



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  
Zambia





## Quarterly Update to Mary's Meals Canada: May 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.

#### **MARY'S MEALS ZAMBIA LIMITED (MMZ)**

Registration reference: 122443

##### **Address of Registered Office**

Mary's Meals Zambia Limited, PO Box 32587, Lusaka, Zambia

##### **Board Members**

Dr. Cornelius Chipoma  
Mwape Bwalya  
Ambassador Arnos Musonda  
Graeme Little  
Leah Swindon

Mary's Meals Zambia Limited is the organisation that implements the Mary's Meals school feeding program in Zambia.



## 2. Introduction

To: Mary's Meals Canada Board of Directors

Date: 10 May 2023

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

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 Zambia. 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 Zambia. MMI is delivering the project directly through Mary's Meals Zambia (MMZ).

Total grant: The total value of the grant proposal is CAD 502,304.11 and will be applied as follows.

Breakdown of restricted funds			
	Cost Per Child	Number of children*	Restricted Funds
School feeding program Zambia	CAD 31.70	15,845	CAD 502,304.11
		<b>TOTAL</b>	CAD 502,304.11

*\*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 Eastern Province, Zambia.

MMI gratefully acknowledges receipt of the first instalment of the grant payment on the 28<sup>th</sup> April 2023 to the value of 63,852.95 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 Chipata and Chipangali districts of Zambia.

### Updates from Zambia

During this time of ongoing challenges and hardships for communities in Chipata and Chipangali districts in the Eastern Province of Zambia, where 22% of the population have insufficient food consumption<sup>1</sup>, Mary's Meals Canada's school feeding program is ensuring children have had a guaranteed meal in their place of education. To fully understand the true impact of this life-changing work, we travelled to Chigumu Primary School to hear first-hand from children and communities who are directly benefitting from this project.

We first spoke to 14-year-old Ruth, pictured below, who is currently in Grade 7 at Chigumu Primary School. Ruth receives a nutritious bowl of porridge every day thanks to Mary's Meals Zambia, under the instruction of Mary's Meals Canada, and she tells us of the impact this is having on her education:

<sup>1</sup> Hunger Map, World Food Program, Zambia, May 2023. (<https://hungermap.wfp.org/>)





*“Every time I am in school, I enjoy Mary’s Meals porridge. The porridge gives me energy to participate in class. I am able to concentrate in class better after I eat my porridge.”* She added: *“I enjoy being in school because of the lessons and the porridge that we eat with my friends. I also enjoy playing with a ball with my friends after class.”*

In times of increased hunger and food insecurity, children are often the first to suffer, with their education being impacted due to being required

to work or to search for food. Mary’s Meals Canada’s school feeding program is making sure that this is not the case for children like Ruth, by ensuring that they continue to receive a daily meal at school and providing their families with a social safety net at a time when food at home is not guaranteed. Ruth went on to tell us about what life would be like for her in school if she did not receive Mary’s Meals. She said: *“Hunger is painful. I cannot imagine being in school without the Mary’s Meals porridge. It would be hard to stay in school. I hope that they do not stop providing the porridge.”*



In order for the project to be delivered as planned, Mary’s Meals Zambia, under the provision of Mary’s Meals Canada, relies on the commitment and dedication of volunteers within the communities where this project is delivered. During our visit to Chigumu Primary School, we spoke to Alice, who has been volunteering for Mary’s Meals at the school since February 2022. Alice explained what motivates her to



give up her valuable time to help cook and serve the meals to the children of Chigumu Primary School:

*“The Mary’s Meals programme is a very good programme because I have seen how it has helped a lot of children not stay hungry while in school. I joined as a volunteer because I saw first-hand the importance of the porridge in the children’s lives. The porridge has become very important to their learning experience.”*

Alice further added the impact of the school feeding program on her wider family life and how it is

supporting her community. She told us: *“I have two grandchildren that come to this school. The children are healthy, energetic and each morning with any effort on my part, they rush to school all because of Mary’s Meals programme. In the past, a lot of children in my community did not want to come to school because of fear of staying hungry for long hours. Those who went eventually dropped out.”* She added lastly: *“A lot of children now come to school thanks to the Mary’s Meals school feeding program.”*

Mary’s Meals Canada’s school feeding program provided a vital social safety net for communities across Chipata and Chipangali districts in Zambia, enabling children to have dreams for the future. The testimonies outlined above from Ruth and Alice demonstrate the impact that a daily meal in school can have on children, as well as entire communities.

### Thank you

As a result of your school feeding program, children in Zambia 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 Chipangali and Chipata, Zambia, thank you.