

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

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himaya organized an online live session giving time management tips for parents

As people are slowly adjusting to the new 'norm' imposed by social distancing, it is also up to us to find new ways through which we can communicate our mission and spread awareness on child protection. From schools being closed, to working remotely; the current lockdown has presented additional risks on children, as their parents struggle to adjust to new at-home schedules. We responded to this situation by organizing a Live Session on Facebook and Instagram, to help parents and caregivers know more about how they can benefit from their time at home to improve their child's development and take care of their physical and psychological well-being.

As a result, this educational session was able to reach around 3 thousand interactive viewers, who were also asking questions and sharing their concerns with us. 3 videos resulted from this Live session and are currently being shared on our different online and social media platforms with the support of UNHCR.

Check out the videos on: https://www.instagram.com/p/B_nark9psOg/



himaya remains active throughout the current lockdown



Since the beginning of the lockdown, our prevention team has never stopped working with beneficiaries. In fact, we adapted our work methods to the situation, and shifted all our activities to conference calls sessions with parents, alongside supportive videos that were spread on several social media platforms.

The objective of this continuous work was to stay in contact with our beneficiaries to support them during this challenging time, and to keep raising awareness on several topics related to child protection, now that the risk of child abuse is even greater due to the confinement.

Our teams first made sure that all beneficiaries had access to the necessary information on COVID-19 (through our health and hygiene session), to ensure their protection and that of their families.

Furthermore, beneficiaries showed interest in topics such as time management, where they benefited from tips on how to maintain a healthy routine with their families at home during the current lockdown.

The topic of self-care was also tackled, to teach parents how to take care of themselves and how important it is to find the time to do so.

The role of fathers during the lockdown was not to be missed either. In fact, we have created a video which was shared with our beneficiaries through online platforms, highlighting the effect of their involvement in the child's life, especially now that they have more time to spend with their kids.

Several videos addressed to parents and children, were also created by our prevention team, giving out tips on how to make the best out of their time at home, while having fun and enjoying some recreational activities that can improve child development through sports and physical activity.

We also stayed in contact with our community by capacitating them through interactive online training modules; making them ready to get back on the field as soon as the situation allows it.

We've received great feedback from the sessions that were delivered, as parents expressed how grateful they were for having himaya support them at all times, and for our hotline which is always operational for anyone who wishes to report a case of abuse, or to receive parental guidance.

himaya remains active on online platforms and in the media to raise awareness about child protection

The current lockdown has presented its unique set of challenges for our community and for our children. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we have quickly adopted social distancing measures in achieving our mission, whilst still responding to cases of child abuse and conducting prevention sessions, on-ground visits and assessments.

We have also mobilized our media to be able to reach out to more people, and raise awareness about the increased risks of child abuse, now that some children may be confined with their perpetrators.

Now more than ever, we have been active on online and social platforms, sharing tips and giving out advice to parents and caregivers, to help their children and themselves, better deal with the challenges presented by the current lockdown.

We've also remained present in the media, raising awareness among the wide public and appearing in several TV interviews on [MTV](#), [OTV](#), [Mariam TV](#), and [Al Araby TV](#) to promote a positive environment and behavior for parents and children to properly adjust to the current living conditions. In addition, himaya was featured in [Annahar online](#), where we also offered additional tips to parents on how to take action during the lockdown, and provide the best care for their children.

In parallel, our [Dawwi 3al Ghalat ad](#) has made its way back to people's television screens, to further emphasize the fact that child abuse happens every day behind closed doors and to encourage people to report and speak up if they suspect any threat against a child in need of protection.





The unstable situation in Lebanon has presented its unique set of challenges for our community. The economic and political situation has created tensions in the homes of many, leading to higher risks of child abuse.

In January, we were informed of a critical case involving a young teenage girl who had come forward to the authorities. She claimed that she and her siblings were subject to severe physical abuse from their father who used electric pipes and garden hoses as tools. The young girl was petrified and begging authorities for help. We stepped-in to assess the situation and offer support to the family; the children admitted that the abuse was very violent and frequent, and when asked about their mother, they also explained how she too was previously subjected to harsh physical abuse by the father, and found no other way of putting an end to it all than by leaving her children and moving back to live with her own parents abroad, in her home country.

Since the little girl and her siblings were not within the same age range, there was a risk for them to be separated if they were to be placed in residential care. The authorities then decided to place the children temporarily, within a host family which was sourced through a local NGO.

Meanwhile, we handled all judiciary and legal procedures in order to protect and find a safe environment for these children. One solution was to send the children to live with their extended family, but after conducting the necessary investigation, we concluded that the environment of the extended family would not be healthy for the children as the available space could not accommodate this number of people. While the case was under review, we got in touch with the children's paternal grandmother who was now informed about her son's abusive behavior. In parallel, we got in contact with their mother to look into the possibility of having the children live with her and the children's parental grandmother, as they both reside in the same country.

Upon this agreement, we were able to work with Official Security Authorities to help the minors travel outside of Lebanon, and live with their family in a safe and secure environment.

Regardless of the economic and political frustrations that Lebanon was facing during this time, we were able to take action on this case, assess the family's circumstances and contribute to viable solutions, all whilst keeping the children safe.

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