



# Mozambique School Lunch INITIATIVE

*Dear MSLI supporter,*

## **Greetings from Mozambique!**

Since schools reopened for in-person classes on March 22nd, we have been providing school lunches every day to 1,858 students across seven primary schools. These school lunches have been a big incentive for kids to come to school each day, and have provided an important nutritional safety net in a time when economic hardship and food insecurity are high.



A girl with her school lunch last at MSLI's new school, Chate A Primary.



Students being served at Candiza Primary School, one of the first schools MSLI started working with in 2016.

## Launching MSLI's community preschools!

Over the last several months, MSLI has been busy getting everything ready for the launch of our first two community preschools, in Duvane and Bombôfo villages. This has included building the preschools, interviewing and training the preschool teachers, acquiring the preschool supplies, and meeting with parents to enroll their children. Preschool is not common in Mozambique, with less than 5% of kids ever attending preschool, but we know that there are a lot of benefits for these young kids to get early childhood education along with the extra nutritional support. In fact, MSLI decided to serve both breakfast and lunch to these kids because they typically come to preschool without eating anything and it is hard to keep the attention of a 3-year old on an empty stomach!



A group of preschool students on their first day!

Due to COVID-19 government restrictions, we were finally allowed to open the preschools on July 8th! Unfortunately, after just 10 days of school, the government banned preschools again due to a surge of COVID-19 cases. At this moment, we are still waiting for permission to reopen the preschools, and will be ready to get back in the classroom as soon as the government gives the green light.



Students were excited to be in the classroom, and our new preschool teachers had the support of the primary school teachers.

## Chicken Day!

As always, the kids continue to love “Chicken Day”, and we love it even more now that we’re getting most of our chickens from the MSLI-supported Bombôfo chicken coop! With the training that they received from MSLI’s agronomist, the four farmers that run the chicken coop in Bombôfo village produce 400 chickens every six weeks. About two-thirds of these are sold to MSLI’s school lunch program and the rest are sold in the community.



All smiles on chicken day!



Apart from the school lunches, children rarely eat chicken or meat at home as it is more expensive.

## Record production on the farms!

This year has been a particularly productive season for MSLI's farmer groups. They have been supplying all the perishable vegetables, like kale, tomatoes, and beets for MSLI's school lunch program for months. And just this week they have begun harvesting beans and MSLI has already purchased 4,300 pounds of beans from just one farmer group (Chate B) so far. These beans provide a key source of protein for the school lunch program and are an important source of income for the farmers who grow them.

Two women load tomatoes and beets into MSLI's truck, which will distribute the food to the seven primary schools.





Two women from the Chate B farmer group weigh a sack of beans to sell to MSLI.

The Chate B farmer group is pleased with their harvest of beans this 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.

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

**Donate directly on our website –**

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

If you're **in Mozambique**, reach out to Ahuti Kumar for the best ways to donate locally! [ahuti@mozambiqueschoollunchinitiative.org](mailto:ahuti@mozambiqueschoollunchinitiative.org)

A huge thanks to all of our supporters! We are providing more meals than ever this year, and it wouldn't be possible without you!



Serving up rice with peanut vegetable stew and a side of cooked beets!



Students queuing for lunch at Chate A Primary School.

Learn more: <https://www.mozambiqueschoollunchinitiative.org/>

Follow us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/mozambiqueschoollunchinitiative/>

Follow us on Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/mozschoolslunch/>

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