



mary's
meals

a simple solution
to world hunger

Mary's Meals

Report to Fondation Eagle
Seven schools in Machinga, Malawi
March 2016

Reference: 351



Mary's Meals progress report to Fondation Eagle

Reporting period: July 2015 to March 2016

Introduction

Mary's Meals is pleased to present this report to Fondation Eagle in response to your generous donation of £34,784 received in July 2015 for the construction of seven school kitchens in the Machinga District of Malawi. We deeply appreciate your kindness which has enabled us to support over **7,700** children.

In order to fully comply with the conditions of funding for this grant, this report is supplementary to the information provided in our portfolio report provided in December 2015. The report contains a brief update on the work of Mary's Meals, information on the progress made with the schools funded within this group, together with photographs and comments received from teachers, volunteers and from the children who continue to benefit every school day.

We are pleased to confirm that construction work at all schools was completed in December 2015, and all kitchens are now in use. The photographs in this report were taken in January 2016 when the sponsorship signs were not yet available. The signs have been ordered and are expected to be completed by the end of April 2016. Photographs showing the signs will be provided as soon as they become available.

Mary's Meals progress report

Mary's Meals is now providing a nutritious meal to **1,101,206 children every day they attend school around the world**, across Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean.

The growth in the number of children was mainly due to several expansions of our programme during 2015, particularly within the Southern region of Malawi, where Mary's Meals is feeding around 500,000 children alone. Where possible, we adopt a "saturation" approach, supporting every school within a particular district or county, to ensure that children receive a good meal in a school nearest to their home. This helps to minimise the migration of children between schools, stabilises enrolment numbers and promotes daily school attendance.

Mary's Meals is now supporting a total of 814,000 children in 635 primary schools and 45 under six centres in Malawi every school day. Mary's Meals' school feeding programme is reducing hunger and is giving children hope for a brighter future by drawing them into school to receive an education.

The photographs below shows the completed kitchen shelter in use at Madziamera School together with some of the children and volunteers.



Mariam Petani is 15 years old and goes to Standard 4 class at Madziamera School. Mariam said: *"The porridge keeps me strong every hour I'm at school. This will help me to get selected for secondary school this year. I will keep working hard so that I can serve my fellow Malawians as a nurse after completing my education."*



Joseph Chingaipe is a teacher at Madziamera School and told us: *“This programme has helped to increase enrolment at the school and we are expecting to see a decrease in the dropout rate at the end of this academic year.”*

The photograph on the right shows one of the classrooms at Shukurani School where Beatrice Khuvinda is the head teacher. She told us: *“Absenteeism is now a thing of the past. All students who usually failed to attend classes on a daily basis due to hunger have started coming back to school as they know they will eat porridge here.”*



The difference Mary's Meals is making was also noted by Gwetsani Dzimbiri, the head teacher at Matanda School, who said: *“The enrolment was low before we began feeding porridge, but now it has really gone up. Even performance in class has improved.”*

The provision of a nutritious meal of vitamin-enriched ‘likuni phala’ maize porridge every school day continues to attract more children into the classroom and the growth in enrolment numbers for the schools can be seen in the table below.

Enrolment numbers in seven schools in the Machinga district, Malawi					
School name	Total pupils baseline April 2015	Current enrolment boys	Current enrolment girls	Total current enrolment	Percentage increase
Chikala 1	1,158	797	706	1,503	30%
Chinimba	1,377	737	747	1,484	8%
Lingamasa	974	547	537	1,084	11%
Lingoni	557	303	324	627	13%
Madziamera	1,395	780	786	1,566	12%
Matanda	1,143	628	570	1,198	5%
Shukulani	257	152	164	316	23%
TOTALS	6,861	3,944	3,834	7,778	13%

Making a significant impact in Malawi

Mary's Meals ensures a standard of excellence in the design, management and delivery of our school feeding programmes. Our monitoring, evaluation and learning (MEL) strategy provides robust evidence to demonstrate the positive impact of our work. By directly addressing chronic hunger among impoverished children, Mary's Meals is bringing measurable change.

In order to rigorously examine the impact that Mary's Meals' school feeding programme is making in the lives of vulnerable children and their communities, a five-year quasi-experimental impact assessment research project is currently underway among a sample of schools in Malawi. The research project is being verified externally¹ and demonstrates that Mary's Meals' school feeding programme is

¹ INTRAC International NGO Training and Research Centre <http://www.intrac.org>



making a significant impact to decrease levels of child hunger at school and to increase access, participation and progression within primary education.

Mary's Meals' school feeding programme in Malawi is making a significant impact by:

- 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.
- Increasing feelings of happiness at school and decreasing levels of anxiety due to hunger.
- Increasing support for education among vulnerable communities.

Many of the children, teachers and volunteers at the schools involved in the research attribute the positive results directly to the intervention of Mary's Meals and their comments are echoed in the seven schools that are benefitting from your funding.

Overall, across all seven schools supported by Fondation Eagle, enrolment has increased by 13% since April 2015 and the school feeding programme has had the greatest impact in Chikala 1 School, where Lucius Thom is the head teacher. He said: *"Since Mary's Meals came here, the enrolment levels have improved greatly. We have noticed that the children participate more in class and grades have also improved. The children look healthier than before."*

Redson White is 13 years old and attends the Standard 8 class at Chikala 1 School. He said: *"I leave home with an empty stomach but after eating the porridge I am strong and able to concentrate in class."*



The photograph on the left shows the inside of the kitchen shelter at Chikala 1 School and demonstrates volunteers using the new brick-built stoves. The stoves facilitate greater fuel efficiency.

One of the volunteers at Chikala 1 School is Elufe Samson who commented on the great difference that the school feeding programme is making at the school and said: *"We no longer have difficulties in making sure these children go to school in the morning as the porridge is motivation enough."*

The photograph on the right shows children at Lingoni School where Fanny Mdala is a volunteer. She said: *"This porridge is so nutritious and good for our children. As a parent, I can see that the health status of my children is improving."*

McConnex Mang'amba is one of Mary's Meals' school feeding officers who visit the schools regularly. He said: *"The nutrition status of the children is being boosted. Whenever I go to the schools, I always see happy and smiling faces, unlike in the past when they were malnourished especially during lean seasons."*





The photographs below show the new kitchen shelter and children at Matanda School where Ellen Wisikesi attends Standard 7 class. She said: *“I leave home without having breakfast, but I know that I will eat porridge at school. This has helped me to work harder in all subjects and I hope that one day I can become a nurse.”*



Kitchen shelters have been constructed in different sizes to accommodate the numbers of children in each school. In order to determine the most appropriate size, we calculate the anticipated increase in enrolment following the introduction of Mary's Meals at the school.



The photograph on the left shows some of the children at Chinimba School where Beston Mchilima is the deputy head teacher and told us: *“Enrolment has increased so much at the school and absenteeism has reduced because the porridge motivates children to come to school.”*

The nutritious meals give the children energy to participate in lessons and activities throughout the school day. Suze Chabwere is 12 years old and attends Standard 8 class. She said: *“The porridge has helped me to concentrate in class and to keep on learning right until the end of the day.”*

Financial report

The table below contains a financial breakdown of the actual expenditure for the construction of the kitchen shelters at the schools. The amounts shown are in GBP.

School Name	No. Pupils	Kitchen cost	Stove & pot cost	Log book	Serving equipment	Total
Chikala 1	1,503	£4,886	£549	£2	£67	£5,504
Chinimba	1,484	£4,886	£686	£2	£84	£5,658
Lingamasa	1,084	£3,947	£549	£2	£67	£4,565
Lingoni	627	£3,181	£274	£2	£34	£3,491
Madziamera	1,566	£5,925	£686	£2	£84	£6,696
Matanda	1,198	£4,886	£549	£2	£67	£5,504
Shukulani	316	£2,301	£137	£2	£17	£2,457
	7,778	£30,012	£3,429	£14	£420	£33,875



The budgeted exchange rate used in the original proposal was 689 MWK per GBP, but the actual average exchange rate achieved was 656.211 MWK per GBP. Therefore the volatile exchange rate fluctuation resulted in a saving of £909. We would be grateful if Fondation Eagle would allow us to retain this amount to support our school feeding programme in Malawi.

All seven kitchen shelters now facilitate the safe, hygienic preparation and serving of the school meals and they also provide secure storage space and improved stock control for the raw ingredients. When not in use for school feeding, the buildings can be used as classrooms as each has a blackboard painted on one internal wall. The buildings are greatly enhancing the infrastructure at the schools.

Thank you so much

The continuing support of Fondation Eagle is greatly appreciated and we trust that this report demonstrates that your funding has been used according to the original proposal. The new kitchens have greatly enhanced the delivery of the Mary's Meals' school feeding programme in all seven schools and are appreciated by the children, volunteers and teachers at the schools.

An additional update on the progress of the project will be included in a portfolio report to Fondation Eagle which will be provided in December 2016.

On behalf of the many thousands of children who have benefitted from your kindness, thank you so much.



The children at Matanda School.