



اتحاد الجمعيات الإغاثية و التنموية  
Union of Relief & Development Associations

NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 008 - January 2022

### Winter: The Two-Faced Season Ravages Refugee Camps

It was, and will always be, the most generous and bountiful season, that we impatiently wait for to revive the earth; we enjoy the smell of its rain, playing with its snow as we watch the rainfalls and look forward for its arrival as we consider it a generous, bountiful, and munificent visitor.

However, in a horrific spot on this planet, people fear the rain and snow that comes with this season as they have no refuge from the freezing cold of winter and lack the necessities for heating. They have nothing but cold and fragile tents to shield them from the wrath it brings along. Their winter stories remain wrenching, and their problems are endless during this season.

We are all saddened by the disasters that have befallen refugees who were forced into displacement due to the conflict in Syria and had to leave their calm and safe houses. Their only fault is that they are the victims of never-ending battles, nothing to compensate them for their soft pillows, nor the cozy walls of their homes. However, URDA follows an annual plan to support affected families during such difficult times to alleviate their suffering.

During the first month of 2022, URDA provided humanitarian assistance to the most vulnerable groups of people including impoverished and refugee families in various parts of Lebanon. URDA's winter aid included heating fuel, food parcels, hot meals, winter clothing and related items.

Plenty of pictures were published during the last storm that have given us a sense of satisfaction with our lives compared to those of refugees. We cannot imagine that a human being living in difficult living conditions would be remain sane, content, or happy. No one could imagine the tears of the poor living in tents, or the magnitude of their pain. Perhaps winter can reach them later or be gentler; perhaps the rain will wane a little bit to grant them more days of warmth away from the noise of its cascading creeks falling on their heads. However, no matter how long it keeps postponing its arrival, it will arrive in the end, and we will make sure to pray for them and include them in our humanitarian work.





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ورقة تقدير موقف صادرة عن URDA فيما يتعلق بالعواصف الثلجية وآثار موسم الشتاء على الفئات الأشد ضعفاً في لبنان

URDA published a situation report and a distress call for people to help impoverished and refugee families who are facing an unprecedented economic crisis during one of the worst snowstorms in Lebanon's history.



click on the Image to read more

### Winter: A Horrific Season for Refugee Children

This child has concerns that one finds too soon for a boy his age. He says: "I hate winter! Neither I nor my siblings have anything to keep us warm. The cold weather worries us since our heater doesn't work properly when we have no fuel which causes a severe cough for which we cannot afford a medicine."

Kassem is not the only child facing this fate. There are hundreds of children who fear winter, especially the cold weather, rainfall and strong winds that break through the tents and rob them of security and warmth.

Their names and ages may differ, but their suffering remains the same, waiting for someone to offer them doses of hope that can warm their fragile bodies.





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### URDA's Humanitarian Initiatives Continue, This Time in Baalbeck

In the midst of the successive crises faced by the Lebanese across the country, including the deterioration of the economic situation, and the spread of the Coronavirus and its consequences, URDA is intervening through the "Emergency Relief" project which aims to support vulnerable Lebanese families affected by the current situation by providing food parcels, especially in view of the hyperinflation which is affecting food prices.

In this sense, and with the distinguished presence of Al-Qadam mayor, Mr. Naji Hadcheti, URDA provided food parcels to 40 impoverished Lebanese families in Al-Qiddam in the Baalbeck area.

Mayor Hadcheti, as always, stressed the need to promote humanitarian action in the context of the difficult living conditions endured by citizens, praising the work of URDA and its spirit of harmony, embodied in its humanitarian activities by offering aid without any religious and inter-confessional considerations.

One beneficiary who received a food parcel that will allow him to feed his wife and 6 children, said, "URDA has always surprised us with initiatives that sustain our resilience and survival on our land," then, he continued to thank both the municipality and the town's mayor for their support.

It is reported that URDA's field teams are deployed in various Lebanese areas to provide aid and relief to the most vulnerable groups in response to the winter storms. During December alone, around 90,083 shelter and relief services were provided to needy families.



### URDA's Interview with SkyNews Arabia

SkyNews Arabia interviewed URDA's Protection Sector Manager regarding snowstorms and their impact on refugees who are trapped in a white hell.



[click on the Image to read more](#)

### URDA's Healthcare Sector Continues to Operate During the Storm that is Currently Hitting Lebanon

URDA's health sector continues its activities during the snowstorm that has hit Lebanon during the past weeks.

Through the project with PARCIC funded by Japan Platform "COVID - 19 Prevention Measures for Syrian and Lebanese Refugees in Schools," 29,876 liters of heating fuel were distributed to 9 private and semi-private schools in Aarsal", in addition to personal protective equipment for coronavirus for 7,381 students and teachers, in order to contribute to reduce the risk of the spread of COVID19- in schools and Aarsal area, which will enable students to have face-to-face learning opportunities.

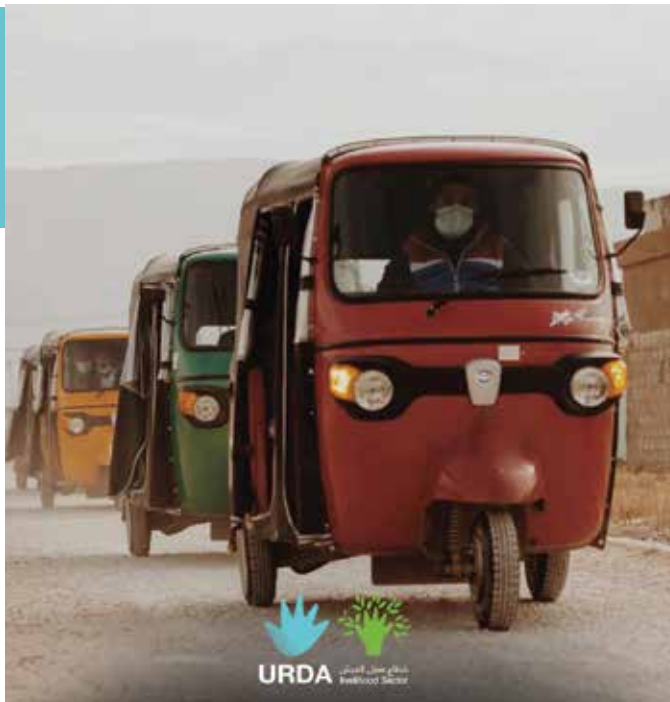




## URDA Supports Innovation in Crises and Offers an Auto Rickshaw as an Alternative to Expensive Transportation

All people in Lebanon are currently trying to overcome the economic crisis by finding alternatives to survival by radically changing their way of life. One of the changes is the use of alternative transportation. For this particular reason, URDA, funded by generous donors, provided auto-rickshaws to 10 drivers in the Bekaa area to offer them a way to generate income.

With crises worsening day after day, the Lebanese pound collapsing against the US dollar, as well as the scarcity of fuel and the increase in its prices, this small vehicle entered Lebanon as a new, low-cost means of transportation, compared to available vehicles in the country. Abu Ashraf, one of the project's beneficiaries, says that URDA has offered him an auto-rickshaw to be used as a taxi, to transport people and students inside the villages at low prices. He pointed out that it is more affordable than the usually used cars or buses, and it is safer for students. Abu Ashraf's taxi business had recently been popular because of the low fees of his auto-rickshaw's ride compared to the other usually used taxis operated by cars.



## Micro-Gardening Helps More Than 70 Families Achieve Food Security in Bekaa

Small area gardening is one of the projects implemented by URDA's livelihood sector to benefit Syrian refugee women in Bekaa's refugee camps, and aiming to build capacities for women beneficiaries to learn how to grow plants in small spaces, as well as seasonal farming and seed recycling.

Hanaa, one of the beneficiaries of the micro-gardening project says: "This project is an essential source for our daily food needs, and I can now cook for my children natural food that I'm %100 sure it doesn't contain any harmful substances."

Through this agricultural project, women beneficiaries also received several training sessions with specialists in this field, such as agricultural engineers and nutritionists, to gain greater knowledge and experience.

In addition, the "Organic Fertilizers Unit" has been established at the camp, where beneficiaries collect and recycle organic waste from all tents to reduce pollution, collect it for use in their agriculture and offer it to many greenhouses.

Through this project, URDA was able to reach over 70 families and help them achieve food security, and decorate the areas around their tents with plants and seedlings.





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### URDA Offers Cash Assistance Through GlobalGiving to Cover School-related Fees for Underserved Students

Amid the economic crisis in Lebanon, students are denied access to schools, vocational schools and universities due to the high cost of transportation and many other school-related challenges. In a World Bank report, it is noted that low quality of learning and the mismatch between skills and labor market needs jeopardize the future of the rising generations in Lebanon.

In this context, and believing in the sacred message of education, the education sector in URDA, with the support of GlobalGiving, is completing the “Back to School” project, which helps low-income families to send their children to school and plays a more active role in their education.

This project consists of cash assistance for school tuition and transportation fees, with 200 families each benefiting from cash assistance in Beirut, Tripoli and Mount Lebanon.

In 2021, the education sector provided more than 1,000 educational services to 1,500 students in various Lebanese regions.

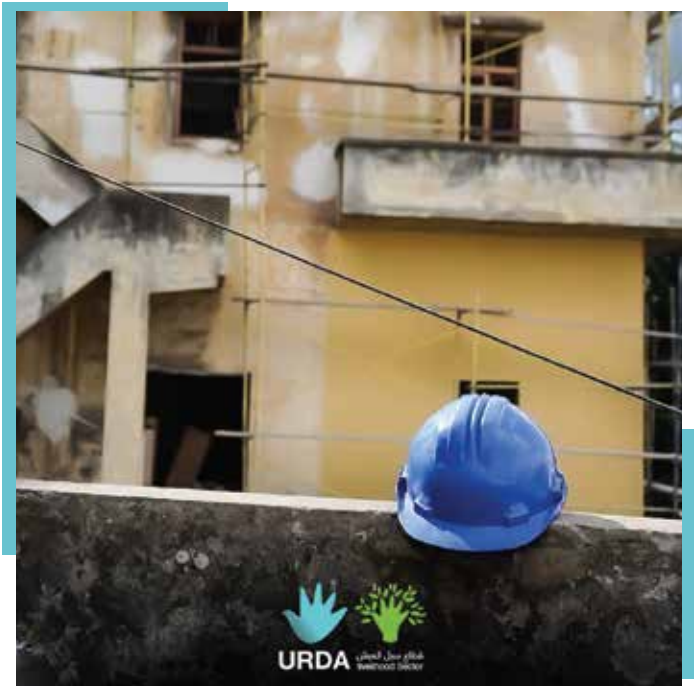


### URDA Partners with Japanese Donors to Restore Houses in Beirut

Beirut is a city rich in heritage buildings, which constitute the most important aspect of Beirut's history, memory, and identity. However, as a result of the urban sprawl, the Lebanese War, and Beirut blast which occurred on the 4th of August 2020, many buildings were destroyed, while others turned into dust, leaving behind a bunch of unstable and poor structures that are susceptible to collapse at any moment.

Because the restoration of the remaining buildings is a national, humanitarian, and civil duty, URDA, with funding from the Japanese Embassy in Lebanon, undertook the project for the restoration of the archaeological buildings in the Ashrafieh – Al Rmel area which were damaged due to the Beirut Blast. This project was implemented by the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (Habitat), in close coordination with the municipality of Beirut and in partnership with Live Love Lebanon, PARCIC, URDA and CCP Japan.

Within the same framework and within URDA's project “Cash for Work,” 100 workers undertook the construction and rehabilitation of vulnerable buildings while adhering to the highest standards of public safety. This step helps to reconnect Lebanon with its past and to ensure the identity of current and future generations.





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## عندك خبر؟ DID YOU KNOW?

Exposure to electronic aggression is usually not limited to one incident. About 48% of women who have experienced this type of violence have experienced it more than once. Electronic aggression against women takes different forms, such as receiving unwanted images or symbols. It can be phone calls, harassment or inappropriate or unwelcome communications

We salute our humanitarian heroes who are deployed across the country to provide winter relief aid to the most vulnerable families in refugee camps during the worst storms this winter!

Support our mission and help a refugee family by donating through clicking on the image

