



**Mozambique
School Lunch**
INITIATIVE

Dear MSLI supporter,

Schools are reopening in Mozambique!

Just last week, the President of Mozambique announced that all schools will reopen for in-person classes on March 22nd. We are very excited to get back to our regular school lunch program, albeit with many new COVID-19 precautions in place, and be part of the effort to get kids back in school.

We are also expanding our program to include a seventh school – Chate A Primary School. This school has a little over 500 students, bringing our total up to around **1,700** from just under 1,200 in 2020. We are really happy to be able to expand at such a critical moment and serve school lunches to more kids.



A girl with her school lunch last March. We're looking forward to serving school lunches everyday again!



Chate A Primary School, the seventh school in MSLI's program, has about 500 students in grades 1-7.

New pilot program: Community preschools!

In order to address the needs of younger children, this year MSLI is launching community preschools alongside two primary schools where we currently serve school lunches: Duvane and Bombôfo. We expect to enroll 200-300 preschool students, ages 3-5 years, across these two schools. The preschool will help younger kids develop the key skills they need to be ready for school. This is especially important in rural areas of Mozambique where many kids grow up without any exposure to the Portuguese language – which makes it really hard when they get to first grade and all school instruction is in Portuguese (the national language of Mozambique). And of course, the preschool kids will also get a delicious and nutritious school lunch each day! We are hoping that by reaching these younger kids, we can go even further to prevent early childhood malnutrition.



Construction of the preschool building near Duvane Primary School.

New project: Chickens!

Ever since we started the school lunch program in 2016, "Chicken Day" has always been a favorite among students. Once a week, MSLI serves chicken in the school lunches and it is quite a crowd pleaser. In late 2020, MSLI launched our first chicken coop, run by a farmer group near Bombôfo Primary School. This is a great opportunity for us to create jobs for the local community, while lowering our costs by purchasing directly from the farmers (instead of through a middleman). A win-win!

After building the chicken coop (which is lit by solar power!) and training a group of five farmers, the first batch of 300 chickens was raised in December, just in time to sell for New Year's celebrations! The farmer group is saving a portion of the profits from each round to increase the number of chickens. In the second batch, they raised 370 chickens, and in a couple months, they will reach the coop's capacity at 500 chickens. A chicken sells for about US \$3.25, of which \$0.80 is profit for the farmer. At capacity, this project will generate US \$400 in profit every six weeks, a major boost for the farmers involved.



The new Bombôfo group is learning how to raise chickens with proper nutrition and sanitation protocols to ensure top quality!



The farmer group from Bombôfo preparing chickens for sale from the new coop. Starting soon, MSLI will be purchasing hundreds of chickens every month from this group.

The farms keep on growing!

This year, we will also be expanding our farmer program to the new village around Chate A Primary School. This means that 10 more farmers will be joining our supply chain and received extension and support to increase their production, bringing our total to 55 farmers. The success of our farmer program last year makes us really excited to continue investing in the local community as part of our holistic approach.

Overall, the 2020 season was our best farming season yet. Of the 31 farmers who started working with us in 2017, all but two of them produced more than ever before and earned substantially higher profits in 2020 than any year previously. On average, these farmers took home \$385 in profit in 2020 – up from \$274 in 2019. Our highest producing farmer earned \$894 in profit! Our farmer group in Duvane earned 10 times higher profits on their bean crop last year compared to the year before, thanks to exceptionally hard work producing a record harvest. Ten new farmers also joined us from the Chate B village last year and turned a profit in their first season – even in spite of an abnormally severe rat problem. All in all, it's hard work but we're seeing real traction, in no small part due to the dedication of our agronomist, Jaime.



Joana works very hard to keep her bean crop well watered and weeded, consistently making her one of the top producing farmers across all the groups.



A large plot of tomatoes thriving at the new farm in Chate B last year.

Opportunities to amplify your support for MSLI!

MSLI has a lot of work to do this year and our supporters play a key role in making it happen.

Little x Little_campaign –

This week (March 8-12) is GlobalGiving's March Little x Little campaign.



How it works: All eligible donations up to \$50 per unique donor will be **matched at 50%** during the campaign! This is a great opportunity to make your support go even further and the timing couldn't be better as we launch into the new school year.

[Click here to see our project on GlobalGiving.](#)

Sponsor a Student – If you're interested in having a more personal connection with MSLI, consider sponsoring a student! 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 gift for someone you care about! Just contact Cara directly if you're interested and she will set you up: cara.ann.myers@gmail.com // +1 (509) 570-6618

Donate directly on our website –

<https://www.mozambiqueschoollunchinitiative.org/donate>

A huge thanks to all of our supporters who have carried us through this tough time! You helped us provide more meals than ever last year, and we are sincerely thankful.

For more information:

Facebook:

www.facebook.com/mozambiqueschoollunchinitiative/

Website:

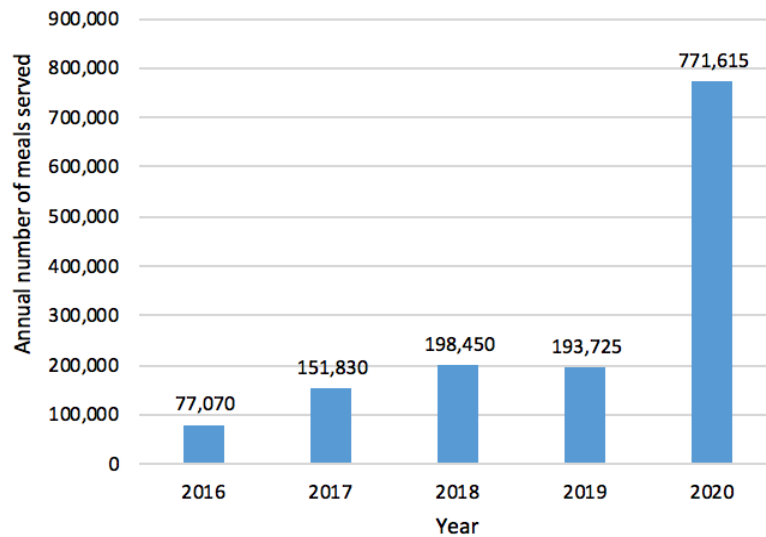
www.mozambiqueschoollunchinitiative.org

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Number of school meals served by MSLI



*The number of meals served in 2020 was dramatically higher in 2020 due to the fact that the monthly food baskets provided from April - November contained the equivalent of around 110 meals per student (not the monthly 20-22 meals through the regular school lunch program). This is because at home, the food is typically cooked and shared with all of the student's family members as well. In order to ensure that each student still got the nutrition they needed, we increased the rations per food basket substantially.



A student savoring his school lunch, peanut vegetable curry with xima (corn porridge), just before schools closed last year.



A farmer in Chate checking on her peanut crop. Over the last month, farmers have been harvesting peanuts and they will soon be ready to sell to the school lunch program!