Donor Name: Fondation Eagle

Name of Charity: Mary's Meals

Fondation Eagle Reference Number: FF 757

Date of Grant Accepted: 10th April 2025

Amount granted and number of beneficiaries: 49,637 CHF to provide school meals to 2,026 children

Name and exact location of the project: School feeding in Malawi at 2 primary schools located in Balaka district, Southern Region, Malawi.

Period of project: 1 year

Details of progress of the project, achievements, challenges, changes, differences etc, including photographs.

Please include any other information relevant to the progress/completion of the project.

We are extremely grateful for the support of **Fondation Eagle** and your commitment to our vision that every child receives a daily meal in their place of education. Your generous contribution of **49,637 CHF** enables us to serve **2,026 children** with a daily school meal, encouraging them to continue their education with the hope of building themselves and their communities a brighter future. Thanks to your generosity, hundreds of families from the Balaka District in Malawi don't have to choose between their child's education and their survival. We are delighted to share this interim report, outlining the significant impact your support is having on the children we serve together.

Keeping our promise around the world

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations has very recently published *The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2025*. It is estimated that between **638 and 720 million people** faced hunger in 2024, with food inflation impacting food security globally. Despite a slight global decline in hunger, Africa is experiencing a continued rise across most of its subregions. In 2024, about **307 million people in Africa** were affected by hunger - **20% of the continent's population**, the highest regional rate globally. Africa is projected to account for **nearly 60% of the world's population suffering from hunger by 2030**.[1]

A 2024 UNICEF report estimated that **27% of children – one in four worldwide – are living in severe food poverty in early childhood**, amounting to 181 million children under the age of five.[2] And too often hunger stands in the way of education. It is estimated that the out-of-school population globally is 251 million, including **71 million children of primary-school age** (roughly six to 11 years)[3]. These are all children who are denied access to education and to a happier future.

Mary's Meals is at the forefront of the fight against child hunger and lack of access to education: we are committed to keeping the promise of a daily school meal that we've made to the children enrolled in our school feeding programs, while doing all we can to **reach the next child**.

3 million children, 3 million smiles

We have recently announced the amazing news that we are now serving vital meals to more than **3 million children every day across 16 countries** - an extraordinary increase of more than 805,000 children since the start of 2024.

This wouldn't have happened without the amazing support of donors and partners like Fondation Eagle, the dedication of thousands of volunteers serving meals and raising funds across the world and the work of our local partners and teams.

[1] The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2025, FAO
[2] Child Food Poverty: Nutrition deprivation in early childhood, UNICEF Child Nutrition Report 2024
[3] Global education monitoring report, 2024/5, UNESCO

We would like to **thank you for being part of our global movement**. While we take this moment to celebrate and reflect, we remain mindful of the millions of children who hope and wait for Mary's Meals at school. Our work continues with renewed hope and vigor. Please watch our founder's speech announcing the news: Magnus MacFarlane-Barrow on Mary's Meals now serving 3 million children

Our work in Malawi

As Malawi continues to face chronic food insecurity, it is estimated that approximately **4.5 million children** in the country are currently in need of some form of humanitarian assistance.[3]

In February 2025, Mary's Meals launched an Emergency campaign for Southern Africa – to which Fondation Eagle answered generously. The response we got from this campaign focused on Malawi, Mozambique, Zambia and Zimbabwe empowered us to develop our mission in this region. Over the past year, the Mary's Meals Malawi team has worked tirelessly to expand our school feeding program – with **more than 175,000 additional children** in **over 190 schools** since the beginning of 2025! Most expansions targeted the southern part of the country, taking into consideration vulnerability to natural disasters, such as flooding and droughts, meaning that our work is, as always, ensuring children facing the hardest challenges can continue their education free from the fear of hunger.

First school meals at Namingwere Primary school

In a remote village in Malawi, where hunger has long hindered community development and education, the arrival of Mary's Meals is sparking **a powerful transformation**. The local primary, Namingwere, was one of a number of schools we expanded to this year. Please **watch the video** below to get a sense of what a daily meal at school can bring to a community.



We are now serving more than **1,315,000 children** every school day in Malawi. With your support, we are making a life-changing impact on children experiencing poverty. School meals not only encourage children to attend school but also provide the nourishment they need to fully engage in their education. Access to daily meals increases the likelihood of children completing their primary education. By continuing their learning journey, the children we serve gain the essential tools to build a brighter future, offering them a vital pathway out of poverty.

Your impact in Malawi



Victor and Ethel with their sons

Fondation Eagle's generosity provides support to children like **Jentina and Novena**. The rural district of Balaka frequently experiences long dry spells and intense heat, which makes farming difficult and affects the daily lives of families. The land is dry and dusty for most of the year, and when the rain finally comes, it is often too little. Despite these harsh conditions, the communities from our programmes remain resilient, and the daily porridge served at school is bringing comfort, motivation, and hope for many children and their families.

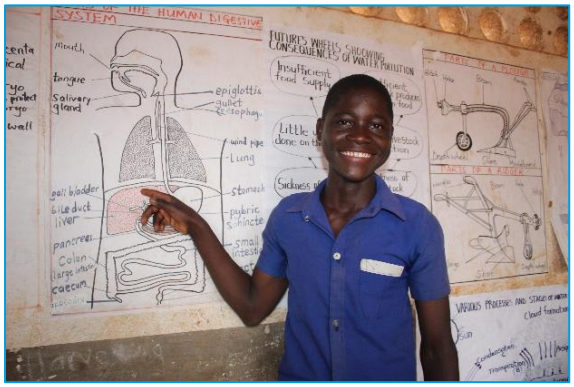
Among those whose lives have been transformed by the programme is **the family of Victor and Ethel**. The couple has eight children, and seven of them have benefited from the school feeding programme. Two of their children, **Jentina** (15 years old, Standard 7) and his younger brother **Novena** (12 years old, Standard 2), are currently receiving porridge at school. The family struggles to provide a morning meal at home, making the school feeding programme an essential source of nourishment for their children.

Victor once earned a small income through selling chitenje pieces. Although the profits were minimal, they helped him support his family. Over the past three years, however, business has collapsed due to rising prices of goods, leaving them without a steady source of income. His wife, Ethel, engages in seasonal work breaking stones used for construction - a difficult and exhausting job that offers very little return. Together, they also grow maize and millet during the farming season, but due to the hot weather, erratic rainfall, and the rising cost of fertilizer, farming has become increasingly difficult. Access to government-subsidized farm inputs is not guaranteed, as only a few households in the area benefit from the programme.



Jentina having his cup of porridge with his friends

Reflecting on the time before Mary's Meals began providing porridge, Victor recalls how challenging mornings used to be for his family: **"Before the porridge started, mornings were very hard for us. We used to worry a lot because there was nothing to give the children before school. I had to force my oldest children to attend school then, and I knew it was hard for them to learn on an empty stomach"**. He explains that since the feeding programme began, their mornings have become easier and less stressful: **"The porridge has lessened our burden. Now the children wake up early, happy to go to school. We no longer have to force them. Even when there is nothing at home, we know they will eat at school. It gives us peace"**.



Jentina in class

For Victor and Ethel's family, the school feeding programme has meant more than just food; it has given their children energy to learn and the motivation to attend school consistently. Their son Jentina, who has been receiving porridge for seven years, speaks about how the programme has helped him remain in school and stay focused: **"I have been eating porridge since Standard One. It helps me stay in class without feeling hungry. I have energy to learn and play. Without porridge, I don't think I could have reached Standard 7. When I eat the porridge, I feel strong. I don't get tired or sleepy in class. I can listen to my teachers and understand better."**

Like many children who benefit from the programme, Jentina also has big dreams for his future: **"There is one doctor at our health center who helps many people in our village. I want to be like him so I can help others,"** he explains.

Victor expresses pride in his children's progress: two of his older children, who also benefited from the school feeding programme, have now completed secondary school with good grades. He believes the daily meal provided by Mary's Meals helped them stay in school and perform well: **"We see the difference in our children. They are healthier, they attend school every day, and they dream big. My two oldest children, who also received Mary's Meals at primary school, have now completed secondary education. This has been made possible because they had a strong foundation during their primary level and did not miss lessons because of hunger."**

Esmie, Jentina's teacher, shares her experience and observations about the feeding programme. Besides speaking highly of Jentina, she also acknowledges the wider impact of the school feeding programme on the entire school community: **"The porridge brings more children to school every day. They stay in class longer, they listen, and they understand lessons better. It helps us deliver quality education. Learners are not distracted by hunger; they are punctual, and many of them pass with good grades and are selected to secondary schools."**

The story of Victor and Ethel's family reflects the long-term benefits of Mary's Meals in rural Malawi and the difference Fondation Eagle makes. The school feeding programme does not only lighten their daily struggles but also strengthens their children's commitment to education. In a community where hot weather, unreliable rainfall, and poverty make daily survival a challenge, that single mug of porridge has become a foundation for hope. For learners like Jentina, the school feeding programme is more than a meal; it is the reason he stays in school, studies hard, and dares to dream of one day becoming a doctor who serves his community.



Esmie in her classroom

Your wider impact

Our wider impact can be viewed in our **2024 Annual Impact Report**. Our impact framework assesses how school meals influence a child's readiness to learn, hunger reduction, and access to education.

- Hunger is one of the most significant barriers to education, and hunger reduction is an immediate short-term outcome that improves a child's readiness to learn. **Before the meal was served 74% of children felt hungry while in the classroom. This dropped to 1% after the meal**.
- The daily school meal also encourages school attendance for the full duration of the school day, which is a key element of a child's readiness to learn. **75% of children we spoke to in 2024 said they never leave early during the school day due to hunger,** and **71% of teachers said fewer children are dropping out of school because of the school feeding programme.**
- School meals improve children's concentration and energy levels and support their readiness to actively participate in the classroom, creating a conducive environment for learning and progression. **Only 2% of teachers told us that children in their classroom had high energy levels before the meal. This increased to 98% after the meal was served.**

Updates from your supported schools:

School name	Latest enrolment figure (boys)	Latest enrolment figure (girls)	Total enrolment figure
Chiyendausiku	560	632	**1,192**
Mchima	430	442	**872**

Over the past few months, we were able to consistently serve children from Chiyendausiku Primary School and Mchima Primary School. The table on the left shows the latest enrolment data.

We are delighted to share that enrolment has increased at Chiyendausiku Primary School over the last few months, with 1,192 children enrolled according to the latest data. At Mchima Primary School, enrolment has slightly dropped but still demonstrates a stable trend with 872 children currently enrolled. Considering the extreme challenges currently being faced by communities in Malawi and even though enrolment can be affected by various factors such as season, exams, climate shocks or usual change from one academic year to another, this trend is a remarkable achievement and highlights the importance of your continued support.

Budget update:

Our low cost delivery model means that it only costs a remarkable **24.50 CHF** to provide a child with a school meal every school day for a year. Your support is allowing us to serve school meals to **2,026 children**, with Mary's Meals International covering the cost related to the children newly enrolled at Chiyendausiku Primary School to ensure that all children receive their meal at school.

School Name	Current Enrolment	Half yearly Cost per School (CHF)
Chiyendausiku	1,192	14,602.00
Mchima	872	10,682.00
Total	**2,064**	**25,284.00**
Fondation Eagle		**24,818.50**
MM contribution		**465.50**



View from Mchima Primary School

Thank you

We are incredibly grateful for your commitment to our work and your support in ensuring the provision of daily school meals to **2,026 children in Malawi**. Your contribution to our school feeding programme ensures that children facing extreme food insecurity and poverty have the opportunity to continue their education despite external challenges. On behalf all the children we serve together, we **thank you**.

Signature and date:



November 2025