



URDA

اتحاد الجمعيات الإغاثية و التنمية  
Union of Relief & Development Associations

urda-lb.org

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# MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

## INTRODUCTION



In times of escalating crises and growing humanitarian challenges, the Union of Relief and Development Associations in Lebanon (URDA) continues to strive with unwavering commitment—serving as a voice for justice, a hand for relief, and a bridge of hope.

In this issue, we highlight our key achievements throughout the month—starting with our solidarity with the people of Gaza through a general strike and donation campaign, to delivering emergency aid to thousands of families in the region, and finally to home renovation efforts in rural Homs, Syria.

We also bring you updates from across Lebanon—from the distribution of orphan sponsorships in the Bekaa, to strategic partnerships and participation in international conferences focused on artificial intelligence and human rights. We close with heartfelt messages of appreciation in honor of International Workers' Day and World Book and Copyright Day.

We firmly believe that humanitarian work knows no borders, and that solidarity remains the truest expression of our shared humanity.

Thank you to everyone who supported, stood with us, and walked alongside us on this journey.



## URDA Declares General Strike and Launches Fundraising Campaign for Gaza

In light of the ongoing escalation and worsening humanitarian conditions in Gaza, the Union of Relief and Development Associations in Lebanon (URDA) has declared a general strike in solidarity with the Palestinian people. This move responds to widespread public calls and reaffirms URDA's steadfast support for the Palestinian cause.

URDA issued an open call to all individuals and institutions across Lebanese society to suspend their activities and take part in this act of solidarity. The organization emphasized that this initiative is a national and humanitarian message, reflecting shared destiny and a firm stand with the people of Gaza against continued aggression and injustice.

In its official statement, URDA stressed the importance of promoting this initiative across social media platforms to raise public and regional awareness and to amplify the call for Gaza.

This step comes amid growing international appeals for a ceasefire, as Gaza endures a deepening humanitarian crisis marked by critical shortages of food, medicine, water, and electricity.

In parallel, URDA has launched an urgent fundraising campaign via the GlobalGiving platform to provide essential food, medicine, and shelter for affected families, and to support hospitals and humanitarian centers within Gaza.



To donate and stand with the people of Gaza,  
please visit the following link: <https://shorturl.at/tymQ1>



URDA calls on everyone to share and contribute to this campaign as a direct and impactful way to support the affected families—a call to all who believe in human rights and justice.

### URDA Restores Hope for **170** Families Through Shelter Renovation in Rural Homs, Syria

In a humanitarian effort aimed at restoring dignity to affected families inside Syria, the Union of Relief and Development Associations (URDA) has successfully renovated 24 homes and 10 tents in the areas of Eastern Al-Buwaida and Al-Qusayr in rural Homs, benefiting 170 families who had been living in dire and inhumane conditions.

This initiative falls under URDA's Shelter and Housing Program, which focuses on securing minimum standards of dignified living for displaced and vulnerable families by rehabilitating damaged homes and upgrading tents to ensure safety, warmth, and stability.

URDA's field team implemented the renovations in accordance with humanitarian standards, prioritizing families living in uninhabitable shelters or those who had lost their homes due to the ongoing conflict.



## DCA Organizes Humanitarian Standards Training Workshop at URDA's Headquarters

As part of efforts to strengthen the capacities of humanitarian professionals, DCA organized a specialized training workshop on Core Humanitarian Standards at the main headquarters of the Union of Relief and Development Associations (URDA) in Lebanon.

The workshop targeted both field and administrative staff, focusing on the principles of humanitarian work, the foundations of emergency response, and international standards related to protection, dignity, and accountability to affected populations.

The workshop was led by a specialized team from DCA and attended by staff members from various sectors. It contributed to raising awareness and aligning understanding on how to deliver effective humanitarian services that respect human dignity and meet the essential needs of targeted populations.



## Launch of a New Project to Promote Human Rights and Digital Transformation in Lebanon

DanChurchAid (DCA), funded by the European Union and in partnership with Digital Opportunity Trust Lebanon (DOT Lebanon) and the Union of Relief and Development Associations in Lebanon (URDA), announced the launch of a new project aimed at promoting human rights through digital transformation.

The project, which spans several years, seeks to align Lebanon's digital transformations with international human rights standards. It aims to raise media awareness among stakeholders and the public about the impacts of technology, in addition to providing protection and support for journalists and human rights defenders who are exposed to risks.





## URDA Distributes Sponsorships to **300** Orphans in the Bekaa Valley in Collaboration with Abdullah Aid

As part of its ongoing efforts to support orphans and vulnerable groups, the Union of Relief and Development Associations in Lebanon (URDA) announced the distribution of sponsorships to 300 orphans in the Bekaa region, in partnership with Abdullah Aid.

This humanitarian initiative aims to ensure a dignified life for orphaned children by providing regular financial support that covers their basic needs, including food, education, and healthcare.

The URDA sponsorship team directly oversaw the distribution process, coordinating with the beneficiary families to ensure that the aid reached its rightful recipients with transparency and dignity.

Project organizers emphasized that this initiative is part of a series of activities the sector plans to implement across various Lebanese regions, with the goal of supporting orphaned children and improving their living and emotional conditions, especially amidst the escalating crises the country is facing.



## URDA Participates in the “Artificial Intelligence in the Service of Humanitarian Work” Conference in Istanbul

In a move that reflects its commitment to keeping up with technological transformations in humanitarian work, URDA participated in the “Artificial Intelligence in the Service of Humanitarian Work” conference, held in Istanbul on April 23-24, 2025, with the attendance of Executive Director, Ms. Jihan Al-Qaisi.

This conference is the first of its kind in the region, organized by the humanitarian incubator “Revolve,” and gathered a group of experts and specialists in artificial intelligence and the humanitarian sector. The aim was to explore ways to harness modern technologies to enhance the efficiency and impact of organizations working in the field.

Commenting on URDA’s participation, Al-Qaisi said: “The conference included in-depth discussions on the applications of artificial intelligence in humanitarian work, providing a valuable opportunity to learn about the latest technological innovations and how to leverage them to improve the quality of humanitarian services. It also explored how to transform major challenges into inspiring opportunities that can make a real difference in the lives of individuals and communities.”

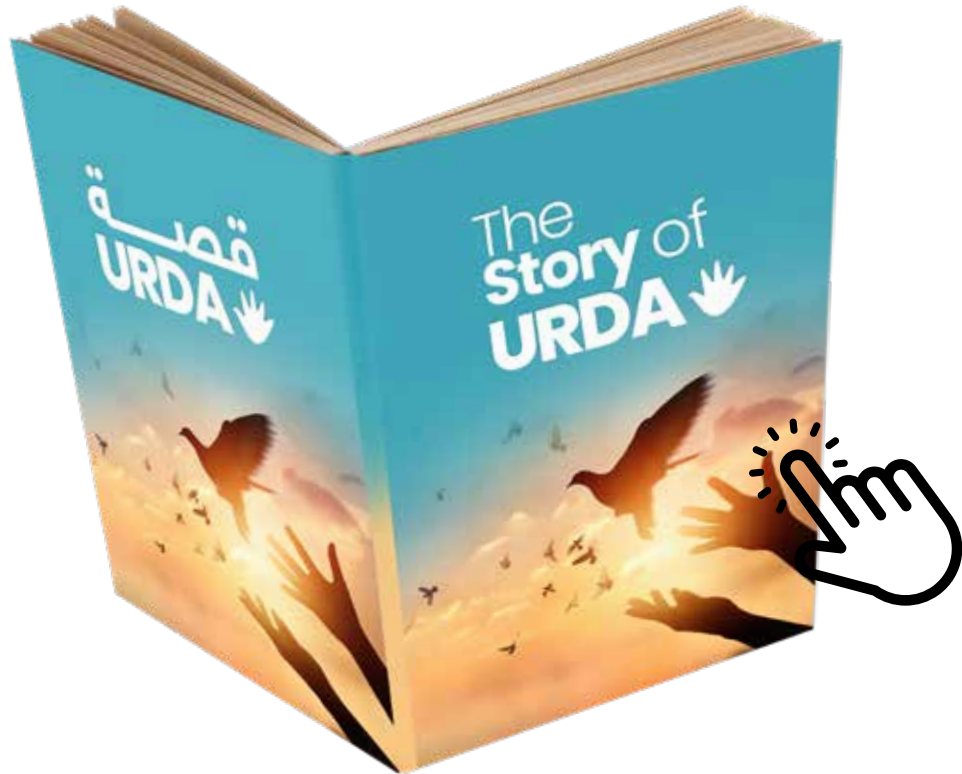
The conference represented an interactive space between technology and humanity, opening new horizons for cooperation and strategic partnerships that support innovation in relief and development work.



## World Book and Copyright Day

On the occasion of World Book and Copyright Day, we share with you the story of URDA — our journey since 2012 in serving humanity with dignity, compassion, and commitment.

To read more, click on the book:



## On International Workers' Day

URDA extends its deepest gratitude and appreciation to all workers and volunteers for their efforts over the past months.

Today, we highlight the contributions of humanitarian workers whose dedication and perseverance continue to shape a more compassionate and hopeful world.

