**Script for SI President Appeal 2021-2023.**

* **Title for the President’s Appeal is as a result of listening to Malala’s father speaking on his ongoing efforts for the educational rights of girls in Pakistan and beyond. During that interview, he said “I opened the door and I watched her fly”.**
* **Introduce you to Lee Ann Cochran – who is the President Appeal Co-ordinator 2021-2023.**
* **There are many barriers that women and girls face in today’s world including, but not limited to: *read from slide – poverty, culture, FGM, forced marriage, lack of teachers and teacher materials etc etc.***
* **Chosen Education as the focus for the SI President’s Appeal 2021-2023 because I believe that**
* **Education is a fundamental human right for everyone.**
* **It is a powerful driver for sustainable development and peace.**
* **It is one of the strongest instruments for reducing the multiple barriers that affect women and girls around the world, and in fact all of the sustainable development goals require education in order to succeed.**
* **Irrespective of race, creed and gender, education makes it possible for women and girls to stand out as equals with other persons from different walks of life and participate fully in society.**
* **Education gives us an understanding of the world around us and**
* **Offers an opportunity to use that knowledge wisely.**
* **The objectives for the Appeal are:**
* **To provide access to education in all its forms for disadvantaged and marginalised women and girls**
* **To provide education or women and girls in a safe, friendly and stimulating environment where there is equality of opportunity and support for all.**
* **To develop self- confidence, self-esteem and to feel valued through mentoring programmes**
* **To enable women, particularly the most vulnerable and excluded in society to access information, resources and service they need to make positive life choices**
* **To break down barriers to learning and participation for women so that they become fully active citizens, and are equipped to pass on their experience to benefit their families and broader communities.**
* **The projects will be implemented through:-**
* **Effective Learning Environments – (*being creative and flexible, appropriate number of students – no overcrowding, having a sense of ownership, feeling safe, being engaged, having support,)***
* **Scholarships**
* **Teachers and Educators.**
* **The outcomes and impacts that will result from the projects are:**

**Women and girls will:**

* + **learn and feel safe while they are learning**
	+ **have the opportunity to complete differing levels of education**
	+ **acquire the knowledge and skills to compete in the labour market – earn higher incomes**
	+ **learn the socio-emotional and life skills necessary to navigate and adapt to a changing world**
	+ **make decisions about their own lives - be better informed about healthcare and nutrition – have fewer children who are healthier**
	+ **marry at a later age**
	+ **contribute to their communities and the wider world**
* **There will be one project in each of the Five Federations.**
* **The launch project will be in the Federation of South West Pacific in Cambodia.**

**“Education and Learning in Cambodia”**

**The project partner will be the Cambodian Community Dream Organisation (CCDO), a charity established in 2000 and which has been working in the Region of Siem Reap, a rural part of the country with many marginalised families who are missing a generation of older men, due to the conflict back in 1970s/80s.**

* **The project will covers two areas – firstly, that of providing access to education for disadvantaged and marginalised girls aged between 10 and 15 years of age. These are girls who have not returned to school because of many factors – caring responsibilities, necessity to work, unsafe environments to name some of the reasons. The project will give extensive teaching support to these girls to enable them to catch up on missed education, thus enabling them to move onto to middle or higher education, and hence to obtain better work and opportunities.**
* **The second area will be to work with newly widowed women and female headed households and train them in the various aspects of making themselves financially independent, thus improving their self-confidence and self-esteem. They will be taught how to access information, resources and services they need to make positive life choices, and accept the opportunities for leadership and participation within their own villages. They will become role models for others and will be equipped to pass on their experiences to benefit their families and the broader community.**
* **A baseline assessment is to be carried out before the project starts and this will then be used to compare the end line evaluation in 2023.**