himaya DURING COVID-19

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.



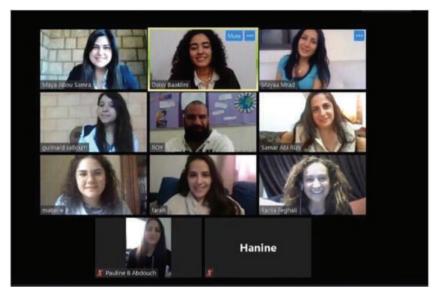
We have also mobilized our media to be able to reach out to more people, and raise awareness about the increased risks of child abuse, now that some children may be confined with their perpetrators.

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.

RAISING AWARENESS THROUGHOUT THE 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, along-side 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 Prevention team 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.







himaya mobilized its media and appeared in several local and national TV channels and radio stations to promote a positive environment and behavior for parents and children to properly adjust to the current living conditions.

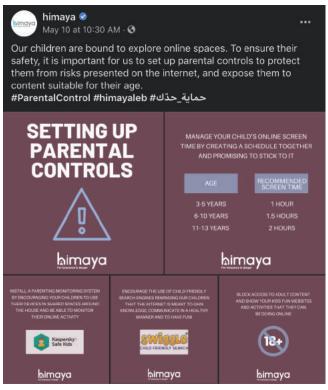
himaya also tackled the topic of Internet Safety and referred to online platforms to talk about cybercrime, cyber-bullying and cyber-safety.

The team of professionals conducted several TV interviews, in addition to live sessions with influencers and news pages to address these topics.

With more time being spent at home, children are more exposed to the risks presented by the online world, and it is important for parents and caregivers to know more about how to monitor their child's screen time, set up parental controls, take the right protective online measures, and understand how to deal with cyber-bullying











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

himaya was successful in communicating key messages with the public, and shed light on the risks that children might be exposed to as they spend more time at home. These initiatives reached around 946 thousand people through online channels and over 2.5 million people through offline visibility channels.

RESPONDING TO CASES OF CHILD ABUSE

Throughout the crisis, the Resilience team was still fully operational. Psychologists and social workers continued responding the child abuse cases through our hotline, which remained active 24/7.

The psycho-social support for ongoing medium-risk cases continued over the phone, and follow-ups on high-risk cases took place in the office or through home visits, while taking all necessary precautions.

The team even developed a procedure that is tailored for the situation to implement our services in the best way possible, while taking into account the process of case management via phone and in the office, and guidelines showing prompts to the teams to adapt to this new setting and modality of intervention.

Currently, the teams are back to the office, while taking all necessary precautions. Follow-up via phone is still applicable with some families who are unable to come to reach our offices.



ADAPTING OUR TRAINING METHODS ON CHILD PROTECTION



يطبق هذا القانون على كل حدث متواجد على الأراضي اللبنانيّة، إذا ارتكب

جرماً معاقباً عليه في القانون او اذا كان معرضاً للخطر.



Due to the current COVID-19 pandemic, we have shifted our on-ground training sessions on Child Protection Policies to online activities, while continuing to train school staff members remotely.

As part of this program, himaya's CBRD team has been training the designated Child Protection Officers in 4 schools located in Mount Lebanon on safe identification and referral of potential child abuse cases.

The training covered topics such as child protection, types of abuse, detecting child abuse in a school setting, managing allegations of child abuse, communicating with children and families, as well as when and who to refer the cases.

So far, and despite the situation, schools are being very cooperative and engaged. At this stage, we are building the capacity of child protection officers so that when schools start, they can fulfill their roles of managing child abuse allegations and safely identifying and referring child abuse cases. Even with the current lockdown, children could still be disclosing abuse to their teachers and they need to be prepared to deal with it.

PROCEEDING WITH TRAINING CP ACTORS OF ALTERNATIVE CARE TOOLS

Our effort to respond to the COVID-19 outbreak continued with the legal team, specifically to address particular issues that children may face during this outbreak, including being separated from their caregivers.

32 social workers and psychologists from several local and international organizations attended a 2-days online training organized by UNICEF, in partnership with Save the Children and himaya, around the key considerations, guidelines, and procedures for placing children in family-based alternative care as part of the emergency COVID-19 response.

The tools and guidance that were used during the training were developed in line with global standards and guidelines, as part of a Pilot Project around Community and Family-based care for children deprived of adequate parental care and have been developed in collaboration with Child Frontiers Ltd, a global consulting firm specializing in the care reform for children.









FAMILY-BASED ALTERNATIVE CARE COVID-19 RESPONSE

GUIDELINES, PROCEDURES, AND FORMS

For Questions:

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DEVELOPING INFORMATION, EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATION MATERIAL

The communication department, in coordination with the operational units, developed 2 Child Protection booklets for safe park children which includes information about COVID-19, games about children's rights (based on Unicef material) and the types of abuse.

Over 7000 booklets were distributed by safe park animators alongside a coloring kit that promotes the hotline, maintaining a regularity with the kids and promising them a safe return to the safe parks very soon!





The team also shared with the online audience, 4 comic books which were previously developed by himaya's psychologists about 4 types of abuse, and encouraging parents to spend some quality time with their children and read the books together.

We even adapted our material to reach children and parents with disabilities, by adding sign language to an animated video that covers the 4 types of abuse.













EASY ACCESS TO ALL THE CONTENT DEVELOPED DURING THE CRISIS

To access the content that was developed by himaya during this crisis, kindly visit our Facebook page, Instagram page and YouTube Channel @himayaleb, and our website www.himaya.org









@himayaleb