

A young girl with a beaded necklace is the central focus of the image. She is wearing a white tank top and a colorful beaded necklace with red, blue, and green beads. She is smiling and looking towards the camera. The background is a blurred outdoor setting with rocks and foliage.

mary's
meals

a simple solution
to world hunger

Mary's Meals International

Q1 Quarterly Update to Mary's Meals Canada
January – December 2023 Project
Kenya



Quarterly Update to Mary's Meals Canada: April 2023

Contents

1. Company information
2. Introduction
3. Quarterly update

1. Company information

MARY'S MEALS INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATION (MMI) (Incorporated in Scotland, No. SC488380) Charity No. SC045223

Address of Registered Office

Craig Lodge, Dalmally, Argyll PA33 1AR
Tel. 01838 200605

Directors:

David Clayton (Chair)	Bishop John Keenan
Peter John Higgins	Graham Paterson
Jacob Allen	Marie Da Silva
Dr Christian Stelzer	John Darley
Željka Markić	Ana Diez de Riveria-Laffont
Dr Cornelius Chipoma	Sebastian Bailey
Michael George	Karel Necesal

Officers:

Magnus MacFarlane-Barrow (Chief Executive Officer)
Michael Ferguson (Company Secretary)

Mary's Meals International Organisation is the central organisation that co-ordinates, supports and leads the global Mary's Meals movement, under the direction of the Chief Executive Officer and through the work of our global directorates.

MARY'S MEALS KENYA (MMK)

Address of Registered Office

Mary's Meals Kenya
PO Box 44-30100
Kenmosa Village
Off Kaptagat Road
Eldoret
Kenya

Shadow Board Members

Brian Haworth
Bishop Dominic Kimengich
Graeme Little
Magnus MacFarlane-Barrow

Mary's Meals Kenya is a branch of Mary's Meals International Organisation and is the organisation that implements the Mary's Meals school feeding program in Kenya.



2. Introduction

To: Mary's Meals Canada Board of Directors

Date: 28 April 2023

Project: The charitable and educational purpose of this project is to provide one daily meal in a place of education for children in Kenya.

Overview: Mary's Meals Canada and Mary's Meals International Organisation (MMI) entered into a contract on 14 February 2023 under which MMI is to support Mary's Meals Canada's school feeding program in Kenya. The number of children to be fed is based on the funds received, which is recorded as restricted funds for the work of Mary's Meals Canada in Kenya. MMI is delivering the project directly through Mary's Meals Kenya (MMK).

Total grant: The total value of the grant proposal is CAD 273,719.36 and will be applied as follows.

Breakdown of restricted funds			
	Cost Per Child	Number of children*	Restricted Funds
School feeding program Turkana, Kenya	CAD 31.70	8,634	CAD 273,719.36
		TOTAL	CAD 273,719.36

*Please note number of children is based on global cost per child and is indicative only.

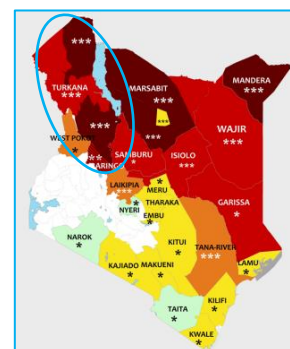
3. Quarterly Update

This is the first quarterly report to the Mary's Meals Canada Board of Directors for April 2023 as required under the Project Designation dated 14 February 2023, under which Mary's Meals Canada instructed MMI to provide one meal on each school day in all Mary's Meals Canada's project schools in Turkana County, Kenya.

MMI gratefully acknowledge receipt of the first instalment of the grant payment on the 28th April 2023 to the value of 34,795.23 CAD. In the period since the project began, we have utilized the grant instalments, successfully providing the services detailed in the Project Designation and providing school meals to children on behalf of Mary's Meals Canada in Turkana County, Kenya.

[An update on your project in Kenya](#)

There have now been five consecutive failed rainy seasons due to the ongoing drought. This has resulted in an unprecedented deterioration in food and malnutrition as the population, who rely on agriculture, have been unable to grow enough food due to lack of rains.¹ Additionally, food prices have skyrocketed, limiting purchasing power.² As a result, the region is facing 'Emergency' levels of food insecurity.³ This directly translates to the 'extremely critical' levels of malnutrition currently experienced by the population also.⁴ The malnutrition levels in Turkana compared to the rest of Kenya is indicated with the dark brown and red in the map on the right. As seen, the levels of malnutrition in Turkana are extremely high when



¹ Reliefweb, Kenya: IPC Acute Food Insecurity and Acute Malnutrition Analysis (February-June 2023), Feb. 2023) (<https://reliefweb.int/report/kenya/kenya-ipc-acute-food-insecurity-and-acute-malnutrition-analysis-february-june-2023-published-20-february-2023>)

² Ibid

³ Ibid.

⁴ Ibid.



compared to the majority of Kenya.⁵ Unfortunately, malnutrition is expected to deteriorate further as the regions hurtles towards its sixth failed rainy season, compounding an already extremely alarming situation

Food insecurity and malnutrition is having a devastating effect on children of Turkana. Many are dropping out of school due to reduced household income forcing them to hunt for food instead of being in school and causing family displacement from the drought as these nomadic communities search for water and food.⁶ Additionally, young children are particularly vulnerable to malnutrition and can suffer its effects in later life, as nutrition during their early years of life is vital for their development.⁷ More than ever, poverty undermines children's futures and impacts their opportunity to realise their full potential as they remain virtually helpless to the spiralling food insecurity unfolding before them as a result of climate change and inflation.

At a time when the future for the children of Turkana is seemingly bleak, Mary's Meals Canada's school feeding program has been of critical support to the lives of thousands of children in ECDs. You have ensured that children receive a daily meal in their place of education. In a context where Mary's Meals is virtually the only safety net these children have in terms of secure access to food, the promise of a daily meal is a lifeline the young children enrolled in your project schools.

[The impact of your work in ECDs in Turkana](#)

The impact of Mary's Meals Canada's school feeding program in Turkana continues to be significant as many communities in drought-ravaged Turkana are facing famine conditions. By providing nutritious meals, packed with the vitamins and minerals children need to grow up healthy and strong in both body and mind, we're helping to give vulnerable pre-school children a better start in life. The benefits of school feeding as a form of early childhood intervention have been proven to lead to increased survival rates, and better health, growth and brain development and reverse any development delays caused by early malnutrition.⁸ The picture on the right shows the children you are feeding taking part in a class at Atadeit ECD where they learn through creative play, making them more prepared for primary school.



To fully understand the life-changing impact daily meals are having on the children, we have heard firsthand from those who are directly benefitting from the program delivered by MMK under the instruction of Mary's Meals Canada. We spoke to Rhoda, who is six years old and attends Kaloboi ECD in Turkana, where Mary's Meals Canada's program is delivered. Rhoda, pictured left standing in front



of her fellow pupils, explained to us what her education would be like if Mary's Meals was not served at her school: ***"If there will be no food at school, life would be bad. I would be forced to go to the village and work for food."*** This highlights the importance of school feeding in helping to attract children into school as well as enabling them to attend on a regular basis. Rhoda went on to tell us about the impact of the daily meal on her learning. She said: ***"It is Mary's Meals that makes me come to***

⁵ Reliefweb, Kenya: IPC Acute Food Insecurity and Acute Malnutrition Analysis (February-June 2023), Feb. 2023) (<https://reliefweb.int/report/kenya/kenya-ipc-acute-food-insecurity-and-acute-malnutrition-analysis-february-june-2023-published-20-february-2023>)

⁶ UNICEF Kenya, *Out of School Children in Turkana Country*, 2023. (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fCvjh9nHZoY>)

⁷ UNICEF, WHO and World Bank Group, *Joint malnutrition global and regional dataset*, 2017.

⁸ UNICEF, *Early Childhood: Why Early Childhood Development?*, 2013.



school every day without missing. After taking my meal at school, I get more energy to concentrate on my studies.”

Significantly, girls make up 52% of the total number of children enrolled in Mary’s Meals Canada’s school feeding program. This is extremely encouraging as girls are faced with competing priorities and cultural barriers that make it difficult for them to access education, with statistics from the County Government of Turkana showing that girls are 1.3 times more likely to miss school than their male counterparts.⁹ As such, the daily meals Mary’s Meals Canada provides are playing a crucial role in allowing equal access to education for girls, like Rhoda, who hope for a better future.

We also spoke with volunteers at Kaloboi. Veronica, pictured right, is a volunteer cook at Kaloboi ECD. She told us about what impact she has seen on the children enrolled at the school and why she is motivated to give her time to support the project. She said: *“During this time of drought, animals have died, and parents have no food to feed their children, they have all come to school including those booked for early marriages.”* She added: *“I am a volunteer cook with three children receiving Mary’s Meals in this school, I was motivated by these young children, and I always come to cook for them.”* Lastly, Veronica told us about her favorite thing about Mary’s Meals: *“I like Mary’s Meals because they supply food every term without delaying, this food is highly nutritious, and our children are growing healthier. They supply soap as well that promotes hygiene.”*



The testimonies above highlight the impact that Mary’s Meals Canada’s school feeding program has had on some of Kenya’s poorest children and most remote communities. It is evident from each testimony that Mary’s Meals is attracting children into the classroom, reducing hunger for each beneficiary, and is allowing the most vulnerable children the chance of a life-changing education.

Thank you

As a result of your school feeding program, children in Kenya are receiving nutritious meals in school for an entire year. This has had a significant impact on the lives of these vulnerable children; helping them to actively participate in their education through the promise of a daily meal.

On behalf of all the children you are supporting in Turkana, Kenya, **thank you.**



⁹ Save the Children, *Accelerated Learning Program gives Hope to Older children in Turkana*, June 2022. <https://kenya.savethechildren.net/news/accelerated-learning-program-gives-hope-older-children-turkana>