SCIAF is the official overseas aid and development charity of the Catholic Church in Scotland. We are members of Caritas Internationalis, the global network of Catholic development charities, dedicated to ending poverty and working alongside the world’s poorest people, whatever their faith. The main focus of our work in developing countries is helping people overcome hunger, conflict and disease and responding to humanitarian disasters. As well as providing practical support, SCIAF challenges the underlying causes of poverty through education and campaigning.

**Introduction**

SCIAF welcomes the opportunity to respond to the Committee’s second call for evidence, having already provided evidence to the Committee in January 2015. SCIAF is a member of the Network of International Development Organisations in Scotland (NIDOS) and we support the evidence it has provided to this inquiry.

SCIAF’s experience of the Scottish Government’s European and international engagement is largely related to its work on international development and humanitarian issues. Our response is framed around the core questions asked by the Committee in its call for evidence, using them as an opportunity to expand on key themes and issues we think the Committee should consider.

**Committee Questions**

*What international activities are happening now in your sector and/or organisation? Please describe how and why these activities take place. Are other sectors or organisations involved? What do these activities contribute or achieve?*

2015 is an important year for tackling global poverty. In September, the UN will agree new Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to replace the current development framework and in December, nations will agree a new global deal on climate change at the UNFCCC in Paris. Important decisions on financing for development will be made in Addis Ababa in July. Here in the UK, SCIAF is delighted that the UK Government’s commitment to provide 0.7% of Gross National Income for overseas aid has been enshrined in law. July will also see the start of intergovernmental discussions on the establishment of an international treaty on business and human rights.

**Work of SCIAF**

**Development programme work**

SCIAF works with approximately 60 local partners in 15 focus countries across Africa (Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, South Sudan, Uganda, Malawi, Rwanda, Zambia), Asia (Burma, Cambodia, India) and Latin America (Colombia, El Salvador, Haiti and Nicaragua). As a Catholic development agency, SCIAF draws its inspiration from the rich heritage of its religious tradition, including the Bible and Catholic Social Teaching. The 15 programme countries have been selected using the following criteria: level of poverty, global coverage, inequality, human rights abuses, social exclusion, vulnerability to disaster, SCIAF’s potential for impact, the presence of Caritas and CIDSE sister agencies and the strength of local partners.

Our development projects focus on three key themes: livelihoods, peacebuilding and access to justice, and education. Our work on livelihoods supports the development of sustainable agriculture and small business development. The theme of peacebuilding and access to justice provides psycho-social and health care for survivors of conflict; access to legal justice for communities and individuals affected by conflict; and promotes local conflict resolution. SCIAF’s work on education aims to increase access to school, vocational training and educational courses for marginalised groups. It is estimated that in 2014 some 260,000 people directly benefited from SCIAF projects with approximately 1.8 million indirectly assisted by our projects. Scottish Government funding is currently supporting four projects in Rwanda, Zambia, Malawi and Burundi. Two of the projects focus on building sustainable livelihoods and sustainable agriculture (in...
Malawi, Zambia and Burundi) and two projects, funded through the Climate Justice Fund, focus on water management in the context of climate change (in Rwanda and Malawi). More detail of our Scottish Government funded programmes can be found at Annex 1.

SCIAF receives donations from individuals and communities across Scotland, and from institutional donors including from the UK and Scottish Governments. In 2013, we received approximately £2.1 million from institutional donors and approximately £5.4 million from parishes and individuals.

Emergency response
SCIAF also responds to emergencies by working with existing local partners or via Caritas Internationalis appeals. In 2014, SCIAF responded to 14 humanitarian emergencies by supporting 21 projects. Our emergency budget of approximately £1.6 million supported an estimated 288,000 people directly by meeting their immediate needs post-emergency as well as in the early recovery phases.

International policy engagement
SCIAF engages with a number of international policy processes related to international development and global poverty. Often this is in partnership with our network partners, such as Stop Climate Chaos Scotland (SCCS), the Corporate Responsibility Coalition (CORE), CIDSE (a European network of Catholic international development agencies) and Caritas Internationalis. SCIAF has engaged in the annual UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Conference of Parties and has facilitated input from our overseas partners. At these events, SCIAF has proactively shared the ‘Scottish experience’ of climate action (championing the Scottish Climate Change Act and the Climate Justice Fund). At these events, we have worked with the Scottish Government to identify opportunities for them to engage with SCIAF’s overseas partners, civil society and other Government and Parliamentary representatives. Through our network partners SCIAF has also engaged with the UN Business and Human Rights Forum in Geneva and during the Sustainable Development Goals process in New York. SCIAF has been an active member of UK-wide and global campaigns including the Jubilee Debt campaign, Make Poverty History, the Robin Hood Tax Campaign, the ‘Enough Food for Everyone IF’ campaign and most recently the ‘For the Love Of…’ climate change campaign.

International development education
An important part of SCIAF’s work in Scotland is development education to increase the Scottish public’s understanding of international development issues, and develop a greater global solidarity and commitment to us each doing our bit to live simply so that others may simply live. To end global poverty and injustice we need the support of an active and informed Scottish population. Through our relationships with parishes, groups and schools, we aim to ensure our supporters understand the causes of global poverty and injustice as well as their role and responsibility in bringing about lasting change. In 2014 we engaged directly with 182 schools across Scotland and provided more schools with resources. In 2014, SCIAF also arranged for a small group of teachers to travel to Addis Ababa to learn more about international development on the ground. Such ‘immersion’ trips provide invaluable support to teachers.

Do you think your sector and/ or organisation is effective in participating in international activities? If not, what would help you to make improvements? What prevents you from making improvements now?

SCIAF’s approach to international development involves providing programmes on the ground with poor and vulnerable communities which provide material support and address the root/structural causes of poverty through advocacy and campaigning, both within the countries in the Global South where we work & here in the Global North. Our membership of the Caritas Internationalis network gives us direct access to partners and communities across the globe, and close relationships with national religious leaders, who are highly influential in the culture and governance of their countries, and are able to exert considerable influence in national and local issues. Through Caritas Internationalis we benefit from highly respected representation in the UN and its agencies in New York, Geneva, Rome and Vienna, and in the European Parliament in Brussels. Our membership of Caritas Internationalis and our other partners enable us to respond effectively and efficiently to emergencies as well as implement long term development initiatives.

SCIAF strengthens its non-funding partnerships by sharing information, expertise, resources, networking and training. We engage in international policy processes, for instance, through our coalition and network.
partners. Sharing resources and expertise in this way has allowed us to effectively follow and engage in these processes and to maximise our impact. SCIAF also tries to establish partnership with “non-traditional partners” as diverse as: local government and councils, universities, think tanks, private business, and media to achieve our strategic objectives.

SCIAF takes a ‘partnership’ approach to our work, which we understand as “a relationship of mutual enrichment, sustained by shared goals, values and resources, which reinforces achievement of positive change in people’s lives”. SCIAF, therefore, places a special focus on strengthening our partners’ capacity; investing in them long-term. In our programming work, we rely on partner and beneficiary expertise and knowledge to inform and guide our decision-making.

SCIAF also uses an Integral Human Development model to design, monitor and evaluate programmes and projects. This model takes a holistic approach to the person/communities we work with ensuring that their financial, physical, natural, social, psychological, political and spiritual needs are taken into consideration within programming interventions. The model also draws on the different strengths and capacity of communities and utilises these to address the structures and systems that cause poverty. Since poverty is multidimensional we believe this approach is more effective than those which focus on financial and economic needs only.

To ensure overall organisational effectiveness and efficiency, SCIAF also has a monitoring and evaluation (M&E) framework. Each organisational strategy objective has a clear indicator of achievement as well as some intermediate results and indicators. The M&E framework collects data against SCIAF’s organisational strategic objectives/annual operational plan on a quarterly basis. Annual findings and lessons learned informs the development of country, programme and project plans. Within individual emergency and development programmes and projects, clear measurable objectives are set using a logical framework as well as other M&E tools. These tools as well as regular communications and field visits are used to guide and monitor the project throughout its duration. Findings from programme and project evaluations are used to enhance and improve the design of new initiatives. SCIAF shares lessons learned and promising practices with all stakeholders and periodically publishes ‘promising practices’ documents for large regional programmes (See, for instance, Promising Practices One, which looks at the lessons learned from SCIAF’s livelihoods programme in Southern Africa, co-funded by the Scottish Government. SCIAF is about to publish a second document based on a Sexual and Gender-Based Violence programme in the Great Lakes, co-funded by the European Union).

SCIAF is not alone in feeling the effects of the current economic climate. There is a sense of greater competition among charities and NGOs for limited funds, both from the general public and institutional donors. It is worth noting that response to emergency and humanitarian situations continues to be generous.

We note the Scottish Government’s decisions in recent years to respond to humanitarian or emergency situations by providing funding to the Disasters Emergency Committee or UN appeals. We would welcome the opportunity to discuss with the Scottish Government the value of donating relatively small sums to relatively large multilateral programmes such as those led by the UN. We would also welcome the opportunity to discuss in more detail how emergency and humanitarian response in Scotland can take into account the situation where several Scottish-headquartered NGOs with capacity to respond, including SCIAF, are not currently members of the DEC.

What should organisations in Scotland do to be effective internationally? Are you aware of any good examples of this from Scotland or another country?

SCIAF believes people should be in charge of their own futures and make the decisions that shape their lives. To that end, we believe tackling poverty is best achieved by supporting and strengthening the work of local organisations. SCIAF works closely our partners and the communities they work with on the ground when designing, monitoring and evaluating programmes and projects. Good policy and advocacy work also stem from working closely with partners on the ground and building advocacy in the Global North upon the analysis and action of the Global South.
SCIAF believes strongly in the importance of collaboration and coordination. We value the global family of Caritas Internationalis and work through other national, regional and international networks and coalitions in all areas of our work. Doing so allows us to share and coordinate resources, expertise and knowledge – ultimately increasing our effectiveness. We believe other organisations can benefit from such an approach.

Organisations should also document, share and disseminate lessons learned and good practice with all relevant stakeholders (in programming, for instance, this should be shared with donors, governments, other aid agencies, partners, beneficiaries etc.). Lessons learned and good practice should then be integrated into the design of new strategies and interventions.

SCIAF enjoys a positive and constructive relationship with both DFID and the Scottish Government. It is important that the voice of civil society is represented with both parties and that the spirit of partnership continues. We believe, however, there is potential for greater coherence between DFID and the Scottish Government on the international stage. For instance, where possible, we would welcome the Scottish Government using its position within UK delegations to showcase innovative Scottish practice. For example, at international climate negotiations the Scottish Government has positive experience to share relating to the Climate Change Act and the Climate Justice Fund, both of which demonstrate the kind of ambition needed internationally.

As part of our advocacy agenda SCIAF calls for greater corporate responsibility. To that end we believe Scottish businesses must adhere to high international human rights standards such as the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (the Guiding Principles), which have been endorsed by the UK and Scottish Governments. The Guiding Principles set out an active role for companies – asking them to have a clear ‘due diligence’ policy that looks at all potential human rights impacts, to put this policy into practice and to report on its effectiveness.

There is a clear role for the Scottish Government to play both in advising businesses of their obligations and alerting companies to human rights risks in certain sectors or countries. At the same time, the Scottish Government must take responsibility as an economic actor itself to ensure the purchases it makes do not harm communities overseas. Considering responsible procurement in this way is a key way for the Government to meet its human rights obligations, meet the Climate Change Act and live up to its title as a Fair Trade Nation.

Conclusion

SCIAF welcomes the opportunity to respond to this consultation. Scotland has a proud history of standing up against injustice in solidarity with the world’s poorest people. It is the world’s second Fair Trade Nation and has demonstrated leadership with its ambitious climate change legislation. Scotland can continue this tradition by ensuring its international work is driven by a desire to be a good global citizen.

April 2015

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1 UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights – Guiding Principle 12
Annex 1: SCIAF’s Work Supported by the Scottish Government

Scottish Govt. Climate Justice Fund (Budget: £549,199, £499,213 from SG, 50,000 from SCIAF)
The aim of this project is that targeted households in four communities in Rwanda have improved food and income security and more resilient livelihoods as a result of increased knowledge and capacity in water resource management, technologies and practices. By the end of the project it is expected that households in the four communities will be educated in climate change adaptation practices and planning, that roof water will be harvested and used for vegetable production by 180 female-headed households and 12 male-headed households, that run-off water will be harvested and used for agricultural production by 182 female-headed households and 120 male-headed households, that household wastewater will be recycled and used for vegetable production by 110 female-headed households and 90 male-headed households, and that climate change adaptation technologies and practices in the four communities will be documented for internal and external learning. SCIAF staff is currently in Rwanda conducting a set up workshop for the project with partners.

Scottish Govt. Sub-Saharan Africa Development Programme (Budget for Kulima Programme just under £1,900,000, £1,332,000 from SG, £560,000 from SCIAF). Budget for extension grant £369,935, £294,935 for SG, £75,000 from SCIAF).
The Kulima programme works with eight partners across four countries – six in Africa (Zambia (4), Malawi (1) and Burundi (1)) and two in Scotland (Centre of African Studies, Edinburgh University (CAS), and The James Hutton Institute (TJHI). The Kulima Programme aims to enable 1,350 small-scale farmers (SSFs) in Zambia (850), Malawi (150) and Burundi (350) to sustainably increase their food production through improving the fertility and resilience to climate change of their soils while persuading the Government of Zambia to actively promote sustainable agricultural systems for small-scale farmers.

This programme has been supported by the Scottish Government since late 2008 with grants totalling almost £3.1 million (this includes a £1 million three-year grant for the Promotion of Rural Food Security project – the precursor of the Kulima Programme). Currently in the final year of a three-year grant, the Kulima programme has been awarded a one-year extension until 31 March 2016 which has the same aims as the Kulima programme. By the end of this final funding period, it is expected that participating farmers will have improved the fertility of their soils through improved nutrient availability within the soils, that these farmers will continue to use five adopted SAS practices to improve soil fertility, and that there will be increased acceptance by Zambian politicians, local and national government staff and House of Chiefs, of SAS as a sustainable farming system that improves productivity and soils. A consultant has already been recruited to conduct the final evaluation of the programme. The work will begin this month.

Scottish Govt. Climate Justice Fund (Budget £529,856, £499,606 from SG, £30,250 from SCIAF)
Sustainable water resource management for enhancing climate change resilience in southern Malawi (December 2012- March 2015).
This project trials different practices of water management to support the rural livelihoods of five poor communities in the context of climate change, in three districts in Southern Malawi (Mangochi, Dedza and Chikwawa). Activities of this project includes training in soil and water conservation, training in water management, establishment of household rainwater harvesting reservoirs, and establishment of community water reservoirs including the use of solar pumps.

Scottish Govt. Malawi Programme (Budget £397,958, £378,225 from SG, £ 19,733 from SCIAF)
Mangochi Livelihoods and Economic Recovery project - Malawi (May 2013 – March 2016)
This project provides support to 3,000 households in Mangochi to increase their income and food security by providing training on income generation activities, providing livestock to 360 households, enhancing irrigation facilities, providing training on agricultural techniques, and improving farmers’ access to local markets by improving rural link roads.