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On the Frontlines of Hunger: New Film Exposes Hidden Hunger Crisis in Ethiopia and Calls the World to Act

Mary's Meals documentary features activist Sir Bob Geldof and Roma Downey, giving rare access and a human face to one of the world's most underreported emergencies.

Bloomfield, N.J. – October 29, 2025 – Mary's Meals announces the global digital release of "[On the Frontlines of Hunger](#)," a 57-minute documentary filmed in Tigray, Ethiopia, and London, England, that shares an urgent story as yet left untold because of restricted media access. Available on [YouTube](#) on November 5 at 7AM EDT, the film is narrated by actor Roma Downey and features an exclusive in-depth interview with Sir Bob Geldof, rarely seen Live Aid (1985) footage, and testimonies from those living and working in Tigray today.

Amid the [worsening humanitarian crisis](#), the film shows how war, poverty, climate change, and drought have destroyed decades of progress and pushed communities back toward famine. Despite overwhelming challenges, the documentary spotlights resilience, dignity, and hope – and the heroic local efforts helping children to survive and continue to learn.

Mary's Meals has worked [in Tigray](#) since 2017, partnering with communities to serve daily school meals and, during the regional conflict from November 2020 – November 2022, adapting to help children and families in extreme need. This long-standing presence enabled rare access to people and places, grounding the film in first-hand accounts.

The documentary has been screened with opinion-formers and media in the United Kingdom (U.K.), including a special showing at the U.K. Parliament at Westminster, and at the Frontline Club, London, to mark [40 years since Live Aid](#) and to bring renewed focus to a crisis still absent from many headlines.

Earlier this year, "On the Frontlines of Hunger" made its world premiere at the [Sarasota Film Festival](#), in Sarasota, Florida, where audiences and programmers praised its access and urgency. The global digital premiere launches on YouTube November 5 making the film freely available so viewers around the world can watch, share, and take action.

Quotes:

"It's all so very simple. A child is hungry – feed them. That's all you need to know. Mary's Meals knows it and does it."

— **Sir Bob Geldof, musician and activist**

"I am honored to be involved with On the Frontlines of Hunger. We gained unique access to a vital story that the world desperately needs to hear. I am praying it is heard, praying it is seen, and praying it has impact."

— **Roma Downey, Emmy and Golden Globe nominated actor, narrator of "On the Frontlines of Hunger"**

“Most people still don’t know there is a crisis in Ethiopia. It seems Tigray is no longer a place of interest on the global agenda, even when 90% of its population is in urgent need of food aid, the silence is deafening.”

— Magnus MacFarlane-Barrow, CEO and Founder of Mary’s Meals; co-writer of “On the Frontlines of Hunger”

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About Mary’s Meals

Now in its 23rd 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 and trusted partners to provide one daily nutritious meal in a place of learning to bring 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 more than 3 million children every school day in more than 5,800 schools in the following countries: Benin, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Haiti, India, Kenya, Lebanon, Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique, South Sudan, Syria, Yemen, Zambia, and Zimbabwe. Mary’s Meals is part of the global 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.

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