



URDA

اتحاد الجمعيات الإغاثية و التنمية
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MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Introduction

Comprehensive Humanitarian Efforts from Gaza to Lebanon

In this issue of our monthly newsletter, we present the latest efforts and initiatives by URDA as we continue our humanitarian and relief work across various regions. This edition highlights our ongoing efforts in Gaza to address humanitarian crises, including supporting orphans and providing essential aid. We also shed light on URDA's initiatives in Lebanon, such as participating in a workshop to update support strategies, opening a new bakery in Bar Elias to promote economic and social development, and the various activities carried out by the "Ebdaa Center" to support individual and professional skills. Additionally, we feature innovative projects from the "Tomorrow Is Ours" education campaign, which provides solar power and panels to several schools in Mount Lebanon. Don't miss our coverage of the joint project between URDA and the Global Women's Institute at George Washington University, as well as our meeting with the U.S. Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration, where we discussed the humanitarian situation in Lebanon and URDA's efforts to alleviate the suffering of the population.

We hope you find valuable insights in this newsletter about the impact of our work in improving the lives of individuals and communities.



Childhood encapsulates the suffering of children during the war - a photo captured by the URDA team in Gaza.



Relief

URDA Continues Its Relief Efforts in Gaza: Vital Support Amid the Humanitarian Crisis

Gaza is facing severe humanitarian challenges under the pressure of a blockade since last October. Approximately 2.13 million people in Gaza are experiencing varying levels of hunger, with 343,000 suffering from catastrophic famine, and the number is expected to rise to half a million. Over the past ten months, URDA's humanitarian teams have been working to address the challenges in Gaza. Despite the difficulties, URDA's teams have not wavered in their mission, continuing to provide relief and humanitarian support, achieving significant milestones that have positively impacted the lives of thousands affected by the crisis.

Key Achievements of URDA in Gaza:

Food Parcel Distribution: More than 6,000 families received food parcels.

Hot Meal Distribution: 214,906 hot meals were distributed, along with fruit and vegetable parcels to 700 families.

Non-Food Item Distribution: Clothing for over 800 children, blankets for 445 families, and hygiene kits for more than 250 families were provided.

Medical Services: Over 2,034 patients received medical consultations, with access to medications and medical tents.

Water Supply: Drinking water was secured for more than 5,850 families through 4,000-liter water trucks.

Milk and Diaper Distribution: Provided to over 1,000 newborns.

Psychosocial Support: Psychosocial support activities were conducted for more than 1,500 children.

Housing Construction: URDA provided safe shelters for four families.

As the crises in Gaza continue, URDA emphasizes that providing humanitarian aid remains essential to meet basic needs and strengthen the resilience of affected communities. URDA calls on everyone to continue supporting the people of Gaza, as every small effort and donation contributes to improving living conditions, enhancing family stability, and rebuilding lives.



URDA's Meeting with the U.S. Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration on the Sidelines of the George Washington University Conference

On August 23, 2024, URDA, represented by its Executive Director Jihan Kaisi, participated in a meeting organized by the Office of Governmental Foreign Relations in Washington, D.C. The meeting included a session with Ms. Janine Wynne, Deputy Assistant Secretary of the U.S. Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration. Several experts in humanitarian affairs also attended the meeting.

The discussion began with a focus on Lebanon and its economic crisis, which the World Bank has described as one of the worst crises in modern history, with more than 80% of its population living below the poverty line. Kaisi then spoke about URDA, highlighting the deteriorating humanitarian situation in southern Lebanon and discussing the emergency plan launched by URDA in case the conflict escalates.



Talent Support

"Ebdaa Center" Continues to Support Individual and Professional Skills

The "Ebdaa Center" in the Bekaa region continues to offer a variety of training programs to support individual and professional skills. The center hosts workshops in crochet and bracelet making, painting that reflects life in Syria, as well as music courses that cover the basics of music and vocal training. The center benefits over 200 talents annually.

Additionally, the center provides literacy training and promotes psychological well-being by discussing emotions and the concepts of rights and responsibilities. The center remains committed to empowering participants to acquire new skills and achieve personal and professional growth, thanks to URDA's efforts and the generosity of donors.

Donate to support talents and creativity:





Livelihoods

URDA Opens a New Bakery in Bar Elias to Boost Economic and Social Development

URDA has opened a new bakery in the Bar Elias area of the Bekaa region, marking a significant step towards supporting economic and social development in the area. The project creates 8 permanent jobs for local employees and hires several distributors from the community, helping to reduce unemployment rates and provide a steady income for families, thereby improving their quality of life and meeting essential needs such as food, education, and healthcare.

The bakery is an important source of essential food items, producing high-quality baked goods and lowering the prices of other bakery products, which enhances food security and makes them more accessible to low-income families. The project also strengthens the local economy by channeling income into small businesses and local services, and it offers professional training for employees, increasing their chances of securing future employment opportunities.



Legal Protection

URDA Participates in a Workshop to Update the PASC Network Strategy: Enhancing Sustainable Solutions in Lebanon

URDA participated in a workshop organized by the PASC Network to update its 2025 strategy. The workshop focused on developing a comprehensive legal framework to support both the local and host communities in Lebanon as part of the Permanent Solutions project that URDA is working on. Participants discussed enhancing the protection of residents' rights through the implementation of international agreements, such as the Geneva Convention, and providing essential legal documentation for their civil rights.

They also proposed the establishment of a joint legal committee to ensure the implementation of unified strategies and the sustainability of solutions through appropriate legislation and policies.

In this context, URDA reaffirms its commitment to improving legal protection and promoting sustainable solutions to support the community in Lebanon.



Education

URDA Supports Education in Lebanon Despite Challenges

As the new academic year begins, Lebanon's education sector faces significant challenges due to a 110% increase in tuition fees in private schools and added pressures on public schools. Additionally, the cost of books and school supplies amidst the country's worst economic and financial crisis places a heavy burden on families and affects the maintenance of school infrastructure, hindering the provision of a quality learning environment.

In response to these challenges, URDA has announced the opening of registration for the 2024 academic year in schools accredited under its education programs. This initiative aims to alleviate the financial burden on families by offering carefully subsidized tuition fees, enabling students to access high-quality education without overwhelming parents with unreasonable costs.

Furthermore, as part of the "Tomorrow is Ours" campaign, URDA has carried out comprehensive renovations at "Aman" School in Bar Elias, including the replacement of desks and boards to ensure a suitable educational environment. Solar panels were also installed at "Grand Lycée" High School in Iqlim El Kharroub, enhancing energy sustainability and improving school infrastructure, thereby contributing to a better learning environment.



 **Sponsorship****URDA: Relentless Efforts to Support Orphans from Lebanon to Gaza**

Tulin, an 11-year-old girl, lost her parents and two siblings when her home was heavily bombed. Her story is just one of thousands of tragic tales experienced by children in conflict zones, underscoring the critical need for assistance. In response, URDA is working on completing sponsorship forms for over 100 orphans in Gaza, aiming to support them in the coming period. In Lebanon, URDA's Sponsorship Sector distributed 1,131 sponsorships to the most vulnerable families across various regions in August. These initiatives are part of URDA's ongoing commitment to supporting children and improving their conditions amid the current crises.

