

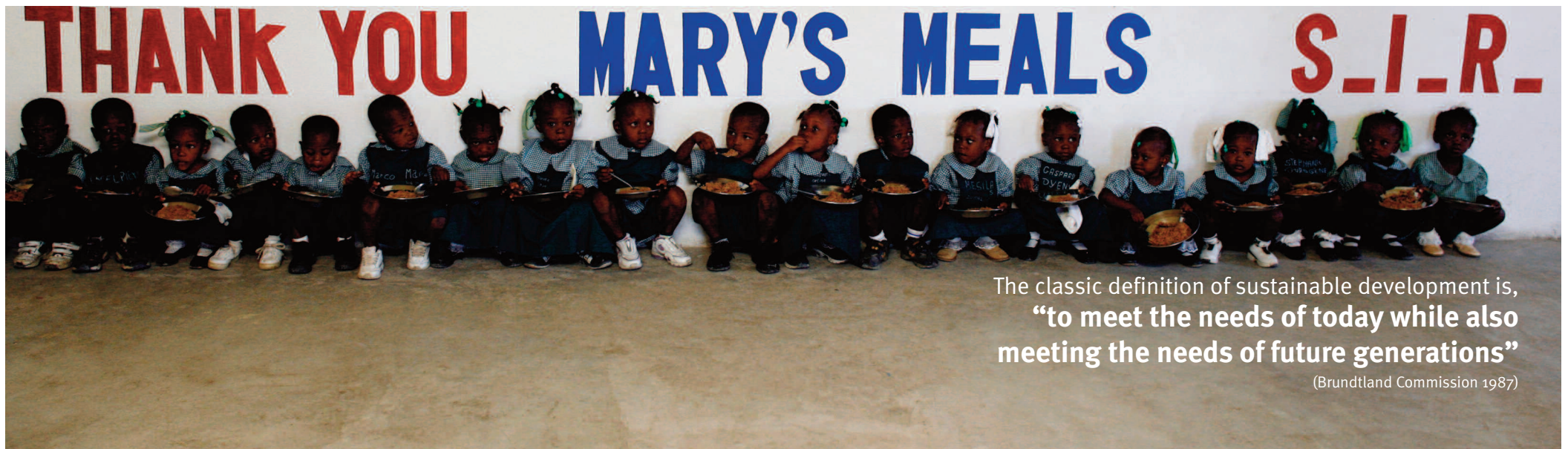


# Mary's Meals and Sustainable Development

mary's  
meals

a simple solution  
to world hunger

March 2007



The classic definition of sustainable development is, **“to meet the needs of today while also meeting the needs of future generations”**

(Brundtland Commission 1987)

**We believe that sustainability is part and parcel of every aspect of Mary's Meals.**

### The needs of today:

- Mary's Meals meets the immediate needs of chronically hungry children by providing them with a daily meal in school.  
*Malawi is one of the poorest countries in the world and this meal may mean the difference between life and death.*
- Mary's Meals helps families struggling to feed their children by giving their children at least one meal a day.
- Mary's Meals helps whole communities by uniting them in the common purpose of providing meals for their children.
- Mary's Meals uses local produce and stimulates the local economy.
- Mary's Meals involves local people in solving the problem of chronic hunger in their children.  
*Around 4 000 Malawian volunteers cook, serve and organize Mary's Meals.*

### The needs of future generations:

- Mary's Meals is a movement that promotes education.  
*Poor children are attracted into the classroom through the provision of a daily meal.*
- Mary's Meals increases school enrolment, reduces absenteeism, improves academic performance.  
*Through Mary's Meals an individual's social and economic potential is increased.*
- Mary's Meals can help transform a country into a place where future generations do not have to go hungry.  
*Through Mary's Meals a whole country's social and economic potential is increased.*

There is another usage of the term, 'sustainability' in relation to development. It has come to mean an aversion to long-term projects. This has largely come about because of funding mechanisms where grants are on a 3 or 5 year cycle. *Mary's Meals takes a different view...*

### Taking the long view:

- Mary's Meals is a response to the deep poverty of a country like Malawi where school attendance suffers as a result.  
*To overcome such desperate poverty may take several generations – not a 3 or 5 year project.*
- Mary's Meals is not dependant on grants but the generosity and goodwill of people from around the globe.  
*People do want to share their wealth with those who lack even the basics in life and Mary's Meals allows us all to translate even small amounts of money into real help.*
- In the future Mary's Meals will enable Malawi to continue school feeding without our help.