



mary's
meals

a simple solution
to world hunger

Mary's Meals International

Q1 Quarterly Update to Mary's Meals Canada
January-December 2024 Project Malawi





Quarterly Update to Mary's Meals Canada: April 2024

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.

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

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: 22 April 2024

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 12 February 2024 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 812,503.00 and has been applied as follows.

Breakdown of restricted funds			
	Cost Per Child	Number of children*	Restricted Funds
School feeding program, Mzuzu City, Malawi	CAD 31.70	25,631*	CAD 812,503.00
		TOTAL	CAD 812,503.00

**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 2024 as required under the Project Designation dated 12 February 2024, under which Mary's Meals Canada instructed MMI to provide one meal on each school day in schools in Malawi.

MMI gratefully acknowledges receipt of the first quarter instalments of grant payments by April 2024 to the total value of 52,198.53 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 Malawi.

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

As a small landlocked country, livelihoods in Malawi are highly dependent on rainfed agriculture and the population is highly vulnerable to the effects of climate-related shocks and disasters, especially cyclone-



induced flooding and drought.¹ This dependency on agriculture for income and food amidst increasing climate-related stresses throughout the country has resulted in an estimated **4.4 million people** facing acute food insecurity, which is a distressing increase of **16%** since the start of 2023.² In March 2024, President Lazarus Chakwera of Malawi declared a national state of disaster in 23 of the country's 28 districts due to the devastating impact of drought on the population.³ The President has called for an urgent need for increased humanitarian assistance as part of his initiative to stop hunger.⁴ As always in situations like this, children are among the greatest sufferers and children in Malawi continue to have severely low primary school completion rates, with only **51% of children** completing their primary education.⁵ Additionally, the devaluation of the Malawian Kwacha at the end of 2023 has continued to have extremely damaging impacts on the economy in Malawi through the start of 2024 and it is feared that costs of fuel and food will continue to rise as a result of this unprecedented decrease in currency value in Malawi. These compounding factors of economic instability, climate related disasters, and an alarming rise in food insecurity, are having a devastating impact on thousands of communities across Malawi. This highlights the importance of MMM's work in Malawi, under the instruction of Mary's Meals Canada, to support children and their families at this time of increased hardships for many.

By hearing firsthand from the children who are directly receiving the daily meals provided by Mary's Meals Canada's school feeding program, we are able to fully understand the impact of this life-changing work. We spoke to Rejoice, pictured right, who is 11-years-old and receives Mary's Meals every school day at Chibanja Primary School. She told us about the impact this has on her life: **"Mary's Meals porridge will positively impact my future because I am energetic during lessons and this helps me to perform. My favorite thing about Mary's Meals' porridge is that it is yummy and healthy because it gives me energy while at school."** Rejoice's



words are powerful as they truly show how MMM's work, under the instruction of Mary's Meals Canada, is having a profound impact on children across Malawi. Rejoice went on to tell us what her life would be like at school without Mary's Meals Canada's program: **"If Mary's Meals was not here, it could have been hard for me to attend classes each day and I would have been sad due to hunger."**

To gain a full picture of the impact of Mary's Meals Canada's program, it is important for us to hear from teachers at the schools where your meals are served, as they can see firsthand the impact that the meals are having on the children enrolled at the school. We spoke to Mercy, who is the Headteacher at Mchengautuwa I Primary School. Pictured below, Mercy explains to us what she has witnessed amongst the pupils at the school since the introduction of Mary's Meals: **"Mary's Meals has impacted positively on the health of our learners at the school. Mary's Meals' porridge has made learners' concentration and participation in class improve positively."** As a result of Mary's Meals Canada's school feeding program, children have an incentive to attend school on a regular basis, where they will also have the energy needed to be able to concentrate and learn effectively. In addition to this, the daily meals provided

¹ World Food Programme, 2024. *Malawi Country Brief*. ([WFP Malawi Country Brief - February 2024](#))

² World Food Programme, 2024. *Malawi Country Brief*. ([WFP Malawi Country Brief - February 2024](#))

³ Africa News, 2024. *Malawi Declares State of Disaster over Drought Wrought by El Nino*. ([Malawi declares state of disaster over drought wrought by El Niño | Africanews](#))

⁴ *Ibid.*

⁵ World Food Programme, 2024. *Malawi Country Brief*. ([WFP Malawi Country Brief - February 2024](#))



by MMM, under the instruction of Mary's Meals Canada, are helping children to progress through their education, and this is also noted by Mercy: **"Enrolment and attendance of learners have improved since the program started at the school. Mary's Meals' program has contributed positively to the progression of learners from one class to another."** She added: **"With the school feeding program, the pass rate of learners has always been increasing."** Mary's Meals Canada's program is helping to support children across Malawi in their learning, by providing them with an incentive to attend school, where they can gain an education that could be their ladder out of poverty.

Thank you

At a time of increased climate-related vulnerability and growing food insecurity, Mary's Meals Canada's dedication and commitment to the children you serve has continued to make a difference to the lives of children across Malawi. The daily meals that you have provided have not only provided children with nutrition and stability but have also encouraged class attendance and promoted the importance of education as a lifeline out of poverty and hunger. On behalf of all the children you serve, **thank you.**



Children at Mchengautuwa I Primary School enjoying their daily meal