

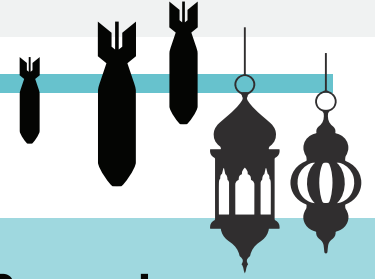


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Union of Relief & Development Associations

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MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



INTRODUCTION

Between the Echoes of War and the Light of Ramadan... URDA Continues Its Humanitarian Mission

In the heart of Lebanon, a country weighed down by war, the spirit of giving remains its most remarkable trait. Amid the echoes of conflict and nights filled with anxiety, every morning brings a new hope, revived by URDA's humanitarian initiatives and the collective sense of responsibility. Shelter centers transform into temporary homes, and Ramadan becomes an opportunity to renew generosity and strengthen solidarity.

In our February/March newsletter, we share stories of URDA's fieldwork, from opening new centers to host hundreds of displaced families, to rehabilitating schools as safe shelters, alongside Ramadan projects and emergency response campaigns. We also highlight official visits and symbolic activities that honored women and mothers and brought smiles to children's faces.

This issue is more than just news, numbers, and images, it is a testament that humanity can shine through darkness, and that this year's Ramadan reminds us that generosity and compassion never cease, even in the most difficult times.

URDA's Appeal: To Make Lebanon Heal



“Blessing Mode On” Ramadan Campaign... Food and Essential Aid for Thousands of Families in Lebanon



The Union of Relief and Development Associations in Lebanon URDA concluded its humanitarian campaign during the holy month of Ramadan under the slogan “Blessing Mode On”, achieving a wide-reaching humanitarian impact that benefited thousands of the most vulnerable families across Lebanon.

As part of its comprehensive food security response, URDA distributed over 13,418 food parcels to meet the basic needs of families during the holy month, in addition to 5,019 hot meals and 3,380 bread packs, ensuring daily nutrition for displaced and vulnerable communities.

To address urgent needs, URDA also provided 850 ready-to-eat kits for newly displaced families, along with 500 food vouchers, allowing beneficiaries to access their food in a flexible and dignified manner.

Within its Ramadan initiatives, URDA organized community iftar meals for around 900 people, while also providing iftars for more than 900 orphans.

Non-food assistance included 200 blankets, 200 hygiene kits, and plastic sheets, benefiting 52 families and helping improve living conditions amid the ongoing conflict. Children received special attention with the distribution of 1,243 clothing items and 150 pairs of shoes, bringing joy and ensuring their happiness during the holiday.



URDA Expands Emergency Response and Opens Multiple Shelter Centers in Lebanon to Host Hundreds of Displaced Families

Amid the escalating humanitarian crisis and ongoing conflict in Lebanon, and the increasing waves of internal displacement, the Union of Relief and Development Associations in Lebanon URDA announced the expansion of its emergency response through the opening and operation of multiple shelter centers across the country, aiming to host displaced families and provide them with urgent humanitarian assistance.



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URDA has opened and operated shelter centers in several areas, as follows:

- Saida – Ain Al-Hilweh Official School Center: 60 families (250 individuals)
- Beirut – Al-Iman School (Al-Zarif): 30 families (124 individuals)
- Beirut – Al-Ikhaa School: 65 families (275 individuals)
- Bekaa – Jabb Jennine School Center: 30 families (150 individuals)
- South Lebanon – Souk Al-Khan Center



These efforts are part of URDA's emergency response mechanism activated following recent developments, as civilians face severe humanitarian conditions amid a lack of safe spaces, requiring rapid and coordinated interventions to provide protection and essential services.

The response includes the provision of essential shelter materials, including mattresses and blankets, as well as the distribution of food parcels, drinking water, and hygiene supplies. Initial psychological support sessions are also conducted, particularly for children, to help them cope with the trauma of displacement and the loss of daily stability.

URDA emphasized that these initiatives are part of the "OUR LEBANON" campaign, launched to expand humanitarian work across Lebanon's governorates, focusing on meeting urgent needs and supporting the most vulnerable groups, especially children and women.

"URDA's Appeal to make Lebanon Heal": Targeted Interventions Meet the Rising Needs of Displaced Families Amid the War

Amid the escalating humanitarian challenges in Lebanon, the Union of Relief and Development Associations URDA continues to implement a large scale emergency response, focusing on displaced and highly vulnerable families through multi-sector interventions covering food, water, shelter, and essential relief items.

URDA has carried out intensive distribution operations across several areas, including Beirut, Saida, the South, and Bekaa, targeting shelter centers in an effort to alleviate the harsh living conditions faced by displaced families.

In the shelter sector, URDA distributed 400 sleeping kits along with 430 personal hygiene kits, contributing to improved living and health conditions within the centers.

For food security, the response included 700 ready-to-eat kits and 1,102 hot meals distributed across multiple centers. Additionally, 1,630 bread packs and 1,630 units of drinking water were provided to ensure families meet their daily basic nutritional needs.

To address energy-related needs, URDA provided 140 rechargeable lamps and 250 portable gas units, helping families cope with severe electricity shortages and ensuring access to cooking and lighting.

The response also included special support for infants, with 50 milk packages and diapers distributed to meet the most urgent needs of the most vulnerable groups.



URDA Rehabilitates Marj Al-Zohour Center in Hasbaya, Providing Shelter for Over 40 Displaced Families Despite Infrastructure Challenges

Amid the difficult humanitarian conditions in southern Lebanon and the escalating crisis, the Union of Relief and Development Associations in Lebanon URDA took over the Marj Al-Zohour Official School shelter center in Hasbaya, hosting more than 40 displaced families, totaling approximately 180 individuals from the towns of Ain Arab, Kham, Wazzani, and Helta.

Although the school had been closed for years and its basic facilities were nearly non-functional, URDA promptly initiated urgent rehabilitation and preparation work to transform it into a functional center for displaced families. The efforts included a thorough cleaning of the building, restoring electricity, repairing the central heating system, rehabilitating bathrooms and sewage networks, and installing water tanks to ensure a continuous water supply.



Field teams also worked to improve living conditions inside the center by installing room dividers to provide privacy for families, setting up showers with hot water, creating dishwashing facilities, and supplying hygiene materials and large waste bins to maintain a safe and healthy environment.

As part of the humanitarian response, URDA provided mattresses, blankets, and pillows, along with essential in-kind aid to meet the urgent needs of displaced families under the current circumstances.

A team of volunteers manages the center's daily operations, coordinating with the Ministry of Social Affairs and the Marj Al-Zohour Municipality, as part of a comprehensive response plan that also oversees multiple shelter centers in the Hasbaya and Bekaa regions.



Women... The Spirit of Resilience

URDA Honors Women and Mothers in Shelter Centers in Recognition of Their Humanitarian Role



On International Women's Day and Mother's Day, the Union of Relief and Development Associations in Lebanon URDA organized symbolic humanitarian initiatives at its shelter centers. Flowers were distributed to displaced women at the Kuwaiti School Center in Saida, and to mothers at the Al-Iman School Center in Beirut, in a gesture expressing deep appreciation for the resilience and vital role of women in times of crisis.

This initiative comes amid the harsh humanitarian conditions faced by displaced families, where women, particularly mothers, bear the additional burdens of caring for their families and maintaining the psychological stability of their children despite the loss of safety and security.

URDA emphasizes that women remain a cornerstone of society, playing a central role in strengthening family and community cohesion, especially during crises. They become a source of strength and hope, conveying a sense of security to their children despite all challenges.



Eid Joy for Displaced Families in Saida: URDA Organizes Festival with the Minister of Social Affairs and Saida's Mayor

Development Associations in Lebanon URDA, hosted a special humanitarian event on the first day of Eid Al-Fitr, attended by Minister of Social Affairs Haneen Al-Sayyed, Saida Mayor Eng. Mustafa Hijazi, URDA staff, and displaced families residing at the center. The visit included a tour of the center's facilities, where the Minister reviewed the living conditions of displaced Lebanese families and the services provided to them. She praised URDA's efforts in managing the center and ensuring essential needs were met despite difficult field conditions.



For his part, Mayor Mustafa Hijazi commended URDA's work, emphasizing in his speech that their rapid intervention and effective organization have directly contributed to improving the living conditions of displaced families within the center. He added:

"We highly value this partnership and look forward to continued joint coordination to ensure the best possible support for those in need during this critical period."

URDA's Executive Director, Jihan Al-Kaisi, highlighted that Eid in the shelter centers carries a special humanitarian message, stressing:

"No child should be sad today, despite the shelling and the winter." She noted that a series of recreational activities and surprises were organized to bring joy to children and families.

The event included entertainment activities and gift distribution for children, aiming to alleviate the effects of displacement and harsh living conditions, and to celebrate Eid with a spirit of solidarity and community support.

Minister of Health Commends URDA's Efforts in Supporting Displaced Families During Visit to Al-Iman School Shelter in Beirut

The team of the Union of Relief and Development Associations in Lebanon URDA welcomed His Excellency Dr. Rakan Nasser Al-Din, Minister of Health, at the Al-Iman School Shelter Center in Beirut, where he conducted a field visit to review the conditions of displaced families and ensure the provision of health services and humanitarian assistance.

The Minister praised URDA's continuous efforts in managing the center and providing comprehensive support to displaced families, emphasizing the importance of coordination between official authorities and humanitarian organizations to ensure a safe and dignified environment for all residents.



High-Level Visit to URDA Shelter Center in Saida Highlights Humanitarian Response and Strengthens International Partnership

The Union of Relief and Development Associations in Lebanon URDA received a high-level delegation at its shelter center in Saida, including His Excellency the Chinese Ambassador to Lebanon, Chen Chuandong, and UNHCR Lebanon Coordinator Carolina Lindholm Billing. The field visit aimed to review the conditions of displaced families and the humanitarian services provided. During the tour, the delegation observed the center's operations, including shelter services, health support, and social care, as well as efforts to ensure a safe environment that preserves the dignity of displaced families and meets their basic needs amid the current challenging conditions in Lebanon.



The delegation praised the organizational and humanitarian standards upheld by the URDA team, commending the organization's vital role in rapidly responding to increasing needs and alleviating the suffering of affected families despite field challenges and limited resources.

For its part, URDA emphasized that this visit represents important moral support and reflects the value of strengthening international cooperation in addressing humanitarian crises. The organization reaffirmed its commitment to continuing humanitarian work according to the highest standards, ensuring the protection of human dignity and comprehensive support for the most vulnerable groups.

This visit is part of ongoing efforts to coordinate humanitarian response and enhance partnerships with international stakeholders, contributing to improved living conditions for displaced families and providing a safer, more stable environment.



In the eyes of a displaced child, the story of a nation unfolds. A homeland weighed down by wounds, yet still capable of dreaming. The colors in her gaze are more than reflections; they are the heartbeat of life resisting extinction and a quiet message that hope, no matter how fragile, cannot be erased.



This child, with only the barest essentials for survival, carries in her look what reality cannot give: a vision of safety, a warm home, and a tomorrow that does not frighten its children. Within her eyes is a space for hope, and within her silence a call urging all of us to protect that hope and nurture it.

Join us in this journey. Through your support, your voice, and your belief in the possibility of change, every small act becomes a spark of light. Every light that returns to a child's eyes is a promise that this homeland can rise again

