

Fondation Eagle

Report Form

Fondation Eagle reference: FF 00554 - 037

Name of charity: Mary's Meals

Name of project: Mary's Meals Malawi school feeding programme

Date grant accepted: 30/09/2020

Amount: CHF 71,929

Period of project: 12 months

Introduction:

Fondation Eagle will finance the total of CHF 71,929 for the feeding program for one year for the pupils of three primary schools in the Balaka District, Southern Malawi, namely Rivirivi Primary School, Nsaluzawana Primary School and Chidalala Primary School.

Details of the project:

Since the start of the grant in October 2020, Fondation Eagle has supported the provision of daily meals for children enrolled at Rivirivi Primary School, Nsaluzawana Primary School and Chidalala Primary School. In Malawi, all pupils returned to the classroom in October, however only on a rotational basis. This consisted of different grades attending school at different times in order to aid social distancing measures and reduce the opportunity for gathering. Nonetheless, Malawi experienced a dramatic increase in Covid-19 cases, with the country in placed 2nd on a list of the top 20 countries in the world with the highest daily increase in Covid-19 cases in January 2021 according to the World Food Program¹. In light of this increase, the Government of Malawi (GoM) announced that all schools must close once again from 18 January until 22 February. However, teacher strikes in Malawi further delayed the reopening of schools from 22 February. We are delighted to announce that at the time of writing all schools are now open, and children have returned to attending classes full time. Following government guidance, Mary's Meals will continue to provide community distributions for children until it is safe for us to return to in-school feeding.

Despite the extraordinarily difficult challenges posed by continued school closures in some of our programme countries, Mary's Meals has ensured that we are keeping our promise of a nutritious daily meal to the children enrolled at your sponsored schools through our community distribution approach. Through this approach, Mary's Meals distributes food, which would normally be prepared by volunteers and served to children in school, to parents and guardians of children to cook at home. Alongside dry food, we also provide soap and handwashing guidance to help increase the resilience of the communities where we work and mitigate the spread of the virus.

In the challenging context many families and communities currently find themselves in, our staff have continued to work tirelessly to ensure our adapted feeding model is continuing to provide a vital lifeline to the children we support as the Covid-19 crisis continues to take hold. In collaboration with local communities, GoM, local authorities, and other agencies, we have been able to keep our promise to children under these difficult circumstances. The strong relationships of trust we have built with the

¹ Hunger Map, 2021, *Global Hunger and Covid-19 Daily Snapshot*, (<https://hungermap.wfp.org/>)

communities we serve are crucial because, as always, our efforts are founded on locally-led solutions that rely on community ownership of the programme.

To further understand the impact of our adapted feeding model and understand how effective our Covid-19 response was in the communities where we work, Mary's Meals Malawi conducted post-distribution surveys in August 2020 and February 2021 across our Malawi programme to evaluate the impact of food distributions at household level. Findings from the survey include:

- Take-home rations significantly reduced hunger in households with 80% of beneficiaries reported that their hunger reduced after receiving distributions
- 96% of beneficiaries reported that their happiness increased after receiving CSB at home
- 99% of parents of beneficiaries reported that distributions should continue while schools are closed
- The school feeding program is very important in encouraging parents to send their children back to school

Our survey results highlight the positive intervention that Mary's Meals continues to have on the lives of the children that we support, as well as continuing to provide a social safety net to families who would otherwise struggle to provide for their children. Such amazing feedback and results from our community distribution approach in Malawi would not be possible without the continued dedication of our staff and community volunteers, driven by their passion to safely reach the hungry children who rely on Mary's Meals. Thanks to this vital work, we have ensured the continued success of our community distribution response during this great time of need. This is a phenomenal achievement and would not be possible without the support of Fondation Eagle.

Although we were unable to gather stories from your sponsored schools due to travel restrictions, the testimonials outlined below are evidence of the profound impact of your generous support has had to over 1,000 children who attend Ndirande U6 Centre and Mponda Primary School, as well as their families.



Patricia, pictured left, is a parent and a School Health and Nutrition Committee member for Chigodi Primary School, located in Blantyre, also where Ndirande U6 Centre is located. She told us: "I am from Kumapondo village in Lundu, Blantyre. I am very happy today that we are receiving the food rations for our children. I am a mother of two children, one is here at this school while the other is still at the nursery school. With porridge, my boy is fuelled with energy to run to school and learn better. Porridge to him brings happiness that overflows."

Feedback like Patricia's demonstrates the impact that your support is having on children in your sponsored schools. By providing a daily meal children have the energy to learn, as well as improving their well-being by making them happier.

We were also able to speak to Cecilia, pictured right, during a community distribution. Cecilia is 17 years-old, and is a Standard 8 pupil at Chigodi Primary School, Blantyre. She highlighted the important role that Mary’s Meals plays in her education: “I come from Chikale village in Lundu, Blantyre. I am the fifth born in a family of seven children. I benefitted a lot from the food rations, I was also able to learn on a full stomach and it made me pass from standard 7 to standard 8. I want to be a doctor when I grow up. I like English, Expressive arts and Chichewa in school.”



Cecilia also added the impact of the support that Mary’s Meals provides. She said: “Today I am overjoyed that parents are here receiving the food rations on our behalf. I am looking forward to passing the national examinations with flying colours so please Mary’s Meals, keep supporting us so that we may achieve our dreams.”

With your support, girls just like Cecilia who attend your sponsored schools are benefitting from the daily meal that you have so generously provided. As outlined above, a daily meal is a crucial factor in meeting children’s immediate hunger needs as well as improving their happiness and well-being, thereby attributing to increased concentration and progression through pre-school and primary education, unlocking their full potential and giving them hope of a much brighter future.

As the Covid-19 situation continues to evolve in Malawi and we continue to deliver community distributions, we remain incredibly grateful for the support of Fondation Eagle. Your funding has enabled more than 3,500 children to receive take-home rations of Mary’s Meals over the last six months, providing a critical safety net for children, families and communities and has contributed to mitigating against the potentially disastrous effects of the virus.

Project beneficiaries:

School name	Enrollment (Mar 2020)		
	Girls	Boys	Total
Rivirivi Primary School	529	543	1,072
Nsaluzawana Primary School	551	499	1,050
Chidalala Primary School	725	679	1,404
	1,805	1,721	3,526

Expenditure summary:

School Name	District	Zone	Current enrolment	Cost per school (CHF)	Cost per school (MWK)*
Rivirivi Primary School	Balaka	Kankao	1,072	21,868	18,329,583.17
Nsaluzawana Primary School	Balaka	Kankao	1,050	21,420	17,954,073.14
Chidalala Primary School	Balaka	Kankao	1,404	28,641	24,006,657.75
			3,526	71,929	60,290,314.06
*Exchange rate: GBP:CHF 1.213976 GBP:MWK 1017.545					

Results:

Mary's Meals collected distribution data from your sponsored schools during our Covid-19 response. In order to help minimise the numbers of people queuing at the school at any one time, we carried out distributions in phases, with the first one targeting parents of children in grades one and two and the second targeting children enrolled in the remaining grades. As shown in the table below, we have been able to provide food and soap for 3,351 children enrolled at your sponsored schools through community distributions. This represents 95% of children enrolled at your sponsored schools receiving a daily meal at home, an amazing achievement.

School name	Distribution 1	Distribution 2	Total no. of children
Rivirivi Primary School	268	751	1,019
Nsaluzawana Primary School	262	736	998
Chidalala Primary School	351	983	1,334
Total	881	2,470	3,351

We have also completed a third distribution to cover the last school term of 2020 and are currently undertaking a fourth distribution to cover school feeding days for the current school semester. We will be pleased to update Fondation Eagle in your next report once data from these distributions has been consolidated.

Conclusion:

We are on track to achieve the objectives outlined on the File Form as we have ensured that the thousands of children enrolled at your sponsored schools received meals through community distributions, providing crucial support at a time of great need. This meal will have proved vital in ensuring that the children you are supporting could concentrate as they did their best to learn from home and are given hope for a better future, to become individuals that can lift their families and whole communities out of poverty. In the next six months of the grant, we hope that schools remain

open in Malawi and that we can continue providing meals that support children to concentrate and learn in lessons. Mary's Meals remains prepared for any transitional activity that is required for our feeding program to resume in schools and will continue to work closely with the Ministry of Education. As we continue community distributions, Mary's Meals is extremely thankful for your ongoing support during this period as we adapt our feeding program in the face of changing restrictions to keep our promise to the children receiving Mary's Meals at Rivirivi Primary School, Nsaluzawana Primary School and Chidalala Primary School.

Signature and date:

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Jeanne Grob", is written over a horizontal line.

17 March 2021