

## **Fondation Eagle**

### **Report Form**

**Fondation Eagle reference:** FF 492/013

**Name of charity:** Mary's Meals. Project: construction of nine kitchens in Zomba, Malawi to support Mary's Meals school feeding programme.

### **Introduction**

As part of this project, Fondation Eagle funded the construction of Mary's Meals kitchens at nine Early Childhood Development (ECD) centres in Malawi. The schools and kitchens are located in Namiwawa and Chikala zones, Zomba district, southern Malawi. A total grant of £59,679 (72,650 CHF) was accepted in September 2019 and, following some delays to construction, was completed in December 2020 with signs installed in early 2021.

### **Details of the project**

With the generous support of Fondation Eagle we have constructed nine permanent kitchen shelters at ECD centres in southern Malawi. We are delighted to present this final report outlining the completion of all nine kitchens and the impact your generous funding has had on the children who benefit from our school feeding programme.

Since our last report in early 2020, the Covid-19 pandemic has impacted the way Mary's Meals' school feeding programmes operate across the globe. In Malawi, our largest and longest-running programme country - where around a third of all primary-school age children normally receive Mary's Meals - schools were closed in March 2020 following the Government of Malawi's decision to enforce measures to mitigate the spread of Covid-19.

In this extremely challenging context, it was crucial that Mary's Meals continued to respond to the great need in Malawi. Our staff have worked tirelessly to adapt our programme to the rapidly changing national and local contexts, driven by their passion to keep providing a vital lifeline to children during this crisis. In doing so, we have been able to overcome the many challenges we faced as a result of school closures and wider restrictions by quickly changing our delivery model and successfully continuing to provide a vital lifeline for over one million vulnerable children living in some of Malawi's poorest communities. This includes the children enrolled in the ECD centres where Fondation Eagle have supported the construction of kitchens.

As a result of the hard work and dedication of the Mary's Meals Malawi team and their network of volunteers, we were able to change our delivery model from in-school feeding to a community distribution approach. Through this approach, Mary's Meals is distributing food, which would normally be prepared by volunteers and served to children in school, to parents and guardians of beneficiaries to cook at home. Alongside dry food rations, we also provide soap and handwashing guidance to help increase the resilience of communities and mitigate the spread of the virus.



The safety of our staff and the communities where we work is always a key priority, and we put in place robust processes to ensure that all those involved in the distributions are adhering to relevant public health policies, including stringent social distancing and hygiene controls. Although volunteers have been unable to prepare or serve food in the kitchens you have helped to construct, the provision of a secure and hygienic place for handwashing and food storage has been of incredible value each of the nine pre-schools and communities in recent distributions. You can see the final kitchen structures at each of the ECD centres in the photos below:

Mchengamwala



Simbiti





Mombo



Nanjiwa





Namatope



Talandira



Kachere



Tiyamike





## Sitidzayiwala



### **Project beneficiaries**

As outlined in the table below, our most recent data show that there are currently 469 children enrolled at the nine ECD centres. Throughout community distributions of meals we made sure to work closely with schools, communities and parents to ensure all children currently enrolled at the ECD centres received take-home rations of Mary's Meals. Schools were due to re-open in Mid-February 2021 following a period closure to mitigate against the threat of the South African Covid-19 variant and a spike in cases seen in Malawi at the end of 2020 and start of 2021. However, this was delayed following a national teachers strike and schools have only recently re-opened in mid-March 2021. We are continuing our community distribution approach for now and working closely with the Ministry of Education to reinstate in-school feeding as soon as it is safe to do so. Your kitchens will benefit these children and the ECD centres by providing a dedicated space for community volunteers to prepare Mary's Meals, promoting effective and efficient programme delivery and enhancing infrastructure at the school. We truly look forward to beginning feeding in schools again and are grateful that these communities have kitchens ready for them, thanks to your support.

ECD centre name	District	Zone	Current enrolment
Mchengamwala	Zomba	Namiwawa	63
Simbiti	Zomba	Namiwawa	53
Mombo	Zomba	Namiwawa	46
Nanjiwa	Zomba	Namiwawa	74
Namatope	Zomba	Namiwawa	30
Talandira	Zomba	Chikala	65
Kachere	Zomba	Chikala	57
Tiyamike	Zomba	Chikala	33
Sitidzayiwala	Zomba	Chikala	48
<b>Total</b>			<b>469</b>

### Expenditure summary

Expenditure Summary:

Group 11	Kitchen construction (GBP)	Sponsor sign (GBP)	Total
Budget	£ 59,400	£ 279	£ 59,679
Actual costs to date	£ 59,400	£ 279	£ 59,679
<b>Budget vs Actual</b>	<b>£ 0</b>	<b>£ 0</b>	<b>£ 0</b>

Below is a detailed expenditure to date, including local currency:

School name	Kitchen construction (GBP)	Sponsor sign (GBP)	Total Expenditure (MWK)	Total Expenditure (GBP)	Exchange Rate
Mchengamwala	6,600	31	6,070,372.13	6,631	915,453
Simbiti	6,600	31	6,070,372.13	6,631	915,453
Mombo	6,600	31	6,070,372.13	6,631	915,453
Nanjiwa	6,600	31	6,070,372.13	6,631	915,453
Namatope	6,600	31	6,070,372.13	6,631	915,453
Talandira	6,600	31	6,070,372.13	6,631	915,453
Kachere	6,600	31	6,070,372.13	6,631	915,453
Tiyamike	6,600	31	6,070,372.13	6,631	915,453
Sitidzayiwala	6,600	31	6,070,372.13	6,631	915,453
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>59,400</b>	<b>279</b>	<b>54,633,349.17</b>	<b>59,679</b>	<b>-</b>

## **Results**

We are pleased to report that the construction of kitchens at all nine ECD centres is now complete. Before we began building the permanent kitchen structures, we conducted frequent meetings with community leaders to ensure we met the specific needs of their community. During construction of the kitchens, local contractors and Mary's Meals Malawi staff supervised construction and quality control. Community volunteers participate in regular training sessions centred around food hygiene and safety in storage, preparation and serving, as well as management of food inventories. Your funding has enhanced the delivery of the school feeding programme at the nine ECD centres by providing a dedicated space for volunteers to prepare food safely and hygienically. These permanent kitchens are equipped with built-in fuel-efficient stoves and secure storerooms which further contribute to the infrastructure of the school. Please see annex 1 for additional photos of the kitchens.

A further benefit of secure kitchen structures is their increased ability to withstand climatic shocks. This is particularly significant in the Zomba district where this project is located. Zomba is vulnerable to natural disasters, such as flooding, which frequently affect the schools and communities through destruction of buildings, roads and crops. With your support, we have constructed kitchens which will enhance the resilience of ECD centres to climatic shocks and support the consistent delivery of the programme. As climate change threatens to increase the likelihood of natural disasters in Malawi, we are incredibly grateful for your support in building these secure kitchen structures which will continue to benefit the communities for years to come.

Your support of our school feeding programme will make an incredible difference to the schools and the young children (typically under 5 years-old) who attend them. Although early childhood education is widely considered to be extremely beneficial for children in the short and long term, in many of the countries we work in, there are still very low rates of pre-school age children in formal education. Pre-school-aged children are particularly vulnerable to malnutrition and can suffer its effects in later life. Our programme encourages parents to send their children to pre-schools, safe in the knowledge that they will receive a healthy meal which will help their brains and bodies to grow and develop during this crucial time. Your support for construction of nine kitchens at ECD centres will make an incredible, long-term difference to the 469 pre-school children enrolled there.

## **Conclusion**

Mary's Meals is extremely thankful for generous support to some of the most vulnerable children and communities in Malawi. By providing lasting physical infrastructure, the support from Fondation Eagle will have a substantial, long-lasting impact on the children and communities we serve. On behalf of all the children you have helped, thank you.

## **Signature and date**



15 March 2021

---



Annex 1:



*Figure 1: Secure storerooms at Mchengamwala school.*



*Figure 2: Photo of the rear side of Nanjiwa kitchen.*



*Figure 3: Photo showing Nanjiwa ECD centre kitchen and other school buildings.*



*Figure 4: Photo of inside Talandira ECD centre kitchen from inside.*





*Figure 5: Accessible ramp at Kachere ECD centre.*