



mary's
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a simple solution
to world hunger

Mary's Meals International

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



Quarterly Update to Mary's Meals Canada: April 2024

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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 organization that implements the Mary's Meals school feeding program in Zambia.



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 Zambia.

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 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 662,607.55 and has been applied as follows.

Breakdown of restricted funds			
	Cost Per Child	Number of children*	Restricted Funds
School feeding program Zambia	CAD 31.70	20,902*	CAD 662,607.55
		TOTAL	CAD 662,607.55

*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 Zambia.

MMI gratefully acknowledges receipt of the first quarter instalments of grant payments by April 2024 to the total value of 42,568.63 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 Zambia.

[Updates from Zambia](#)

Communities across Zambia continue to feel the effects of rising food insecurity, climate change and the increase in the cost of living. At present, says the World Bank, Zambia **“ranks among the countries with the highest levels of poverty and inequality globally”**.¹ In February 2024, Zambia's president, President Hakainde Hichilema, declared the state of drought in the country as a national disaster, estimating that it is

¹ World Bank, Zambia – Overview (<https://www.worldbank.org/en/country/zambia/overview>).



affecting the livelihoods and food security of more than **one million families**.² Such drought, exacerbated by climate change and El Nino, has caused significant crop failures across Zambia and as the country continues to face the impacts of its worst cholera outbreak over the past year, food insecurity is continuing to increase throughout Zambia.³

In this extremely challenging current context in Zambia, Mary's Meals Canada's school feeding program in Zambia's Eastern Province is having a significant impact on the children it is supporting. One of these children is 12-year-old Ganizani, pictured right, who attends Kachele Primary School where he eats Mary's Meals every school day. He told us what these daily meals mean to him: **"Staying away from school meals staying without eating the porridge I have come to like so much. Luckily, those who come to cook the porridge also come everyday and that makes it possible to have the porridge every school day."** He went on to tell us the impact the meals have had on his every day learning at school: **"This porridge has energy levels that make me concentrate on the lessons being taught in class. I am able to do anything a teacher tells me to do. I really thank Mary's Meals for this porridge we have everyday."** Ganizani's words are a true testament to the importance of Mary's Meals Canada's work in Zambia, in helping families to not have to sacrifice their education due to hunger.



During our visit to Kachele Primary School, we also spoke to a senior teacher, Astrida, pictured left. She explained to us the impact she has seen firsthand and how Mary's Meals Canada's program is helping to support the pupils at her school. She told us: **"This school feeding program brings learners to school and it has greatly reduced absenteeism among learners. This has made some remarkable improvements in the general performance."** She went on to also say: **"For some, this porridge is the main meal and they can't afford to miss a single day because they will have nothing on that day if they don't eat the porridge here at school. So this porridge is helping in providing a quality education because the learners are ever present in class and they don't miss classes."** Thanks to the commitment of MMZ staff, under the instruction of Mary's Meals Canada, children at Kachele Primary School and across Zambia, are able to participate in their education and not be worried about hunger whilst they are at school.

² Aljazeera, 2024. *Zambia Declares National Disaster after Drought Devastates Agriculture*. ([Zambia declares national disaster after drought devastates agriculture | Climate Crisis News | Al Jazeera](#))

³ Oxfam International, 2024. *Over Six Million people face Hunger, Malnutrition and Water Scarcity in Zambia, Oxfam warns*. ([Over six million people face hunger, malnutrition and water scarcity in Zambia, Oxfam warns. | Oxfam International](#))



Thank you

Mary's Meals Canada's work is fundamental in providing a lifeline to the children you serve and your project in Zambia has enabled MMZ to keep the promise of a daily school meal to children we serve in the country. On behalf of all the children Mary's Meals Canada's school feeding program is supporting, **thank you.**



Children at a school in Zambia holding up their mugs with Ruth, one of Mary's Meals School Feeding Officers