

Seibo Activity Report: February & March 2016

On the 11th February 2016 with your good wishes and your donations Seibo began school feeding in Malawi. What follows is a short report on how your donations were able to provide hot school meals for future generations. On behalf of the children in Malawi we say thank you!



Progress

On the 11th February 2016 School Feeding began at 10 x Pilot Nurseries in the Chilomoni Area, Blantyre, Malawi. On the 15th of March an additional 6 nurseries were added to the Seibo Feeding Programme.

House visits were undertaken in the community to identify children with chronic malnutrition in order to allocate a nursery space in one of the participating nursery schools.

Your donations contributed to providing 633 children with hot meals in February and March.

Thank you for caring.

Overview:

Malawi is currently experiencing its worst food security crisis in over a decade. Some 2.8 million people, including 1.5 million children, are currently affected. The United Nations World Food Programme called for urgent funding for hunger stricken Malawi. With your help Seibo began school feeding to the most vulnerable age group on the 11th of February this year.

Why School Feeding?

School feeding carries many benefits- education, nutrition and health, gender inequality, food security, poverty alleviation- in one single meal. Seibo relies primarily on funds raised in Japan for its activities and aims to increase school attendance and improve the nutritional status of children in Malawi. The food provided by Seibo is locally known as Phala or Likuni Phala and is made up of 65% maize flour, 25% soya flour, 10% sugar and micronutrients. This meal provides both vitamin A and iron essential for children.

Each child at school received an equivalent of 100 grammes of Likuni Phala. This provision considers the young child first and foremost ensuring that every stomach is full and satisfied. What it also takes into account is the inevitable provision for the cooks, caregivers and their children who also avail of the nursery feeding programme. In this way no porridge used by the cooks or caregivers will affect the volume eaten by the child. Data relevant to child health provided by Health Surveillance Assistants (HSAs) will be used to inform Seibo as to the health status of the children in receipt of the meal.



Nursery
Feeding Shelter



Month 1: Food for
633 Kids!

Nursery Group 1: February 11th, 2016

On the 11th of February an official launch was held in Chilomoni with the invited guests including government workers, local chiefs and national media. At the launch the nursery owners were given a demonstration on how to prepare and serve the food.

Thanks to you each nursery was then provided with a cooking pot and necessary utensils such as mug cups and plates required for feeding. Initially feeding was offered at 10 x pilot nurseries to a total of 371 children; Sulema, Tikwere, Bachi, Ebenezer, Bizzy Bees, Tiyamike CBCC, Mwayi CBCC, St Theresa, Asira & Watipa.

Challenge:

At one of the nurseries a bag of Phala was found maggot-infested resulting in 35 kgs of Phala having to be discarded. Steps were taken to ensure this would not happen again. In addition Seibo are in negotiation with the supplier of the food for smaller batches of phala in order to reduce wastage.



Happier



Healthier



More
enthusiastic?

Nursery Group 2:

On the 15th of March a further 6 x nurseries were added to the Seibo feeding programme bringing the total of children being fed to 633 happy children. The following nurseries were added;

Fortune, Busy Bees, Mogina, Chilomoni, Kriver and All Saints nurseries.

Challenge:

To ensure the safety of the nursery children at the time of school feeding it was decided to build a brick safety wall around the large cooking pots provided by your donations. Most houses in Malawi are made from bricks and vast amounts of wood are used to fire them. However Chilomoni is located on the edge of a nature reserve so wind-dried bricks were the preferred option.



Safety Wall- built using
wind-fired bricks

Sponsored Nursery Places:

In the first month of operations 8 children have been identified for sponsored/free nursery places. Criteria for allocation revolve primarily around the child's health & nutrition status.

The location of the child's home in proximity to the nursery meant that the initial allocation will see 2 children availing of day care at the Ebenezer nursery and 1 child each being allocated to Kriver, Chilomoni and Asira nurseries respectively. 3 more children will go to nurseries in the area called Zambia in Chilomoni.

Prior to attending nursery a home visit to assess needs and to allocate places effectively needs to occur so no allocated children actually attended nursery in the first month. Implementation of these allocated places takes place from the week beginning 4th April 2016. Report to follow in the next instalment.



**Learning
Through Play**



Hand-washing



We thank you all so very much for caring for the children of Malawi!