

## Save the Children Resource Guide

This guide provides an overview of the scope and content of the Save the Children Fund UK (SCF) Archive held at the Cadbury Research Library, University of Birmingham. The collection comprises 2,000 boxes of archival materials covering the programmes, activities and development of SCF, both at home and abroad, from its foundation in 1919 to the 21st century.

The SCF collection provides a fantastic resource for exploring the development of a modern charity, as well as post-colonialism, child rights, health and education, the development of fundraising and various other topics.

### Overview

The SCF Archive documents the administrative functions of the charity, beginning with the meeting minutes and papers of the Council, Executive and departmental committees. Additional administrative papers originate from the Director General's office, Finance and Human Resources papers, and correspondence with other organisations.

SCF's overseas programmes, dating from the 1950s to the 21st century, is the largest section of the collection covering allocations of funds, emergency relief and health and educational activities in countries across the world. SCF's programmes in the United Kingdom, such as playgroups, residential homes and clubs, are also documented by a smaller series. In addition, a small selection of papers exists for SCF's work in the 1920s, including overseas aid, although the majority of

the archive dates from the 1960s to the early 2000s.

SCF's fundraising activities and public engagement initiatives are covered by a broad series of material, highlighting their educational activities, branches and shops, youth organisations, marketing, media coverage and fundraising campaigns and events.

The collection also includes a large series of photographs and transparencies documenting the work of SCF, both at home and abroad, and their fundraising activities. Alongside these are small sections of audio-visual materials, objects and publications comprising their official magazine and topical literature. There is also a collection of papers regarding individuals who worked for, or who are associated with, SCF.

### Material is arranged into the following series:

**CA:** Corporate Administration  
**CF:** Other SCF Fund Organisations  
**EJ:** Eglantyne Jebb papers  
**EO:** External Organisations  
**FR:** Fundraising and Public Relations  
**HW:** United Kingdom Programmes  
**O:** Objects  
**OP:** Overseas Programmes  
**P:** Publications and Printed Reports  
**PA:** Audio  
**PF:** Film and Video  
**PP:** Photographic Prints and Negatives  
**PT:** Photographic Transparencies and Slides  
**SC:** Special Collections (includes personal papers of individuals associated with SCF)



Mary Hawkins, SCF worker, in South Korea, 1950s. SCF/SC/IMKH/4/6



Concertina comic strip by Corrine de Candole, c 1925. SCF/EJ/9/2



Eglantyne Jebb, one of the founders of SCF. SCF/PP/SP/1/JEB/1

# History of SCF

Save the Children UK, originally the Save the Children Fund (SCF), is an international non-governmental organisation (NGO) that is engaged in humanitarian work across the globe.

SCF was founded in 1919 by sisters Dorothy Buxton and Eglantyne Jebb. The organisation grew out of the Fight the Famine Council, an organisation established after the First World War to support those suffering from starvation in Europe. The organisation was particularly concerned with the effect that the continued Allied blockade was having on people and children in Austria and Germany.

In April 1919, Jebb was arrested for breaking censorship laws while handing out flyers in Trafalgar Square. The flyers showed images of emaciated children and included the inflammatory statement 'Our Blockade has caused this!' SCF was then established as an independent organisation and launched in front of a crowd at the Royal Albert Hall in May 1919.

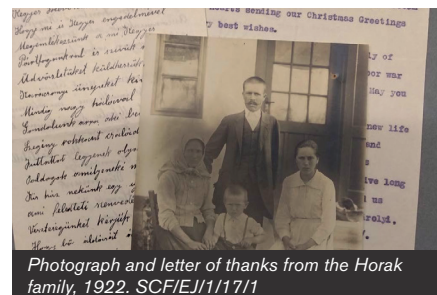
Soon after its foundation, Buxton stepped away from SCF and it was Jebb who became the driving force behind the organisation as Honorary Secretary. As well as campaigning, raising funds, and visiting relief projects around Europe, Jebb became heavily involved in child rights issues and was particularly driven by the idea of a 'new internationalism' to protect children and child rights. The International Save the Children Union was established in Geneva in 1920, and Jebb herself was instrumental in drafting the Declaration of Geneva, ratified

in 1924. This later became the foundation of the United Nations' Declaration on the Rights of the Child.

The early work of SCF was focused on providing famine relief across Europe in the aftermath of the First World War. One of the first major campaigns in which SCF was involved was support for victims of the Russian famine, for whom SCF raised millions of pounds to provide food and clothing. As well as grants of funding to other organisations, SCF's work in the 1920s and 1930s continued to be focused on relief work, especially feeding and nutrition, and work with refugees.

Having supported various European projects in the 1930s, including the Kindertransport project to bring Jewish children to the UK from Germany, SCF's activities were restricted to the UK during the Second World War. Work included establishing a number of residential and day care nurseries to support evacuated children and working mothers. SCF's work in the UK continued into the later 20th century, with programmes such as a large playgroup programme, work with prisoners' families and juvenile offenders, work with Travellers, and support for Vietnamese refugees in the UK.

At the end of the Second World War, SCF provided relief and rehabilitation work across Europe and worked at a number of transit camps in Poland and Germany to support displaced people. Throughout the second half of the 20th century and into the 21st century,



Photograph and letter of thanks from the Horak family, 1922. SCF/EJ/1/17/1



A selection of objects, including fundraising tins, 1970s-1990s. SCF/O and SCF/PA

SCF continued to respond to international crises, both natural disasters and conflict, including the Korean War, the 1956 Hungarian Revolution, the Biafra conflict, the 1984 famine in Ethiopia and the 1994 Rwandan Genocide.

SCF also began to establish long-term development projects around the world, particularly in the wake of global decolonisation. Many of these projects focused on health and nutrition, social work, education and later on juvenile justice and child rights. As well as their own projects, SCF collaborated with other NGOs on large-scale projects such as the Expanded Programme on Immunisation and the Freedom From Hunger Campaign.

Throughout its history, SCF has been instrumental in the development of fundraising initiatives. These have included innovative ideas, such as the early use of film in the Russian famine, the use of images in fundraising campaigns, and campaigns such as pennies-a-week to encourage regular donations. As well as central fundraising, local SCF branches across the UK have conducted local events and campaigns throughout SCF's history.

Today, SCF continues to work in more than 100 countries to support child health and learning.



SCF distributing clothes in Greece, c 1920s. SCF/PP/OP/2/GRE/1



Page from The World's Children magazine, November 1936. SCF/P/2/WOR/17/2

# Navigating the Archive catalogue

The Save the Children (SCF) archive catalogue comprises over 20,000 individual entries. These records provide the necessary scope and content for researchers to determine whether they wish to visit the University of Birmingham and view the original materials. The catalogue is fully searchable via [www.calmview.bham.ac.uk](http://www.calmview.bham.ac.uk)

## Closed records

Some files and items in the collection may be partially or completely closed due to data protection regulations. Unpublished materials are closed for a minimum of 25 years, in accordance with terms agreed with Save the Children UK. Information on closure periods can be found in the 'access conditions' and 'closed until' fields on the catalogue entry. If you have any queries about closed material, then please email or ask a member of staff.

## Corporate Administration Ref SCF/CA

Minutes and papers of SCF's Council and committees alongside papers concerning governance, strategy and policy. Also includes material regarding regional councils, management meetings, finances, premises, staff and legal papers, 1920–2006.

## Other Save the Children Fund Organisations Ref SCF/CF

Correspondence, papers and publications covering SCF's work and relationships with other international SCF organisations, including SCF Australia, Radda Barnen [SCF Sweden] and the International Save the Children Alliance, 1930s–2006.

## Eglantyne Jebb papers Ref SCF/EJ

Correspondence, papers and reports regarding SCF's operations and activities in the 1920s, primarily concerning overseas relief, but also summer schools, correspondence with other organisations, and the Declaration of the Rights of the Child. Material is accessible by microfilm, 1913–1967.

## External Organisations Ref SCF/EO

A series of papers and publications regarding SCF's correspondence, work and relationships with other organisations, including the United Nations, Disasters Emergency Committee and Child Rights Information Network, 1920–2002.

## Fundraising and Public Relations Ref SCF/FR

Comprises material from SCF's fundraising campaigns, events and corporate fundraising activities. Also includes papers for marketing, advertising, media coverage, branches and shops, education resources and youth organisations, leaflets, posters and scrapbooks, 1919–[2013].

## United Kingdom Programmes Ref SCF/HW

Correspondence, papers and reports concerning SCF's programmes in the United Kingdom, including nurseries and playgroups, residential homes and Vietnamese refugees. Also includes papers from the various incarnations of the Home Welfare Department documenting policy and strategy, 1926–2009.

## Objects Ref SCF/O

Collecting tins, badges, textiles, clothing and other objects, primarily created as part of SCF's fundraising and overseas work, or as gifts offered to SCF, as well as various miscellaneous objects, [c 5th century AD]–2016.

## Overseas Programmes Ref SCF/OP

Papers, reports and correspondence regarding SCF's overseas programmes, activities and allocation of funds across the world. Also includes the papers of the various incarnations of the Overseas Department, and regional offices, documenting policy and strategy, [c 1921]–2010.

## Publications Ref SCF/P

Various SCF publications, including their official magazine 'The World's Children', annual reports, staff newsletters, topical publications and publications regarding the history of SCF and associated individuals, 1898–2013.

## Audio Ref SCF/PA

Audio material including reel-to-reel recordings, vinyl records, cassette tapes and CDs relating to the work of SCF or produced for fundraising purposes, 1953–1999. Some of this material cannot currently be made accessible due to obsolete formats.

## Films and videos Ref SCF/PF

Advertisements, publicity, media coverage and educational resources relating to SCF and its activities, [1980s]–2004.

## Photographic Prints and Negatives Ref SCF/PP

A series of prints and negatives covering SCF's work, including overseas and UK programmes, fundraising and public relations, staff and premises, c 1890–2008.

## Photographic Transparencies and Slides Ref SCF/PT

A series of transparencies and slides covering SCF's work, including overseas and UK programmes, fundraising and public relations, staff and information presentations, 1919–2006.

## Special Collections Ref SCF/SC

Papers, reports, correspondence and photographs regarding individuals who worked for, or were associated with, SCF, including Dorothy Buxton, Mary Hawkins and Mosa Anderson, 1791–2002.



# Other archive sources available for research

Resource guide developed by Matthew Goodwin and Holly Waughman, Save the Children (SCF) Project Archivists, Cadbury Research Library.

## Other collections available at the Cadbury Research Library

In addition to the 'official' SCF archive, the Cadbury Research Library (CRL) also holds some 'unofficial' collections of personal and donated material relating to SCF activities and workers, including personal papers and memoirs.

These collections can be found by searching the online catalogue via [www.calmview.bham.ac.uk](http://www.calmview.bham.ac.uk) using SCF/ACC\* in the finding number field.

Other related material held at CRL which may be of interest to researchers using the SCF archive includes:

- Reproduction images of Eglantyne Jebb, [1930s–late 20th century] Reference: MS936
- The archive of the Church Missionary Society, which includes records relating to humanitarian and aid work overseas, including in some of the same locations as SCF. Reference: CMS

## Material held at other institutions

Additional material concerning the work of SCF or providing contextual information to their work can be found in archives around the world. Some of the collections that researchers may find of interest include:

The personal papers of SCF founders Eglantyne Jebb and Dorothy Buxton, which are held at the London School of Economics [LSE] Women's Library, with the reference 7EJB.

The archive of the Union Internationale de Secours aux Enfants [International Save the Children Union, later the International Save the Children Alliance], which is held at the State Archives in Geneva. Includes early minutes volumes concerning the Declaration of the Rights of the Child, records concerning the work of Eglantyne Jebb, and papers concerning SCF collaborations.

The Oxfam archive includes information about similar NGO humanitarian projects and is held at the Bodleian Library in Oxford.

The archive of the World Health Organization is held at their head office in Geneva and may include information about collaborative projects with SCF, notably the Expanded Programme on Immunisation.

The archive of the United Nations, including material concerning subsidiary bodies such as UNICEF and the United Nations Commission on Food and Agriculture, is held at their head office in New York.

You may wish to get in touch with overseas SCF organisations and UK-based SCF branches to enquire whether they hold any of their own records. Some records of UK branches have been deposited with local authority archives, and you may find details on their catalogues, or through The National Archives' Discovery platform.

Some records relating to the relationship between SCF and the UK government are available at The National Archives, and can also be found by searching the Discovery platform.



Today's Children magazine, 1969.  
SCF/PI2/TOD/9/2



Children collecting milk in post-war Europe, c 1920s. SCF/PI/OP/1/EURO/1