



URDA

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Union of Relief & Development Associations

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INTRODUCTION

Empowerment, Support, and Networking for Humanity

With the beginning of the new year, the Union of Relief and Development Associations in Lebanon (URDA) continues its commitment to humanitarian and development work, placing people at the heart of its priorities despite the growing challenges facing the region. Throughout January 2026, URDA intensified its efforts in regional networking, youth empowerment, and mental health support through impactful initiatives and purposeful activities aimed at strengthening resilience, building capacities, and creating safe spaces for dialogue and expression.

In this newsletter, we highlight the key milestones of the month, reflecting URDA's vision of investing in



URDA Implements “Warm & Well” Winter Campaign to Support Syrian and Lebanese Families in the Bekaa

The Union of Relief and Development Associations in Lebanon (URDA) implemented a winter relief campaign entitled “Warm & Well,” targeting the most vulnerable Syrian and Lebanese families in the Bekaa region amid harsh living conditions and declining temperatures.

The campaign included the distribution of essential food and winter assistance, comprising 380 pack of bread, 165 food parcels, and 80 hot meals, in addition to 400 gallons of heating fuel and 400 blankets. The response also provided 75 winter jackets for children, reaching a total of 745 families.

The Warm & Well campaign comes as part of URDA’s ongoing efforts to ease the living burden on affected families, strengthen food security, and ensure access to heating needs, thereby supporting the resilience of the most vulnerable households during the winter season.



URDA Strengthens Protection for Over 2,000 Families through “Warm & Well” Campaign

During January 2026, the Urgent Relief & Development Associations (URDA) provided integrated humanitarian assistance to 2,585 vulnerable Syrian families as part of its response to the winter emergency in the country. The interventions aimed to enhance food security and protection for children and the elderly, in line with international humanitarian standards.

Food assistance included the distribution of 630 pack of bread, 755 food parcels, 400 hot meals, and 115 ready-to-eat parcels, addressing families’ basic needs and ensuring continued access to food, with a focus on the most vulnerable households.

To support heating and protection from harsh winter conditions, URDA provided 180 heaters, 1,520 gallons of fuel, and 45 tons of firewood. In addition, 610 blankets and 180 hygiene kits were distributed to promote health protection and reduce the risk of cold-related illnesses.

Winter assistance for children included 255 winter clothing vouchers, 296 pairs of shoes and wool sets, and 295 winter jackets. The response also involved the distribution of 13 tents and plastic sheets to provide temporary shelter and protection from severe weather conditions.



URDA Secures Sponsorship for 500 Orphans During the First Half of 2026

As part of its ongoing efforts to support the most vulnerable children in Lebanon, the Union of Relief and Development Associations in Lebanon (URDA) successfully secured sponsorship for 500 orphans during the first half of 2026. This support covers their essential needs, including food, education, and healthcare, for the period from January through June.

This achievement falls within URDA's strategy to provide comprehensive and sustainable support to orphaned children, ensuring a safe and stable environment that promotes healthy growth and learning. It also helps reduce the social and economic risks faced by orphans, while supporting the development of their skills and future potential.

URDA emphasized that this initiative reflects its commitment to applying international child protection standards and to safeguarding orphans' right to a dignified life and equal opportunities, alongside the continued provision of psychosocial care and support for every beneficiary child.



URDA Participates in the Levant Pioneers Forum

The Union of Relief and Development Associations (URDA) took part in the Levant Pioneers Forum, held in the Levant region of Syria on Saturday and Sunday, January 17–18, 2026. URDA was represented by its Executive Director, Ms. Jihan Kaisi, alongside a select group of leading institutions and influential figures from the humanitarian, development, and cultural sectors.

The forum aimed to strengthen dialogue and networking among the Levant's communities, and to explore opportunities for integration and cooperation, drawing on shared historical, cultural, and social ties. These discussions sought to shape initiatives and programs that serve people and support stability and development across the region.



During the forum, Ms. Kaisi emphasized that URDA was founded on a deep belief that humanitarian work is first and foremost about compassion and inclusion, before it is about service delivery. URDA has served as a family for those who lost their homeland and sense of safety, standing alongside children and families through the most difficult circumstances, offering hope. Today, it continues its humanitarian mission in Lebanon and Syria toward a better future.

URDA's participation reflects its ongoing commitment to strengthening joint humanitarian and development efforts across the Levant, and to supporting spaces for dialogue and cooperation among active organizations. This contributes to unifying efforts, exchanging expertise, and building effective partnerships that promote sustainable development and place people at the center.

The forum also featured the screening of an introductory film about URDA, highlighting the key humanitarian sectors in which it operates in Lebanon, and showcasing the impact of its projects in relief, education, protection, and sponsorship programs in supporting the most vulnerable groups over recent years.



URDA Implements Psychosocial Support Sessions for Media Professionals and Human Rights Defenders

As part of the DCA project and within its psychosocial support (PSS) efforts, the Union of Relief and Development Associations in Lebanon (URDA) conducted a group psychosocial support session targeting 16 participants, including journalists, media workers, influencers, and human rights defenders.

The session focused on providing psychological support, strengthening participants' ability to cope with professional stress, and building skills to manage psychological pressure in sensitive media work environments. These efforts contribute to safeguarding mental health and enhancing professional performance.



In parallel, URDA is currently managing eight individual psychosocial support cases to ensure the provision of specialized and continuous care for beneficiaries facing complex psychological or professional stressors. This reflects the project's commitment to international psychosocial protection standards.

These activities are part of ongoing efforts to empower media professionals and human rights defenders to work safely and effectively, while supporting their role in information dissemination and the protection of community rights within a safe and stable environment.

URDA Enhances Youth Digital Skills in South Lebanon – Al-Habbariyeh



As part of the project “Empowering Border Area Youth through Social Cohesion and Capacity Building” funded by the European Union, the Union of Relief and Development Associations in Lebanon (URDA), in cooperation with ALEF Association and WEAM Organization, organized a two-day training workshop on digital literacy and content creation. The workshop was held on January 4–5 at the public hall of Al-Habbariyeh town, with a total training duration exceeding 10 hours.

More than 25 young men and women from various areas participated in the workshop, as part of efforts to enhance digital and media skills and empower youth to use technology as a tool for self-expression and community engagement.



The workshop was delivered by media professional Ahmad Leila and focused on the fundamentals of photography and digital content creation, as well as key principles of using mobile phones as effective tools for media production. Participants were introduced to concepts of lighting, shooting angles, image composition, and the basics of writing purposeful media content.

The program included hands-on practical activities, during which participants used cameras and smartphones to capture field content and produce their own media materials, which they then presented in group work sessions. This approach helped strengthen practical skills and build confidence in the youths’ creative abilities.

The workshop concluded by highlighting the importance of developing young people’s digital skills, especially in border areas, as a key means of enhancing communication, conveying community issues, increasing civic engagement, and opening new opportunities for learning and employment in the digital age.

URDA Strengthens Youth Leadership Skills in South Lebanon

As part of the project “Empowering Border Area Youth through Social Cohesion and Capacity Building” funded by the European Union, the Union of Relief and Development Associations in Lebanon (URDA) organized a specialized two-day training workshop on leadership skills. The workshop was held on January 10–11 at the Al-Habbariyeh Municipal Hall.

More than 25 young men and women from Al-Habbariyeh and surrounding areas participated, as part of URDA’s efforts to enhance youth leadership and communication skills and to empower them to play active roles within their local communities.

The workshop was delivered by trainer Kamal Abdel Satter and focused on the following key areas:

- Concepts of effective leadership
- Communication and public speaking skills
- Teamwork and initiative
- Building self-confidence and strengthening positive influence





The training included interactive activities and individual and group working sessions, enabling participants to apply the skills in practice, strengthen collaboration, and develop a sense of responsibility and initiative. This approach supports youth engagement in public life and contributes to stronger social cohesion within their communities.

The workshop concluded by emphasizing the importance of empowering youth in border areas through the development of leadership skills, as a fundamental element in enhancing civic participation and preparing a generation capable of contributing effectively to the building of their communities.

URDA Organizes a Workshop on Project Planning and Evaluation for Youth in South Lebanon

As part of the project “Empowering Border Area Youth through Social Cohesion and Capacity Building” funded by the European Union, the Union of Relief and Development Associations in Lebanon (URDA) organized a specialized training workshop titled “Small Project Planning and Evaluation” on Sunday, January 18, 2026, at the public hall of Al-Habbariyeh.

The workshop brought together more than 25 young men and women from several villages in the area, as part of URDA’s efforts to strengthen youth capacities in planning and implementing small-scale projects, and to empower them to transform their ideas into practical initiatives that respond to the needs of their local communities.

The training was delivered by trainer Nuhad Abdel Aal and included interactive sessions that focused on:

- Identifying key challenges within local communities
- Analyzing root causes and proposing practical, sustainable solutions
- Using critical thinking and teamwork to develop initiatives

Participants also worked in groups to design community-based projects and initiatives that are feasible, fundable, and ready for implementation during the final phase of the project. This process helped foster initiative and a sense of responsibility, while encouraging youth to play an active role in local development.



Ramadan 2026 is Coming!

URDA is gearing up for a new season of blessings, hope, and giving.

Stay tuned... get ready... and turn ON your mode of blessing!



رمضان كريم

Ramadan Kareem

