



# Mozambique School Lunch INITIATIVE

*Dear MSLI supporter,*

Hi, it's Cara here. I hope you and your loved ones had a very Happy Thanksgiving.

This year, we have much to be thankful for at the Mozambique School Lunch Initiative. It has been a very challenging year, with the COVID-19 crisis hurting many families. But thanks to your support, MSLI has been able to distribute food baskets to the 1,112 students at our six schools for **the last eight months in a row!** This adds up to the equivalent of **727,650 meals** provided.



A student munches on a raw sweet potato from his food basket.



Students carrying their November food baskets home from school.

Recently, we've included **orange sweet potatoes** in the food baskets, which are chock full of Vitamin A – and very similar to what my family had for Thanksgiving dinner this year!



Orange sweet potatoes freshly harvested and cooked in Mozambique.



Sweet potatoes fresh out of the oven on Thanksgiving Day.

During the food distributions over the last several months, I've been struck by the number of kids who have lost a parent or are living with relatives with minimal capacity to support them through this crisis.

For example, Cleiton and Amo Novela, seven-year-old twin boys, are in first grade at Punguine Primary School. They lost their father at a young age and then their mother went to South Africa looking for work but never returned. For the last several years they have been living with their elderly grandfather, but he passed away two months ago. Now, their 13-year old sister, Argencia, takes care of them. She is still in school, studying in the seventh grade, while also caring for her younger brothers. The trio depends on the food baskets distributed by MSLI every month.



Amo (left), Argencia (center), and Cleiton (right) at the November food basket distribution.



Hearing these stories motivates me to think about how MSLI can continue to provide holistic support. It also highlights the importance of consistency for these kids, whether through food baskets or our school lunch program. That's why right now we're gearing up for the start of the 2021 school year. The Mozambican government has begun a phased reopening of schools and we expect that primary schools will be fully open by February 2021. The school lunch program will be more important than ever for getting these kids back in school.

## End-of-year opportunities to amplify your support for MSLI!

MSLI has a [new project](#) on the GlobalGiving platform and there are a couple upcoming campaigns that can make your donation go even further!

**Giving Tuesday** – This Tuesday, December 1st, for 24 hours only, GlobalGiving is giving away \$1 million dollars to nonprofits around the world. Help us unlock a big share of those funds for the Mozambique School Lunch Initiative by donating on the [GlobalGiving platform](#) on December 1st.



**Monthly Donor Match** – GlobalGiving is offering a 200% match, up to \$200 per donor, on all new monthly donations set up between December 14th and 18th. Monthly donations help provide the consistency we need for our school lunch program and this will make your support go even further.



**Sponsor a Student** – For the first time, MSLI is now offering student sponsorships. For \$50, you can support a specific student’s school lunches for a full year! As part of the sponsorship, you will receive a photo and card about the child, as well as two updates during 2021. This makes a great **Christmas gift** for someone you care about! Contact Cara directly for more information: [cara.ann.myers@gmail.com](mailto:cara.ann.myers@gmail.com) // +1 (509) 570-6618



Rosa, a student recently sponsored by one of MSLI's donors as a Christmas gift to a relative.



A student at Bombofo Primary School who will be attending third grade next year.

**For more information:**

**Facebook:**

[www.facebook.com/mozambiqueschoollunchinitiative/](https://www.facebook.com/mozambiqueschoollunchinitiative/)

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