

2020 ANNUAL REPORT

Annual Report for the year ended
31st December, 2020



ADAPTING TO MEET

THE CHALLENGE

“

HANDS FOR HUNGER HAS AFFORDED ME THE
OPPORTUNITY TO WORK ALONGSIDE LIKE-MINDED
INDIVIDUALS, WHO BELIEVE IN SERVICE TO OTHERS.

-MESHA R. (VOLUNTEER)





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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Keisha Ellis

Executive Director

Hands for Hunger has made an incredible impact on the state of food insecurity and the reduction of food waste in The Bahamas since our launch in 2008. Our founder saw a big problem that had a relatively simple solution. The problems we saw were that hundreds of pounds of food were wasted while people went hungry. Hands for Hunger was created as a bridge between the two worlds and became a solution, by identifying a system that worked for both sides. For 12 years we focused on food rescue, collecting over two million pounds of fresh, nutritious, surplus food and delivering it to local agencies that provided food for people in need. As the demand for our services grew, so did our operations. We began including educational programs, school feeding initiatives, free community farmers markets, hurricane relief and other projects that allowed us to serve the community in meaningful ways.

When I became Executive Director in February 2020, I was eager and motivated to help propel Hands for Hunger ever further into our work and extend our impact in The Bahamas. Like many people the world over, I paid close attention to the COVID-19 Pandemic that was sweeping across the globe and began thinking about what steps Hands for Hunger could take to ensure that we were able to continue serving our recipients in the event that the virus hit our shores.

In March, that possibility became a reality and forced us to completely re-evaluate our model of food assistance. With no way of knowing exactly what the impact would be, we immediately began preparing our agencies for the inevitable lock downs that we saw happening in other parts of the world. Within a week of the announcement of the first case in The Bahamas, Hands for Hunger had delivered over 10,000 pounds of food to the community feeding programs, children's homes, senior citizen's homes, and other organizations in New Providence. We also extended our reach into the Family Islands. We sent pallets of food to partners on Eleuthera and Andros so that food could be distributed throughout settlements on those islands.

With the closure of resorts in The Bahamas, our model of food rescue had to be reassessed. Due to the overwhelming support of donors, we were able to launch a digital food voucher program that supported hundreds of families for the first three months of the lockdowns. Our support allowed people to access a food voucher on their mobile phones, giving them the autonomy to shop at local food stores for the items their families needed.



“

WITHIN A WEEK OF THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE FIRST CASE IN THE BAHAMAS, HANDS FOR HUNGER HAD DELIVERED OVER 10,000 POUNDS OF FOOD.

When we joined the National Food Distribution Task Force, we extended our reach by the thousands. With a commitment to encouraging people to stay at home as much as possible, we delivered food boxes directly to the doorstep of families. Each box contained meat, fresh fruits and vegetables, whole grains and other nutritionally dense food items.

Our dedication to innovation, safety and nutrition led to us providing over 100,000 food packages and almost \$1,000,000 in digital food vouchers throughout 2020.

This will not be a year that is soon forgotten. The challenges of 2020 will extend well into 2021, and likely beyond. In addition to the lingering challenges, however, Hands for Hunger holds tightly to the lessons learned and successes that we have met with providing meaningful support to our community. We are indeed changed by what we experienced and achieved during the year and vow to continue growing, making a difference, and combating food insecurity in The Bahamas.

SUPPORTING OUR AGENCIES

For the past 12 years, Hands for Hunger has supported soup kitchens, pantries, assisted living facilities and children's homes throughout New Providence. At the start of the pandemic, the very first concern was how we would be able to continue supporting them with the looming threat of lockdown and a complete overhaul of life. In preparation, we delivered thousands of pounds for food supplies to agencies to ensure that they were stocked with supplies in the event of a lockdown.

When the inevitable lockdown happened, we immediately sought and received permission to continue operations throughout all of phases of the Emergency Orders. Our trucks remained on the road, distributing much needed food to the agencies that have come to rely on our support.

As other sources of donations - both food and monetary - dwindled for some of these organizations, we have been able to provide regular deliveries of staple food items.



**TOTAL FOOD
DONATED
TO AGENCIES
222,958**





BAHAMAS ASSOCIATION
FOR SOCIAL HEALTH

BILNEY LANE
CHILDREN'S HOME

HOUSE OF RASTAFARI

NURSE NAOMI HOME
FOR ELDERLY

PAT'S SENIOR CITIZENS
HOME



OUR PARTNER AGENCIES



THE BAHAMAS
AIDS
FOUNDATION

PROVIDING ACCESS TO
CONTINUED EDUCATION

THE HAVEN

THE INDABA PROJECT

ST. MATTHEW'S DAY
CARE CENTRE FOR THE
AGED

UNITY HOUSE

VAL'S KITCHEN

YELLOW ELDER SENIOR
CITIZENS HOME



“

It is always a pleasure when we see Hands for Hunger, pulling into our driveway. We know that we can look into our needs list, and know that they have our backs. We love and appreciate you Hands for Hunger.

PASTOR LAURA JOHNSON
ELJAYS HILLTOP MINISTRIES

SUPPORTING
OUR AGENCIES EACH
AND EVERY DAY.





**WORKING TOGETHER TO HELP THOSE
IN NEED.**



WANT TO VOLUNTEER?

WWW.HANDSFORHUNGER.ORG/VOLUNTEER

With an infectious disease limiting the way we could interact with the public, we were able to execute a successful drive-thru food distribution. This allowed us to safely give out food to 800 families. Our drive-thru proved highly successful, seamless and adhered to safe social distancing practices, minimizing the risk of COVID-19 to our team, volunteers and recipients.

With safety in mind, our drive-thru was entirely contactless with recipients following these safety guidelines:

- Recipients arrived during their designated time and always remained in their vehicles. They were required to wear a mask.
- Recipients were guided through checkpoints for check-in, which verified their identity. Then, at the food loading zone, they were required to open their trunks and food boxes were loaded into the car by volunteers and staff only.



NATIONAL FOOD DISTRIBUTION TASK FORCE

As a member and zone leader of the National Food Distribution Task Force, we are a part of the first of its kind initiative to provide wide-spread food assistance throughout the entire Bahamas. The task-force is a public-private partnership with a shared commitment to aid members of our community that are in need of food assistance.

Through this program, Hands For Hunger has assisted over **6,600 families translating into, over 26,400 individuals**. Through the program, these individuals were able to receive a food box containing meat, whole grain, fresh fruit and vegetables.

In order to encourage people to stay at home, we delivered each food box directly to the home of recipients. For recipients with special dietary needs or other special dietary circumstances, we provided food vouchers which allowed them to be able to shop for the food items their families needed.



NATIONAL
FOOD DISTRIBUTION
TASK FORCE







SUPPORTING OUR FAMILIES

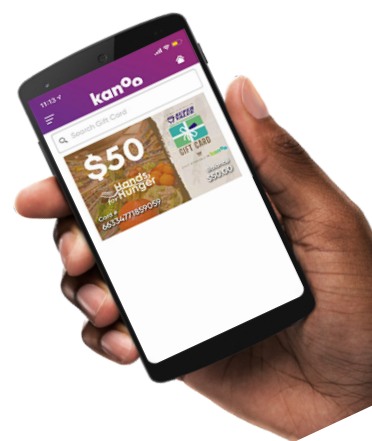
During 2020, food insecurity within our communities drastically increased. Families who were ordinarily food secure, suddenly found themselves in need of help. In response to this sudden need, we launched our digital food voucher program.

At the launch of the program, we sought to help 300 families for 12 weeks. Thanks to the overwhelming support of donors, we were able to support **470 families for 12 weeks.**

It was important to us to provide continued, rather than one-time assistance, so that those receiving help knew that they could rely on our support during a time of such uncertainty. Recipients for this program were referred to us through our community partners, Hurricane Dorian victim support groups and individuals in the community who know of our work.

It was also vital that we helped people without putting them or our team at increased risk of exposure to COVID-19. In order to promote social distancing, we developed an innovative digital voucher program where we transferred vouchers for food purchases directly to the mobile phone of recipients.

We learned that about 5% of our recipients were unable to get to food stores. For this group, we delivered food boxes containing meat, vegetables and grains directly to their homes. Vegetarian and vegan boxes were also available.



SUPPORTING OUR STUDENTS

SCHOOL FEEDING PROGRAM

With the closure of schools in March, we became concerned about the children who depend on the National School Lunch Program for meals.

In response to this need, we partnered with a team of local chefs to prepare food packages with five ready-to-eat meals. The meals were made with locally sourced ingredients and the menus included foods that were familiar to the children, as well as ones that were new. Each box came with directions on how to properly store the food and reheat the meals. **We were able to provide boxes that included five meals a week for 4 weeks for over 200 students.** Each week we collected feedback on how the food tasted, the favourite and least favourite meals.

Hands for Hunger drivers delivered the boxes to guidance counsellors each Monday. Parents/guardians collected the box on behalf of the children. Each meal was rated by students and the score sheet was given to the counsellor upon collection the following week.

What we learned:

- 100% of students were exposed to foods that they had not tried before.
- 70% of the students enjoyed the taste of foods that they had previously thought that they would not like.
- 80% of the meals were enjoyed by every student.



SUPPORTING OUR STUDENTS

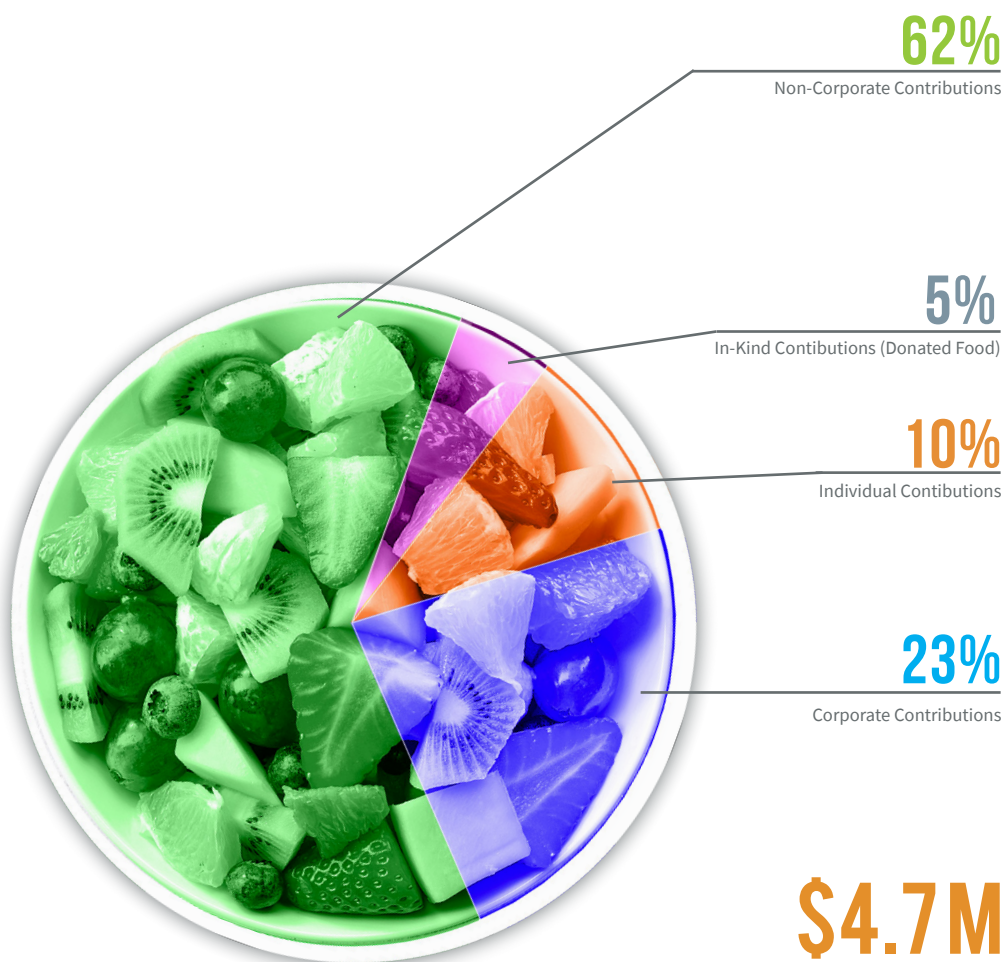
Our Logistics Coordinator Jason, delivering family food boxes to the Sandilands Primary School.



89%

CONTRIBUTIONS go directly to food purchases, programs and to those that need it the most, because of your support. The non-profit industry Gold Standard is a 25 to 75 percent split between administrative overhead and program expenditures.

This standard is recommended by Charity Navigator, an International nonprofit watchdog and ratings group.



\$4.7M REVENUE

FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT

In the fiscal year 2020, Hands for Hunger had total public support and revenue of \$4.7 million. 11% was spent on overhead expenditure, while 89% was spent on direct food assistance.

11%

Overhead Expenses

89%

Food Purchases for Distribution

\$4.1M
EXPENDITURE



HANDS FOR HUNGER UN-AUDITED

FINANCIALS

In 2020, Hands for Hunger received financial support from domestic and international donors with total cash donations approximating \$4.4 million. Despite our largest fundraising event, Paradise Plates, being cancelled due to COVID-19 and a 99% decrease in proceeds from fundraising events and activities, we received more donations in 2020 than any other year on record. **Our work in providing food aid and assistance to the survivors of Hurricane Dorian in 2019 augmented our reputation as an effective NGO. That effort, coupled with our decade-long experience in reducing food insecurity in The Bahamas, gave donors confidence in us.**

As a member of the National Food Distribution Task force, we assisted the Government of The Bahamas in the distribution of food to thousands of families. Government contributions for the Task Force totaling \$2.45 million is included in Non-corporate contributions. We spent \$3.6 million on food distribution programs, with \$3.1 million related to the National Food Distribution Task Force program. With the possibility of donor activity subsiding in 2021, we will continue to remain prudent and creative in managing donated funds to ensure that we can sustain our food distribution programs well into the year. We are grateful for the support of our donor community.



STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

HANDS FOR HUNGER

Statement of Financial Position (Unaudited)

(Expressed in Bahamian dollars)

Year ended December 31, 2020

	2020 \$	2019 \$
ASSETS		
CURRENT ASSETS		
Cash	1,193,579	587,598
Accounts receivable	400	3,650
Prepaid expenses	1,699	1,200
	1,195,678	592,448
NON-CURRENT ASSET		
Fixed assets, net	46,903	63,277
TOTAL ASSETS	1,242,581	655,725
LIABILITY AND FUND BALANCE		
LIABILITY		
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	4,389	16,437
FUND BALANCE		
TOTAL LIABILITY AND FUND BALANCE	1,238,192	639,288

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES & FUND BALANCE

HANDS FOR HUNGER

Statement of Activities and Fund Balance (Unaudited)

(Expressed in Bahamian dollars)

Year ended December 31, 2020

	2020 \$	2019 \$
FUNDRAISING AND CONTRIBUTIONS		
Fundraising events and activities, net	4,239	353,573
In-kind contributions (donated food)	222,958	307,965
Individual contributions	460,779	37,087
Corporate contributions	1,089,438	225,654
Non-corporate contributions	2,903,593	1,672
	4,681,007	925,951
EXPENSES		
Salaries and wages	209,618	283,808
Direct costs (donated food)	222,958	307,965
Food distribution	3,570,625	-
Vehicle fuel, repairs and supplies	8,995	10,159
Telephone and fax	-	3,542
Other expenses	12,452	24,653
Professional fees	23,628	23,268
Promotion and communication	11,366	11,849
Postage and printing	108	398
Depreciation	22,419	20,404
	4,082,168	686,047
EXCESS OF FUNDRAISING AND CONTRIBUTIONS OVER EXPENSES BEFORE OTHER INCOME	598,839	239,904
Other income	65	65
EXCESS OF FUNDRAISING AND CONTRIBUTIONS OVER EXPENSES	598,904	239,696
Fund balance, beginning of the period	639,288	399,319
Fund balance, end of the period	1,238,192	639,288

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

HANDS FOR HUNGER

Statement of Cash Flows (Unaudited)

(Expressed in Bahamian dollars)

Year December 31, 2020

	2020 \$	2019 \$
CASH PROVIDED BY (USED IN):		
OPERATING ACTIVITIES		
Excess of fundraising and contributions over expenses	598,904	239,969
Adjustment for non-cash item:		
Depreciation	22,419	20,404
Changes in operating asset and liability:		
Increase in other assets	616	(352)
Increase in prepaid expenses	1,436	3,065
(Decrease) increase in accounts payable and accrued expenses	(6,359)	(2,645)
Net cash provided by operating activities	617,016	260,442
INVESTING ACTIVITY		
Purchase of fixed assets	(6,045)	(46,000)
NET INCREASE IN CASH	610,971	214,442
Cash, beginning of the period	582,608	368,166
CASH, END OF THE PERIOD	1,193,579	582,608



 **Hands
for Hunger**

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