



Lunchbox Fund

2024 Annual Report

A group of young children are standing in a doorway on the left side of the image. One child in the foreground is wearing a light brown sweater and orange pants. To the right, two children are walking down a set of concrete steps. The boy in front is wearing a red polo shirt and grey pants, and the girl behind him is wearing a bright pink dress. The background is a light-colored, textured wall with large, faint letters 'Aa' and 'Bb' painted on it.

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A young child with dark skin and short hair is standing in front of a large green chalkboard. The child is wearing a red and pink hooded sweatshirt and light blue jeans. They are holding a green bowl in their left hand and a black string in their right hand. The chalkboard has some faint, dark markings on it. The background is a light blue wall.

Vision and Mission

Lunchbox Fund believes that every child has an equal right to learn and grow. Our approach is rooted in the understanding that hunger is a formidable barrier to education and that children with empty stomachs are unable to concentrate and absorb information. Without education a child's ability to access employment in their future is severely compromised, reinforcing the cycle of inter-generational poverty.

Lunchbox Fund supports children at all stages of their education; in pre-school, primary, secondary and after-school programs. We work throughout South Africa; in urban, peri-urban, informal and rural communities. Our daily meals provide nourishment for physical health and growth, and aid mental concentration. School Meals provide an incentive for a child to attend school daily, and for their families to support their educational progress.

The schools and pre-schools we serve are situated in communities that are home to the most vulnerable and food-insecure children in the country. They are either ineligible for government support or require additional support to alleviate food shortages.

Improving food-security and educational attainment for children in poverty cannot be approached in isolation; the two issues are integrally related. Lunchbox Fund believes nourishment and education, when provided together, can help children grow to be healthier young adults, equipped with the skills and knowledge to build brighter futures for themselves, their families and their communities.

See Lunchbox Fund Programs in action [click here](#)

Lunchbox Fund Achievements 2024



20.3 M

school meals
delivered



106 263

children reached
each school day



2 217

partner schools and
playgroups served



140

core staff, food mama and
fieldworker jobs sustained



1.99 M

relief meals
provided



57 444

relief beneficiaries
reached



33%

programmatic
growth









“South Africa’s major cities are home to millions of people facing hunger and food insecurity along with others around the world where rapid urbanisation—even in wealthy countries—is growing. Hunger is the absence of food; while food-insecurity can mean skipping meals, reducing portions, or eating less nutritious food.”

Gareth Haysom and Jane Battersby
Urban Food System Research Cluster, African Centre for Crisis







<https://foodsecurity.ac.za/news/south-african-cities-face-hunger-and-food-insecurity-as-cost-of-living-soars/>

Lunchbox Fund Reach 2024




GAUTENG

 228  844
 15 394  26 164
 3 264 840  211


LIMPOPO

 164  28 052
 7 819  217 403
 1 539 787  7 013




MOZAMBIQUE (GAZA PROVINCE)

 11
 4 667
 113 715




MPUMULANGA

 127  28 040
 10 798  1 738 480
 2 041 404  7 010







NORTH WEST

 100
 6 118
 945 364




FREE STATE

 345
 5 785
 1 149 740




KWAZULU-NATAL

 552  428
 21 594  13 268
 4 206 437  107







LESOTHO

 1
 50
 18 300

NORTHERN CAPE

 51
 2 360
 493 110


EASTERN CAPE

 482  80
 20 922  2 480
 4 295 361  20

WESTERN CAPE

 150
 10 856
 2 251 050


SCHOOL NUTRITION

 2 211 schools

 106 363 children

 20 319 108 meals

RELIEF FEEDING

 57 444 beneficiaries

 1 997 795 meals

 14 361 families

Founder's Note

The recent National Food and Nutrition Security Survey has revealed alarming levels of hunger in South Africa, with food-insecurity reaching its highest point in more than a decade. 63% of South Africa's households are now food insecure, and 17% of those are critically under-nourished. What this means in real terms is that 20 million South Africans don't have sufficient food to eat. ⁽¹⁾

In 2024 cost of living increases hit South African households hard: the Survey's findings showed that most households survive on nutrient-poor food groups such as cereals, condiments, sugars, oils and fats, in the main because families cannot afford enough protein-rich foods. National stunting levels have increased from 25% - 28%, with over a quarter of our children experiencing a deep and chronic lack of protein. ^(1,2,3)

Lunchbox Fund is working to address this national problem. During 2024 we served over 20,3 million meals to 102,363 children, in all nine provinces. Our meals are content balanced and varied – with protein being drawn from natural, plant-based sources: legumes, lentils, beans and soya. Each protein is paired with the correct amount of carbohydrate and fat, delivering healthy meals that are varied and delicious. We fortify provisions with a comprehensive range of minerals and vitamins – ensuring that the child's overall developmental outcomes are positively impacted.

Lunchbox Fund responded to the critical need for school nutrition outside of South Africa's borders by implementing a Pilot School Nutrition program in Mozambique. Between October and December we served daily meals to 4,667 primary school children (and their younger siblings) in 11 Primary Schools within Gaza Province. Funding for the School Nutrition pilot was raised separately to that intended for South Africa, and, despite the ongoing political unrest, our pilot will continue into 2025 – growing to incorporate newly built pre-schools and an additional 1,000 children.

In addition, our ongoing Relief Feeding Program supported 29,347 family members with 912,516 meals, reaching people when they needed us most - in their homes, and during school holidays.

These are remarkable achievements, and I could not be more proud of the South African team. Five individuals whose dedication and unstinting hard work maintains Lunchbox Fund's low-risk, high-impact growth and operational strategy. Their efforts are underscored by seven long-serving Fieldworkers, each of whom diligently monitors our programs to ensure effective implementation and who, as importantly, act as a vital partner resource to our schools.

During 2024 we grew our impact by 33% – expansion that allowed us to significantly reduce the number of children on

our waitlist. This growth was made possible by dedicated funding partners within the commercial and grant-making sectors. Many of whom have worked with Lunchbox Fund for multiple years and who are an enduring testament to the commitment of civil society in addressing South Africa's inequality gap.

Nelson Mandela believed that 'overcoming poverty is not a gesture of charity, it is an act of justice', a conviction our Funders share. Each trusts Lunchbox Fund to put their money to work where it is most needed; cost-effectively and efficiently. Without their generosity and focus, we would not be able to meet the needs of our country's most vulnerable citizens: her children.

– Topaz Page-Green



Nutrition in Mozambican Schools

"On the first full feeding day at a Primary School in Machua District, we expected 700 kids. A dozen Food Mamas in training – working the fires. At a point Talvina, our chef-trainer, called me 'Come and see this'. Standing in orderly rows, out of sight and behind the school, were about 400 pre-schoolers, all hoping to be included in service when their siblings were fed."

That day we cooked three rounds of food, working from noon until 5.30pm. I would say that we fed around 2,000 children in total - they just kept coming. It was unbelievable, I've never seen anything like this outside of relief feeding. There is no doubt of the need - enrolment has increased for 2025, and eight of the schools are starting pre-schools. We're working in the right place."

— Sue Wildish, Managing Director

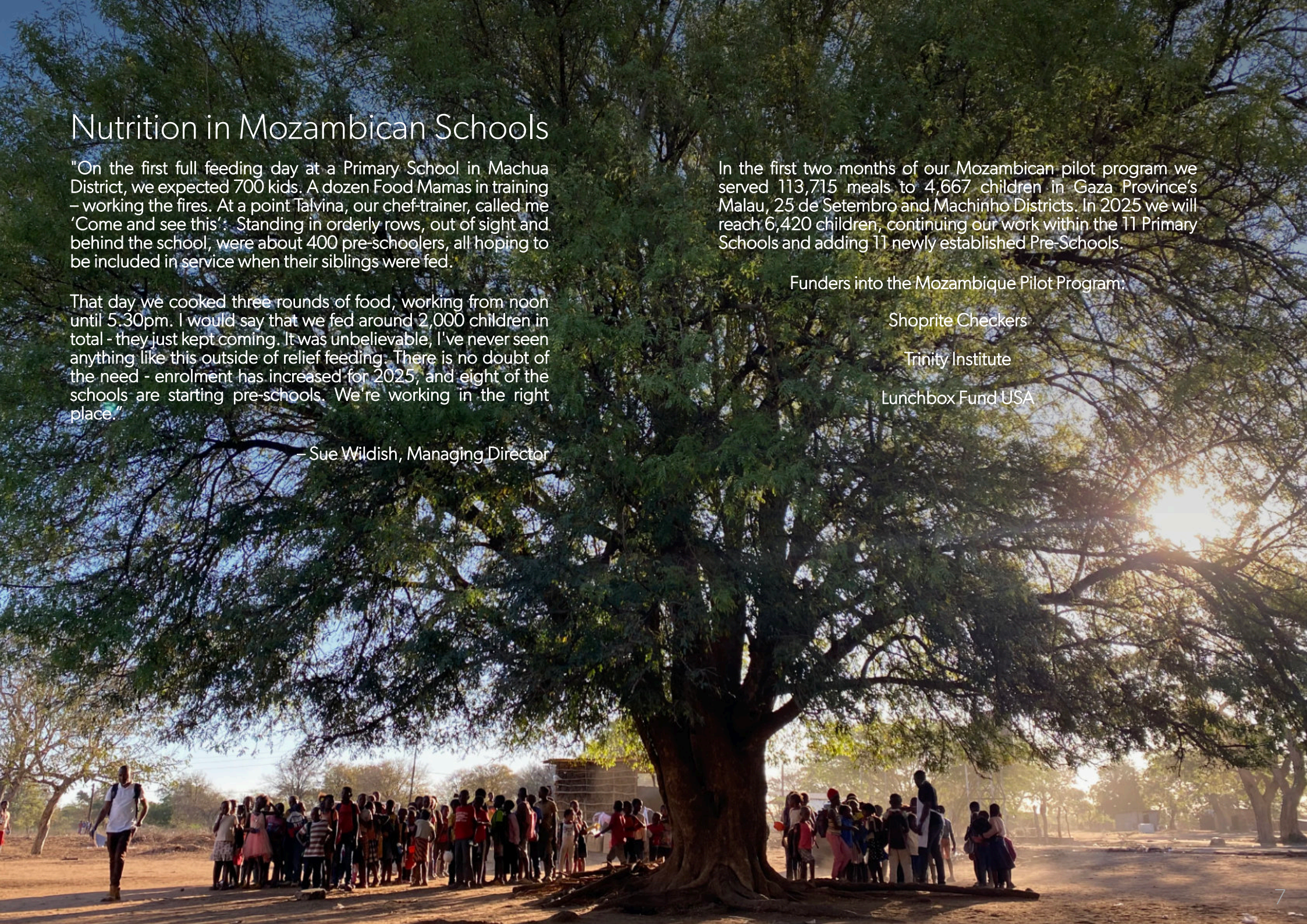
In the first two months of our Mozambican pilot program we served 113,715 meals to 4,667 children in Gaza Province's Malau, 25 de Setembro and Machinho Districts. In 2025 we will reach 6,420 children, continuing our work within the 11 Primary Schools and adding 11 newly established Pre-Schools.

Funders into the Mozambique Pilot Program:

Shoprite Checkers

Trinity Institute

Lunchbox Fund USA



Financial Summary and Sustainability

The Lunchbox Fund's fundraising strategy in 2024 included:

- Corporate Partnerships
- Grants and Donations by Foundations, Privately Held, Community and Family Trusts
- Sustained, long-term relationships with Private Donors and Funders
- In-kind donations
- Pro-bono service provision
- Monthly private donations via Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT), Snapscan and PayPal

Lunchbox Fund's core administration and staffing costs are covered by funding designated specifically as being for operational expenses.

100% of all other funds raised via trusts, private donors, foundations, grants and corporate social investment programs; is channelled directly into creating sustainable nutrition programmes for children in educational settings.

Lunchbox Fund maintains separate income accounting to differentiate between those funds received for Relief Feeding Programs and those intended for School Nutrition.

Funding for the Mozambique Pilot was raised independently of all funding intended for use in South Africa. These income splits reflect independently on the table adjacent.

Lunchbox Fund's Financial Year runs 1 January - 31 December.

	LUNCHBOX FUND SOUTH AFRICA	LUNCHBOX FUND USA	COMBINED LBF SA & USA
	RAND (USD 1 = ZAR 18)	USD	USD
	REVENUE		
Grants: South Africa School Nutrition	R 64 290 285	\$ 3 571 683	\$ 1 146 692
Grants: South Africa From LBF USA	R 13 171 662	\$ 731 759	
Grants: Mozambique School Nutrition	R 1 400 000	\$ 77 778	\$ 50 000
Grants: Relief Feeding	R 3 590 021	\$ 199 446	\$ 199 446
In Kind Contributions	R 4 575 404	\$ 254 189	\$ 254 189
Smaller/Other Donations	R 923 578	\$ 51 310	\$ 51 310
Investment Income	R 4 905 960	\$ 272 553	\$ 50 741
TOTAL REVENUE	R 92 856 910	\$ 5 158 717	\$ 1 247 433
	PROGRAM EXPENSES		
South African Nutrition Program Food/Transport	R 50 718 899	\$ 2 817 717	\$ 2 817 717
Mozambique Nutrition Program Food/Transport	R 839 081	\$ 46 616	\$ 46 616
Monitoring and Evaluation	R 4 086 577	\$ 227 032	\$ 10 500
Relief Feeding Program Food/Transport	R 3 120 468	\$ 173 359	\$ 173 359
Volunteer Stipends Food Mamas	R 2 446 896	\$ 135 939	\$ 135 939
Program Materials/Design Fees	R 267 676	\$ 14 871	\$ 14 871
Research/Nutrition Evaluation	R 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
LBF USA Funding to LBF SA	R 0	\$ 0	\$ 731 759
Staff Training	R 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
TOTAL PROGRAM EXPENSES	R 61 479 597	\$ 3 415 533	\$ 742 259
	ADMINISTRATIVE/OPERATING EXPENSES		
Accounting Fees/Governance	R 91 523	\$ 5 085	\$ 64 742
Advertising/Marketing	R 590	\$ 33	\$ 33
Bank Charges	R 36 727	\$ 2 040	\$ 2 227
Computer Expenses/Website	R 40 368	\$ 2 243	\$ 8 691
Depreciations	R 7 791	\$ 433	\$ 433
Employee Costs	R 2 424 813	\$ 134 712	\$ 77 463
Entertainment	R 3 315	\$ 184	\$ 184
Finance Costs	R 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
Liability Insurance	R 6 412	\$ 356	\$ 211
Postal Box, Postage and Delivery Fees	R 1 473	\$ 82	\$ 222
Printing and Stationery	R 3 188	\$ 177	\$ 2 670
Utilities (Phone, Fax, Internet)	R 61 695	\$ 3 428	\$ 3 428
Rent	R 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
Travel (Fundraising/General)	R 91 464	\$ 5 081	\$ 5 081
TOTAL ADMIN/OPERATING EXPENSES	R 2 769 359	\$ 153 853	\$ 157 441
TOTAL ALL EXPENSES	R 64 248 956	\$ 3 569 386	\$ 899 700

Funding for School Nutrition Program

South Africa

R 5 000 000 - R 15 000 000

KFC Social Responsibility Trust — Sanlam Foundation — Shoprite Checkers — Lunchbox Fund USA

R 1 000 000 - R 5 000 000

AFGO — Cargo Compass (in kind) — Cape Wine Auction Trust — Development Bank of South Africa — EMS Foundation — HCI Foundation
Kouga Wind Farm — Community Development Trust — Industrial Development Corporation — Jonkershoek Trust — Kraft Heinz Foundation
Trinity Institute

R 300 000 - R 1 000 000

Albert Wessels Trust — Ball Family Foundation — Barrett Foundation — Fedex — Spur Foundation — Victor Daitz Foundation

R 100 000 - R 300 000

Allianz/Stiftung Kinderfonds — Amplifin — Dale Williams — Josh Jackson — Leap Science and Math Schools — PEP — RB Hagart Trust — Robert Niven Trust
Sensient Technologies — Megafreight Services — Mia Kruger — Nhlanganiso Mkwana — Powafix — SW Securities — Vodacom/Connect for Change Trust



Funding for School Nutrition Program: South Africa

R 10 000 - R 100 000

Bridge-Ed Foundation — Crowe Johannesburg (in kind) — David Graaff Foundation — Frederick Wartenweiler Trust — Fuchs Foundation — Hamilton Russell Vineyards
Hayley Rubin — Joan St Leger Lindbergh Trust — Learning Initiative — Love-Love — Malcolm and Gladys Cameron Foundation — My EasyGlow/Carlie Lubbe
NCT Forestry Agricultural Co-operative Limited — N Keartland — Lewis Stores — Mohamed Jhatham — Nifty Posters/Simon Davidson — Predator Pumps
Truworths/Red Hat — The Safari Golfer — T Sareff UK Online Giving

R 5 000 - R 10 000

B Kennedy — Cameron Foundation — C M Smit — C M Vlegaar — Daryl Rajah — Gerhard Boehm Family (in memoriam) — S Saner — S Mills S C Watson — LottoStar —
Lian — My Lunchbuddy/Lilian Plomp — Nicholas Kogl — Numata Business IT — Woolworths/My School Card

R 100 - R 5 000

Alicia Cloete — Brandon Hallas — D Kaminer — D Reshma — Dr U Pillay — Dorfling — EN Kwenyama — Faith Gifts — Fibonacci EA — J Wiemers — Ian Lineveldt
John Rollason — Lesogo Ndlovhu — Lindsa Godfrey — Louise Rapley — Mike and Jan Sullivan — Mziwakhe Mazibuko — Naidu Family — PB Burdairon — Plumb Guarantee
Sue & Co. — U Sewbhajan — Verity Wilson



Funding for School Nutrition Program: USA

\$ 50 000 - \$ 300 000

Emmanuel Roman
Evelyn S. and K.E. Barrett Foundation
Kraft Heinz Company Foundation
Trinity Institute

\$ 20 000 - \$ 49 999

France Leclerc & Richard Thaler
Pinkham Dunckley Family Fund
William Crudup

\$ 5 000 - \$ 19 999

Barry Weiss
Balthazar Getty
Bernard and Anne Spitzer Charitable Trust
Daniel Popper
Qi Wang
Robert and Toni Bader Charitable Foundation
The Shin Creek Trust
Thomas Kelleher



A photograph of a rustic kitchen interior. In the center, a large, silver metal pot sits on a fire made of logs on the floor. Steam is rising from the pot. To the right, another large metal pot is visible. The walls are made of mud or plaster, and there is a small window in the upper center. The floor is dirt. The overall scene is one of a simple, traditional cooking environment.

Funding for Relief Meal Provision

Our Relief Feeding Program continues to serve individuals who are not able to provide their families with guaranteed meals.

This year we reached 29,347 family members with 912,516 meals, serving people when they needed us most – in their homes and during school holidays .

Thank you to our corporate funders and dedicated donors for making this possible.

Corporate Partners:

AFGO — Wabtec Corporation

Individual Donors:

Hamilton Sithole — S Mills — Anonymous

"My children hardly get sick now, which is a remarkable change from last year when we received many sick reports from parents. We believe that the nutritious meals provided by the Lunchbox Fund have made a significant difference in their health and well-being. Thanks for your support!"

NONYAMEKO PEZA
Principal at Nomzamo Pre-school



"Our parents are happy to see the positive changes in their children. Providing nutritious meals every school day is a game-changer for many of our kids. Seeing their smiles as they leave with full bellies is truly heartwarming. Thank you for your incredible support and for helping us make such a significant difference in the lives of these children".

NOKUZOLA MPHALISA
Principal at Kamvalethu Day Care Centre



"From not knowing what a good, balanced meal looks like, my students have grown to understand the importance of eating healthy food instead of junk food which has no value. The parents are always complimenting us on the food we serve. The children now look forward to coming to school - especially on Biryani day because they just love it."

MVUMIKAZI SEPTEMBER
Principal at Wonder Pre-school



"Parents know that their kids are having a hot, nutritious breakfast each morning, so they send them each day. They make sure to pay the school fees too, so the porridge is feeding us all."

NOZIBELE NTOMBIZANELE,
Principal at Nompucuko Day Care



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UNITED STATES

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Lesley Kirby-Smith: Company Secretarial, Grayston Statutory Services
Brian Moore: Nutrition Supplier, Sizani Foods
Jonx Pillemer: Photographic Images

SA FIELDWORKERS

Chikumbutso Maluwa, Gcina Mondli, Lelethu Madolwana, Lerato Mafenya, Mthuthuzeli Qambela, Pumelani Khumalo, Thandeka Twala

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WEBSITE

www.thelunchboxfund.org

GENERAL ENQUIRIES

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FACEBOOK

[/thelunchboxfund](https://www.facebook.com/thelunchboxfund)

INSTAGRAM

[@thelunchboxfund](https://www.instagram.com/thelunchboxfund)

CHARITY REGISTRATION INFORMATION

SOUTH AFRICA

Registration Number: 2012/168298/08

Enterprise Type: Non-Profit Company

Tax Exemption Status: Section 18A (SARS)

PBO: 93004275

UNITED STATES

Registration Number: 2653536

Enterprise Type: Registered Public Charity

170(b) (1) (A) (vi) / 2370Id

Tax Exemption Status: 501 (c) 3

PHOTOGRAPHY BY JONX PILLEMER

Additional Photographs: Staff, Fieldworkers & Partner NPOs

Mozambique: C Myers/R Mutisse (Associacao Iniciativa Mocambicana De Lanche Escolar)

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