

Sponsor A School Report

Guassay Public School, Porkpa, Cape Mount County, Liberia

Sponsored by Our Lady of Furness Church

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 61 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 our founder and CEO, Magnus MacFarlane-Barrow, visited Malawi during a famine and met a mother dying from AIDS. When he asked her eldest son, Edward, 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.



- The average global cost of feeding a child for a whole school year with Mary's Meals is just £13.90 / €15.60 / \$19.50.
- Today Mary's Meals is feeding 1,187,104 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 Liberia

More than a decade may have passed since the end of Liberia's devastating civil war, but all forms of infrastructure across the west African nation – which is ranked as the twelfth least developed country in the world – remain extremely basic, a situation which was only exacerbated by the recent Ebola crisis.

There is virtually no electricity, very little food production, heavy reliance on imports and access to education remains extremely limited. Liberia has the highest recorded percentage (62%) of primary school-aged children out of school in the world.

This is an extremely difficult place to grow up and many children never have the opportunity to go to school. Many children (27%) are sent to work by their parents, working on the farms, on the plantations, or in the mines. The average Liberian has an annual income of \$250 and so it is often the whole family who must help to put food on the table. Shockingly 42% of all children under 5 are stunted due to chronic malnutrition.

Marthalyn Nyanneh goes to school in Brewerville, not far from the Liberian capital, Monrovia. 16-year-old Marthalyn has big ambitions, and so takes her studies seriously: "I would like to become minister of education", she says, "because I want to help improve the education system in Liberia."

Girls, in particular, face great cultural barriers to attending school and gaining an education in Liberia. But, since the Mary's Meals school feeding programme began in 2006, we have found that the assurance of a daily meal in school is an extremely effective way of ensuring that girls are sent to school by their parents, as well as boys.

Liberia is our second largest project country. We are now providing a nutritious daily meal to more than 139,000 children every school day, and we remain committed to growing our work there, as funds allow. We want to reach more Liberian children...



Mary's Meals in Liberia

Children like Boima, whose parents were killed during the Liberian civil war. He now lives in an orphanage and finds life without his mum and dad incredibly hard. He says: "It is difficult to be an orphan, especially when I see other children going home to their parents."

But Boima is determined to build a good future for himself and gaining an education is important to him. He started attending a school where Mary's Meals provides food in 2012.

He tells us that the provision of a daily meal during his day of lessons is helping him a great deal, since he has a long six-mile walk to and from the classroom. Boima says: "Before, I didn't have any stamina to walk home from school, but now I am feeling strong."

Like many of the young people we are reaching in Liberia, Boima is optimistic about the future. He says: "My ambition is to learn, so that I can help myself and help other people. The country is still recovering and it is very hard for everyone."

"I want to work in one of the government ministries and help the country. I had a difficult time but I will not be discouraged. If people see an orphan doing well, they too will be encouraged."

Keima Jones is a teacher from Montserrado County who has seen with her own eyes the impact our work is having in Liberia. She tells us: "Mary's Meals is making a huge difference. Before, parents could not afford to give their children food for lunch and you could see so many of them crying because they were hungry."

"But now when we ring the bell everyone runs to the kitchen and the children eat together. They are happy. A big change is that the children stay all day now, right to the end of their classes. Before, they would go home early to look for something to eat. As a result, we are much more successful at teaching them."



School name: Guassay Public School, Porkpa, Cape Mount County, Liberia

Sponsored by: Our Lady of Furness Church

Country



Liberia

Enrolment



591 pupils

309 boys

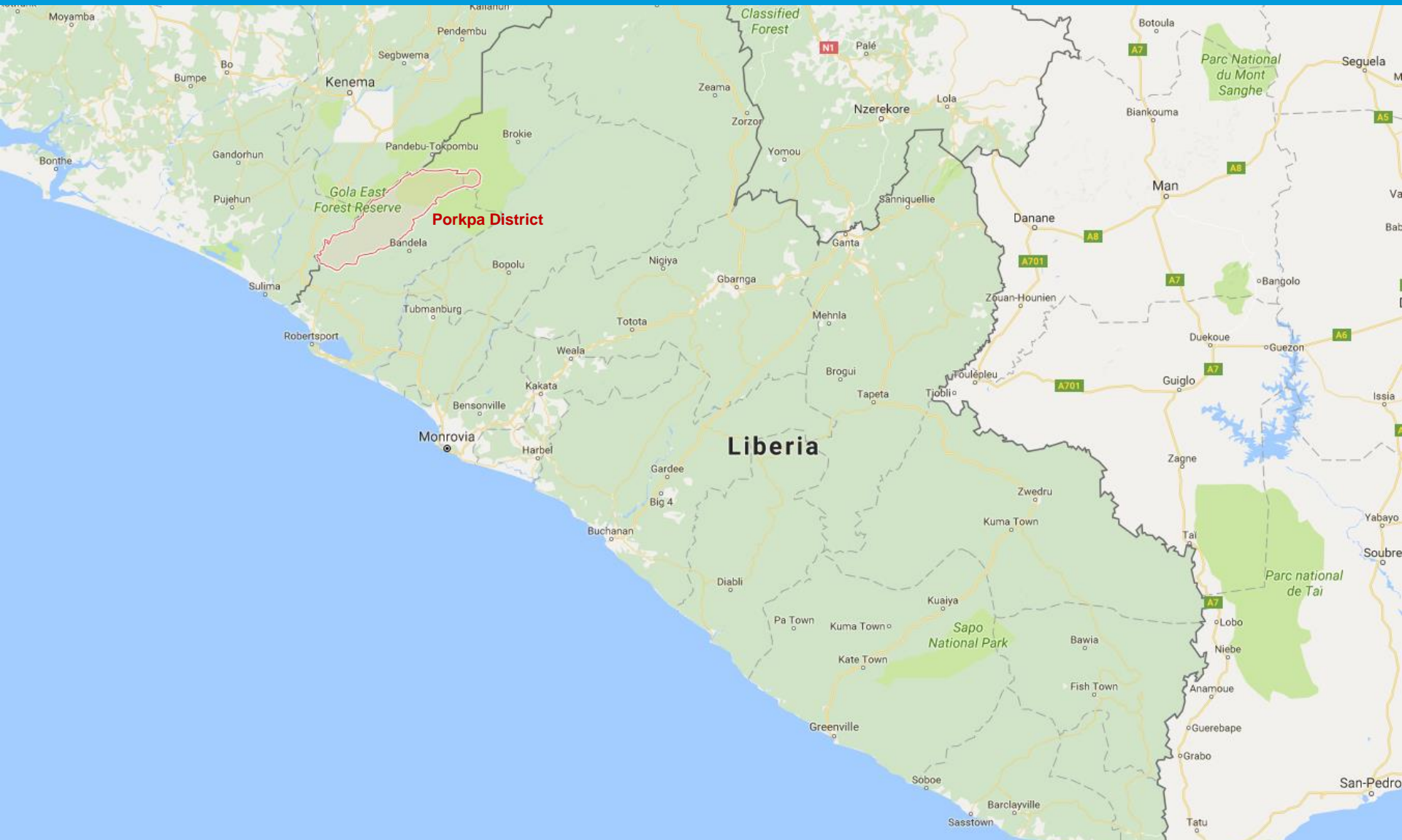
282 girls

Meal



Vitamin-enriched
maize porridge /
Rice and peas

Location of your school



About your school

Guassay Public School now has 591 pupils enrolled, including 309 boys and 282 girls. There are 13 permanent classrooms at Guassay and the school has a football pitch where the children can play during their breaks.

Mary's Meals Liberia encourages all of the schools in its feeding programme to grow a school garden. This gives the children hands-on agricultural experience and the food the schools grow can be used as ingredients for their daily school meals or can be sold and the profits re-invested back into the school itself. Guassay has a flourishing garden, tended to by teachers and pupils, growing potato greens and cassava.

Guassay Public School's pupils are taught by a total of 14 qualified teachers. The school's water source is a hand pump in the school grounds and there are 6 pit latrine toilets on site which are split evenly between the boys and girls.



“Mary’s Meals has made a huge difference for me and my friends. We like to come to school now so that we are able to get an education. The food helps us to be healthy and able to concentrate. I would like to be a teacher when I am older so that the future children will be educated too.”

- Miatta Briama, 10 years old, 2nd Grade

“I volunteer to cook because the programme is encouraging children to attend school each day. My children attend the school and I want them to do well in life.”

– Bendu Guaye, volunteer cook

“The food is helping the children to come to school every day and on time. I like the programme because it is helping to build the children’s future through education.”

- Augustine Konneh, Head Teacher

The sign at your school

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School feeding is sponsored here thanks to
generous donors from the UK.
Sarah and Nellie's Kitchen



Photos from your school

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Photos from your school

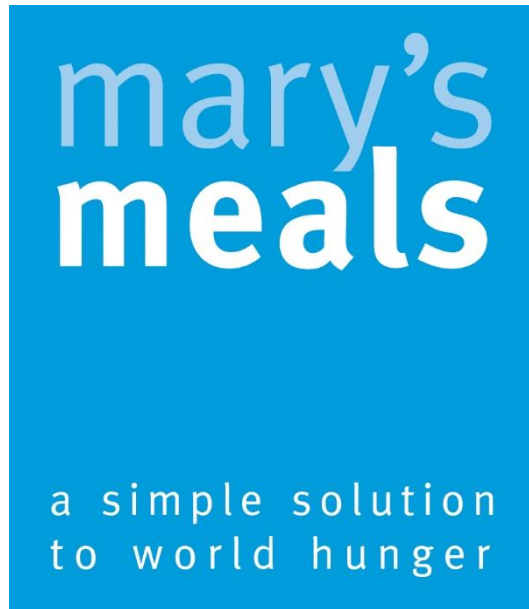




Thank you so much!

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