



اتحاد الجمعيات الإغاثية و التنمية
Union of Relief & Development Associations

urda-lb.org

ISSUE #0017

AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2025

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Introduction:

Between August and September, the Union of Relief and Development Associations in Lebanon URDA maintained its strong humanitarian presence through a series of projects and activities that reflected its unwavering commitment to serving the most vulnerable communities in Lebanon, Syria, and Gaza. Despite the difficult circumstances and ongoing risks, particularly in southern Lebanon URDA succeeded in achieving notable milestones in education, relief, development, and legal protection.

In August, URDA launched its summer camp at the community center in the border town of Hebbariyeh and inaugurated a new community center in Saida on the occasion of World Humanitarian Day. It also rolled out the “New Chapter” back-to-school campaign and the school planner project to support students. URDA was further honored at several events, most notably the inauguration of school support projects in Qalamoun and participation in a cultural heritage exhibition in Bebnine, in addition to close cooperation with the Municipality of Bar Elias and solidarity marches in support of the South.

In the field of legal protection, URDA, in partnership with DOT Lebanon, launched its first workshops under a European Union–funded project to promote digital rights and freedom of expression. It also took part in the American University of Beirut’s Open House for civil society organizations, proudly announcing its accession to the AUB NGOi initiative, an important step that broadens its partnerships and enhances opportunities for research and practice.



URDA Team Meets with the Indian Battalion in South Lebanon’s Arqoub Hills to Promote Peace and Humanitarian Cooperation



URDA Participates in the AUB Civil Society Open House and Renews Its Membership in the NGOi Initiative

The Union of Relief and Development Associations in Lebanon URDA was honored to take part in the Civil Society Organizations Open House (NGOi) organized by the American University of Beirut (AUB), which brought together leading institutions and changemakers in the fields of humanitarian and development work. The event served as a dynamic platform for fostering dialogue, collaboration, and knowledge exchange, while opening new avenues for networking and exploring the missions and objectives of Lebanese civil society organizations.

On this occasion, URDA is proud to announce the renewal of its membership in the AUB NGOi initiative, a strategic step that will strengthen its impact and broaden its partnership network. This membership will grant URDA access to valuable resources, opportunities for research and field collaboration, and engagement with prominent local and international organizations dedicated to humanitarian and development efforts.

This achievement reaffirms URDA's continued commitment to serving the most vulnerable communities in Lebanon and to advancing collective action that contributes to building a more just and humane society.



URDA Launches Its First Workshop to Promote Digital Rights and Freedom of Expression in Lebanon

As part of a European Union funded project, and in partnership with DOT Lebanon, the Union of Relief and Development Associations in Lebanon URDA has launched its first training workshop dedicated to advancing digital rights and freedom of expression in the country. The project seeks to support human rights through digital transformation by equipping local stakeholders with the knowledge and tools needed to address the growing challenges within digital space.

The opening session brought together 19 journalists, bloggers, and media professionals who engaged in in-depth discussions on issues such as freedom of expression, media independence, and digital rights. Trainer Elie Bejjani provided participants with practical insights and innovative strategies to strengthen their role in defending rights and freedoms within Lebanese society.

This workshop marks the beginning of a broader series that will continue in subsequent phases, engaging more journalists, media practitioners, and civil society actors. The initiative aims to expand its impact and foster a stronger culture of digital rights and freedom of expression across Lebanon.



URDA Engages in Dialogues on Human Trafficking and Women's Empowerment in Lebanon

The Legal Protection Sector at the Union of Relief and Development Associations in Lebanon URDA took part in two key events that reflect its commitment to advancing human rights issues and empowering vulnerable groups.

The first was a roundtable discussion on human trafficking, held under the We HUB project funded by the European Union, in cooperation with the National Commission for Lebanese Women, Expertise France, and the Ministry of Social Affairs. The dialogue addressed the situation of victims as well as protection mechanisms and coordination among stakeholders. In the second event, URDA participated in a session organized by Justice Without Frontiers on Women in Leadership, supported by the German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ). The discussion shed light on the challenges women face in accessing leadership positions and explored ways to strengthen their active participation in public and professional life.



URDA Launches “ New Chapter” Campaign and Opens Community Projects to Support Education and Women’s Empowerment

The Union of Relief and Development Associations in Lebanon URDA has launched its new educational campaign under the theme “ New Chapter”, symbolizing hope and resilience while affirming that each academic year marks the beginning of a new chapter in students’ lives.

The campaign aims to support Lebanese, Syrian, and Palestinian students in returning to education safely, with a focus on empowering children, instilling confidence in their ability to build a brighter future, and renewing the belief that education is a lifelong journey filled with new chapters.

In this context, URDA opened its summer camp at the community center in Hebbariyeh, South Lebanon, alongside the launch of the URDA Agenda Project, which welcomes students and provides them with after-school tutoring. The organization also opened a new community center in Saida, offering a wide range of programs including psychosocial support sessions for children and women, as well as cultural and heritage activities such as embroidery, dabkeh, and the introduction of traditional Palestinian cuisine from Gaza.



URDA Provides Financial Sponsorships to 213 Orphans in the Bekaa During September



The Union of Relief and Development Associations in Lebanon URDA distributed monthly financial sponsorships in September across the Bekaa region, reaching orphans from both Lebanese and Syrian communities.

A total of 213 orphaned children benefited from the support, which aims to secure their basic needs and ease the financial burdens on their families amid the country’s ongoing economic hardships.

This initiative comes as part of URDA’s continuous commitment to caring for orphans and providing them with comprehensive support, not only financial assistance, but also access to education, as well as psychological and social care, thereby enhancing their opportunities to build a brighter future.



Fire Destroys Tal AlWazze Camp in Bekaa: URDA Responds Immediately with Aid



On the morning of Monday, September 29, 2025, Tal Alwazze 036 Camp in the Bar Elias area of Bekaa was struck by a major fire, destroying 37 tents and partially damaging 15 more. No injuries were reported among the camp's residents, which comprise 67 Syrian refugee families.

The URDA Emergency Response Team immediately intervened, providing relief assistance to all affected families. Aid included ready to eat food parcels and water gallons, addressing the urgent basic needs of refugees under emergency conditions.

This intervention reflects URDA's ongoing commitment to delivering immediate support to the most vulnerable groups in Lebanon and mitigating the impact of disasters on local communities.

URDA Delivers Comprehensive Relief and Development Support in Syria



The Union of Relief and Development Associations in Lebanon URDA has continued its humanitarian efforts in Syria, assisting the most vulnerable families with both emergency aid and development programs.

URDA distributed over 700 food parcels, 200 daily hot meals, bread for schools, and 500 candy packs for children. To ensure shelter, 24 homes were rehabilitated and 20 new tents provided. Additional aid included fuel, hygiene kits, bedding, washing machines, gas cylinders, and infant supplies.

Beyond immediate relief, URDA supported sustainable development through productive projects, including 10 cows for food and income generation, and launched 20 economic empowerment opportunities for local families.



URDA Expands Humanitarian Aid in Gaza, Reaching Over 350,000 People

The Union of Relief and Development Associations URDA has significantly expanded its humanitarian operations in Gaza during August and September, providing critical support to displaced and vulnerable families across the north, middle, and south regions.

Through a combination of food, water, and shelter assistance, URDA reached tens of thousands of residents. The organization supported 71 community kitchens (Tekeyas), delivering hot meals to 56,800 families, while 79 water trucks provided clean water to nearly 12,000 families. In addition, URDA distributed bread packs, vegetable packs, and emergency food parcels, benefiting thousands more, and provided four tents to families who lost their homes.

URDA's efforts reflect a comprehensive approach to humanitarian aid, addressing immediate needs for nutrition, clean water, and safe shelter while ensuring support reaches all areas of Gaza, despite ongoing security and access challenges.



URDA Leads Community Initiatives Across Lebanon: Education, Culture, and Peace



The Union of Relief and Development Associations in Lebanon URDA continues its active engagement across the country through initiatives supporting education, municipal development, and cultural and humanitarian activities.

In the North, URDA participated in the inauguration of school support projects in Qalamoun, in partnership with local schools and the Qalamounians in France Association. The organization has previously implemented educational and solar energy projects, ensuring sustainable learning despite local challenges.



URDA also delivered a police vehicle to the Municipality of Bar Elias, enhancing security and public services, and reinforced its cultural presence by participating in the 79th Independence Day of India celebration in Ibl Al-Saqi and the Bebnine Heritage Fair.

In the South, URDA joined a symbolic “Walk for Peace” march on the Arqoub Hills, organized by UNIFIL’s Indian Battalion to commemorate Mahatma Gandhi’s birthday, with the participation of around 450 residents and UN officers.

These initiatives highlight URDA’s ongoing commitment to serving communities, promoting development, and fostering social cohesion across Lebanon.

