



Keeping our promise

Looking back on 2020

mary's
meals

a simple solution
to world hunger

2020 in numbers



An additional

171,792
children

began to receive our
life-changing meals.

56

new volunteer
groups were
created across
the country.



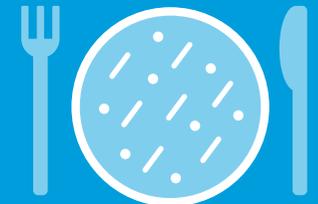
1,838,859

children were receiving
Mary's Meals by
the end of the year,
with an estimated
836,984 of this total
made possible by UK
supporters.



94.2%
of donations
were spent on our
charitable activities.

Mary's Meals
were served in
19 countries
around the world.



Feeding children throughout the pandemic



In 2020, schools all around the world closed almost overnight to help prevent the spread of Covid-19. This presented us with a significant challenge: we had to find new ways to reach the children who would usually eat Mary's Meals at school.

Working alongside local communities and governments, our teams quickly devised a range of appropriate and safe distribution systems so that parents could collect food to cook for their children at home. For example:

- Volunteers in more than 1,000 villages across **Malawi** distributed maize porridge.
- We provided rice, eggs and dried fish for children in **Thailand**.
- In **India**, we delivered packs of wheat flour for making rotis.

We also distributed soap and provided guidance on social distancing, handwashing and essential hygiene to protect families from the virus.

None of this could have been possible without your incredible support – Thank you!



In Malawi **93% of households** said the daily school meal was an important factor in their decision to send their children back to school after restrictions were eased.



Janet and her family

Janet lives with her four sons, two of whom attend Mulanje LEA School in Malawi. Schools are now open once again and children are receiving take-home rations from Mary's Meals in line with government guidance.

She says: "I was worried when schools closed. To me it meant children were no longer going to be fed. It brought the burden of having to look for extra food."

"When I heard Mary's Meals was going to be distributing food for us to be cooking at home, I was so happy. From the time I had food, my children were energetic once again."

Like many parents here in the UK, Janet has done her best to ensure her children have kept up with their studies during the pandemic: "I may not be able to teach them everything, but I am glad they help each other out, to solve maths or read. I just ensure they do not lose focus for it is their future."

"I also hope and believe Mary's Meals will continue giving us food until this pandemic is over so our children can still have the zeal to study, even at home."

Thanks to your support, we can keep our promise to families like Janet's, providing nutritious meals for hungry children whether they are studying at home or at school.

Feeding children throughout the pandemic



We have served our nutritious meals in schools for nearly 20 years. Adapting our model to provide food for children at home wasn't easy and we faced many logistical challenges – but our wonderful staff and volunteers persevered, fuelled by a determination to **keep our promise** to the hungry children who rely on Mary's Meals.

Soon we were providing take-home rations for all 1,667,067 of the children we were feeding when the pandemic struck. And we were even able to reach an **additional 171,792 little ones** in 2020. This means that today, thanks to your kindness, we are feeding **1,838,859 children every school day**.

This is a remarkable achievement – but the pandemic continues to create disruption around the world and, still, we hear stories of hardship and hunger. Our work won't stop while there are still children waiting for Mary's Meals.



“Children kept coming to school even after the closure because they could not stay at home with empty stomachs. The quick turnaround to take-home rations was a big relief for many parents and communities.”

Amina Swedi, Country Director, Mary's Meals Kenya

“Mary's Meals is helping us to have food and I do not feel hungry when I am at school. I look forward to learning, completing my studies and becoming a doctor so I can save lives.”

Sakanya, Malawi

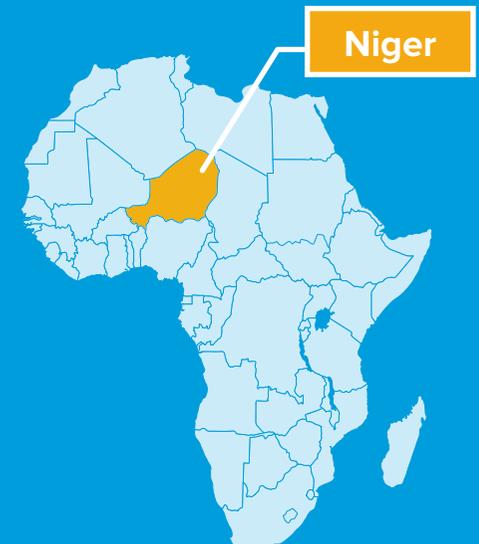


Reaching more children

In 2020 we expanded our programmes in countries including Madagascar, South Sudan, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

We also started feeding children in a new country, Niger – one of the world's poorest and least developed countries. Here our meals are served as part of prison education programmes, giving extremely vulnerable children both vital nourishment and a chance to learn.

While our priority is to keep our promise to all the children who rely on Mary's Meals, we are always striving to reach the next hungry child with a nutritious meal at school.



Our Mary's Meals family



Zac



Melanie



Alison

It is thanks to our Mary's Meals family that we were able to keep feeding hungry children during the difficult year that was 2020. We are incredibly grateful to everyone who contributes to our mission through so many little acts of love in offering financial donations, prayer, time and goods.

People like Melanie Hayes, who took on a Miles For Mary's Meals challenge and donated £1 for every mile she ran in a month. And Alison Page, who donated proceeds from her children's books. And 10-year-old Zac, who ran 100 miles in 50 days for Mary's Meals!

Thank you for believing, as we do, in the transformative power of a meal at school.



“The unwavering commitment of the Mary's Meals family touches our hearts, as we know many of our supporters faced their own sadness, upheaval and financial hardship in 2020.”

Daniel Adams, Executive Director



“It's amazing that a charity founded in a shed in the Highlands of Scotland can feed children in 19 of the world's poorest countries.”

Judy Murray



We are grateful to all the celebrities, such as Judy Murray, The Proclaimers and Mark Beaumont who gifted us access to their fan base in 2020.

This also includes Hollywood actor Gerard Butler, who stars in our film Love Reaches Everywhere. We were unable to go ahead with our planned screening events in 2020, so we made this film available online and asked our supporters to share with their friends and family. We are delighted to say it has been viewed more than 12,000 times.

Our Mary's Meals family



Our wonderful volunteers help to grow support for Mary's Meals by giving talks in their local churches, schools and clubs.

We expected that restrictions around the pandemic would cause these important talks to be cancelled, but many of our volunteers embraced digital technology and held them online instead! This includes Annette Davies, who says:

"I had never used video conferencing technology before but I was determined not to cancel my talk! I know how important these are for Mary's Meals. I now really enjoy doing them as I can give talks to areas much further away. It was also easy to add PowerPoints or videos."

Thank you to all of the volunteers who helped to raise awareness of our mission in 2020 – and particularly to those who stepped out of their comfort zone to spread the word!



Our work is only possible because of our many dedicated volunteers across the globe, from people in the UK who raise awareness, to those in the countries we serve who rise early to cook nutritious meals for their children.

Looking forward



Reaching two million children

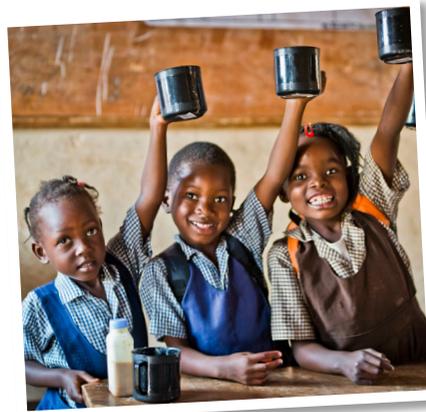
It is a wonderful thing that more than 1.8 million hungry children in 19 countries around the world currently eat Mary's Meals every school day. But, as ever, we are always striving to reach the next hungry child. With your continued support, we hope to reach two million children in 2021.

Direct Debits Tripled

Thanks to a group of generous donors who have promised to make funds available up to £100,000, you can boost your giving this summer!

If you set up a Direct Debit before 31 August your first three donations will be tripled and if you already have a regular gift in place and would like to increase your donation, every additional penny will also be tripled. Spread the word and help us access all the available funding!

Find out more at marysmeals.org.uk/tripled



It costs just
£15.90
to feed
a child for an entire
school year.



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