

**Scottish Government International Development Programme
Mid-Year Report**

Notes for Completion:

- Please note, with the exception of the cover page, this report will be published.
- To ensure compliance with GDPR, refrain from using any personal or identifying information unless you have obtained consent from the data subject and are content for this to be made public.
- Answer all questions in the template provided, noting the word limits.
- Include all relevant information in the reporting template – hyperlinks and annexes will not be accepted as part of the report.
- Ensure answers are clear, concise and in plain English. Explain acronyms and avoid using jargon.

<p>Supporting Documentation</p> <p><i>Check box to confirm key documents have been submitted with this report</i></p>	<p>Logical Framework, which reflects any changes in this reporting period.</p> <p>Budget</p> <p>Case study</p> <p>Risk register</p>	<p>☐</p> <p>☐</p> <p>☐</p> <p>☐</p>
<p>As the project manager responsible for the completion of this report, I hereby confirm the information included is accurate and complies with the notes for completion.</p>		
<p>Scotland-based Project Manager: [redacted]</p>	<p>Signature: [redacted]</p>	

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1. General project information		
1.1	Project reference Number	MAL/18/07 – MM
1.2	Name of organisation	Mary's Meals UK
1.3	Lead partner(s) organisation	Mary's Meals International
1.4	Project title	Mary's Meals' pre-school and primary school feeding programme.
1.5	Reporting period	From: 01/04/2019 To: 30/09/2019
1.6	Reporting year	2
1.7	Project start date	01/10/2018
1.8	Project end date	31/03/2023
1.9	Total project budget*	£1,401,988
1.10	Total funding from Scottish Government*	£1,080,000
1.11	Provide a brief description of the project's aims, highlighting which of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) your project is working towards? (200 words)	Provide school feeding to vulnerable children in primary schools and ECD centres across Zomba, southern Malawi. Reducing classroom hunger and promoting access, participation and progression through primary and pre-school education. Contributing to the SDGs of no hunger and quality education.
2. Project progress and results		
Please use this section to give an update on the progress the project has made during this reporting period.		
2.1	Provide an update on the progress your project has made during this reporting period. Use this space to update us on what has gone well and any challenges you have experienced, detailing how you have overcome these. (Max 350 words)	
	<p>We have made considerable progress towards achieving the project's targets, already exceeding a number of year-end targets at this mid-year point. Our progress has been slightly affected by the May elections results demonstrations, which impacted feeding days, attendance and volunteer participation. The project remains on track to achieve year-end targets. Key results are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In primary schools, boy's enrolment increased by 6.4% from baseline to 13,842 children and girls increased by 6.6% to 14,996, already exceeding the year two target of 28,040. In ECD centres, enrolment increased by 24% from baseline. 	

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	<p>This is an excellent achievement already exceeding year-end targets of a 2% increase in enrolment.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Progression rates through primary school have increased. The number of children in Standard 2 increased by 6% and 4.9% in Standard 5, exceeding targets of 5% and 2.5% respectively. The number of children in the last available grade increased by 10%, surpassing the target of 1%. This is an excellent achievement at the mid-point of the year, • 1,404 learners graduated from ECDs to primary schools in July. • Attendance of primary school boys was 91% and girls 92%, exceeding targets of 89% and 90% respectively. Attendance for ECD centres is 66% and although this misses the target of 79%, families were faced with challenges and conflicting priorities which prevented them from taking children to school every day. For example, cold weather from May-July discouraged parents from sending young children to school and attendance at ECDs is not compulsory. • Primary schools delivered school feeding on 97% of planned days and ECD centres delivered feeding on 94%, exceeding the target of 90% for both types of education centres. This demonstrates the outstanding commitment of staff and volunteers to delivering the programme. • 27 SFP training sessions were delivered in primary schools and 34 in ECD centres, we are on track to achieving the year-end target of 81 and 102 respectively. • [redacted] facilitated seven meetings at zonal level to Government of Malawi representatives, partners and other stakeholders, and three at district level. <p>[redacted] also held one collaboration meeting with Water Aid, contributing to achieving the year-end target of two meetings.</p>
2.2	<p>Have you experienced any delays to planned activities? Provide full details including what action is being taken to bring activities back on track. (Max 350 words)</p> <p>There were no significant delays to the planned activities. We faced some challenges in delivering school feeding from 21st May after tripartite elections due to political demonstrations against the results. Regardless, most schools still managed to feed which is evidenced by the 96% feeding rate. Due to the election results demonstrations, we were also faced with cancelled trainings on best practice in some schools as safety concerns were raised, this was stabilised by August 2019 and the training sessions were conducted on alternative days.</p>
2.3	<p>Are you on track to meet your year-end milestones? Give details of any areas that are behind, and how you plan to overcome this. (Max 350 words)</p> <p>Overall, the project is on track to meet all milestones. Of the eight indicators we report on biannually, 3 have surpassed their year-end milestone and the remaining 5 are on track to meet their year-end milestones.</p> <p>The only indicator which has fallen slightly behind is Outcome Indicator 3 (Increased attendance in 27 primary schools and 34 ECD centres), where we only managed to achieve</p>

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targets for primary schools and not for ECDs. The factors which could have affected the progress of this target are:

- Parents were engaged with activities, namely agriculture and piece work, and at times did not have time to send or collect their children for school. The distance between home and ECD centre is too far for some families.
- Cold weather conditions, particularly in the months May to July, as parents prefer their children to be close to home and warm, therefore don't send them to school. This issue is challenging to address as parents do not like to send their children to school when it is cold. Nevertheless, we will deliver stakeholder meetings to engage parents and encourage them to send their children to school.
- Young children who attend ECDs are more likely than primary aged children to get ill more frequently, which impacts attendance rates. This issue is difficult to address as the children's health is out with our control, however, we keep records of the reasons for absenteeism and refer the child to health services if they are at risk of malnourishment.

Although this indicator is slightly behind, 66% attendance at ECDs is still an achievement for this project and we have seen a gradual increase in attendance over the last three months. In the next six months, we hope to see this increase in attendance continue, and we expect that ECDs will meet the year-end milestone of a 79% attendance rate for this indicator.

3. Partnerships and collaboration

This section allows you to discuss how partnership working is progressing on the project, as well as wider collaboration and sharing of learning.

3.1

Provide an update on how partnership working has gone during this reporting period. Let us know about any highlights, challenges or changes to roles and responsibilities. (Max 350 words)

The partnership with WaterAid Malawi (WAMA), Mary's Meals and our implementing partners is progressing well. Our in-country team effectively collaborated with partners to conduct the planned meeting with Water Aid, with the aim of meeting once more before the end of Year 2. At the meeting, we discussed our continued collaboration, with a focus on continuing to achieve consistent high-quality delivery to maximise impact at the school level and ensure our programmes remain as efficient and effective as possible.

Furthermore, Mary's Meals Malawi facilitated seven meetings at zonal level to Government of Malawi representatives, partners and other stakeholders, and facilitated three at district level. The aim of these meetings is to share our technical expertise and best practice in order to build their capacity in managing and delivering a national school feeding programme in the future.

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3.2	Have any international visits to the project taken place in this period? Give details including key activities and outputs of these visits.	
Date of visit	Key achievements / outputs of visit	Follow-up actions
May 2019	4 staff members visited Malawi during the reporting period. Key achievements included-ongoing governance, monitoring and support to MMM and internal audit activities.	
4. Safeguarding and fraud		
Please ensure you complete questions 4.1 and 4.2 even if you have no incidents to report.		
4.1	Have there been any incidents, relating to the Grant or the Project, in the last reporting period which contravene your safeguarding policy?	
	No	
4.2	Have there been any incidents in the last reporting period of financial mismanagement or fraud, relating to the Grant or the Project?	
	No	
4.3	Have these incidents been reported to relevant authorities, and if so, to whom?	
	N/A	
4.4	Describe what action has been taken, and highlight any lessons learned.	
	N/A	

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5. Risk assessment			
5.1	<p>Have any issues materialised during this reporting period? If so, how were they addressed?</p> <p><i>Please refer to risk assessment provided at application stage.</i></p>		
Assumption	Risk	Action taken	Was this included in the Risk Assessment Table in your application?
Political unrest as a result of general elections	Non-Feeding days & Low attendance rate	Due to safety concerns, monitoring was suspended during high risk periods. Security standard operating procedures enforced.	No (updated in supporting documentation)
6. Financial information			
<p>This section will be reviewed alongside your mid-year budget spreadsheet, which must be included with this report.</p>			
6.1	<p>Explain any variances to planned expenditure in this period. (Max 350 words)</p> <p>At the half year point, spend is £119k compared with a full year budget of £240k. The variance to the half year is therefore £1k. As noted in section 2, the programme is feeding more children than budget so feeding costs are ahead of budget. This is offset by timing differences on the project evaluations, tree planting, national workshops and chitenjes. These will all reverse in the second half of the year.</p>		
6.2	<p>At this stage, does your projected expenditure look to be on track? If not, outline the reasons why, and what plans are in place to bring spending back on track. If you are requesting changes to your budget at this stage, outline them below. (Max 350 words)</p> <p>Projected expenditure is on track to the end of the year. We are not requesting any changes to the budget for the remainder of the year.</p>		
6.3	<p>Do you have a proposal for how you would like to utilise any of your ring-fenced underspend, excluding any currency gains? (Max 350 words)</p> <p>There is no ring-fenced underspend noted in the report.</p>		

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7. Any other information

Use this section to tell us any other relevant information regarding your project. (Max 350 words)

As part of our commitment to ongoing learning and improvement, we have strengthened our reporting this period by averaging results for the whole reporting period i.e. instead of solely using one month's data to explain interim results, we will average the data from the last six months and highlight any key successes or challenges throughout the reporting period. This will enable us to provide wider results discussion in narrative reports and will ensure our results accurately represent the whole reporting period. This will not affect the logframe.

We have also set milestones for Outcome Indicator 2 (number of children graduating from ECD centres). As graduations take place in July, data has only recently become available to set this indicator. Now that we have figures for the number of children graduating, we were able to set targets for the subsequent reporting periods. As children at ECD centres graduate within a two-week period in July, we will set milestones to be achieved on an annual basis. The logframe has been amended to reflect a 1% increase each year in the number of pre-school children graduating to primary, this is in line with anticipated natural growth in ECD's.