

# Mary's Meals : A Simple Solution to World Hunger



## About Mary's Meals

Now in its 22<sup>nd</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 local 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 School Meals Coalition, an emerging initiative of governments and partners to drive actions that can urgently reestablish, improve, and scale up food and education systems. For more information about Mary's Meals, visit [marysmealsusa.org](http://marysmealsusa.org).

Supporters can follow Mary's Meals USA on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), or [X](#).

**Tagline:** Mary's Meals: A Simple Solution to World Hunger.

**Vision:** That every child should be able to receive at least one nutritious meal every day in their place of education.

**Mission:** Our mission is to enable people to offer their money, goods, skills, time, or prayer, and through this involvement, provide the most effective help to those suffering the effects of extreme poverty in the world's poorest communities.

## Our Story

Since 1992, [Magnus MacFarlane-Barrow](#) had already been collecting and delivering relief supplies to Bosnia when a trip to Malawi became the spark for his life's work and a global movement.

In 2002, in Malawi, Magnus visited the sick with a local priest. In one home, Magnus met Edward, one of six children, quietly surrounding their dying mother on an earthen floor. As Magnus spoke with Edward, this child's words became the catalyst for Mary's Meals.

"I asked him, 'What are your hopes, what is your ambition?' recounts Magnus. He said, 'I want to have enough food to eat, and I want to be able to go to school one day.' And that was it. That was all of his ambition at 14 years of age."

Adds Magnus, "And it was really his words that prompted the birth of Mary's Meals." The humble words of a child brought into sharp focus the need to both feed children and enable them to go to school to earn an education and help break the cycle of poverty and hunger, thereby offering hope for a better future.

Feeding hungry children where they learn is a simple idea that is the basis for Mary's Meals. Yet many more children are waiting, so we continue to work toward feeding the next hungry child.

## Current Global Hunger Crisis Facts

- World Food Program [says](#) 783 million people are facing chronic hunger.
- UNESCO figures estimate [67+ million children](#) are out of school due to food-related issues.
- Crisis attributed to 4 Cs: conflict, climate shocks, costs and COVID.
- Mary's Meals has school-feeding [programs](#) in 9 of [18 hunger hot spots](#) as of May 2023.
- Mary's Meals serves in Niger in the [Sahel](#) region and in [East African](#) countries.

## Milestones

- Mary's Meals feeds 2,429,182 children every school day in their place of education in 18 countries.
- In 2023, Mary's Meals is feeding 149,241 more children in 330 additional schools than in 2022.
- In fall 2023, Mary's Meals resumed basic school feeding for 10,000 children in Tigray, Ethiopia.
- Mary's Meals received the 2023 [Princess of Asturias Award for Concord](#).
- This simple school feeding model is locally-managed, scalable and replicable.
- Where possible, locally-sourced food, suppliers, and fuel is used to help the local economy.
- Education helps break the cycle of poverty and provides hope for future generations.
- Girls make up 50% of our school feeding programs globally.
- Magnus MacFarlane-Barrow was honored as one of [CNN's Top Ten Heroes in 2010](#) and in June 2022 was saluted a second time during a [CNN Salute to Heroes broadcast](#).
- Magnus was recognized in 2015 by Time Magazine as one of the [Top 100 Most Influential People](#) in the world.
- [Pope Francis](#) blessed the work of Mary's Meals and urges work of feeding children to continue.
- The charity is named after Mary, the mother of Jesus, and is a fruit of [Medjugorje](#).
- Magnus is the best-selling author of [The Shed That Fed 2 Million Children](#).
- In 2020, Magnus published his second book, [Give: Charity and the Art of Living Generously](#).
- 2022 was the [20<sup>th</sup> anniversary](#) of Mary's Meals.
- Five-year [Impact study](#) shows the impact on health & education in our program countries.
- Mary's Meals USA is one of 14 national affiliate organizations supporting school-feeding programs in 18 countries.
- It costs just [\\$25.20](#) - .13 cents per meal - to feed a child for an entire school year.

## Quick Links

- [Where We Work](#)
- [Our Impact](#)
- [Make a Difference](#)
- Mary's Meals USA [press releases](#)

## To arrange interviews, or request photos, or videos, please contact:

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