



URDA

اتحاد الجمعيات الاغاثية و التنمية
Union of Relief & Development Associations

URDA's Student Sponsorship Project

Back to School Campaign 2019-2020

Education Sector

Project Proposal 2019



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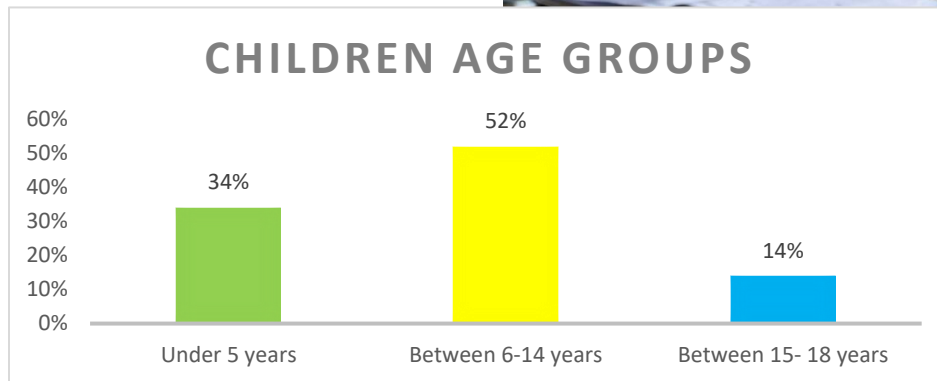
Project Summary

Project Name	<i>URDA's Student Sponsorship Project – Back to School Campaign</i>
Sector	<input type="checkbox"/> Shelter <input type="checkbox"/> Emergency <input type="checkbox"/> Health Care <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Education <input type="checkbox"/> Protection <input type="checkbox"/> Sponsorship <input type="checkbox"/> Development
Duration	One year
Location	Lebanon
Total number of Beneficiaries	30 students (direct beneficiaries) 150 individuals (indirect beneficiaries)
Budget	450.00 USD per sponsored student



Rationale

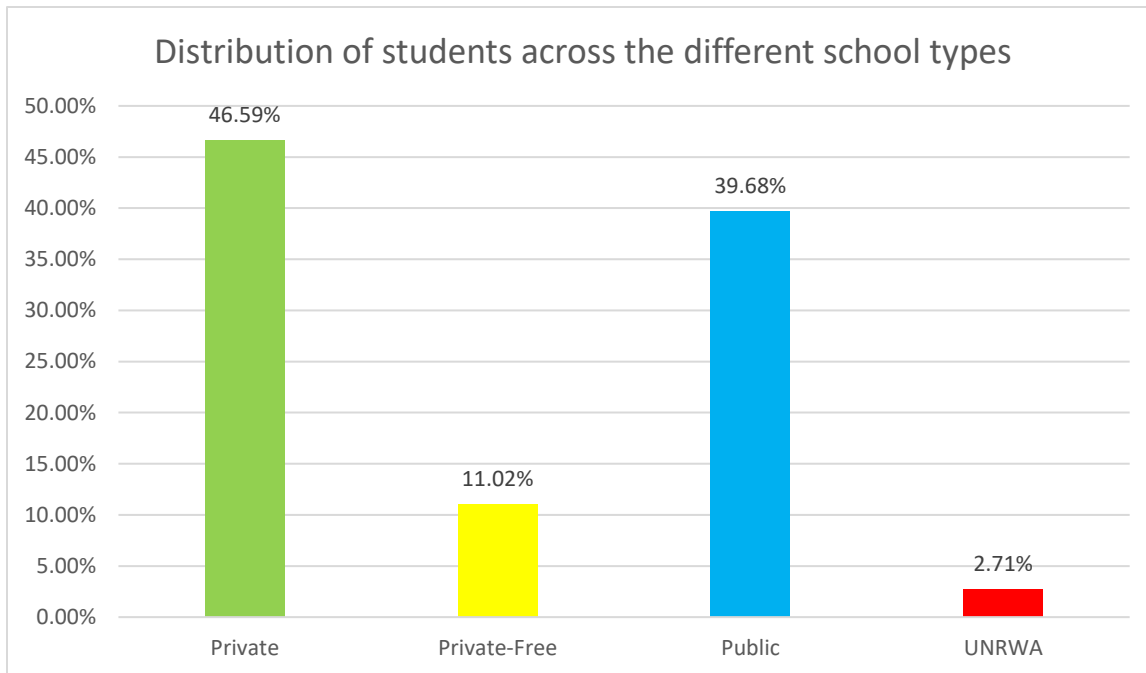
According to LCRP 2017-2020, almost one and a half million disadvantaged children live in Lebanon. These children include 470,000 Lebanese and almost one million children from other nationalities, including 540,000 Syrian refugee children registered with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, and 122,000 Palestinian refugees. Approximately 34% of these children are under 5 years of age, 52% are between 6 to 14 years of age, and 14% are 15 to 18 years of age.



According to a study published by the Center for Educational Research and Development (CERD), the number of registered students in Lebanon has reached 1,275,740 in 2016-2017. This number includes those registered in public, private and semi-private schools. It also accounts for Lebanese and non-Lebanese students studying in both the morning and afternoon shifts. Of those students, 79% are Lebanese, 18% are Syrian and 2% are Palestinian.

Lebanon has 4 types of schools:

- ◆ **Public Schools:** These schools are governed by the Ministry of Education and Higher Education (MEHE) and do not charge any fees.
- ◆ **Private Schools:** These schools are private entities governed by individuals or organizations and regulated by MEHE. Usually, education in these schools is expensive due to the different fees that they charge such as tuition fees, books, uniforms, transportation... etc.
- ◆ **Private-Free Schools:** These schools are private schools but receive funding from MEHE which renders their tuition fees less expensive than those charged by private schools.
- ◆ **UNRWA schools:** governed by UNRWA and targeting Palestinian refugees.



As of 2012 and following the Syrian crisis and the influx of refugees to Lebanon, the Lebanese educational system was strained due to the sudden increase in the number of students.

Consequently, MEHE introduced the second shift study program which offered the Syrian refugees the chance to enroll in the free public education sector. Private schools also opened afternoon shifts but these charged tuition fees and subsequently enrolled the students coming from fortunate households.

As the economic situation of Lebanon worsened affecting mostly the low-income and middle-class families, these resorted to dropping their children from the reputable private schools and enrolling them in the public, private free or less reputable private schools because they could no longer afford for the high costs of education.

Despite that, the financial struggle of these families still persisted especially when accounting for the education-related fees such as school bags, stationary, books, transportation... etc. As such, more children are at risk of dropping out of schools because of their parents' financial situations.

MEHE, in collaboration with UNICEF, has launched in 2016 a national campaign titled Back-to-School campaign which aimed at providing financial, operational and logistical support to guarantee access to formal and non-formal education for children and youths aged between 3 and 18. However, this initiative was short-lived as it was cancelled in 2018 due to the lack of funding.

In-line with the core objective of MEHE's back-to-school campaign: "Every child has the right to an education regardless of who they are, where they live or how much money their family has" and aiming towards achieving UNDP's SDG # 4 "Quality Education: Obtaining a quality education is the foundation to improving people's lives and sustainable development", URDA's Education Sector is launching its own Back To School 2019-2020 campaign, targeting Lebanese, Syrian and Palestinian Refugees in Lebanon.



This campaign is composed of 2 projects:

- 1) School Backpack project
- 2) Student Sponsorship project

The following is a detailed presentation of the Student Sponsorship project.



Project Description

The project focuses on two main outcomes that coincide with LCRP 2017-2020 goals which are:

- 1) Improved access to education opportunities
- 2) Improved quality of education services.

These two outcomes will be achieved through providing sponsorship to 300 students in Lebanon for the academic year 2019 - 2020. This sponsorship shall cover the costs of enrollment and tuition fees (if any), transportation to and from school, as well as school books.

This project stems from a study published by the Human Rights Watch titled: "Lebanon, 250 000 Syrian children outside school" and URDA's experience in working with disadvantaged families for the past 7 years.

In fact, the main reasons that are prompting parents to no longer enroll their children in schools despite the many pathways that are currently offered by the Ministry of Education and Higher Education in Lebanon are directly related to 2 main factors: distance and costs.

Despite that the public schools and private free schools charge very little (if not zero) money, in most of the cases parents must pay for some other costs such as books, stationary, registration fees, uniforms and transportation.

Trying to address the above 2 problems (distance and education-related costs), URDA is launching its student sponsorship program.

At the first stage of this project, URDA will be identifying 300 children and youth aged 3 to 18 of different nationalities and enrolled in different schools all over Lebanon.

URDA will prepare detailed profile for every child clarifying their age, school, address and parents' financial situation. Each student will be then sponsored by URDA by providing him / her with a sum of 450.00 USD to cover for:

- ◆ Registration Fees
- ◆ Tuition Fees
- ◆ Books
- ◆ Uniforms
- ◆ Transportation for 9 months



Sponsorship will not be paid directly to the children nor their families, but rather indirectly to the schools, bookshops and bus drivers. This is to ensure transparency and proper allocation of resources.

During the academic year, URDA will be collecting copies of the students' report cards and sharing them with their sponsors as a proof of enrollment and continuation.

Selection of students shall be based on merit (financial needs), proportional geographic distribution and nationality, gender equality and inclusion of children with disabilities.



Intervention Logic

❖ **Impact:**

- ◆ Ensuring inclusive and equitable quality education and promoting lifelong learning opportunities for all (UNDP SDG # 4)

❖ **Outcome(s):**

- ◆ Sponsoring 300 students with 450.00 USD to cover for all education-related costs for one academic year.

❖ **Output(s):**

- ◆ 30 students have been sponsored for one full academic year.
- ◆ 30 students, at risk of dropping out of school, have registered for the academic year 2019-2020
- ◆ Financial wellbeing of 30 families at the beginning of the academic year 2019-2020 has improved.
- ◆ 15 students with physical disabilities have been sponsored for one full academic year.



Targeted Group

Beneficiaries	Nationality	Age Group*	Number	Characteristics
Children	Lebanese (20%) Syrian (60%) Palestinian (20%)	6 - 18	30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Living under the poverty line ◆ Are previously enrolled or in the process of enrolling at any school for the upcoming academic year. ◆ Live in remote areas far away from the nearest school ◆ In the case of non-Lebanese, have proper documentation that enables them to study in Lebanese schools.

* Gender equality shall be ensured throughout selection of students and distribution of backpacks. As such, 50% of beneficiary students are girls.

* 5% of targeted beneficiaries shall be children with physical disabilities.



Working Areas

The project shall be implemented in selected regions within Lebanon based on needs. Special emphasis shall be given on the cadasters with the highest levels of poverty in particular: North Lebanon, Bekaa and Baalbeck-Hermel.



Project Duration

The project shall be implemented for one full academic year as per the following time table:

Activity \ Month	August	September	October	November	December	January	February	March	April	May	June	July
Planning												
Outreach to select students												
Selection of students												
Preparation of children profiles												
Preparation of Procurement documents												
Implementation												
Contracting with bus drivers												
Purchase and Delivery of books and uniforms												
Registration and Payment of school fees												
Payment for bus drivers												
Follow-up on academic performance												
Collection of Report Cards												
Final Phase												
M&E Reporting												
Media Coverage												
Narrative Reporting												
Payment of remaining financial liabilities to suppliers												
Financial Reporting												



Human Resources

This project will be implemented under URDA's education sector.

- ◆ The Education Program Manager will be in charge of supervising the implementation of the project as a whole as well as reporting back to donors.
- ◆ The Procurement Manager will be in charge of all procurement related transactions in coordination with the Program Manager.
- ◆ The Financial Manager will in charge of all financial-related transactions as well as financial reporting.
- ◆ The Monitoring and Evaluation Officer will be in charge of developing the M&E plan, following up on implementation with the Program Manager and developing the M&E reports.
- ◆ Field Officers will be in charge of outreach and field follow up.



Budget

Item	# of students	Frequency	Unit Price (USD)	Total Price (USD)
Student Sponsorship (inclusive of tuition fees, transportation fees, school books and other needs)		1	450.00	450.00*
TOTAL PER STUDENT (USD)				450.00
Target Number of Students				30
TOTAL PER 100 STUDENT (USD)				13,500.00

** Price is inclusive of URDA's running costs; Interested parties can opt to sponsor as many students as they see fit.*



Organizational Qualifications

For seven years in a row, and since the beginning of the Syrian crisis, Union of Relief and Development Associations (URDA) has been working in accordance with the international laws governing charitable work and dedicated to improving human rights of the most vulnerable human beings in Lebanon. Initially founded to provide life-saving assistance to war-affected individuals, URDA then expanded its areas of expertise to cover seven main humanitarian sectors: Shelter, Relief, Healthcare, Protection, Livelihood and Development, Education & Sponsorship.

The education department's plan is put in synergy with Lebanon's national priorities as stated in LCRP and the Ministry of Education and Higher Education, in that it advocates for the rights of children as principal and inherent in its interventions and partnerships. URDA's education programs are strongly linked to Lebanon's National Priorities for Education, as articulated in the RACE II Plan (Reaching All Children with Education 2017-2021) and to UNDP's SDG Goal # 4; "Supporting quality education and life-long learning".

URDA's Education Department was able to provide formal and non-formal education opportunities for 15,000 refugee students in Lebanon for 3 consecutive years which is equivalent to 15% of the efforts spent by MEHE and the UN agencies and partners to enroll out-of-school children.

URDA established and is operating four schools in Lebanon located in informal shelter sites to provide non-formal education for more than 5,000 students mainly in Bekaa and Aarsal.

Moreover, URDA has a strong network with a net of private schools that provide formal education for thousands of Syrian refugee children in all Lebanese governorates in the second shift. The enrolled students were offered different types of support such as covering transportation costs and education fees, provision of school bags and stationary, in addition to different partial and full scholarships.

Last but not least, URDA is a partner with the Ministry of Education and Higher Education in Lebanon and has a direct Expression of Interest for the following components: Retention-Support and Recreational Activities & School Rehabilitation. Under this umbrella, URDA has the green light from the ministry to execute any project in-line with these 2 components without the need for any further approvals.



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