



اتحاد الجمعيات الإغاثية و التنمية
Union of Relief & Development Associations

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MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Introduction

Celebrating Workers and Humanitarian Efforts Thank You for Your Sacrifices

As we conclude the month of April and welcome the month of May, which marks the first day as Labor Day, we celebrate the workers and toilers who play a vital role in building and developing society. This day serves as an opportunity to highlight their prominent role and continuous sacrifices they make daily.

Workers and toilers strive diligently to provide for their families and secure a decent life for them. They work earnestly and silently to ensure the comfort and happiness of their families and seek to provide them with continuous moral and material support. Thanks to their efforts, economic growth is enhanced, and prosperity is achieved, as they contribute to the production of goods and services that meet the needs of society and play a significant role in developing infrastructure and improving the quality of life.

On this important day, we must express our gratitude and appreciation to all workers and toilers for their efforts and sacrifices. We must also work together to improve their working conditions and provide better opportunities for them and their families because they are the backbone of society and the driving force behind progress and prosperity.

Alongside this celebration of workers and toilers, we also want to express our gratitude and appreciation to the workers at URDA for the tremendous efforts they have made during the blessed month of Ramadan.

Your effective and pivotal role in alleviating the suffering of many families during these difficult times, whether they are Lebanese or of other nationalities, has been noteworthy. The care and support you have provided to Lebanese refugees considering recent events in southern Lebanon, along with your continuous support for local communities, have left a deep positive impact on everyone's hearts.

Your ongoing efforts in all sectors and your commitment to extending a helping hand and support to those in dire need serve as a commendable example.

We thank you from the bottom of our hearts for all that you do and look forward to seeing more of your future achievements that benefit our communities. May your efforts be blessed, and may you continue to be a pillar of support and assistance to all.



Relief Sector:

More than 145,000 beneficiaries from the Ramadan Relief Projects of the Union of Relief and Development Associations

Achievements of the "Healing Hearts" Campaign Ramadan 2024 AD / 1445 AH

As part of its humanitarian interventions on both relief and development fronts, URDA implemented its Ramadan projects for this season under the title "Healing Hearts" during the blessed month of Ramadan in various regions of Lebanon, starting from Mount Lebanon, reaching to the Bekaa and Aarsal, and up to Akkar in northern Lebanon.

The assistance provided included more than 9,791 hot meals and approximately 15,845 food portions, in addition to over 570 communal iftars and 11,500 bread loaves. Furthermore, 1,158 individuals benefited from clothing vouchers and other essential items that contributed to healing the hearts of more than 145,000 beneficiaries.

It is worth mentioning that URDA's humanitarian projects are still ongoing, and they are not limited to providing food parcels and hot meals alone. URDA's sectors, with all their humanitarian specialties, are mobilizing their efforts to mitigate the economic crisis that is affecting the entire Lebanese society.



Emergency Relief Team Supports Ramadan Camp in Aarsal Following the Fire

In a move reflecting ongoing humanitarian efforts, the Emergency Relief Team aided the affected families in the Ramadan camp in the Aarsal area. This step comes in response to the disaster that occurred in March, which still casts its shadow over these affected families, who need continuous support to regain some stability in their lives.

To serve as a wake-up call for all responsible parties and humanitarian organizations to intensify efforts to prevent the recurrence of such disasters, especially with the approaching summer season, where the likelihood of fires increases.

The assistance provided by the relief team included a diverse range of basic needs for the families, including:



Hygiene kits: 41 kits were distributed, each containing essential items to maintain personal hygiene and health, helping prevent disease outbreaks after the disaster.

Food parcels: 41 parcels were provided, including rice, flour, cooking oil, and canned goods to meet immediate food needs.

Carpets: 41 carpets were distributed to help families recreate a home-like atmosphere inside temporary shelters or damaged living spaces, providing some warmth and comfort.

Sleeping kits: Each of the 41 families received a sleeping kit containing mattresses, blankets, and pillows.

Clothing vouchers for children: 91 vouchers were distributed, enabling families to purchase necessary clothing for their children.

More Than 48,000 Beneficiaries from the Charity Kitchens Affiliated with URDA

In commitment to its humanitarian mission carried out by URDA during this year's Ramadan under the title "Healing Hearts," URDA's charity kitchens in Akkar, Sidon, and the Bekaa prepared 11,808 Ramadan iftar meals, benefiting a total of 48,400 beneficiaries throughout the blessed month of Ramadan.

Under the supervision of committed specialists adhering fully to health standards and conditions URF, the preparation of these meals include, in addition to the main dish, juices, desserts, yogurt, vegetables, and a bread loaf with each meal.

Also, family-size hot meals and communal iftar gatherings.

URDA field teams coordinated the distributions according to a mechanism through which lists of the neediest beneficiaries were prepared.

Mohammed Al-Ahmad, Director of the Livelihood Sector at URDA, affirmed that the charity kitchens seek to achieve charitable and developmental objectives simultaneously by employing breadwinners for their families. He pointed out that the kitchens currently employ more than 30 workers, including 21 women from various Lebanese, Syrian, and Palestinian nationalities, most of whom are widows or heads of households. He emphasized the necessity of continuing these projects during the blessed month of Ramadan or beyond, especially with the rising prices of foodstuffs and meat.

It is worth mentioning that these relief and developmental projects aim primarily to stimulate the economic wheel in Lebanon, employing commercial and food establishments, as well as providing employment opportunities and transforming those in need from consumers into producers in their communities.

The Union of Relief and Development Associations provides a distinctive Ramadan experience for more than 3,300 beneficiaries.



Children at the forefront of URDA's Ramadan projects

During the blessed month of Ramadan, URDA organized a series of entertaining Ramadan activities, benefiting 3,350 individuals, including children and their families, in several areas of Lebanon, including the Bekaa, Aarsal, and the North. In addition, activities were allocated for the displaced from southern Lebanon in the Tyre area. The events began with communal iftars, followed by visits to amusement parks and participation in recreational activities, culminating in the distribution of sweets and gifts aimed at supporting children psychologically and socially.

It is worth noting that these activities would not have been possible without the support and cooperation of donors and volunteers who contributed their efforts and resources to the success of these distinctive events.



The Education Sector at URDA Joins the Lebanese Educational Plan in Collaboration with the Ministry of Education and International Partners.

URDA's inclusion in the Lebanese Educational Plan marks a significant development in enhancing local and international partnerships in the education sector in Lebanon. This collaboration demonstrates organizations' commitment to achieving stability, educational development, and assisting Lebanon in addressing complex educational challenges exacerbated by multiple crises and hosting refugees. This step can provide a solid foundation for advancing education and achieving positive outcomes in the long term by consolidating efforts and improving educational services for all children and youth in Lebanon. This was identified through intensive meetings of the core working group in the education sector, which regularly convenes at the UNICEF office in Beirut.



These meetings involve representatives from several international and local organizations and associations, including UNICEF, MEHE, UNHCR, NRC, IRC, Plan, and Save the Children, as well as five other local associations including Amel Association, Ana Aqra Association, Al Fayhaa Association, Fista, and Teach for Lebanon.

Active participation in these meetings gives URDA the opportunity to directly contribute to shaping education policies and implementing educational programs that meet the needs of all children and youth in Lebanon, including refugees and the most vulnerable local communities. Furthermore, strengthening international relations and cooperation can lead to additional support and investment in the education sector, which supports the educational system in Lebanon.

This step reflects URDA's commitment, along with its partners, to improving the quality of education in Lebanon and providing educational opportunities for children and youth in various Lebanese regions.

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Legal Protection Projects Aim to Enhance Social Stability and Coexistence.

The Legal Protection Sector at URDA launches a campaign to promote stability and social coexistence in Lebanon, especially in the areas of Sidon and Akkar, through a project aimed at gathering community perceptions about events and incidents that cause social tensions or may lead to them.

This project comes to address multiple and complex challenges, including economic disparities, political disputes, cultural biases, and competition for limited resources. With the exacerbation of these factors, residents feel insecure and unstable, leading to increased sensitivities among different social groups.

In this context, the Legal Protection Sector is working on an emergency response plan to address these challenges:

Problem Identification: Holding dialogue sessions with residents to gather accurate information about the issues causing tension.

Data Analysis: Sorting and analyzing data to understand the root causes of the problems and identify conflict patterns.

Program Development: Preparation of awareness and educational programs aimed at promoting mutual understanding and tolerance.

Direct Intervention: Organizing initiatives aimed at improving relations between groups, such as joint development projects and educational workshops.

These efforts are expected to lead to:

Reducing tensions: Through effective and preventive intervention aimed at reducing levels of tension and conflicts.

Enhancing cooperation: Improving relations between individuals and groups by building trust and mutual respect.

Improving quality of life: Creating a safer and more stable environment that can lead to improvements in the economic and social situation of the population.

Through this comprehensive approach, URDA seeks to build more cohesive communities capable of adapting to future challenges, benefiting everyone in the region.

Photo Story

**New Clothes = Joy and Hope!
URDA projects fill children's
lives with warmth and smiles.**

