

Mary's Meals Statement on the World Day of Social Justice

Every Child Deserves an Education and Enough to Eat

Bloomfield, N.J. – February 15, 2024 – Tuesday, February 20, is World Day of Social Justice as designated by the United Nations General Assembly. It is a day that reminds people of the need to build fairer, more equitable societies.

Education is vital for breaking the cycle of poverty and creating a more equitable and peaceful world. Global school-feeding organization Mary's Meals has seen firsthand the role school feeding and education are playing in changing lives and fostering peace in the countries where the program operates.

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

Mary's Meals understands that poverty not only causes hunger but also creates obstacles to education for every child. The simple act of providing a meal for children where they learn promotes access to education while meeting children's immediate need for food and giving them energy to learn.

Recognizing the importance of partnerships to make school feeding and education possible, Mary's Meals collaborates with communities to provide daily meals in a place of education for children living in extreme poverty in areas where hunger often creates a barrier to learning. This feeding model recognizes that individuals and groups play a role in helping to transform their communities. Currently, in 18 countries, these programs reach more than 2.4 million children with much-needed meals every school day.

Justice, equality, education, good health, and peace are some of the key Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) that comprise the 2030 SDG Agenda. Mary's Meals works to achieve Zero Hunger (SDG 2) by boldly addressing child hunger with a low-cost and scalable model. The innovative school feeding program can also contribute to No Poverty (SDG 1), Quality Education (SDG 4), Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions (SDG 16), and Partnerships for the Goals (SDG 17).