.

Their oldest child and only daughter, Emily, is 14 and a proud sister to four brothers. The older boys, Yohane and Issa, are aged 14 and 13. And the youngest, Idilisa and Collings, are aged eight and two. The older children attend school and help their parents around the house. They all enjoy playing outside but Issa especially enjoys football.

Just like other families in their village, Julius and Mary grow their own food to eat. Some families grow mangoes, peanuts, black-eyed peas (cowpeas) and pigeon peas (a type of green pea) on a small plot of land. Others grow sweet potatoes and leafy vegetables (similar to spinach) in pots at their home. With their harvests, they feed their family all year round. But if a flood washes away their crops or a drought kills the plants, the family lose their only source of food.

"Climate change has caused a lot of problems in my life, compared to the past," Julius tells us.

"When you are growing food for your family, every person lives on optimism.

"But now my household – and many others in the village – are facing hunger because of the unpredictable rainfall patterns.

"Some people only have one meal a day. Some sleep on an empty stomach. Our main problem is hunger.

"Last year I grew cowpeas, which I planned to sell. But the rains stopped earlier than expected and the crops dried up. It was a loss."

Julius and his family received help from our partners in Malawi, including training to adapt to the changing climate.

"If CADECOM had not come to our community, we'd have remained stuck in poverty. I am ready to adapt because of the knowledge acquired from CADECOM and SCIAF. We are clever farmers now. We will survive."

By teaching organic farming techniques, providing hardier crops and offering access to family loans, Julius has had his faith in the future restored. He is now more resilient in the face of the climate crisis.

"My focus is on my children. If you educate your children, you secure the future."



# Malawi quiz

To kick off your learning about this year's WEE BOX appeal and the country of Malawi, please take our quiz. There is also a version on Kahoot! which you can find [here](#).

## 1. What does SCIAF stand for?

- ☐ Scotland's Catholic Immediate Action Fund
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SCIAF is the **Scottish Catholic International Aid Fund**. We were founded in 1965 and are the official relief and development agency of the Catholic Church in Scotland.

## 2. SCIAF responds to what kinds of disasters?

- ☐ Floods
- ☐ Droughts
- ☐ Earthquakes
- ☐ War

**All of them!** War, natural disasters or man-made disasters have all become more frequent. When they strike, we respond immediately as part the Caritas family and stay for the long term to help communities rebuild.

## 3. SCIAF provides long-term help and support to some of the world's poorest people, in how many countries?

- ☐ 6
- ☐ 8
- ☐ 18

We work with partners across Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Middle East fighting poverty and responding to emergencies. We provide long-term help and support to people in **eight** different countries: Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, Malawi, South Sudan, Rwanda, Zambia, Cambodia and Colombia. However, in 2020, we responded to emergencies and helped people in the short-term in 29 countries.

## 4. This year's WEE BOX highlights SCIAF's work in Malawi but where is Malawi?

- ☐ South-east Africa
- ☐ North-east Africa
- ☐ Horn of Africa
- ☐ West Africa

Malawi is a landlocked country located in **South-east Africa**.

Julius and baby Collings talk to staff from CADECOM Mangochi, Malawi





**5. Malawi is bordered by other countries on all sides. But by how many other countries?**

- ☐ 2
- ☐ 3
- ☐ 7

Malawi is bordered by **three countries** – Tanzania, Mozambique and Zambia.

**6. Malawi is a warm country. But what is the average temperature?**

- ☐ Between 11–18°C
- ☐ Between 18–21°C
- ☐ Between 21–25°C

The average temperature in Malawi is around **21–25°C**, but in the warmest months it can reach 27°C. The average temperature in Scotland is 11°C, reaching an average of 18°C in the summer months.

**7. Which of these animals might you find in Malawi?**

- ☐ Hippopotamus
- ☐ Crocodiles
- ☐ Monkeys
- ☐ Bushbaby

**All of them!**

**8. How big is the country of Malawi in relation to Scotland? Is Malawi...**

- ☐ Half the size of Scotland
- ☐ One and a half times larger than Scotland
- ☐ Four times larger than Scotland
- ☐ Four and a half times larger than Scotland

Malawi is roughly **one and a half times larger** than Scotland. Malawi covers around 118,484 square kilometres (km<sup>2</sup>) and Scotland covers around 77,910 km<sup>2</sup>.

**9. How many people live in Malawi?**

- ☐ 5.5 million
- ☐ 10.2 million
- ☐ 20.2 million
- ☐ 22.5 million

There are **20.2 million people** living in Malawi. 5.5 million people live in Scotland.

**10. What is the capital city of Malawi?**

- ☐ Lilongwe
- ☐ Lusaka
- ☐ Gitega
- ☐ Maputo

**Lilongwe** (li-lawng-wey) is the capital city of Malawi.



Malita and her family,  
Malawi



# Classroom activities

The following activities will cover or at least reference the Experiences and Outcomes below.

## **P3 RERC 1-24**

I know that my school is a Catholic school and that, with God's help, we can work together to show care for the world and the needs of all people.

## **P5 RERC 2-24**

I am developing my understanding of my involvement in the community of the Catholic Church by exploring the role of the lay organisations in my diocese that work to show care for the world and the needs of all people.

I know that I am called to respond to the needs of others when I can.

I have used this information to inspire and challenge me to respond to God's call to care for the poor.

## **P6 RERC 2-24**

I know that SCIAF is a Catholic organisation that responds to the needs of the world.

## **P7 RERC 2-24**

I know I am called to witness Jesus' love for the poor and marginalised.

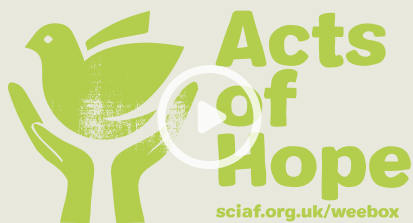


# Acts of Hope



Download and use the PowerPoint 'Acts of Hope Quiz' with your class. The quiz will give you a way to think about the theme of climate change – and, more importantly, how we can all offer small actions that, together, make a huge difference.

How will your class get involved in our Acts of Hope challenge? This Lent, we're asking pupils, teachers, parents and the wider school community to offer up as many Acts of Hope as they can as part of their Lenten practice. Acts of Hope could include changing what you eat, how you travel, or how much you waste during Lent, to show your solidarity with those living on the front line of the Climate Emergency, and protect our Common Home here in Scotland.



Watch our Acts of Hope video to find out more at [sciaf.org.uk/weebox](https://sciaf.org.uk/weebox)



# The Global Church

Watch the WEE BOX video to better understand how we (the Church) are showing care for the world and responding to the needs of others.

After watching the video ask the children to think about or write down ways that SCIAF, the Church and they can respond to God's call to care for the poor.

**Watch our WEE BOX video [here](#)**



Teleza with her daughter Martha, Malawi



## Building God's Kingdom here on earth

(particularly for P7)

We are called to witness Jesus' love for people who are marginalised across the world. The best way we can do this is to look at Jesus' teaching and his personal encounters with those who were marginalised. We must follow his example. In doing so, we put our faith into action – and, in turn, our faith increases.

Ask your pupils to read the passages of Scripture on this page, and in groups, discuss how they might follow Jesus' example to help build God's kingdom here on earth.

### **Luke 10:25-37**

The story of the Good Samaritan. Many do not help – including a priest! The one you think perhaps wouldn't help is more like Jesus – he is a true neighbour to the man in need.

### **Mark 1:40-45**

Jesus not only heals a man with leprosy, he touches the man. This act brings a sense of belonging to someone who had had no human contact for years.

Use the following questions to help the pupils in their discussions

**What is happening in the passage of Scripture?**  
**What does it teach us?**  
**How can we put that teaching into practice?**





Tamala and  
her family,  
Malawi

**Scottish Catholic International Aid Fund**

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



*Big change*