

Voices OF HOPE

Cuba

What started out as a PWRDF Disaster Preparedness training for partners at the Episcopal Church of Cuba, with climate change in mind, quickly adapted to pandemic training earlier this year.

Two years of training community members in disaster risk reduction helped them prepare for the COVID-19 crisis and to communicate effectively with each other. In all, 24 promoters were trained and formed their own Disaster Management Committee. With COVID-19 reaching pandemic status, promoters carried out activities benefitting 8,040 people, including 1,206 women, from 36 communities.

In just 11 days, 2,680 information packages were produced and distributed informing the local population about the pandemic. Clergy and community promoters shared many educational and health messages via email, Facebook and WhatsApp. Clergy and promoters also visited at least 82 elderly people with compromised health conditions, and where needed provided emotional support and pastoral care. Newly graduated community promoters gave 71 educational talks, some of which were supported by hygiene and epidemiology specialists, family doctors and local experts. Community members also donated their own fabric and thread to people in the churches who then made face masks with the sewing machines already on hand.




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