

It's time for a just and green world

IMPACT

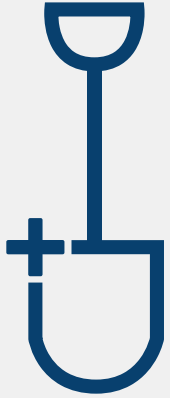
MAGAZINE 2020

- 
- + **The fight against hunger, poverty and climate change**
 - + **The coronavirus crisis and its impact on the world's poorest people**
 - + **Lorraine McIntosh and Ricky Ross on their visits to Rwanda and DR Congo**

IN 2019 SCIAF SUPPORTED 131 PROJECTS IN SOME OF THE WORLD'S POOREST COMMUNITIES, IMPROVING THE LIVES OF MORE THAN 400,000 PEOPLE LIVING IN POVERTY.

We helped...

89,071 people to lift themselves out of poverty and provide for their families



4,292 of the most marginalised people to get the education they deserve



269,408 people survive catastrophic emergencies

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Photographs: Angela Catlin, Colin Hattersley, Simon Murphy, Thomas Omondi, Sarah Hunter, Barnaby Skinner, Mark Swaroop and Caritas.



"Poverty calls us to sow hope."

Pope Francis



These are challenging times and all of us at SCIAF are extremely grateful for the support and generosity that allows us to do the work we do.

We work to serve the poorest and most vulnerable people in the world, irrespective of their race, religion and background.

Here, we provide a glimpse of how money from Scotland is helping to tackle the root causes of hunger and poverty and enabling people to build a brighter future. The coronavirus has impacted us all, but its impact on the poorest people isn't what you might think. We report on how it hurts the poorest first and how you can help them.

David Mitchell

David Mitchell
Editor



GET IN TOUCH

We love hearing from our supporters. If you have any questions or comments or would like to tell us about why you support SCIAF, please email us at sciaf@sciaf.org.uk



NEWS & EVENTS

Every year, our wonderful supporters put their faith into action to raise life-changing money for our sisters and brothers in need.

We want to say a HUGE thank you to everyone who has given up their time to fundraise for us - especially during these difficult times.

SCHOOL FUNDRAISING

Lots of pupils and teachers raised funds for our #WEEBOX appeal before lockdown - thank you!



< Girls at St Aidan's High School trudged through the mud for 10k.



> We had 'Guess the Grinch' at St Francis Primary School.



< There was double trouble at St Mungo's 'Dress Like Twins' day.



> Miss Cairney transformed into Gerry Cinnamon for 'Sing for SCIAF'.

TWITTER EGG HUNT

Miss Macken has taken part in SCIAF fundraising for 11 years, and wasn't willing to let lockdown get in the way of her efforts. She organised a fantastic virtual egg hunt via Twitter for all her pupils - amazing.

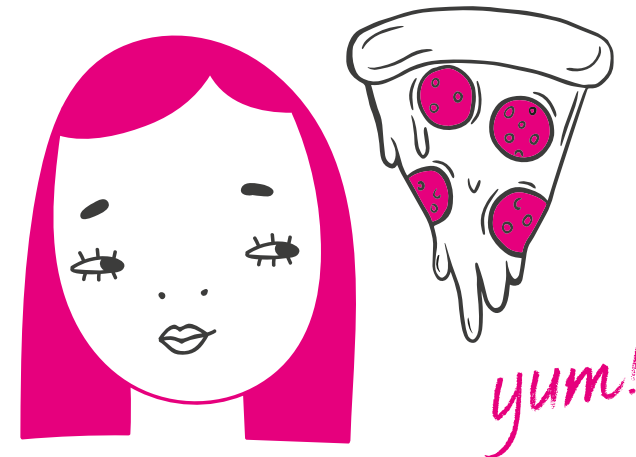
2.6 TUBA CHALLENGE

On 26 April, thousands of runners were unable to compete in the London Marathon. Instead, the 2.6 Sponsorship Challenge allowed people across the country to do their bit at home for charities like SCIAF who missed out on marathon sponsorship money. Paul Drury, our Fundraising Manager, took 2.6 laps of his house on his bike while playing the tuba!

ISOBEL'S DAY OF PINK FUNDRAISING

To raise money for SCIAF, Isobel created a full day of pink activities: wearing pink clothes, dyeing her hair pink, and making pink pizza!

What a fantastic idea.



1 DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

4 October 2020

'Conversations for Creation webinar'

Celebrating our kinship with the Earth and every living creature. Hosted by Sister Mary Kilpatrick and Liz Snodgrass, this online reflection will bring the Season of Creation to a close and mark the Feast of St Francis by celebrating the bonds we have with each other and with every living creature on Earth.

26 November 2020

Annual SCIAF Remembrance Mass

St. Aloysius' Church, Garnethill, Glasgow, 7pm.

30 May 2021

Edinburgh Marathon

Get your place for the 2021 event and run for SCIAF!

Visit www.sciaf.org.uk/events to register and see all our upcoming events so far.



David Linden MP @DavidLinden

Pleasure to visit Fr Brown at St Paul's in #Shettleston to present @SCIAF's @AlistairDutton with a £585 cheque from my sponsored 6k in Strathclyde Park. Huge thanks to parishioners of St Paul's, St Michael's, St Barnabas' & St Mark's for their donations! #GenerousEastEnd

St John's RC Academy @st_johnsacademy

Primary choir entertained visitors at @museumbw this afternoon and got everyone in the Christmas spirit! They were so good that the visitors spontaneously donated £136.57, which we have put towards our Advent fund raising for @sciaf Special thanks to Miss Cassidy and helpers.

IGSSS 0 @IGSSS

With support from @sciaf, #COVID19 relief material arrived today at Gola, Jharkhand from where it will be dispatched to at least 15 villages. Kudos to community mobilizer Sampa who coordinated the whole thing with the VDC leaders. #TogetherAgainstCOVID

St Charles' Primary & ELCC @stcharlespais

In our school, we value God's love & each other! £200 has been donated to @SCIAF #WeeBox appeal to help transform the lives of others. This will now be matched by the UK government. #values #generosity #charity #GivingTuesdayNow @SCONEWS

Andrea Batchelor @AMBatchelor

@JustGiving Just did the Irvine Coastwatch Polar Plunge for @sciaf's #Syria Appeal! Family and friends have been very generous #JustGiveAlittlelove #HappyNewYear

St Aidan's HS Eng @staidanenglish

S3 girls raising money for @sciaf with a 10k walk round Drumpellier in the rain and the mud. Smiles all the way - well done girls and thanks to Mr O'Brien for leading the walk. @StAidansHigh @StAidansHigh_PE @StAidansJMAC

HEROES IN DR CONGO

Whether they're helping to fight the coronavirus here, or supporting victims of sexual violence in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DR Congo), **we're immensely grateful for the heroes in society - those who put their lives at risk for the greater good of humanity.**

Often described as a resource curse, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DR Congo) has incredible mineral wealth including a staggering 80% of the world's coltan, an essential component for mobile phones and other electronics.

On 1 January 2021 a new law will come into force across the EU to help stem the flow of conflict minerals.

This is a start and offers much needed hope in ending what is one of the world's bloodiest conflicts.



Meet some of SCIAF's partners in Eastern DR Congo, working in one of the most dangerous places on earth.

Together, they are our heroes. Here's a glimpse of how you are helping them to help others.



ARCHBISHOP FRANCOIS-XAVIER MAROY

Despite facing multiple assassination attempts, he continues to risk his life to protect some of the world's poorest and most vulnerable communities. "The main order of God is to love each other. Always you should pray for your enemies, there is no need to hate them."

"Many priests in the Archdiocese have been killed. Many nuns, many catechists and many other innocent people as well. There has been much loss." Despite this violence he preaches forgiveness.

His Archdiocese runs schools, hospitals and other services for poor and vulnerable people and works closely with SCIAF to provide medical care and practical help for victims of sexual violence.



THÉRÈSE MEMA MAPENZI

A champion for justice who runs an organisation that provides psychological support to women who have endured unimaginable crimes. "If we can put an end to sexual violence, if we can start to heal the wounds of the past, and if we can

combine justice with peace, then ours can be a future built on hope, not one forever shrouded in fear."

As well as supporting people affected by sexual violence through counselling, Thérèse is working hard with key actors such the EU and the UN to bring changes to laws to help halt the trade in conflict minerals and to provide ethical solutions to the supply of precious metals and minerals.



JUSTINE YAKATINA

A lawyer who is dedicated to bringing those who commit rape to justice. "Every time we are able to help bring justice, we send a strong message to those who commit these atrocious acts. It tells them that these women and girls are not alone and

with the support of the legal system, the community and charities like SCIAF, the perpetrators will not be able to act with impunity. You cannot recover what these women and girls have lost but through justice and compensation you can help them survive their horrific experiences and rebuild their lives.

"We must all keep doing what we can."



DR MICHAEL CHANEKIRA

A surgeon who works in a hospital that specialises in treating communities affected by widespread sexual violence in DR Congo. He is married with five young children.

Support from SCIAF

"I was trained by SCIAF in 2010 in gynaecological surgery and went on to specialise in fistula surgery. After this, I continued training with the senior doctor here at the time and spent two years studying in Belgium. I now also train other trainee doctors."

South Kivu, in DR Congo where I work

"There are armed groups here and in other areas too. It's because of the many, many armed groups that so many women have been raped and come here for help."

An example of one woman I recently treated

"There was one woman who recently came here and said that non-identified soldiers or rebels in green uniforms got in the house, took her husband, killed him, and took the woman in the bush. There, she was raped by all the soldiers - whoever wanted to have sex."

"She became pregnant and was eventually allowed to leave - traumatised, injured and in desperate need of help. Her story is not unusual and mirrors thousands of women and girls I treat every day."

How we are able to help

"The woman had extensive internal injuries as a result of rape and infections. She was screened, examined and then I delivered the child by caesarean."

"At first sight of this case I remember feeling desolate but I couldn't show it to her. She was so sad, you could read the shame and desperation on her face. She couldn't even raise her face and look at people. She cried throughout the entire time she spoke."

"Thankfully, at the hospital we have the equipment for fistula surgery that was provided by SCIAF in 2010 and were able to treat her."

Trauma counselling

"After fistula surgery we provide psychological support. The women are also organised in self-help groups in their villages. I was able to refer the woman to a SCIAF funded trauma counsellor, who is helping her recover for the long-term."

Our challenges

"A big issue we face relates to replacing materials, such as surgical garments, saline drips, stitches, medication and painkillers. We also struggle to do refresher training for health workers. The equipment is now also getting old so we need to replace it."

"I encourage everyone to help these women in whatever way they can."

You can help support our heroes and their vital work with a donation to SCIAF.

You can donate by: visiting www.sciaf.org.uk, calling **0141 354 5555** or completing the donation form in this magazine.

FAITH IN THE FUTURE

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

From our earliest days, SCIAF's work has been built on the faith of our supporters, their potential and in God and his gifts.

A gift in your will is a very special and personal way to put your faith into action. It is a sign of your faith in the future and your unwavering support for the poorest people around the world.

Far from being a full stop at the end of your life, writing a will ensures that your faith lives on reaching out to the poor and forsaken in the future.

Of course, as with any will, looking after our loved ones comes first. After making sure that they are provided for, it is still possible to help those in need around the world with a gift in your will. Just a small percentage of your remaining estate or fixed amount will bring new life and new hope in the future.

One SCIAF supporter told us: "Obviously there are big moments in your life when writing a will makes sense and when my wife and I recently moved house we updated our will. While buying the house I couldn't help but think of those around the world who have had to flee from their homes in times of crisis and war. That's why we left a gift in our will to SCIAF."

Through the gifts you share and the values you pass on, there is a new beginning.

New life. New hope.

To find out more about leaving a gift in your will visit www.sciaf.org.uk/legacy or call us on 0141 354 5555 for a friendly chat and to answer any questions you may have.

Whoever lives and believes in me will never die.

John 11: 26-27

Did you know at times as much as 20% of our work is funded by gifts in wills?

We pray for all SCIAF supporters who've passed away at a dedicated Mass every November during the month of the Holy Souls. The Mass is open to all and if you'd like more information, please get in touch.



25 YEARS ON IN RWANDA

It's been more than 25 years since the Rwandan genocide and the emotional wounds still scar the country and its people. SCIAF works in some of the poorest communities in Rwanda helping to foster peace where there was once division. In January 2020, **SCIAF Ambassador Ricky Ross visited Rwanda and saw first-hand how sometimes peace is sown one person at a time...**

It's Saturday afternoon as we drive down the dusty road on the outskirts of Rwanda's capital, Kigali, into a church and school compound. We begin to wonder if we've been brought to the wrong place. And yet there it is in big bold letters above a gate, 'Nyamata Genocide Memorial'.

Awaiting us is Leo, a youngish man in a dark suit and open-necked shirt who is welcoming us in and introducing himself. It's only half an hour into the visit that I ask Leo of his own memories of the genocide. Like any other child who was present in 1994, he recalls only too well. 'I remember the bodies piled up on the streets.' A few minutes later I ask if he'd lost any of his family. It's a naive question I now realise. '46 members,' he tells me. I ask about his immediate family and out of seven brothers and sisters only two survive. Both parents were killed too.

The horror of the genocide casts the longest shadow. Outside the church in Nyamata a mass burial site now contains the remains of 45,000 Tutsis. A stair leads down to an underground crypt which shows the skeletons of the murdered. In another display room the cracked skulls of others bear testimony to the brutality of what happened in those dark days.

We pay our respects and are driven on to be welcomed by Claudette standing in the doorway of a small house typical of those built by the government to compensate survivors of the massacre. She smiles as if she has no cares as we assemble in her small living room. As well as our small delegation of observers we are joined by

two men. It turns out they are Hutus who carried out killings and Claudette is a survivor from the church we have just visited.

As she tells her story of miraculous escape, then recapture, assault upon assault, betrayal and degradation beyond belief (she was trapped in a latrine for days, only able to escape by clambering on dead bodies piled high enough for her to climb out), we are all in tears. Then we are all focusing on the two men who have said nothing.

Claudette draws our attention to the taller one called Claude. He, she tells us, attacked me with a machete slicing my shoulder where I had already been wounded. Thinking her dead, he resumed his rounds of killing. The atmosphere in the room becomes tense as our eyes all turn to the man listening with a bowed head. It is his turn to speak.

Claude confirms what she has told us. He tells of the hatred of the Tutsis he had been taught growing up. He explains how little he knew and how killing men, women and children during the 100 days of genocide became second nature. When the new government finally wrested control he fled over the border to the Democratic Republic of Congo. He tells us it was a few years before he heard there was what Rwandans called Gacaca trials – the truth and reconciliation programme designed to allow the country to move on, accepting the facts about what had happened.

Signing up to return, he committed himself to re-education and rehabilitation. On realising that



Read more of Ricky's first-hand accounts from Rwanda and DR Congo:

www.rickyross.com



She gave me a human heart.

Claude

a survivor lived nearby he presented himself at Claudette's house on several occasions. Each time Claudette would scream and cry out to neighbours for help. Still he returned. Finally, one day he brought his wife and stood in her garden determined to apologise and repent for the evil he committed. Claudette accepted him in.

In the most remarkable story of mediation any of us can recall, the two became friends. She, having no surviving family of her own, regards Claude as family. It is similar for Claude. 'She even attended my mother's funeral with me,' he tells us. There is silence in the room as we all take in the true cost of beautiful forgiveness. Percy, SCIAF's programme manager for Rwanda sums it up perfectly later in the garden outside the house: "It's Saul becoming Paul". Claude's own precis is perhaps even more eloquent: "She gave me a human heart".

You can help sow more seeds of peace by donating to our work. Visit www.sciaf.org.uk/donate or call us on **0141 354 5555**, or complete the donation form in this magazine.

Thanks to you, and with support from the UK government, we have been working with our partner CDJP Kigali in Rwanda to help poor farmers to grow more food and earn a living. We're also providing gender-based training to help change attitudes and to protect women's rights.

Thanks to you, lives have been transformed.



BEATHE AND AUGSTIN

Beathe and Augstin live in the Eastern Province of Rwanda with their children.

Beathe told us,

"The training taught me how to develop myself. It taught me about farming in the dry seasons. Today, it is very dry, but we can still farm and harvest.

"We do not lack anything in our family. We have everything we need to be good farmers. My husband received training on gender equality, and is no longer violent towards me. Now, we do everything together. We do farming together. We raise our children together."

MUSIC IN THE TIME OF THE CORONAVIRUS

by David McKendrick

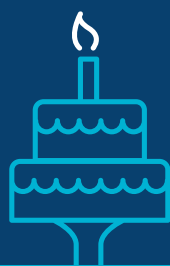
I play live acoustic sets in bars, restaurants and pubs in and around the central belt of Scotland. During the lockdown, I decided to stream live sets via Facebook on Friday nights: an opportunity for some light relief and headspace from all the goings on.

The streams were well received and achieved what they set out to do - bring people together in a virtual gathering, enjoy some music and lift spirits. Having linked a donate button for a local charity to one of the streams, it proved to be an ideal platform to raise funds for those in need. Soon after, I was approached by a friend and SCIAF representative James Slaven - a fellow parishioner of Holy Cross in Croy - who asked if I could help raise funds for the charity.

I was delighted to be able to help and we aired the live stream via the parish Facebook page and website. It was an ideal time to support the WEE BOX appeal and give it the boost it needed during the coronavirus crisis.



The generosity of the viewers helped to raise a total of £1,989 during the one hour performance. The WEE BOX appeal was also part of UK Aid Match, so it was doubled by the UK government, bringing the total raised to an amazing £3,978 for SCIAF's work. A successful and enjoyable night all round!



If you'd like to fundraise for SCIAF on Facebook, you can create a birthday fundraiser for friends and family to give to SCIAF in your name.

Visit [facebook.com/fund/SCIAF](https://www.facebook.com/fund/SCIAF) today or lookout for a special Facebook notification when your birthday is approaching.

SISTER GIOVANA OF THE COMBONI SAMARITANS, UGANDA

Sr Giovana is one of the inspirational founders of Comboni Samaritans of Gulu, a SCIAF partner organisation in Northern Uganda. Since moving to Uganda in 1971 she's dedicated her life to serving those most in need, attempting to help others rebuild their lives after the devastation of war, disease and poverty.

When the HIV and AIDS epidemic struck Uganda, Sister Giovana formed a group in her local parish to care for those living with HIV and AIDS. They called themselves the 'Good Samaritans'.

"We used to visit them, take them to hospital, bring them food and wash them, because nobody else did. They were just left to die. We also helped them spiritually. They were so eager even to hear God's word. Even if they were suffering."

The decades of conflict in Uganda have left a terrible legacy of impoverishment and suffering in many communities. Sr Giovana continues to work to give people the skills they need to work their way out of poverty.

"I believe that the Lord is great and He is asking us to be His hands."

SCIAF works through partners like Sr Giovana who know their local community, and who are often part of the Church. This helps to ensure your donations reach the poorest people, wherever they are. **Please remember our partners in your prayers.**



DEAR FRIENDS



Last year, your generosity, dedication and prayers helped bring a brighter future to 1,812,000 of the world's poorest people.

in the teachings of the Church; the principles of Catholic Social Teaching underpin everything we do, and guide our daily lives at SCIAF. We're committed to working in partnership with those we help, and we always seek to work with the poorest and most downtrodden people in the communities we serve.

As a SCIAF supporter, you know the support we provide takes many forms. We give people the means to work their way out of poverty, teaching farming and business skills. We're on hand when disaster strikes, helping supply food, water and shelter to families who've survived a cyclone or earthquake. We work with indigenous communities to protect their land and rivers for future generations, and we stand with survivors of sexual violence, aiding them in their struggle for justice.

The other crucial constant in all our work is you. While the successes and achievements described in this report required the efforts of many SCIAF staff, partners and project participants, your contribution is the foundation of everything we accomplished.

I invite you to reflect on the difference you've made in 2019, and I thank you for all that you do for SCIAF.

Alistair Dutton
Chief Executive

Though our range of activities is broad, there are some important constants. Each of our projects emphasises sustainability and making enduring change in people's lives. Our work is always rooted



THANKS TO YOU WE...

Improved the lives of **1,812,000** of the world's poorest people



Responded to **34 emergencies** across the world



Over 400,000 people were directly supported



89,000 more people now grow enough food to feed themselves and earn an income



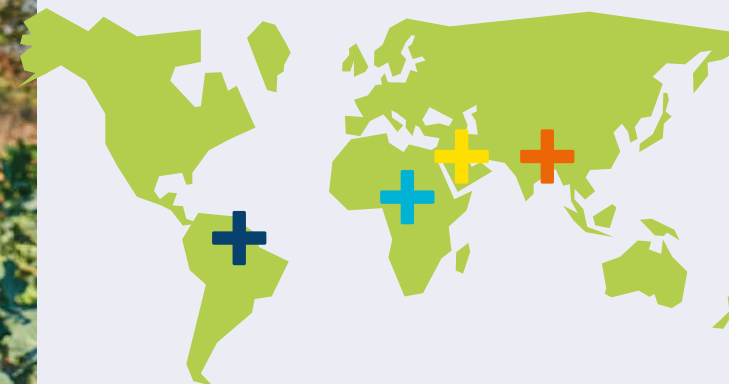
37,800 people now live in peace and have access to justice



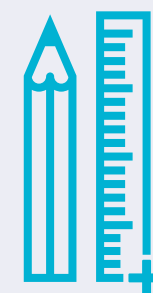
269,400 people received emergency aid when disaster struck



4,300 vulnerable children and adults received an education



We spent over **£6m** on **131 projects** with **79 partner organisations** in **28 countries** across **4 continents**



Over **350 parishes** and **180 schools**

actively supported SCIAF through fundraising activities and generous donations

A SNAPSHOT



THE MARCH TO CLIMATE JUSTICE

In July, SCIAF volunteers descended on Westminster to urge political leaders to do more to tackle the climate emergency. Later in the year SCIAF supporters joined thousands who marched through George Square as part of the global call for climate justice.

After years of action by SCIAF supporters, in 2019 the Scottish government committed to delivering radical cuts to Scotland's greenhouse gases by 2045 so that we can play our part in tackling climate change.

READY WHEN DISASTER STRIKES



When Cyclone Idai struck in March, generous supporters like you raised £235,000. Thanks to your donations we provided survivors in Malawi with food and other essentials like sleeping mats, blankets and mosquito nets.

HELPING HANDS FROM SCOTLAND

With support from the Scottish government's Humanitarian Emergency Fund, we provided meals and food parcels to almost 11,000 people who have been driven out of Venezuela by political unrest. In Syria, Scottish government humanitarian funding helped us to support 6,000 people who'd been displaced by conflict.

WEE BOX

YOUR WEE BOX AT WORK

In the Stung Treng and Khampon Thom Provinces of Cambodia your WEE BOX donations are hard at work. Your generous gifts, along with UK Aid Match funding from the UK government, are helping people to lift themselves out of poverty.



1,559 people have learned new farming skills so they can grow more food

2,544 households and school children now have access to clean water and sanitation

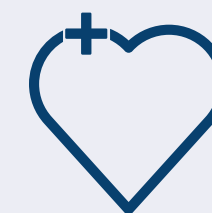
5,419 hectares of forest and river are being protected and sustainably managed by communities

693 women have learned about their rights from gender awareness campaigns in their villages



PROTECTING VULNERABLE COMMUNITIES

At the end of 2019, we approved a new one-year compliance officer role whose remit is to support our overseas partners to meet new safeguarding standards by the end of 2020.



HOME IS WHERE THE HEART IS

The SCIAF team moved to our new energy efficient, modern building which will save money on bills and keep our costs to a minimum.

You can visit our new home at 7 West Nile Street, Glasgow, G1 2PR.

INCOME 2019

Our generous supporters raised £3.9million to help lift people out of poverty

Institutional Grants £3m

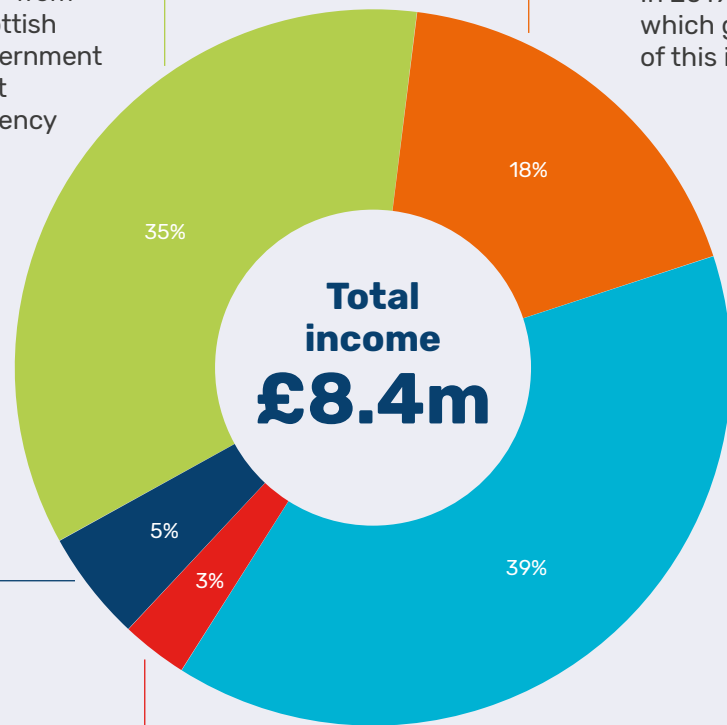
Grants awarded to SCIAF from sources such as the Scottish government and UK government to fund our development programmes and emergency response work.

Other income £1.5m

In 2019 SCIAF sold our old office which generated the majority of this income.

Gift aid £388,000

Gift aid collected on donations allows money to go further.



General donations £3.3m

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

Emergency appeals £255,000

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

Thank you!

In 2019, institutional funding was provided by UK government, the Scottish government, the European Union, and the Guernsey Overseas Aid and Development Commission.



EXPENDITURE 2019

Your generous donations were used to fund life-changing projects throughout Asia, Africa, Latin America and the Middle East. Last year over 400,000 people directly benefitted from your support.

Education in Scotland £669,000

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

Advocacy £266,000

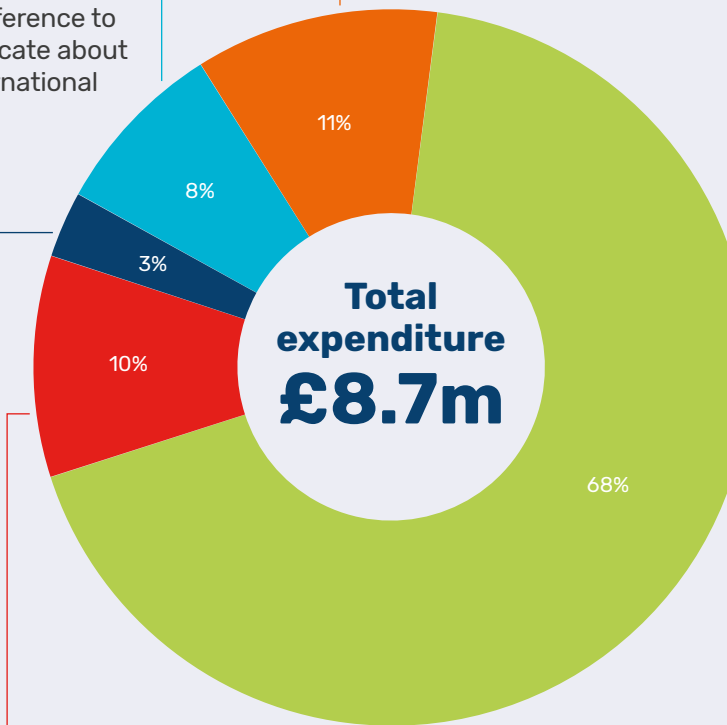
We work with the Scottish public, parishes, schools and our partners to put pressure on governments and big businesses to create a fairer and more peaceful world.

Emergency response £840,000

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

Fundraising £983,000

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



Development programmes £5.9m

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.

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

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



CORONAVIRUS HAS REACHED AFRICA. IT'S ALREADY UNLEASHING A POVERTY PANDEMIC WHICH WILL KILL THE WORLD'S POOREST PEOPLE FIRST.



A PRAYER OF HOPE by Bishop John Keenan



Lord Jesus, you were born into poverty
And felt first-hand the dangers of basic subsistence.
You made Your Gospel a priority for the poor
And identified Yourself with the hungry and thirsty,
the stranger and the dispossessed.
You raised a widow's son from death
to assure her some family to provide.
Help us reach the poorest of the poor,
least equipped for this global pandemic,
So that our love fends off shortage and keeps families
healthy.
To secure peace for their loved ones and justice
for their land.
Amen

LOSS OF INCOME WILL KILL THE POOREST PEOPLE FIRST

Restrictions as a result of the pandemic are making it harder for farmers to survive. They are unable to sell their produce at the market, so have lost their earnings and there is no food available for those who need to buy it. This is causing widespread food shortages.

LOSS OF EDUCATION WILL KILL THE POOREST PEOPLE FIRST

Education is key to escaping poverty. When schools reopen, the poorest families will not be able to send their children to school. Instead, they will need them to work to support their struggling families. Without an education, many more will be trapped into poverty.

LOSS OF FAMILY WILL KILL THE POOREST PEOPLE FIRST

When a family loses its only breadwinner to the coronavirus or the poverty pandemic, those they leave behind struggle to survive.

WE CANNOT FORSAKE THEM.

You can donate to our emergency appeal at www.sciaf.org.uk/donate by calling **0141 354 5555** or by completing the donation form in this magazine.

SAFETY FIRST

The SCIAF team has been working from home since March. To keep our staff safe, we closed our office shortly before everyone was asked to stay at home. As restrictions have eased, our team has started visiting the office to open our post and process your generous donations.

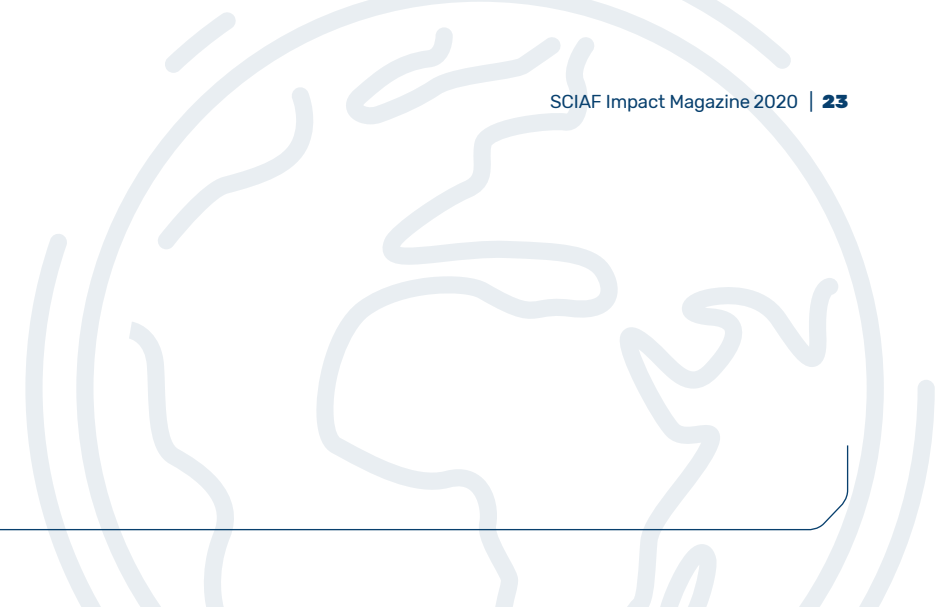


> Cocy and Joshua from Uganda

WHERE WE WORK



Protecting land and river rights of indigenous communities in Cambodia ensures people can grow food and catch fish. That means they can feed their families and earn a living.



We strive to ensure the most effective use of our money and resources and to work in countries where our expertise and knowledge are most impactful.

Following a recent review of the countries in which SCIAF works, we have decided to work in fewer countries. This will allow us to bring greater quality and depth to our work, to achieve lasting change in the lives of the communities we serve.

MALAWI

Climate change is making it impossible for families to grow enough food to survive. We're working with many of the most vulnerable communities to help them grow more food using sustainable organic farming, providing livestock such as goats and cows, and helping communities to put in place basic irrigation systems so they can capture and conserve water needed for their crops. We're also helping families to set up small businesses and create savings and loans groups so people have access to money in times of emergency.

COLOMBIA

We're helping indigenous people to preserve their land rights, protect their land from destruction and contamination and to protect themselves from threats from illegal mining operations. We're helping communities who were forced to flee their homes to stand up for their rights and reclaim legal access to their land. We also provide seeds, tools, livestock and training to marginalized people, such as those from Embera, Afro-Colombian and campesino communities, so they can grow more food and support themselves.



Helping people in Malawi grow more food helps them to feed their family, but also lets them sell the surplus to earn a little money – enough to send their children to school.

CAMBODIA

We're helping vulnerable communities to stand up for their rights, protect their rivers, forests and land and adapt the way they farm and fish to better cope with climate change. We're also helping to provide access to safe water and ensuring communities have stable livelihoods all year round. Women in rural areas are also receiving help with money saving schemes, setting up small businesses and protecting themselves from gender-based violence.

DR CONGO

For thousands of women and young girls who've been affected by sexual and gender-based violence, we're providing medical care, trauma counselling, legal aid to seek justice, vocational training, and help to set up small businesses. We're also providing safe water and savings and credit facilities. For children born of rape, we're helping to get birth certificates so they 'legally exist' and can access school and healthcare. In addition to this, to support a more responsible minerals trade, we're contributing to the collation of vital information on violence against women and children in the mining sector.



DAMBI'S STORY

Dambi Dida is a pastoralist, like his father and grandfather before him. He relies on money from livestock sales and selling milk from his goats to provide for his wife and young children. In southern Ethiopia where Dambi lives drought has made life hard for pastoralists. Without vegetation to graze on their goats and cattle simply die.

Working alongside our sister agencies CAFOD and Trócaire, local partners CIFA, and with funding from the UK government, SCIAF has been able to help Dambi by introducing him to a specialist insurance scheme created for pastoralists.

Dambi pays a small amount of his earnings to join the scheme. If the worst happens and the vegetation his goats and cattle rely on for food fails to grow, he receives an emergency payout to compensate him.

This means Dambi can buy food and other essentials for his family. Since joining the scheme in 2017 Dambi has received four of these vital payouts.

>



ETHIOPIA

Working alongside our sister charities, CAFOD and Trócaire, we're providing 'cash for work' so extremely poor families can support themselves and learn vocational skills. We're also helping drought-stricken communities to dig and maintain wells and reservoirs. Our work also includes setting up savings and loans groups, and providing training to help vulnerable communities to set up new businesses.



^ In Ethiopia, hunger and drought kill the poorest first. Your donations help protect families most at risk.

RWANDA

We're supporting women and smallholder farmers through an environmentally friendly approach to farming, to start small businesses and savings and credit facilities, access safe water and adapt to climate change. We're also tackling sexual and gender-based violence against women and marginalised people. For the minority Batwa community who face discrimination, we're helping their children to go to school, provide vocational training and skills development, and supporting them to know their rights under Rwandan law.

SOUTH SUDAN

We've been working in South Sudan for many years. Through local partners we're getting emergency food, medicine and shelter to thousands of families, promoting peace and reconciliation through radio broadcasting, and helping women affected by domestic violence. We're also supporting people with disabilities with wheelchairs, walking canes, and support, through schooling or the setting up of a business, so they can live an active life in their community.

ZAMBIA

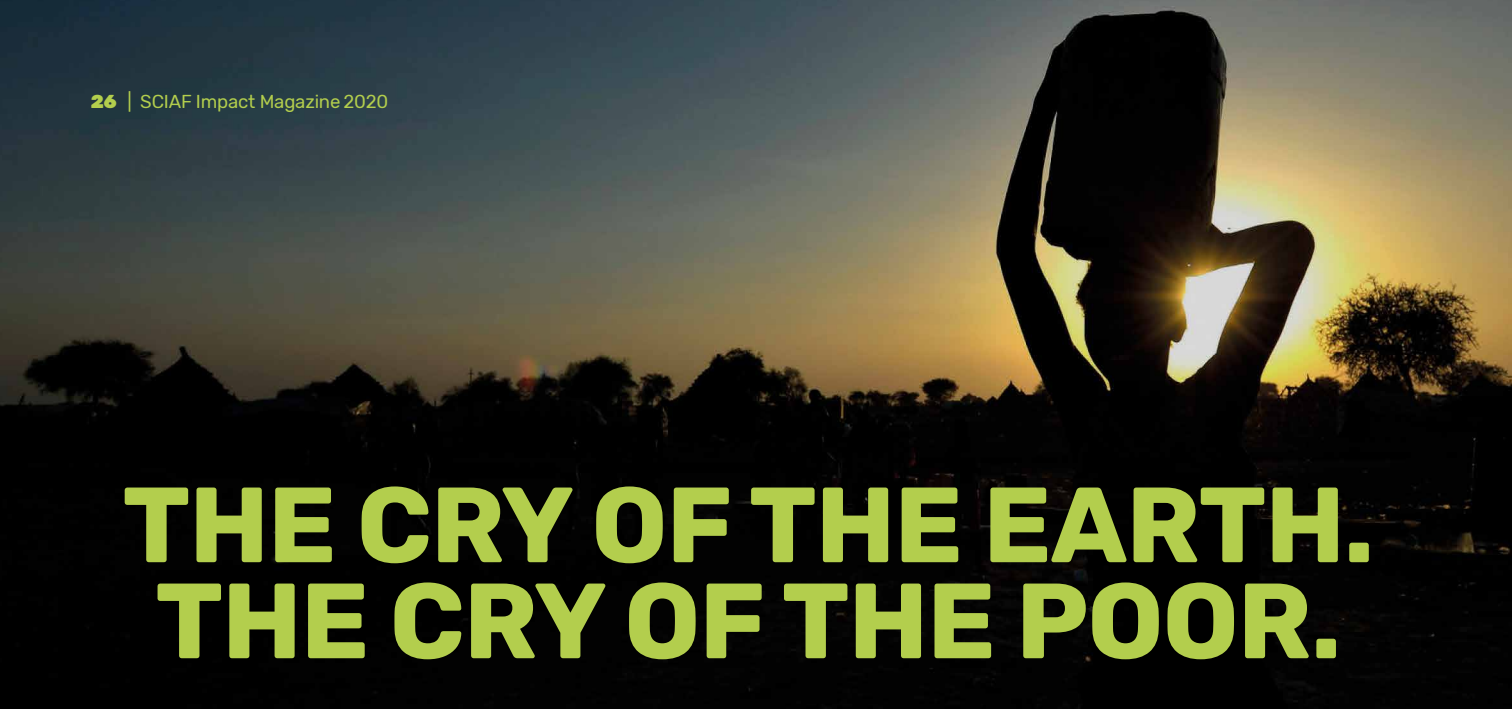
We're working with a range of local partners including church agencies to help poor farmers to improve their soil, increase their harvests and generate an income by using simple organic farming techniques such as composting, which will protect the land long into the future. This includes helping them to diversify the crops they grow to improve yields and food security in communities.

"Drought is worse than war. With war you can escape, but not so with drought.

"I used to pray to God and would wait to see what happened, there was nothing else I could do. My neighbours, good pastoralists and herd workers, killed themselves due to the stress of drought, leaving their families to fend for themselves. I just said to myself, we have to keep going.

"I now have the ability to protect my family from some of the worst effects of drought, I've taken back control of our future and it's a wonderful feeling. My family are physically and mentally more stable than before, and our lives are happier.

"My family now have a more secure future, and I'm feeling confident that life will be okay."



THE CRY OF THE EARTH. THE CRY OF THE POOR.

The Earth is on fire. The storms are bigger. The deserts are growing.
The crops are failing. And the poor are being killed.

Our climate is changing. All around the world, the signs are different,
but none of them are good.

For decades SCIAF has walked with people whose existence can wither
in a drought or be washed away in a flood. They've told us that climate change
is a devastating and immediate crisis for them and millions like them all over
the world and that they fear for their children's future.

We've taken their message to the highest levels of government, pushing for
a better, fairer response. And when politicians dithered, we've been on the streets
campaigning for change in Scotland and the world.

For too long we have destroyed our forests, ravaged our soil, and polluted our seas,
and failed to care for the world around us.

But there is hope. If we act now, we can repair the damage.

If we unite to care for creation we can begin to heal our common home.

If we all make our lives simpler, by consuming more thoughtfully, we help others
to simply live. If we act ethically and reject systems of oppression we can build
a greener and fairer world. If we pressure politicians to care for the planet,
we can protect the poorest from disaster.

If we refuse to give in we can save this world for our children and create
a better one for our grandchildren.



The last six years have been
the warmest on record.



The global wildlife
population has more than
halved in the last 40 years.



Today, hurricanes are fiercer
and three times more
common than they were
a 100 years ago.

THE FRONTLINE OF THE CLIMATE CRISIS

by Roselyn Waswa

⚠️ THE PROBLEM

In 2017 Zambia experienced a drought, and the consequences are still being felt today. Families have less and less food.

The 2017 drought led to a limited harvest in 2018, causing food prices in Zambia to rise significantly. Now, some families are only eating three meals each week.

The 2020 harvest is also expected to be below average, so the situation will definitely get worse.

The droughts have dried up the clean water supplies, so people are turning to less safe water sources. We see outbreaks of tuberculosis, cholera, and malaria because people who are already malnourished don't have safe water for drinking and washing.

The responsibility to collect water falls upon women and girls. As they travel further from home to find clean water, they are at increasing risk of sexual violence.

These droughts are placing young people at particular risk. To make ends meet many have to leave school, ending their education early. They have no choice but to enter into child-labour, with great risk of exploitation. Girls as young as 13 also face the prospect of being forced into marriages in exchange for money because their families are starving.



💡 THE SOLUTIONS

At Caritas Kabwe we are working with communities on immediate and long-term solutions to the climate crisis. We're constructing wells in areas where rivers dry up.

In 2017, with support from SCIAF, we began an initiative teaching people new, organic, farming techniques which is helping them to grow more food. By diversifying their crops, they are far better protected if one crop fails. We teach farmers not to rely solely on maize - they are shifting towards millet, sorghum and groundnuts. These crops are drought resistant and therefore give a good yield even with very little rain.

We also purchased goats for the participating farmers as they are very resistant to drought and diseases and they multiply quickly. The goat droppings can be used as organic manure so they don't have to buy fertilizer, instead they use money for fertilizer to purchase their household food and pay school fees for their children.

In addition to farming skills, we're teaching people to become entrepreneurial, finding products they can sell like chickens, or traditional fabrics, which allow them to make money in ways which don't rely solely on farming and rainfall.

In 2019, we ran a food assistance programme for 200 of the most vulnerable households. With support from SCIAF we were able to make sure elderly people living with disabilities and pregnant women got the food they needed to survive. While we were able to help 200 households, there were many more we would have liked to reach.

The 2020 harvest is also expected to be below average, so the situation will definitely get worse.

Roselyn Waswa,
Caritas Kabwe

EDUCATION ROUND UP

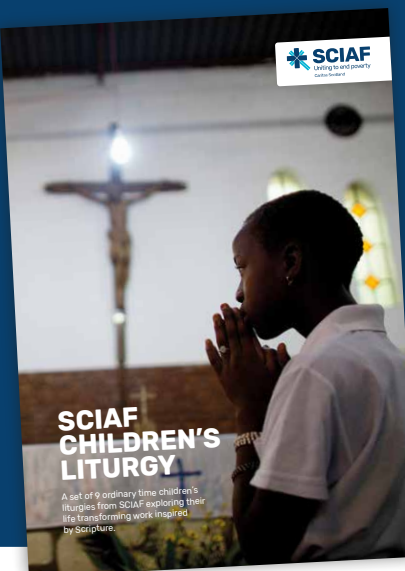
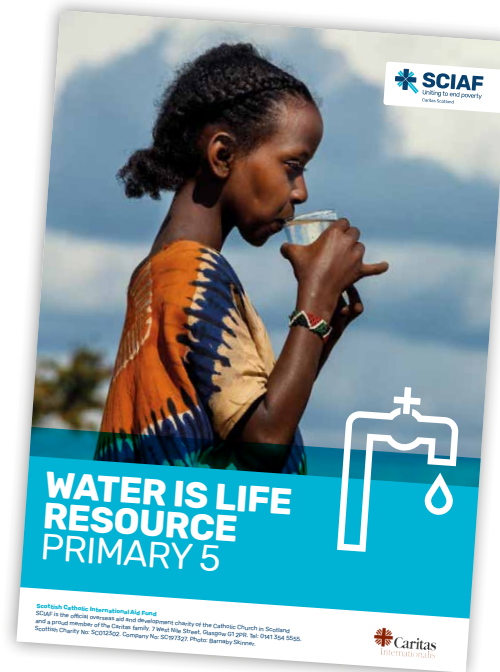
Learning Online

As more of our everyday activities become digital, SCIAF has prioritised delivering even more online resources. New, interactive lessons combine a number of virtual and creative activities including online quizzes, recorded presentations and up-cycling art projects.

Teachers can find the resources ready to download, including our refreshed Saint Óscar Romero lesson, Romero Cross activity and a secondary school Catholic Social Teaching activity. At the start of the new academic year, we are also pleased to share an updated Water is Life P5 resource and a senior phase resource on sexual and gender-based violence.

In addition to writing new resources, our entire team continues to explore innovative ways to connect with teachers and pupils online.

Find resources ready to download now at www.sciaf.org.uk/resources



A Brand New SCIAF Children's Liturgy

We are excited to launch a new children's liturgy, an engaging and effective resource for every parish and liturgist.

There are three different ordinary time children's liturgies for each year, carefully chosen in their relation to the work of SCIAF.

Each parish in Scotland will receive one of our Children's Liturgy leaflets, but you can request one by emailing getinvolved@sciaf.org.uk

The full resource, and all supporting material including photos, presentations, worksheets and prayers, can be found online at www.sciaf.org.uk/resources

Teaching is a beautiful job; as it allows you to see the growth day by day of people entrusted to your care.

Pope Francis



A WEEK WITH THE WOMEN OF DR CONGO



by Lorraine McIntosh



Lorraine with Joan, a rape survivor whom SCIAF is helping

Lorraine McIntosh of Deacon Blue travelled with SCIAF to see work with women affected by sexual violence in the Democratic Republic of Congo – the focus of SCIAF's 2020 WEE BOX BIG CHANGE appeal.

Saturday

The Rwandan/Congolese border is no country for old women like me. Police with machine guns, checks for Ebola, and the people keep coming. Women pass us as we wait for clearance, huge bundles carried on their heads, babies strapped to their backs, flapping chickens upside down in their hands. Border officials don't like journalists which includes two of our group. This one is refusing entry until a call comes from the local priest. Suddenly we're on our way. Crossing a bridge over the Ruzizi river, I realise this is another first for me. First day in Africa; first time crossing a border on foot.

Chaos and poverty in the Democratic Republic of Congo are immediately apparent. No road – just a mud track.

I'm here to see the work of SCIAF and its local partners who are helping thousands of women affected by sexual violence. First, to the Olame Centre, where women come from miles around seeking help: medical, financial, post-trauma counselling and legal aid. Here they focus on the

most vulnerable and desperate. It's estimated that 40% of women in the South Kivu region where I am have been victims of rape and sexual violence. They are overwhelmed.

Inside the grounds, two young girls aged 14 and 15 accused of being witches wait for us. They are supported by the Director of the centre Thérèse Mapenzi. She will feature hugely in our trip, translating every interview with patience and compassion. The women trust her. The younger girl's head is a criss-cross of machete scars inflicted by her uncle who thought he could beat the evil out of her.

The older girl, accused of causing her father's blindness, hands me a piece of paper. It's a drawing of a young girl on a platform, addressing an audience through a microphone. There is a speech bubble above her head:

"May peace reign all over the world, and especially in the DR Congo."

"That's me," she says.

Sunday

6am Mass.

2,000 people singing and dancing. Joyous. The parish priest, Fr Justin is hugely charismatic and plays a central role in the lives of his congregation. Living among them, he is open to all. Being a voice for the voiceless, as the Director of the local Justice and Peace group, has resulted in two assassination attempts against him. His house is defended by barbed wire and an armed guard. When we need to leave the church grounds to take photographs, he comes with us as our security.

Women wait to share their stories. I sit with Marina, mother of eight children whose husband was murdered by rebels. Her 10 year old daughter was raped and infected with HIV. Through SCIAF's partners, she is given antiretroviral medication and money to start up her own small business. She saves a tiny amount each week in the local cooperative savings group and this has changed her life.

A family with two children tell us their story. The father speaks of how gender equality education has changed the way he behaves. He says he is ashamed to admit before the training he 'acted like a rapist' in his home but no more. His wife sits beside him. They have named their first child SCIAF.

Monday

Spent last night unable to sleep, reading over the information I was meant to have already read.

Today we visit Katana Hospital, two hours' drive from Bukavu and a place the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) states as a 'no travel area'. Maybe it's good I didn't read it before we left!

We travel in convoy. People everywhere. Children at the side of the road breaking rocks. We have travelled back in time. Told to keep our windows and doors locked. A makeshift roadblock brings us to a stop. A group of young men gather, banging on the window. They want money. The driver ignores them, eyes straight ahead. Eventually they let us pass.

In Katana Hospital Congolese doctors trained by SCIAF work to repair the bodies of women brutalised by rape. Many of the women live with fistula as a result of these rapes and are rejected by their communities and their husbands. These doctors are transforming the lives of thousands. Often these operations are carried out by torchlight from their mobile phones as the electricity supply cuts out. The wards are crowded with women and babies. Conditions are basic.

Saffi tells how she was beaten and raped by rebels and how she managed to hide her rape and injuries from her husband for four years, before finding out help was available. She walked to the hospital and her surgery was performed the following day. After years of double incontinence, she says coming round after the operation was like coming out of hell.

One of the women is Albino, a persecuted people in the DR Congo. She has been trafficked and raped. As the bones of Albinos are reported to possess magical powers, they tried to kill her. She escaped and now receives help at Katana Hospital.

Her skin is cracked and burned from the Congolese sun. She asks the translator to ask me if I have any cream I could give her. Unfortunately, I don't. She nods and turns away. We leave before dark and the threatened rain, as the road would then be impassable.

Feeling overwhelmed.

Tuesday

Today we visited the site of a devastating landslide in the shanty town in the hills above Bukavu. Fr Justin is our guide. Suspicion turns to welcome as the locals see we are together and soon I am being led up the hill by the hand, through the mud and running sewage to the scene of the disaster.

We stand in cleared ground. The previous week four makeshift houses once stood here before being washed away by heavy rain. It is here that the bodies of five children and one woman were buried under the mud for days. The local young people dug them out with their bare hands and a few shovels. No outside help came. No ambulance, no rescue service, no police. These people are all but forgotten. They are desperate to show me video footage of the dead children. I can't look. The people stand around, waiting on our reaction.



Lorraine McIntosh and Ricky Ross with Fr Justin at the site of the recent landslide in Bukavu



Lorraine speaking to people in Bukavu

It is the first time I have seen Fr Justin despondent. 'How can I help these people?' He says, arms reaching out to the thousands huddled on this hillside. 'What can I do?' We look above at the houses already precariously perched at the top. We all know it's only a matter of time before it happens again. It starts to rain.

We leave to cross the border back to Rwanda.

Wednesday

Rwanda

We leave Cyangugu to drive out to Lake Kivu. We have arranged a safe place for the women who are appearing on SCIAF's WEE BOX appeal to be interviewed.

The landscape is beautiful. They call Rwanda the country of a thousand hills. The lake stretches as far as the eye can see, all the way across to the Congo.

I talk to Angela one of the women on SCIAF's WEE BOX. Raped by nine rebels, her children forced to watch, and her husband killed in front of them. She is now HIV positive and needs life-long medical care. She says with SCIAF's help she has made some sort of life for herself and her children. She grows crops and has a couple of goats which is a huge help. I ask how she views her future. She says she doesn't care if she dies, but that it's important that Thérèse (from Centre Olame) doesn't die because of the work she is doing in helping the other women.

Thérèse is translating this. It is the first time I struggle to control my emotions. Thérèse has tears in her eyes but keeps on translating Angela's words.

Before leaving Angela asks for one of the WEE BOXES to take home with her.

Thursday

This morning we visit a traditional village of the Batwa people. Previously known as pygmies, they were a highly persecuted minority in Rwanda and continue to be desperately poor. We are warmly welcomed by them. The women sit on the ground making clay pots. The level of poverty is apparent. Behind the brick exterior of their homes, there is no running water or electricity. It's only with the support of SCIAF that many of the children now attend school.

We are introduced to an immaculately dressed young woman who is the first person from her village and only one of four Batwa to attend university in Kigali. She sits in her home devoid of any furniture except for a wooden bench brought in for us. Her parents sit on either side.

Their pride is palpable. She says she is studying finance as that is the best way she can support her people. It's hard to imagine when dropping coins in the SCIAF WEE BOX at home that this is the outcome. Those coins are paying for this young woman's university fees and changing people's futures.

As we leave, the villagers gather and sing us a farewell song.



Lorraine and Thérèse Mapezi from the Centre Olame

Friday

Fly back to Kigali and drive out to Bugesera district. A group of beautifully dressed women farmers gather in the village waiting for us. Support from SCIAF has totally transformed their lives.

One woman describes herself as having been "the poorest of the poor".

Now she has food, a home and most importantly for her, savings in the bank. These women have control of their lives. It's good to hear women laughing.

It's been a while.

JOIN US!

We're looking for volunteers to help us raise awareness of SCIAF's work in parishes throughout Scotland. Join us as we seek to welcome 100 new Parish Volunteers over the next two years. You'll help to champion our brand new campaign to stop hunger, conflict and injustice.

Could you put up posters, hand out WEE BOXES, deliver talks about our work or organise fundraising events within your parish?

Join the SCIAF team, make new friends, and give a hand up to people in poverty. Drop us an email to say hello, or visit our website today.

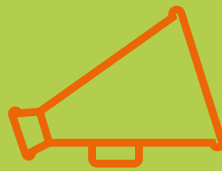
 getinvolved@sciaf.org.uk

 www.sciaf.org.uk/volunteer

 **0141 354 5555**



REFLECT



ACT



GIVE



SCIAF
7 West Nile Street,
Glasgow G1 2PR
sciaf@sciaf.org.uk

Scottish Catholic International Aid Fund

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