

# HURRICANES, HOT MEALS & HELICOPTERS

WCK in The Bahamas, 2019





People of World Central Kitchen,

This little book represents just a piece of the work our team did in 2019, but we hope it gives you a view into some of the places we cooked and the people we were honored to meet and work with. In 2020, the world changed in a way no one could have imagined, but we are always remembering the past as we look to the future... otherwise, how do we learn?

Here you'll find stories from our work in 2019, focusing on our emergency response in The Bahamas, a beautiful country whose people have shown just how resilient they are in the aftermath of Hurricane Dorian. Thank you for being with us on this journey, and into the future—wherever there's a fight so that hungry people may eat, we will be there.

With gratitude,  
José Andrés, Founder  
Nate Mook, CEO

The image shows two handwritten signatures in black ink. On the left is 'José Andrés' written in a stylized, cursive font. To its right is 'Nate Mook' also in a cursive font. A long, horizontal, slightly curved line is drawn across the middle of the page, passing behind the 'Andrés' part of the first signature and above the 'Mook' part of the second signature.

**Art:** Cully Hamner  
**Colors:** Lauren Affe  
**Lettering & Layout:** Thomas Mauer

*Special Thanks to Steve Orlando.*

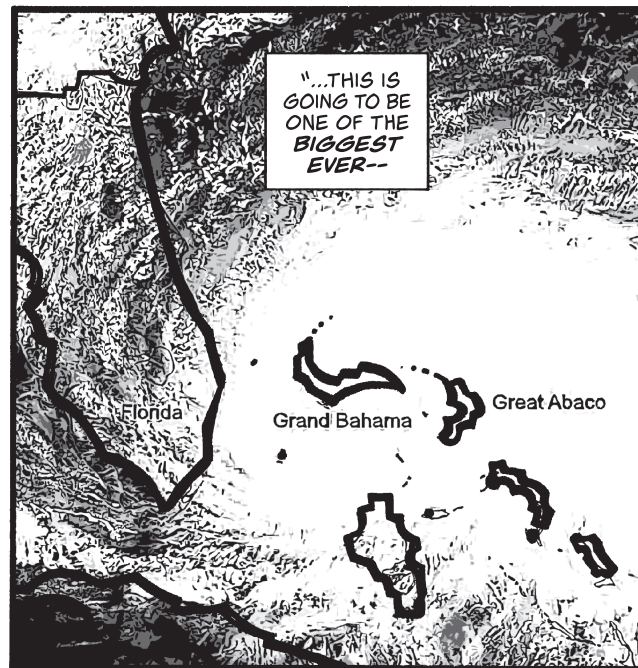




I WANT EVERYBODY TO UNDERSTAND, WE ARE NOT NEAR THE HURRICANE...



...WE ARE, LIKE, NINETY MILES AWAY. IMAGINE WHAT'S GOING ON IN ABACO.



"...THIS IS GOING TO BE ONE OF THE BIGGEST EVER--"

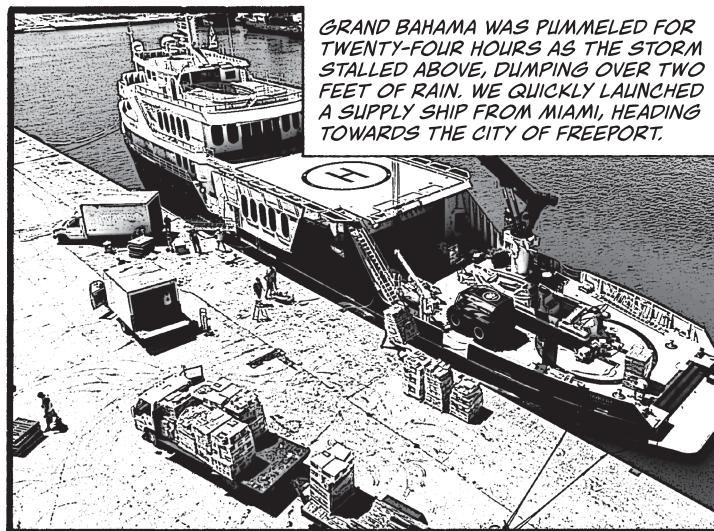


"--SO LET'S PRAY FOR EVERYBODY IN ABACO AND GRAND BAHAMA."

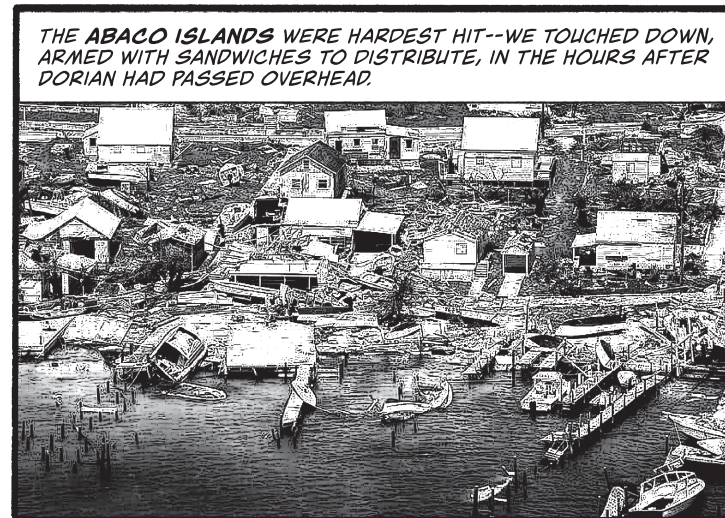
SEPTEMBER 2019. HURRICANE DORIAN, A CATEGORY 5 STORM WITH WIND SPEEDS UP TO 185 MPH, WAS APPROACHING. WCK ARRIVED ON SEPTEMBER 1 IN NASSAU, THE BAHAMIAN CAPITAL...JUST BEFORE THE HURRICANE MADE LANDFALL.



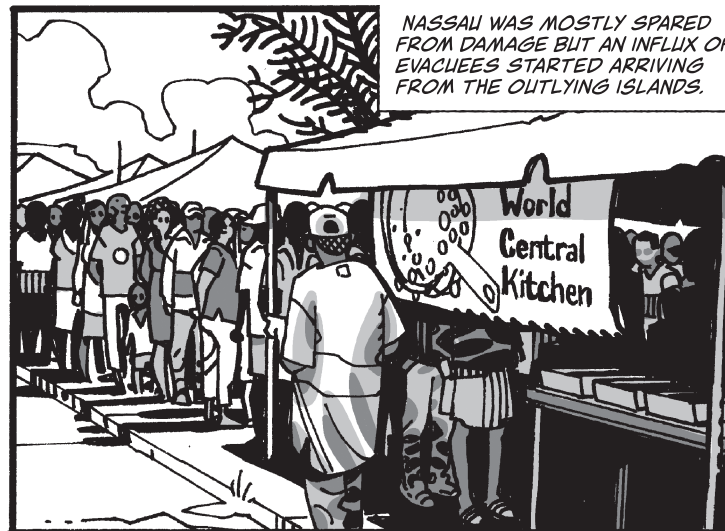
WE QUICKLY ESTABLISHED A KITCHEN AT THE ATLANTIS IN NASSAU, HOME TO ONE OF JOSÉ'S RESTAURANTS.



GRAND BAHAMA WAS PUMMELED FOR TWENTY-FOUR HOURS AS THE STORM STALLED ABOVE, DUMPING OVER TWO FEET OF RAIN. WE QUICKLY LAUNCHED A SUPPLY SHIP FROM MIAMI, HEADING TOWARDS THE CITY OF FREEPORT.



THE ABACO ISLANDS WERE HARDEST HIT--WE TOUCHED DOWN, ARMED WITH SANDWICHES TO DISTRIBUTE, IN THE HOURS AFTER DORIAN HAD PASSED OVERHEAD.



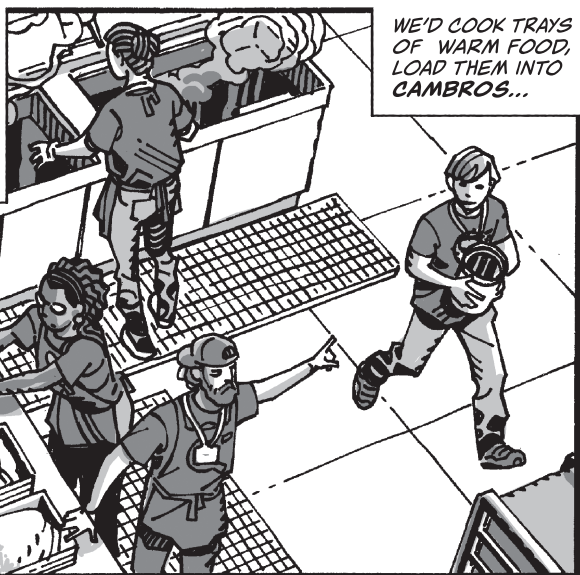
NASSAU WAS MOSTLY SPARED FROM DAMAGE BUT AN INFLUX OF EVACUEES STARTED ARRIVING FROM THE OUTLYING ISLANDS.



OUR WORK WAS CUT OUT FOR US, BUT WE DID WHAT WE DO... WE JUST STARTED COOKING.

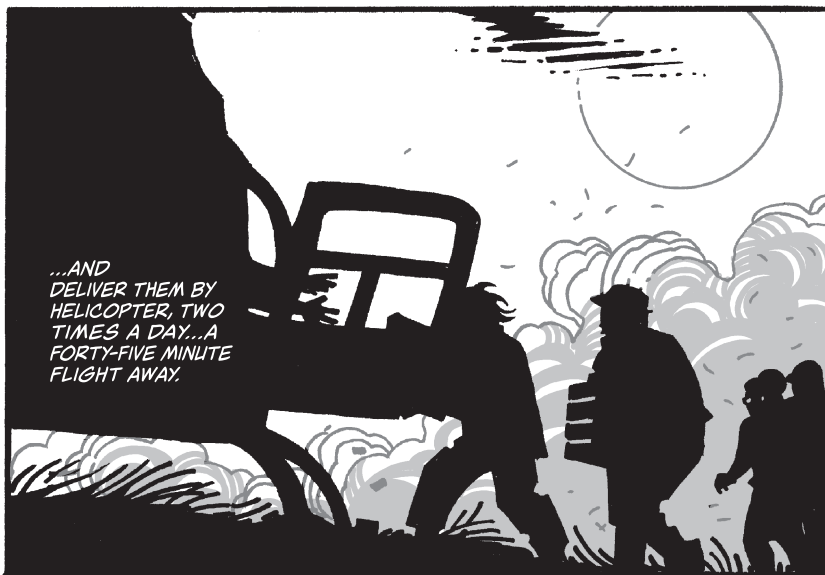


WITH NO SAFE COOKING FACILITIES IN THE ABACOS--A COLLECTION OF SMALL ISLANDS AND CAYS--WE NEEDED TO DELIVER MEALS FROM OUR NASSAU KITCHEN.



WE'D COOK TRAYS OF WARM FOOD, LOAD THEM INTO CAMBROS...

...AND DELIVER THEM BY HELICOPTER, TWO TIMES A DAY...A FORTY-FIVE MINUTE FLIGHT AWAY.

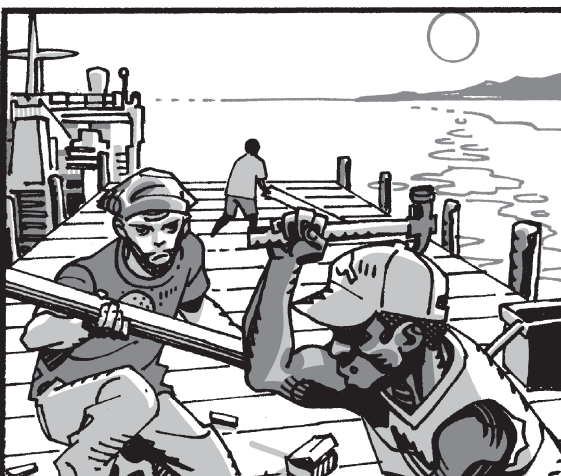


OUR HELICOPTERS WERE USED FOR DELIVERIES AND SCOUTING, AND BECAME A LIFELINE...

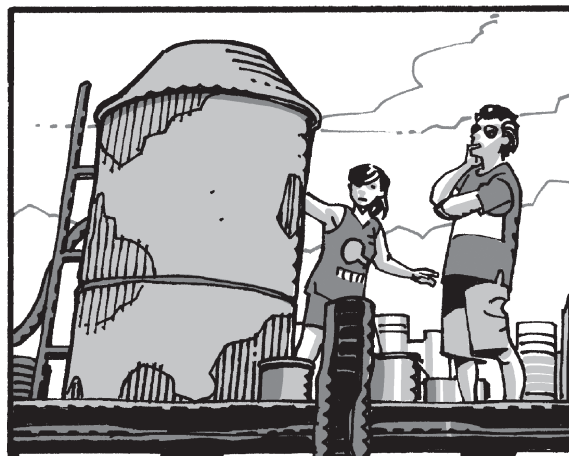


WE WERE ABLE TO REACH COMMUNITIES CUT OFF BY DAMAGE, AND ENDED UP EVACUATING ELDERLY AND INJURED BACK TO NASSAU.

WE DELIVERED HOT MEALS AROUND THE ABACOS VIA TRUCK, SEAPLANES, SPEEDBOATS, AMPHIBIOUS VEHICLES...ANY MEANS NECESSARY.



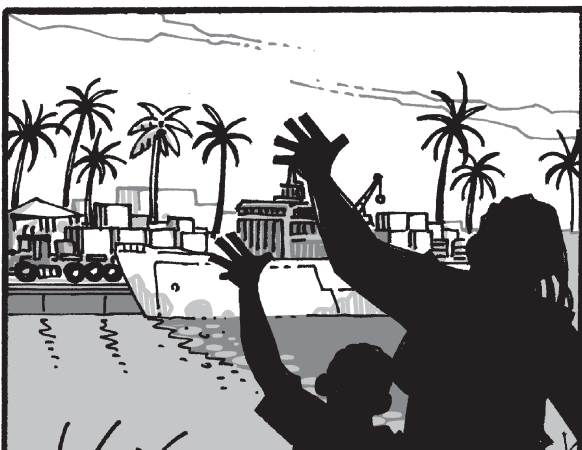
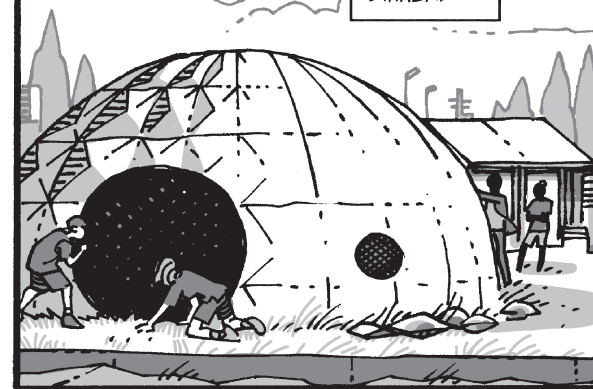
ON MOORE'S ISLAND, OFF GREAT ABACO, RESIDENTS COULDN'T RECEIVE SUPPLY SHIPS--THEIR DOCK WAS DESTROYED. WE HELPED REBUILD IT.



WE ALSO SET UP WATER SYSTEMS TURNING OCEAN WATER INTO SAFE DRINKING WATER. INFRASTRUCTURE AND WATER AREN'T OUR BREAD AND BUTTER--BUT HELPING REBUILD A COMMUNITY'S CAPACITY IS.

WE BUILT A DOME KITCHEN TO BE ABLE TO COOK FRESH MEALS ON ABACO.

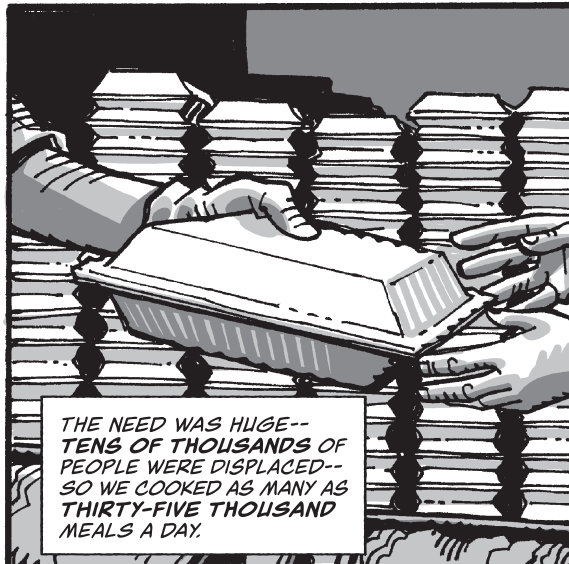
WE EVEN HOSTED CHRISTMAS DINNER.



TO THE WEST, IN FREEPORT, GRAND BAHAMA, OUR MASSIVE TWO-HUNDRED TWENTY-FOOT SUPPLY SHIP--AN ENTIRE FIFTY TONS OF PRODUCT--WAS THE FIRST TO ARRIVE ON THE ISLAND AFTER THE STORM.



WE SET UP A KITCHEN WITH TWENTY-SEVEN PAELLA PANS AND AN ARMY OF CHEFS TO MANAGE THEM.



THE NEED WAS HUGE--TENS OF THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE WERE DISPLACED--SO WE COOKED AS MANY AS THIRTY-FIVE THOUSAND MEALS A DAY.



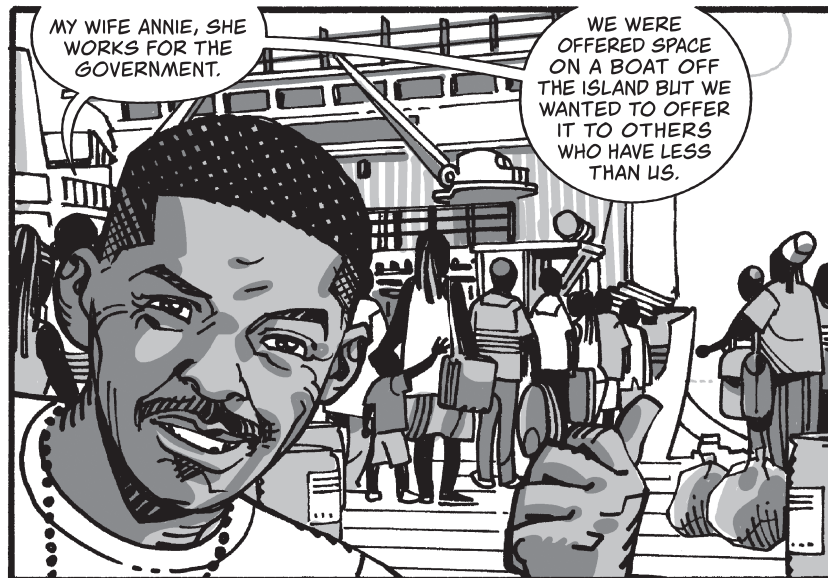
FIRE ENGINE--A BAHAMIAN DISH OF CORNED BEEF, VEGETABLES, AND RICE--WAS A FAVORITE.



WE MET INCREDIBLE FAMILIES, SURVIVORS OF THE STORM. IN MARSH HARBOUR, ABACO, IT WAS ALEXANDER & ANNIE, THEIR SON HAJI, AND THEIR TWO DOGS. LIVING IN THEIR CAR NEAR THE DOCK, THEY TOLD US THEIR STORY.



MY WIFE ANNIE, SHE WORKS FOR THE GOVERNMENT.



WE WERE OFFERED SPACE ON A BOAT OFF THE ISLAND BUT WE WANTED TO OFFER IT TO OTHERS WHO HAVE LESS THAN US.

"...DURING THE STORM, WE STAYED IN OUR HOUSE. I RIGGED UP OUR SOFAS LIKE AN ARMADILLO SHELL TO PROTECT US AS WE HUDDLED IN A CLIPBOARD. THE STORM OVERHEAD, IT WAS LIKE A BEAST TRYING TO TEAR THROUGH OUR SHELL. WE DO A LOT OF YOGA, SO WE WERE SAYING MANTRAS THE ENTIRE TIME."



IN NASSAU, WE MET ALICIA, WHO HAD OWNED A FARM IN ABACO BEFORE THE HURRICANE DESTROYED IT. SHE GREW CARROTS, PEPPERS, ONIONS, SCALLIONS, TOMATOES, AND MORE--ALL ORGANIC.



DEEP DOWN INSIDE, WHEN YOU LOSE EVERYTHING... IT HURTS.

SHE WORKED IN OUR KITCHEN SIX DAYS A WEEK FOR MONTHS.

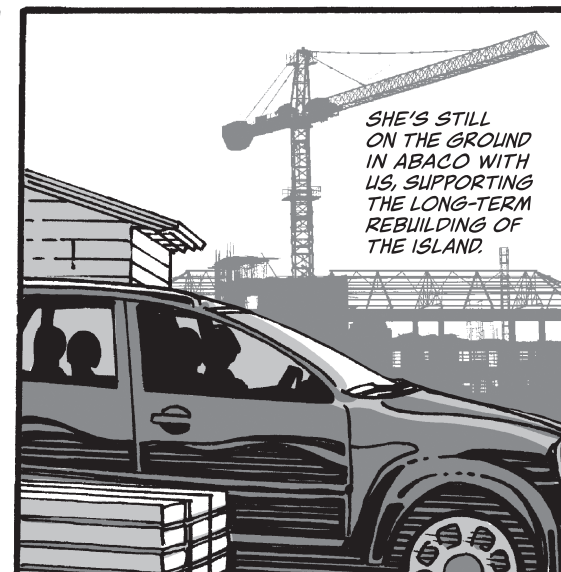


BUT THERE IS ALWAYS A GOOD THING OUT OF A BAD THING.

SHIRLEY-- ORIGINALLY FROM GRAND BAHAMA--CAME TO ABACO TO WORK FOR A CONSTRUCTION COMPANY. HER OFFICE WAS DESTROYED BY DORIAN SO SHE JOINED OUR TEAM--ONE OF MORE THAN FOUR THOUSAND PEOPLE TO HELP.



SHE'S STILL ON THE GROUND IN ABACO WITH US, SUPPORTING THE LONG-TERM REBUILDING OF THE ISLAND.



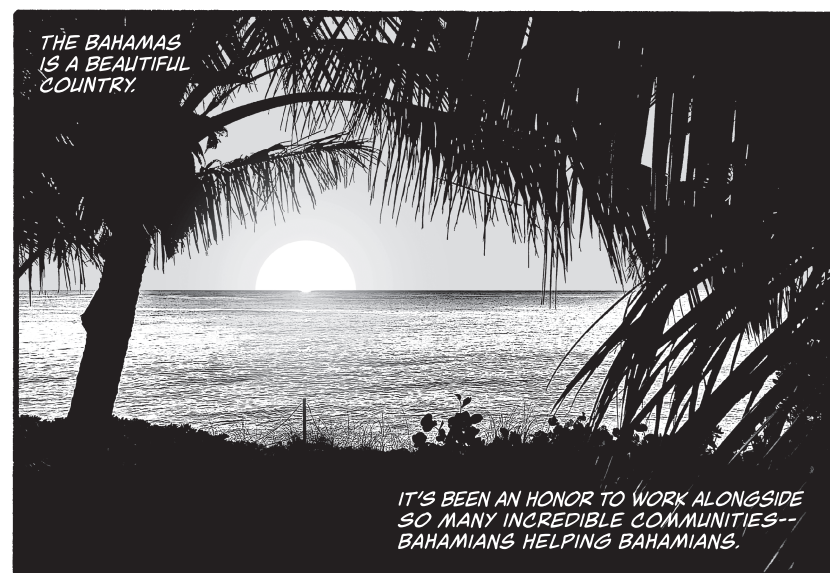
WE SET UP FREE FARMERS' MARKETS THROUGHOUT ABACO TO DISTRIBUTE LOCAL PRODUCE TO FAMILIES-- AS THEY REBUILT THEIR HOMES, THE COMMUNITY BEGAN TO COOK FOR ITSELF AGAIN.



AS WE LOOK TO THE FUTURE, WE WILL SUPPORT SUSTAINABLE FARMING AND FISHING PROJECTS AND OTHER LONG-TERM PROGRAMS TO HELP BUILD THE RESILIENCE OF THE BAHAMIAN FOOD SYSTEM.



THE BAHAMAS IS A BEAUTIFUL COUNTRY.



IT'S BEEN AN HONOR TO WORK ALONGSIDE SO MANY INCREDIBLE COMMUNITIES-- BAHAMIANS HELPING BAHAMIANS.



OUR EMERGENCY RESPONSE TO HURRICANE DORIAN WAS JUST THE START OF OUR COMMITMENT TO THE PEOPLE OF THE BAHAMAS. HERE'S A LOOK AT SOME OF OUR LONG-TERM WORK TO BUILD RESILIENCE IN FOOD SYSTEMS THROUGHOUT THE CARIBBEAN AND CENTRAL AMERICA...

WCK'S **RESILIENCE PROGRAMS** TARGET CHRONIC FOOD SYSTEM CHALLENGES THAT MAKE COMMUNITIES VULNERABLE TO FOOD INSECURITY.



IN PUERTO RICO, WE HELPED 45 **SMALL FOOD BUSINESSES** MORE THAN DOUBLE THEIR PRODUCTION.



185 **SCHOOL COOKS** WERE TRAINED ON FOOD SAFETY & SANITATION IN CENTRAL AMERICA.



OUR **CULINARY SCHOOL** IN HAITI HELPED 23 **YOUNG ADULTS** FIND JOBS IN THE HOSPITALITY SECTOR.

...AND WE **UPGRADED 15 HAITIAN SCHOOL KITCHENS** TO ELIMINATE CHARCOAL USE.



WE BELIEVE THAT PEOPLE DESERVE **DIGNIFIED ACCESS** TO RESILIENT FOOD SYSTEMS!







IN TOTAL, 2019  
TOOK WCK ON 18  
MISSIONS ACROSS  
5 CONTINENTS.

WE SERVED  
5 MILLION MEALS  
TO PEOPLE OF ALL  
BACKGROUNDS,  
INCLUDING...

FEDERAL WORKERS LEFT  
WITHOUT PAY DUE TO THE  
U.S. GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN.

VENEZUELAN REFUGEES  
FLEEING HUNGER, POVERTY,  
AND VIOLENCE.

FAMILIES ACROSS THE  
MIDWEST U.S. IMPACTED BY  
TORNADOES & FLOODING.

FARMERS IN  
MOZAMBIQUE  
WHO LOST  
THEIR CROPS  
TO A DEADLY  
CYCLONE.

WILDLAND FIREFIGHTERS BATTLING  
BLAZES ACROSS CALIFORNIA.

ALBANIAN VILLAGERS  
CLEANING UP AFTER  
DEVASTATING  
EARTHQUAKES.

REFUGEE FAMILIES  
WAITING IN TIJUANA AS  
THEY SEEK ASYLUM  
IN THE U.S.

WHEREVER THERE IS A FIGHT SO  
THAT HUNGRY PEOPLE MAY EAT...



*...WE WILL BE THERE.*