



mary's
meals

a simple solution
to world hunger

Mary's Meals

Portfolio report to Fondation Eagle
December 2019

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Mary's Meals is a global movement of people who will not accept that any child should endure a day without a meal in this world of plenty. This vision has guided and inspired us as strongly as ever in 2019, and we are humbled that Fondation Eagle continues to support Mary's Meals as we work towards every child receiving a nutritious meal each day at school. This report provides updates from our programmes around the world and highlights the far-reaching impact that your funding continues to have in Malawi and Zambia.

Reaching more children around the world



In July 2019, we were delighted to announce that we are now reaching 1,504,471 children in 18 countries across Africa, Asia, Latin America, Eastern Europe, the Middle East and the Caribbean. We were able to achieve this incredible milestone thanks to the generosity of supporters such as Fondation Eagle and the hard work and dedication of the entire Mary's Meals family.

2019 has been a year of considerable growth for Mary's Meals and we have been working towards our ambitious strategic aim of feeding two million children by the end of 2020. Since the start of the year, we have expanded our programmes in 11 countries around the world – India, Ethiopia, Haiti, Zimbabwe, Kenya, South Sudan, Syria, Zambia, Myanmar, Liberia and Madagascar – welcoming 185,586 more children and 612 new schools, nurseries and education centres into our global school feeding programme for the first time.



In September, thanks to our supporters' ongoing belief in our vision, we were able to undertake a significant expansion in Liberia. Across three counties – Bong, Montserrado and Bomi – we have now begun feeding in 137 additional schools, reaching more than 37,000 children. This means that we are now feeding a total of 158,015 children in 623 schools across Liberia, helping provide a social safety net to vulnerable children and their families facing food insecurity. Next year, we will continue to maintain and strengthen our existing school feeding programme in Liberia and hope to be in a position to reach out to include additional children when possible.



We have also completed several expansions to our India programme this year. In July and August, we expanded into 11 new schools in Jharkhand state, eastern India, and in October we were able to reach out to an additional 5,127 children in 25 schools in Jharkhand. Earlier this year, Graeme Little, director of programmes, was able to visit our programme in India and see its impact first-hand. He visited an informal education centre in Delhi, where a slum is located next to one of the largest municipal rubbish dumps in India.

Reflecting on this experience, Graeme said: "It was a particularly heart-wrenching and difficult environment but equally inspiring to see the work that our partner is doing and the benefit the children are getting."

He also said: “They had the same smiles you see in all of our programmes when the food came in, and the energy that came with it was very clear.” We will soon be undertaking a vital expansion in Bihar, eastern India, and we hope to be able to reach additional marginalised children in India during 2020, as funds allow.

In Turkana County, north western Kenya, our pre-school feeding programme has also grown significantly during 2019. Mary’s Meals Kenya has carried out five expansions this year alone, enabling thousands more young children at early childhood development (ECD) centres in one of the country’s most food insecure regions to receive our life-saving daily meals. Expansions occurred in March, May, July, September and November 2019, reaching more than 30,000 additional children in total.



Good nutrition is especially important in a child’s early years and can have a lasting impact on their mental, physical and social development. The nutritious meals we provide are packed with the vitamins and minerals children need to grow up healthy and strong.

By ensuring that pre-school aged children are receiving nourishment, Mary’s Meals is working to reduce the number of children suffering from malnutrition in Kenya and attracting children into the classroom. Pictured left are some of the happy children receiving Mary’s Meals every day at their place of education in Turkana.

By ensuring that pre-school aged children are receiving nourishment, Mary’s Meals is working to reduce the number of children suffering from malnutrition in Kenya and attracting children into the classroom. Pictured left are some of the happy children receiving Mary’s Meals every day at their place of education in Turkana.

As well as keeping our promise to the young children who are already receiving our life-changing meals in Kenya, we plan to further expand our Turkana programme next year in order to reach more chronically hungry children in this particularly vulnerable region.

Our new partnership in Madagascar

In Madagascar, as well as continuing to support 299 vulnerable children in four prisons with our partner Grandir Dignement, we recently began working with a new partner organisation – Feedback Madagascar – who has been supporting some of the poorest communities in the country for nearly 30 years.



Despite a wealth of natural resources stemming from a unique ecosystem, Madagascar is one of the poorest and most aid-dependent countries in the world. 77.6% of the population live below the income poverty line of \$1.90 a day,¹ the country has the fourth highest level of hunger in the world according to the 2019 Global Hunger Index and four in ten children do not complete primary school.²

¹ UNDP, Human Development Index: Madagascar, <http://hdr.undp.org/en/countries/profiles/MDG>

² World Bank, Madagascar Basic Education Support Project, 2018
<http://documents.worldbank.org/curated/en/169021516793508504/pdf/ITM00194-P160442-01-24-2018-1516793506238.pdf>

Thanks to this new partnership, Mary's Meals is now providing nutritious daily meals to 9,231 children at 68 schools across three regions: Amoron'i Mania and Haute Matsiatra in central Madagascar and Vatovavy Fitovinany in southeast Madagascar. You can watch some of these children receiving Mary's Meals for the first time by following this link: <https://youtu.be/70nqi3Z-dac>.

Teachers say parents are strongly involved in school activities in Mary's Meals schools



The life-changing, measurable impact of our work

Mary's Meals' sophisticated monitoring, evaluation and learning strategy provides robust evidence to demonstrate the long-term sustainable impact of our work. Three impact assessment projects have recently been completed among schools in Malawi, Zambia and Liberia. This research is being verified externally and demonstrates that Mary's Meals is making a significant impact and measurable change. For example, after one year of receiving Mary's Meals for the first time:

- The percentage of children who said they felt hungry in school 'most of the time' or 'always' reduced from 42% to 12%
- Enrolment increased by an average of 20%
- 90% of teachers interviewed said that children were attending school 'more' or 'much more'
- 91% of teachers said that children's marks in class had 'improved' or 'improved a lot'
- The percentage of children saying they felt happy in school increased from 79% to 90%



The percentage of children dropping out of school reduced from



Our research demonstrates that as well as attracting children into the classroom and improving enrolment and attendance, school feeding has the power to reduce classroom hunger and improve concentration and participation in class, as well as affecting children's overall happiness by reducing hunger-related anxiety. The evidence suggests that school feeding offers a cost-effective route out of poverty in the long-term.

The impact of your funding

Below is a summary of the funding received from Fondation Eagle since May 2011. We are truly grateful for this incredible and enduring support. Fondation Eagle's contributions to Mary's Meals have made a lasting impact on our programmes and enabled us to construct 84 kitchens to date. Thank you for wonderful contribution.

Fondation Eagle funding						
School group	Date funding received	Amount received	Your reference	Country	Details	Reporting status
Group 1	May 2011	£29,971	-	Malawi	3 kitchens in Blantyre district	Requirements met December 2014
Group 2	December 2011	£45,916	-	Malawi	5 kitchens in Blantyre district	Requirements met December 2015
Group 3	May 2012	£56,314	-	Kenya	4 kitchens in Eldoret	Requirements met December 2016

Group 4	January 2013	£30,815	-	Malawi	5 kitchens in four districts	Requirements met December 2017
Group 5	July 2013	£33,694	-	Malawi	5 kitchens in Balaka district	Requirements met December 2017
Group 6	August 2014	£48,172	308	Malawi	7 kitchens in Karonga district	Requirements met December 2018
Group 7	July 2015	£34,784	351	Malawi	7 kitchens in Machinga district	Final year
Group 8	June 2016	£59,166	382	Malawi	20 kitchens in Mwanza district	Current
Group 9	July 2017	£62,049	422-019	Zambia	10 kitchens in Chipata district	Current
Group 10	October 2018	£60,269	462-022	Malawi	9 kitchens in Lilongwe district	Current
Group 11	October 2019	£59,679	492/013	Malawi	9 kitchens in Zomba district	Current

This report includes information from the schools in groups seven to 11, as all of the reporting requirements have now been met for schools in groups one to six. We include photographs and quotes from children, volunteers and teachers at these schools, supported by Fondation Eagle.

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	1,837	921	941	1,862	1%	
Chilimba	1,536	733	743	1,476	-4%	
Lingamasa	1,266	657	692	1,349	7%	
Lingoni	707	382	427	809	14%	
Madziamera	2,012	975	1,122	2,097	4%	
Matanda	1,597	763	826	1,589	-1%	
Shukurani	435	224	225	449	3%	
TOTALS	9,390	4,655	4,976	9,631	3%	

Lingoni Primary School

Forence Mbatata, right, is 40 years old and currently volunteers at Lingoni Primary School, helping to prepare and serve Mary's Meals to children every day. She told us: "When I was informed about volunteering, I saw it as a great opportunity to help children, so they don't feel hungry when they come to school.



"Now they are able to just concentrate on their studies. I and my fellow parents in the community make it a point to cook every day." Thanks to our army of committed volunteers, we are able to keep our promise of a nutritious daily meal to the children of Lingoni Primary School.



Osta, left, is 14 years old and currently in standard 7 at Lingoni Primary School. With your support, Osta is attending school each day with the promise of a school meal. His favourite subjects are Chichewa and Agriculture and he told us: "I want to be a teacher in the future because I get fascinated with how they ask us questions after every lesson." Mary's Meals is helping children like Osta to gain a quality education that can be an escape route out of poverty in future.



Shukurani Primary School

Chisomo, right, is 10 years old and in standard 4 at Shukurani Primary School. She attends school each day, safe in the knowledge that she will receive a nutritious meal of Phala (porridge). Chisomo told us: "Phala strengthens my body, helps me to listen attentively in class and it stops me falling sick often."

Her favourite subjects are English, Expressive Arts, Maths, Chichewa and Life Skills. Speaking about her future plans, she told us: "I dream of becoming a teacher in the future because I admire how my teachers [impart] knowledge in us. I would love to do the same [for] other children."



Maria Edward, left, is 35 years old and a volunteer cook at Shukurani Primary School. She sees the amazing impact Mary's Meals has not only on the children at the school but on the community as a whole. Maria told us: "Since the inception of the programme I have seen how this has lessened our food insecurity in this village.

"Often, we do not have enough food to feed the children in the morning but there's a guarantee when they come to school they will eat." Through our school feeding programme, we are providing a powerful incentive for children to attend school and gain an education.

Group 8					
Funding awarded June 2016 £59,166 for school kitchens in Mwanza district, Malawi					
School name	Total pupils at last report	Current enrolment boys	Current enrolment girls	Total current enrolment	Percentage change
Chidoole	1,095	514	555	1,069	-2%
Chikudzu	430	182	160	342	-20%
Ching'ombe	405	230	256	486	20%
Chitapule	204	119	82	201	-1%
Chizumbi	1,002	513	541	1,054	5%
Fumbe	621	335	305	640	3%
Futsa	1,164	515	571	1,086	-7%
Kachere	415	250	263	513	24%
Kadole	1,036	488	437	925	-11%
Kanjedza	810	407	453	860	6%
Kapphirikamodzi	421	197	229	426	1%
Maye	921	465	514	979	6%
Mkantho	558	246	242	488	-13%
Michiru	586	256	264	520	-11%
Mphingwe	1,061	466	522	988	-7%
Mtsamika	783	340	383	723	-8%
Mwembedzi	1,226	544	619	1,163	-5%
Namisi	466	230	185	415	-11%
Nthomba	204	99	97	196	-4%
Thetula	447	194	177	371	-17%
TOTALS	13,855	6,590	6,855	13,445	-3%

Kanjedza Primary School

Frank Mkoka, right, is 49 years-old and currently teaches at Kanjedza Primary School. He sees first-hand the impact Mary's Meals has on children in his classroom. He told us: "With the school feeding programme, learners are able to concentrate in class and the end result is they are able to pass in class and get selected to secondary schools."

With your support, we are encouraging children to not only attend school but also progress through grades and move onto gain secondary education.



Aubrey, left, is 10 years-old and currently in standard 5 at the school. Aubrey benefits from a daily nutritious meal at schools and she told us: "I eat phala because otherwise I would come to school without taking breakfast. Phala gives me energy."

Aubrey's favourite subjects are Mathematics, English and Chichewa and she was top of her class last term. She told us of her ambitious plans for the future: "I want to be a nurse and work as a role model to heal so many people."

Kachere Primary School

Kondwani Mhango, right, teaches at Kachere Primary School and he has witnessed the dramatic changes that have taken place since Mary's Meals began feeding at his school. He told us: "Before the programme, many children used to be absent from school. It was difficult for them to concentrate in class, but Mary's Meals is changing our children's lives and we see a great difference every day of their lives."



Enelisi Malimbike, left, is a volunteer cook at the school and appreciates the importance of a nutritious school meal. When we visited Kachere Primary School, she told us: "This has been my sixth-year volunteering. At times, parents in this community we fail to provide food for our children, but with the coming of Mary's Meals we are willing to cook knowing it will benefit the children by making them smart in class and I am really grateful for the program."

Lackson Maudzu, right, is 14 years-old and currently attends Kachere Primary School where he receives a daily school meal. Lackson knows the benefits of Mary's Meals and sees the difference it makes to him and his classmates. He told us: "I like phala because it helps me to grow healthy, makes me full and takes away my hunger. I learn well in class when I've eaten phala in the morning".



Lackson told us: "I want to be a soldier when I finish school because I want to go for peace-keeping missions in other countries". Thanks to your steadfast support, we are currently encouraging 513 pupils, like Lackson and those pictured below, to attend Kachere Primary School and gain an education.



Group 9					
Funding awarded July 2017 £62,049 for school kitchens in Chipata district, Zambia					
School name	Total pupils at last report	Current enrolment boys	Current enrolment girls	Total current enrolment	Percentage change
Chalumbe	1,003	385	366	751	-25%
Chamasongwe	508	242	272	514	1%
Chisitu	993	451	467	918	-8%
Dambe	762	396	344	740	-3%
Katandala	717	285	353	638	-11%
Mburwe	442	232	237	469	6%
Mchenja	689	380	385	765	11%
Mtewe	837	299	340	639	-24%
Ngónzi	270	133	137	270	0%
Nsanjika	1,052	520	529	1,049	0%
TOTALS	7,273	3,323	3,430	6,753	-7%

Ngónzi Primary School

For girls like Fridah, who is 10 years old and in Grade 3, our programme is a vital source of food. Fridah, pictured here with a green mug in her hand, lives with her grandmother and cousin who sell fruits and vegetables at the local market. She can't always rely on having food to eat at home, so knowing that she can eat at school is a vital source of comfort to her. She told us: "Porridge has been so helpful to me because I leave home in the morning on an empty stomach with an assurance of having breakfast served at school and that keeps me away from worries of what to eat in the morning."



Mary's Meals is helping Fridah make the most of her education and is fuelling her dreams for the future. She said: "My favourite subject is Mathematics because I find it easy to understand. Porridge gives me strength every morning to stay in class and concentrate. I put much effort in school so that I get good results to help me reach my dream of becoming a nurse."

Fridah is so motivated by the programme that she informs children in her community who are not attending school about Mary's Meals in the hope that it will be an incentive for them to enrol. She told us: "I want to encourage all my fellow girls who are still at home to start coming to school and enjoy Mary's meals porridge the way I do."



The joy that receiving a hot cup of porridge brings to Fridah's classmates can be seen so clearly on the faces of these young children at Ngónzi Primary School.

When we spoke to Manda Mali, the school's headteacher, he had nothing but praise about the impact of our school feeding programme. He said: "It's vital for a child to attend class frequently to help them attain good results and progress to the next grade and the feeding programme has propelled the progress."

He also said: "I have come to see even those that dropped out of school coming back because of the porridge and according to the children, they say they left school because of hunger. But now that a meal is provided in their place of learning they have thought it's important to go back to school."

Mburwe Primary School

Sadly, for some people, the need to feed themselves and their family has to take priority over gaining an education. This is the case for Thukiwe Lungu, one of the selfless volunteers who gives her time to ensure that children receive Mary's Meals every school day at Mburwe Primary School. She told us: "I dropped out of school because of hunger and I don't want my children to go through the same. That is why am volunteering."



Thukiwe, left, can see the difference Mary's Meals is having on the children who attend school. "Learners are happy and look healthy. The feeding programme has helped to increase enrolment and reduce absenteeism. Children from far places now stay in school to study after classes because of the feeding programme."

One of the 469 children who are currently benefitting from nutritious meals prepared in the kitchen that Fondation Eagle funded is 10-year-old Memory, right. When we met her, it was clear that she is keenly aware of the importance of the school feeding programme not only for herself but also for her mum.



She said: "Mary's Meals has really helped. I have two siblings aged three and seven. One of them has autism and mum takes care of him. Things are getting more and more expensive and hard to afford. But with the feeding programme, it has helped to lighten the load. Porridge helps me to have enough energy to use all day long. It helps me to concentrate in class. I eat porridge because it makes me look healthy."

Group 10					
Funding awarded October 2018 £60,269 for school kitchens in Lilongwe, Malawi					
School name	Total pupils at last report	Current enrolment boys	Current enrolment girls	Total current enrolment	Percentage change
Muzu	3,819	1,637	2,204	3,841	1%
Chitedze	1,436	631	667	1,298	-10%
Chitipi	1,259	656	684	1,340	6%
Lingadzi	1,024	454	448	902	-12%
Airbase	903	555	501	1,056	17%
Mbabzi	1,887	988	1,051	2,039	8%
Njewa	2,326	1,194	1,107	2,301	-1%
Sankhani	1,269	629	678	1,307	3%
Tsapa	962	423	489	912	-5%
TOTALS	14,885	7,167	7,829	14,996	1%

Sankhani Primary School



Similar to Thukiwe in Zambia, Hanna Sajeni, one of the incredible volunteers at Sankhani Primary School in Lilongwe, faced obstacles that meant she was unable to complete primary school. It is this experience that now motivates her to contribute to the feeding programme.

Hanna is pictured on the left, in front of the recently finished kitchen that was funded through the generous gift you entrusted us with in October 2018.

Hanna told us: "I come to cook porridge so that learners should not go in class with empty stomachs. I did not go far with school because my parents were so poor that they could not afford to give us breakfast. So, I feel pity to see children fail to attend classes because of hunger. This is why I try my very best to come and cook." Hanna is pictured on the left, in front of the recently finished kitchen that was funded through the generous gift you entrusted us with in October 2018.

12-year-old Annock, right, loves numbers. His favourite subjects are maths, science and social studies. He said: "When I finish school, I would like to be an Accountant. Porridge helps me to be active and to do well in class. It helps me to live a healthy life."



Charles Cheyo, the headteacher of Sankhani, wrote a letter expressing his appreciation for the feeding programme and explaining that it has having a positive effect in so many ways. He wrote: "On behalf of Sankhani School community and on my own behalf, I would like to thank you very much for the introduction of Mary's Meals' feeding programme. This is a simple way of solving the challenge of hunger among the learners."

"Before Mary's Meals was introduced, the enrolment was low. Learners were coming to school empty-bellied which resulted in failure to concentrate on lessons, high drop out rate and massive absenteeism."

"The Mary's Meals programme has made the enrolment rise tremendously. Drop out rates and absenteeism have greatly reduced, and readmission has also been enhanced in all grades. Learners are attending lessons up to the last period. Lastly we sincerely thank you for the magnificent kitchen."

Chitedze Primary School

Mary's Meals is providing life-changing meals to the children at Chitedze Primary School. With your support, we are providing these vulnerable and marginalised children with a daily school meal, supporting them to achieve their dreams and giving them energy to play.



Shakira, 11, right, is one of 1,298 children currently enrolled at Chitedze Primary School who are benefitting from Mary's Meals. When we visited the school, Shakira spoke to us about the difference the feeding programme makes to her everyday life.

She said: "Porridge helps me to be active, live a healthy life and do well in class. When I am in class, I don't worry about hunger because I enter class on full stomach." Shakira is in standard 6 and her favourite subjects are English, Maths, Science and Social and Environmental Sciences. She said: "When I finish school, I want to be a bank manager".



Group 11					
Funding awarded October 2019 £59,679 for pre-school kitchens in Zomba, Malawi					
School name	Total pupils at last report	Current enrolment boys	Current enrolment girls	Total current enrolment	Percentage change
Mchengamwala	67	34	40	74	10%
Simbiti	56	34	30	35	-38%
Mombo	43	18	17	35	-19%
Nanjiwa	68	30	41	71	4%
Namatope	38	15	17	32	-16%
Talandira	51	32	28	60	18%
Kachere	61	15	20	35	-43%
Tiyamike	34	17	13	30	-12%
Sitidzayiwala	50	20	20	40	-20%
TOTALS	468	215	226	441	-6%

Construction of the Group 11 kitchens is in progress at all nine pre-schools in Zomba, southern Malawi.

At five pre-schools, the concrete footing has been casted, as shown in the picture below taken at Simbiti. The other pre-schools at this stage are: Mombo, Mchengmwala. Namaptope, Sitidzayiwala and Tayamike.



At Kachere, pictured below, foundations have been constructed and the structure is ready for its concrete base to be built.



At Nanjiwa, pictured below, the concrete slab has been constructed, and the structure is now ready for the walls to be built. Talandira is also currently at this stage.



Interim and final reports on the project's progress, including a detailed breakdown of expenditure, will be provided in 2020. We look forward to sending Fondation Eagle stories from the young children and the staff at the ECD centres who will benefit from these kitchens in your portfolio report in December 2020.

Thank you

Mary's Meals is indebted to Fondation Eagle for its many years of generous support for our mission. We thank you most sincerely for the trust you have placed in us since you first provided funding to construct kitchens at schools receiving Mary's Meals in 2011. Our vital partnership now spans nearly a decade and has helped to ensure that thousands of children in Zambia, Kenya and Malawi are served Mary's Meals every school day. On their behalf, thank you so much.