“School feeding goes far beyond the plate of food, producing high returns in the following critical areas: education and gender equality, health and nutrition; social protection and local economies and agriculture.”

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The Lunchbox Fund was founded in 2005 in response to the education crisis faced by millions of hungry children throughout South Africa. We began by feeding 100 children most in need at a high school in Soweto. Since then, we have grown significantly and now provide a daily school meal to over 30,000 children across South Africa.

The Lunchbox Fund provides a nutritious daily meal in school to children who would otherwise often go hungry. We work in townships and rural areas across South Africa, helping children get the education they desperately need to build a life free of poverty for themselves and their families.

All education efforts are wasted if a child is too hungry to focus, participate and learn.

Our meals create both a critical incentive for caregivers to enroll their children in school and improve the child’s capacity to learn and develop while they are there. We believe no child should be kept from learning by hunger.

The schools and preschools we serve are situated in profoundly poverty-stricken communities, home to the most vulnerable and food-insecure children in South Africa. They are either ineligible for government support or require additional support to alleviate food shortages.

Increasing food security and educational attainment for children in poverty cannot be approached in isolation; the two issues are integrally related. We believe nourishment and education can help children grow to be healthier young adults, equipped with the skills and knowledge to help them build brighter futures for themselves, their families and their communities.

Vision and Mission

We support children at all stages of education; in preschool, primary, secondary and after-school settings. Lunchbox Fund’s daily meals provide nourishment for physical health and growth, aid mental concentration and support a child’s ability to participate and learn. Our school meals encourage children to attend school daily, and motivate their families to support their educational progress.

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Increasing food security and educational attainment for children in poverty cannot be approached in isolation; the two issues are integrally related. We believe nourishment and education can help children grow to be healthier young adults, equipped with the skills and knowledge to help them build brighter futures for themselves, their families and their communities.
Achievements 2019

- **5,6M** nutritious breakfasts and lunches served
- **5 005** children added to the program
- **30 732** children reached with a meal each school day
- **806** non-fee paying Schools, After-School Programs and Early Childhood Development Centres supported
- **9** provinces covered
- **55** jobs sustained for the community as Food Mamas and Fieldworkers
- **5** core staff members work in USA and SA
- **3 200** quarterly evaluation and monitoring visits undertaken
Nearly half the world’s schoolchildren, some 310 million, eat a daily meal at school. In South Africa more than 9 million in the Primary and Secondary School Sector and an estimated 2 million in the Early Childhood Development sector receive a meal at school, for many the only guaranteed sustenance of the day.

The last ten years have seen a growing global consensus that school feeding programmes generate a lasting impact that can shape the future of a nation. A landmark report published by World Bank offers compelling evidence of the multiple benefits of investing in school feeding. The report underlines how School Feeding has become increasingly recognised as a major investment in both human capital and local economies. School Meals are seen as playing a key role in social stability and national development.

Yet, despite global research attesting to the crucial link between nutrition and education, many grant makers who are deeply committed to educating children, still falter at supporting school meals. The Lunchbox Fund team works tirelessly to convince funders that meals are more than just consumables - they are often the sole incentive for a child to attend school. Once there, and once fed - education can begin. Lunchbox Fund is privileged to work with Funders that have made this link and offer sustained and dedicated support to our children. We could not do this work without them.

We closed out 2019 with a waitlist of 18K children; attesting to more hungry children in more unsupported schools year by year. This knowledge drives our dedicated and flexible team. They continue to seek out the most needy children in our country and devise cost-effective nutrition solutions tailored to meet the needs of child, school and environment, and I thank them wholeheartedly.

2020 will undoubtedly pose its own set of challenges as funding environments become constrained, but I am confident that we can weather them and, one meal at a time, contribute to helping children get the education they desperately need to build a life that is free of poverty for themselves and their families.

– Topaz Page-Green

Meal Costs

Breakfast*
R2.40 / $0.17

Lunch*
R3.60 / $0.25

Average Meal Cost**
R3.00 / $0.21

* Inclusive of door to door national delivery to School/partner NPO. Delivery is monitored via an interactive vehicle tracking system and on-the-ground signing protocols.

** Averaged across: age of child/portion size/meal served
“It's amazing to think that just the other side of here you've got tin huts with all these kids with nothing, and bringing them together: a nice hot meal provided by the Lunchbox Fund, and the sea, which they have been terrified of most of their lives.”

Prince Harry, Duke of Sussex

The Duke and Meghan Markle tasted a hot meal prepared for the children attending an after-school program on Monwabisi Beach, outside of the informal settlement of Khayelitsha, Cape Town.

Lunchbox Fund partners with the mental health NPO Waves For Change — underpinning their educational and psycho-social program with a hot meal served on the beach each day.
Where We Work

In 2019 Lunchbox Fund grew to reach over 30,000 children in rural, urban and peri-urban settings throughout South Africa’s nine provinces.
Financial Summary

100% of Lunchbox Fund’s core operational costs (salaries and running expenses for US and SA entities) are covered by donations and grants designated as being specifically for this purpose. This allows Lunchbox Fund to assure corporate funders, grantors, donors, partners and sponsors that every cent they donate is channelled directly into providing a hot meal each school day to a child.
The Lunchbox Fund’s consistent fundraising strategy in 2019 included:

Corporate Partnerships

Grants and Donations by Legacy, Privately Held, Community or Family Trusts

Strong, sustained relationships with Private Donors and Funders

Consistent monthly private donations via website

SA

FUNDERS AND GRANTORS

DONORS


US

DONORS

$100,000+
Emmanuel Roman — TCI Fund Management (US) Inc. — Anonymous

$10,000 – $39,999
Thomas Kelleher — Lone Pine Capital LLC — Mala Gaonkar — FedEx — Tony Robbins Foundation — Balthazar Getty — Bernard and Anne Spitzer Charitable Trust — JKS Family Foundation

$5,000 – $9,999
Gladstone Gallery — Qi Wang — Shin Creek Trust — William Crudup
“Healthy and well-nourished school children learn better and have better chances to thrive and fulfil their potential as adults. Ensuring that girls and boys stay in school and are able and ready to learn allows countries to develop their human capital and individuals to more fully achieve their potential in life. It strengthens community cohesion, stability and productivity, and helps make people and societies more resilient in a rapidly changing world.”

World Food Program
PATRON
Archbishop Emeritus Desmond Tutu

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Graham Phillips  Tax and Governance, Grayston Statutory Services
Lesley Kirby-Smith  Company Secretarial, Grayston Statutory Services
Ronel Victor  Senior Bookkeeping Consultant
Brian Moore  Nutrition Supplier, Sizani Foods

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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) / 2370ld
Tax Exemption Status: 501 (c) 3