



maria cristina
foundation



First Quarterly Report

March 2016

Thank you

It has been a challenging three months, but there are success stories to report. We have had a number of volunteers visit Dhaka and many people have come forward to support a child's education fees.

We have 182 children under our wing now, 69 of them have a sponsor for 2016. We are thankful for the generosity of each and every sponsor. The children are very happy in the Cambrian School and College and we have already noticed improvements in their English and general study progress. The school has been extremely generous and accommodating to us and helped our children blend in without any problems.

I want to extend my sincere gratitude to all our supporters, volunteers, donors and friends, who have helped the Maria Cristina Foundation so far this year. Let's keep changing the world together, one child at a time.

Sincerely,

Maria Conceicao

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Education

We now have 178 children and teenagers studying in Dhaka, 5 in Dubai and 1 in university in Dhaka. 9 students in Dhaka and 3 in Dubai are preparing to graduate in May 2016.

Education sponsorship

We have secured sponsors for 69 students so far this year and are still searching for sponsors for the rest of the students. We encourage sponsors to build a relationship with the child they support in order to give sponsors a chance to see exactly where their money is going, and to give the children a chance to have a long-lasting friendship with their sponsor rather than receive hand-outs. We have had a couple of sponsors visit their children in Dhaka already and some more are planning to make the trip.

School transport

We launched a [school transport campaign](#) in order to hire a bus to take the children to and from school. We have not reached our target yet, but are hoping to have enough funds to hire a bus for primary school children after the Ramadan holiday.

We also received £2,000 grant from the Rozelle Trust in the UK, which will go towards funding school transport.

2016 school fees at Cambrian School and College	
Grade 1-8:	\$1,000
Grade 9-10:	\$1,250
Grade 11-12:	\$1,500

Student profiles

We interviewed all our students and created profiles for them to make it easier for sponsors to choose who they would like to support. All the profiles are listed on our website according to grades and there is an album available on our [Facebook page](#), ready to be shared and liked.



Family profiles

Similarly to student profiles, we interviewed the most needy families, who are desperate for help with rent, food, toiletries and transport. These can also be found on our website and we encourage individuals to support a family.



In kind donations

Apart from financial donations, many supporters have come forward to provide much needed in-kind donations to our families. The following has been donated and distributed thus far:

✧ **School shoes.** A supporter and volunteer, who visited Dhaka in February to meet the student she is sponsoring, bought shoes for all our students with the help of her friends. The school requires all students to wear black shoes to go with their school uniforms. The majority of our students could not afford to buy another pair of shoes. With their new shoes they blend in with the rest of the students and can give their other pair of tarnished shoes a break.

✧ **Food support.** Emirates Airlines cabin crew regularly visit us on their layovers. We now encourage them to buy food for one of the needy families we have identified. This has thus far worked very well: they buy from local shops, supporting the local economy, and give a family a break from worrying about how to get food on the table.

✧ **Blankets.** Dubai-based [Education 4 All](#), who collect items in Dubai and send them to schools all over the world, donated 25 blankets to our families in Dhaka. These were transported to Dhaka by four volunteers and handed out to families, who needed them most.

✧ **Clothes.** JESS school in Dubai donated bags of school uniforms, which have now found a new life in the Gawair slum.

✧ **Toiletries.** Volunteers visiting in February gave out toiletries donated by supporters in Dubai and Emirates cabin crew to 25 families.



Other activities

✧ **Rugby.** A group of expats living in Dhaka have made it their mission to establish a rugby team consisting of our students. They have been training for 3 months on the concrete roof at the Cambrian School and College and the students have really taken to this new and unusual game for them. We have a team, where boys and girls play together, all very keen to learn and improve. The coaches say they see real potential in our kids. We are now working to find a better place for them to practice and find some sports equipment to play in. The children are currently playing in their school uniform, which is not ideal, but we hope to source some shoes and sporting clothes soon. We would be grateful if any schools or individuals had such donations to give.



✦ **Volunteering.** 29 volunteers have visited us in Dhaka so far this year. These have mostly been short day-visits to see where the children study and live, but some volunteers have stayed for longer. We even had some children from Dubai visit the kids in Dhaka and they really enjoyed spending time together despite being from such different worlds. We also have a couple of volunteers helping us in Dubai with grant and proposal writing, which is a really welcome support and we are sure will help us achieve more.

Administration

Portuguese registration

Maria Cristina Foundation is now officially registered in Portugal. We have opened a bank account at the CGD bank:

IBAN: PT50 0035 0229 00019178 930 10

BIC: CGDIPTPL

Audited accounts

Audited accounts for 2015 will be available in the next couple of weeks and uploaded onto our website.

Google for non-profits

We have signed up with Google for non-profits, which allows us to use Google AdWords, Google Apps and the YouTube non-profit programme for free.

Website

We have refreshed our website with [student profiles](#), [family profiles](#) and added a [blog](#), where volunteers' stories from Dhaka will be published.



Thank you!