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## Mary's Meals Statement on the 2023 SDG Summit

*Upcoming Summit Urges Action to Achieve 2030 Agenda*

**Bloomfield, N.J. – September 8, 2023** – The [2023 SDG Summit](#) being held on September 18 and 19 at the United Nations will serve as a focal point to accelerate activities to achieve the [2030 Agenda](#), a global plan of action to drive economic prosperity and social well-being while protecting the environment.

As an international school-feeding organization, [Mary's Meals](#) recognizes the importance of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals ([SDGs](#)) that make up the 2030 Agenda, particularly Zero Hunger (SDG 2), No Poverty (SDG 1), Quality Education (SDG 4) and Partnerships for the Goals (SDG 17).

With its 21-year mission to feed hungry children where they learn every school day to help break the cycle of poverty, these goals are the backbone of Mary's Meals' work in the 18 countries in which it serves. As such, Mary's Meals supports and advocates for the efforts to deliver the 2030 Agenda.

"A future that sees children and communities equipped with an education and set free from poverty and dependence on aid is the goal of Mary's Meals," states Founder and CEO Magnus MacFarlane-Barrow.

Since the global plan was adopted in 2015, progress has been made toward the 17 Sustainable Development Goals. However, the pandemic, climate shifts and conflicts have adversely affected some of those gains.

This summit will convene as a global hunger crisis stretches into late 2023 worsened by a lack of available and affordable food supplies and fuel, volatile climate shifts and conflicts that continue to impact food security around the globe.

Hundreds of millions of hungry people in a world that produces enough food to feed every person on the planet are undeniable evidence for urgent and focused action to achieve the 2030 Agenda with only seven years to go.

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### About Mary's Meals

Now in its 21<sup>st</sup> year, [Mary's Meals](#) is a global movement that sets up school-feeding programs in some of the world's most vulnerable communities, where conflict, poverty and hunger often prevent children from gaining an education. Mary's Meals works with in-country volunteers to provide one daily nutritious meal in a place of learning to attract children into the classroom to receive an education. This simple solution to help end world hunger also enables children to lift themselves from the cycle of hunger and poverty.

Mary's Meals began by feeding 200 children in Malawi in 2002. Today, the organization feeds

2,429,182 hungry children every school day in 5,084 schools across five continents in the following countries: Benin, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Haiti, India, Kenya, Lebanon, Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Myanmar, Niger, South Sudan, Syria, Thailand, Yemen, Zambia, and Zimbabwe. Mary's Meals collaborates with the U.N. World Food Program, partners with USAID in Liberia and is part of the global School Meals Coalition, an emerging initiative of governments and partners to drive actions that can urgently re-establish, improve, and scale up food and education systems. For more information about Mary's Meals, visit [marysmealsusa.org](http://marysmealsusa.org).

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