



Secondary 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

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

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), and read articles on Stride Magazine (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 (km²) and Scotland covers around 77,910 km².

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 help to cover:

1 S1 RERC 3-21a

Having considered Christ's example, I am aware of how I can respond to the spiritual and material needs of others.



2 S2 RERC 3-21a

Having considered the example of the early Christian Community (Act 2:42-47) I am aware of how I can share what I have to meet the needs of others.



Showing the WEE BOX video will help the class to get a good understanding of how SCIAF is working with our partners in Malawi to help families affected by climate change.

Watch the WEE BOX video [here](#)

Now explain that SCIAF are part of the Catholic Church in Scotland – and that schools, parishes and individuals support SCIAF in prayer and with generous donations. This enables the Church, through SCIAF, to work with partners around the world to respond to the needs of others.



1

Jesus is our example

Split into small groups and get half of the groups to read Mark 1:21-45 and the other groups to read John 13:1-15. Give the following questions for discussion and ask the pupils to make some notes from each question ready to share with the rest of the class.

- What does Jesus do?
What is happening?
- What does this encounter tell you about Jesus?
- What actions can you take that follow Jesus' example?

Acts of Hope

This Lent, we're asking pupils, teachers, parents and the wider school community to offer up as many Acts of Hope as possible 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. Discuss with your classmates how you could work together to help build God's Kingdom here on Earth.

Watch our Acts of Hope video to find out more at sciaf.org.uk/weebox



2

The Global Church

In the book of Acts we can read the story of the early Church. Ask your pupils to read Acts 2:42-47 – then, in groups, write down the similarities and differences between the early Church and their Church. Ask each group to share with the rest of the class.

The early Church were very close. The Bible tells us that they shared everything – money, food, possessions. They gave to those who were in need, they ate together, praised God together and learned together.

Ask your class to get into groups and list ways that the Church (today) is responding to those in need around the world. Ask pupils to list activities that their Parish is doing to serve others locally and globally.



Going Deeper

Look at sciaf.org.uk and research SCIAF's history in the 'who we are' tab. Use the articles in the 'stories' tab to discover how the Catholic Church in Scotland is responding to the needs of others. Take some time to hear the pupil's findings.

Remind the pupils that they are part of the Church and encourage them to think about and write down their gifts and talents, and what they can give to the Church to meet the needs of others locally and globally.

13-year-old
Issa, 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.

