

Your Sponsor A School report

Dole Primary School, Mchinji, Central Malawi

Sponsored by St. Mary's Scottish Episcopal Church, Dalmahoy, Scotland, United Kingdom

mary's
meals



Thank you for changing lives!

Through your incredible generosity, you have enabled many children – living in one of the world's most impoverished countries – to come to school, receive a nutritious daily meal and gain an all-important education.

Without your support, these children would be working in fields, begging on street corners, or even scavenging among the garbage just to survive.

It is thanks to the support of special people like you that Mary's Meals has gone from feeding just 200 children in Malawi in 2002 to providing a daily meal for now more than ONE MILLION children across 12 different countries.

With 59 million children missing school today because of poverty and a further 66 million attending school so hungry they're not able to concentrate and learn, it's clear that our work is only just beginning.

Thank you for giving so generously to Mary's Meals and choosing to sponsor an entire school. We're very excited to share with you this report on your project!



About Mary's Meals

A quick reminder about Mary's Meals and our approach...

- Mary's Meals is a simple idea that works – by providing a daily meal in a place of education, chronically poor children are attracted to the classroom where they can gain a basic education that provides an escape route from poverty.
- The global Mary's Meals campaign was born in 2002 when Magnus MacFarlane-Barrow visited Malawi during a famine and met a mother dying from AIDS. When he asked her eldest son what his dreams were in life, he replied simply: “To have enough food to eat and to go to school one day.”
- 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.



About Mary's Meals

- The average global cost of feeding a child for a whole school year with Mary's Meals is just £12.20 / €14.50 / \$19.50.
- Today Mary's Meals is feeding 1,035,637 children every day at school in 12 different countries around the world.
- Where Mary's Meals are provided, there is a rise in rates of enrolment, attendance and academic performance.
- We have a commitment to keeping our overhead costs low, with at least 93% of donations being spent on our charitable work.
- Mary's Meals is a grassroots global movement. Without passionate, motivated volunteers, Mary's Meals cannot function.



About Mary's Meals

- Local communities own and run Mary's Meals in the project countries in which it operates. We have 65,000 volunteers in Malawi alone.
- Wherever possible, the meals provided by Mary's Meals are made with locally produced food, thereby supporting the local economy.
- Mary's Meals operates its international headquarters from a shed in a remote part of the Scottish Highlands.
- Mary's Meals is named after Mary, the mother of Jesus, who brought up her own child in poverty.
- Mary's Meals is a non-denominational charity which consists of, respects and reaches out to people of all faiths and none.



Mary's Meals in Malawi

Every night, too many of Malawi's children go to bed hungry, in the only clothes they own, in makeshift homes, weary at the thought of facing another day of struggling for survival tomorrow.

The lucky ones will have parents, or some other caregiver, who will look after them and provide them with love and support as they grow up in this most challenging of environments.

But for countless children – born into this country where life expectancy at birth struggles to surpass 50 and where HIV/AIDS and other illnesses are routinely robbing Malawi of people in their prime – the reality is that, all too often, they are destined to live life as an orphan.

This is the landlocked country in south-east Africa, which the UN ranks as the 17th least developed nation on Earth, and where the Mary's Meals campaign first began in 2002, feeding 200 children in the township of Chilomoni amidst that year's devastating famine.

Its founding partly inspired by a Malawian child who, when asked what his ambitions were in life, answered starkly, "To have enough food to eat and to go to school", Mary's Meals has continued to centre its rapid expansion on this country, where 40% of people live below the poverty line.



Mary's Meals in Malawi

Thanks to the incredible generosity of donors, Mary's Meals is now feeding over 770,000 Malawian children with a nutritious meal every day in their place of education. This means we are currently reaching over 25% of the country's entire primary school population – a remarkable feat, achieved in just 13 years of operation.

Head teachers frequently report that the impact of Mary's Meals in their schools has been enormous, and Mary's Meals' most recent research from Malawi shows a 24% increase in enrolment and 10% increase in attendance six months after the introduction of feeding. Long-term data trends from Mary's Meals' Malawi programme beginning in 2008, show that enrolment increases by an average of 30% three years after the introduction of Mary's Meals.

With more than 47% of Malawian children under five suffering from stunting, the importance of the daily meal children (particularly those who attend our Under-6 centres) receive from Mary's Meals cannot be overestimated.

Most of the kids who queue outside our school kitchen shelters, waiting patiently for the selfless and dedicated local volunteers to cook and serve the mugs of porridge – made of locally-grown maize, soya and sugar, supplemented with vitamins and minerals – will not have eaten before coming to school.

In fact, the food they receive from Mary's Meals will, for many, often be their only substantial meal of the day. For the poorest children, this simple meal is what has attracted them to school for the very first time.



Your sponsorship details

School name:

Dole Primary School, Mchinji, Central Malawi

Sponsored by:

St. Mary's Scottish Episcopal Church, Dalmahoy, Scotland,
United Kingdom

Country



Malawi

Enrolment



1292 pupils



647 boys



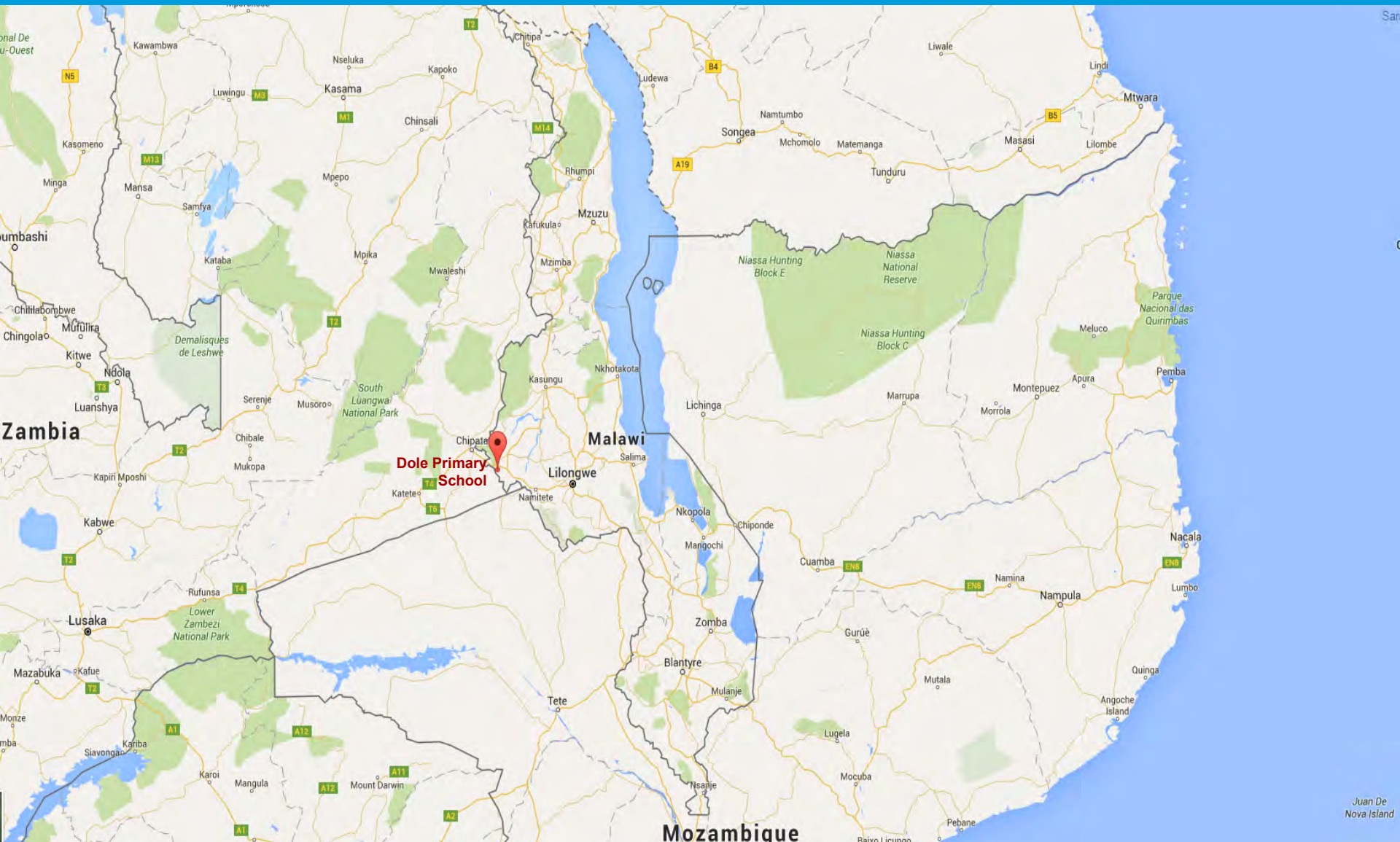
645 girls

Meal



Vitamin-enriched
maize porridge

Location of your school



About your school

Dole Primary School now has 1292 pupils enrolled, including 647 boys and 645 girls, and Mary's Meals first began feeding in the school in 2008. The children at Dole Primary School range from Standards 1 to 8.

There are 7 permanent classrooms at the school and the kitchen doubles up as a classroom when it is not being used for feeding. Due to a lack of indoor space, some classes are taught under trees in the school grounds.

Dole Primary School's pupils are taught by a total of 22 teachers. The school's water source is a borehole in the school grounds which is very close to the kitchen and there are 6 pit latrine toilets on site which are split evenly between the boys and girls.



“The porridge is good and it helps me to get energy so that I can attend classes everyday and I love it. I am very active in class because of the porridge. I do not take breakfast in the morning because my parents are poor. When I return home from school I eat very little ‘*nsima*’ [Malawian staple food] because my stomach is already full with the porridge which I have taken at school. I would like to thank Mary’s Meals for the food they are providing to us here at school. I would like to be a Nurse when I finish my education.”

– **Maurine Mijoni, 12 years old, Standard 4**

“The programme has helped our learners in many ways. Enrolment has increased at this school because of the porridge. There is low absenteeism and it has reduced hunger to our learners. Attendance has significantly improved and children are now looking healthy and strong. Pass rates have improved in all classes and parents are actively sending their children to school because of the porridge. There is a good relationship between the school and the community. Children are performing well in class and are active. I would like to thank Mary’s Meals and the sponsors for the great support and their commitment for the food supplies and I ask God to bless the organisation and pledge for continued support.”

– **Alexius Kutchemba, 49 years old, Head Teacher**

“I eat porridge because I love it and it is nice. It gives me energy to work hard in class and fills my stomach. When I have eaten porridge I become healthy and energetic. It is good and it helps me to stay in school for longer. I do not have breakfast in the morning before coming to school because my parents do not have enough food to take us through the year. I eat very little ‘*nsima*’ at home after school because of the porridge. Most children depend on the porridge we receive here at school. I would like to be a builder when I finish my education.”

– **Tanazio Fanuel, 10 years old, Standard 2**

“Most children are encouraged to attend school because of the porridge and they do not bother us for more food when they return home from school. They are now active both in class as well as outside. They come to school without having breakfast as we do not have enough food in our homes because of the poor rainfall this year. We know very well that because of the porridge many children are getting good results from their examinations. We also see our children getting desperate to come to school because of the porridge which they receive here and it gives them a lot of hope for the future. They are growing very well and are looking healthy. When they eat porridge their stomachs are full and when they return home from school they eat very little hence our food is saved. We would like to thank Mary’s Meals for the programme and would like to ask them not to stop, especially this year where we did not harvest enough because of the poor rains. We would like to thank the donors for their consideration and support for this programme and God should always bless them.”

– **Alice Banda, mother and volunteer cook**







Photos from your school



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FROM: The Headteacher, Dole Primary School
TO : Mary's Meals

On behalf of the entire school and the community at large, I would like to express our gratitude to Mary's Meals for the support assistance you always render to our learners.

The feeding programme has improved the enrolment, passing rate, and has reduced drop out rate and absenteeism rate.

We therefore, ask you to continue providing us with the feeding programme.

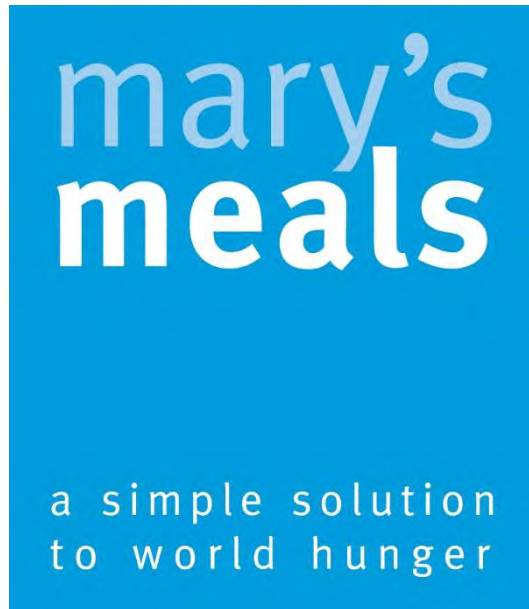




Thank you so much!

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To find out more about
Mary's Meals or to contact
our team, please visit:
www.marysmeals.org