



2.7 million meals served in 2025!

This year, MSLI provided more meals than ever, supporting children living in some of Mozambique's most remote and underserved rural communities. Many of these students walk long distances to school and come from households that rely on subsistence farming, where meals are uncertain and often limited to once or twice a day. For these children, the school lunch is frequently the most substantial—and sometimes the only—reliable meal they receive.

For rural students, school meals mean more than relief from hunger—they create stability in otherwise unpredictable environments shaped by drought, poverty, and limited access to services. A warm meal at school helps children concentrate, participate, and learn with dignity alongside their peers. Over time, these daily meals add up to something transformative: healthier children, stronger attendance, and a greater chance that rural boys and girls can complete their education and imagine futures beyond the hardships their families face today.



Every single meal adds up - both for each individual, and for more than 12,000 students now reached by MSLI's school lunch program.



MSLI's cooks are our dedicated frontline workers, preparing hot meals every day for the children in their communities!

School Meals: the Heart of Our Work

At the Mozambique School Lunch Initiative, school meals are more than a daily plate of food—they are the foundation of everything we do. For thousands of children, the school lunch is often the first and most reliable meal of the day, giving them the energy to concentrate, learn, and stay in school. When hunger is addressed, attendance improves, classrooms fill, and children are better able to grow both physically and academically.

School meals also serve as a powerful platform for broader impact. Through schools, we are able to connect children to health services, support local farmers, strengthen early childhood development, and build trust with communities. By placing school meals at the center of our work, MSLI is not only fighting hunger today but also investing in healthier, more resilient futures for children, families, and communities across Mozambique.



Hearty meals help kids thrive at school each day.



Kids especially love "chicken day", when stewed chicken is served with xima (cornmeal) or rice!

Deepening our impact: leveraging the school meals program to provide deworming and HPV vaccines for students

This year, MSLI expanded the impact of our school feeding platform by supporting critical health interventions for children in our program. In partnership with District Health Services, we helped deliver deworming medication to all enrolled students and HPV vaccinations to girls aged nine and older. In rural communities that often rely on surface water, like rivers and ponds for drinking water, intestinal worms are very common among children - sapping them of essential nutrients. Ensuring kids get deworming medication on a regular basis is one of the easiest and cheapest ways to address this! And HPV vaccinations now provide critical protection against cervical cancer later in life, which is especially important in Mozambique where access to cancer screening and treatment is very limited.

While the health system had trained technicians and medical supplies, limited transportation meant many rural schools were previously unreachable. By providing transport to schools across Mabalane District, MSLI helped ensure these critical services reached the children who needed them most, demonstrating how the school feeding program can serve as a gateway to broader health and wellbeing.



A health worker provides deworming pills to children at a primary school in Mabalane District where MSLI provides school meals.



A health worker provides HPV vaccinations to girls ages 9 years and above, providing lifelong protection.

Hókwè Boarding House for secondary school students - MSLI lends a hand

In September this year, MSLI began providing daily school lunches to students living at the Hókwè secondary school boarding house, supporting youth from remote communities without access to nearby secondary schools. Although the boarding house is designed to provide meals, limited funding often meant students received only two meals per day. By partnering with the boarding house to supply lunch, MSLI is helping students maintain the nutrition they need to succeed academically. Currently, only 41 students are enrolled despite space for 100, largely because even the modest annual fee remains out of reach for many families. Looking ahead, MSLI hopes to sponsor additional students so more rural youth can continue their education beyond primary school. If you are interested in sponsoring a student, please let us know! It costs less than \$150/year to sponsor a student from a rural village to continue their education!



The Hókwè boarding house is located right next to one of the larger secondary schools in the area (Hókwè Secondary School), enabling students from far away villages to attend.



MSLI now provides food for the daily lunches at Hókwè boarding house - filling a critical gap and helping set students up to succeed.

Investing in the youngest ones: MSLI's preschools

In MSLI-supported preschools, learning now starts earlier—and stronger—than ever before. This year marked a turning point as we hired a dedicated preschool program manager to guide expansion and ensure quality across sites. Children's progress was measured using the IDELA evaluation, an internationally recognized early learning assessment, and the results were striking: by year's end, students answered 85–90% of questions correctly on average. These gains reflect more than academic success—they signal confidence, curiosity, and readiness for primary school. MSLI also shared these lessons nationally, participating in an Early Childhood Development conference in Maputo and contributing to a broader conversation about how to give Mozambique's youngest learners the strongest possible start!



A student answers questions during the end-of-year IDELA evaluations.

Highlighting beans: a big harvest in 2025!

In villages across the region, the school lunch program has become more than a source of nutrition—it has become a market. This year, **96 local farmers partnered with MSLI** to grow beans for school meals, receiving quality seeds at the start of the season and a guaranteed buyer at harvest. When the rains came and the crops matured, farmers sold **132,000 pounds of beans to MSLI**, repaid the seed costs, and earned income to support their families. For farmers, this partnership meant stability and opportunity; for children, it meant fresh, locally grown food on their plates. It is a cycle that nourishes both classrooms and communities!



In April-May of this year, MSLI's agriculture team provided quality bean seed to local farmers on credit.



Throughout the growing season, MSLI provided technical support and guidance to farmers, helping ensure they were able to boost their crop yields.



In September-October, MSLI purchased beans from local farmers, building up our supply for the school meals, and supporting the rural economy.

MSLI's team is stronger than ever!

Behind every meal served and every child reached is a team working diligently to keep programs running smoothly. In 2025, MSLI invested in strengthening that foundation—hiring more staff, investing in the team's capacity and upgrading systems to meet the demands of growing programs. These behind-the-scenes improvements may not always be visible, but they are essential to ensuring quality, accountability, and sustainability. By building strong internal structures now, MSLI is preparing for a future where many more children can be served reliably and effectively.



MSLI is proud to be run by and for Mozambicans!

Supporting more students in 2026: how you can help!

In 2026, MSLI aims to serve even more children, providing the critical nutrition they need to grow and learn. In particular, we are working hard to raise funds to support 17 schools on the western side of Mabalane district. Currently, about 2,300 students attend these schools, and do not receive any meal at school. The teachers at these schools have reached out to MSLI, asking for the program to be expanded. We know that a nutritious lunch can make a big difference for these kids, and it only costs \$50/year for a child to eat at school.



School meals ensure no kid misses school due to an empty stomach!

How to support

If you're able to make a gift to support MSLI's work in Mozambique, we would be most grateful. Each and every donation goes directly to supporting children, providing essential nutrition to students, preschool education to young kids, and mentorship for adolescents -- all part of our approach to breaking the cycle of poverty in Mozambique. Thank you for being part of our journey!

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.](#)

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!



With your support, we can serve even more children in 2026!