

TAKE A LOOK AT HOW WE CHANGED CHILDREN'S LIVES THIS NOVEMBER

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himaya opened a new Safe Park in Mechen.

With continuous efforts put into achieving our mission to promote a safe environment for children in Lebanon, we are happy to announce that himaya launched another Safe Park in Mechen.

On November 16th, families and children from the local community gathered to celebrate the opening of their new space and enjoy fun activities from animation, to face-painting, shows, and games.

This project has been ongoing since 2018 and wouldn't be possible without the support of the Ministry of Social Affairs who have provided himaya with all the necessary logistics to rehabilitate the land and open a new Safe Park in the region.

Since January, himaya trained 14 animators from the local community on how to detect cases of violence along with practical recreational activities they can use with children of their community.

From January 2019 until March 2020, over 1665 children are expected to be visiting the new established Safe Park in Mechen, Lebanon.

This project was initiated by the International Social Services Switzerland with the support of UNICEF Lebanon, funded by DFID and BPRM; and wouldn't be possible without the engagement and endorsement of local communities.



Our Capacity Building and Research and Development program conducted a training addressed to Solidarités International and Relief International, around the topic of child protection.



himaya has been working in partnership with Solidarités International (SI) and Relief International (RI) on the "Integrated Shelter for Health and Protection" project, funded by the BPRM. One of the main goals of this initiative is to improve the living conditions of vulnerable Syrian refugees and Lebanese communities living in collective shelters and substandard buildings, through a comprehensive Shelter, Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH), Health and Protection intervention.



This month, himaya's Capacity Building and Research and Development team conducted a two-day training addressed to 18 front liners from SI, with the objective of providing improved protection to children at risk. The training worked to ensure that SI and RI front liners have a good understanding of child protection principles, how to address protection concerns, and safe identification methods.

Our Executive Director Lama Yazbeck attended the commemorative conference in Geneva.

On November 20th, the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) celebrated its 30th anniversary. The CRC was adopted in 1989, and is the most widely ratified human rights treaty in the world. Signatories of the CRC committed to protecting the rights of all children to grow, learn, play, and develop in a safe environment.

To celebrate this Day, our Executive Director, Lama Yazbeck, joined a commemorative conference in Geneva, where children and adults discussed essential and urgent topics that impact children's well-being, their future, and their rights.





A safe park for all.

During an activity taking place at Zahle's Safe Park, himaya's team noticed street children outside the park, looking and staring at the other kids who were playing inside but seemed afraid to enter.

On that evening, himaya received news that a group of children who've heard about himaya's Safe Parks were jumping over the fence after closing hours to enjoy their time in the park.

Unfortunately and without proper supervision, children were damaging the games and material that were present at the park.

himaya's team then decided to reach out to these children, and to invite them to attend the day activities with the rest of the kids.

The children were delighted to hear the news and showed a great deal of enthusiasm and interest to acquire new skills and learn about their rights during the sessions.

Despite their differences, all children directly became friends; they all played and learned together.

The children promised never to enter the park at night again, and that promise, was kept.

The objective of Safe Parks is to offer a safe space for children to play in a child-friendly environment.

With the generous support of SSI Switzerland, himaya is providing children with Safe Parks; a safe space that gives children an equal opportunity to play, feel safe, learn about their rights, and learn new skills to protect themselves against all forms of violence. UNICEF Lebanon plays an essential role in the Safe Park project by supporting himaya in training volunteers within the local community. Volunteers provide children with activities all year-long. They are also able to detect cases of violence and refer them which helps himaya reach more children in the area. 4 Safe Parks are already open in Central and West Bekaa and that wouldn't be possible without SSI Switzerland and the support of UNICEF Lebanon, funded by UK Aid and the European Union.

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