

Your Sponsor A School Update

Name of School: Dowa 2 Primary School, Dowa, Central Malawi

Current School Enrolment: 1,137

Sponsored by: Mary's Meals Czech Republic

mary's  
meals



# Thank you for changing lives!

- You're doing something amazing! By sponsoring a school, you're giving children in one of Malawi's poorest communities the chance to gain a life-changing education.
- With the spread of Covid-19 and resulting school closures, unfortunately we are unable to provide you with a detailed report on your specific school for the foreseeable future.
- However, we hope this more general update – with information on our Covid-19 response – demonstrates that Mary's Meals' work cannot and will not stop.
- Thank you for helping to make this possible!



- Mary's Meals works with local communities to provide life-changing school meals.
- We run programmes in 19 countries where poverty and hunger often prevent children from gaining an education.
- Our vision is that every child receives one daily meal in their place of education and that all those who have more than they need, share with those who lack even the most basic things.
- Mary's Meals offers children hope and, through education, a possible route out of poverty for the future.



- It costs just £15.90 / €18.30 / US \$21.00/ CAN \$26.40 to feed a child with Mary's Meals for an entire school year.
- It's a simple idea that works. Research shows that children who eat Mary's Meals:
  - have more energy
  - feel healthier and happier
  - find it easier to concentrate
  - do better in school
- We are committed to keeping costs low – at least 93% of donations are spent on our charitable work.
- Without our passionate volunteers and supporters, our work would not be possible.



# About Mary's Meals

- Mary's Meals is owned and run by local communities.
- We provide training, equipment and ingredients so that volunteers can cook and serve the school meals for the children. We have more than 80,000 volunteers in Malawi alone.
- While schools are closed, parents are cooking the daily meals for their children using take-home rations distributed by Mary's Meals.
- Where possible, we buy food from local farmers and producers, which helps to support local economies and benefits the wider community.



- Malawi is one of the world's poorest countries. Many families live through farming, but struggle to grow enough food.
- It is home to our largest school feeding programme and, today, almost one in three primary school children in the country receives Mary's Meals.
- One of those children is 11-year-old Promise (pictured) who dreams of becoming a nurse.
- Promise says: *"I come to school hungry and porridge helps me to feel full. It gives me energy and I feel healthy because of the porridge."*



# Our Covid-19 response

mary's  
meals

**COVID-19  
RESPONSE**

**Our work won't stop**



# Our Covid-19 response (i)

- Around the world, Covid-19 forced schools to close and homes became places of learning.
- We had to find new ways of reaching the children who eat Mary's Meals – sometimes the only food they receive in a day.
- Working with governments, community leaders and our trusted partners, we have developed new methods of distribution.
- Through our Covid-19 response activities, we are still, thankfully, reaching virtually all of the children who rely on our nutritious meals. We are providing take-home rations through community distributions in countries where schools are closed and conducting in-school feeding where it is safe to do so.



### Promoting hand hygiene

We're distributing soap and hygiene information to families to help prevent the spread of the virus.



### Encouraging social distancing

We're abiding by social distancing guidance at our community food collection points and explaining why.



### Supporting local communities

As well as feeding hungry children, we're continuing to support communities by sourcing food locally.





# Our Covid-19 response (ii)

- In Malawi, we are providing children with food at home until it is safe for them to return to the classroom and for in-school feeding to resume.
- Parents and guardians collect the food from a central distribution point – observing all necessary hygiene and social distancing measures.
- We are also distributing soap and handwashing guidance to help support communities' resilience to the virus.
- We are working hard to ensure we are ready to continue with our normal school feeding activities, once it is safe to do so, after schools reopen.



“I am married to a businessman and we are blessed with four children and I also look after my niece so in total I have five children. My first born is in secondary Form 1, the second born sat for Standard 8 exams, my niece is in Standard 7, my third born is in Standard 5 and my last born is in nursery school.

“To support my husband I sell soft drinks, sweet beer, freezes and more. But with the coronavirus issue, my sales dropped and things are not going as planned to include all our household budgets. It is lucky that I have received food rations for my children and that has given us a budgetary relief on breakfast.

“I am happy that we have phala at home. Now I see all my children being busy with school instead of complaining about hunger.”



“I am here today as a parent to receive likuni phala (porridge). It is my responsibility to protect myself and fellow parents from Covid-19 by following the procedures during distributions like today; I have demonstrated washing hands and keeping my personal space two meters apart.

“With pleasure I can now say all is well, because not only me, but all the parents who have children that come to this school, have received food that will be used to prepare breakfast in our homes with ease.

“It works to my advantage that I am near the school. With every school activity that requires immediate attention from us parents, I am able to assist the teachers and other committees. Going forward most parents will have a keen interest in all school affairs to pay back for what the school feeding programme has done for our community at large.”



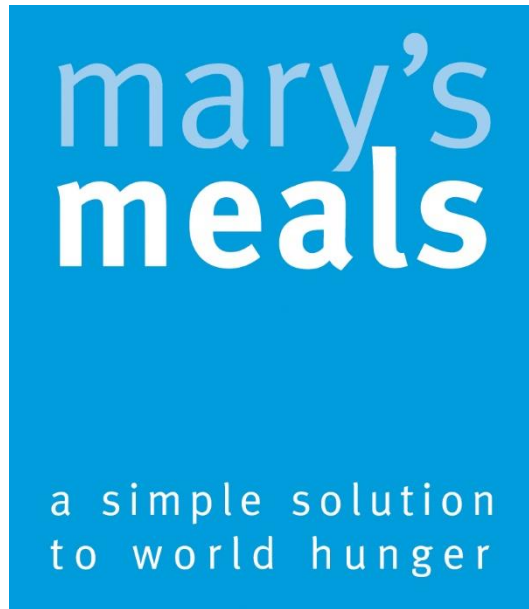
# Thank you!

mary's  
meals

- One of the core values of Mary's Meals is that we believe in the innate goodness of people.
- In this time of crisis, we are seeing this goodness every day from all corners of the Mary's Meals family.
- We are so grateful to all our volunteers and supporters for keeping their faith in our mission for the sake of the children and families who rely on Mary's Meals.
- Thank you for the crucial role you are playing in bringing food and hope to thousands of children.
- For the latest updates about our Covid-19 response, visit our website: [marysmeals.org](https://marysmeals.org) or check our social media channels.

**COVID-19  
RESPONSE**

**Our work won't stop**



To find out more about Mary's  
Meals or to contact our team,  
please visit:  
[marysmeals.org](http://marysmeals.org)