

## 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.

## Food Security in Cuba

Sustainable, small-scale farming for local markets has become a priority in Cuba. This is in stark contrast to decades of large state-owned and –operated farming for export commodities which resulted in severe food shortages and highly escalating food prices.

The Consejo de Iglesias de Cuba (CIC) has made food security one of its ministry priorities. In March 2011, the Cuban Council of Churches received funding from PWRDF to work with two rural communities in the Western and Central regions in Cuba to carry out training that includes land use and restoration, seeds variety and quality selection, crop production and preservation, water management, compost making, worm cultivation, pest and weed control and waste management. Some of the involved families were given seeds, compost materials and small animals like chickens and rabbits.



But organic, sustainable gardening is not only a priority for rural communities. Many families in the cities have been practising food production and conservation; such is the case of Roberto Chavez who lives in Havana with his wife, two children and mother-in-law. Two years ago, he received agricultural training from CCC and, a year ago, with help from his two young children, Alejandro, 8, and Isabel, 6, he started a family micro-farm with one rabbit and 2 chickens and some crops for food preservation, all on the roof of his house. Today, Roberto has been able to feed his family with rabbit meat. He collects eggs, preserves fruit and vegetables, and generates revenue for his household.



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