

## URDA on the Field: Healing Lebanon Beyond War!

Amid the worsening crisis gripping Lebanon, URDA continues to lead humanitarian relief efforts to meet the urgent needs of Lebanese, Syrian, and Palestinian families severely affected by the escalating airstrikes. With the ongoing Israeli air raids causing widespread destruction, the country is facing one of its most severe crises in decades. Displaced families from the South, Beqaa, and Beirut's southern suburbs are in desperate need of immediate humanitarian aid. According to the United Nations, over a million people have been displaced in Lebanon, 90% of them just in the past week. Recent statistics show that more than 1,640 people have been killed as a result of these strikes, including 104 children and 194 women, with over 8,408 others injured.

Throughout September 2024, URDA's relief teams doubled their efforts on the ground, implementing the emergency plan established last May in response to the war in Gaza. With active participation in the field, URDA successfully provided vital aid through 17 shelter centers across various regions of Lebanon, accommodating more than 723 families.

This special edition of the monthly newsletter reflects URDA's ongoing commitment to serving affected communities, highlighting the achievements of its relief teams on the ground as they help Lebanon recover from one of the harshest periods in modern times.



## URDA Continues Its Humanitarian Efforts Amid Lebanon's Crisis

In response to the ongoing disasters, URDA persists in its humanitarian work by distributing essential aid to displaced individuals across 17 shelter centers, hosting over 723 families. URDA urgently needs additional donor support to meet the needs of the displaced & provide immediate humanitarian assistance.

**As of September 27, 2024, URDA has provided the following services:**



*Pillows*  
**614**



*Mattresses*  
**733**



*Blankets*<sup>1.6 kgs</sup>  
**1,326**



*Drinking Water*<sup>10 liters</sup>  
**750**



*Hot Meals*  
**2,340**



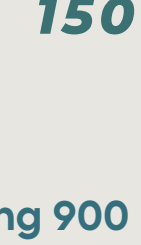
*Bread*  
**1,960 pack**



*Hygiene Kits*  
**660**



*Diapers*  
**150**



*Tissue Packs*<sup>for centers</sup>  
**71 sacks**



*Gifts & Activities for children*  
**650**

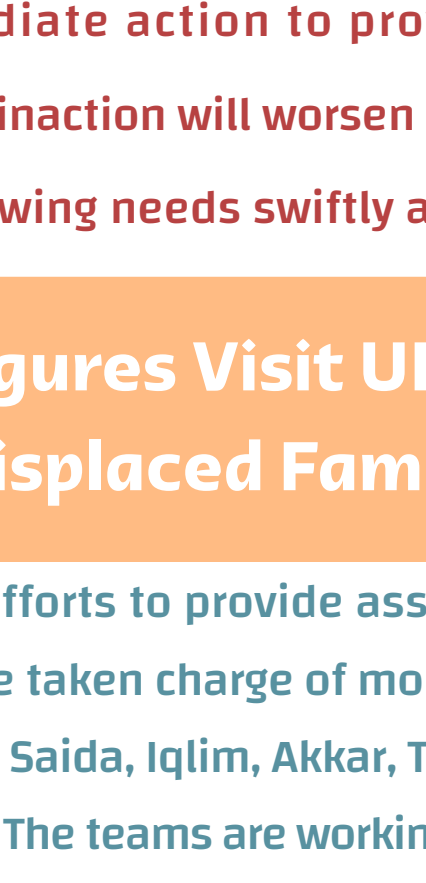
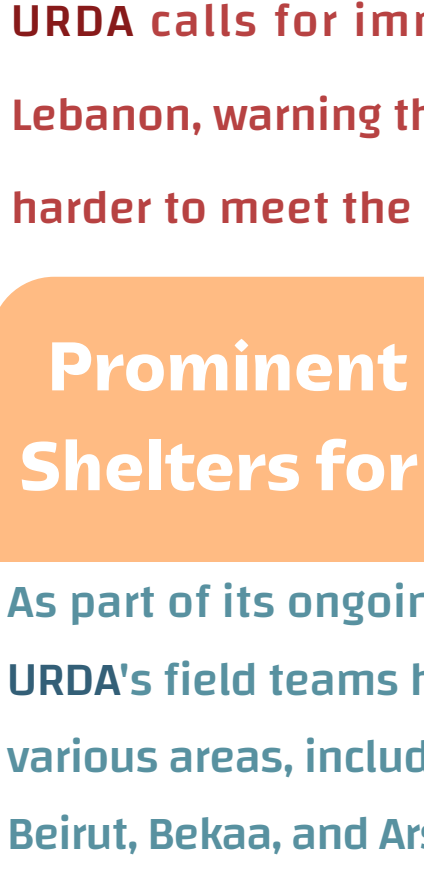


*Ready-to-eat food-packages*  
**867**



*Infant Formula*  
**150**

In addition, URDA operates 3 charity kitchens, providing 900 hot family meals daily to affected families.

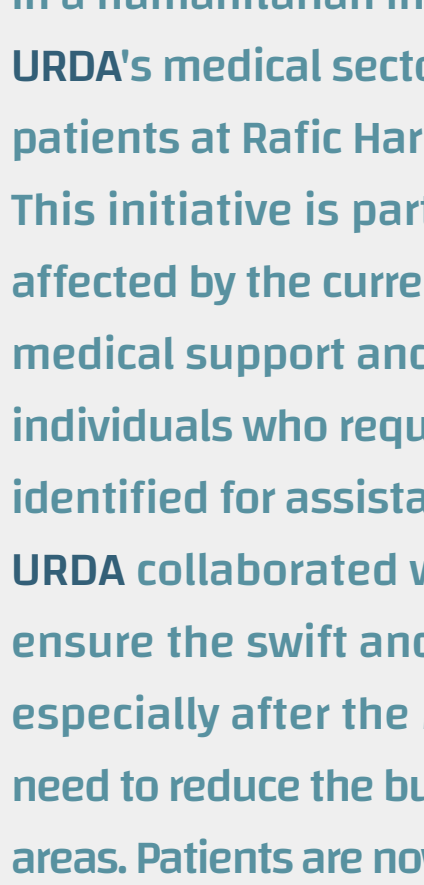


Despite the tragic conditions faced by southern towns, which persist to this day, the emergency relief team in South Lebanon distributed hot meals and hygiene kits to 150 families in the border area of El-Merwanieh, as well as 400 hot meals, 800 bundles of bread, and 250 toys for children in the border area of El-Hebbarieh.

**URDA calls for immediate action to provide urgent support to Lebanon, warning that inaction will worsen the crisis, making it even harder to meet the growing needs swiftly and effectively.**

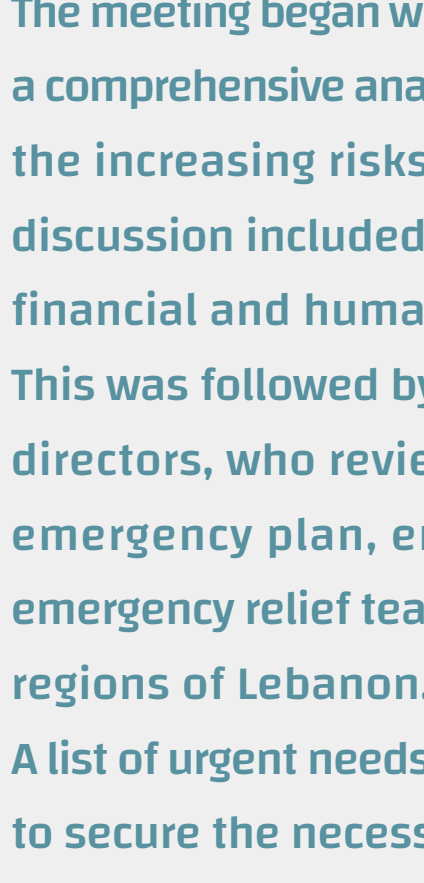
## Prominent Figures Visit URDA-Managed Shelters for Displaced Families in Lebanon

As part of its ongoing efforts to provide assistance to the displaced, URDA's field teams have taken charge of more than 17 shelters across various areas, including Saida, Iqlim, Akkar, Tripoli, Aramoun, Naameh, Beirut, Bekaa, and Aarsal. The teams are working to register the displaced families and assess their basic needs, while food and non-food services have already started being provided in collaboration with the Ministry of Social Affairs and local municipalities, especially the Municipality of Saida. Regular meetings are being held to discuss key projects and available services.



In this context, Lebanese Parliament Member Halima Kaakour visited the "Chhime Vocational School" shelter in Iqlim, where she reviewed URDA's efforts and the needs of the displaced families. She praised the team's work in providing essential assistance.

MP Bilal Abdallah also visited the same shelter, where he met with displaced families and observed the ongoing efforts to meet their needs, expressing his support for URDA's initiatives amid the current challenges.



Additionally, MP Melhem Al-Hujairi visited the "Aarsal First Mixed Intermediate School" shelter, where he assessed the conditions of the families there and listened to their needs, showing his support for URDA's efforts during these difficult times.

These visits aim to strengthen collaboration between official institutions and civil society to ensure the necessary support is provided to displaced families and their humanitarian needs are met.

## URDA Supports Displaced Patients and War-Injured

In a humanitarian initiative aimed at supporting displaced individuals, URDA's medical sector has delivered essential medications to displaced patients at Rafic Hariri Governmental Hospital. This initiative is part of ongoing efforts to meet the needs of families affected by the current war, who are suffering from a severe shortage of medical support and medications. Displaced patients and war-injured individuals who require essential medicines and medical supplies were identified for assistance.

URDA collaborated with the hospital administration to ensure the swift and effective delivery of medications, especially after the Ministry of Health emphasized the need to reduce the burden on medical facilities in targeted areas. Patients are now being transferred to other hospitals to ensure they continue receiving safe treatment.



## URDA Activates Emergency Plan to Address Security Challenges and War in Lebanon

As part of its ongoing efforts to tackle humanitarian challenges, URDA held an emergency meeting on Thursday, September 26, 2024, via Microsoft Teams, with the participation of several partner organizations, members of the executive management, and program directors.

The meeting began with a speech from the General Manager, who provided a comprehensive analysis of the current situation in Lebanon, highlighting the increasing risks of a potential outbreak of widespread war. The discussion included expected scenarios and the possible impacts on financial and human conditions.

This was followed by presentations from department directors, who reviewed the implementation of the emergency plan, emphasizing the deployment of emergency relief teams and volunteers across various regions of Lebanon. A list of urgent needs and projects was also presented to donors, aiming to secure the necessary support to mitigate the effects of the war and enhance the community's capacity to withstand growing challenges.



## The Ministry of Health Provides a Psychological First Aid Course for URDA Field Staff

As part of ongoing efforts to enhance the capacities of field teams in addressing the humanitarian challenges resulting from the escalating situation and intensifying war in Lebanon, Mrs. Maureen Mahfouz, a representative from the Lebanese Ministry of Health, conducted a training session on psychological first aid for URDA staff at the organization's main office.

The course focused on equipping staff with the principles of psychological first aid and teaching them how to engage with displaced individuals and beneficiaries of URDA's projects in the field. URDA teams are working extensively to provide humanitarian aid under difficult circumstances, and these trainings aim to improve staff skills in managing psychological emergencies they encounter while delivering services.



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A child from southern Lebanon sits on the ruins of his home, eyes filled with shattered dreams and defiant hope.