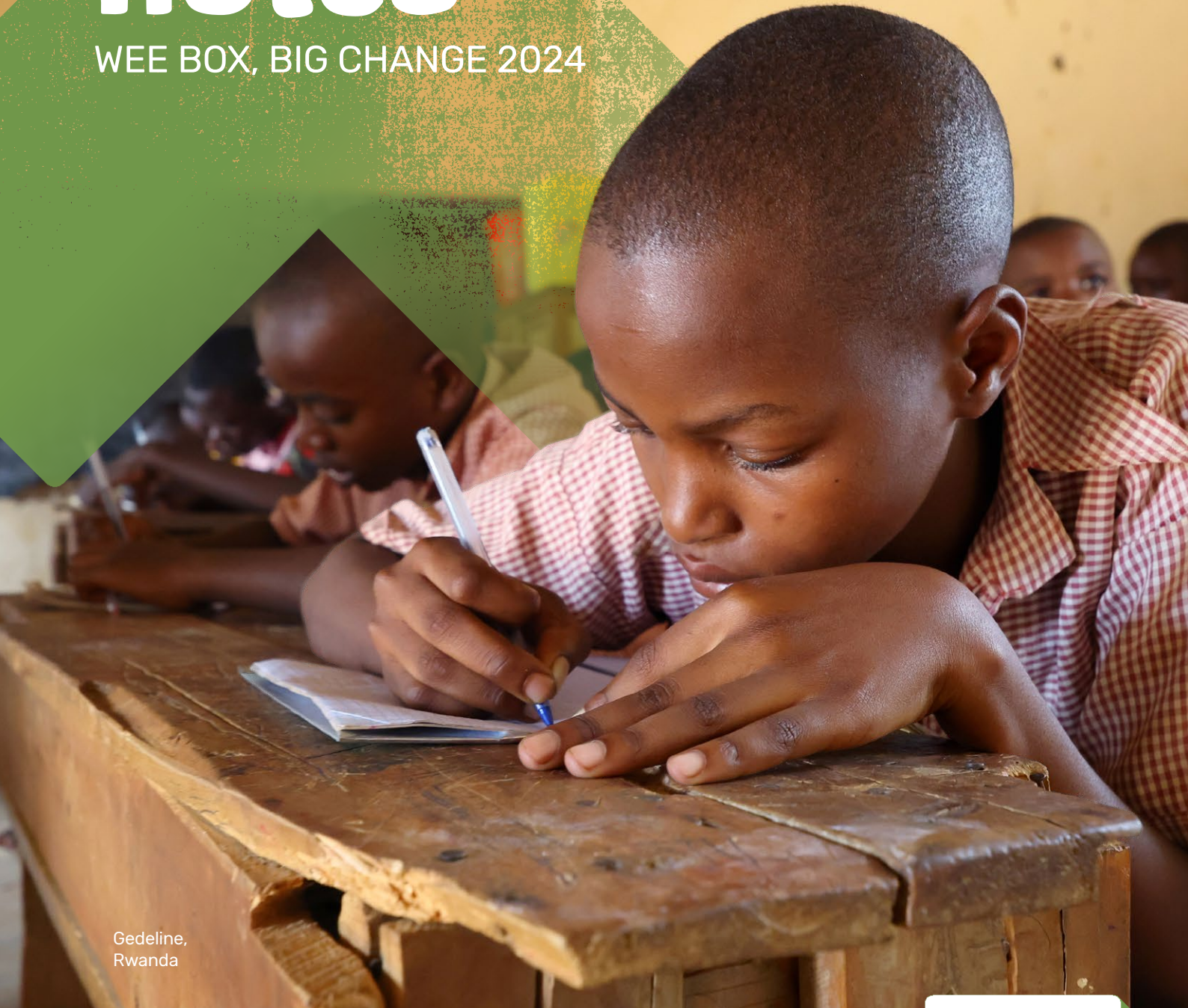


# Teachers' notes

WEE BOX, BIG CHANGE 2024



Gedeline,  
Rwanda





# Welcome to this year's WEE BOX, BIG CHANGE appeal.

Use these Teachers' Notes to find out more about this year's appeal which focuses on how, with your help, we are supporting communities in Rwanda. You'll find inspiring stories, prayers and activities linked to the Pope Francis Faith Award, Laudato Si' Schools and the TIOF curriculum.

Thank you to the whole school community for your support of SCIAF. We are committed to providing faith-filled global citizenship and sustainable development education resources to help your school learn, pray and act for global justice.

Thank you for joining us on this journey!

We hope you have a blessed Lenten season.

Handwritten signatures of Elaine McGinlay and Mark Booker in black ink.

**Elaine McGinlay and Mark Booker**  
Development Education Team  
[schools@sciaf.org.uk](mailto:schools@sciaf.org.uk)

## DID YOU KNOW?

Last year, the WEE BOX appeal raised over £1 million! With your help, we supported 101 international projects, alongside 68 partners, in 26 countries.

# Rwanda

This year's WEE BOX appeal focuses on SCIAF's work in Rwanda.

Rwanda is about one third the size of Scotland, yet it houses a population three times larger! This makes it one of the most densely populated nations in Africa. Tucked away without a coastline, it's surrounded by the Democratic Republic of Congo, Tanzania, Uganda, and Burundi.

Venture into Rwanda's forests and you'll find a rich biodiversity, from insects and birds to reptiles and large mammals – the most famous being the endangered mountain gorillas.

Rwanda's capital Kigali is a modern metropolitan city, bursting with culture. It has a vibrant food, music, dance and art scene and is also home to a myriad of talented individuals including chefs, writers, and artists.



Kigali, Rwanda's capital city

For those living outside of the cities in rural areas, agriculture is their main way of earning a living. Small holder farms dot the landscape often producing coffee, tea, maize and soybeans. In fact, Rwandan coffee has earned global acclaim, securing awards like the UK Great Taste Awards multiple times!

In the realm of governance, Rwanda leads the charge for female representation. Women hold over two-thirds of the seats in the Rwandan Parliament and 52% of cabinet positions. It's a proud milestone, with Rwanda being the world's first to have a female-majority Parliament, setting a record in female governmental representation.

On the sports front, Rwanda's national women's volleyball team clinched 4th place in the 2023 Women's African Nations Volleyball Championship.



Yet, challenges persist. Thirty years on from the genocide that ripped their country apart, Rwandans are still struggling with the deep trauma and ongoing violence it left behind.

Despite significant strides in development in recent years, over half of Rwandans struggle to grow enough food to eat. Alarmingly over 38% find themselves living below the international poverty threshold, surviving on less than £1.60 per day.





# Learn, pray and act for justice



This year's WEE BOX appeal focuses on peace, gender inequality, and gender-based violence in Rwanda.

The following pages have background information on the WEE BOX appeal for your own knowledge, plus tips on discussing difficult issues in the classroom.

We know that the content of these stories touches on subjects that may be upsetting and challenging to discuss in class, but we also know that learning about these issues is essential for creating a more just world.



As an educator you know your pupils best, so we encourage you to use whichever of these resources are most appropriate for your class. It's also important to take care of yourself emotionally – and if you are affected by any of the issues raised, you can find support via [rcag.org.uk/safeguarding/survivors](https://rcag.org.uk/safeguarding/survivors)

Here are some tips which you may find useful when discussing this year's WEE BOX appeal with your pupils.

## • **Be prepared:**

Find out what your pupils already know or think about global issues of gender inequality, peace and gender-based violence by using our **WEE BOX Kahoot Quiz**.

## • **Perspective taking:**

Encourage pupils to think about what it would be like to be in others' shoes – living in fear, not being treated fairly, and having no support. Promote empathy by helping them to understand different perspectives and experiences.

## • **Answer questions:**

Be ready to answer difficult questions and provide age-appropriate information. If you're unsure about something, it's okay to say you'll find out together and email [schools@sciaf.org.uk](mailto:schools@sciaf.org.uk) for more information on our work.

## • **Promote critical and creative thinking:**

Encourage pupils to think critically about stereotypes, prejudices, and unfairness they may encounter. Challenge negative stereotypes and biases through discussion. Foster discussions about how attitudes and behaviours can be changed locally and globally.

## • **Inspire action:**

Empower your pupils by discussing how even small actions can make a big change! Discuss solutions and encourage them to think about how they can contribute to a more peaceful and fairer world, whether it's through acts of kindness, standing up for others, or supporting SCIAF.

## • **Rooted in our Catholic faith:**

Promote dignity of every human being, recognising we are called to compassion and that we comfort those in need because God comforts us.

# SCIAF's work in Rwanda

In 1994, Rwanda experienced a devastating genocide. Over the course of 100 days, up to one million people were killed.

Today, many women and girls in Rwanda are facing continued sexual and gender-based violence and gender inequality. Women and girls are less likely to receive an education, get a job, and earn money to meet their basic needs.

We're working with the Church and our partner CEJP Rwanda (Justice and Peace Commission) to provide support and education to men and women. CEJP also provide help for families to grow more food, start small businesses, access safe water and adapt to climate change.

We work together as part of the global church, as one body with many parts. (1 Corinthians 12:20)



## Counselling

For women and girls who have been through trauma, we're providing medical care and psycho-social counselling to help them recover.



## Skills training

We're helping people to receive new skills like tailoring, joinery and welding along with agricultural training.



## Savings and loans

We're helping communities with numeracy skills and to access money through community savings and loan co-operatives.



## Community education

Promoting peace involves engaging both women and men in community education sessions which take place in schools, workplaces, and parishes. Along with the Anglican Church we're developing a network of community leaders including law makers, businesses and the church to speak out publicly against sexual and gender-based violence and gender inequality.

**“No one can face life in isolation. We need a community that supports and helps us, in which we can help one another to keep looking ahead.”**

Pope Francis (Fratelli Tutti)



# WEE BOX resources

This Lent, use your WEE BOX to make a BIG CHANGE!

## 🕒 **WEE BOX assembly resources** – Primary & Secondary

Presentations suitable for pupils or staff to lead, with accompanying notes.

## 🕒 **Prayer and classroom activities** – Primary & Secondary

SCIAF Stations of the Cross, Catholic Social Teaching activities, meditations on Scripture, WEE BOX prayers plus reflections for Ash Wednesday and International Women's Day.

## 🕒 **WEE BOX Day of Prayer** – Primary & Secondary

WEE BOX prayer service including prayers of intercession for Fri 8th March.

## 🕒 **WEE BOX videos** – Primary & Secondary

Find all the WEE BOX videos suitable for schools on our YouTube channel.

## 🕒 **WEE BOX Fundraising** – Primary & Secondary

Sign up for The Big Lent Walk and find more WEE BOX fundraising ideas.



## Don't forget to book a classroom visit from SCIAF



### Day in the Life – Primary

Find out about the daily life of a young person living in Rwanda. Links to Pope Francis Faith Award and Laudato Si' Schools.



### Peace and Justice in Rwanda – Secondary

Find out more about SCIAF's partners and our work in Rwanda. Links to Laudato Si' Schools and TIOF.



### Thank You / Cheque Presentation talk – Primary & Secondary

▶ WEE BOX resources [sciaf.org.uk/resources](https://sciaf.org.uk/resources)

▶ WEE BOX videos [youtube.com/sciaf](https://youtube.com/sciaf)

▶ Book a WEE BOX visit [getinvolved@sciaf.org.uk](mailto:getinvolved@sciaf.org.uk)



**"In five years, I want to  
be the most renowned  
welder in the region,  
giving jobs to everyone.  
That's my dream."**

– Emmanuel, Rwanda