As 2021 ends, we recall some hopeful projects that have carried optimistic titles. Although the economic and livelihoods crises under which Lebanon is living have been gradually intensifying, leading to increasing social disasters, URDA in all its humanitarian sectors has been able to offer doses of hope wherever the feet of its field teams tread.

“Giving Hope,” “Month of Hope,” “As the Pain Returns, We Return Hope,” and “Drops of Hope,” are the titles of the campaigns that accompanied URDA’s projects in Adha, Ramadan the winter season, and other seasonal projects, making our humanitarian efforts a window of hope amidst crises for refugees and impoverished people in Lebanon.

And like every year, our hearts are looking forward to a new year and a new beginning, and our minds are preparing for new humanitarian experiences, where URDA’s teams have proven that there’s nothing impossible when it comes to helping others!

The challenges are many in the coming year, but our will is stronger. We are all aware of the responsibility that falls on URDA’s humanitarian sectors.

Let 2022 carry the spirit of unity, cooperation, and togetherness, and let hope remain in our humanitarian efforts.

Not everyone can be entrusted with the callings and challenges of humanitarian action. URDA’s employees and volunteers managed to carry the torch of hope and responsibility and led to the success of our projects throughout the past years. Without the efforts of our humanitarian workers, URDA would not have reached such significant places, and for that, we would like to thank them all for everything they have offered so far.

Our thanks also go to all the philanthropists who have given their all to help others in need, hoping that their support will continue at all levels over the coming years.

Happy new year...
Warmth Reaches 60 Families in Bekaa with the Support of GlobalGiving as Part of URDA’s “Drops of Hope” Campaign

As part of URDA’s 2022/2021 winter campaign “Drops of Hope”, the relief sector provided heating and heating fuel to the most vulnerable families in the Bekaa and Baalbek areas.

About 60 families received fully equipped diesel heaters, along with 20 liters of fuel per family thanks to the generous donations received from donors on GlobalGiving.

This initiative came in conjunction with the recent depression that hit the Bekaa region, where the temperature reached low rates, at a time when people have no purchasing power, to meet their needs for fuel and other winter supplies.

It is worth mentioning that the “Drops of Hope” campaign continues in various Lebanese areas, particularly in remote border areas, targeting the most vulnerable groups of all nationalities.

URDA’s Relief Sector Distributes Winter Jackets to Refugees in Bekaa and Aarsal as Part of the “Drops of Hope” Campaign

As part of the relief sector’s projects related to URDA’s “Drops of Hope” 2022-2021 winter campaign, winter jackets were distributed to some 352 beneficiaries in Aman, Mahabba, and Ward refugee camps in Aarsal, as well as to 235 children in the Tiliani refugee camp in Bekaa.

The beneficiaries expressed their gratitude and appreciation to URDA’s field team and the donors for their in-kind and financial assistance, which contributed to alleviating their suffering amidst the current economic crisis.

The “Drops of Hope” campaign seeks to secure all the requirements of a decent living for Syrian, Palestinian, and Lebanese underserved families and to ensure that winter clothes, food parcels, heating, and other needs reach those in need, to emphasize the humanitarian role of this campaign towards the most vulnerable groups in Lebanon in the face of the winter challenges.

URDA’s 16 Days of Activities Continue in Saida

URDA’s protection team continues its activities for the 16 days of activism campaign against gender-based violence.

On December 6th, the team presented an awareness session on protection from sexual exploitation and abuse for 15 Syrian and Lebanese young women and girls. Our social worker Amal Abu Hjaili provided beneficiaries with information on the various types of power, as well as concepts of sexual exploitation and abuse and understanding of differences in the balance of power and its relationship to sexual exploitation and abuse and gender-based violence.

The event concluded with a yoga session for the participants considering it has a great positive impact on their physical, mental, social and spiritual health.
URDA's Legal Protection Program Provides Legal Assistance and Consultations

URDA’s Legal Protection program provides legal assistance and consultations on personal status (registration of births and marriage, rights of spouses with regard to child support and guardianship in the event of divorce), as well as consultations on labor rights (employment injuries, arbitrary dismissal, compensation, etc.) These services target all residents across Lebanon without any discrimination.

For more information, contact us at: +96176667750

URDA’s Education Sector Continues its Activities in Service of Underserved Students

Within the “Reach a Child” project, URDA’s education sector, with the support of GlobalGiving, distributed 40 tablet devices and stationery packages to Syrian students aged 6 to 13 in the Yassmine refugee camp in Bekaa.

It should be noted that the education sector has collaborated with 51 volunteer teachers from around the world to commit with the team and take responsibility for teaching at least one student remotely where they will be following up with the daily student planners, or providing them with a literacy program and teaching them basic reading and numeracy skills.

The education sector is striving to continue the daily follow-up of students by teams in different regions, as well as the periodic training of the educational staff.
URDA Organizes a Training on “Humanitarian Work Ethics” in Collaboration with Active Voice

URDA, in cooperation with Active Voice, organized a training course entitled “Humanitarian Work Ethics” while using the Sphere handbook as a global humanitarian guide, presented by Dr. Ramzi El Hagg to around 20 URDA employees. The course included a definition of several topics including the Sphere standards, which set out the basis for the response of relief and humanitarian aid providers to disaster and conflict-affected persons, as well as the Humanitarian Charter and its relevance to relief workers, code of conduct, and the minimum standards for projects (Water supply, sanitation and hygiene promotion (WASH), food security and nutrition, shelter and settlement, and health.

URDA’s General Manager, Houssam Al Ghali explained that participation in such courses means that we are building a team that can deal with relief needs in accordance with international standards.

It is worth mentioning that the “Sphere Handbook” is a set of principles developed by a group of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) together with the Red Cross and Red Crescent organizations in 1997, aimed at formulating a set of core areas for humanitarian response in conflict areas. The Sphere handbook is the longest living initiative in the field of humanitarian standards, field-tested over 20 years and periodically updated to remain suitable for the purpose for which it was developed in an ever-changing world.
URDA Distributes School Bags and Stationery in a Unique Initiative in Akkar, North Lebanon

Under the difficult economic conditions experienced by Lebanese and Syrians alike, particularly in the northern Lebanese town of Akkar, and because of the excessive price of stationery due to the high exchange rate of the US dollar, it has become difficult for parents to purchase school-related items including stationery and others.

In this context, in a distinctive initiative supported by American donors, URDA’s education sector provided stationery and school bags to 1,500 students within the framework of the “Back to School” project. The project included school bags along with stationery kits to suit the needs of students from grade 1 to grade 6. These basic materials aim to promote positive learning experience for all children and encourage students to continue their education.

Enass, who is a mother of three and a resident in the Minieh refugee camp, says: “Our purchasing power has declined in the face of the current shocking increase in prices. We can no longer afford to buy our basic needs, and it's hard to buy the stationery for our kids so they can go back to school, but the education sector’s initiative has done us very much and contributed to reducing the financial burdens in this regard. This has had a positive impact on us, specifically on the kids. I am happy to see the smiles on their faces again after almost losing hope of securing stationery. “

For his part, Kassem, a sixth-grader, said: “I was terrified by the idea that my parents could not buy me any stationery for school due to the current increase in prices. URDA, along with generous American donors have contributed to reducing the burden of our parents during these difficult times, and they have eased the stress that other students and I have felt.”

URDA Holds a Training on Effective Communication in Humanitarian Action

As a follow-up to URDA staff's capacity-building program, a specialized training course on communication skills and effective communication in humanitarian work was conducted in collaboration with Active Voice, which specializes in the training of civil and international personnel, with the participation of a large number of staff from various sectors at URDA, including the shelter, relief, sponsorship, healthcare, education and protection sectors.

Participants acquired new information through a review of models and success stories as well as a thorough explanation of the essence and importance of communication.

We thank the trainer and humanitarian adviser, Mr. Ramzi El Hagg, for the success of this training program.

The course concluded with the distribution of certificates to trainees, and with URDA honoring Mr. Ramzi El Hagg with a plaque of recognition.
Nasiba Shares her Talent for Cooking Through the WEE.CAN Project

The 25-year-old Nassiba grew up in a house in the heart of a Lebanese city known for its delicious local food! And she took it upon herself to introduce people to these popular foods and give everyone in Lebanon and abroad a chance to taste nutritious and delicious Lebanese food!

Nasiba received a grant from the WEE.CAN Project in collaboration with URDA, which helped her to buy cooking appliances and tools. Nassiba expressed her excitement where she said “I have finally fulfilled my dream! That’s my ambition and what I’ve been seeking for so long." Thanks to the AICS-funded WEE.CAN project with our partners COSPE and OXFAM, URDA managed to reach out to the most vulnerable women in the northern region of Lebanon to support them in their small businesses and handcrafts.

December 18: World Arabic Language Day

Did you know? The Arabic language is one of the most widely spoken languages in the world, where it is spoken daily by more than 353.6 million people.
Season's Greetings

The best present you can offer this holidays is to spread joy and hope among your friends and family, especially during such critical times.

Season's Greetings