



URDA

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# MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

## Introduction

### URDA's Efforts to Address Crises and Promote Sustainable Development in Lebanon

Welcome to the new issue of URDA's monthly newsletter, where we highlight the efforts and initiatives carried out by URDA's specialized sectors amidst the increasing challenges facing Lebanon.

In May, social and economic challenges escalated significantly in Lebanon, with heightened tensions between Syrian refugees and the Lebanese host community, as well as tensions arising from events in the south and an increase in the number of displaced individuals moving to other villages.

We also recently witnessed a cyber harassment case that shook the Lebanese community, underscoring the urgent need for awareness and protection against such crimes. Amidst the rapid economic deterioration and skyrocketing prices, these challenges come at a critical time as we approach Eid El-Adha.

In this issue, we review URDA teams' efforts in addressing these challenges, starting with the "Ebdaa Center" project that targets children by providing education and vocational training, and initiatives to provide bread to needy families through the "Bread of Hope" project. We also highlight the sponsorship sector and its support for orphans and needy families, and livelihood initiatives that promote sustainable development by utilizing idle lands.

We hope you find in this issue a distinctive overview of our ongoing commitment to supporting Lebanese communities and the most vulnerable groups, achieving sustainable development, and enhancing awareness and support for those in need. Thank you for your continued support and trust in URDA's efforts.



## Education Sector



### Disastrous Figures Released by Field Survey Conducted by URDA's Education Sector Urgent Action Required for Syrian Refugees' Needs in Arsal

A recent report issued by a team of volunteers in URDA's Education sector in the Arsal region revealed a tragic reality experienced by Syrian refugees in the area. The comprehensive analysis conducted by the team showed that 46% of Syrian children aged between 5 and 15 are not receiving formal education.

Regarding orphans, approximately 293 children under the age of 12 suffer from the lack of financial sponsorship, putting them in an unstable social and economic situation, forcing them to work in unsafe conditions.

The numbers indicate that 93% of Syrian families in the area are paying rent, exposing them to continuous instability and leading to unsafe health conditions.



In the field of healthcare, it has been revealed that there are 815 cases of chronic illnesses in desperate need of treatment, including 531 cases that are not receiving any suitable medical or financial support.

Given these challenging circumstances, the report provided recommendations that include enhancing education, social and economic support, improving housing, infrastructure, and healthcare services. In addition to providing humanitarian, psychological, and social support.

Consequently, URDA's Education Sector calls for intensified efforts and enhanced cooperation between local governments and humanitarian organizations to meet the needs of the displaced and improve their living, health, and social conditions.

## Relief Sector



### Bread Crisis in Lebanon: Bread of Hope Project Provides 36,000 Bread Loaves for Needy Families

The bread crisis and its rising prices are considered among the economic and social crises directly impacting the lives of thousands of families, especially those heavily reliant on wheat as a staple food. This crisis serves as an indicator of the challenges facing global food security in Lebanon, casting shadows on social stability, as the bread crisis and its price hikes pose significant challenges for these families, particularly amid multiple economic and political crises.

Addressing this crisis requires concerted efforts from the government, communities, international organizations, and charities to secure daily food for families and alleviate poverty and hunger by securing bread daily for families amidst rising prices.

URDA implemented the "Loaf for Life" project, distributing 36,000 bread loaves across all Lebanese regions during the month of May:

- 12,000 bread loaves in North Lebanon (Tripoli and Akkar) for 6,000 beneficiaries per family, two loaves each.
- 12,000 bread loaves in the Bekaa for 6,000 beneficiaries per family, two loaves each.
- 12,000 bread loaves in Arsal for 6,000 beneficiaries per family, two loaves each.



## Sponsorship Sector



### URDA's Sponsorship Sector Supports Orphans and Needy Families with 2,241 Sponsorships and Various Assistance

URDA's Sponsorship sector places special emphasis on sponsored orphans, extending a helping hand to their families to provide the best environment for these children who face life's challenges despite the bitterness of loss. In line with URDA's humanitarian vision and its empathy towards the most vulnerable groups, the Sponsorship team organized several activities during the month of May. These activities included delivering 2,241 sponsorships to orphans of Lebanese, Syrian, and Palestinian nationalities. The efforts also encompassed paying off loans for 31 families, alleviating their financial burdens.



The Sponsorship team made sure to meet the basic needs of families such as rent, food, and medicine, helping to reduce economic, financial, and educational pressures. The team also conducted field visits to families' homes and camps to ensure the provision of support services like medical treatment, skill development, development projects, and covering rent and loan costs.

Additionally, special attention was given to individuals with disabilities under the family sponsorship program. Wheelchairs and new beds were provided to those with limited mobility in Aarsal and Bekaa.



## Livelihood Sector

### URDA Enhances Sustainable Development by Utilizing Idle Lands in Community and Agricultural Projects

The Livelihood sector at URDA is developing its initiatives by supporting them with creative ideas and projects that contribute to environmental, agricultural, and social community development. This is achieved through networking with municipalities and religious endowment departments that own idle assets such as endowment lands and gardens, which can be effectively utilized to promote sustainable development on multiple levels. These efforts require a strategic vision that integrates economic, social, and environmental benefits to provide comprehensive developmental solutions.

As part of implementing this strategy, the Director of the Livelihood sector, Mr. Mohamed Al-Ghali, and the Public Relations Coordinator, Mr. Abdulrahman Darwish, held a meeting with the Mayor of Tripoli, Dr. Riad Yamak, and the Mayor of Qubba Shmara, Mr. Khaled Al-Asmar. Both parties expressed positive cooperation to contribute to the implementation of this strategy through partnership and collaboration.

Additionally, a coordination meeting was held with the Agriculture Committee of the Tripoli Endowment Department, where views were exchanged, and strategic projects aimed at achieving sustainable development goals were discussed, including the effective utilization of endowment lands and gardens.



## Legal Protection



### Workshop to Promote Social Peace and Sustainable Development in Akkar with Participation of URDA's Protection Sector

On Tuesday, May 21, 2024, URDA's Protection sector participated in a workshop for the project "Working for Participation, Acceptance, and Mediation (WE'AM)", funded by the European Union and implemented by Oxfam, Alef – Act for Human Rights, Right to Play, SHIFT, and URDA, in collaboration with the PASC network. The workshop was held at the Sarnay Hotel in Halba-Akkar, North Lebanon, with the attendance of representatives from EU-funded programs, local and international organizations operating in Akkar, as well as mayors and community leaders from Fnaydeq, Taqrit, Mashta Hammoud, Mashta Hasan, and several prominent figures from the region.

The "Working for Participation, Acceptance, and Mediation (WE'AM)" project aims to address the drivers of social tensions and highlight the impact of reform processes on communities. In this context, Mr. Mustafa Abdo, URDA's coordinator in the North, delivered a speech during the workshop, emphasizing the need for economic and developmental support for the region to achieve economic self-sufficiency for all residents of various nationalities and to prevent any potential conflicts that could lead to future social tensions.

Mr. Abdo focused on the importance of enhancing cooperation and partnership between local and international organizations and addressing the drivers of social tensions to achieve peace and stability. He also stressed the support for reform and sustainable development processes, unifying developmental efforts to avoid conflicts over resources. Additionally, he highlighted local needs, provided appropriate support, and promoted social stability to prevent future tensions.



## Talent and Creativity Support Sector



### Ebdaa Center: Transforming the Children's Lives through Education and Training

Homeless children face severe humanitarian and social challenges, with exploitation in labor endangering their lives and limiting their potential to build a stable future. In this context, the Ebdaa Center for vocational training serves as a model in supporting and caring for these children.

In May, the Ebdaa Center launched a new program targeting 60 children for a duration of 8 months, including educational, health, and psychological courses such as literacy, drawing, football, and psychological support for children and their families.

The center also offers educational and vocational training opportunities, helping children acquire skills that improve their prospects and boost their self-confidence. Additionally, it provides a safe environment that fosters a sense of security and stability, along with psychological and social support.

Through its initiatives, the Ebdaa Center contributes to sustainable development by supporting homeless children and providing them with educational and training opportunities, enhancing their chances for social integration, and building healthy relationships within the community.

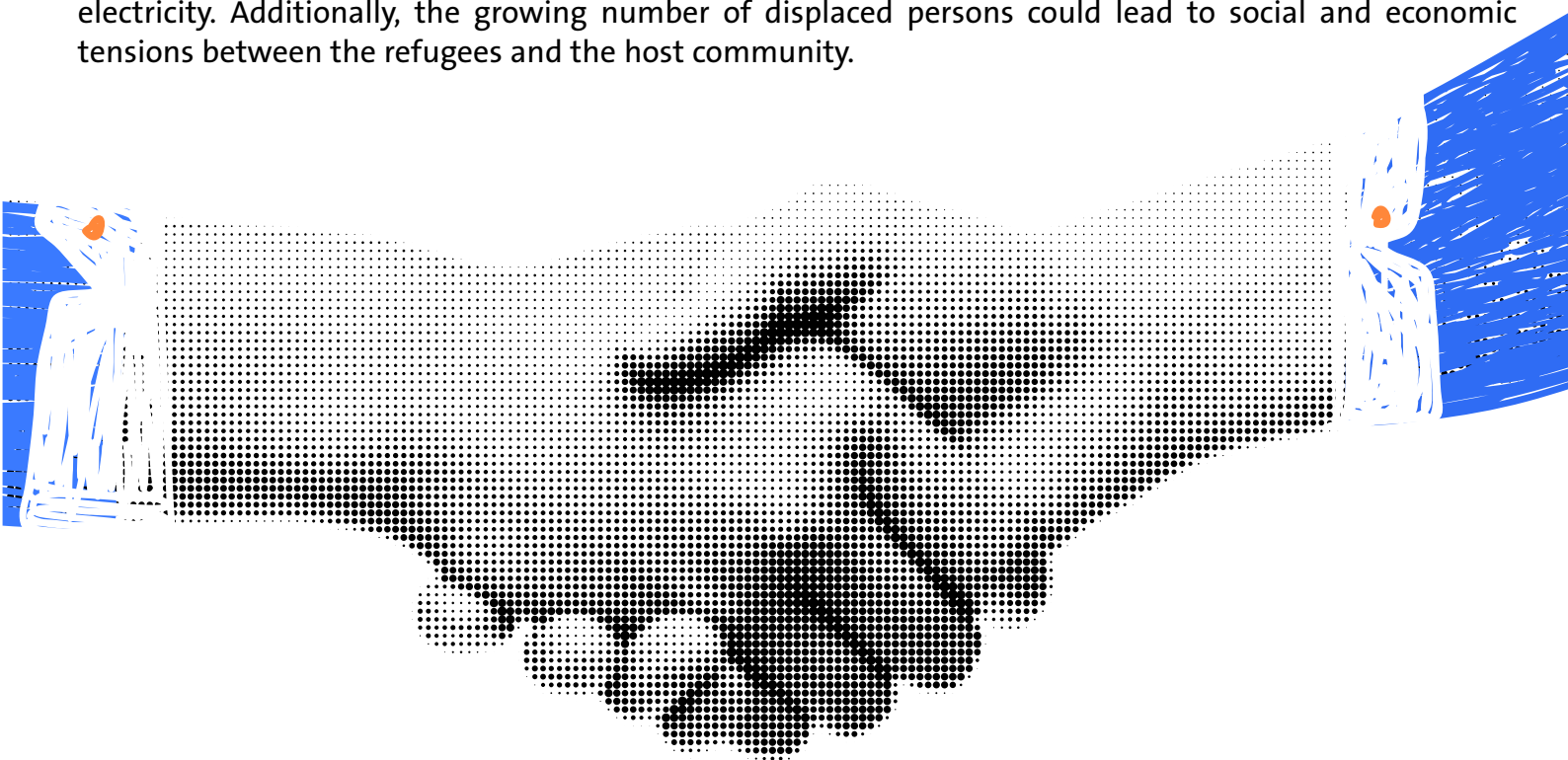


## Displacement Crisis in Lebanon: URDA's Recommendations for Enhancing International and Local Support

With the worsening crises in Lebanon, especially in the south, estimates indicate that tens of thousands of displaced persons are still unable to return safely to their villages. The burden on schools hosting the largest numbers of displaced people is increasing, making the infrastructure urgently in need of rehabilitation after eight months of accommodating families.

In the Iqlim al-Kharroub region, schools are hosting students from Syrian and Palestinian refugees in addition to students from the host community, increasing the strain on facilities and consumable resources.

This situation has led to the deterioration of the infrastructure of educational and residential facilities, a shortage of basic resources, and increased pressure on local services such as healthcare, water, and electricity. Additionally, the growing number of displaced persons could lead to social and economic tensions between the refugees and the host community.



To address these issues, URDA recommends the following:

**Increasing International Aid:** Enhancing financial and logistical support from international organizations to rehabilitate infrastructure and provide necessary resources.

**Strengthening Local Collaboration:** Improving cooperation between local authorities, NGOs, and community leaders to manage the distribution of aid and services effectively.

**Provision of Psychological and Social Support:** Offering psychological and social support services to refugees and host communities to reduce tensions and promote social integration.

**Increasing Funding and Aid:** Calling on donors to increase funding and humanitarian aid to ensure the sustainability and expansion of ongoing projects.

**Activation of Emergency Plans:** Developing and implementing effective emergency plans to handle future crises and provide a rapid response to increasing needs.

URDA aims to strengthen cooperation with international and local humanitarian organizations to implement these recommendations and address urgent needs in the education and housing sectors. This collaboration will help improve conditions for both refugees and host communities alike.