

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

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himaya distributes over 7,000 child protection booklets

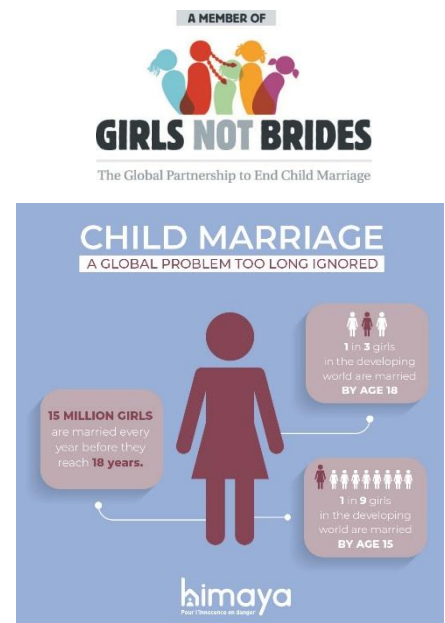
Our prevention team has been working on creating child protection (CP) booklets, which finally came to life during the month of June. The booklets included information about COVID-19, games about children's rights developed by UNICEF, as well as games that were previously developed by himaya, on Internet safety, children's rights, and the different types of abuse.

With the help of safe park animators and other partners, we distributed over 7,000 booklets and coloring kits throughout Lebanon, and were successful in making this lockdown period fun and educational for children with the support of Service Social International, Solidarites International, BPRM and Relief International.



himaya is now a member of Girls Not Brides

As part of our mission to help children in need of protection, himaya partnered up with Girls Not Brides, a global partnership committed to ending child marriage and enabling girls to fulfill their potential. Globally, 15 million girls are married each year before the age of 18. Child marriage puts girls' health at risk, denies them their education and the choice of when and whom to marry. Ending child marriage requires long-term, sustainable efforts. We have to work together to address deep rooted values and traditions, by engaging families, communities, young people and the media to change attitudes and behaviors related to child marriage. It is our mission to raise awareness about this topic and help young girls achieve their full potential in all aspects of their lives.





A.R is a 15 year old girl, who spent a few years of her childhood in Lebanon. Things changed when her mother began facing abuse from her husband, A.R's father. The domestic violence resulted in a divorce and even though her mother was left with various psychological repercussions, she decided to take her child abroad, where they lived with A.R's grandmother.

When A.R turned 13, she and her grandmother travelled to Lebanon, as her father was insisting to see his daughter. Upon their arrival, things took a turn; the father kicked the grandmother out of the house and placed a travel ban on his daughter. The latter was stuck living with him and was not allowed to contact her mother nor grandmother throughout this time. A.R was subjected to constant and severe verbal and physical abuse, in various and abundant instances. She arrived home late one day, and her father took it upon his efforts to beat her and chop all her long, beautiful hair off. The most recent instance was her being beat with electricity wires, leaving her with numerous scars and bruises. This incident lead A.R to take the decision to run away at the age of 14, after secretly living with abuse for a year and a half.

The young girl was found five days later, and when general security members took her in for questioning, it was evident that she had been abused. Her father was then placed in jail for 48 hours, while she shared her traumatic experiences with legal authorities, and asked to return abroad to stay with her grandmother.

Following the investigation, himaya established a protection case file for the minor and assisted her by putting her in contact again with her mother and grandmother. Through himaya's intervention, the mother and grandmother were brought to Lebanon, and placed with A.R in the same household together.

We provided all members of the family with psychosocial support, as we believe that building strong partnerships with parents is key when it comes to protecting a child's wellbeing.

After two months of assessment, the father began to miss appointments and eventually refused to seek the support needed. He continued to be verbally abusive, while threatening his daughter of placing another travel ban; and that, he did.

Therefore, A.R was moved to a housing center, to avoid further abuse from her father. During this time, himaya was working alongside legal authorities, as well as the embassy, in order to have her grandmother become her sole guardian.

Upon the Sharia court's decision, and with the help of the embassy's lawyers, himaya was able to remove the travel ban and allow A.R to move back abroad. himaya dropped A.R at the airport and ensured her safe arrival; she is now living with her grandmother, attending school and has made great improvements towards her mental health.

himaya continues to work alongside the embassy to ensure that A.R is receiving continuous psychological support.

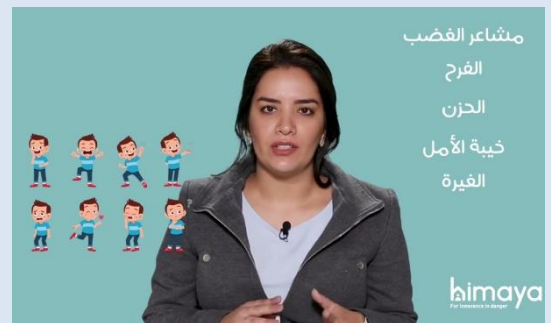
Additional Resources

Thoughts and Feelings Video

During the month of June, our prevention team worked on an interactive video, giving tips to parents and caregivers on how to allow their children to better express their thoughts and feelings. The early years are crucial for a child's development, and it is during this time that they learn about their feelings and how to express them in an appropriate manner. This video was shared on our social media platforms and produced with the support of UNHCR.

Checkout the video on:

<https://www.instagram.com/p/CBSQI3mH8TR/>



REPORT IT!

If you see or suspect child abuse, you can anonymously report it through 5 different reporting channels.



WE ARE PROUD MEMBERS OF



MEET OUR PARTNERS

