

Introduction:

URDA For Her: A New Vision Pulsing with Women's Strength and the Colors of Life

In a month blooming with messages of awareness and hope, highlighted in pink, the color symbolizing strength and life, URDA launched a new chapter reflecting its renewed vision and leading humanitarian role. The organization introduced its strategic campaign, URDA For Her, coinciding with Breast Cancer Awareness Month, reinforcing its path as a women led organization (WLO) that believes in women's power to drive social change.

The campaign carried a dual message: promoting health awareness and encouraging early detection on one hand, and empowering and supporting women to face challenges on the other. Through awareness lectures in Sidon and Khaldeh, distinctive university activities, and inspiring meetings with cancer survivors, URDA demonstrated that humanitarian work goes beyond providing aid, it also builds awareness and enhances human dignity.

Despite challenging security conditions in southern Lebanon, URDA continued its field humanitarian projects, supporting students through schoolbag distributions, advancing its development programs, engaging in reconstruction projects in Syria, and participating in international conferences to strengthen its humanitarian presence and keep pace with global sector developments.

This is a month marked by the imprint of strong women, carrying a message that empowering women is empowering society.



Rafic Hariri University Hosts Humanitarian Initiative as Part of URDA For Her Campaign

The Union of Relief and Development Associations in Lebanon (URDA), in collaboration with the Student Affairs Office at Rafic Hariri University, organized an awareness and humanitarian activity as part of the URDA For Her campaign, in observance of Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

The activity featured a special initiative in which a group of volunteer female students donated their hair through the Lebanese Breast Cancer Foundation (LBC Foundation). The donations were supervised by a professional stylist from Ezees Salon. This contribution aims to provide wigs for women undergoing breast cancer treatment, helping them regain confidence and optimism during their journey.

URDA emphasized that this initiative aligns with its renewed vision to empower women and support them psychologically, socially, and medically, highlighting their leading role in humanitarian work. The organization also stressed that the URDA For Her campaign represents a strategic step in promoting women's leadership within the organization and in society at large.

The event was attended by representatives of humanitarian organizations, media professionals, university faculty, and students, all of whom praised the initiative's significance and humanitarian symbolism. The activity concluded with a call to raise awareness about the importance of early breast cancer detection and a reaffirmation of URDA's commitment to supporting women and fostering a culture of hope and solidarity.



Morning of Strength and Hope for URDA Staff with Influencer Jessy Fakhri

In celebration of Breast Cancer Awareness Month, the Union of Relief and Development Associations in Lebanon (URDA) organized a special event titled "Sobhiyyet Sabaya", bringing together URDA's female staff in an atmosphere filled with positive energy, laughter, and hope on Friday, October 31, 2025, at Nai Restaurant.

The event, part of the URDA For Her campaign, hosted influencer and breast cancer survivor Jessy Fakhri, who shared her inspiring journey with the disease, emphasizing the power of faith and determination in overcoming challenges and spreading a message of hope to women.

The morning included interactive and spontaneous sessions that fostered solidarity among staff and reinforced the idea that humanitarian support starts close to home, and that awareness can be shared in a warm and engaging way.

The gathering concluded with URDA renewing its commitment to continue initiatives that empower women and support them medically, psychologically, and socially, in line with its vision that every woman could turn pain into hope and transform weakness into strength that inspires those around her.



URDA Holds Awareness Lecture for Its Female Staff in Collaboration with Raya Medical Center During Breast Cancer Awareness Month

As part of the URDA For Her campaign and in observance of Breast Cancer Awareness Month, the Union of Relief and Development Associations in Lebanon (URDA) organized a special awareness lecture for its female staff, in collaboration with Raya Medical Center, on Wednesday, October 29, 2025, in the main office's lecture hall.

The lecture aimed to raise health awareness among staff and encourage early detection of breast cancer. The team from Raya Medical Center provided comprehensive information on prevention methods and self-care, highlighting the importance of regular check-ups and their role in improving recovery rates.

The event took place in a supportive and positive atmosphere, with all participants wearing pink to show their support for the campaign and its humanitarian message. Interactive and educational activities were also included to promote engagement and foster a culture of health awareness among the staff.



URDA Provides Women's Hygiene Kits and Holds Awareness Lecture in Saida as Part of URDA For Her Campaign.

As part of the URDA For Her campaign, the Union of Relief and Development Associations in Lebanon (URDA) organized a humanitarian and awareness activity in Saida. The initiative included distributing women's hygiene kits to around 40 beneficiaries, along with an awareness lecture on breast cancer.



The lecture featured a breast cancer survivor who shared her personal experience with the disease, highlighting the role of determination and psychological support in overcoming health challenges. Her story conveyed a message of hope and strength to all women present.

URDA emphasized that this initiative is part of its ongoing efforts to raise women's health awareness, encourage early cancer detection, and provide psychological and social support. The organization also stressed the importance of empowering women and offering sustainable support in all areas, in line with its philosophy of prioritizing women's needs.

URDA Represents Lebanon at the "Artificial Intelligence and Humanity" Forum in Kigali

In a move highlighting its commitment to integrating technology with human values, the Union of Relief and Development Associations in Lebanon (URDA) participated in the "Artificial Intelligence and Humanity" forum held in Kigali, Rwanda, represented by its Executive Director, Ms. Jihan Al-Kaisi.

In her speech at the forum, Ms. Al-Kaisi emphasized that "Artificial intelligence can save lives, but only the human heart can heal them," stressing that no matter how advanced technology becomes, it cannot replace the sincere emotions humans have for one another. She added: "AI can analyze data, but only humans can wipe away tears and plant hope in hearts."

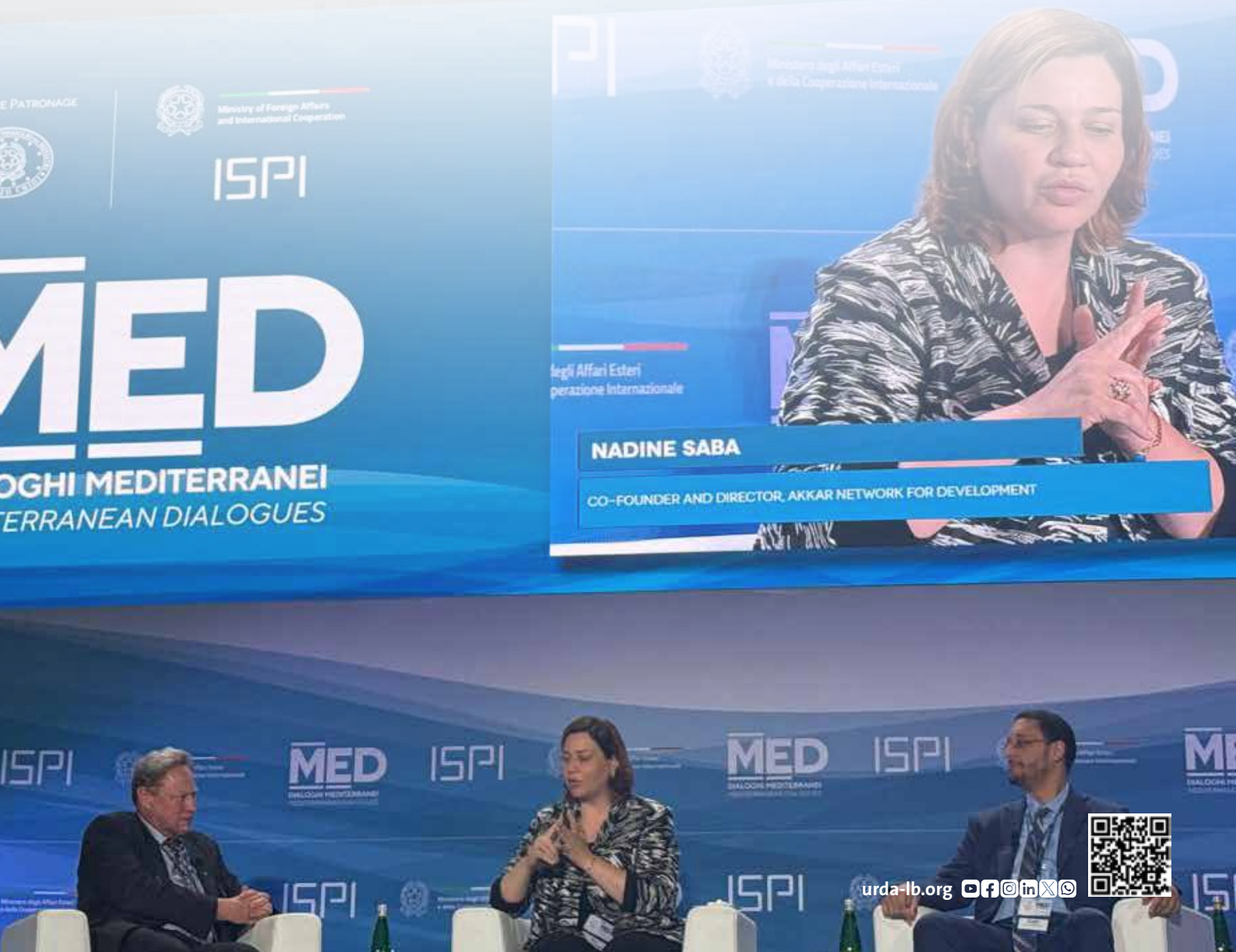
URDA's participation reflected Lebanon's humanitarian vision in an era of rapid technological advancement, underscoring that true progress is measured not by what machines produce, but by the compassion and solidarity carried in human hearts.



URDA Participates in Mediterranean Dialogues Conference in Italy

The Union of Relief and Development Associations in Lebanon (URDA) participated in the 11th Mediterranean Dialogues (MED) in Naples, Italy, from October 15 to 17, 2025. The conference, organized by the Italian Institute for International Political Studies (ISPI) with the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, gathered leaders from governments, civil society, the private sector, and media to discuss regional security, economic, and social challenges.

URDA was represented by Executive Director Ms. Jihan Al-Kaisi, who highlighted the role of NGOs in enhancing community resilience and supporting vulnerable populations in the Middle East. She emphasized URDA's commitment to providing humanitarian, educational, health, and social services to communities in Lebanon, Syria, and Palestine, contributing to sustainable local development and resilience.



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

The Union of Relief and Development Associations in Lebanon (URDA) took part in AidEx 2025, the largest international event for humanitarian aid and disaster response, attended by over 3,000 representatives from 94 countries, including UN agencies, the European Union, Red Cross and Red Crescent organizations, as well as NGOs and governmental and private institutions from around the world.

URDA was represented by its Executive Director, Ms. Jihan Al-Kaisi, who participated in panel discussions and workshops addressing current humanitarian challenges, ways to improve relief work, and strategies to strengthen international cooperation among various stakeholders.

URDA's participation in this conference reflects its ongoing commitment to



enhancing international collaboration and innovation in humanitarian work, as well as its continuous efforts to develop programs and services that provide a more effective response to the needs of the most vulnerable populations in Lebanon and beyond.

URDA Provides Psychosocial Support Sessions to 100 Children in North and South Lebanon

The teams of the Union of Relief and Development Associations (URDA) continued to provide psychosocial support to children across various regions in Lebanon, as part of their efforts to enhance coping mechanisms and resilience among the most vulnerable groups.

The Protection Sector activities included two psychosocial support (PSS) sessions, benefiting 100 children aged between 4 and 12 years. The sessions were held in two different locations, reaching 51 children in North Lebanon and 49 children in South Lebanon. These activities aim to strengthen children's ability to cope with psychological pressures and trauma, while also improving their social skills.

These initiatives reflect URDA's commitment to supporting children's mental and social well-being, providing a safe environment that promotes growth and development amid the challenging circumstances faced by the community.



URDA Expands Humanitarian Support and Empowerment Projects in Syria

The Union of Relief and Development Associations (URDA) continue to provide humanitarian assistance and implement empowerment projects across various regions in Syria, targeting the most vulnerable families and supporting their opportunities to improve sustainable livelihoods. In Damascus, URDA teams distributed 100 food parcels and 100 bread packs to the neediest families, alongside implementing two economic empowerment projects. The first project in Yarmouk Camp established a small minimarket to support a widow caring for six family members, while the second in the Daraya area assisted an elderly widow raising four children with special needs through a small minimarket providing her with a sustainable source of income. In Al-Qusayr, URDA expanded its support to reach a larger number of beneficiaries, distributing 275 food parcels, 100 blankets, and 650 bread packs, in addition to providing 100 educational activity kits, 100 candy packs, and 100 wool kits for children to promote learning, recreation, and skill development. URDA's efforts go beyond immediate relief, encompassing sustainable empowerment projects such as a sheep farming project in Al-Bweida to support families through livestock initiatives, small minimarket projects that enhance self-sufficiency and generate income, and an agricultural tools distribution project equipping local farmers with the necessary tools to ensure the continuity of their agricultural activities.



DEDICATION

We dedicate this issue of the October Monthly Newsletter to Lebanese women on their National Day, November 4, 2025, in recognition of their inspiring role in resilience, giving, and hope.

This dedication comes at the end of Breast Cancer Awareness Month (the Pink Month), highlighting humanitarian stories and initiatives led by women and dedicated to supporting and empowering them in various fields.

TO EVERY LEBANESE WOMAN, YOU ARE THE SOURCE OF STRENGTH, BEAUTY, AND HUMANITY IN EVERY ACT OF GOODNESS.

