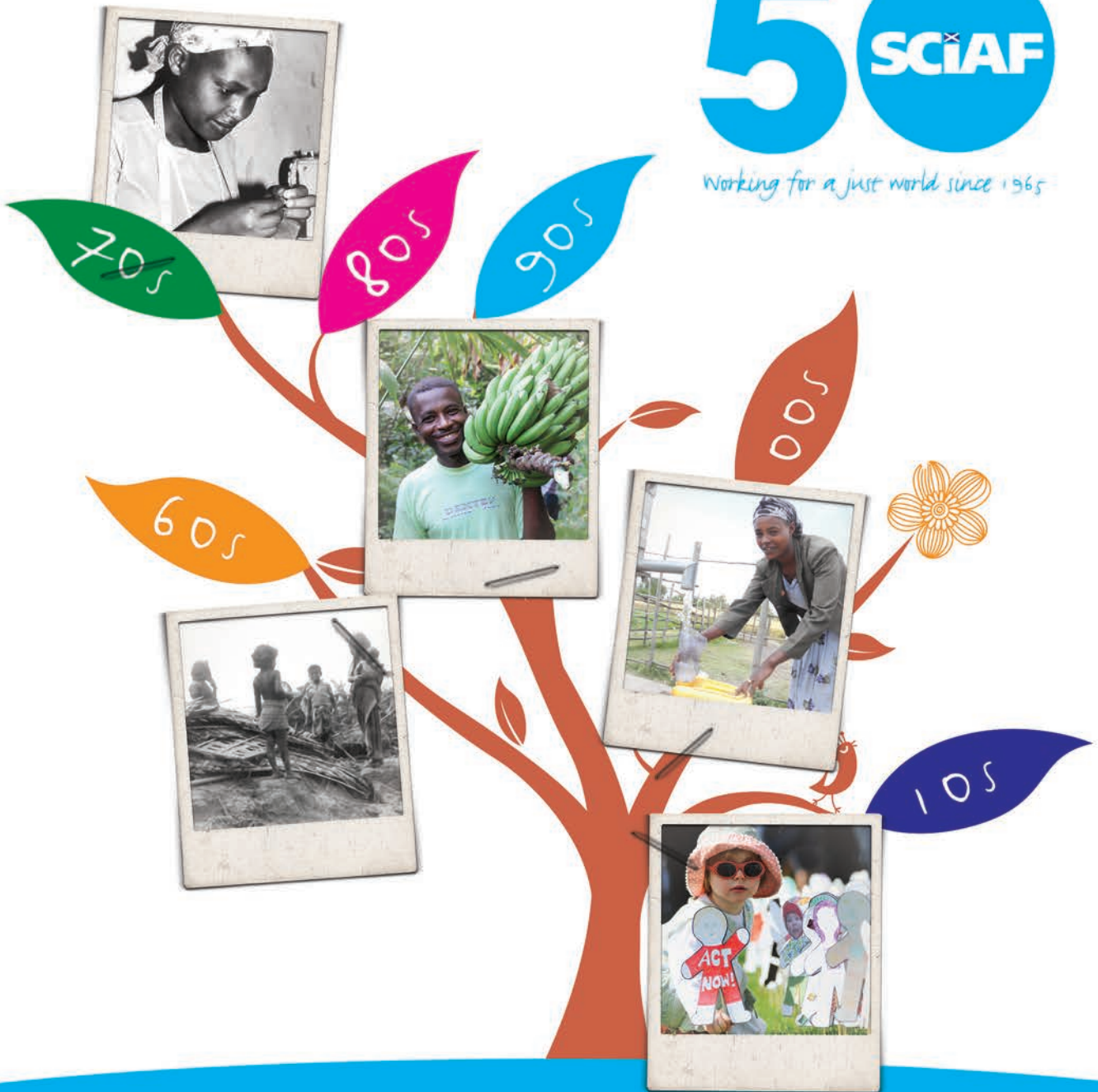




Working for a just world since 1965



Working for  
a just world for 50 years:  
SCI AF 1965-2015



SCIAF Director Alistair Dutton in Burkina Faso.

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## FOREWORD

Since SCIAF was founded in 1965 we have walked together in God's love, in solidarity with those who are poor and oppressed, and with your help we've achieved great things. Millions of people in Africa, Asia and Latin America have been able to work their way out of poverty with the tools they needed, and millions have received the life-saving aid they needed after disasters. Generations of our loyal supporters in schools, parishes and elsewhere throughout Scotland have put their faith into action and reached out to their brothers and sisters in need overseas.

All this has only been possible, thanks to you – your generosity, your time, your passion for justice and your support.

We owe a huge debt to our founders and all those who've worked hard over the years. Inspired by the spirit and teaching of the Second Vatican Council, Mgr John Rooney and John McKee set up SCIAF in Rutherglen in 1965 with just £8,000 in the first year. The Bishops' Conference of Scotland appointed Bishop Michael Foylan as our first Treasurer. Their aim, which we still follow today, was to help people who are poor throughout the world and inspire Scottish Catholics to respond to Jesus' call for a just world in which all people have life and live it to the full (Luke 4:18-19).

Just as Jesus launched his public ministry by taking the scroll of Isaiah, we join him in proclaiming:

"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim a year of the Lord's favour." (Lk 4:18-19)

The words of Pope Paul VI in his encyclical letter *Populorum Progressio* were the inspiration for the growth and development of SCIAF and many other Church aid agencies around the world. He wrote, "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."

Our founders took this message to heart. Their initiative and dedication led Catholics up and down the country to help people devastated by emergencies including the 1968 crisis in Biafra (now part of south-eastern Nigeria) and drought in Bihar in India. Our work continued and grew, helping people in need overseas including Vietnamese refugees fleeing their country from the mid-1970s and Ethiopians hit by the terrible famine in the mid-1980s, to the Darfur crisis, the Asian tsunami, the Haiti earthquake, the Philippines' cyclone, the Syrian conflict and the Ebola epidemic in more recent times.

As the Church teaches, we always give more than financial support; we always strive to cater for people's physical, emotional, spiritual, social and economic well-being. As the international aid charity of the Bishops' Conference in Scotland, ours is a cause of dignity, solidarity, compassion, justice, caring for people in their entirety, and accompanying them on their journey "from less human to more human conditions," in the words of Pope Paul VI. As Pope Benedict XVI wrote in his 2009 encyclical letter *Caritas in Veritate*, echoing the words of Paul VI, "authentic human development concerns the whole of the person in every single dimension."

This shines through in our work. For



example, after the Asian tsunami in 2004, we not only rebuilt homes and helped people to earn a living again, we also worked with children so they could overcome their fear of the sea, and learn to play in it once more. In Africa, we care for women traumatised by rape through counselling centres run by the local Church, as well as giving medical care to them and their children. In Latin America, we continue to support the work of poor families who help their disabled children take part in the community.

Reflecting the teaching of the Church, our work over the years has helped people to take control of their lives – we give them a hand up, not a hand out. This is why, for instance, we support many small savings groups among poor women, who use their collective funds to help each other. Loans are given to the women in most need, who might buy a sewing machine or a few goats to make a living and provide for their children. This often produces a small surplus which they can sell and save so they can provide some of the family's other necessities. When they pay the loan back, the money is used to help others.

Church teaching also tells us to tackle the causes of poverty such as inequality, economic injustice and climate change. This has inspired us to play an important part in popular political campaigns over the years such as the Jubilee Debt campaign, Make Poverty History and most recently, Enough Food for Everyone' IF. In various ways, these have made a huge difference, leading to the cancellation of debt for many poor countries, a massive increase in international aid, and help for people who are already suffering the effects of climate change. Pope Benedict called this kind of response "the political path of charity, no less excellent and effective

than the kind of charity which encounters the neighbour directly." (*Caritas in Veritate*, paragraph 7). Every Christian, he said, is called to practise this charity according to their role in society.

Pope Francis has continued the social impetus of the Church, calling us to be "a poor Church for the poor", and has been prolific in highlighting the plight of the poor and the need for social justice. To mark the start of our anniversary this year we were honoured to receive a blessing from the Holy Father. In it, Pope Francis reiterated his Lenten message from 2014 in which he said,

"We Christians are called to confront the poverty of our brothers and sisters; to touch it, to make it our own and take practical steps to alleviate it... Our efforts are also directed to ending violations of human dignity, discrimination and abuse in the world, for these are so often the cause of destitution in the world."

These words guide our work forward every day. Over the years, whether it has been responding to major disasters, helping people to free themselves from hunger and poverty or campaigning for justice, we seek to be a reflection of God's love for His people.

With your support, over the last 50 years we've given millions of families a better chance in life and hope for the future. We won't stop while they need our help.

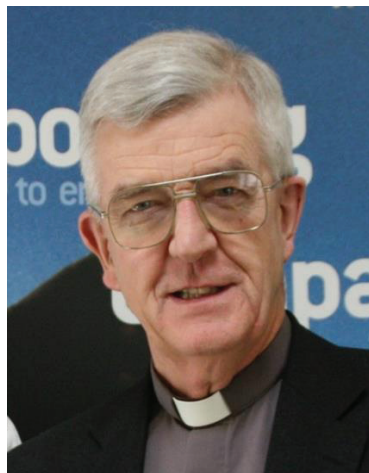


Alistair Dutton, Director of SCIAF



A bullet made into a Cross acts as a sign of peace in DR Congo (photo: Simon Murphy).

# INTRODUCTION



The year 2015 marks the fiftieth anniversary of the founding of the Scottish Catholic International Aid Fund – SCIAF – in 1965. This little book seeks to

chart the progress of SCIAF and to offer a thank you to all the many people who have helped make us something the Catholic community can be proud of. If you are reading this, you are almost certainly one of those people!

SCIAF grew from tiny beginnings. With the active involvement of Canon John Rooney, one unpaid volunteer (John McKee), based at St Columbkille's, Rutherglen, received the donations and the Treasurer (Bishop Foylan of Aberdeen) signed and sent the cheques. A committee with two representatives from each diocese in Scotland advised on which projects to support. So from the first, the Fund was to be the Catholics in Scotland reaching out to the needy in needy countries.

SCIAF has grown enormously over the last 50 years. Measured in pounds and pence we distribute a thousand times as much per year as in the first year. Public accountability is required. This has called for full-time qualified and paid staff. More recently, funding has been increasingly available from corporate bodies or from government development budgets. But we don't want to "grow away" from our core support. We aim to be, as our founders intended, "the

Catholics of Scotland reaching out to the needy."

If there is one thing which reassures us that SCIAF is still close to the minds and hearts of Catholics in Scotland it is the huge number of SCIAF volunteers. Around two hundred individuals give willingly of their talents, and of whatever time they can spare, to help with so many aspects of our work.

Our achievements, which are your achievements, are recorded in this little book, in the newspaper coverage, and in the series of annual reports sent out to parishes, with project details and the smiling photos of people grateful for your help.

Our thanks must go of course to Our Lord himself who is the ultimate inspiration and strength of all we do. Our thanks go also to those who took the founding decision fifty years ago, to the five lay people who have led SCIAF over these years, to the members of the Board, and especially to the SCIAF staff, volunteers and supporters, over these years and today.

We thank parishes, schools, individuals, institutional funders and government departments for tens of millions of pounds given for the needy; we give thanks for crises alleviated, projects partnered, attitudes altered, poverty and misery solaced and dignity and self-esteem restored through your generosity.

A jubilee like this must also be the springboard for the next fifty years. Not all challenges can be foreseen, but of those that can be, here are some examples:

- climate change and its disproportionate impact upon the poorest;

- globalisation and the increasing influence of commercial interests;
- the fragmentation of some countries, which looks like creating a new "Third World";
- the opportunity offered by the communications revolution based on social media.

We can be sure that our SCIAF successors, and even the younger people already among us, will have no lack of purposes and projects in the future.

The cry of the poor and the oppressed has resounded in every century since Isaiah. As the Church in Scotland we cannot and must not close our ears to their cry. St Paul tells us, and Pope Francis reminds us constantly, that the joy of the Good News is for sharing.

Spreading that joy, in practical aid as well as in words, when the Church reaches out to the needy, is a missionary imperative for all Christians. And when we say "the Church", that has to mean you and me. We are the salt to counter so much corruption, and the light that must banish the darkness.

As we begin this anniversary year, I hand over the presidency of SCIAF to my successor, Bishop Joseph Toal of Motherwell. I wish him, and the organisation, every success.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "+ Peter A. Moran".

Rt Rev Peter A Moran, Bishop President of SCIAF 2004 – 2015



As we give thanks for the first 50 years of SCIAF we look forward to building on what has been achieved and to continuing to offer a helping hand to

some of the most needy in the world. We will continue to rely on the support of the Catholic community in Scotland and our other friends and we trust that this

support will remain strong and that the younger generations will respond with equal generosity and enthusiasm. We are called by the Lord to continually see him in all our brothers and sisters, especially the poorest, and we ask him to inspire our efforts to fulfil what he expects of us. Let us work with SCIAF then as we strive to do our duty in building a better and more just world.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "+ Joseph Toal".

Rt Rev Joseph Toal, Bishop President of SCIAF 2015





Canon Rooney



Mr. J. McKee



Bishop Foylan

## SCOTS FUND TO SEND AID ABROAD

The hierarchy of Scotland are setting up a "Scottish Catholic International Aid Fund" to help underdeveloped countries, it was announced in a pastoral letter to be read out at all masses last Sunday.

The letter said ...." In this age of plenty it is vital for all of us, old and young alike, to realise that the age of (destitute) poverty is not over for a very large proportion of the

population of the world. We in Scotland may be (relatively) all right, but it would be utterly unchristian to close our eyes to the state of poverty and near starvation in which many millions live in the under-developed countries....God will reward you for your generosity. May He bless you all."

*Scottish Catholic Observer*  
17<sup>th</sup> September 1965

## FOUNDING A FUND (1965-74)

"While an immense mass of people still lack the absolute necessities of life, some, even in less advanced countries, live sumptuously or squander wealth. Luxury and misery rub shoulders. While the few enjoy very great freedom of choice, the many are deprived of almost all possibility of acting on their own initiative and responsibility, and often subsist in living and working conditions unworthy of human beings."

*Gaudium et Spes*

Pastoral Constitution on the Church in the Modern World, paragraph 63, 1965

With the principles of the Second Vatican Council guiding them, the Scottish Catholic International Aid Fund was founded by Mgr John Rooney and John McKee in the presbytery of St Columbkille's parish, Rutherglen. The Bishops' Conference of Scotland appointed the Archbishops of St Andrews and Edinburgh and Glasgow as trustees, with Bishop Michael Foylan as Treasurer. John McKee led and developed SCIAF's work for many years until he retired as Vice Chair in 1995, aged 90.

Our aim was agreed by the Bishops' Conference and communicated to all the parishes in Scotland: "SCIAF is the official overseas agency of the Bishops, clergy and laity of Scotland. It exists to help the world's hungry, underprivileged and destitute. It hopes also to make the realities better known and to arouse a lively awareness of the obligations deriving from Christian charity and responsibility."

With the active help of Catholic parishes and schools, we raised £8,000 in our first year.

Rt Rev John Mone, then Bishop President, writing in *Founding a Fund, SCIAF 1965-85* said, "It is appropriate to single out one outstanding layman in the first twenty years of SCIAF, Mr John

J McKee. On behalf of the Scottish Bishops, it gives me great joy to thank Mr McKee for fulfilling their trust, for being the faithful custodian of the Fund's interests and pray that he will be with SCIAF for many years to come."

SCIAF soon became part of the fabric of Scottish Catholic life. In 1968 Catholics in Scotland gave over £3,000 to our appeal for people hit by famine in Biafra (now part of south-eastern Nigeria). We also sent food and medicine following drought and famine in Bihar, India. Responding to emergencies would remain a core part of our work for the next 50 years.

“ 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. ”

Pope Paul VI,  
*Populorum Progressio*,  
paragraph 3, 1967



We responded after the Bangladesh Cyclone in 1971.



Pope Paul VI's encyclical, *Populorum Progressio* (or *On the Development of Peoples*), had a huge impact on the Church's work for peace and for human development worldwide. The Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace was established following this encyclical, and in Scotland, the SCIAF committee was mandated to act as the Scottish Commission for Justice and Peace, with Archbishop Scanlan as President. In 1973 a new Justice and Peace Commission was established under the presidency of then Bishop Thomas Winning. John McKee acted as Secretary and the office was in Rutherglen, sitting alongside SCIAF and the Catholic Education Commission. The close links between the two bodies remain, with Bishop Joseph Toal now taking up his position as President of both SCIAF and Justice and Peace in 2015.

Our education work grew from the earliest days of SCIAF and began to bear real fruit. In 1970 we worked with Jordanhill College of Education and

“ SCIAF is working for a just world. Someone said that ‘the opposite of poverty is not wealth, but in many places, the opposite of poverty is justice’. We may not have the capacity to create a different world for the suffering, but working together we bring a world of difference in the lives of the suffering. ”

Kayondo Mathias, Sustainable Agriculture for Rural Development Network, a SCIAF partner in Uganda

“ This money does not represent a charitable hand-out to soothe the consciences of Scottish Catholics but is a genuine attempt, however small, to wipe out the glaring inequalities which exist in the world. ”

Canon John Rooney,  
September 1971

other agencies to produce a guide for teachers – ‘The Third World’. This was warmly received and had a real impact on the teaching of the new subject of Modern Studies in Scotland. A second edition was published in 1974 and the third edition was later produced by the United Nations Educational Trust.

By the early 1970s, SCIAF's focus on a practical hand up for communities, linked with an understanding of the demands of justice, was already clear in our annual appeals. In June 1974, then Fr John Mone was appointed Chair of SCIAF after the sudden death of Mgr Rooney, and later that year, then Fr Ian Murray became assistant organiser. Both of these inspiring priests would later become bishops and retain a lengthy and valued engagement with SCIAF. By the end of its first decade, our little organisation was ready for new challenges.

In 1972, SCIAF moved to our first official premises. John McKee had been appointed Education Officer for the Bishops' Conference in 1970, and combined this with his role as our Secretary. Two years later, the Catholic Education Commission and SCIAF moved into the former school at St Columbkille's, Rutherglen, which had been acquired by Mgr Rooney. The offices were furnished by the Columba Trust.

## SCIAF APPEAL

“Because you go to Mass on Sunday, listen to a sermon, or a special bidding prayer, and put a donation in the SCIAF special collection .....

- Rice will grow where none has grown before
- Wheat and maize will spring up in the dust plains
- Wells will be dug
- Farming tools will be supplied
- New and additional animals will be introduced
- Up to date farming training will be provided

So that milk, meat and fish - with their life -supporting proteins will reach

deprived men, woman and children living in arid scrub-lands.

Training centres and schools for education and technical instruction at all levels will be provided, supported and encouraged. From them will come the new young men and women leaders, skilled in all forms of community service to help transform their primitive patterns of production.

Always with the goal in mind of helping people to help themselves to rise above the deprivation and degradation in which the greater part of the human race is scratching out an existence.”

Father Paul Crane in the *Scottish Catholic Observer*, 10<sup>th</sup> September 1971

## PLEA for AID

### Annual collection to help the world's destitute

The annual collection for the Scottish Catholic International Aid Fund takes place in all Churches in Scotland on Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> September 1972. SCIAF exists to help the world's under-privileged and destitute. It hopes also to make the realities better known and to arouse a lively awareness of the obligations deriving from Christian charity and responsibility.

SCIAF tries to devise ways and means of obtaining financial support for the purpose of the fund. Claims for assistance are carefully examined and the emphasis is on material assistance for social, educational, medical, industrial and agricultural needs. Since 1965 the sum of £172,807 has been distributed throughout

the world with wonderful results.

Catholics of other countries are also engaged in work of this nature. England has the Catholic Agency for Overseas Development, America has its Catholic Relief Services, France has Secours Catholique, Germany has Misereor, etc.

About a decade ago and particularly since the Second Vatican Council, the churches of the West began to show a more general concern for fullness of life for the whole human family. This activity has given rise to many voluntary agencies which aim to help others to help themselves. SCIAF is one of those agencies.

*Scottish Catholic Observer*,  
8<sup>th</sup> September 1972





Sewing classes and education promoted in Kenya in 1984; St John Paul II poster ahead of his visit in 1982.



## CONFIDENCE AND GROWTH (1975-84)

*"The Church considers it her task always to call attention to the dignity and rights of those who work, to condemn situations in which that dignity and those rights are violated, and to help to guide the changes so as to ensure authentic progress by man and society."*

St John Paul II, *Laborem Exercens*, 1981

By 1977, we were supporting 25 projects around the world including water pumps for a lepers' centre in India, a blood bank at a Nigerian hospital, support for schools in Peru, Kenya and Morocco, and help for people affected by flooding in Bolivia. Seeking to build a sense of solidarity between our overseas partners and people here at home, we developed a match-funding scheme for schools and parishes, to double the money they raised for particular projects.

After the death of our first President-Treasurer, Bishop Foylan, in May 1976, Bishop Mario Conti of Aberdeen was appointed to the role in February 1978. The Scottish people gave an incredible £100,000 to SCIAF during this year, helping to support refugees in Vietnam, people affected by war in Lebanon and people who lost their homes after flooding in North Korea.

Bishop Conti reviewed our work and helped to re-shape it over the following years, with a renewed focus on funding substantial, long-term work, education of people at home and an understanding of the politics of aid and development.

During the 1980s, the international debate on global poverty began to grow more active, and SCIAF supporters took an increasing role in shaping the movement at home. Bishop Conti joined a Scottish delegation lobbying MPs at Westminster in May 1981 to promote a more just international society and protest against government cuts in overseas aid.

That year, Sr Carmel wrote from the Good Shepherd Convent at Mysore, India: "All of us here who read the *Scottish Catholic Observer* are grateful to God, your Lordship and all the generous people for the help given by SCIAF to their poorer brothers and sisters, not only in India but in other poor countries. For us your donation is not only a great financial aid, but also an assurance that God wants us to open a special section where children may receive primary education and develop their skills so that they may become self-supporting. If there were 20 Mother Teresas in India, help would still be needed."

“ SCIAF shows much concern for poor communities and underprivileged groups in society and has been a concrete sign of solidarity with the less privileged brothers and sisters of South Sudan, one of the poorest countries in the world. ”

Father Raimundo Rocha of the Comboni Missionaries in South Sudan where we've been working to help bring peace.



1982 was a huge year for Scottish Catholics, as Pope John Paul II visited our small country. Speaking to young people at Murrayfield he said: "There is no place in your lives for apathy or indifference to the world around you. There is no place in the Church for selfishness... Do not let the sight of the world in turmoil shake your confidence in Jesus. Not even the threat of nuclear war. Remember his words: 'Be brave: I have conquered the world'. There is nothing that you cannot master with the help of the One who gives you strength." SCIAF sought to embody

that sense of confidence in our youth and parish work throughout the 1980s.

In 1983 with Bishop Conti's encouragement, the Bishops' Conference moved 'SCIAF Sunday' from September to the 4th Sunday in Lent, as it has remained ever since. This allowed us to better set education and prayer materials in their liturgical context and greatly improved our relationships with schools and parishes. SCIAF also gained our first full time employee with the recruitment of Duncan MacLaren as Education Officer. Bishop Conti said of the appointment: "We have always

been extremely conscious of the need to create a greater understanding of the problems facing the developing countries. It is vital, therefore, that people be given the opportunity of discovering the basic facts."

In 1984 the world woke up to famine in Africa. We launched our 'Crisis in Africa appeal' to help communities in Ethiopia. Generous supporters quickly gave SCIAF over £500,000 for emergency food and water plus seeds and farming tools to help people get back on their feet. Total donations that year were over £1million for the first time.

“ SCIAF's support has made a difference to communities in which Nduwamahoro is working. These communities are made up of returning refugees, ex-fighters and internally displaced people who had suffered from the civil wars in Burundi between 1972 and 1993. With this support, they regained hope in the future. They live together peacefully today and are rebuilding life on values of mutual acceptance, tolerance, non-violence, human dignity, and reconciliation.”

Ntakarutimana Barthélemy,  
Nduwamohoro, SCIAF  
partner in Burundi

## THEY DOUBLED THEIR MONEY AND HELPED DEAF

A Scots primary school with only 210 pupils has raised a staggering £910 for deaf people in Kenya – and “doubled its money” in doing so. Under a pound-for-pound agreement with SCIAF the Keruggoya School for the Deaf will in fact receive £1820.

It took St Joseph's primary school in Cardowan, Stepps less than a year to raise the money through a sponsored silence, cake and candy sales, a coffee morning and other activities. Last year the same school raised £600 for a Nigerian leper colony, and this sum was also doubled by SCIAF. This year, because of the economic squeeze, it aimed its target at £500.

“We never expected to raise anything like £910”, says assistant head Mrs Elizabeth Kelly. “But these children are really something out of the ordinary.”

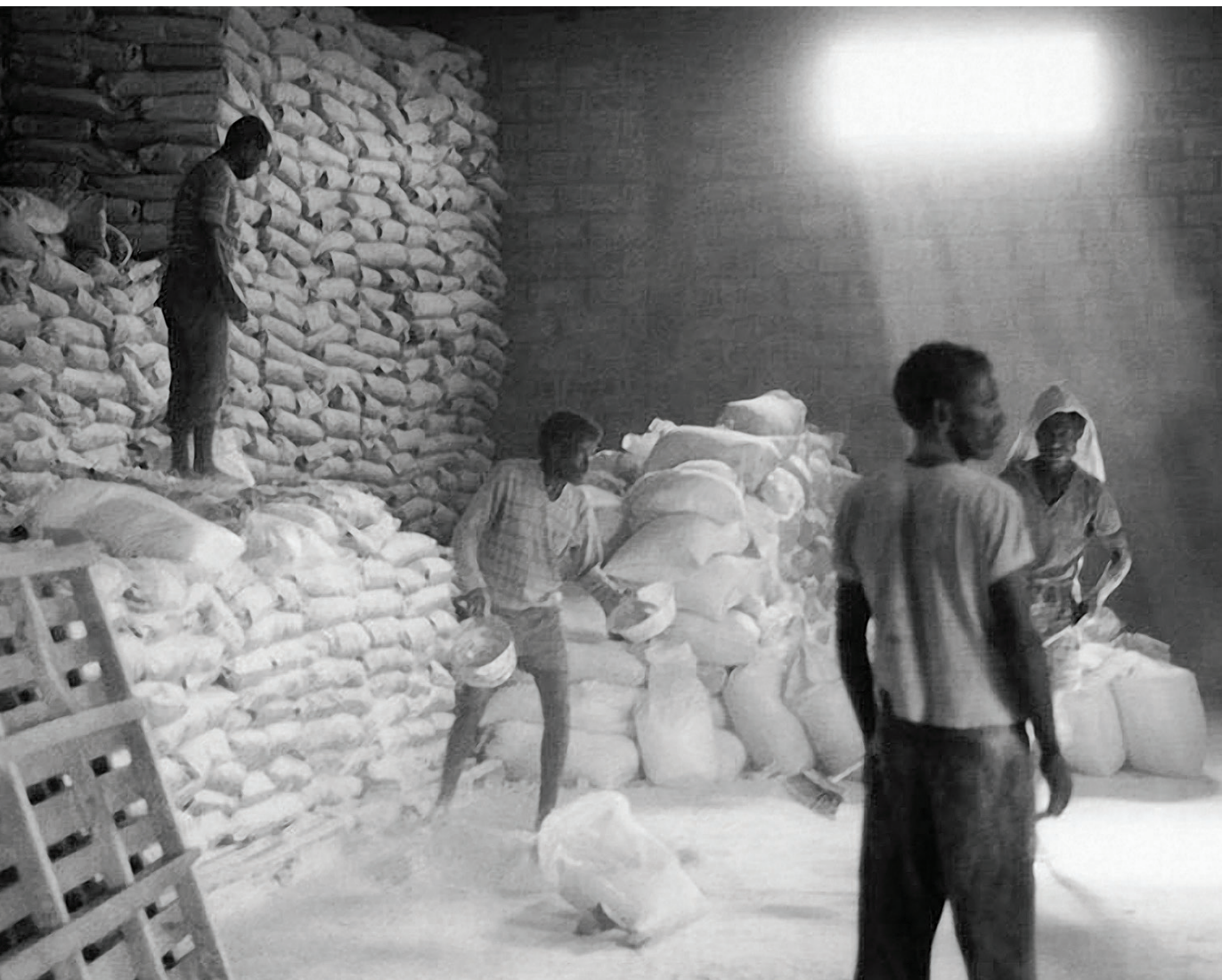
*Scottish Catholic Observer, 19<sup>th</sup> June 1977*

## 'HELPING THE WORLD'

Third and Fourth year pupils in St. Gerard's Secondary in Govan are raising awareness for development charities including SCIAF, with their Lenten appeal reaching £156 so far.

Teacher Denis Bruce said “In an area of very high unemployment it is humbling to see the compassion and generosity our campaign has aroused. It is as much about getting people to care about the problems as about raising funds.”

*Scottish Catholic Observer,  
13<sup>th</sup> April 1984*



Emergency food aid helped Ethiopians hit by the famine in 1984 (photo: Caritas)



## THINGS WE CAN ALL DO FOR INTERNATIONAL AID

- Go and see your local MP at a local surgery.
- Get the strength of numbers behind you. Raise [the issues] at your local trade union branch, tenants' association, Church group, political party branch or whatever organisation you're a member of.
- Take up development issues in letters to your national or local newspaper.
- Almost 1 in 5 workers in Scotland's manufacturing industries are employed by overseas companies, many of which also have operations in the Third World. Get together with your fellow workers and trade unionists and find out about the wages and working conditions of your company's Third World employees.
- When you are shopping, think of the origins of the articles you buy. If you know that they are produced by Third World labour paid at subsistence level, see if there's any alternative.
- In Scotland we consume far more than our share of the world's scarce resources – energy, minerals, food. Try and cut out wasteful or excessive consumption.

*Scottish Catholic Observer,*  
18<sup>th</sup> September 1981

## SCIAF IN SIGHT OF £100,000

SCIAF looks set to pass the £100,000 mark for the first time since its annual appeal started 12 years ago. The news announced by Bishop Mario Conti of Aberdeen marks a tremendous achievement. SCIAF raised £4,373 in its first annual appeal and the total for the first financial year in 1966 was £10,360.

Bishop Conti said, "In 1968 the total was £39,400, so if ten years later it exceeds £100,000 it will be a massive increase indeed." Bishop Conti made his prediction while at St Bride's Primary School Cambuslang last Friday; to accept a £1,000 cheque raised by parishioners of St Bride's to mark their parish centenary.

Under SCIAF's "pound-for-pound" scheme the money will be doubled and sent to help the building of a family centre in Lima, Peru.

SCIAF's aim is to assist self-help projects in the Third World, but it also responds to disaster appeals. SCIAF sent £2,000 for the Vietnam refugees last week, and a £3,000 cheque for the victims of the Lebanon war is being sent out before Christmas.

Bishop Conti became President and Treasurer of SCIAF in November last year, and Mr John McKee has been Honorary Secretary since its inception.

*Scottish Catholic Observer,*  
22<sup>nd</sup> December 1978



Emergency aid given to Vietnam refugees in 1978 (photo: Caritas).

“ Working in Supporter Services has made me acutely aware of the thousands of people who care and want to join us in our endeavours to build a just world. On a daily basis I see campaign postcards for trade justice and pictures drawn by school children on global citizenship. It renews my faith in humanity and reminds me of the many working around the world to fight poverty. ”

Anne Karlin, our Supporter Services





An Ethiopian women harvests her crops in 1991 following the famine in the 80s (photo: Sean Sprague).

## BUILDING A SENSE OF SOLIDARITY AND JUSTICE (1985-94)

*"SCIAF is proud of its record of always keeping this true notion of development in view. It is about PEOPLE, rather than things. It is helping people to help themselves, especially in freeing them from conditions that crush and oppress them – conditions that are unworthy of human beings and an insult to their dignity."*

Bishop John Mone, SCIAF President, 1985

In 1985 Bishop Mone took over the reins from Bishop Conti as our Bishop President. That same year, Duncan MacLaren became the first Executive Director of SCIAF, remaining in the role until moving to Rome as first Director of Programmes and then Secretary General of Caritas Internationalis from 1995 until 2007. He quickly recognised that SCIAF had to employ a small staff to find and monitor good projects that transformed people's lives and engage with the other Catholic agencies in advocacy, education and campaigning work. This recommendation was welcomed by the Bishops' Conference. SCIAF became a member of CIDSE (International Cooperation for Development and Solidarity), a group of Catholic aid agencies from Europe and North America, and Caritas Internationalis, the confederation of 165 Catholic agencies and one of the largest humanitarian networks in the world. SCIAF remains an active member of both these Catholic families, sharing resources and ideas, and amplifying our voice.

In 1985, Bishop Maurice Taylor of Galloway visited Guatemala for SCIAF, meeting young widows who had been provided with pigs to give the families an income, and wrote movingly of his experiences. "Centuries of oppression and exploitation have led to a recent history, still continuing, of military dictatorship employing murder,

kidnapping, imprisonment and terror as the means of total control of the country and ruthless suppression of human rights...So much beauty, so much friendliness, so much suffering, so much need. Pray that Christ's gifts to the world of peace and reconciliation may be granted and accepted in a very special way in Guatemala, Nicaragua and throughout Central America."

Bishop Taylor produced a full report on his visit condemning the oppression of the people and recommending increased aid for Guatemala and pressure from the UK government to respect human rights.

### SCIAF SAYS 'THANKS A MILLION' TO BISHOP CONTI AS INCOME QUADRUPLES FROM £250,000 IN 1983

Bishop Mone paid tribute to the energetic leadership of Bishop Conti and said "I am grateful for this new opportunity to serve those most in need and I am hopeful that the media will continue to help...in making the public even more conscious of their responsibility towards the needy".

*Scottish Catholic Observer,*  
January 18<sup>th</sup> 1985



## WHY IS A CHILD BORN TO DIE?

"It is a question all responsible Christians must ask themselves, because the poverty and deprivation that exists in the Third World could be eradicated."

"Fearing that the Government was going to cut the overseas aid budget, the Scottish Bishops issued a strong statement protesting against such a move and calling for an improvement in both the quantity and the quality of aid. The Bishops' letter, which was sent to all

Scottish MPs and MEPs, as well as the Prime Minister and Foreign Office, calls aid to the poor a 'prime demand of the Gospel' and urges the government to implement key reforms."

*Scottish Catholic Observer* SCIAF Supplement 1985. (The SCO encouraged readers to write to MPs in support of this letter, and to let SCIAF know the outcome.)

In 1988, after 23 years in a disused classroom in Rutherglen, we moved to new premises in Oswald Street in the centre of Glasgow. Bishop John Mone wrote, "I am very grateful to Mgr Gillen, his predecessors at St Columbkille's, and the parishioners for allowing us to camp out in their property for so long." The offices were opened by Chris Patten, Minister for Overseas Development, on 4 April.

In 1989 we launched a postcard campaign to urge the UK government to stop propping up the apartheid regime in South Africa. Apartheid was condemned as evil by Archbishop Winning and Bishop John Mone who, with Sr Mary Kilpatrick of the Scottish Justice and Peace Commission and SCIAF Executive Director, Duncan MacLaren, had visited South Africa as guests of the South African Bishops' Conference earlier that same year. The campaign was strongly supported by Justice and Peace, the Catholic Mothers' Union and other church groups.

The theme for our Lenten campaign in 1989 was partnership. Bishop John

Mone wrote: "Gone are the days of a patronising giving of the rich to the poor, of the European to the African. We now know that the most important thing is to know each other as children of God and to share with each other. SCIAF does this on your behalf by supporting emergency and long term development projects among some of the poorest communities in Asia, Africa and Latin America. That partnership means always upholding the dignity of the poor, listening and learning from the poor and sharing their concerns."

## SCIAF'S APPEAL RAISES £250,000

SCIAF has announced that their £100,000 appeal for famine relief to Ethiopia has raised one and a half times the original figure expected.

*Scottish Catholic Observer*,  
15<sup>th</sup> January 1988

“ The promotion of justice is at the heart of a true culture of solidarity. It is not just a question of 'giving one's surplus' to those in need but of helping entire peoples presently excluded and marginalised to enter the sphere of economic and human development. For this to happen, it is not enough to draw on the surplus goods which in fact our world abundantly produces; it requires above all a change of lifestyles, of models of production and consumption, and of the established structures of power which today govern societies. ”

St John Paul II, Centesimus Annus, paragraph 58, 1991

Our Silver Jubilee in 1990 marked 25 years of Scottish people helping their brothers and sisters overseas. "To celebrate the birthday of an organisation which exists to alleviate misery may seem ironic, but the net experience has been one of bringing great hope to people," said Duncan MacLaren. The keynote speaker at a conference to celebrate the jubilee was Fr Mark Raper SJ, International Director of Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS), still a SCIAF partner today.

In 1992 the Holy Father asked Catholics to pay special attention to the Americas, where "Five centuries of the Gospel's presence on that continent have not produced a fair distribution of the goods of the earth". SCIAF's Lenten appeal was themed "Listening to the cry of the poor", with a special Way of the Cross from Latin America, drawn by Nobel Peace Prize winner, Adolfo Perez Esquivel.

In 1993 John McKee received a special award from Pope John Paul II in

## AN EXTRACT FROM 'TWELVE HISTORY-MAKING MONTHS - 1992'

February: "Guatemalan Civil Rights activists Rigoberta Menchu, later to win the Nobel Peace Prize visits Glasgow as a guest of SCIAF"

October: "One of SCIAF's most ambitious fundraising events takes place in St. Mary's Cathedral, Glasgow.

Composer James MacMillan, the Scottish Chamber Orchestra and actress Diana Quick combine to perform a celebration of the music and culture of South America."

*Scottish Catholic Observer*,  
1<sup>st</sup> January 1993



recognition of his service to the Catholic Church in his community and country. "It is a great pleasure for me to let you and Margaret know that the Holy Father has conferred upon you the Papal Award of Knight Commander with Star of the Order of St Gregory. This is an honour not only for you and your family, but also for the Diocese and I should like to say how delighted I am that your outstanding witness in your life's work has been recognised not only by us, but by the Holy Father," wrote Archbishop Thomas Winning.

In September 1993 we launched a Charter for Africa. Religious orders and groups throughout Scotland signed up to show their solidarity with Africa. Duncan McLaren wrote, "An important aspect of the Charter is to persuade people to simplify their lifestyle as a way of being in solidarity with Africa and the poor throughout the world." Supporters were urged to write to their MPs to encourage more action for Africa.

That year, Bishop Mone travelled to Somalia, meeting people in very difficult circumstances. In an interview in December 2014, Bishop Mone said: "In Somalia, people were very angry, they threw stones at us. It was the time of famine in 1993. 'Why haven't you brought us food?' While I was talking to them, a little boy kept stroking my arm –

he had never seen a white man before. I had a biscuit in my pocket I'd been given to keep me going through the day. I gave it to the wee boy and he straight away went over to the other children nearby and shared the biscuit with them. That taught me about solidarity and sharing – it is not enough to say 'would you like some?' but 'please share this with me'. We must be true companions of the poor, eating bread with them. If we are to eat bread with them, we must first give them the bread they need to share with us. That is the missionary aspect of SCIAF."

That same year we were able to send £115,000 to a water programme in Gedo, Somalia.

### THE SCHOOL WHERE SANTA BROUGHT NO PRESENTS

Greyfriars Primary School in St Andrews asked Santa to donate money to the starving millions of Somalia instead of giving them presents, and added £275 to their annual total of £1,300 to SCIAF's work in Somalia.

Scottish Catholic Observer,  
8<sup>th</sup> January 1993

"Having grown up in Glasgow, fundraising for SCIAF was very much part of my childhood. I still remember being encouraged to bring coins in to tape to the school assembly hall floor in a bid to cover it for SCIAF and learning about what the money would do. I was always inspired by the work of SCIAF but never actually imagined that I would get the opportunity to work here."

Aisling Gallacher, one of our Programme Officers

"The lives of people in Mundri have changed a great deal... Your money is being used for the intended purpose. There is no comparison between the area that SCIAF activities are being implemented and where the activities have not reached. There is a big difference. We encourage SCIAF to keep up the spirit to continue funding this work".

May Kilemeko, from SCIAF partner Mundri Relief and Development Association, South Sudan

"The 14 years I spent at SCIAF was a privileged roller-coaster ride that showed me that the struggle for human dignity is never-ending. Above all, the memories are of the people who made SCIAF more than an agency. It was faith in action. There were highs and lows. Like the day in November 1998 when we heard of the murder of the six Jesuits in El Salvador. In 1999, standing in the chapel where Archbishop Romero could see his murderer take aim through a window made me realise that working for global justice cost some of our brothers and sisters much more than a charitable donation...SCIAF still serves to remind us of the words of Jesus himself, 'There is no need for them to go away: give them food yourselves' (Matthew, 14:16)."

John Dornan, Education Officer, SCIAF 1986-2000

"SCIAF is all about people: people in Scotland, and people in developing countries, coming together in solidarity and working for a more just and fairer world. Poverty doesn't need to exist – it's created by us and it's a scandal that we can't ignore. SCIAF is a way to challenge that injustice – and it's an expression of the love of the Church and the love of God for each and every person on earth."

Patrick Grady, SCIAF Campaigns Officer 2002-2004, and Advocacy Manager since 2011





People were able to return to their homes after the genocide in Rwanda (photo: Paul McSherry).

## FROM TRAGEDY IN RWANDA TO MAKE POVERTY HISTORY (1995-2004)

*"The poor and the hungry, the sick and the persecuted are still with us, not because it was unavoidable, but as a result of economic and political decisions. These decisions are made consciously by governments and multinational companies. They are also sustained by our way of life and unconscious consumer habits – the things we buy to eat, drink, wear and use – which can have a devastating effect on the economics of faraway countries."*

Bishops' Conference pastoral letter on development for SCIAF's 30th anniversary, 1995.

In 1995 with the help of the Scottish Catholic community, we reached out to people devastated by an earthquake in Iran, a cyclone in Bangladesh and the genocide in Rwanda.

Bishop Mone, President of SCIAF wrote in his Lenten message in 1995, "Who can forget the tragedy of Rwanda? Through your donations and prayers you were there and still are there with them. On behalf of the Catholic Church in Scotland, I thank you".

Zacharie Ndayishimiye of SCIAF partner the Episcopal Commission for Justice and Peace reports:

"The support of SCIAF has been bearing tremendous fruit in our local communities in Rwanda. It is important to say that SCIAF contributed to our

work towards unity and reconciliation in Rwanda through the Justice and Peace Commission of the Catholic Church, especially in the traditional court known as Gacaca which helped people to come back together after the genocide in 1994.

"SCIAF supported our work towards fighting against sexual violence, and women victims of sexual violence regained hope. Now, we are witnessing change thanks to the Self Help Group approach introduced by SCIAF where vulnerable women work together in solidarity towards a better living and run small savings and loans schemes. These women, previously victims of violence and poverty, are continually improving the living conditions of their households".

“ The Church continually combats all forms of poverty, because as Mother she is concerned that each and every person be able to live fully in dignity as a child of God. ”

St John Paul II, Lenten message, 1998





Your support meant we could help people grow more food and access clean water (photo: Sean Sprague).

In the 30 years leading up to 1995, Scottish Catholics had given over £22million to help people in poverty overseas. We were able to fund over 150 projects in 1996 thanks to your generosity in our 30th year. 70 schools and youth groups took part in our largest ever 'Act Fast' Lenten fast.

In January 1996, Paul Chitnis joined SCIAF as our Director. Duncan MacLaren moved to Rome. The following year, our Liberate the Land Lenten campaign helped communities in Brazil, India and the Philippines. Pupils from St Ambrose High School slept in temporary shelters in the Meadows in Edinburgh, to show solidarity with people being forced from their homes.

In 1999 with an expanding staff team and income, SCIAF moved premises,

leaving the office in Oswald Street which had grown too small and impractical. The Franciscan Sisters were preparing to leave their convent at 19 Park Circus, and SCIAF was able to acquire the building for an excellent price. The staff enjoyed the new light and space, although there was (and still is) some debate about an anti-poverty organisation taking up such a prestigious address. The building remains great value and a much-loved asset today, although staff can find it offers little protection from the cold of a Glasgow winter.

By 1999 SCIAF called for debt justice through the Jubilee 2000 campaign, seeking an end to unjust debt as we approached the millennium. The Catholic Bishops' Conferences of

Scotland and of England and Wales published a challenging statement on poverty and debt. "This is not just another international development initiative but a once-in-a-generation opportunity to break the chains of debt which shackle the hopes of the world's poorest people." (*Life, Debt and Jubilee*, p.2, 1999).

Also in 1999, SCIAF was invited by the incoming Labour government to assist with its international aid policy, specifically its development awareness programmes. Our Chief Executive, Paul Chitnis, was one of several senior figures appointed to the Development Awareness Working Group to advise the new Ministers.

## BUCKETS OF FUN IN CROY

*James Slavin of the SCIAF group in Holy Cross Parish Croy, looks back on a great year.*

The Holy Cross Group had its beginning just as the year 2000 arrived. In 16 months parishioners have donated £4,200 to SCIAF, in addition to the regular Lenten campaigns and SCIAF Sunday collections.

Our group of five meet once every two months. At the beginning we looked at many projects SCIAF supports, but opted instead for our first year to focus on awareness raising and fund raising, and allow SCIAF to choose how the money could be used.

Our most successful fund raisers have been bucket collections taken after the weekend Masses. David, one of our youngest parishioners, asked his mother Marion what they do with all the buckets when they have been collected!

The first bucket collection was in February 2000, when we spoke to the parish about the newly formed group

at all the Masses so that people knew who we were. We followed this up with a collection that raised £500. Our second bucket collection was February this year (2001) in response to the terrible earthquakes in India and El Salvador. On this occasion we raised an astonishing £1700.

We are soon to hold our second quiz night in the Croy Miners' Welfare Club. Our overheads are low as one of our multi-talented group acts as joint quizmaster. The club committee allows us free use of the hall and our parishioners help with raffle prizes.

Equally enjoyable was our St Andrews Night Ceilidh last December when the Inishowen Ceilidh band provided great demonstrations. It was a brilliant evening.

Although only a small group we are delighted to have been able to pass on £4200 towards the vital work of SCIAF, thanks to the generosity and support of the Holy Cross Parish.

*SCIAF Review magazine, May 2001*

*(The Holy Cross SCIAF group have since then continued to raise funds for SCIAF most notably through an annual quiz night. Our thanks to them and all parish groups for their invaluable support to SCIAF over all the years.)*



In 2001 our Lenten Campaign brought together Old Firm rivals Ally McCoist and Tommy Burns to launch our 24 hour fast. Tommy, a lifelong SCIAF supporter and Celtic legend, asked his friend Ally to get involved and unite the two largest football teams in Scotland for SCIAF. Ally has been a SCIAF supporter ever since, continuing his support after the death of his friend Tommy in 2008. Tommy Burns will always be missed by SCIAF. We thank him and Celtic FC for all their support.

At this time, SCIAF, VETAID, Christian Aid and Oxfam collaborated to set up the Network of International Development Organisations in Scotland (NIDOS) while also working with George Reid MSP, then Deputy Presiding Officer of the Scottish Parliament, to set up a cross-party group on international development. On NIDOS's formal registration as a charity in 2003, SCIAF's Director Paul Chitnis was appointed its first Chair. Today NIDOS has 113 member organisations and continues to



Scottish football legends Tommy Burns and Ally McCoist take part in SCIAF's 24-hour fast in Lent 2001.

## HUNGRY FOR JUSTICE

Hungry for Justice may be the theme of the 2002 SCIAF Lenten Campaign, but for the charity's Lenten visitor the phrase captures perfectly her motto for life. This year Sheelu Francis from the Tamil Nadu Women's Collective in India will tour Scotland as the Catholic charity's Lenten visitor.

Over the last four years the Women's Collective has received over £167,000 from Scotland's Catholic community, enabling them to work with 35 women-led organisations to improve the living conditions of families in India. During Lent Sheelu will represent the collective in Scotland, delivering talks throughout the country on the conditions in which she works and lives.

As Sheelu explained, Hunger for Justice is an ideal she holds close to her heart after years of fighting injustice in India. Sheelu comes from a long background of social action, with her father a trade unionist and both of her parents members of the Legion of Mary.

Through her own involvement with the Legion Sheelu visited broken families and prisoners in jail and as a student was a member of the All India Catholic University Federation and National Service. Her experiences there gave her the opportunity to meet with poor and marginalised communities in both rural and urban areas and to gain an understanding of poverty.

*Scottish Catholic Observer, 5<sup>th</sup> April 2002*

grow. SCIAF has retained a close and supportive interest in NIDOS, helping it develop into an influential network and excellent skills-sharing forum for the Scottish international development movement.

In 2003 we launched Real Gifts for the first time – life-changing presents which give people living in poverty the chance of a better future. Since then over £3 million has been donated through Real Gifts. Many Scots families now have a SCIAF pig on their fridge! Families feed and nurture pigs until they're big enough to sell. When the sows farrow, the piglets can be sold to earn extra income to pay for other essentials like school fees and medicines.

The same year, the Bishops'

Conferences of Scotland and of England and Wales published a statement on trade and solidarity, in association with SCIAF and CAFOD. "The Church's 'preferential option for the poor' leads us to believe that the rules governing global financial and economic systems, including trade, must be guided also by principles of solidarity and compassion. We therefore hold that the notion of 'trade justice' must embody measures to benefit the poorest, to counterbalance the enormous disadvantages that weigh them down from the start" (*Trade and Solidarity*, p.8, 2003).

In 2004-5, our supporters gave an astonishing £2.2 million to our Emergency Appeal following the horrifying Boxing Day Tsunami in Asia.



## FR MARTIN CHAMBERS ZIP-LINES ACROSS CLYDE FOR SCIAF

One fearless Father made a leap of faith last weekend, swinging across the Clyde for a very worthy cause. Father Martin Chambers, parish priest at St John's in Stevenston, donned a hard hat recently to join the SCIAF Zip-Slide Challenge.

The slide ran from the blue Finnieston Crane, beside the Glasgow SECC, across the River Clyde to the opposite bank and was tackled by a number of hardy adventurers in a variety of "ages, shapes and sizes." Before taking part each person had to raise a target figure for SCIAF's vital work overseas and the day was deemed a fantastic success by the charity.

Robert Russell, Fundraising Officer, said: "We asked every participant to raise a minimum of £100. This may not seem much but it only costs £120 to educate a Rwandan child or £276 to build a family

home in Ethiopia."

For Father Chambers the Zip Slide across the Clyde was not the most daunting challenge he has faced in aid of a good cause. In recent years the priest has jumped out of a plane and climbed Britain's three highest peaks in 24 hours, but even he admitted to feeling a few goose-bumps when climbing the crane.

"The slide was fine actually, the scariest thing was climbing the Finnieston crane, you could see through the slats and see just how high up you were" said Fr Chambers. "My legs started to turn to jelly on about the second flight but I had Ian Menzies of SCIAF in front of me and people behind me and there was no turning back."

*Scottish Catholic Observer*, 6<sup>th</sup> June 2003



With your help many people were able to recover from the 2004 Boxing Day Tsunami (photo: Sean Sprague).

“ *The Jubilee was also a great event of charity — and it could not be otherwise. Already in the years of preparation, I had called for greater and more incisive attention to the problems of poverty which still beset the world. The problem of the international debt of poor countries took on particular significance in this context. A gesture of generosity towards these countries was in the very spirit of the Jubilee, which in its original Biblical setting was precisely a time when the community committed itself to re-establishing justice and solidarity in interpersonal relations, including the return of whatever belonged to others.* ”

St John Paul II, Apostolic Letter,  
Novo Millennio Ineunte, paragraph 14, 2000

Alongside our sister agencies in Caritas Internationalis, we worked urgently to get assistance to people in Indonesia, Thailand, India and Sri Lanka. After the tsunami, we helped communities to build new homes and get back on their feet.

In 2004 Bishop Mone retired and Bishop Peter Moran became President of SCIAF. Cardinal Keith Patrick O'Brien began travelling to see SCIAF projects, and took the role of Chair of the SCIAF Board. Our founder John McKee sadly passed away the same year. In an interview, Bishop John Mone said in December 2014:

"I'd ask SCIAF to keep doing more of the same. To thank the volunteers who are the lifeblood of SCIAF. And to thank God for the blessings that have come through SCIAF to so many people at home and abroad. I pray that we will never have compassion fatigue in our community.

"In Uganda I met a woman with AIDS who was living in a cardboard box. She suddenly asked, 'Can we pray?' I thought of a prayer to recite. She gently told me, 'I don't want you to say a prayer. I want you to pray with me. I want to ask God to look after my husband who gave me AIDS, my children who will be left alone, my mother who is dying...'

"I was enriched through my travels with SCIAF. I learned so much, met so many beautiful people and was touched by their generosity. I said a Mass in Kenya in Kiswahili – it was five hours long with 3000 people attending. The offertory took three quarters of an hour with people bringing an onion, an orange – whatever they had. I baptised 250 children that day. I thought - this is the poor feeding the rich."





## THE SCIAF FAMILY (2005-2015)

*"Love of neighbour, grounded in the love of God, is first and foremost a responsibility for each individual member of the faithful, but it is also a responsibility for the entire ecclesial community at every level: from the local community to the particular Church and to the Church universal in its entirety. As a community, the Church must practise love."*

Pope Benedict XVI, Deus Caritas Est, paragraph 20, 2005

In April 2005, Pope John Paul II passed away, and Pope Benedict XVI was elected. Reflecting on his legacy, Paul Chitnis wrote: "Central to Pope John Paul II's papacy was his social teaching. It was of such power and magnitude that it will continue to inspire the Church for years to come. His travels and vast teaching about the inequities (and iniquity) of poverty in the developing world are a reminder of the growing gap between rich and poor. His many journeys, as well as being an extraordinary act of evangelisation, were also a way of revealing to the rest of the world hidden countries and communities often languishing in poverty. In every country I visit with SCIAF, I usually find a dog-eared poster attached to the wall of a school or a rural clinic showing Pope John Paul II during his visit to that country. His presence and tender

embrace of some of the poorest people in the world were a vivid demonstration not only of his humanity, but also of the Church's mission."

In 2005, our 40th year, we joined the Make Poverty History rally in Edinburgh and campaigned for the Prime Minister, Tony Blair, to 'Make Aid Work' at the G8 summit in Gleneagles. That same year, Paul Chitnis was elected President of CIDSE, the network of Catholic overseas development agencies in Europe and North America. In 2005 and again in 2007, Cardinal O'Brien and Paul Chitnis were part of an international delegation of senior Catholic figures (including Cardinals Rodriguez and Toppo) which lobbied G8 leaders directly in London, Berlin, Rome, and Brussels.

We marked our 40th anniversary with a major conference in Livingston involving

“ Young organisations have few chances of being supported by big organisations ...then SCIAF came to our aid. SARD-Net members look at SCIAF as a mother ... who has made a great impact on development and rural communities. I think your organisation has reached many disadvantaged people. Although the process is slow because of the despair that poverty has brought to poor communities, I am sure that working together we can change the world into a better place with humanity living with dignity. ”

Kayondo Mathias of SCIAF partner SARD-Net (Sustainable Agriculture for Rural Development Network) in Uganda

Farmers get help to grow more food and support their families (photo: Simon Murphy).



partners from India, Colombia and Rwanda. Mass was celebrated at the Jesuit Sacred Heart Church in Edinburgh. Scotland's First Minister, Jack McConnell, spoke at a reception held at the City Chambers in Glasgow. Gordon Brown, then Chancellor of the Exchequer, spoke at a special event in St Mary's Cathedral, Edinburgh. In his tribute, he said: "It is a privilege to be here because it also gives me the chance to thank you – SCIAF – not just for the work done in a month or a year, but as you celebrate your fortieth anniversary, for the work done over four great decades of achievement... Whenever help is needed, whenever and wherever there is disease, illiteracy, poverty and need, SCIAF is there, and ready to help."

The same year, Pope Benedict XVI's important encyclical, *Deus Caritas Est* was published. Setting out the Church's theology of love, and charting its history of charitable service from the earliest years, it set out clear expectations for the charitable organisations of the Church. Christian charity is distinctive; SCIAF should not become 'just another NGO'.

"The Church is God's family in the world. In this family no one ought to go without the necessities of life," writes Pope Benedict in *Deus Caritas Est* in paragraph 25. He continues, "Yet at the same time caritas - agape - extends beyond the frontiers of the Church. The parable of the Good Samaritan remains as a standard which imposes universal love towards the needy whom we encounter 'by chance' (cf. Luke 10:31), whoever they may be. Without in any way detracting from this commandment of universal love, the Church also has a specific responsibility: within the ecclesial family no member should suffer through being in need. The teaching of the Letter to the Galatians is emphatic: 'So then, as

we have opportunity, let us do good to all, and especially to those who are of the household of faith'."

In 2009, Sister Rosemary Nyirumbe visited schools and parishes around Scotland. In Gulu, northern Uganda, she provides a safe haven for girls who were kidnapped and turned into child soldiers during the brutal civil war. They get counselling and training in dressmaking and cookery so that they can rebuild their lives and provide for their children. Parishioners and school pupils flocked to meet this amazing and inspirational woman. She would later feature in *Time Magazine's* list of the most influential 100 people in 2014, after the launch of her film, *Sewing Hope*.

In the same year, Pope Benedict XVI published his major social encyclical, *Caritas in Veritate*. A remarkable document in its breadth and depth, covering the global economic crisis,

### ST BRENDAN'S PRIMARY IN MOTHERWELL BECOMES THE FIRST UK PRIMARY TO MARK FAIRTRADE

St Brendan's Primary in Motherwell has become the first UK primary to be awarded the Fairtrade Foundation mark. The award was presented to the school by Ian Menzies of SCIAF. Frank Roy and three North Lanarkshire councillors were also at the presentation.

To celebrate the event a mini conference was held in the morning and in the afternoon a Fairtrade Party was held for all pupils and staff. The Radio Clyde Hit Squad came along to help teachers and pupils celebrate.

*Scottish Catholic Observer*, 8<sup>th</sup> July 2005



Supporters young and old urged MSPs to vote for strong climate change legislation in Scotland (photo: Callum Bennett, Maverick Photo Agency).

climate change, and the role of technology in human development, it would help shape SCIAF's work for many years to come. "Hunger still reaps enormous numbers of victims among those who, like Lazarus, are not permitted to take their place at the rich man's table, contrary to the hopes expressed by Paul VI. Feed the hungry (cf. Mt 25: 35, 37, 42) is an ethical imperative for the universal Church, as she responds to the teachings of her Founder, the Lord Jesus, concerning solidarity and the sharing of goods. Moreover, the elimination of world hunger has also, in the global era, become a requirement for safeguarding

the peace and stability of the planet." (paragraph 27, 2009)

Throughout 2009, thousands of SCIAF supporters sent postcards, emails and letters to politicians and marched to the Scottish Parliament calling for tough action on climate change. In June, we could celebrate success - cross-party support saw the Climate Change (Scotland) Act agreed, which set world-leading targets for cutting carbon emissions. In September 2009, Cardinal O'Brien and Paul Chitnis were part of a delegation to lobby leaders at the United Nations in New York for the Special Summit on Climate Change.



“ SCIAF has been a faithful, generous and reliable supporter of the Comboni mission in South Sudan and is helping to empower and build the capacity of local leaders, especially women and youth, in the various Christian communities the Comboni Missionaries work with across South Sudan. Particular attention and support has been given in the areas of Christian and human formation, education, human rights, gender equality, peace building, reconciliation, trauma healing and care for the environment. We are pleased and proud to be a SCIAF partner and work together for a better world where more people may have access to justice and to live in a peaceful and reconciled world. ”

Father Raimundo Rocha of the Comboni Missionaries in South Sudan where SCIAF has been working to help bring peace

#### Prayer for peace in South Sudan

God of love, mercy and compassion,  
Peace begins with me.  
As I pray, help me to find the gift of peace in my heart,  
Help me to share this gift with others,  
As I long for peace, help me to remember our brothers and sisters in South Sudan  
Who are struggling in the midst of hurt and mistrust  
To build their lives and promote respect, justice and true reconciliation.  
We ask this through Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

*Sudan Bishops' Conference*

“ *In carrying out their charitable activity, Catholic organizations should not limit themselves merely to collecting and distributing funds, but should show special concern for individuals in need and exercise a valuable educational function within the Christian community, helping people to appreciate the importance of sharing, respect and love in the spirit of the Gospel of Christ. The Church's charitable activity at all levels must avoid the risk of becoming just another form of organized social assistance.* ”

Pope Benedict XVI, *Intima Ecclesiae Natura*, 2012



Thousands of you signed our campaign postcard.

“ *Among our tasks as witnesses to the love of Christ is that of giving a voice to the cry of the poor.* ”

Pope Francis, Address to the Archbishop of Canterbury, June 2013

On 12th January 2010 the world woke up to news of a devastating earthquake in Haiti, and SCIAF supporters quickly gave over £1million to our emergency appeal. Thanks to these donations, 110,000 people could get food, water, shelter, and medical care. With your help, through our long term development programme we're still helping communities in Haiti to rebuild their lives. The same year, we joined thousands of Scots at events in Glasgow and Edinburgh during Pope Benedict XVI's hugely successful visit to the UK.

In 2011, Paul Chitnis left the post of Chief Executive of SCIAF, to become Director of Jesuit Missions in London. In 2012, Pope Benedict XVI developed new requirements for Catholic charities with the publication of his *motu proprio* (papal edict), *On the Service of Charity*.

SCIAF was glad to be able to report that we easily met the standards he set.

In 2013 unexpected events changed the Catholic world as Pope Benedict resigned and Pope Francis was elected. Pope Francis has put the poor at the centre of his pontificate and encouraged the faithful to follow his example. Pope Francis also stresses ridding the world of structural poverty – the poverty caused by the economic and social structures put in place by the 'rich' world. In his Apostolic Exhortation, *Evangelii Gaudium*, the Joy of the Gospel, he says, "Just as the commandment 'Thou shalt not kill' sets a clear limit in order to safeguard the value of human life, today we also have to say 'thou shalt not' to an economy of exclusion and inequality. Such an economy kills. How can it be that it is not a news item when an elderly





David Smith M.B.E. and Susan Boyle join us to launch our WEE BOX appeal in 2013 (photo: Paul McSherry).

homeless person dies of exposure, but it is news when the stock market loses two points? This is a case of exclusion. Can we continue to stand by when food is thrown away while people are starving? This is a case of inequality. Today everything comes under the laws of competition and the survival of the fittest, where the powerful feed upon the powerless. As a consequence, masses of people find themselves excluded and marginalised: without work, without possibilities, without any means of escape." (paragraph 53, 2013)

That year, we joined with over 200 organisations across the UK for the *Enough Food for Everyone...IF*

*campaign*. This important coalition of anti-poverty organisations aimed to focus the minds of politicians coming to the UK for the G8 summit in 2013, on the needs of the poorest people. Together, we ensured the issues of land grabs and tax transparency got on the agenda at the G8 summit and helped persuade world leaders to pledge \$4.1 billion in extra funding to tackle hunger. Here in Scotland, the government doubled its Climate Justice Fund which helps people overseas hit hardest by the changing climate.

Global singing sensation Susan Boyle and Paralympic gold-medal winning rower David Smith MBE launched our WEE BOX, BIG CHANGE Lenten appeal

## Praying with those affected by Ebola

We pray from a distance as do mothers, husbands, sons and friends. None of us can touch the infected bodies but help us to reach out in prayer and touch their hearts and souls. Broken hearts who long to physically comfort and be comforted and show

physical expressions of love. Lord help those affected by Ebola to feel your loving presence, feel your gentle touch of compassion and mercy. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen

with pupils from St Andrews & St Bride's High School, East Kilbride and St Francis Xavier's Primary, Falkirk.

In 2014 we launched an urgent appeal for refugees fleeing the war in Syria. Our supporters' generous donations would give over 43,500 people clean water, blankets, heaters, medical care and schooling for refugee children. We also gave emergency aid to people caught up in conflicts in Iraq, Gaza, South Sudan, Darfur and Central African Republic.

The Board of SCIAF was diversified and strengthened in 2013 and 2014. Under the continuing presidency of Bishop Peter Moran, the board now included five Bishops and three lay people, working with three expert sub-committees. SCIAF's new Executive Director, Alistair Dutton, joined the organisation in August 2014. In 2015, Bishop Joseph Toal was appointed President of SCIAF as Bishop Peter Moran stepped down from that role, but remained a member of the SCIAF Board.

Following the outbreak of Ebola in West Africa during 2014, we sent

£10,000 to Holy Spirit Hospital in Makeni, Sierra Leone and launched an emergency appeal to raise money for life-saving medical care, training, surgical gloves and masks, and cleaning products to help stop the disease spreading. With generous donations from our supporters, we were able to send £60,000 through Caritas Sierra Leone and Caritas Liberia. As part of the Caritas Internationalis family, SCIAF has a presence in every country in the world. When disaster strikes, we provide financial and material support through this network of Caritas partners and provide immediate and effective help to those in most need. Together with our sister agencies in CIDSE and Caritas Internationalis, we also challenge the structures of poverty and engage with the global decision-making processes which can do so much to address the root causes of inequality.

From our earliest days in 1965 until the end of 2014, through the generosity of the Scottish people and with the help of our institutional donors, SCIAF has shared funds to the tune of £68 million to help poor people flourish.

“ *Caritas is the caress of the Church to its people, the caress of the Mother Church to her children, her tenderness and closeness.* ”

Pope Francis, 16<sup>th</sup> May, 2013





Young disabled people in India get an education thanks to your support (photo: Sephi Bergerson).

## WHAT NEXT FOR SCIAF?

*"SCIAF is an opportunity to work, in a small way, for a fairer world."*

Fiona Crosbie, SCIAF volunteer

Thanks to fifty years of hard work, prayer and commitment from our supporters, volunteers, partners and staff, SCIAF has grown into one of the foremost international development organisations in Scotland. We treasure what is unique about us – our deep roots within the Scottish Catholic community, our vibrant team of volunteers, our wonderful international network through the Church which never leaves its people, whatever the dangers. We seek to be an example of Catholic social teaching in practice, standing alongside the poorest people to help them flourish.

Our 50th anniversary is a milestone, but it is not a time for celebration. Widespread poverty and injustice are an affront to all of us, but they remain hallmarks of our world. One in nine people are still going hungry every day and a billion people remain stuck in inhuman circumstances. Climate change is already affecting the most marginalised communities, and its impact will only increase. The rising power of multinational businesses is not balanced by the effective rule of law in many countries. Growing inequality, together with social and economic injustice around the world mean we must continue to provide direct, practical help to people in the greatest need, and to work for an end to the causes of poverty.

As we look at the world in 2015, there are many opportunities to work as a community to build a more just world

– new overseas partners to work with, new people to engage with, new international negotiations on anti-poverty goals, new climate change talks, and a growing sense of the important role the Church can play to help achieve real human flourishing.

We hope you will join us in this next chapter of SCIAF's story.

In January 2015, the Bishops' Conference of Scotland declared St Margaret of Scotland, patron saint of SCIAF.

### **Prayer of Recommitment to SCIAF**

Inspired by the Gospel call to build a just world,  
and moved by the suffering of the world's poor,  
I renew my commitment to SCIAF.  
For an end to poverty and oppression,  
give me a generous heart  
to share with those who have nothing;  
the grace to live more simply  
so that they may simply live;  
and the perseverance to work  
unceasingly  
for a world in which all people,  
especially those who are poor and  
oppressed,  
can live life, and live it to the full.  
Amen

*St Margaret of Scotland, pray for us.*



# OUR 50TH ANNIVERSARY BLESSING



APOSTOLIC NUNCIATURE

54 PARKSIDE  
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## HIS HOLINESS POPE FRANCIS

Presents His special greetings to H. E. Monsignor Peter Moran, Bishop-Emeritus of Aberdeen and Bishop President of the Scottish Catholic International Aid Fund (SCIAF) as the Fund prepares to celebrate its Golden Jubilee of foundation during the course of 2015.

In his Lenten Message for 2014 the Holy Father affirmed: *"In imitation of our Master, we Christians are called to confront the poverty of our brothers and sisters; to touch it, to make it our own and to take practical steps to alleviate it.... In the poor and outcast we see Christ's face; by loving and helping the poor, we love and serve Christ. Our efforts are also directed to ending violations of human dignity, discrimination and abuse in the world, for these are so often the cause of destitution. When power, luxury and money become idols, they take priority over the need for a fair distribution of wealth. Our consciences thus need to be converted to justice, equality, simplicity and sharing."*

Giving thanks, once again, for the last fifty years of generous service to the poor by the Scottish Catholic International Aid Fund (SCIAF), the Holy Father prays that His beloved daughters and sons may continue in this significant work of love and support during the years to come, proclaiming by example the primacy of Christian love, especially for those persons most in need.

His Holiness cordially imparts to all the members of the Scottish Catholic International Aid Fund (SCIAF) and to their families and loved ones a special Apostolic Blessing as a pledge of abundant graces from Our Blessed Lord.



+ *Antonio Mennini*, A.N.

Archbishop Antonio Mennini  
Apostolic Nuncio

1<sup>st</sup> November 2014





# FINALLY SOME WORDS OF THANKS TO ALL SCIAF SUPPORTERS FROM .....

## Democratic Republic of Congo

*"To the supporters of SCIAF in Scotland, AJV, partner for SCIAF in DRC is pleased to thank you. The support from SCIAF has, is and will continue to help us to reduce the level of sexual violence of which women are the victims from the multiple rebellions and wars in this part of the world. May the almighty bless and multiply your resources of funding."*

**Innocent Basaka (AJV)**

*"We would like to thank organisations, individuals and other people of good will who support SCIAF. Thanks to them SCIAF was able to help us to respond to our people's needs. And we were able to contribute to reduce insecurity and conflict in our country; thanks to SCIAF, we were able to collaborate with organisations in Rwanda and Burundi and this collaboration has reduced the fear that the communities from DRC, Rwanda and Burundi had between them."*

*"Locally, many people were able to regain their physical and emotional health thanks to SCIAF supporters. It has been a great pleasure to see the survivors of rape and war able to rebuild new lives thanks to the support they got from you. These people are very grateful to all those who support SCIAF in different ways and beg them to speak out to denounce all the cases of injustice in DRC and elsewhere in the world. It is in this way that people will be free from violence."*

**Father Justin Nkunzi (CDJP)**

## Uganda

*"SCIAF has existed for all this period because fifty years ago the founders had the capacity of initiating that organisation and had the will. We thank God for that will to help that He gives to fellow people - those who look at the suffering and feel obliged to do something."*

**Kayondo Mathias of SARD-Net (Sustainable Agriculture for Rural Development Network)**

## South Sudan

*"Your support is indeed making a big difference in the lives of so many impoverished and less privileged people and communities. Please continue donating and supporting SCIAF. May God reward your generosity."*

**Father Raimundo Rocha, Comboni Missionaries**

*"The lives of people in Mundri have changed a great deal... Your money is being used for the intended purpose. There is no comparison between the area where SCIAF activities are being implemented and where the activities have not reached. There is a big difference. We encourage SCIAF to keep up the spirit to continue funding the work".*

**May Kilemeko, Mundri Relief and Development Association**

## Rwanda

*"I'd like to thank SCIAF supporters so much because they are doing a very important work as they are helping to change the lives of vulnerable people; to restore their respect and dignity. By your kind heart, people feel like human beings again. I encourage you and only pray God recognises and will pay back for all your kindness."*

*"The support from SCIAF is the most important input our Justice and Peace Commission has had. SCIAF has core values that attract people and keep them together. Since I started working with SCIAF I feel like I am in a family and I consider everyone from SCIAF as my brother or sister. With SCIAF's support, people from Batwa communities (the most vulnerable community in the country) have increasing income as well as respect and dignity. They have experienced extreme poverty, discrimination and ignorance. Thanks to SCIAF, they have organised themselves and are benefitting from advocacy and get different services from government and other stakeholders that they could not find before."*

**Emmanuel Benimana of CDJP Cyangugu**

*"SCIAF supporters should know that the people we serve are aware about the sacrifice they make and are delighted by the spirit of promoting a smile where there was sadness. May joy in your hearts dwell and last for your lifetime on earth and in heaven. God bless you!"*

**Zacharie Ndayishimiye of Episcopal Commission for Justice and Peace – CEJP**



With your help thousands of people now have clean water

## Burundi

*"I would like to sincerely thank all the SCIAF supporters for their generosity and solidarity to the whole humanity, particularly to those living in extreme poverty and other forms of vulnerability. I also call them to continue supporting our communities living in inhuman conditions, because of conflicts, violence, bad governance, HIV/AIDS, and we still have too many people in these conditions in Burundi."*

**Ntakarutimana Barthélemy of Nduwamahoro Burundi**

## Burma/Myanmar

*"We would like to sincerely say "Thank You" from the bottom of our heart for sharing our blessings and hardships. We are aiming to becoming a "sustained community" and "inter-dependent organisation." But this dream would not be realised without your continued support. We assure you our prayers."*

**Father Stephen Ah Chu (Director) of KMSS-Kengtung**



## Malawi

*"It is a big THANK YOU to the people of Scotland for the financial and material support. The helping hand that the people of Scotland have rendered has provided the community the needed push to address some of the many challenges faced in improving livelihoods for the poor and protecting our environment."*

**Raymond Chimsale of CADECOM Chikwawa Diocese**

## Cambodia

*"We are constantly encouraged and inspired by the results we see and know that we are making a difference. With the continued support of SCIAF, as well as caring, concerned individuals like SCIAF supporters in Scotland, we are confident we can touch the lives of many poor indigenous people and play a role in helping them. I would like to take this opportunity to extend our deepest gratitude to SCIAF and the Scottish people for their continued support of our efforts for over the years as we work to bring change to our country."*

**Mam Sambath from DPA Cambodia**

*"I would like to say thank you for your support. On behalf of people living with HIV and AIDS I would like SCIAF to continue to support them in the future"*

**Dr. Kasem Kolnary Cambodian HIV/AIDS Education and Care (CHEC)**

*"In Cambodia SCIAF's support enabled orphan and vulnerable children affected by HIV/AIDS to continue going to*

*school. Without SCIAF support, these children would at best have to suspend their studies, if not stop altogether. With SCIAF's support, about 500 children living in poverty and affected by HIV/AIDS had their schooling provided. It is apt to say thanks to SCIAF, the way Cambodians usually do: "We have nothing but our ten fingers to clasp in homage and prayers to offer you in gratitude."*

**Sister Leonor Montiel of SCIAF partner Maryknoll Seedling of Hope in Cambodia**

## Colombia

*"Thank you for the support in terms of working to protect the minority and your continued interest in contributing to the Diocese by reaching out to those with disabilities."*

**Cibeles Núñez and Mara Hernandez from Diocese of Barrancabermeja in Colombia- Social care**

## Zambia

*"KATC and the farmers greatly appreciate this support from SCIAF and all its supporters. The communities have seen remarkable changes through SCIAF support, including learning new technologies through training, research and exposure visits. There has also been a significant increase in awareness and knowledge about sustainable agriculture across all sectors of the Zambian Economy especially the agriculture sector."*

**Doctor Henrietta Kalinda Kasisi Agricultural Training Centre**

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“ With your support, over the last 50 years  
we’ve given millions of families a better  
chance in life and hope for the future.  
We won’t stop while they need our help. ”

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SCIAF (Scottish Catholic International Aid Fund) is the official overseas aid and development charity of the Catholic Church in Scotland and a proud member of the Caritas family. We help some of the world’s poorest people, regardless of religion and tackle the underlying causes of poverty.

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