



mary's  
meals

a simple solution  
to world hunger

# Mary's Meals International

Annual Report to Mary's Meals Spain  
January – December 2019

# Mary's Meals International annual report to Mary's Meals Spain January to December 2019

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## 1. Executive summary

Mary's Meals International is pleased to present this report outlining the key developments made across the global movement throughout 2019. It has been another fantastic year for the global Mary's Meals family. Thanks to our supporters around the world we have been able to:

- Expand our programmes in 11 countries, reaching an additional 266,016 children with a nutritious school meal every day in their place of education
- Begin working with new partners in Haiti and Madagascar which enabled us to reach out to even more children
- Welcome Poland and Slovakia into our global network, as a Nominee National Affiliate and an International Fundraising Group, respectively
- Complete our impact assessment research project in Malawi, Zambia and Liberia
- Progress our School Feeding Delivery Model (SFDM) project

We are delighted to be able to share the achievements made and milestones celebrated throughout 2019 and we greatly appreciate the contribution Mary's Meals Spain has made towards this, enabling us to reach more than 1.6 million children across 18 countries by the end of 2019.

In 2019 we remained focused on implementing the three primary aims of our 2018-2020 strategic plan, 'It's possible':

1. To feed more children in a place of education and help those suffering the effects of poverty in the world's poorest communities.
2. To grow the global movement and enable more people to offer their money, goods, skills, time or prayer to advance the work of Mary's Meals.
3. To strengthen the organisation and Mary's Meals global network in the furtherance of our vision, mission and values.

This report details the significant progress we have made towards each of these aims.

## 2. Strategic report

### Reaching more children

Throughout 2019, we welcomed 266,016 children at 792 places of education into our global programmes – growth of 19% compared to the start of the year – meaning that we are now reaching a total of 1,667,067 children in 18 countries.







| Number of children in each country |                    |                     |
|------------------------------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| Country                            | Number of children | Places of education |
| Benin                              | 2,511              | 4                   |
| Ecuador                            | 306                | 1                   |
| Ethiopia                           | 24,320             | 36                  |
| Haiti                              | 52,314             | 169                 |
| India                              | 42,670             | 101                 |
| Kenya                              | 71,974             | 379                 |
| Liberia                            | 158,015            | 626                 |
| Lebanon                            | 2,022              | 3                   |
| Madagascar                         | 11,042             | 72                  |
| Malawi                             | 1,019,335          | 982                 |
| Myanmar                            | 1,555              | 18                  |
| Romania                            | 17                 | 1                   |
| South Sudan                        | 40,013             | 66                  |
| Syria                              | 4,403              | 13                  |
| Thailand                           | 300                | 4                   |
| Uganda                             | 10,220             | 11                  |
| Zambia                             | 191,434            | 366                 |
| Zimbabwe                           | 34,616             | 88                  |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                       | <b>1,667,067</b>   | <b>2,940</b>        |

## Malawi

Malawi is home to our oldest and largest feeding programme. We started by feeding in just one school in Malawi in 2002 and have grown substantially in the 18 years since – we are currently reaching 1,019,335 children in 982 primary schools and Early Childhood Development (ECD) centres every day across the country.

Malawi suffers from the negative effects of climate change with erratic rainfall and extended dry periods becoming more common. In March 2019, heavy rains and Cyclone Idai caused widespread flooding which resulted in devastation across Malawi, including crop damage, livestock deaths, infrastructural damage, displacement, and some loss of human life. The floods hit areas with very limited resilience to extreme weather. Most of the affected people are the families of smallholder farmers, who already struggle to make ends meet.

In the immediate aftermath of the floods, Mary's Meals worked with communities to assess the damage to schools and work out the best way to help. In addition to keeping our promise to children being supported by our existing school feeding programme, we provided meals twice a day to families in southern Malawi who were forced to take shelter in schools after losing their homes in the floods.

Our staff and volunteers worked tirelessly to deliver this emergency feeding for a period of 68 days following the initial flooding in March. In total, we were able to provide more than 35,000 kilograms of food to families at 23 schools in southern Malawi. The meals we provided helped support hungry children and their families while they recovered from the disaster and encouraged children to continue attending school even in such difficult times.





Our long-term commitment to schools and communities helps increase their food security and provides a safety net for impoverished families living in the context of climate-related shocks – they can send their children to school safe in the knowledge that they will receive something to eat which reduces the burden they face and helps to build resilience.



In 2019 we were also proud to celebrate the graduation of Veronica – one of the first children to receive Mary's Meals in 2002 – who successfully completed her bachelor's degree in Education and Business Studies.

Thanks to your support, young children in Malawi are being helped to achieve their full potential and follow in the footsteps of Veronica.

### Zambia and Zimbabwe

In Zambia, following on from 2018 when we doubled the size of our programme, we expanded our programme three times during 2019, welcoming an additional 72,119 children. This means that Mary's Meals is now being served to 191,434 children at 366 places of education across six districts within Zambia's Eastern Province: Chipata, Mambwe, Kasenengwa, Chipangali, Lumezi and Lundazi.

In September, Mary's Meals Zambia began implementing a UK government-funded project which aims to improve access, participation and progression in education for 95,645 vulnerable children in Zambia's Eastern Province. The project will reach children at 169 schools and will run until May 2022. As part of this project Mary's Meals UK ran the 'Double the Love' campaign, in order to match funds raised by our supporters. We were overwhelmed by the support we received, raising a total of £2 million which was matched by the UK government for a final total of £4 million.



Daniel Adams, Executive Director of Mary's Meals UK said: "The generosity of our supporters across the UK, who have responded overwhelmingly to this match funding campaign, will help us to transform the lives of many, many more hungry children with the gifts of food and education."



Gerald, left, is 15 years old and is in grade six at Chideza Primary School, located in Zambia's Chipangali District. He comes from a very large family – he is the seventh of his parents' ten children. "Our family struggles with financial challenges since [there are lots of us]", he explained. With so many children for his parents to provide for, before Mary's Meals began feeding in his school, Gerald was forced to find work to buy food to stop him going hungry.

Gerald told us: "With the coming of Mary's Meals, my life has taken a sudden twist because I no longer worry about breakfast or what to eat at school during breaktime." Gerald explained that the programme is helping other vulnerable pupils at the school: "Before the feeding programme started it was tough because pupils used to come from home hungry but now when we come to school, we eat and feel happy, we also receive vitamins from the porridge. Things would have been bad if there was no Mary's Meals porridge."

In neighbouring Zimbabwe, we expanded our programme twice in partnership with Childcare Ministries which enabled us to reach out to an additional 14,828 children. We are now delivering the school feeding programme to 34,616 children across 88 schools in the rural Tsholotsho and Umzingwane districts, which suffers from high levels of food insecurity.





Mrs Faith Mazani, pictured right, is a teacher at Matupula Primary School and told us that the programme has really helped the students at her school. She tells us that the students do a “little funny dance” whenever deliveries are being made. The students are now able to stay at school right up to 4pm doing school activities, including sport, because they are not hungry, all thanks to Mary’s Meals.



## Kenya

In Kenya, we continued to keep our promise to children attending 25 primary schools in the Kisii and Uasin Gishu counties in western Kenya, providing them with a nutritious meal of maize served with beans and oil fortified with vitamin A and iodized salt. We also expanded our feeding programme for pre-school children attending ECD centres in the semi-arid Turkana County. Over the course of the year, Mary’s Meals Kenya carried out five expansions, enabling tens of thousands more young children to receive our life-saving daily meals. In total, we are now providing a daily meal to 71,974 children in 379 places of education across the country.



Helen, left, is one of the volunteers who prepares daily school meals at an ECD centre her son and his friends attend in Turkana. She gives her time and energy as a volunteer because she knows how important Mary’s Meals is for the community. For many of the children, it is the only food they can be sure of. She said: “Without it, they would have nothing to eat. The food helps the children come to school to learn. I cook so that they will not feel hungry.”

Our nutritious meals, packed with the vitamins and minerals children need to grow up healthy and strong in both body and mind, are making a life-changing difference to children in Turkana and helping give them a better start in life.

## Liberia

We are delighted to announce that we are now feeding a total of 158,015 children in 623 schools across Liberia. In September, we carried out the largest single expansion of our programmes in 2019 in three counties in Liberia. 137 schools across the Bong, Montserrado and Bomi counties began serving Mary’s Meals, reaching 37,561 children in desperate need of Mary’s Meals every school day.

Liberia is ranked as one of the ten toughest countries in the world for a girl to get an education. Traditionally in Liberia, it is believed that the role of a girl/woman is restricted to raising children and domestic tasks like cooking and cleaning. Although attitudes are changing and more girls are accessing education, traditional beliefs about girls’ education are still common and so boys’ education is often prioritised.



All our programmes provide one free daily meal to every child in each place of education, contributing to a child’s daily nutritional needs, alleviating immediate hunger, and improving children’s access to education. This approach encourages the inclusion of the poorest, most vulnerable and marginalised children and helps foster a spirit of community with the school by promoting the importance of education. Our staff and partners work with communities and schools to understand barriers to education, and to always encourage the inclusion of girls as well as disabled children and children from other marginalised groups. Across our global programme there is a 50/50 split of girls and boys receiving Mary’s Meals and in Liberia specifically, 49% of the children we reached during 2019 were girls – a remarkable achievement which demonstrates the success of our inclusive approach.

Thanks to the support we receive from our global family, we have been able to keep our promise of a nutritious daily meal in school to those children already enrolled in our school feeding programme and – as funds have allowed – reach out to the next hungry child waiting for Mary's Meals.

## Ethiopia

In Ethiopia, where an estimated 2.3 million primary school aged children remain out of school, we tripled the number of children we reach every day throughout 2019, and we are now supporting 24,320 vulnerable children at schools in the Tigray region.

In October 2019, Alex Keay, head of programme partners at Mary's Meals International, and Kathryn Gemmell, programme partner support officer, visited our Ethiopia and Kenya programmes. In both countries, they heard powerful stories of the impact that Mary's Meals is having. Several schools in Ethiopia presented them with reports outlining the improvements that have occurred since schools began serving Mary's Meals.



One of the schools they visited was Debrebrham Elementary School, which joined the programme in February 2018. The school's head teacher reported that Mary's Meals is helping provide a balanced diet for the students, there are now fewer children dropping out of school or repeating grades, the number of children enrolled has increased by 27%, and the number of students achieving A or B grades has also increased significantly.



At Beati Akor Primary School, the school feeding committee and elders from the local village presented a report outlining similar improvements, which also highlighted that – since the introduction of Mary's Meals – fewer children are absent from school and classes have a more equal balance of girls and boys. At Damayno Primary

School, the children had even planted a tree for Alex and Kathryn to celebrate the amazing difference Mary's Meals has made to their community!

In all the schools they visited, Kathryn and Alex saw a high level of engagement with the local communities, who felt proud to play their part in the feeding programme to help make sure children get the most out of their education.

## South Sudan

Mary's Meals is one of very few organisations consistently providing food to children in schools in South Sudan. The ongoing conflict there is disrupting livelihoods and affecting food production, which has caused a humanitarian catastrophe. The need for our school feeding programme in such a desperate situation is immense. We have been working in the Lakes State area of South Sudan since 2008 with our partner the Diocese of Rumbek. Our programme carries on despite considerable operational difficulties and we are overcoming extreme challenges to get food through to the schools.



During 2019, we were able to reach out to an additional 15,600 children in South Sudan, thereby increasing the size of our programme by more than 60%. Our founder and chief executive, Magnus MacFarlane-Barrow, had his first visit to schools receiving Mary's Meals in South Sudan.



During his trip, he witnessed the wonderful sights of children receiving nutritious food and singing songs they've written for Mary's Meals. Reflecting on his visit, Magnus said: "In every school, the impact is so obvious; so clear that this is transforming things here. You hear it everywhere you go, how people see this as this incredible sign of hope. And that's what I take home more than anything – just the hope that this work of Mary's Meals is bringing to South Sudan is just so, so important for this country."

Sister Maria, pictured right, from The Diocese of Rumbek, explains how the promise of daily school meals is bringing hope and unity in these troubled times, she told us: "Mary's Meals is a wonderful meal ... it is a union for the children ... and they share joyfully. Mary's Meals is uniting our children. Mary's Meals is bringing joy to our children. Mary's Meals is making our children love school."



### Madagascar



Since we launched our special feeding programme in Madagascar in 2018, we have been providing meals for 299 vulnerable children in four prisons in Diego-Suarez and Joffreville in the Diana region and Antananarivo and d'Ambohitratimo in the Analamanga region. These child prisoners face terrible conditions – some of them are as young as eight years old and more than 80% of them are still awaiting trial. The terrible, life-threatening conditions of prisons in Madagascar have prompted the UN Human Rights Committee to express concern about human rights violations in the past.<sup>1</sup> We work closely with our partner, Grandir Dignement, to serve daily meals, providing hope in places of

education within the prisons. Tutors work with the children from Monday to Saturday, teaching literacy, numeracy and vocational skills.

We were also delighted to begin feeding in schools in Madagascar during 2019 thanks to our new partnership with an organisation that has been supporting some of the poorest communities in the country for nearly 30 years – Feedback Madagascar. In November, we introduced our feeding programme at 68 schools across three rural areas – Amoron'i Mania and Haute Matsiatra in central Madagascar and Vatovavy-Fitovinany in southeast Madagascar – reaching 10,790 children.

Ranoa, pictured right, is a parent at Ambohipo Primary School which recently began receiving school meals for the first time. She is 46 years old and recently became a widow, and she grows rice and farms livestock for a living. She has six children, four of whom attend Ambohipo school and receive Mary's Meals every day. On a recent visit to the school, Ranoa told us: "Since the school feeding programme began here in Ambohipo school, not only are my children diligent in attending school, but they focus more on their studies too."



We are already seeing the amazing impact Mary's Meals has had on children, schools and communities in Madagascar within the first few months of feeding. With your support, we will continue to reach out to vulnerable children in Madagascar, providing them with a nutritious daily meal at their place of education.

### Haiti, India, Myanmar and Syria

In Haiti, we were able to expand our programme with our new partner in Haiti – Bureau de Nutrition et Développement (BND) – which has been operating in Haiti for more than 30 years.

<sup>1</sup> Amnesty International, 2018. Madagascar 2017/18. (<https://www.amnesty.org/en/countries/africa/madagascar/report-madagascar/>)



Thanks to this new partnership, we were able to begin delivering our school feeding programme in 77 schools in the Ouest Department, in the Port-au-Prince area, and the Centre Department. We work with a total of four partner organisations in Haiti to ensure that we are reaching some of the country's most marginalised children. Together, we are serving Mary's Meals to 52,314 children, helping reduce hunger and improving access to education.

We were also happy to expand our school feeding programme in India – with our longstanding partner BREAD – through four expansions in February, July, October and December 2019. As a result of this, we were able to reach out to an additional 18,958 children across 48 education centres in the Jarkhand and Bihar states. We are now providing daily nutritious meals to a total of 42,670 children in India at 101 places of education – an incredible achievement.

We also expanded our programme in Myanmar during 2019 to reach a further 659 children in Kachin and Kayah states. We work in boarding houses with our partner, the Episcopal Commission for Education, to encourage vulnerable children – either orphaned or from poor rural areas – to attend school by providing them with packed lunches five days a week. We are now reaching a total of 1,555 children across 18 education centres in Myanmar.



Our programme in Syria, also grew in 2019 – we started feeding at five new places of education, providing meals for 1,318 children in desperate need of Mary's Meals. Working with our partner, Dorcas, we are now reaching 4,403 children in 13 schools across the city of Aleppo. Due to frequent bombing and the escalation of conflict in north western Syria, Aleppo is currently witnessing a dire humanitarian situation. Inflation has eroded civilians' purchasing power, making essential goods, such as food, unobtainable. This has led to widespread poverty amongst Syrians still residing in Aleppo, making it very difficult for children to attend school and gain an education. To overcome the

challenges of working in a city that has been heavily damaged by conflict, volunteers prepare all the meals in one school, which has reliable access to water and electricity. The food is then delivered to other schools across the city. This model is working well and helps us keep our promise to the children we serve.

### Growing the global movement

The Mary's Meals global movement continued to grow during 2019, with National Affiliates reaching new audiences in innovative and exciting ways. There are currently 15 Mary's Meals National Affiliates and we were delighted to welcome Poland as a Nominee National Affiliate and Slovakia as an International Fundraising Group. We welcomed a new Executive Director at Mary's Meals Italy and Switzerland hired its first paid member of staff.



Mary's Meals Spain was given the Award for Social Innovation by Fundación MAPFRE, in recognition of the social commitment of Mary's Meals. This award included a gift of €30,000, and was presented by the Queen of Spain, Doña Sofía, who is pictured here on the left in red next to Elisalex Lowenstein – board member of Mary's Meals Spain. The event was a great opportunity for media coverage which will help raise awareness of Mary's Meals in Spain and reach new audiences.

In October, many people from around the world took part in a pilgrimage to Međugorje, Bosnia and Herzegovina. This marked the second year that visitors had the opportunity to go to the Mary's Meals Information Centre, where they could learn more about the movement by watching movies such as 'Mary's Meals – a fruit of Međugorje', talking to volunteers at the centre and even taste the porridge that is served to children in many of our programmes.



Following conversations that took place during the pilgrimage, we began discussing the possibility of establishing new Mary's Meals supporter groups in several countries in South and Central America, Asia and Eastern Europe.



During our annual 'Big Family Christmas' campaign, which invited supporters to set a place at a virtual dinner table and feed a hungry child for a whole school year, a record-breaking number of places were set. The success of the campaign means that 10,000 hungry children will receive the gift of life-changing meals for a whole school year.

Elsewhere across the global network, Mary's Meals Germany ran its third annual 'Fill Mugs to Fight Hunger' campaign in schools across the country which raised 50% more funds than last year.

Mary's Meals USA ran a 'We Are Mary's Meals' campaign during quarter four – a very successful fundraising campaign where donations were matched by a major donor.

Our International Fundraising Group in Slovakia made a significant contribution to growing the global movement in its first year of fundraising as part of our network.

Mary's Meals Croatia increased its income substantially and received significant coverage of its 10-year anniversary across national media outlets.

Mary's Meals Czech Republic found some innovative ways to raise awareness and funds for our mission, including a 'Little Acts of Love' quiz, which attendees at Festival United in Vsetín could access via a QR code on their mobile phones, and attracting a young audience to the Mary's Meals stall at the Charismatic Conference in Brno by giving out 12,000 free ice creams. These events, and many more interesting initiatives, contributed to Mary's Meals Czech Republic raising more than double the amount of funds in 2019 than in 2018, an incredible achievement!



These are but a few highlights of the achievements we have seen across our global network of National Affiliates in 2019! We are looking forward to another amazing year for the Mary's Meals family in 2020.

### Raising awareness of our work

Throughout 2019, we have continued to create a diverse range of communication tools in order to engage with our global audience and support the continued growth of the global movement. Magnus's book "The Shed That Fed A Million Children" was published in Flemish in June, with Polish and Slovakian publications planned for early 2020. This brings the total number of language versions of the book to 11!

We created a striking slide deck, carrying infographics that convey the results of our 5-year study in Malawi, Liberia and Zambia which assessed the impact our feeding programmes have on the children, schools and communities in which we serve. More on this in the communicating the impact of our work section below.

We re-vamped the Digital Content Library which is the central store for all the beautiful photos, videos and case studies gathered from our programmes around the world. This is an incredible new resource that can be used across the Mary's Meals family for communicating our mission.





We also produced more videos of our work around the world, helping inform and engage supporters. Highlights include video diaries recorded by Magnus during his visits to our South Sudan and Madagascar programmes and video highlighting Mary's Meals' key achievements throughout 2019. We also launched Hope!, our internal magazine packed full of stories from all parts of the global family.

Four appeal letters were sent out across the year including one written by Veronica, one of the first children to receive Mary's Meals in Malawi and now a college graduate in Business Studies!

We worked on creating a film based on Hollywood actor Gerard Butler's visit to our programme in Haiti in December 2018 with a professional film company. A preview of the film was screened at Mladifest International Youth Festival in Međugorje in August which gave Mary's Meals the opportunity to demonstrate our work and the impact we have to an audience of over 50,000 people. We also showed the audience our fantastic video 'We Support Mary's Meals' which features supporters from all over the global family.



Mary's Meals was invited to present its work at a tech summit in San Francisco alongside speakers from companies such as Google and IBM. The event was run by PagerDuty, a Silicon Valley-based company that provides an online service for incident response, event intelligence and IT analytics –



software that we introduced in our Liberia programme during 2019. PagerDuty was intrigued to learn more about how Mary's Meals uses its software and inform people about how technology can be used for social impact. This was a unique opportunity to speak to tech companies about the work we do and the challenges we overcome to deliver our high-quality, effective school feeding programmes.

We also attended the 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Global Child Nutrition Forum conference in Siem Reap, Cambodia. Among the 357 delegates of the conference were senior government representatives, donors, food suppliers and policy makers, all working on implementing national school feeding programmes across 70 different countries.

As we move forward into 2020, we remain focused on raising awareness of our global movement and inviting new supporters to join our mission, all so that, together, we can reach out to the next child in need of Mary's Meals.

### Strengthening the organisation

In June, Mary's Meals International hosted a conference in Glasgow with the theme 'Unique in our Gifts, One in our Mission'. The conference brought together delegates from 25 countries including representatives of Mary's Meals' Programme Affiliates, National Affiliates and Programme Partners.

We were delighted to have a wide level of support for the conference from staff, board members and key volunteers from across the global movement. The programme included a social gathering for delegates, Mary's Meals International and Mary's Meals UK staff at the Glasgow office.







This allowed delegates and staff from across the network to meet and mingle. Feedback from the two-day event was very positive, with delegates reporting multiple benefits from their attendance.

Mary's Meals launched a quarterly National Affiliate Forum as part of our commitment to continuous development of the global network of affiliates that raise funds for and awareness of our vital work around the world. The aim of the forum is to provide a regular feedback and communication channel with Mary's Meals International and to enable National Affiliates to exchange best practice, share successes and challenges, collaborate on work and discuss opportunities to develop and grow the network.

In late 2019, a team of 20 board members, staff and volunteers from six National Affiliates countries visited our Zambia programme. This was a rare but invaluable opportunity to bring together the National Affiliates, who were able to witness the programme first hand and gain a deeper understanding of its far-reaching impact, with programme staff and volunteers who were able to hear directly from those involved in raising the awareness and funds which enables Mary's Meals to keep its promise to so many vulnerable children in Zambia and across our other programmes.



### [Developing our people](#)

Mary's Meals is committed to attracting great people who are passionate about the life changing work that we do. As such, we place great emphasis on ensuring that our staff have the skills needed to



develop in their roles, as well as ensuring they are aligned and are supported effectively. Our 2019 Leadership Academy comprised 25 staff from across the organisation. The programme was split into three modules spread across the year, taking place in Glasgow.

Your support has also enabled Mary's Meals to offer a range of training and development programmes to some of its key staff around the world. During 2019, more than 100 school feeding

officers in Malawi, Zambia and Kenya took part in our Programmes Academy and we delivered manager training to all staff in managerial roles across the global movement. The training has received excellent feedback, has significantly helped to increase the consistency of management approaches across the global movement as well as the consistency of school feeding officers and has enhanced the skills and knowledge of those that took part.

During the final quarter of 2019, Janet Haugh stepped down from her role as CEO of Mary's Meals International, after seven years of service. During the same period, the board of MMI finalised its review of the organisation's structure with a view to ensuring it is designed appropriately for the next stage of the wonderful journey that Mary's Meals is on. For this next phase, the board felt it best to consolidate the organisation slightly and create a simpler structure, which includes reverting to a 'one CEO organisation'. Going forward, Magnus MacFarlane-Barrow has combined his Global CEO role with that of leading MMI, which will enable him to work more closely with MMI as it continues to strive to serve the movement as best it can, keeping its promise to millions of children and reaching many more who are still waiting.

### Developing our systems

Our programme operations team also continued to make improvements to the way we collect data at schools receiving Mary's Meals through the school feeding delivery model project. We introduced a data collection toolkit in Liberia, Malawi, Zambia and Kenya which includes information sheets and checklists to use during monitoring visits to, for example, track food stock levels.



We also began developing The Mary's Meals School Feeding Model handbook. As our programmes expand and we are able to reach more and more children around the world with our school meals, this project is an opportunity to reflect on the principles shared across all of our school feeding programmes. Considerable time has been spent on devising an accessible handbook that that can be shared across the movement.

### Communicating the impact of our work

We have now completed the fifth and final year of our impact assessment research project in Malawi and Zambia and our third and final year in Liberia. The studies assess the impact of Mary's Meals' programmes through surveys and focus groups with children, teachers, volunteers and families. The results of our impact assessments have allowed us to learn about our programmes and demonstrate the importance of our work in giving children hope for a better future.

This research is being verified externally and demonstrates that Mary's Meals is making a significant impact and measurable change. For example, after one year of receiving Mary's Meals for the first time:

- Children who reported feeling hungry in school reduced from 42% to 12%
- School enrolment increased by an average of 20%
- 90% of teachers said that children were attending school more
- 91% of teachers said that children's marks in class had improved
- The number of children saying they felt happy in school increased from 79% to 90%

**Children with energy  
at the end of the school  
day increased from**



**Teachers say parents are strongly  
involved in school activities  
in Mary's Meals schools**



Our research demonstrates that, as well as attracting children into the classroom and improving enrolment and attendance, school feeding has the power to reduce classroom hunger and improve concentration and participation in class, as well as affecting children's overall happiness by reducing hunger-related anxiety. The evidence suggests that school feeding offers a cost-effective route out of poverty for the long-term. We now have a fantastic set of infographics which demonstrate the results of our impact assessments. The set of 20 infographics which were made available during 2019 have helped communicate the impact of our programmes and the achievements of Mary's Meals to a wide range of audiences.

We hope that this will help spread the word of our valuable work and the wonderful impact it is having, helping to generate further support for our mission.



### 3. Report on funding received this year

We continue to be grateful for the financial support of Mary's Meals Spain and confirm that the total amount of funding received during 2019 was €316,828. Funding was allocated to individual country programmes according to your direction. Information on the amounts received and their allocation is presented in Appendix A on page 13.

The number of children supported in each country is summarised in the table below. Calculations are based on global cost per child of €15.60. Your generosity allowed us to provide a nutritious meal every school day to more than 20,309 children living in some of the world's poorest communities.

| Mary's Meals Spain |               |
|--------------------|---------------|
| Country programme  | Children fed  |
| Liberia            | 1,672         |
| Malawi             | 9,645         |
| Zambia             | 1,428         |
| Global Feeding*    | 7,564         |
| <b>TOTAL</b>       | <b>20,309</b> |

### 4. Thank you

We have been humbled by the little acts of love carried out by each and every National Affiliate and your supporters throughout 2019. The awareness you have raised of the incredible work Mary's Meals is doing and the grassroots support you have generated through your hard work and dedication to our shared vision, mission and values have had a profound impact on Mary's Meals and have enabled us to make considerable progress in achieving strategic aims.

With the ongoing support of Mary's Meals Spain and the growing family of National Affiliates, we will continue to fulfil our promise to the vulnerable children of this world, providing them with one daily meal in their place of education. We look forward to working alongside you to further our vision in the coming year.



## Appendix A

Information on the amounts received during the year and their allocation is presented in the table below.

| Mary's Meals Spain |                 |                 |                 |                 |                 |                 |                 |                 |                 |                 |                 |                 |                  |
|--------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|------------------|
| Country Programme  | Jan-19          | Feb-19          | Mar-19          | Apr-19          | May-19          | Jun-19          | Jul-19          | Aug-19          | Sep-19          | Oct-19          | Nov-19          | Dec-19          | Total Funds      |
| Liberia            | -               | -               | -               | -               | € 4,571         | -               | -               | -               | € 17,909        | -               | € 3,607         |                 | € 26,087         |
| Malawi             | € 10,046        | € 45,116        | € 16,084        | -               | € 10,234        | -               | € 15,055        | € 12,215        | -               | € 7,394         | € 22,885        | € 11,435        | € 150,463        |
| Zambia             | -               | -               | -               | -               | -               | -               | € 6,131         | € 7,176         | € 4,493         | -               | -               | € 4,478         | € 22,278         |
| Global Feeding     | -               | -               | -               | € 13,000        | € 12,000        | € 30,000        | € 10,000        | € 13,000        | -               | € 20,000        |                 | € 20,000        | € 118,000        |
| <b>TOTAL</b>       | <b>€ 10,046</b> | <b>€ 45,116</b> | <b>€ 16,084</b> | <b>€ 13,000</b> | <b>€ 26,805</b> | <b>€ 30,000</b> | <b>€ 31,186</b> | <b>€ 32,391</b> | <b>€ 22,402</b> | <b>€ 27,394</b> | <b>€ 26,492</b> | <b>€ 35,913</b> | <b>€ 316,828</b> |

\*Mary's Meals International carries out school feeding programmes in 18 countries as shown on page two.