



URDA

اتحاد الجمعيات الإغاثية و التنمية
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Introduction

URDA Launches "Tomorrow is Ours" Campaign to Support Education Amid Rising Conflict in Lebanon

Amid escalating tensions and increasing security threats in Lebanon, the most vulnerable children and youth face an unprecedented educational crisis. The conflict in southern Lebanon has displaced more than 34,000 children, significantly affecting the continuity of their education. 72 schools, including public, technical, and vocational institutes, have been closed, disrupting the education of approximately 20,000 children for the fifth consecutive year.

In response to this tragic crisis, the Union of Relief and Development Associations (URDA) has launched the "Tomorrow is Ours" campaign to support the most vulnerable children in Lebanon and provide the necessary resources to ensure they receive a quality education.

In this context, and in response to ongoing challenges and threats of war in Lebanon and the potential closure of the airport due to threats of bombings in Lebanese areas, URDA remains prepared for any emergency to implement its urgent relief plan across Lebanese territories. All its sectors continue their humanitarian activities, having provided various humanitarian services during July, including orphan sponsorships, food distribution, bread provision, and more, details of which can be found in this issue of the monthly newsletter.

We hope URDA remains at the forefront of supporting the most vulnerable groups and continues its humanitarian mission.





Education Sector:

URDA Launches "Tomorrow is Ours": A New Campaign to Restore Hope and Educate Lebanon's Children Amid Current Crises

The Union of Relief and Development Associations (URDA) has launched the "Tomorrow is Ours" campaign to support the most vulnerable students in Lebanon amidst ongoing economic and social crises. The campaign aims to provide resources and support to ensure all children receive a quality education.

Lebanese families are facing significant challenges, including economic collapse leading to high inflation and extreme poverty, increased child labor, higher dropout rates, and growing mental health crises among children.

The campaign focuses on four main areas: sponsoring students, distributing school bags and stationery, providing textbooks, and renovating and equipping schools with essential supplies. Additional interventions include supporting transportation, building teacher capacities, rehabilitating schools, supporting academic programs, and offering psychological and social support for students.

In this context, URDA calls on local and international partners and donors to join this initiative to ensure children in Lebanon have the opportunity to learn, grow, and build a better future.



Notable Educational Achievements:

July witnessed numerous achievements that supported education for the most vulnerable students in Lebanon through various activities and programs:

Preparation for the 2024-2025 Academic Year at Aman School/Bekaa:

Conducted training sessions for over 100 teachers and administrators to enhance the quality of education.

"School on a Bus" Project in Akkar:

Completed the third educational cycle with 150 lessons in Arabic and English, distributing 480 snacks to 24 students.

Activities in Bekaa and Mount Lebanon:

Distributed school bags and stationery to 48 students, provided 240 snacks, and delivered 50 educational sessions.

Special Science and Math Day at Iman School/Arsal:

Engaged 250 students in classroom activities to enhance their math skills.

Graduation of 20 Students:

Twenty students completed courses in drawing, music, literacy, and psychosocial support.

Weekly Field Visits:

Conducted visits to monitor project progress, ensure quality implementation, and engage with beneficiaries.

These efforts contribute to enhancing education and psychosocial support, helping build a generation prepared to face future challenges in Lebanese society.





Relief Sector:

URDA Provides Extensive Humanitarian Aid in Various Lebanese Regions

Food aid is a crucial element in mitigating humanitarian crises, especially in conflict zones and areas facing economic crises. A study on food insecurity (IPC) revealed that approximately 1.5 million people in Lebanon, including Syrian and Palestinian refugees, suffer from high levels of food insecurity. In light of this, many families in the Bekaa region have been affected by economic and financial crises, prompting URDA to provide support through the distribution of vital aid that positively impacted the lives of beneficiaries during the month of July. The aid included 400 hot meals from URDA's charitable kitchen, 800 large loaves of bread from the private bakery, and 300 food parcels. Additionally, 300 mattresses were provided, with two mattresses per 150 families, and 100 toys for children, which helped boost the children's spirits and provide moments of joy amidst the difficult circumstances. In this context and to improve living conditions, large quantities of bread were distributed to camps in various regions. Efforts included the distribution of 12,000 large loaves of bread to 6,000 families in northern camps (Akkar plain), 12,000 large loaves to 6,000 families in Aarsal camps, and 12,000 large loaves to 6,000 families in Bekaa camps (Kamed El Loz area).



Livelihoods Sector:

Reviving Agriculture in Akkar Plain: A Sustainable Project Enhancing Food Security and Creating Job Opportunities

Amid the economic crises facing Lebanon, the agricultural sector in rural areas is witnessing a significant revival thanks to the efforts of the sustainable agriculture project in the Akkar Plain (Qobet Chamra). The project aims to rehabilitate agricultural lands, with 17,000 square meters of land reclaimed and 17 dunams prepared for cultivation, in addition to the establishment of a greenhouse to enhance production.

The project includes the employment of 17 local farmers and 51 workers from the area, contributing to improved job opportunities and increased income. A total of 86 farmers will benefit from agricultural provisions, including seeds, seedlings, a drip irrigation system, and organic fertilizer.

The project also offers training courses in best agricultural practices and provides technical consultations in areas such as water management, soil analysis, and natural pest control.

It is noteworthy that the project has adopted advanced techniques, including the installation of an artesian well to ensure optimal water usage. It also supports the use of natural methods for pest control, contributing to environmental protection.



Sponsorship Sector:

Comprehensive Humanitarian Support: Enhancing the Lives of 705 Orphans and 62 Families

As part of ongoing humanitarian efforts to support the most vulnerable groups, the Sponsorship Sector carried out a series of distributions and activities to support 705 orphaned children and 62 families during the month of July. The initiatives included providing financial and psychological support, as the team, in collaboration with volunteers, organized recreational activities for the children to bring joy and happiness to their lives. Additionally, the Sponsorship Sector conducted field visits to monitor the progress of the sponsored families in their homes and camps, which helped improve their living conditions and ensure their stability. The team is spread across various regions of Lebanon to ensure that support reaches the most vulnerable communities, enhancing the effectiveness of interventions and achieving the desired positive impact.

URDA Participates in a Workshop on "Employing Artificial Intelligence in Humanitarian and Development Work"

As part of enhancing the effectiveness of humanitarian initiatives, URDA participated in a workshop organized by the International Forum for Development Organizations titled "Employing Artificial Intelligence in Humanitarian and Development Work." The workshop focused on exploring ways to use artificial intelligence to improve data analysis, enhance emergency response, and allocate resources more efficiently. It also addressed how to integrate this modern technology to enable humanitarian organizations to make informed decisions and maximize their positive and sustainable impact on beneficiary communities.



URDA Enhances Its Humanitarian Efforts Through Participation in Various Meetings

URDA took part in the "WE'AM" Project meeting (Working for Engagement, Acceptance, and Mediation), which is conducted under the

supervision of Oxfam. The project aims to contribute to national recovery and build a socially cohesive environment. Discussions centered around the latest developments in project implementation and upcoming phases. The meeting also reviewed the progress made in carrying out activities and exchanged ideas on how to enhance community participation and cooperation to achieve the project's objectives.

Additionally, URDA held a coordination meeting with the International Refugee Assistance Project (IRAP) to strengthen the referral system and assist those in need in identifying travel routes and resettlement options in other countries.

During a visit by a research team from the International Labour Organization (ILO) to URDA's office, discussions were held on the barriers to obtaining work permits for foreign workers and ways to find solutions.

