himaya celebrated their 11th anniversary

During July and August, the communication and fundraising department launched a crowdfunding campaign with the support of Karen Wazzen to celebrate himaya’s 11th anniversary through TV and social media advertising.

The TV Commercial portrays a familiar birthday scene of an 11-year-old child surrounded by her friends and family. The “picture-perfect” is suddenly shattered when someone close to the child inappropriately touches her body.

The campaign successfully raised awareness among the public on the severity of the issue of violence against children in Lebanon. The campaign’s video reached over 125,000 people on social media and was supported by many celebrities and influencers such as Ghina Ghandour, Aline El Murr, Hiba Dandachli and many more.

Today 1 out of 6 children is a victim of sexual violence, and in 67% of the cases*, the perpetrator is a member of the child’s family, or someone part of the child’s environment.

*According to himaya’s 2019 statistics.

To donate and give children back their childhood:
Online donations: [https://www.himaya.org/content/donate](https://www.himaya.org/content/donate)
Offline donations: bank transfers, check, or cash call 71.802.881
Animators Day

In July, the prevention program organized a national day for 170 animators of himaya’s 17 Safe Parks in the North, the South, Beirut, Mount Lebanon, and the Bekaa.

Animators received an introduction about the Safe Park’s strategy by himaya’s executive director, Ms. Lama Yazbeck, who also highlighted the importance of Safe Parks for the local regions and the importance of their role as volunteers who play a major role within their community by raising awareness and allowing the change we need for the next generations.

Each team shared its internal strategies, challenges, and success stories, giving everyone a chance to learn from each others’ experiences.

Animators also benefited from workshops by professionals and experts on:
- Project management and Budgeting
- Conflict resolution
- Social media and ethics
- Communication for development
- Innovative thinking

Today, himaya’s Safe Parks play a crucial role in Lebanon by providing a safe and free environment for vulnerable children to play and feel safe.
Animators play an even more critical role by helping himaya implement, develop, and maintain the concept of Safe Park in Lebanon.
The project of Safe Park was inspired by NACCW and wouldn’t have been possible to implement without the support of the local municipalities, ISS Switzerland, and Unicef Lebanon.
himaya’s mid-year statistics

Since January 2019, himaya’s resilience team provided psycho-social support to 792 children victims of a form of violence in Lebanon.

Mandated by the Ministry of Justice in Tripoli to handle cases of violence against children, himaya provided legal and social support to 122 children victims of a form of violence since January 2019.
Meet Tarek, a seven-year-old boy who’s been physically abused at school and home by his mother. A local NGO concerned with Tarek’s behavior referred the case to himaya’s team.

Upon the call, himaya contacted the mother, who openly expressed her distress. She admitted that her son’s intolerable behavior at home and school is forcing her to revert to corporal punishment.

The family started attending psycho-social support sessions with himaya; after a couple of sessions with Tarek, they found out that his intolerable behavior and actions were a result of the sexual abuse he was subjected to by his older cousin who was also a minor.

himaya immediately raised the problem to the parents who explained they were aware of the situation and took action by sending their son to a psychologist. Unfortunately, the action taken was not a successful one. Tarek had started performing sexual acts with his smaller cousin.

Thankfully, the parents were very cooperative. The sessions with Tarek and his family continued, and they received the psycho-social support needed to overcome the trauma. A couple of sessions later, Tarek became more confident expressing what had happened and how he felt about the abuse.

After four months of continuous follow-ups, Tarek’s behavior changed drastically. He became calmer, more attentive, more responsive, and everyone around him was happily surprised with the result.

As for the legal actions, Tarek’s family dropped all charges and requested not to take any legal measures towards his older cousin. Today, the family is in a safe environment and learning how to understand their son’s behavior differently.
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