

## **Fondation Eagle**

### **Report Form**

**Fondation Eagle reference:** FF 462-022

**Name of charity:** Mary's Meals

#### **Introduction:**

The generous support from Fondation Eagle has funded the construction of nine kitchens co-located at nine primary schools where Mary's Meals runs its feeding programme in Malawi. The schools and kitchens are located in the Njewa zone, in Lilongwe district of central Malawi and are referred to as 'Group 10' in line with previous grants between Mary's Meals and Fondation Eagle over the past decade.

A total grant of £60,269 (CHF 76,500) was received in October 2018 and was initially allocated to fund the construction of six kitchens at the following primary schools – Chitipi, Chitedze, Airbase, Mbabzi, Lingadzi and Muzu. In April 2019, it was agreed that the grant would be allocated to construct kitchens at an additional three neighbouring schools in the Njewa zone due to a forecasted underspend – Sankhani, Tsapa and Njewa. All nine kitchens were due to be completed by August 2019, but the project was extended to March 2020 as a result of construction delays.

The kitchens are now complete and have already begun to be used by volunteers from the local community to securely store ingredients and prepare meals for more than 16,000 children as part of Mary's Meals' school feeding programme in Malawi.

#### **Details of the project:**

Following on from our interim progress updates in February and December 2019, we are delighted to announce that the nine kitchens in Lilongwe, intended to facilitate the delivery of the Mary's Meals' school feeding programme, have been fully completed. Since our previous report, which outlined the completion of kitchens at Chitedze, Chitipi, Njewa, Sankhani and Tsapa schools, we have completed the remaining kitchens at Airbase, Muzu, Lingadzi and Mbabzi schools.

Since receiving your generous grant, the Mary's Meals Malawi team has worked extremely hard to ensure these kitchens are completed as soon as possible and to the highest standard.

Local companies were contracted to undertake the construction work, and Mary's Meals staff worked closely with the local communities surrounding each school who contributed some of the materials required for construction such as sand and water. In our experience, involving communities in this way helps foster local ownership and accountability for the structures. In this way, after construction is complete, the schools and communities take responsibility for the general upkeep.



Following a competitive tendering process, a contractor was selected to undertake the construction work for this project and a Mary's Meals construction technician was assigned to oversee progress with the close involvement of a Mary's Meals procurement manager and regional manager. Between the receipt of the grant funds in October 2018 and the initial supplementary report in February 2019,

despite Malawi's rainy season causing delays, excavation works were completed, and foundations had started to be laid at many of the original six sites.

Unfortunately, over the course of 2019, the contractor incurred a series of delays which slowed progress. Mary's Meals staff worked closely with the contractor throughout to develop revised workplans and deadlines, ensure materials were delivered to the sites in a timely manner, and ensure there were sufficient labourers deployed to complete the work. On multiple occasions, the construction technician stayed in the areas where work was being completed to help resolve the issues and enable the project to progress to the final stages. We also worked closely with local community leaders and other stakeholders to resolve issues where necessary. In order to ensure the project progressed, the decision was eventually taken to terminate the contract with the original contractor and undertake another tendering process to find alternative local builders to complete the construction work. Thanks to this close oversight and our strong relationships with local communities, construction was successfully completed at the majority of schools by the end of the year and kitchens at the final three schools – Mbabzi, Lingadzi and Muzu – were finalised in March 2020.

Since the project began, Mary's Meals staff have worked hard to ensure all nine kitchens have been built to a uniform design and the highest possible standard. As well as well-ventilated cooking spaces and lockable storerooms where food and equipment can be stored before being cooked, signs have also been installed at all nine kitchens to acknowledge your generous support.

As you may be aware, coronavirus has sadly necessitated the temporary closure of schools in Malawi which means that, at the time of writing, the kitchens your grant funded are not currently in use. Although the situation is changing rapidly, we remain dedicated to keeping our promise to the children that we promised to support each school day. They remain part of our family whether or not we can reach them in their places of education at this time, and we are in the process of arranging at home food distributions while respecting WHO and Government of Malawi guidelines to ensure the safety of all those involved.

### **Project beneficiaries:**

Each of the nine schools that benefitted from your funding is located in vulnerable communities in the Njewa Zone, Lilongwe, that rely on smallholder farming as a source of food and income. People living in this context often face very high levels of poverty, have limited capacity to withstand the increasing number of droughts and flooding that are occurring in Malawi, they often have insufficient food intake and many suffer from malnutrition or stunting. In this context, people stand to benefit significantly from the project your grant has funded.

As outlined in our report in February 2019, we originally estimated that by funding the construction of nine kitchens, your grant would enable us to provide a daily meal to around 15,000 children.

Based on our latest monitoring data, the kitchens constructed with funding from Fondation Eagle are enabling an incredible 16,369 primary school pupils to receive a daily meal in their place of education. There is a 50/50 split between all the boys and girls enrolled the nine schools that have benefitted from your grant, as outlined in the table below.

School name	District	Zone	Boys' enrolment	Girls' enrolment	Total enrolment
Muzu Primary School	Lilongwe	Njewa	1,822	1,907	3,729
Chitedze Primary School	Lilongwe	Njewa	1,032	979	2,011
Chitipi Primary School	Lilongwe	Njewa	703	748	1,451
Lingadzi Primary School	Lilongwe	Njewa	654	644	1,298
Airbase Primary School	Lilongwe	Njewa	600	566	1,166
Mbabzi Primary School	Lilongwe	Njewa	991	1,050	2,041
Njewa Primary School	Lilongwe	Njewa	1,269	1,160	2,429
Sankhani Primary School	Lilongwe	Njewa	645	655	1,300
Tsapa Primary School	Lilongwe	Njewa	441	503	944
<b>Totals</b>			<b>8,157</b>	<b>8,212</b>	<b>16,369</b>

The other direct beneficiaries of your grant are the nine schools where kitchens have been constructed as well the numerous volunteers from the surrounding communities who are now able to prepare and serve meals to primary school pupils in a far more hygienic, stable and secure environment than before.

#### **Expenditure summary:**

Following a competitive tendering process for the construction work at the original six kitchens which led to reduced unit costs, Mary's Meals forecasted an underspend in the funding provided by Fondation Eagle in October 2018. As detailed in our interim report in February 2019 and approved by Fondation Eagle in April 2019, the forecasted underspend, supplemented with an estimated contribution of Mary's Meals of £2,437.61, would be used to construct an additional three kitchens in the same zone as the original six kitchens, taking the total budget for all nine kitchens to £62,706.61 in total.

As outlined in the table overleaf, the final cost for the nine kitchens in Njewa zone came to £68,359.08 which is £5,652.50 more than the estimated budget from our supplementary report in February 2019. The full overspend of £8,090.08, which was incurred due to the delays outlined earlier, was absorbed by Mary's Meals' funds which ensured that all nine kitchens were fully completed.

Group 10	Kitchen construction (GBP)	Sponsor sign (GBP)	Fuel for construction technician (GBP)	Total
Updated budget	£ 62,289.70	£ 236.88	£ 180.00	£ 62,706.58
Final cost	£ 67,066.77	£ 375.49	£ 916.83	£ 68,359.08
Budget v final cost, April 2020	£ 4,777.07	£ 138.61	£ 736.83	£ 5,652.50
<b>Fondation Eagle funding</b>				<b>£ 60,269.00</b>
<b>Mary's Meals funding</b>				<b>£ 8,090.08</b>

A table showing more detailed expenditure can be seen in Annex 1. Please note, an exchange rate of 958.74 Malawi Kwacha was used to calculate the final costs in GBP. This is an average of the exchange rate over the course of the project to February 2020 and may cause small discrepancies when compared to the December 2019 report.

**Results:**

Pre-project	Post-project
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Temporary kitchen structure (see example below of the temporary kitchen shelter at Lingadzi Primary School)</li> <li>- Lack of secure storage space for food and equipment</li> <li>- Insufficient surfaces/ structures to ensure safe and hygienic preparation and serving of food to school pupils</li> <li>- Structure vulnerable to climatic shocks, such as heavy rains, strong winds or flooding</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Permanent kitchen structure (see example below of Muzu Primary School’s kitchen)</li> <li>- Two storerooms per kitchen for secure and hygienic storage of food and equipment such as pots, utensils, serving buckets, washing buckets, etc.</li> <li>- Sufficient space for safe and hygienic preparation and serving of food</li> <li>- Solid structure which is resilient to extreme weather</li> <li>- Enhanced infrastructure at school to ensure school feeding programme is delivered safely, effectively and efficiently</li> </ul>

Despite the delays incurred, Mary’s Meals has worked tirelessly to ensure that all nine kitchens have been finished to the highest possible standard. As the photographs in Annex 2 show, the difference between structures used by schools pre- and post-project is remarkable, and the new structures are a source of pride for schools and local communities alike.

Mr Charles Cheyo, Headteacher at Sankhani Primary School, pictured right, said: “We sincerely thank you for the best programme and magnificent kitchen.”

The new kitchens that have been constructed with funds from Fondation Eagle have contributed to ensuring our school feeding programme is being delivered consistently and in a sustainable manner for nine schools and local communities in Lilongwe, Malawi.

Across all nine schools, they have strengthened our commitment to keeping the promise of a daily meal to more than 16,000 children in their place of education. Once schools have reopened, the meals served from the kitchens built with Fondation Eagle funding will continue draw children into the classroom, giving them the energy to concentrate in class and providing hope for a brighter future.

**Conclusion:** The objective of this project was to construct nine kitchens at schools in Lilongwe, Malawi to facilitate the delivery of the Mary's Meals school feeding programme. This has been achieved and all nine kitchens have been completed to a high standard by working closely with local communities. As a result, there are now permanent, robust and secure structures in place to prepare and serve daily meals to more than 16,000 children enrolled at the schools.



Mary's Meals is deeply grateful for the continued support of Fondation Eagle throughout this grant. We trust that this report demonstrates that we have worked very hard to uphold the good stewardship of the generous funding you awarded us and to ensure that your grant will have the greatest possible impact in the vulnerable communities we work in.

On behalf of all the children you have helped through this grant, such as the young boy pictured left at Chitipi Primary School, thank you.

**Signature and date:**

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Jeanne Golan", written over a horizontal line.

20 April 2020

## Annex 1

School name	Zone	Kitchen construction (MK)	Kitchen construction (GBP)	Sponsor sign (MK)	Sponsor sign (GBP)	Fuel for construction technician (MK)	Fuel for construction technician (GBP)	Total (MK)	Total (GBP)
Muzu	Njewa	7,024,652.48	£ 7,326.94	40,000.00	£ 41.72	97,666.67	£ 101.87	7,162,319.15	£ 7,470.53
Chitedze	Njewa	8,102,592.25	£ 8,451.26	40,000.00	£ 41.72	97,666.67	£ 101.87	8,240,258.91	£ 8,594.85
Chitipi	Njewa	7,024,652.48	£ 7,326.94	40,000.00	£ 41.72	97,666.67	£ 101.87	7,162,319.15	£ 7,470.53
Lingadzi	Njewa	7,024,652.48	£ 7,326.94	40,000.00	£ 41.72	97,666.67	£ 101.87	7,162,319.15	£ 7,470.53
Airbase	Njewa	7,024,652.48	£ 7,326.94	40,000.00	£ 41.72	97,666.67	£ 101.87	7,162,319.15	£ 7,470.53
Mbabzi	Njewa	7,024,652.48	£ 7,326.94	40,000.00	£ 41.72	97,666.67	£ 101.87	7,162,319.15	£ 7,470.53
Sankhani	Njewa	7,024,652.48	£ 7,326.94	40,000.00	£ 41.72	97,666.67	£ 101.87	7,162,319.15	£ 7,470.53
Tsapa	Njewa	7,024,652.48	£ 7,326.94	40,000.00	£ 41.72	97,666.67	£ 101.87	7,162,319.15	£ 7,470.53
Njewa	Njewa	7,024,652.48	£ 7,326.94	40,000.00	£ 41.72	97,666.67	£ 101.87	7,162,319.15	£ 7,470.53
<b>Totals</b>		<b>64,299,812.08</b>	<b>£ 67,066.77</b>	<b>360,000.00</b>	<b>£ 375.49</b>	<b>879,000.00</b>	<b>£ 916.83</b>	<b>65,538,812.08</b>	<b>£ 68,359.08</b>
Based on FX rate of 958.74 (average FX rate over project period to February 2020).									

**Annex 2**

[Airbase Primary School](#)

New kitchen under construction:



New kitchen shelter shortly after construction was finalised:



[Muzu Primary School](#)

Community volunteers preparing porridge in temporary kitchen shelter, prior to Fondation Eagle funding:



Finished kitchen shelter at Muzu:



[Lingadzi Primary School](#)

Learners washing their hands outside temporary kitchen shelter, prior to Fondation Eagle's grant:



Volunteers serving porridge from the temporary kitchen shelter:



New kitchen at Lingadzi:



Mbabzi Primary School:

New kitchen under construction:



New

kitchen before cleaning and painting had been finalised:

Finished kitchen structure:



Chitedze Primary School:

Community volunteers serving porridge next to temporary kitchen shelter, prior to Fondation Eagle’s grant:



New kitchen:



Volunteers stirring porridge inside new kitchen:

Children receiving porridge at serving bench outside of new kitchen:



[Chitipi Primary School](#)

Learners celebrating outside new kitchen:



[Sankhani Primary School](#)

Early stages of construction:



New kitchen and serving bench:



Learners enjoying porridge outside new kitchen before sign was installed above windows:



[Njewa Primary School](#)

New kitchen shelter and serving benches at Njewa:



[Tsapa Primary School](#)

Early stages of construction of new kitchen:



Learners outside new kitchen:



Children queuing up to receive Mary's Meals outside the new kitchen: