

Dear Klaus

30.04.2025

SCHOOL FEEDING UPDATE:

..... I am grateful for the support of the school feeding scheme that IPA gave to the three primary schools namely Gumbure, Hozheri and Insukamini which was well appreciated by both the learners and the communities. The school feeding benefited and brought relief to the children who were missing decent meals at their respective homes and the schools became their source and refuge for food during the week. **We thank and salute the donor communities for the food aid** since no report of malnutrition or death as a result of hunger was recorded. The schools were supplied with sugar beans, soya chunks, green vegetables and cooking oil was provided to the schools through funds channelled to OEAS. Thank you for your warm heart for supporting the vulnerable children in Gweru.

The schools and the school committee coordinated with the parents making the arrangements with regards to cooking at the schools. The communities were cooperating by providing firewood for the cooking as well as cooking utensils. The schools were also working well with the village heads encouraging parents/ guardians of learners to carry out their duties of cooking at the respective schools since each person was entitled to carry out the duty once in a year.

..... The challenges were also encountered as some parents/ guardians were failing to report for their duties at the schools, this meant that there were some days when learners failed to have their lunch at the schools. This was hard for the teachers to live behind their lessons and cook for the learners.

..... There is also a need for the government through the Ministry of Education to give additional food supplements such as relish rather than looking up to the donors and well-wishers. In most scenarios most of the maize-meal provided by the government went bad or due to lack of supplements. On another note, the government was not providing the transport for the delivering of the maize-meal to the school so schools had to look for their own means of transportation. OEAS had to assist the three schools to transport the maize-meal. Most rural schools are poor and have no transport of their own to transport the maize-meal from grain marketing board. Much of the maize meal provided by the government was bad since it came from the old stocks and was not edible for human consumption.

Yours sincerely,

Willie (OEAS)