

# *Social assistance protects more than 145,000 families in Cuba*

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Havana, April 1 (RHC) --More than 145,600 families are currently covered in Cuba by the social assistance system and, of them some 132,300 receive monetary benefits.

According to Marino Murillo, head of the Permanent Commission for the Implementation and Development of the Guidelines of the Communist Party of Cuba, the rest of those families are benefited with services and resources.

Such reality shows that in the socialist country, amid the implementation of the so-called Ordering Task, "no one will be left helpless," he stressed.

Experts recognize this reform, with its monetary and exchange rate unification, as one of the most important economic processes undertaken in the country's history since it involves all sectors and has a high impact on the population.

According to Murillo, the strategy for this transformation initiated last January 1 opted to increase income and reduce subsidies.

However, the state budget earmarked 700 million pesos (US\$29 million) to attend to vulnerable people, including the elderly living alone and low-income groups, he said.

Similarly, funds for 2021 provided for some 30 billion pesos (US\$1.25 billion) to maintain subsidies, especially for children and the sick.

Also, the country has the so-called Family Attention Systems, which complement the food of some 73 thousand people, including retirees, social cases, the disabled, pregnant women and others.

In addition, according to statements made by the Minister of Finance and Prices, Meisi Bolaños, although prices rose due to the devaluation of the Cuban peso in the business sector, 46 percent of medicines kept their previous price before 2021, they continue to be subsidized.

In this way, the aim is to protect 3 425 000 people, who receive drugs dispensed in a controlled manner for chronic conditions such as high blood pressure and diabetes mellitus, she pointed out.

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