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## Mary's Meals Launches Syrian Earthquake Appeal for the Children it Serves in Syria

*Mary's Meals Coordinates Emergency Response with Partner in Aleppo.*

**Bloomfield, N.J. – February 8, 2023** – International school feeding charity [Mary's Meals](#) has launched a Syrian Earthquake Appeal to help the more than 5,000 children it serves in Aleppo, Syria.

Mary's Meals Founder and CEO, Magnus MacFarlane-Barrow, said, "The magnitude of the destruction is unfathomable. People already struggling with hunger, poverty and conflict have now been devastated."

Since 2017, Mary's Meals has been providing meals to school children in Syria in collaboration with its trusted partner, [Dorcas](#). Prior to the destructive earthquakes on February 6, Mary's Meals was feeding 5,042 children across 18 schools in Aleppo.

Monday's earthquakes have forced many schools to close and serve as shelters. As a result, school programs - including school meals - have been disrupted leaving children out of class and more vulnerable than ever. It is vital that Mary's Meals reach these children with a daily meal to stave off hunger during a national disaster.

Graeme Little, chief programs officer at Mary's Meals, said, "The experienced and highly skilled team at Dorcas is already mobilized and going out into communities with food supplies. We are determined, despite the crisis, to keep our promise by providing children with essential meals. Our emergency appeal will ensure the continuation of our work under ever more challenging and unstable circumstances," he said.

Mary's Meals is no stranger to emergency situations or humanitarian work. The charity grew out of a response to the Bosnian conflict in the early 1990s. It evolved into a global school feeding charity in 2002, that feeds more than 2.4 million school children in 18 countries including Syria. Throughout the years, Mary's Meals has been involved in emergency relief work in countries such as Myanmar, Haiti, India, Kenya and Thailand.

**To donate** to the Syrian Earthquake Appeal for children in Aleppo, please visit: [marysmealsusa.org](https://marysmealsusa.org) or call 800-385-4983.

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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). Follow Mary's Meals USA on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), or [Twitter](#).

## About Dorcas

[Dorcas](#) was founded by Dutch entrepreneur Dirk-Jan Groot in 1980. Groot was inspired by a foundation that supported Eastern Europeans who were persecuted for their religious beliefs during the Cold War. In the 1990s, the organization expanded its activities to Africa - and, in the last decade, to the Middle East.

Today it is active in 14 countries in 3 regions - working to improve the resilience and livelihoods of vulnerable people living in poverty, exclusion and crisis.