



mary's  
meals

a simple solution  
to world hunger

# Mary's Meals

Portfolio report to Fondation Eagle  
December 2016





## Mary's Meals portfolio report to Fondation Eagle, December 2016

We greatly appreciate the continued support and encouragement received from our friends at Fondation Eagle. Thanks to your generosity, many thousands of children living in poverty have the chance of a brighter future through the provision of a daily school meal.



This annual portfolio report provides information on the life-changing work of Mary's Meals. We achieved notable success with many aspects of our work during the year and this report provides information on some of the key developments.

The report includes an update from your sponsored schools in Malawi and Kenya. Recent photographs and quotes from children, teachers and volunteers at your sponsored schools are included. The photograph on the left shows three girls enjoying their meal at Chitapule Primary School in the Mwanza district of southern Malawi.

Our work continues to be focused strongly on education and is making a significant impact, bringing measurable change by reducing classroom hunger and increasing access, engagement and progression within primary education.

Our work in Malawi is now more important than ever as the country is facing the worst food crisis for many years. Severe levels of food insecurity are predicted to reach emergency status by early next year, particularly in southern Malawi, where children are in desperate need.

### Responding to the deepening crisis in Malawi

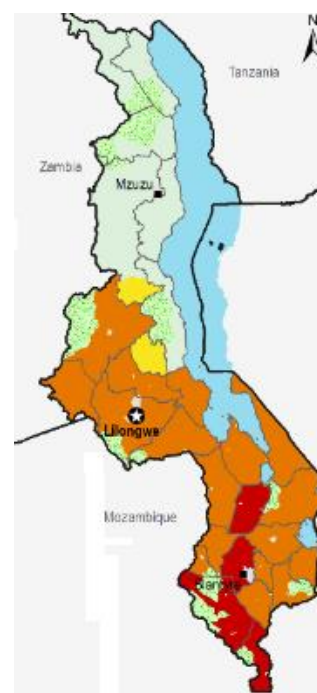
The terrible food crisis in Malawi is affecting more than 6.5 million people<sup>3</sup>. The map<sup>1</sup> on the right shows the projected food security forecast in Malawi. Areas shaded in orange are where levels of food insecurity has already reached crisis levels. Areas shaded in red indicate areas where food insecurity is predicted to reach emergency status, particularly from February 2017.

People like Malita and her family are struggling to survive. Malita tells us: "We have used up our last bit of harvest. I don't know how we are going to cope. It has been difficult to ration the eating portions and lately, to make the harvest last longer, we have been missing meals and not eating. I have never been through a crisis this bad and this is only the beginning. This year is the worst people have witnessed in Malawi."

During this time, Mary's Meals is helping to relieve the huge pressures on families most affected by the food crisis. We are providing a nutritious meal every school day to 880,383 children in 719 primary schools and 45 Early Childhood Development centres across Malawi. Malita said: "The only consolation we have is that at least the children will have something to eat at school." Malita's children are receiving a nutritious meal each school day at their local primary school.

Working together with the government of Malawi we are implementing our crisis response. This includes providing meals during school holiday periods to pre-school aged children attending our under-six programme. Mary's Meals' timely intervention over the summer prevented very young children from becoming malnourished and we will provide this lifeline again during the Christmas period. We will ensure that our entire programme in Malawi is maintained during the critical period when the crisis is at its height

The daily meal is not only a powerful incentive drawing children into school, but is proving to be a vital lifeline for vulnerable children in need of nourishment.



Emergency status  
predicted

<sup>1</sup> FEWSnet Malawi Food Security Outlook Oct 16 – May 17 <http://www.fews.net/southern-africa/malawi>



## Bringing hope to many more vulnerable children around the world

Thanks to the funding received from Fondation Eagle and through the generosity of our many other supporters around the world, the work of Mary's Meals continues to flourish. Following the successful implementation of several planned expansion phases of our school feeding programme, we have been able to include another 151,467 children around the world during 2016 – a remarkable achievement.

**Mary's Meals is now providing a nutritious meal to a total of 1,187,104 children every school day in 12 countries.**

While we are very thankful to be able to help so many children, we are aware that there is still so much for us to do. Today 61 million children<sup>2</sup> of primary school age around the world are missing school because of poverty and 25 million children<sup>1</sup> will never set foot in a classroom. Thanks to our supporters, Mary's Meals has been able to include many additional children in our key programme countries this year and a brief update is given below.



Our school feeding programme continues to expand in **Zambia** where we were able to include more than 16,000 children in Mambwe district from June 2016 for the first time. Mambwe is predominantly rural and is one of the most deprived districts in the eastern province with the highest provincial prevalence of underweight children.

The launch followed many months of preparation and collaboration with representatives from the Zambian Ministry of Education and followed the delivery of a structured training programme to volunteers, schools and district education officials on the efficient delivery and management of the programme. Mary's Meals is now supporting a total of 58,343 children within 98 schools in Zambia.

Mary's Meals is currently providing one good meal in a place of education to over 16,000 vulnerable children in **South Sudan** every school day. These nutritious meals are playing an important role in keeping schools open in this highly volatile and deeply troubled country where food insecurity is extremely high. The meals are drawing children into school where they receive basic education and can gain a sense of stability.

Our programme in South Sudan is made possible because of the courageous work of our implementing partner, the Diocese of Rumbek who overcome considerable operational challenges to distribute food to the schools. In September 2016, conflict destroyed a major road bridge crucial for the delivery of our food supplies. Despite the high costs, transported food by air for a short time to ensure the continuation of our vital work. We continue to monitor the situation carefully.



Mary's Meals is providing vital support to enable children in **Liberia** to go to school. Often working in very challenging circumstances, we are now providing a nutritious meal every school day to 139,811 children in 466 schools across five counties in Liberia (Bong, Bomi, Grand Cape Mount, Gbarpolu and Montserrado).

Many of the schools in Liberia are in remote, hard to reach locations deep in the rainforest and are only accessible by dirt roads that make transportation difficult, especially during the rainy seasons. However, using the considerable experience we have gained from operating in Liberia for more than 10 years, we are delivering a highly efficient programme.

Following the launch of our programme into Bong county in April, our work there has grown so that we are now supporting 7,098 children in five schools in the city of Gbarnga. The photograph on the right shows children in Gbarnga waiting to receive their meal.



For more information on the work of Mary's Meals around the world and to keep up to date with developments, please visit our website, [marysmeals.org](http://marysmeals.org)

<sup>2</sup> UNESCO Institute for Statistics. <http://www.uis.unesco.org/Education/Pages/oosc-data-release-2016.aspx>





## Reports from the schools supported by Fondation Eagle

The table below gives information on the funding received from Fondation Eagle since 2011 together with the reporting status of each grant.

Fondation Eagle funding						
School group	Date funding received	Amount received	Your Ref.	Country	Details	Reporting status
Group 1	May 2011	£29,971	-	Malawi	3 kitchens in Blantyre district	Completed December 2014
Group 2	December 2011	£45,916	-	Malawi	5 kitchens in Blantyre district	Completed December 2015
Group 3	May 2012	£56,314	-	Kenya	4 kitchens in Eldoret	Final year
Group 4	January 2013	£30,815	-	Malawi	5 kitchens in four districts	Current
Group 5	July 2013	£33,694	-	Malawi	5 kitchens in Balaka district	Current
Group 6	August 2014	£48,172	308	Malawi	7 kitchens in Karonga district	Current
Group 7	July 2015	£34,784	351	Malawi	7 kitchens in Machinga district	Current
Group 8	June 2016	£59,166	382	Malawi	20 kitchens in Mwanza district	First report

This report includes information from the schools in groups 3 to 8. We understand that all reporting requirements have been met for schools in groups 1 and 2 and therefore information from these groups has not been provided.

Photographs from schools in group 8 are included throughout the report together with quotes from children, volunteers and teachers. The photograph below shows children at Chizumbi Primary School in Mwanza district in front of their new kitchen.





### Group 3

Funding awarded May 2012 £56,314 for school kitchens in Eldoret, Kenya

School name	Total pupils at last report	Current enrolment boys	Current enrolment girls	Total current enrolment	Percentage change
Atnas Kandie	1,884	1,012	976	1,988	6%
Huruma	1,277	676	706	1,382	8%
Kamukunji	854	406	372	778	-9%
Sosiani	801	476	425	901	12%
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>4,816</b>	<b>2,570</b>	<b>2,479</b>	<b>5,049</b>	<b>5%</b>

### Bringing hope to vulnerable children in Eldoret, Kenya

Mary's Meals is now supporting 26,593 children in 24 primary schools and 50 ECD centres in Kenya. Our largest programme in the country is located in the city of Eldoret in western Kenya, where many families live in large urban slums. Some of the children we support used to live and work on the streets. Substance misuse among street children is common and instead of learning in a classroom, they are often seen begging, scavenging through garbage or trying to sell small items.

David lived on the streets of Eldoret for 12 years after his parents separated. He said: "Street life was hard for me because there was no education or food. I had to search through dumpsters to find something to eat." As a result, David was often ill and was angry and aggressive.

Former street children require support and specialised interventions from various agencies to enable them to integrate into the school community and participate effectively in education. The nutritious meals provided by Mary's Meals each school day are very effective in attracting children to enrol in school and to attend regularly.

David said that having a meal at school is making it easier for him to gain an education for a better future. He has made new friends and is rebuilding his life.



The photographs on this page show children at Kamukunji Primary School in Eldoret.



In common with our work around the world, our programme in Eldoret is helping children to concentrate in class and participate in lessons. The meals also attract children who have not enrolled to come into school and they encourage children to attend classes regularly.

We continue to work closely with communities and local government in western Kenya to strengthen our existing programmes in Eldoret and also in Kisii. We are also supporting pre-school children in Turkana county in northern Kenya, who are among the most vulnerable in the world due to chronic under-nourishment and acute malnutrition.

In April 2016, we completed an extensive vulnerability mapping exercise that will influence the delivery of our future work in Kenya. Through a process of identifying the areas of greatest need, combined with stakeholder analysis, we explored several options in detail. We are currently working to develop and define our plans further.





## Reaching out to include an additional 100,000 chronically hungry children in Malawi

Since the time of our previous report in December 2015, we have successfully completed several expansion phases of our vital school feeding programme to include an additional 100,766 children in our Malawi programme. This was a very significant achievement for Mary's Meals.

Our programme expansions were achieved over several phases – principally in the Machinga, Neno and Mwanza districts of southern Malawi, thanks to the commitment, hard work and dedication of our Malawi staff team. This included the largest single expansion Mary's Meals has ever undertaken, which took place within 69 additional schools in southern Malawi to include 40,000 children in one phase. Mary's Meals is now providing a nutritious meal to a total of 880,383 children in 719 schools and 44 under-six centres across Malawi.

The number of children enrolled in your sponsored schools in Malawi has stabilised overall. The slight reduction in enrolment levels in groups 4 and 5 is attributed to migration as families move in and out of the area and also to the effect of Mary's Meals' saturation approach of supporting school throughout entire educational zones.

Group 4					
Funding awarded January 2013 £30,815 for school kitchens in four districts, Malawi					
School name	Total pupils at last report	Current enrolment boys	Current enrolment girls	Total current enrolment	Percentage change
Pheleni	756	384	429	813	6%
Chiyendausiku	1,738	719	843	1,562	-10%
Chizungulire	437	209	213	422	-3%
Kanje	617	320	323	643	4%
Tunthama	1,615	674	616	1,290	-20%
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>5,163</b>	<b>2,306</b>	<b>2,424</b>	<b>4,730</b>	<b>-8%</b>

Dinesi Akado (pictured on the right) teaches the Standard 3 class at Chitapule Primary School in Mwanza district, which is one of the worst affected areas of Malawi. He commented on the difference Mary's Meals has made since school feeding began at the school earlier this year.

He said: "This programme is really helping our community and others in the area. Mangoes are found on the trees again. Before, children would eat them all before they were ripe because they were so hungry. The porridge has really helped them. Some children come from the poorest families and this is the only food they have all day."



"Porridge is doing wonders at this school!" says Matilda Andrea, a volunteer at Chitapule. "The community is happy that this programme came. Our children are strong and they learn happily. They come to school because they know they will eat here."



Many parents told us that the current food crisis is making a huge impact on their lives. Sazaliwa Major is the chairperson of the volunteer feeding committee at Chikudzu Primary School. He owns a large farm which normally produces a good crop of vegetables and legumes. Last year he harvested 40 bags of maize, but this year only seven.

He said: "The community here are very thankful to Mary's Meals as there is no food at home. Now, our children do not cry for food anymore."



Group 5					
Funding awarded July 2013 £33,694 for school kitchens in Balaka district, Malawi					
School name	Total pupils at last report	Current enrolment boys	Current enrolment girls	Total current enrolment	Percentage change
Kankao	1,452	725	643	1,368	-6%
Rivirivi	1,394	720	744	1,464	5%
Nsaluzawana	1,381	581	622	1,203	-13%
Mseche	1,267	592	562	1,154	-9%
Chidalala	1,457	666	644	1,310	-10%
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>6,951</b>	<b>3,284</b>	<b>3,215</b>	<b>6,499</b>	<b>-7%</b>

### Making a life-changing impact to children in Malawi

The photographs on this page are from Ching'ombe Primary School in the Mwanza district of Malawi where Charles Njiwa is a teacher (pictured on the right). Charles says: "This school feeding programme is very helpful. Children are coming to school in good time and punctuality has increased. Children are attending school in high numbers and teaching is much easier as the porridge helps them to listen attentively in class. They have the energy to participate in activities."

Charles added: "For many children, there is no food at all at home and this porridge is their hope."

We have a proven track record of delivering highly efficient, inclusive, quality school feeding programmes and our monitoring, evaluation and learning strategy provides robust evidence to demonstrate the positive impact of our work.

A five-year quasi-experimental impact assessment project is currently underway among a sample of schools in Malawi, Liberia and Zambia. The project is being verified externally and the results from the first year of our research in Malawi demonstrate that Mary's Meals' school feeding programme is making a significant impact.



Mary's Meals' school feeding programme in Malawi is,

- Reducing hunger among children at school.
- Increasing school enrolment levels.
- Improving school attendance and eliminating absences attributed to hunger.
- Reducing levels of children dropping out of school.
- Improving concentration and enabling children to stay in class all day.
- Increasing feelings of happiness at school and decreasing anxiety due to hunger.
- Increasing support for education among vulnerable communities.

Elise Alfred is a volunteer cook at Ching'ombe and is very enthusiastic about the programme, saying: "It is amazing what this porridge is doing! Every child in our village is now in school, they are all coming here to learn." Elise told us that the children are much healthier and happier now.

John, 17, enjoys eating Mary's Meals here each school day together with his three sisters. He told us: "When I eat this porridge my heart is always at ease. It is very important for me as we are a poor family and we only eat once in the evening at home and sometimes do not eat at all." John notices that the school meals give strength to many children and helps them to learn in class. He works hard at school as he wants to do well in future to assist his family.





Group 6					
Funding awarded August 2014 £48,172 for school kitchens in Karonga district, Malawi					
School name	Total pupils at last report	Current enrolment boys	Current enrolment girls	Total current enrolment	Percentage change
Tumbi	260	130	130	260	0
Old Mission	684	394	338	732	7%
Chipake	538	254	229	483	-10%
Chilambiro	632	308	316	624	-1%
Demonstration	688	312	319	631	-8%
Kasindile	1,115	660	666	1,326	19%
Masoko	949	469	400	869	-8%
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>4,866</b>	<b>2,527</b>	<b>2,398</b>	<b>4,925</b>	<b>1%</b>

### Mary's Meals – an effective delivery model

Our programme in Malawi is owned and run by trained volunteers from local communities who take responsibility for the daily management and delivery of the programme as they believe so passionately in its importance for their children.



Mary's Meals ensures a standard of excellence in the design, management and delivery of our community-based school feeding programmes. Working in active collaboration with the government of Malawi, school staff and more than 80,000 volunteers across the country, the delivery model that supports our work is strong and sophisticated.

We provide comprehensive training and information on the effective delivery of our programme. In order to support our recent expansions in Malawi our staff conducted hundreds of training sessions with communities, school leaders and volunteers, such as those in the photograph on the left from Chikudzu Primary School. Training includes a range of issues such as stock control, safe food preparation, health and safety, and good hygiene procedures.

One of the volunteers at Chizumbi Primary School (pictured on the right) is Georgina Mateyu who says: "I cook for the children because I want them to have an education and help develop this community. We have hope in them. We volunteer because we love our children and wish the best for them."

Joseph Kachitseko is a teacher at Chizumbi and says: "Most of the parents of children at our school are farmers but there is not enough food at home because of the poor harvest. Most children come to school without eating any food and therefore this porridge is essential – without it they are too weak to learn."



Ongoing support, training and mentoring for volunteers is provided by our staff team in Malawi, particularly school feeding officers who visit the schools twice every week to ensure that the programme is running well.





Group 7					
Funding awarded July 2015 £34,784 for school kitchens in Machinga district, Malawi					
School name	Total pupils at last report	Current enrolment boys	Current enrolment girls	Total current enrolment	Percentage change
Chikala 1	1,503	754	833	1,587	5%
Chilimba	1,484	771	859	1,630	10%
Lingamasa	1,084	568	561	1,129	4%
Lingoni	627	313	319	632	1%
Madziamera	1,566	908	887	1,795	15%
Matanda	1,198	639	663	1,302	9%
Shukurani	316	153	179	332	5%
	<b>7,778</b>	<b>4,106</b>	<b>4,301</b>	<b>8,407</b>	<b>8%</b>

### Reporting from school kitchens sponsored in 2016

Thanks to your generous funding of £59,166 awarded in June 2016, and the support of the local community, we have been able to construct new kitchen shelters in 20 primary schools in the Mwanza district of Malawi.

All schools were included in the recent expansion phases of our programme and school feeding began in November 2016, initially using temporary shelters. The new kitchen buildings will greatly enhance the delivery of the programme, particularly by promoting the safe, hygienic preparation and serving of the school meals. The kitchens include a secure storage space for raw ingredients which will facilitate efficient stock control.

As part of their commitment to the school feeding programme, members of the local communities provided the bricks and sand required for the construction of the kitchen buildings. They also supported the project by providing free labour during the construction work.

The photograph below shows children in the new kitchen building at Chikudzu Primary School.





We can confirm that all construction work is complete at six of the kitchens. At the other 14 kitchens, the only remaining work is to secure the roofs and this is scheduled to be completed before 23 December 2016. The kitchen buildings have been constructed in different sizes to accommodate the original numbers of children in each school together with the anticipated increase in enrolment during the first year after school feeding begins.

All project expenditure is in line with the original budget and a detailed financial report will be provided at the end of January 2017, when we anticipate all 20 kitchens will be in use.

We are pleased to report that since the introduction of Mary's Meals at the schools, enrolment numbers have increased by 11 percent overall, as indicated in the table below.

Group 8					
Funding awarded June 2016 £59,166 for school kitchens in Mwanza district, Malawi					
School name	Baseline enrolment numbers	Current enrolment boys	Current enrolment girls	Total current enrolment	Percentage change
Chidooole	1,073	528	493	1,021	-0.5%
Chikudzu	268	168	158	326	22%
Ching'ombe	546	272	272	544	-0.4%
Chitapule	175	104	112	216	23%
Chizumbi	920	469	449	918	-0.2%
Fumbe	525	351	316	667	27%
Futsa	1,005	635	669	1,304	30%
Kachere	476	254	243	497	4%
Kadole	920	473	463	936	2%
Kanjedza	858	391	427	818	-5%
Kapphirikamodzi	308	197	204	401	30%
Maye	725	403	405	808	11%
Mkantho	573	314	291	605	6%
Michiru	563	317	306	623	11%
Mphingwe	973	464	567	1,031	6%
Mtsamika	577	354	325	679	18%
Mwembedzi	1,056	587	648	1,235	17%
Namisi	334	280	253	533	60%
Nthomba	170	108	92	200	18%
Thetula	374	192	182	374	0
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>12,419</b>	<b>6,861</b>	<b>6,875</b>	<b>13,736</b>	<b>11%</b>

Mary's Meals continues to keep running costs low and at least 93% of all our expenditure worldwide is used directly on our charitable work.

In accordance with our low-cost approach, we have provided photographs throughout this report from a representative sample of five schools from this group. This has greatly reduced the costs involved in gathering and processing photographs for this report.

The photograph on the right shows some of the children at Kanjedza Primary School outside their newly completed kitchen. Children in all the schools greatly appreciate receiving a nutritious meal every school day.







Pictured on the left is Yankho, 10, who goes to Chitapule Primary School. He says: "The porridge here is the best and I love it. When I eat it I feel so strong. I stay in class to listen to the teacher. I am never afraid of tests now because I pass well."

Flora, 12, goes to Chikudzu Primary School and says: "I am thankful for the porridge as it really helps me and my friends. It gives us strength to learn in class and to play at break times." When Flora is not at school, she does a little work to earn some pocket money to buy exercise books and pens to help her study.

One of the teachers at Chikudzu, Jerome Kalimbuka, praised Mary's Meals for introducing the school meals. "The programme has changed things around this school. Most children are now staying in class and not running away to search for food. Dropouts are being encouraged to come back into school. The porridge is most important for those children who arrive in school hungry."

### Thank you so much

Our vision is that every child receives one daily meal in their place of education and that all those who have more than they need, share with those who lack even the most basic things. In this world of plenty, we believe that we can achieve this one day.

As we move forward with our vision, we are mindful that our work is only made possible through the generosity of our friends around the world and we greatly value the support received from Fondation Eagle. Your kindness is making a vital difference to many thousands of chronically hungry children like the girls in the photograph on the right from Chikudzu Primary School and the children below from Ching'ombe Primary School.



On behalf of all the children, thank you so much for your continuing support, especially at this desperate time in Malawi.

