

PWRDF Provides Aid to Syrians Fleeing Uprising

PWRDF is responding through the International Orthodox Christian Charities (IOCC) and their local partners as part of the [ACT Alliance](#).

PWRDF is donating \$30,000 to help at least 7,000 families in the region with

- 5,200 culturally appropriate food packages, 7,000 hygiene kits (items such as soap, shampoo, bathing soap, shaving cream, toothpaste, toothbrushes, bath sponges, hairbrushes, toilet paper, tissues, sanitary napkins, dishwashing liquid, dish sponges, laundry powder, disinfectant, a toilet brush, and a mop), 2,000 infant kits, 1,600 bedding sets (items such as blankets, bed linens, pillows, pillow covers and towels), 900 clothing vouchers, and 700 household kits (items such as a small stove, a thermos, and kitchenware)
- Workshops for 160 Health workers; 21 four-day psychosocial counselling sessions; and training on appropriate family nutrition and infant feeding for 60 mothers.
- Support for 450 students to continue education to re-establish a sense of normalcy and helping to mitigate some of the longer-term impacts of the conflict such as psychosocial trauma.
- Rental subsidies to 250 families to relieve financial strains; and cash for work initiatives to restore 10 public buildings

Voices of Hope

Midwives play an important role in **Bangladesh's** health sector. Through their assistance and dedication, they protect and enhance the health of women who have recently been pregnant or given birth. PWRDF provides support and training to midwives in Bangladesh, helping them to improve their skills and capabilities, benefiting the lives of all of the women and children with whom they work.

On this basis in 2008, PWRDF and its partners implemented a maternal health program in the country. Co-funded by the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), this program has helped 259 midwives increase their skills in assisting women and newborns. The ripple effects experienced by this program have been substantial. In addition to helping to increase the immunization rate of pregnant women and children to 100%, it has ensured that women are visiting health clinics at least twice during their pregnancies and within 48 hours of giving birth. Overall, 11,000 women, children, and newborns have been treated by midwives trained through these programs, a tremendous achievement for Bangladesh as it works to improve the health of its female and youth population.

Nishnawbe Aski Nation (NAN) is one of PWRDF's indigenous partners and receives funding to support 49 Cree and Ojibway First Nations in Northern Ontario. NAN's youth-focused initiative Girl Power / Wolf Spirit is a comprehensive prevention program to promote strategies that address a spectrum of health risk issues for nine to sixteen-year-old youth. (68% of the population in Northern Ontario is under 29 years old.) There are few schools and social programs, and the ones that do exist are lacking resources and staff. Perhaps the most pressing and challenging issue facing NAN is the high rate of suicides among youth. "Everyone is a family, all of us lose a child when one of us loses a child," said Jacki Alto, Program Coordinator of the Girl Power/ Wolf Spirit, whose mother was a residential school survivor.

Corinne Fox is a social worker in Thunder Bay and the Director of the Intergovernmental Network for the Girl Power program. "You have to build in fun around that, so we focus a lot on recreation with our program," Fox said. "We tie in a lesson while going out on the land for a fishing activity or trapping."



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