

mary's  
meals

a simple solution  
to world hunger



# Mary's Meals

## Report to Global Trade Review

October 2025

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We are delighted to share this report with you outlining the significant impact your remarkable support is having on the children we serve.

Since **June 2019** Global Trade Review (GTR) has generously donated **£66,244.00** to Mary's Meals. This has been through a combination of employee giving, spotlighting Mary's Meals at annual conferences, and fundraising through sports challenges. This partnership has taken many shapes, united in the shared values of ensuring every child receives a school meal in their place of education.

Your generosity has played a crucial role in our ability to keep our promise of a daily school meal to children. Our work would not be possible without the support of people like you, who share our belief that no child should miss out on the chance of an education because of hunger. **Thank you.**



## I. Global Overview

At the start of our partnership in 2019, Mary's Meals was feeding just over 1.6 million children. Today, thanks to the incredible support of **GTR and the GTR community**, we are serving **3 million children** with daily school meals across 16 countries.

Over the past five years, our partnership has helped drive this remarkable growth. This includes launching our **new programme in Mozambique**, where we are now serving more than 5,000 children for the first time. Your support has also enabled us to maintain school feeding during times of emergency, such as the earthquakes in Syria and Haiti, and to continue providing meals during periods of extreme insecurity in Lebanon, Yemen, and South Sudan.

Between **May 2024 and June 2025**, Mary's Meals expanded our programmes to reach an additional **830,000 children** with daily school meals, extending into both new and existing areas identified as being in greatest need.

These achievements have only been possible because of the steadfast commitment of GTR and the GTR community, whose partnership continues to bring hope and nourishment to millions of children around the world.

## II. Case Studies – Crisis in Tigray

For children living in the Tigray region, where your support enables us to serve meals, the cause of this has been the existence of famine-like conditions and conflict within the region, with warring factions leaving infrastructural destruction in their wake.

At the start of 2024, we launched our [Ethiopia Crisis Appeal](#) after the situation in Ethiopia continued to worsen. Our campaign was met with an outpouring of generous support which enabled us to expand our programme in Ethiopia to reach more than **110,000 children** as their communities continue to face the devastation of the recent civil war and ongoing climate shocks.

### Stories from Tigray:

#### Rebuilding after conflict

Behailu, pictured to the right, is a teacher at Ara Primary School in Tigray. Like many, she has witnessed the devastation that the conflict and drought have left on Tigray and the people living there. The food insecurity not only impacted the children's learning but also their mental health: *"The hunger came and the students could not learn at all. Those who were not coming to school because of the hunger, said to me 'What would we eat to learn? We have nothing to eat and we cannot buy a pen'. They couldn't come to school; they had to search for work"*

However, the arrival of Mary's Meals, supported by your continued generosity, has radically

changed this situation: *"Since the Mary's Meals school feeding programme started, we have many students and they are extremely motivated and are studying as much as possible, because they are getting a balanced diet. Those who had low self-confidence, have been awakened. They have a peace of mind and they are also satisfied to come to school. They are coming with confidence that they will learn because they know they will receive a meal at school".*

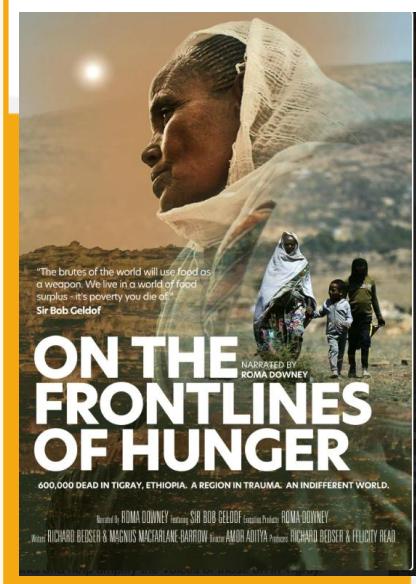


### On the Frontlines of Hunger:

Filmed in 2024 in Tigray, Ethiopia, and London, UK, On the Frontlines of Hunger tells the relatively unknown story - due to restricted media access - of the people of Tigray in their own voices. The film is narrated by Emmy and Golden Globe nominated actress Roma Downey and features testimony from those living and working in Tigray today.

As the humanitarian crisis in Tigray worsens, the film highlights how war, poverty, climate change, and drought have destroyed decades of progress, bringing the region to the brink of famine once again. Despite overwhelming challenges, the documentary showcases the resilience of individuals who continue to fight for survival and hope against all odds.

The film will be released on [Youtube](#) on 5 November 2025.



### III. Case Studies – Malawi and Haiti

External factors, such as war, civil unrest and climate change, continue to threaten the food security of millions around the world. Malawi is currently experiencing the worse drought in 100 years, leading to crop failings, cattle dying and families struggling to put enough food on the table. Approximately **4.5 million children** in Malawi are currently in need of some form of humanitarian assistance. Against this backdrop, **we are serving more than one million children – 1/3 of Malawi's primary school population** - every school day in Malawi.

In Haiti – a country facing significant challenges due to escalating gang violence, the country is experiencing one of the highest levels of food insecurity in the world. **Over half of the population** are in need of immediate food assistance. In response, Mary's Meals started working there in 2006, and **we are now feeding more than 180,000 children in over 580 places of education.**

#### Stories from Malawi:

##### Supporting Elise to succeed

Our work has benefitted children in Malawi like Elise (pictured right). Recent adverse weather events have severely impacted the production of crops on her family's landholding, leaving them with little food and none to sell. Elise, described by her teacher as a "smart girl" who "does her homework well", is preparing to

take her Primary School Leaving Certificate, the achievement of which will allow her to move up to secondary school and continue her educational journey. Because of the work of Mary's Meals, Elise has been empowered to stay in the classroom.

Her mother says: **"We dream of her going very far with her education because if she succeeds, our whole family will succeed".**



#### Stories from Haiti:

##### Supporting families through school meals

Daniela attends Communautaire Mixte de Cholette school in Haiti's Central Plateau, where she eats Mary's Meals. She wakes up eager to go to school each day, but she also remembers a time when it was not so easy. Sometimes Daniela's hunger-induced headaches were so bad she simply had to put her head down on the desk.

Now she says: **"When I have**

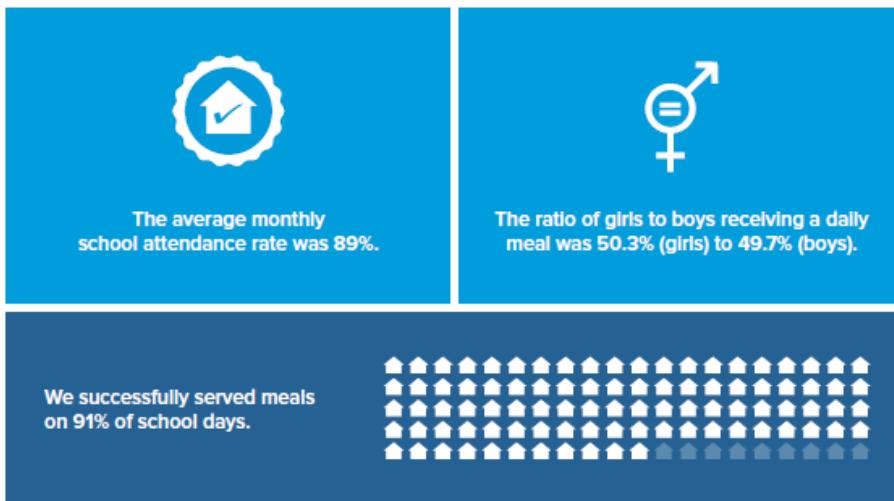
**eaten, I feel ready to learn. School is not difficult if you are full and focused – you can learn anything."**

As well as improving Daniela's health and studies, Mary's Meals has also helped to reduce her family's financial worries. Her father Michael is grateful for the positive impact the meals are having on his daughter and the community.

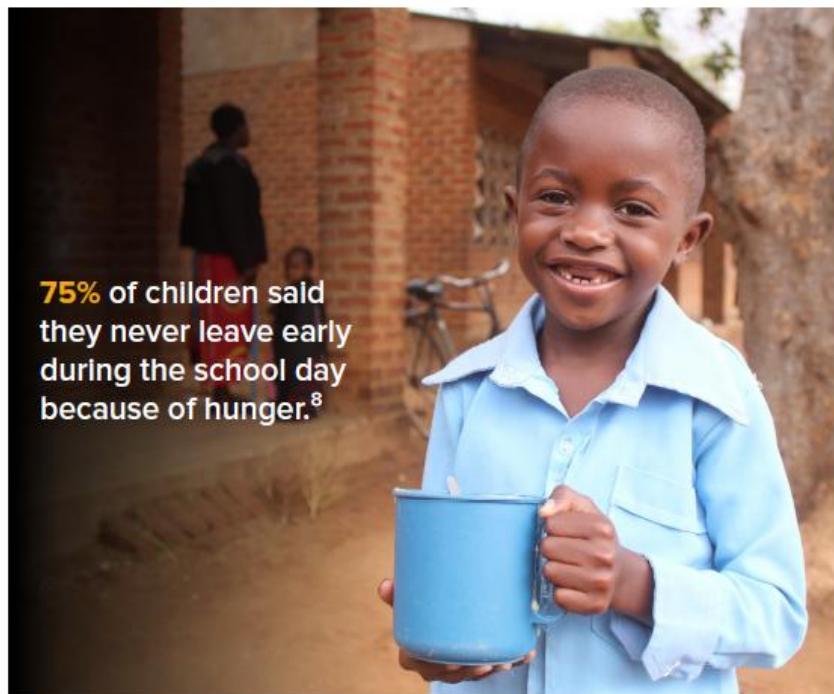
He says: **"Everyone has a better life now that kids in our community aren't as hungry as they were before."**

## IV. The impact of a school meal: an overview

Mary's Meals demonstrates that the meals served in our school feeding programmes provide a crucial pathway for children to remain in school, thrive, and develop and, in future, help to build stronger, more resilient communities.



Our most recent impact report tracked child-focused indicators across the four countries where we directly implement school feeding – Kenya, Liberia, Malawi and Zambia. Below are some key results from this evaluation of our work, based upon surveys with the children we serve, highlighting the remarkable and life changing impact your support has had



## V. Looking Ahead

For the remainder of 2025 and looking ahead to 2026 we stand ready to rapidly expand our school feeding programmes across Malawi, Zambia, Haiti, Ethiopia and South Sudan to reach more children in desperate need.

In **Malawi and Zambia**, where we currently operate our largest programmes, we will continue to scale through established partnerships, proven delivery models, and strong community engagement. These countries provide a reliable foundation for growth due to existing infrastructure and deep-rooted local relationships.

We are also strategically expanding in **Haiti, Ethiopia, and South Sudan**—nations where post-conflict recovery and fragility have left millions of children vulnerable. These regions face severe food insecurity and malnutrition, and school feeding can play a pivotal role in both humanitarian response and long-term recovery.



### Community Stories

- [3 Million Celebration \(video\)](#)
- [Meals that change lives – Haiti \(video\)](#)
- [Grains of Hope – Kenya \(video\)](#)
- [Our low-cost approach in action – Liberia \(video\)](#)
- [Walking Together – Madagascar \(video\)](#)
- [Namingwere Primary School – Malawi \(video\)](#)
- [Transforming future for girls – Yemen \(video\)](#)
- [Feeding the Future – Zambia \(video\)](#)



## ***On behalf of all the children you continue serve, thank you.***

As we reflect on the past six years of partnership, we are filled with sincere gratitude for your generous support and steadfast commitment to our mission. Your partnership has played a pivotal role in transforming the lives of thousands of children, bringing us closer to a world where every child has the opportunity to learn free from hunger.

Although this phase of our partnership is drawing to a close, we remain deeply appreciative of all we have achieved together. We look forward to the opportunity to collaborate again in the future and to continue building lasting change for the communities we serve.

