

Promoting Integral Human Development in the light of the Gospel

A resource for parishioners that explains what Integral Human Development is and how it works in practice for SCIAF and for those they serve.



As Bishop President of SCIAF, I welcome this resource for your parishioners as it will provide them with an important foundation in Integral Human Development (IHD). Not only will it explain how and why SCIAF works in the unique way that we do, but it will share the bigger picture of how Scripture, Church Teaching and Tradition come to shape IHD, the Catholic response to injustice, the destruction of our planet, and poverty more generally. This, in turn, will explain how we all shape our personal response to our sisters and brothers in need.

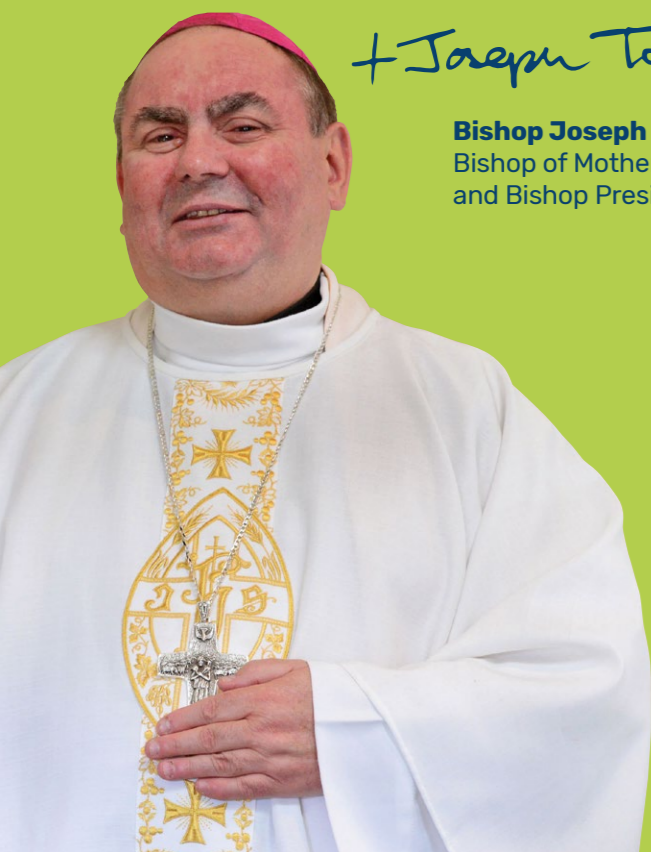
It is vital, as the Holy Father says in his Encyclical *Laudato Si'*, that we hear both "the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor" because "everything is interconnected". It is also vital that we encourage our parishioners to respond to these cries in such a way that promotes IHD, and that they follow in the footsteps of Jesus in how He treated the people He encountered with dignity and respect.

In 2017, Pope Francis initiated the 'Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development', bringing together existing Vatican entities to respond to poverty and injustice. As he says in *Laudato Si'*, "We are faced not with two separate crises, one environmental and the other social, but rather with one complex crisis which is both social and environmental". Strategies for a solution demand an integrated approach to combating poverty and restoring dignity to the excluded, while at the same time protecting nature.

This resource will equip parishioners with knowledge about IHD, but also with engaging ways to look at this theme together through workshops that include discussion, video and prayer. Inspired by the teaching of Pope Francis, I commend this way of looking at our world and its pains.

+ Joseph Toal

Bishop Joseph Toal,
Bishop of Motherwell
and Bishop President



What is Integral Human Development?

There is no magisterial definition of Integral Human Development (IHD). There are bits and pieces from Scripture, Tradition and modern Catholic Social Teaching (CST) documents, but no neat definition. Yet for Pope Francis, the term expands and builds on what justice and peace has meant in the past. In forming the 'Dicastery for the Promotion of Integral Human Development' in 2017, Pope Francis has combined the ministry of ecology with those dealing with charity, health, and people on the move (refugees, migrants and asylum seekers). In doing so, Pope Francis has brought together the entire gamut of services that care for humanity and the planet into one ecclesial organisation.

In a meeting celebrating the 50th anniversary of *Populorum Progressio*, Pope Francis called IHD, "the path of good that the human family is called to follow." This illustrates how we, as followers of Christ, must live out the common good in our lives.

IHD is much more than SCIAF's life-transforming work – it is the foundation, running through its partnerships, projects, and the way we serve our sisters and brothers around the world.

IHD promotes a holistic development that covers the whole life, including the transcendent. IHD respects traditional cultures, values and institutions – it works through them so that participants own their own development, and programmes are shaped around their beliefs.

IHD's starting point is to uphold the dignity of the human person, listening to and empowering programme participants. For SCIAF, that means making partners (the community-based organisations we work with in-country) co-creators of programmes and very much the local experts.

IHD is not limited to economic growth; is to be holistic, covering all spheres of life – the economic, political, cultural, personal and spiritual. The integral human development of any person is found in using their abilities to participate in and foster the common good.

Written by Dr Duncan MacLaren KCSG, SCIAF's first Director and former Secretary General of Caritas Internationalis. His doctorate deals with IHD. He was made a Knight Commander of St Gregory the Great in 2016 by Pope Francis for his service to the Church.

SCIAF and IHD

SCIAF has a rich tradition of development work grounded in Catholic Social Teaching (CST) – with 'development' meaning more than a quick-fix. It is about progress, and our 'hand-up, not hand-out' mentality. Our practice has always been built upon the cornerstone of Christ's teaching to love your neighbour and walk in solidarity with the poor and oppressed. We have continued to build on this foundation and, in recent years, we have developed our approach to Integral Human Development (IHD).

The Catholic Church has a proud history of social concern and SCIAF has always looked to follow Christ's example. It is inspiring, not only to see life-transforming, dignified, empowering work in projects overseas, but also to witness the real sense of solidarity in Scotland when Catholics come together in prayer, in learning, in campaigning and in fundraising for people in their time of need.

Our values derive from Scripture, Church Teaching and CST and promote IHD. Encompassing all the values below is our response in compassion, rooted in love.

"Over all these clothes, put on love, the perfect bond" Colossians 3:14

+ Dignity

We treat everyone the same, with the utmost respect. We believe that we are all created in the image of God. Therefore, we seek to empower those already gifted, to free themselves from poverty.

"So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female, he created them." Genesis 1:27



+ Solidarity

We celebrate unity and value working in partnership. As part of Caritas, the Catholic Church's global network of international aid and development charities, we stand with our sisters and brothers.

"For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me." Matthew 25:35-36

+ Hope and Ambition

We never give up. We are determined and believe that things can be better, as they were first created to be. Jesus inspires hope and we will work for the rights of the world's most oppressed people while inspiring those here in Scotland to Reflect, Act and Give in order to fulfil our vision.

"The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into His harvest." Luke 10:2

+ Integrity

We are trusted by our supporters, participants and the Church to make a difference in the world. We will work with honesty and are accountable to our project partners, those we serve, and to God. We always try to ensure that our words match our actions.

"Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as if working for the Lord, not human masters." Colossians 3:23

+ Stewardship

We will be good stewards, both in terms of money and in our task to look after creation. Both are gifts of God, loaned to us to do good with and to improve.

"Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms." 1 Peter 4:10

When we ask people what SCIAF do or what SCIAF is we can get a variety of answers: **“It’s a charity”**, **“It raises money for people that need it more than me”**, **“It helps people in emergency situations”**, and **“It helps people in poverty to help themselves for the long term”**. All of these answers are, of course, correct but we feel that the way these things are done in practice is so important. It is not acceptable, for example, for a project participant in Ethiopia to receive help at the expense of her dignity. To give a ‘hand out’ and ignore her gifts and talents is clearly wrong; to give a ‘hand up’, supporting her education and skills, would enable her to support herself and her children in the longer term, and provide a more sustainable solution.

SCIAF do not claim to have all the answers, but we strive to follow what Scripture and Church Teaching

share about promoting IHD. We work hard with our partners to see that in practice, in the design of programmes, and in the lives of project participants.

The intention of the two workshops (summarised below) and the supporting material online is to provide parishioners with information about IHD and how it affects the work of SCIAF and its partners. The workshops are about coming together and recognising that the support of the Bishops’ Conference Agency for international aid and development makes a huge difference in many thousands of lives while upholding the dignity of the human person.

Everything you need to host and deliver your own workshops – including a guide for each session, along with supporting material – can be found at sciaf.org.uk/IHD

Together your parishioners will look at the following:

Workshop 1



- What is Integral Human Development (IHD)?
- Encounters with Jesus – How did Jesus care for the whole person?
- Why is IHD and the inspiration of Scripture so vital to SCIAF’s mission?
- Prayer and reflection

Workshop 2



- Inspirational stories from SCIAF partners and project participants
- Our response – Individually and together as the Church. How do we keep promoting IHD?
- Prayer and reflection

Please email getinvolved@sciaf.org.uk for any questions that you may have and for any support in delivering the workshops. We are happy to help you.

*Heavenly Father, thank you for your unconditional love.
Help us to act justly, love mercy and walk humbly with you.
With your help, may we uphold the dignity of every person,
showing compassion to all, especially those in greatest need.
Amen.*

Scottish Catholic International Aid Fund

SCIAF is the official overseas aid and development charity of the Catholic Church in Scotland and a proud member of the Caritas family. 7 West Nile Street, Glasgow G1 2PR. Tel: 0141 354 5555. Scottish Charity No: SC012302. Company No: SC197327. Photo credits: Simon Murphy.

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