



**Hands
for Hunger**
Delivering fresh surplus food to those in need
327-1660

COVID-19 RESPONSE REPORT

**Hands
for Hunger**
NOVEMBER 2020

SUMMARY

For the past 12 years, Hands for Hunger has been committed to tackling food insecurity in The Bahamas. Our focus has been on the collection of fresh surplus food which we distributed to feeding agencies, shelters, senior citizens' homes and children's home across New Providence.

The rise of the Covid-19 pandemic completely disrupted our operations and forced us to adapt quickly in order to serve not only our regular recipients, but also, the increased number of families who were now facing food insecurity.

We responded in three ways:

- Directly assisting families who found themselves suddenly unable to meet their food needs through the provision of digital food vouchers and food boxes
- Immediately shifting from collecting fresh food donations to focusing on non-perishable items - both donated and purchased for our agencies
- Joining the National Food Distribution Taskforce in order to maximize our reach and be a part of the consolidated effort to provide food support to families across the entire Bahamas

Because of the support of our donors, we were able to be highly innovative and effective in providing support and encouraging people to follow social distancing guidelines.



OVERVIEW OF PROGRAMMES

Digital Food Vouchers

April - July

\$615,000.00

Amount Spent

400

Number of families

2052

Number of individuals

At the launch of the programme, we sought to help 300 families for 12 weeks. Thanks to the overwhelming support of donors, we were able to support **400 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 programme 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 help 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 programme 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.

The end of this programme corresponded with the launch of the National Food Distribution Taskforce programme, which meant that many people were able to transition directly into that programme once their 12-week period ended.

AGENCY SUPPORT

Amount spent since April 2020: \$100,000.00

Throughout all of the phases of the emergency orders, our trucks have 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 - have dwindled for some these organizations, we have been able to provide regular deliveries of staple food items.

NATIONAL FOOD DISTRIBUTION TASK FORCE

Phase 1: June - October

Hands for Hunger Contribution: \$600,000

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.

Hands for Hunger is responsible for 5,500 families in the Western Zone of New Providence.

Still adhering to our commitment, to minimize the risk of exposure to our team and recipients, Hands for Hunger delivers each food boxes directly to the homes of recipients.



THANK YOU

Hands For Hunger depends on the support and generosity of local and international partners who believe in our organization. We look forward to continuing our work of developing programmes that help us toward our goal of a transformed Bahamas, where everyone has access to three healthy, nutritious and fortifying meals each day.

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