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Mary's Meals Announces New Global School Feeding Number

International School Feeding Charity Mary's Meals Now Feeding 2.4+million Children.



Mary's Meals feeding program at Tshayile Primary School in Zimbabwe.

Bloomfield, N.J. – January 17, 2023 – International school feeding charity [Mary's Meals](#) announces the expansion of its feeding capacity to provide meals to more hungry children in their places of education across five continents.

Mary's Meals is now feeding 2,429,182 children in 5,084 places of learning in 18 countries. That is an increase of 149,241 children in 330 places of education over 2022.

"We are thankful to be able to work with the local communities and partners to reach even more children; particularly, during this continuing global hunger crisis. The need will only increase as food, fertilizer and fuel costs continue to rise sharply making these school feeding programs life changing for many," said Magnus MacFarlane-Barrow, founder and CEO of Mary's Meals.

Mary's Meals offers a simple, locally-managed solution to world hunger that addresses both the need for food and the need for education. Since 2002, Mary's Meals has been collaborating with volunteers and partners in program countries to provide meals to children where they learn to help break the cycle of chronic poverty.

"We are meeting their immediate need for food, but we are tackling the underlying causes of poverty by getting them into the classroom," said MacFarlane-Barrow.

Amidst this ongoing hunger crisis, there has been some encouraging news. In December, Mary's Meals expanded its Kenya feeding program in the drought-stricken region of Turkana to feed an additional 60,000 school children ages five and up in 171 schools. This brings the total number of children ages 3-18 years old receiving meals to 151,000 children in 846 schools. Additionally, a two-year, \$4 million grant partnership between Mary's Meals and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) was launched to feed 45,000 students in 240 schools in Liberia.

More recently, Yemen Aid also renewed its partnership with Mary's Meals for 2023 to feed an additional 6,500 children in Yemen bringing the number of children receiving a meal every school day to 11,000. And in Madagascar, working with its country program partner, Feedback Madagascar, Mary's Meals expanded to 46 new schools to reach approximately 10,000 children.

However, the need for food has created a worldwide crisis as climate change has caused droughts, dying animals and failed crops; conflicts have spurred migration and constantly rising prices have driven food supplies beyond the reach of most people in many of Mary's Meal's 18 program countries.

Despite skyrocketing prices for food, fuel, fertilizer and transportation, Mary's Meals offers an effective, locally-managed, school-feeding program by working with local farmers, where possible, to source food and supplies, and community volunteers to prepare, cook and serve meals every school day. This efficient and economic model enables us to feed a child for an entire school year for \$25.20.

"We are grateful for the worldwide support we receive – it is amazing, and it helps us to keep our promise of feeding the millions of hungry children in our current programs. But there are so many more children still waiting. With 67 million primary school-age children currently out of school globally and many more attending classes too hungry to learn, our work is only just beginning," MacFarlane-Barrow stated.

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About Mary's Meals

Now in its 21st 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.

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