



Mary's Meals International

Q1 Quarterly Update to Mary's Meals Canada
January-December 2023 Project
Malawi





Quarterly Update to Mary's Meals Canada: April 2023

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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.

SCOTTISH INTERNATIONAL RELIEF MALAWI (also known as Mary's Meals Malawi)

Registration reference: NGO/R/07/18

Address of Registered Office

Mary's Meals Malawi, PO Box E368, Post Dot Net, Blantyre
Telephone: +265 (0)1875450

Trustees

Magnus MacFarlane-Barrow
Marie Da Silva
Luc Deschamps
Graeme Little
Anita Mankhambo

Scottish International Relief Malawi (Mary's Meals Malawi) is the organisation that implements the Mary's Meals school feeding program in Malawi.

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 Malawi.

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 Malawi. 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 Malawi. Mary's Meals International Organisation (MMI) is delivering the project directly through Scottish International Relief Malawi (known as Mary's Meals Malawi).

Total grant: The total value of the grant proposal is CAD 615,935.62 and will be applied as follows.

Breakdown of restricted funds			
	Cost Per Child	Number of children*	Restricted Funds
School feeding program, Mzuzu City, Malawi	CAD 31.70	19,430	CAD 615,935.62
		TOTAL	CAD 615,935.62

**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 Mzuzu City, Northern Malawi.

MMI gratefully acknowledges receipt of the first instalment of the grant payment on the 28th April 2023 to the value of 78,297.80 CAD. In the period since the project began, we have utilized the grant installments, successfully providing the services detailed in the Project Designation and providing school meals to children on behalf of Mary's Meals Canada in Mzuzu, Northern Malawi.

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

In March, southern Malawi was hit by Cyclone Freddy which caused enormous devastation to infrastructure and livelihoods, as well as tragically taking the lives of more than 676 people.¹ Cyclone Freddy has inundated farmlands and destroyed produce – just as farmers were about to harvest the only crop of the year – compounding an already extremely challenging year in which 3.8 million people were already in need of food assistance before the storm hit.² According to UNICEF, at least 280,000 children have been affected by the storm³, with the Ministry of Education in Malawi announcing a

¹ OCHA, *The UN and Humanitarian Partners Call for US\$70.6 million to Provide Life-Saving Assistance to People in Malawi affected by the passage of Cyclone Freddy*, April 2023. (<https://reliefweb.int/report/malawi/united-nations-and-humanitarian-partners-call-us706-million-provide-life-saving-assistance-people-malawi-affected-passage-cyclone-freddy>)

² OCHA, *Malawi: Tropical Cyclone Freddy – Flash Update*, 18 March 2023. (file:///C:/Users/HelenBlack/Downloads/ROSEA_20230318_Malawi_CycloneFreddy_FlashUpdate_3_def.pdf).

³ Ibid.



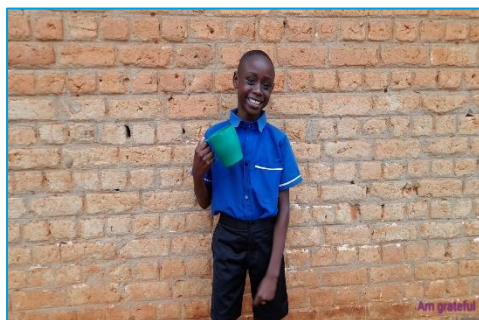
temporary suspension for all primary and secondary schools located in the areas worst affected, until the end of the second term on 31 March 2023. Mary's Meals continues to monitor the situation closely and is working tirelessly to help children and communities who have lost so much as a result of this disastrous storm.

On top of the devastating impacts of Cyclone Freddy as well as tropical storm Ana which also hit Malawi in January 2022, Malawi has been in the grips of a catastrophic outbreak of cholera, with more than 50,000 cases being reported since March 2022⁴. Malawi's latest cholera outbreak has been described as the worst in two decades, with every Malawian district affected and cases continuing to spike in 2023⁵. The extremity of the situation was reflected in January 2023 with a two-week delay in reopening schools after the Christmas holidays in Lilongwe and Blantyre to help stop the spread of the disease. Schools have since reopened and thanks to Mary's Meals Canada's vast experience in understanding how to best respond to challenging situations, we are continuing to ensure that hunger does not stop children going to school. Under the instruction of Mary's Meals Canada, Mary's Meals Malawi has ensured the children at your project schools have still been incentivised to go to school despite these challenges, thanks to the daily meal provided every school day.



Giving those we serve a voice is imperative to our work and is at the heart of everything we do. The testimonies below show that from the very first meal provided by Mary's Meals Canada has had a direct positive impact on thousands of children's lives, as well as the entire communities surrounding your project schools.

One of the children benefitting from your support is 10-year-old Hope, pictured left, who is enrolled at St Peters Primary School. He spoke about the impact that Mary's Meals has had on her education. He said: ***"Porridge keeps me strong the whole school day and it helps in increasing my participation in class."*** As Hope progresses through school he can



concentrate and learn in class thanks to Mary's Meals, we are therefore confident that she will be able to stay in school and reach her full potential, helping to break intergenerational cycles of poverty through the power of education.

Now more than ever, education is proving to be a crucial tool to mitigate chronic poverty as children and communities in Malawi are facing increasingly harsh realities and are having to adapt their ways of living to survive. Mary's Meals Canada has ensured they have been able to attend school, with the promise of a daily meal, where they can learn, and work towards a better future for themselves. These benefits will be seen for years to come when these children grow into educated adults who are capable of enacting positive change for themselves, their communities, and their countries.

Equal, long-term partnerships between communities, schools, and Mary's Meals are at the heart of our model. These trusting, sustainable relationships provide the essential basis that underpins all of our work. Mary's Meals spoke to Faida, pictured below, who is a volunteer cook at St Peters Primary School. By helping to cook and serve the meals to the children enrolled at the school, Faida sees firsthand the power this food has on helping children achieve an education. Faida tells us of the strong community

⁴ Malawi: MSF responds to the country's worst cholera outbreak on record, *Medecins sans Frontieres*, January 2023. (<https://www.doctorswithoutborders.org/latest/malawi-msf-responds-countrys-worst-cholera-outbreak-record>)

⁵ Rising death toll of Malawi cholera outbreak, *Scotland Malawi Partnership*, January 2023. (<https://www.scotland-malawipartnership.org/news/rising-death-toll-of-malawi-cholera-outbreak>).



support for the school feeding programme and what motivates her to volunteer her valuable time: *“Most learners leave their homes without taking breakfast, this porridge not only motivates them to come to school, but it is also the only food most learners take for the day. I am happy to be part of Mary’s Meals’ generosity in ensuring learners eat something when they come to school by preparing porridge for these learners.”*



This valuable school and community commitment to school feeding contributes towards the success and sustainability of Mary’s Meals Canada’s school feeding program in Mzuzu and is a demonstration of the partnership Mary’s Meals Malawi. Under the instruction of Mary’s Meals Canada, has with each school and community, working together to provide children hope. Mary’s Meals Canada has been able to make a long-term promise to children enrolled across your project schools. This gives them secure access to food and incentivizes them to enroll in school which in turn improves their progression in school and educational outcomes.

Thank you

As a result of your school feeding program, children in Malawi 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 the children supported in your program in Mzuzu City, Malawi, thank you.

