



Mozambique School Lunch

INITIATIVE

Dear MSLI supporter,

Happy Holidays from Mozambique!

As we reflect on another year of hard work in Mozambique, we'd like to share some stories of why we're inspired to keep pushing forward. This organization's work is truly a group effort. The MSLI team is collaborating with teachers, parents, cooks, and farmers every day – all with the goal of ensuring that kids have the chance to grow and learn like they deserve to. We're doing this because we believe every child has this basic right, and we actually have the opportunity to make a difference that will last a lifetime.



Students in Bombôfo. We work for smiles like these.

MSLI's school lunch program is serving more meals than ever!

With seven primary schools and two preschools, MSLI's program served more school lunches than ever this year! Almost 2,000 students came to school each day, where they could rely on a hot, delicious lunch.

Quality nutrition makes a big difference in keeping kids coming to school, and enabling them to learn.



Students in the school lunch line at Chate B Primary School.



Just read the shirt.



A student at Chate A Primary School is happy about his school lunch of rice, beans, and beets!



MSLI's cooks are incredibly dedicated women who always make sure that there is enough food for every student that comes to school.



A classroom in Chate A Primary School. The school conditions in some villages where MSLI works are very tough. All the more reason to admire the students that still come to class every day to learn, and the teachers who are dedicated to making that happen.



Roberto, MSLI's President and Programs Manager, with a group of students enjoying lunch at Chate B Primary School. Roberto's leadership is a chief reason why MSLI's programs run so smoothly, and why there is always lots of laughter while we're working.

MSLI's preschools are gaining momentum!

MSLI's latest initiative is our preschool program for 3- to 5-year-old children in Bombôfo and Duvane villages. MSLI started from scratch, building the preschools, hiring and training teachers, and enrolling students. Each preschool has a morning and an afternoon session in order to accommodate more students, with a total of around 200 students attending this year. But some students (especially the three-year-olds) show up in the morning and stay all the way to the end of the afternoon session (and the preschool teachers let them stay of course). Since the children are very young, between 3-5 years, they have a harder time eating a large amount in one meal and can't go as long in between meals. Given the importance of good nutrition for this critical stage of child development, the MSLI team decided that it was best to add a second meal for kids in the preschool program. With this program, we aim to address the critical nutritional and early childhood education needs that will help these kids be prepared for primary school.



Students at Bombôfo preschool get ready to wash their hands before breakfast.



Students eating breakfast at Bombôfo preschool.



Serving lunch to preschool students in Duvane.



Ensuring good nutrition during a child's younger years is essential for their growth. MSLI's lunches always include fresh, quality dishes, like kale peanut stew, fortified corn porridge (xima), and beets!

The preschool teachers, hired by MSLI, engage with the children, playing games, telling stories, and teaching basic literacy and numeracy. For most of these children, this early childhood education will help them be much better prepared once they get to first grade.



Preschool teacher, Anacleta, enacting a story with some of the children at Duvane preschool.



A preschool student practicing her vowels.

MSLI's farmer groups continue to grow

Farmers are a key part of MSLI's model. MSLI selects farmers who are living in poverty and our goal is for them to learn, grow, and be able to sell enough to rise out of poverty. By sourcing food from these farmer groups, we are increasing the impact of every dollar spent on school meals. We are also ensuring fresh, quality food for the school meals. Farmers can, and should, be a key part of the solution to ending hunger in Mozambique.



A farmer in Chate irrigates her plot of peanuts. Once harvested, these peanuts will be sold to MSLI and used in the peanut vegetable stews served for lunch each week!



Farmers in Duvane sell orange sweet potatoes to MSLI. These will be distributed to the schools and served in the school lunches.



Farmers in Candiza sell kale to MSLI. Over 75% of the farmers we work with are women!

Support MSLI to do even more in 2022!

Our work is made possible by the generosity of many people. If you would like to make a charitable donation, it will go a long way toward helping us reach our goals for 2022!

Donate directly on our website –

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

If you'd like to **donate with a credit or debit card**, [you can do so here and just select the "Donate with a Debit or Credit Card" option.](#)

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

If you're **in the U.S.**, you can make a check out to "Mozambique School Lunch Initiative" and send to:
Mozambique School Lunch Initiative
5105 S. Park Lane
Spokane, WA 99223

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

A huge thanks to all of our supporters! Happy holidays!



Thank you, from the MSLI leadership team (Roberto, Talvina, Cara, and Jaime)!

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