

SCIAF EDUCATION

LEARN, PRAY, ACT IN THE CLASSROOM



Jhoshua,
Colombia

 **SCIAF**
Uniting for a just world
Caritas Scotland

**WEE
—
BOX**

60 years of change

SCIAF EDUCATION WEE BOX 2025

This Lent we invite you to use your WEE BOX to learn, pray and act for global justice.

SCIAF are committed to faith-filled Development Education helping you support pupils in fostering a global outlook and awareness of global interdependence, development and sustainability, while encouraging critical thinking about global issues.

We are part of the global Catholic community with shared responsibility to our Common Home and a commitment to faith witness by taking action for and with the poor.


This year's WEE BOX focuses on our work in Colombia and the global justice issues we are tackling there with the support of schools like yours.

Thank you for your support.

God bless,




Elaine and Mark
Development Education

LEARN
(pages 3–12) 

Teachers' Guide
for your own professional learning and highlighting links to Laudato Si' Schools, LfS, TIOF and more.

Primary & Secondary:
WEE BOX activities for staff and pupils to lead in the classroom or at assembly.

PRAY
(pages 13–17) 

Prayer & Reflection:
connect with our global neighbours through prayer, recognising the face of Christ in the poor, marginalised, and oppressed.

ACT
(page 18) 

Cancel debt, choose hope:
Action for global justice is powerful faith witness, living out the principles of Catholic Social Teaching.

 **LEARN**

TEACHERS' GUIDE

In Colombia, despite the vibrant tapestry of natural beauty in its landscape, violence lurks around every corner, displacing families, forcing children into crime, and leaving communities dominated by armed gangs. In defiance of the peace agreement in 2016, violence and displacement remain, with 6.9 million people being forced to leave their homes due to conflict.

In Chocó, the poorest region, people face relentless conflict, poverty, and isolation, and feel forgotten by the world.

SCIAF stands with those in Chocó, advocating for justice and peace, providing shelter for those caught in the violence, and helping communities rebuild their lives long into the future.



Bogotá, Colombia



COLOMBIA FACT FILE

Location:
South America

Sea borders:
Caribbean Sea and the North Pacific Ocean

Land borders:
Brazil, Ecuador, Panama, Peru and Venezuela

Population:
49 million people

Capital:
Bogotá

Time difference to Scotland:
GMT -6 hours

People living in poverty:
More than 1 in 3

Peace:
Least peaceful country in South America



MARGINALISED COMMUNITIES IN COLOMBIA

Perched between Colombia's Pacific Coast and the mountains of the Andes lies the vast region of Chocó. Rich in culture, biodiversity and landscape, it is an area of outstanding natural beauty and warmth of the people. However, Chocó is also the poorest region in Colombia.

SCIAF work with Indigenous and Afro-Colombian communities in and around Chocó.

EMBERÁ DOBIDÁ

Emberá communities are one of Colombia's largest indigenous populations, many of whom live in Chocó. With a rich cultural heritage deeply rooted in their ancestral lands, the Emberá people have a strong connection to the natural world.

Spanish and other colonists in the 16th century met fierce resistance from Emberá people defending their land and culture. Continued conflict, spanning centuries, caused the Emberá communities to move deeper into the mountains, and into territories inaccessible to outsiders.

The colonial presence in Chocó was motivated by access to natural resources such as gold and silver. Communities today are still under threat from illegal mining and exploitation of natural resources.

Despite the Constitution of 1991 (which outlined the legal duties to protect and uphold the human rights of Colombia's ethnic minorities and indigenous peoples) Emberá communities are still being forced from their ancestral lands, leading to mass displacement. In recent years, the UN has highlighted Emberá people as one of the most at-risk indigenous groups in the world due to the ongoing conflict.



AFRO-COLOMBIAN COMMUNITIES

Chocó is home to around 550,000 people, 90% of whom are Afro-Colombian. Spanish colonists forcibly brought enslaved people from Africa, beginning in the 16th Century. In the 1800s, following abolition, Afro-Colombians faced continued marginalisation and discrimination leading to socioeconomic disparities in the country.

In the early 1990's Afro-Colombian communities were granted territorial rights in Colombia, giving a similar status to indigenous people. However, political violence and conflict between paramilitary groups, drug traffickers, guerrilla groups and government forces has forced them from their territories and displaced millions of Afro-Colombians around Colombia. Today, Afro-Colombians are some of the most marginalised and disadvantaged people in Colombia.



LEARN

ON THE FRONT LINE OF CONFLICT

SCIAF works with Church partners in the poorest part of Colombia to build peace in a forgotten conflict zone – one that never makes the headlines.



LUIS' STORY

Luis was sheltering in the church of San Pablo Apóstol in Colombia with his family and hundreds of local people when an armed group surrounded the building.



"When the bomb hit the room, everything went dark and smoky," Luis told SCIAF. "When the darkness lifted, a little two-year-old begged me not to leave him. I picked him up and took him out of the church. He died in my arms. When I got home, I just cried and cried."

Miraculously, Luis' whole family survived that terrible day. But 119 others were not so fortunate and perished in the explosion. The attack left the church in ruins. But despite the carnage, the 'mutilated Christ of Boyacá' – a crucifix of our Lord Jesus – survived, albeit with His arms and legs missing.

Today, the relic has been venerated by many, including Pope Francis during his visit to Colombia, as a reminder of the suffering endured by communities but also as a sign of hope for a better future.

ENRIQUE'S STORY

Enrique's town was taken over by an illegal paramilitary group. They wanted access to his community's land so they could traffic people and move illegal drugs and gold through the area.

Enrique and his family were forced from their home, with nowhere to go. Enrique told SCIAF, "But the Church was there when we were displaced, and when we returned to our homes too."

Thanks to your support, and the dedication and bravery of our local partners, we've helped displaced people like Enrique's family return to their homes, keeping them safe during the process.

"For those that finally returned to their homes, the state did not help – the Church, however, has helped us return with all their might. Their presence has helped guard us from the armed groups that still operate here."



"With the help of Christ, Christ alive in the midst of the community, it is possible to usher in a new Colombia."

Pope Francis



WEE BOX LINKS

The WEE BOX activities in this resource will reference several areas:

POPE FRANCIS FAITH AWARD

- Find out about someone your age living in a poorer country (page 8 - Day in the Life)
- Pray in gratitude for all I have and pray for those who are not so fortunate (page 15 - WEE BOX prayer)
- Raise money for a Church charity and get your class involved to raise awareness (page 16 - BIG LENT WALK)

LAUDATO SI' SCHOOLS

- Connecting to Scripture and supporting pupils' prayer life as they Learn, Pray and Act. (page 10 - Global Church activity, CST activity, LS Schools PPT)
- Learn about how SCIAF helps to tackle global poverty and inequality. (page 8 - WEE BOX resources)
- Learn about the treasure trove of social teaching that the Church has (page 11 - CST option for the poor activity)
- Respond to the cry of the poor by fundraising for SCIAF (page 16 - BIG LENT WALK)
- Share learning with the whole school community (page 9 - LS Schools PPT)

THIS IS OUR FAITH

Primary

- **P3 RERC 1-24**
I know that my school is a Catholic school and that, with God's help, we can work together to show care for the world and the needs of all people.
- **P5 RERC 2-21a**
I can recognise how my relationship with God and others can be shaped by the values of Jesus' Kingdom.
- **P5 RERC 2-24**
I am developing my understanding of my involvement in the community of the Catholic Church by exploring the role of the lay organisations in my diocese that work to show care for the world and the needs of all people. I know that I am called to respond to the needs of others when I can. I have used this information to inspire and challenge me to respond to God's call to care for the poor.
- **P6 RERC 2-24**
I know that SCIAF is a Catholic organisation that responds to the needs of the world.
- **P7 RERC 2-24**
I know I am called to witness Jesus' love for the poor and marginalised.

Secondary

- **S1 RERC 3-21a**
Having considered Christ's example, I am aware of how I can respond to the spiritual and material needs of others.
- **S2 RERC 3-21a**
Having considered the example of the early Christian Community (Acts 2:42-47) I am aware of how I can share what I have to meet the needs of others.
- **S3 RERC 3-24a / 4-24a**
I have experienced opportunities to engage with issues of social injustice. I can describe how Church teaching in this area has affected my response and the responses of others to these issues.



WEE BOX LINKS

RIGHTS RESPECTING SCHOOLS

- Learning about rights of Indigenous and Afro-Colombian communities. (page 4)
- Advocate for global justice (page 18 - Debt justice campaign)
- Active participation in the community by sharing knowledge (page 9 - LS Schools PPT)

LEARNING FOR SUSTAINABILITY

- I am developing my knowledge and understanding of the interdependence of environment, society, economy and inequity.
- I am developing my knowledge and understanding of sustainable development
- I am developing informed, ethical views of complex issues such as peace, reconciliation and justice.
- I am developing as an active global citizen
- I am developing the skills to use digital technology (PPT) to support my learning on global issues.
- I am developing my knowledge and awareness of the Sustainable Development Goals, especially Goal 1 (No Poverty), Goal 2 (Zero Hunger), Goal 10 (Reduced Inequalities) and Goal 16 (Peace, Justice & Strong Institutions)

CARITAS AWARD

- PowerPoint and videos to deliver in feeder primary school or to younger year groups (page 8 - WEE BOX resources)
- A talk to deliver in your parish that lets parishioners know about the work of SCIAF in Colombia and thanks them for their support of the WEE BOX (page 8 - WEE BOX resources)
- Design and carry out your own fundraising initiative for SCIAF this Lent (see the WEE BOX Fundraising guide)

DIGITAL SCHOOLS SCOTLAND

- I can create a digital information book-video (using Book Creator or Clips) about SCIAF's WEE BOX campaign and share with the rest of the school
- I can create a webpage page (using Sway) about SCIAF's work.
- Digital champions can 'Takeover' our social media channels: we will help them bring their ideas to life on Takeover Day

HOW GOOD IS OUR SCHOOL (HGIOS)

Partnership and collaboration

SCIAF provides accessible, appropriate and high-quality Development Education materials in line with the vision, aims, values and ethos of Catholic schools. Our workshops and assemblies have a positive impact on learners and contribute to their learning on global issues.

As a partner organisation to your school, we share our skills, knowledge and experience at a classroom, department, faculty, whole-school, cluster and local authority level. We work with schools to develop and maintain a strong partnership which improves outcomes for learners and for the whole school community. There isn't a cost attached to our visits or materials, although we are heartened by your fundraising efforts which sustain our work.



LEARN

WEE BOX RESOURCES



DAY IN THE LIFE VISIT

Find out about 11-year-old Jhoshua's daily life in Colombia by booking a Day in the Life workshop from SCIAF, in your classroom. Suitable for P5-P7 plus S1-S3

getinvolved@sciaf.org.uk



WEE BOX VIDEOS

Watch with your class to find out how SCIAF respond to the needs of the world, as part of the global Catholic Church.

 youtube.com/sciaf



SCIAF SPEAKER

Invite SCIAF to your school to present a WEE BOX assembly. Suitable for Primary and Secondary.

getinvolved@sciaf.org.uk



WEE BOX ASSEMBLY

A PowerPoint for staff and pupils to lead in the classroom or at assembly.



WEE BOX TALK

A short talk for Senior and Caritas pupils to read out in their parish letting parishioners know about the work of SCIAF in Colombia and thanking them for their support of the WEE BOX.



Jhoshua,
Colombia

 LEARN

WEE BOX RESOURCES



P

AMIGOS DEL PLANETA

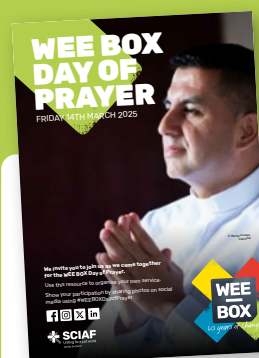
Use the 'Amigos Del Planeta' PowerPoint with your class to find out how young activists in Colombia are putting faith into action and developing as active global citizens.



P

LAUDATO SI' SCHOOLS ACTIVITY

Share your learning. A PowerPoint for Laudato Si' School pupils to share their learning about peace and justice in Colombia with parents, the parish, a local councillor or at assembly. global citizens.



Friday
14th
March

WEE BOX DAY OF PRAYER

Today, schools and parishes across Scotland dedicate time to pray for the people of Colombia and SCIAF's work around the world. Download the WEE BOX Day of Prayer resource to get involved.

sciaf.org.uk/resources





LEARN

GLOBAL CHURCH ACTIVITY

SCIAF's local partners stand alongside those in Chocó, despite immense danger to themselves. They are there when communities are attacked, when families are forced to flee and when children are overwhelmed by fear and suffering. They are the symbol of what Pope Francis calls "Christ alive in the midst of the community."

"The Church was there when my community were displaced [by conflict] and helped us return to our homes with all their might."

Enrique, Colombia



In the book of Acts we can read the story of the early Church.

READ:

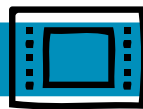


Acts 2:42-47

Ask pupils in groups to write down the similarities and differences between the early Church and their Church. Ask each group to share with the rest of the class.

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

WATCH:



WEE BOX video – our work in Colombia

Ask your class to get into groups and list ways that the Church today, through SCIAF, is responding to those in need in Colombia. You could also research SCIAF's work on our website sciaf.org.uk Take some time to hear the pupil's findings.

Ask pupils to list activities that their parish is doing to serve others locally and globally.

REFLECT:

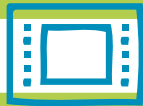


On our God given talents

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

**LEARN**

OPTION FOR THE POOR ACTIVITY

WATCH:

CST in 3 mins video on SCIAF's YouTube channel

**ACT:**

Living out the preferential option for the poor

Allow pupils 10 mins to think of examples of how they can live out the principle of the preferential option for the poor in their lives.

Use the activity in the PowerPoint to critically examine actions using criteria like feasibility, appropriateness, effectiveness or cost. Ask for some feedback.

Explore the choices they have made and their reasons for them. Finally, discuss the criteria they used to make their ranking decisions.

READ:

CST PowerPoint 'Option for the poor'

Ask pupils to look at the quotes from Scripture in small groups or individually. Facilitate some of the discussion questions within the PowerPoint.

PRAY:

Advocates for the poor

Use the prayer within the PowerPoint with your class.

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITY:

Research a Catholic Saint or figure who exemplified the preferential option for the poor and oppressed. For example, St Martin de Porres, St Oscar Romero, St Vincent de Paul.





LEARN

PEACE AND CONFLICT ACTIVITY

Luis,
Colombia

PEACE

Use the quotes on Peace Quotes pdf for this activity to create an agreement line.

Designate different parts of the room to 'agree', 'disagree' and 'not sure'.

Explain that you will read some quotes about peace, one by one, and the pupils should walk to the area of the room that represents how they feel about each quote.

After positions have been taken, ask:

- Why they have taken their positions, ask them to give reasons for their stance
- After they have heard each other's reasons, they are invited to change their stance if they wish
- Repeat with the next quote

DEBRIEF

Here are some useful questions:

- What did you think of these exercises?
- Was there anything surprising/shocking about the quotes/statements?
- Would any of these quotes/statements change your thinking about peace and or conflict?
- How did the quotes/statements feel relevant to this year's WEE BOX Appeal

CONFLICT

You could use Mentimeter to explore pupils understanding of conflict. The word cloud option lets participants make a visual representation of words that they can enter through their phones/devices.

For this activity use the question:

What is conflict?

Give pupils two minutes to think about this question, and then write their definitions. Once you can see their definitions, ask the following questions:

- How does the definition of conflict affect the way we think about conflict?
- What are some negative consequences of conflict?
- What are some positive outcomes of conflict? List two potential positive outcomes of conflict e.g. freedom from oppression
- What are some examples of conflict locally and globally?
- How does the media influence our awareness of national and global conflict issues?

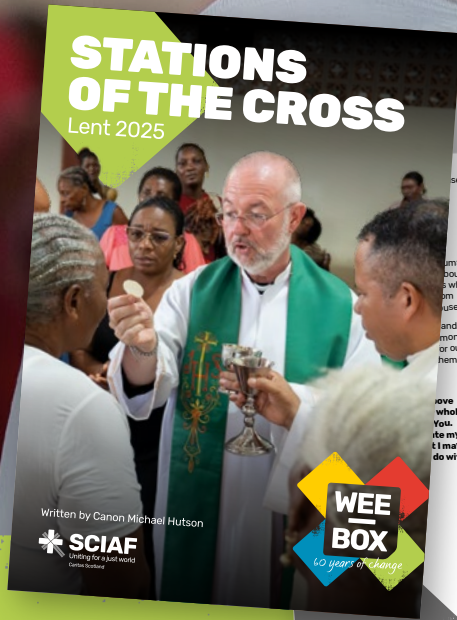
Set up the agreement line again and read the statements from the Conflict pdf. Encourage discussion and debate between the pupils and allow them to change their position based on what they hear from others.



WEE BOX RESOURCES

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Use the SCIAF Stations of the Cross booklet and PowerPoint with your class. This year the Stations have been written by Canon Hutson, Parish Priest at St Mary's Griminish in Benbecula.



FIFTH STATION SIMON OF CYRENE HELPS JESUS

Leader:
We adore You, O Christ and we praise You.

All: (genuflecting)
Because by Your Holy Cross
You have redeemed the world.

Simon was an outsider in Palestine. He probably looked, spoke and dressed differently from the locals. In this Station, we see Jesus being helped by the very kind of person on whom He had always focussed His healing attention: restoring dignity to the outsider, the marginalised, the despised.

We pray for those who suffer today, including in the places SCIAF works. We pray for refugees who are trying to find a safe, secure life for themselves and their families.

All:
I love You Jesus, my love above all things; I repent with my whole heart for having offended You. Never permit me to separate myself from You again. Grant that I may love You always, and then do with me what You will.

SIXTH STATION VERONICA WIPES THE FACE OF JESUS

Leader:
We adore You, O Christ and we praise You.

All: (genuflecting)
Because by Your Holy Cross
You have redeemed the world.

Out of the cruel crowd, a brave wee woman steps forward. She wipes the blood and mess from our Saviour's face. On Veronica's towel we see Christ. But we also see Him in the poor, the neglected, in refugees, in those who suffer or stand up for what is right - like Veronica.

When we support SCIAF, we stand in solidarity with people in the hardest circumstances - like Veronica. We pray that our support will help them to overcome their daily struggles and to challenge the unjust structures that keep them poor.

All:
I love You Jesus, my love above all things; I repent with my whole heart for having offended You. Never permit me to separate myself from You again. Grant that I may love You always, and then do with me what You will.

SEVENTH STATION JESUS FALLS THE SECOND TIME

Leader:
We adore You, O Christ and we praise You.

All: (genuflecting)
Because by Your Holy Cross
You have redeemed the world.

Even with Simon's help, our Lord stumbles again and falls. We offer our own brokenness, despair, illness, and depression to Him. We pray for families at home and throughout the world who have fallen into mental illness, addiction, the effects of trauma. We pray for people who are suffering in ways we do not even know.

All:
I love You Jesus, my love above all things; I repent with my whole heart for having offended You. Never permit me to separate myself from You again. Grant that I may love You always, and then do with me what You will.



Mass in Colombia



CREATING SAFE PLACES TO PLAY

VIDEO REFLECTION

If you have AV equipment available, use this short reflection with your class or in Assembly.

[watch video](#)



PRAY

JESUS IS OUR EXAMPLE

We are called to witness Jesus' love for people who are marginalised across the world. The best way we can do this is to look at Jesus' teaching and his personal encounters with those who were marginalised. We follow His example. In doing so, we put our faith into action – and, in turn, our faith increases.

“Let us care for the needs of every man and woman, young and old, with the same fraternal spirit of care and closeness that marked the Good Samaritan.”

Pope Francis, Fratelli Tutti



Mutilated Christ of Bojayá, Colombi

PRIMARY

Read: Luke 10:25–37 (The Good Samaritan) and Mark 1:40–45 (Jesus cures a man of leprosy). Then, discuss in groups how they might follow Jesus' example and use the discussion questions below.

SECONDARY

Read: Mark 1:21–45 (Jesus cures an unclean spirit) and John 13:1–15 (Jesus washes His disciples' feet). Use the discussion questions below and ask the pupils to make some notes from each question, ready to share with the rest of the class.

DISCUSSION

What is happening in the passage of Scripture?

What does Jesus do?

What does this encounter tell you about Jesus?

What does it teach us?

What actions can you take that follow Jesus' example?



PRAY

WEE BOX PRAYER

God of Peace and Justice

As we journey through Lent, help us to be mindful of those with whom we share God's Creation, our Common Home.

May our praying, fasting and giving, help us to draw ever closer to You, and inspire us to find new ways to bring dignity, joy, peace and justice to others, especially this year to the people of Colombia.

Amen

Canon Hutson,
Colombia



PRAY FOR US

We asked Luz, Dora and Daliz what special intentions they would like Catholics in Scotland to remember in their prayers. This is what they said:

Please pray that the whole planet is protected from harm

Please pray for peace, for the region of Chocó and the whole of Colombia

Please pray that indigenous people feel connected to their land and that their culture is safe from harm

Please pray that everyone can enjoy life, especially young people

Please pray that young people choose the right path in life, and don't make bad choices

Please pray that more projects with SCIAF and their partners can begin in Chocó, so more communities can be reached

Please pray with and for the people we serve in Colombia



Dora, Luz and Daliz, Colombia



PRAY

THE BIG LENT WALK PRAYER SERVICE



THE BIG LENT WALK IS BACK!

Join thousands of Catholics this Lent in this walking and fundraising challenge for SCIAF. Walk as a school or a class – and show how WEE steps can make a BIG impact!
Get going at sciaf.org.uk/biglentwalk

THE BIG LENT WALK



THE BIG LENT WALK PRAYER SERVICE

Opening Hymn

Christ Be Our Light (Farrell)

Opening Prayer

Leader: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

Leader: We gather today in recognition of our school joining The Big Lent Walk and supporting SCIAF to help our sisters and brothers living in some of the world's poorest places. We know that our physical journeys often mirror our spiritual journeys. May our time together today deepen our faith and strengthen our commitment to follow in Jesus' footsteps, bringing love to our neighbours.

Reflection

Leader: "Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path." Psalm 119:105. Imagine you're walking in a big, dark forest with no light at all. You might trip over or get lost. It would be really scary. But what if someone gave you a bright, shiny lamp? You could carry it with you, and suddenly, the path ahead would be clear, and you wouldn't be afraid anymore. That lamp would guide your way, just like the Psalm tells us.

God's Word is like that lamp for us. It shows us the way; how to be kind, how to love others. Just like a lamp lights up a dark forest, God's Word lights up our lives. It shows us the right path to follow.

Jesus gives us so many examples in the Bible. For example, He tells us to love one another, forgive those who hurt us, and be honest and kind. His words are like little lights that guide our way and help us make good choices.

This Lent we are showing love for our global neighbours by taking part in The Big Lent Walk. We are walking not only the path of solidarity but in the footsteps of Jesus, showing love to our less fortunate sisters and brothers.

Today, let us remember that we have this amazing gift from God, His Word, to be our light in all things that we do. When we follow His teachings and try to be like Jesus, we're guided on the right path. And just like a lamp in the dark, God's Word will always shine brightly in our hearts.

Closing Prayer

Leader: Let's say a prayer together to thank God for His Word and ask for His guidance.

Dear God,
Thank You for giving us Your Word as a lamp to our feet and a light to our path.
Guide us throughout Lent and on our Big Lent Walk,
May Your grace give us the courage to face any challenges.
Be with us as we pray, fast and give alms this Lent,
Show us the way, just like a lamp in the dark, so that we can walk in Your footsteps and bring love to our neighbours.
We make this prayer through Christ our Lord.
Amen

Closing Hymn

On Eagle's Wings (Joncas)



CANCEL DEBT, CHOOSE HOPE

In the world's poorest places, millions of people do not have enough food, water or adequate shelter to live dignified lives.

Yet, despite this deep poverty, the poorest countries are paying back enormous debts to some of the richest groups in the world. This debt money should be spent on improving people's lives but is instead lining the pockets of bankers, hedge fund managers and greedy governments.

In this Jubilee year we're asking supporters to sign our petition calling on world leaders to cancel unjust debts and build a permanent system that puts people and planet first.

P Use the Debt Justice PowerPoint to share details of the campaign and how to take action.



Brother Marcial,
Colombia

Visit sciaf.org.uk/canceldebt to find out more!

Scottish Catholic International Aid Fund

SCIAF is the official relief and development agency of the Catholic Church in Scotland and a proud member of the Caritas family. 196 Clyde Street, Glasgow, G1 4JY. Tel: 0141 354 5555. Scottish Charity No: SC012302. Company No: SC197327. Photos by James Cave (SCIAF).