In 2021, humanity is witnessing the presence of more than 82.4 million refugees around the world, 40% of whom are children. This number is increasing daily due to disasters, wars, and conflicts. However, they are not just numbers to count as they represent 82.4 million human beings, stories, and hopes...

June 20 of every year marks World Refugee Day, a day where we remember millions of people who were forced by circumstances to flee their countries and homelands to face an uncertain future filled with fear, hunger, poverty, and alienation. Those people spend nights and days in the freezing cold of winter and the scorching heat of summer depending on aid and extremely low daily wages striving to overcome the challenges of life in constant worrying and fear of an unknown disease. They spend their lives trying to survive and maintain any remaining hope, as there is no life without hope!

On this day we recall together nine years of hard relief work that URDA has taken on to support and assist refugees of various nationalities in Lebanon. Since URDA's inception, we have made a pact to help every refugee and needy and here we are today working with refugees within seven different sectors including relief, shelter, healthcare, education, protection, sponsorship and livelihood. We work with men, women, elderly people and children alike. We build, heal, teach, protect, sponsor and empower!

Together we can do all of this and way more...

Proudly, we carry today through our work at URDA throughout the previous years the same slogan which the United Nations has announced for this day: “Together we heal, learn and shine!”

May every refugee day be an occasion we all can employ to support and assist refugees around the world.
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In the face of the successive crises that hit Lebanon, Syrian refugees living in squalid camps are experiencing some really difficult conditions. In the most recent report published by World Food Programme (WFP) on Vulnerability Analysis and Mapping (VAM), there was a dramatic rise in the prices of the Survival Minimum Expenditure Basket (SMEB) which was 38,000 LBP in 2019 and reached 220,000 LBP by 2019.

Last month, URDA's relief sector implemented several projects aimed at bridging part of the food security gap for the poorest Syrian refugees, who would face the risk of starvation in the event of a worse situation. Several outstanding projects funded by foreign funding organizations have benefited 1,397 families to date. The project included the distribution of food parcels with abundant quantities of basic food items, in addition to potato bags, bread bundles, and dates. We would like to thank the humanitarian organizations for supporting URDA's projects through its various sectors and contributing to ensuring decent life for all those in need of all nationalities in Lebanon.
In conjunction with the launch of the "Pfizer Marathon" on Saturday, 12 June 2021, URDA's Protection team in Bekaa joined hands with UNICEF to coordinate and assign tasks to volunteers in approved vaccination centers. Volunteers handled the registration of applicants on the COVID19-Vaccine Registration Platform and sorted them by numbers to receive the vaccine according to their nationalities.

The team also managed to count the number of participants who are receiving the vaccine and provided assistance to elderly people and people with special needs. It is reported that the Pfizer Marathon continued over two days from 8 a.m. until 6 p.m. at ministry-accredited vaccination centers.

In collaboration with the municipality of Ainab (Aley District), the Gender-Based Violence (GBV) program conducted awareness-raising sessions on positive parenting skills in cases where children are subjected to gender-based violence. The sessions were attended by 24 women over 18 years of Lebanese and Syrian nationalities.

It should be noted that these sessions will continue in a number of Lebanese areas in cooperation with municipalities. To join our awareness sessions, please contact the following number:
+961 71 265 907 / +961 3 998 913

As part of URDA's Protection Sector's strategy for 2021, and in belief in projects that are derived from the needs of the beneficiaries, URDA's Gender-Based Violence and Child Protection.

Teams are currently visiting a number of women, men, youth and children to fill a protection form for 15,000 beneficiaries in Beirut, Mount Lebanon, the Bekaa, Aarsal, Akkar and Saida, intending to reach the greatest number of vulnerable people and explain to them the services that URDA provides in these areas.

Despite the many difficulties and challenges faced by the Lebanese and refugees alike due to the current security and economic events in Lebanon which have been exacerbated by the COVID-19 outbreak, URDA's sponsorship sector continues to deliver monthly sponsorships to orphans and deprived families. In June 2021, more than 500 cash sponsorships were distributed among 500 beneficiaries including orphans and extremely vulnerable families, in addition to organizing a number of recreational activities intending to alleviate the suffering of deprived children and families in Bekaa, Aarsal, Beirut as well as North and South Lebanon. Since our relationship with our sponsored orphans has always been based on absolute humanitarian foundations and since their protection is our goal, our orphans have not forgotten to thank URDA for helping them and have expressed their joy through the drawings which they always send us.
URDA PARTNERS WITH CARE AND GWI TO IMPLEMENT THE “EMPOWERED AID” PROJECT

To ensure the vulnerable are not exploited and that all those who are receiving aid from humanitarian agencies are safeguarded is a cornerstone for URDA’s Relief sector.

In addition to the policies implemented in the sector to ensure this, we have taken part in a unique project, the “Empowered Aid project” in partnership with CARE and GWI. It is a multi-year, multi-country participatory action research project led by the Global Women’s Institute with operational partners CARE and URDA in Lebanon as well as the International Rescue Committee and World Vision in Uganda. Working alongside women and girls—as those most affected by SEA and other forms of gender-based violence—the study examines the mechanisms through which humanitarian aid is delivered, and how these processes might inadvertently increase the risks of SEA, to better address these risks. Its goal is to support the creation or adaptation of aid delivery models that actively work to reduce power disparities and give women and girls a sustained voice in how aid is delivered.

URDA’S COMMUNICATIONS AND MEDIA DIRECTOR GETS INTERVIEWED BY ANNAHAR NEWSPAPER WEBTV

Click here to watch the interview
One of the most important objectives of URDA’s livelihood sector is to eliminate all forms of discrimination against women and girls. This work is translated into the empowerment of women and girls and securing decent employment opportunities to ensure a decent life for them, taking into account the subject of violence and sexual exploitation. The sector also works on providing appropriate training programs for women to acquire adequate skills in certain areas that can pave the way for them to enter the labor market.

The livelihood sector has reportedly secured more than 45 jobs for women and girls from the neediest low-income families since the beginning of 2021. It has also organized agricultural training for more than 65 women and girls so that they can support their families and ensure a decent living.

**URDA’S HEALTHCARE SECTOR AND PARCIC LAUNCH THE COVID-19 PREVENTION PROJECT IN AARSAL**

With the support of the Japanese government and in cooperation with PARCIC, URDA’s healthcare sector has launched its new project, “COVID-19 Prevention Measures for Syrian Refugees and the Lebanese Host Community in Aarsal Schools”. This project aims to assist schools in implementing COVID-19 prevention measures following the guidelines dictated by the Ministry of Public Health as well as the Ministry of Education and Higher Education, thereby reducing the spread of COVID-19 and leading to the gradual return to traditional face-to-face education, through the distribution of hygiene supplies and protective equipment to students and schools, in addition to conducting awareness sessions to school staff and students. Under this project, a number of awareness-raising sessions have been provided to approximately 140 individuals among the educational cadre.

**URDA’S LIVELIHOOD SECTOR IS EMPOWERING WOMEN AND GIRLS TO ENSURE A DECENT LIFE FOR THEM**

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Livelihood sector hotline: 81 990 712
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