# TAKE A LOOK AT HOW WE CHANGED CHILDREN'S LIVES IN MAY

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## Celebrating 11 years preventing and fighting violence against children!

May marks himaya's 11th birthday; 11 years of our team working day-in and day-out to end violence against children in Lebanon! We've decided to celebrate this special occasion by sharing our achievements with our audience on social media.

Throughout the month of May, we've presented our impact and activities whereas 445,519 children and parents benefited from awareness activities under our Prevention Program, and 8,133 children victims of violence, have benefited from psychosocial and legal support under our Resilience Program.

We've also announced that we have proudly joined four international networks, including ISS, END VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN, CP AoR and FICE international.



We've shared the wonderful work that we have achieved thanks to our partners and sponsors, our mandate with the Ministry of Justice in North Lebanon, the rehabilitation of 17 safe parks, and so much more!

We wouldn't have made it this far if it weren't for the support and generosity of our partners, board members, and followers. Thank you for reading our posts, supporting our cause, and helping us break the silence around violence and against children. Thanks to you, thousands of children and their families are getting the support they need!

Follow the <u>link</u> to our annual impact report for 2018

#### The 7 summits challenges completed!



On the 23rd of May, Joyce Azzam, our Child Protection Advocate successfully reached the summit of Mount Everest, becoming the first Lebanese woman to complete the Seven Summits Challenge.

Before starting her journey, Joyce alongside himaya, visited a school where she shared her mountaineering experience and her passion for climbing, with the aim to inspire the youth to follow their dreams.

The children were so mesmerized by her story and her dream, that some of them even told Joyce that they want to become mountaineers just like her.

At the end of the session, Joyce asked the children to draw their dreams on a piece of paper. The dreams were turned into a flag which she took with her all the way to the top of Mount Everest. She told the kids that she believes in their dreams, and urged them to believe in them too because once they do, nothing can stop them from achieving them.

We are very proud of Joyce's achievements and honored to have her as our child protection advocate.

#### **CELEBRATING FAMILY DAY IN ALEY'S SAFE PARK**

In May, the prevention team organized a Kermesse at our Safe Park in Aley to celebrate Family Day.

The main purpose of the event was to deliver key messages related to child protection through games and fun activities.

All in all, this day was a great success! A total of 70 family members of Lebanese and Syrian roots enjoyed a joyful day, playing and interacting in a safe environment of coexistence.

This activity was made possible with the support of UNICEF Lebanon and SSI Switzerland.

## Training sessions with the Internal Security Forces of Lebanon.

Since 2016, himaya's Capacity Building and Research & Development department (CBRD) has been organizing training sessions with the support of the ISF (Internal Security Forces) Training Institute.

The latest training took place in April of 2019 and was delivered to 25 ISF officers, including Captains, First Lieutenants and Lieutenants. It was also part of the institute's ongoing training program that includes courses on various topics such as interviewing and interrogating adult suspects.

himaya's responsibility was to deliver sessions on how to communicate with children in the context of an investigation. These sessions aimed at enabling participants to use child-friendly communication techniques with children victims of violence or in conflict with the law. The officers were also introduced to child protection and child development principles that would allow them to understand and respond appropriately to children's needs.

At the end of the training, officers expressed that the training helped them gain a new perspective on children rights and needs, which will encourage them to implement the newly acquired skills and become effective advocates for child protection.



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