



# himaya - 2024 Impact Report

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# Introduction

In a year marked by conflict, displacement, and uncertainty, himaya remained present, committed, and responsive, continuing to serve as a lifeline for children and families across Lebanon. Our mission did not pause with the crisis. Instead, it deepened.

But protection is never just about service delivery. It's about people, children, caregivers, teachers, institutions, the government, and civil society, choosing to speak, to listen, and to act. Those choices are only made when there's a belief that someone will be there on the other side. That belief is trust.

**This report tells the story of that trust, not from our perspective, but through the actions of those who placed their confidence in himaya:**

The child who disclosed abuse.

The father who chose to stay in the room and listen.

The teacher who picked up the phone.

The frontline worker who left their own home, but kept showing up for others.

The institution that asked us to lead.

The partner who invested.

The judge who assigned us a case.

The public who stood with us.

Using the socio-ecological model as a framework, this report reflects how himaya remained anchored at every level: the child, the family, the community, the institutions, and the national child protection system. In every layer, our role was not only to respond, but to rise to the responsibility that trust brings.





# A Word From the Executive Director

As we reflect on the past year, we're reminded that our work at himaya goes far beyond statistics and reports. Behind every number is a story, a story of resilience, of hope, and most importantly, of trust. Trust is what allows us to build meaningful connections, to engage with communities, and to stand by the children and families we're here to protect.

First and foremost, I want to express my deepest gratitude to the entire himaya team. Your dedication, your tireless efforts, and your unwavering commitment to our mission are what drive every step forward. It's your compassion and professionalism that make a real difference in people's lives.

The year 2024 brought significant challenges, but it also revealed the strength we hold together. We saw the courage of children finding their voice, families navigating the unknown, and frontline workers showing up with unwavering resolve. These moments were powerful reminders of what it means to stand together.

Together, we created spaces where children felt safe enough to share their fears, where caregivers felt truly supported, and where communities came together in solidarity. That sense of unity continues to guide us as we work to ensure that every child has the safe and nurturing environment they deserve.

To our partners, volunteers, and supporters, thank you for trusting us. Your belief in our mission fuels our determination to keep going, to keep reaching those who need us most.

And to our board members, thank you for your steady support and belief in this journey.

Let's keep moving forward, with compassion, with resilience, and with a shared commitment to protecting every child in Lebanon.

Serge Saad  
Executive Director





## **Children First:** **A Safe Space in** **Uncertain Times**



In every setting, whether it's schools, shelters, community, and online spaces, children engaged with himaya not just for help, but for understanding, connection, and healing.

## Psychosocial Support for Survivors of Abuse

In 2024, himaya received **2,203 reports of abuse**. After careful assessment, **1,705 cases were confirmed** as actual incidents requiring intervention.

Interventions were adapted to the context of each child.

Social workers and psychologists followed up closely to provide the emotional support and protection children needed to begin recovering and feeling safe again.

In cases where the risk was high, referrals were made to the judicial protection system to activate legal safeguards.

Of the confirmed cases, **physical abuse accounted for 33%**, followed by **neglect (23%)**, **psychological abuse (15%)**, **exploitation (14%)**, and **sexual abuse (13%)**. An additional **2%** involved children experiencing psychological distress related to displacement or exposure to violence.

## Prevention Through Education

A total of **9,150 children** participated in himaya's prevention activities in schools, community centers, and child-friendly spaces.

These sessions focused on helping children understand their rights, identify inappropriate or harmful behavior, and know how and where to ask for help.

Special attention was given to ensuring that **children with disabilities were actively included** in these efforts. Himaya adapted its tools and sessions to meet their needs, and worked to reduce barriers to participation.

Beyond the numbers, prevention activities helped reduce stigma around abuse and gave children the confidence to speak up when something felt wrong, often for the first time.





## Digital Safety with Youth Voices

Recognizing that online spaces are now a major part of children's lives, himaya launched a nationwide awareness campaign on cyber abuse. But this wasn't a one-way message, it was a collaborative process.

Adolescents and young people were invited not just to listen, but to lead.

They helped identify the topics that mattered most, like cyberbullying, exploitation, and unsafe messaging, and contributed to shaping the tone, language, and visuals of the campaign.

Their involvement gave the content authenticity, made it more relatable to their peers, and empowered them to become advocates for digital safety within their schools and communities.

This approach did more than raise awareness. It built ownership. Young people weren't just recipients of protection messages, they became part of the solution.

## Lock the harm, Unlock the silence & be safe!



Click on the icons to watch





# What the Numbers Say

Data extracted from *himaya's Activities Evaluation Report – Child Protection Programs 2024*, based on quantitative and qualitative assessments conducted across prevention and case management services.

## Children learned how to protect themselves

**92%** of children aged **6-11** showed better knowledge about abuse and safety

**77%** of adolescents improved their understanding of how to stay safe and cope with challenges.

## Children gained confidence and voice

Over **60%** of adolescents reported better emotional awareness and communication skills.

More than **40%** of younger children showed improvement in emotional well-being.

## Caregivers saw real change in their children:

**89%** of case-managed families reported reduced exposure to abuse.

**81%** of children improved their ability to express emotions, thoughts, and social needs.

## Children were protected!

**65.85%** showed improved self-esteem, **75.61%** developed better social adaptation skills, and **87.80%** were able to express affection toward caregivers—key indicators of recovery and resilience.

**99.75%** of children who participated in prevention activities said that after attending the sessions, they would report abuse or violence to someone they trust.

## Families grew stronger together:

**91%** of caregivers improved their parenting skills and emotional connection with their children.

Many began applying safer, more positive parenting practices at home.

# **Families and Caregivers: Supporting the Circle of Protection**





himaya's work with families recognizes that children's well being is deeply tied to the safety and resilience of their caregivers.

## Continuity in Times of Conflict

When war broke out in 2024, himaya acted swiftly to protect the children and families most at risk.

As displacement spread and fear grew, himaya adapted its operations to continue delivering essential support where it was needed most.

Despite widespread insecurity and logistical challenges, the organization maintained **face-to-face case management**, reaching displaced families in shelters and temporary housing, and ensuring that children continued to receive psychosocial support even as their daily lives were uprooted.

In parallel, himaya created and shared short, accessible video messages tailored to children and caregivers.

These messages offered guidance, reassurance, and practical advice, helping families cope with fear, uncertainty, and loss, while also informing them about available services.

To ensure that the response was both ethical and consistent, himaya developed a detailed **Standard Operating Procedure (SOP)**.

This SOP defined how community members, volunteers, prevention teams, social workers, and psychologists should observe and respond to psychological distress in both community and family contexts, particularly after exposure to bombing, displacement, and trauma.

Through this rapid and coordinated approach, himaya ensured that children and their families could continue to access structured, compassionate care, even as everything around them felt unstable.



Click on the images to watch

## Strengthening Families from Within

In 2024, himaya intensified its efforts to support caregivers, not only by raising awareness, but by equipping them with tools to protect their children and improve family dynamics.

One key focus was increasing the **engagement of fathers** in protection plans. Recognizing a recurring pattern of disengagement among male caregivers, himaya organized coaching sessions for its social workers to help them better involve fathers in case planning, especially in situations where children were experiencing abuse.

This approach aimed to shift the role of fathers from passive bystanders to active participants in their child's safety and development.

himaya also addressed **complex family dynamics linked to domestic violence**. Through its participation in a doctoral research initiative, the organization helped build the capacity of child protection social workers to identify and ethically refer mothers experiencing gender-based violence.

The goal was to safeguard the mother while prioritizing the best interest of the child, especially in households where the caregiver was both a victim and at risk of being a perpetrator.



Beyond case-level interventions, himaya reached **1,816 parents and caregivers** through targeted awareness sessions on parenting and protection.

These sessions didn't just provide information, they created a safe and supportive space for caregivers to speak openly about the challenges they were facing.

Many of them shared personal experiences, sought guidance, and voiced concerns for the first time, placing their confidence in himaya's team to listen without judgment and respond with care.





# What the Numbers Say

Data extracted from *himaya's Activities Evaluation Report – Child Protection Programs 2024*, based on quantitative and qualitative assessments conducted across prevention and case management services.

## Knowledge increased:

**88%** of parents in positive parenting sessions showed improved understanding of non-violent parenting practices.

**80%** of participants in psycho-social support groups showed significant emotional wellbeing improvements.

## Sessions created safe spaces:

**98%** of parents felt comfortable sharing personal stories during the sessions.

**99%** said the facilitators respected cultural and religious differences.

## Caregivers felt heard and supported:

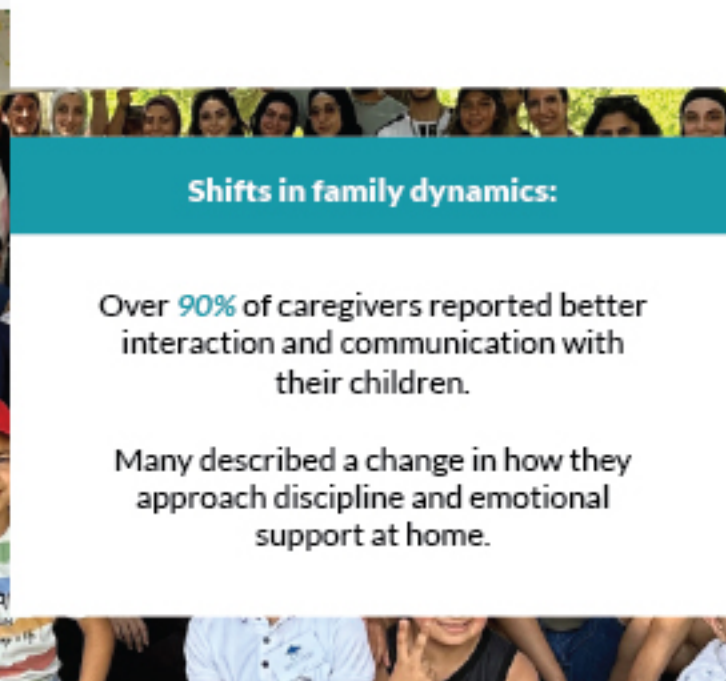
**100%** reported that facilitators made space for them to speak and listened with empathy.

**99%** said they'd report abuse to himaya if they encountered it.

## Shifts in family dynamics:

Over **90%** of caregivers reported better interaction and communication with their children.

Many described a change in how they approach discipline and emotional support at home.





# **Families and Caregivers: Supporting the Circle of Protection**



Local communities are not just recipients of support, they are central actors in child protection. himaya deepened its engagement with local communities, volunteers, and civil society to keep protective environments alive, responding to urgent needs while building sustainable, people-centered support systems.

## Volunteers: Eyes, Ears, and Hearts on the Ground

himaya trained community volunteers to become a core part of its emergency response.

Equipped with basic skills in awareness delivery, recreational facilitation, and Psychological First Aid (PFA), volunteers played a critical role in reaching displaced children and families.

In areas where access was limited, volunteers became himaya's eyes and ears on the ground, identifying needs, offering support, and relaying information back to social workers and psychologists.

Their presence made it possible to sustain outreach and trust, even under the most challenging circumstances.



## Hotline Response: A Lifeline During Crisis

himaya's 24/7 hotline remained a vital source of support throughout 2024, especially during moments of acute crisis and displacement.

Families, caregivers, and even children reached out in their most vulnerable moments, confiding deeply personal concerns, asking for help, and seeking reassurance.

The fact that so many turned to the hotline, often as a first step toward getting support, reflected not only the need for guidance, but a belief that someone on the other end would listen, understand, and respond. Staffed by trained responders, the hotline provided immediate support, information on available services, and direct referrals when protection was needed.

## Integrated Services in Action

As part of its community-based activities within the socio-ecological model, himaya works closely with NGOs, service providers, and local actors to ensure that children and families can access a full range of support.

This coordination includes active referral mechanisms, joint planning, and integrated service delivery across health, education, child protection, and other services. One example of this collaborative approach was implemented in Karantina, where multiple actors worked together to provide services in a unified and accessible setting.

Through coordinated presence and referrals, families were able to benefit from comprehensive support in a dignified and community-centered space.



# Institutions:

## Reliable Referral and Collaborative Response





In 2024, himaya's long-standing professionalism, ethical standards, and field presence were reflected in the growing recognition it received from institutions across sectors. Ministries, schools, hospitals, and judicial authorities demonstrated their confidence in himaya through active collaboration, consistent referrals, and repeated requests for technical support.

## Education Sector Collaboration

Across the year, **47 child protection cases from public schools** were referred to the Ministry of Education's CP unit, with psychosocial follow-up and support provided directly by himaya.

In parallel, a growing number of schools requested awareness sessions for students on topics such as bullying, online safety, and abuse prevention, recognizing himaya as a trusted prevention partner.

Many of these schools had previously worked with himaya to develop tailored **Child Protection Policies**, and now continued to rely on the organization for guidance when difficult cases emerged.

The fact that schools returned for both intervention and education demonstrates that this trust extended well beyond one-time support.



## Judicial System Recognition

Juvenile judges and general prosecutors across Bekaa, North Lebanon, Beirut, and Mount Lebanon formally assigned himaya to manage complex protection cases, including those involving institutional abuse.

The Mount Lebanon General Prosecutor specifically recognized himaya's social assessments as credible and valuable for judicial decision-making.

Additionally, in Beirut, one Juvenile Judge expressed direct interest in the organization's adaptive intervention method during wartime, reinforcing professional respect for himaya's frontline expertise.

## Health Sector Confidence in Referral

Several high-priority cases were referred directly from **AUB Medical Center** to himaya's case management team.

The **Ministry of Public Health (MoPH)** also referred institutional abuse cases from nurseries, trusting himaya to manage sensitive investigations and offer intervention for affected children and families.

Referrals from the **military hospital** further highlighted himaya's reputation as a responsive and reliable actor in the health sector.





# National and Sectoral Impact: Driving Systemic Protection





In 2024, himaya's role in Lebanon's child protection ecosystem went far beyond service delivery. National and international stakeholders consistently looked to himaya to lead, advise, and build capacity across multiple levels of the system. This trust was reflected in the organization's leadership in national training initiatives, its participation in high-level policy discussions, and its ability to influence both humanitarian and development responses.

## Training of Security Forces

In collaboration with Save the Children International, himaya trained **36 officers** from the Lebanese Army and General Security on child-friendly investigative techniques.

These sessions were designed to shift practice at the institutional level, ensuring that children interacting with security forces were treated with dignity and protection.



## Mainstreaming Child Protection Across Sectors

Through national training on Early Safe Identification and Referral, himaya supported professionals in education, health, and other non-CP sectors to recognize and respond to child protection concerns.

## Judicial Pathway Capacity Building

**80 social workers** received training on judicial protection and alternative care, reinforcing legal understanding and ethical practice among frontline CP professionals.



## Crisis Response Training: Family Tracing and Reunification

In response to war-related displacement and family separation, himaya led a national training on Family Tracing and Reunification, reaching over **100 child protection and non-child protection professionals**.

## Cross-Border Case Management

Through its continued partnership with **International Social Service (ISS)**, himaya played a key role in managing protection cases involving families separated across countries. This cross-border collaboration allowed for continuity of care and demonstrated trust in himaya's ability to operate in highly sensitive and complex environments.

## International Representation

In 2024, himaya was invited to participate in key global events, including the **Brussels III Conference** and **ISS's 100-year celebration**, a clear sign that the organization's expertise is not only nationally trusted, but also valued on the international stage.





## A Night of Light: The 2024 Gala Dinner

After six years without a large-scale fundraising event, himaya's 2024 Gala Dinner marked more than a return, it marked a powerful public affirmation of trust. The evening brought together influential figures, longtime partners, supporters, and new allies, all under one roof, in celebration of one shared message: we believe in what himaya does, and we're standing behind it.

The success of the Gala was not only measured in attendance or funds raised, but in the emotion, connection, and commitment expressed throughout the evening. Every story shared, every pledge made, and every hand raised in support of the auction sent a clear message: the public's trust in himaya is deep and growing.





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In 2024, the war didn't just impact the families himaya serves, it reached the homes, offices, and lives of himaya's own team. Many staff members were working in areas directly affected by the conflict. Some had to evacuate.

Others were displaced along with their communities.

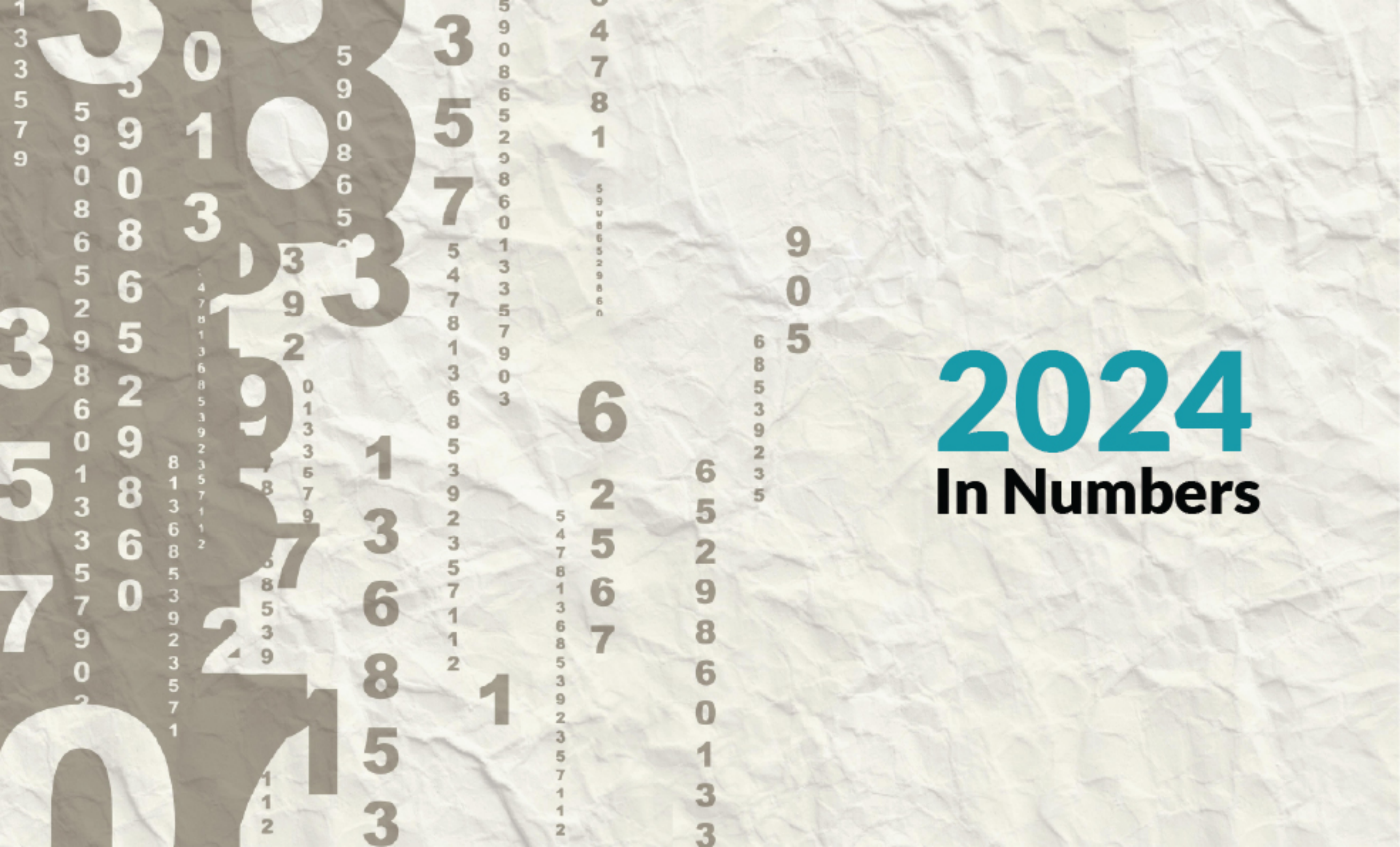
And yet, they remained committed to the mission.

What allowed continuity wasn't just professionalism. It was the belief that they weren't alone, that himaya would stand by them as they stood by others.

The trust that communities placed in himaya was mirrored by the trust that team members placed in the organization, knowing that even in times of personal crisis, they would be supported, protected, and never left behind.







# 2024

## In Numbers





**13,169**  
People Supported



**1,816**  
Parents And  
Caregivers Reached



**1,816**  
Volunteers And  
Professionals Trained



**9,150**  
Children Benefited From  
Prevention Activities



**2,203**  
Cases Of Abuse Reported

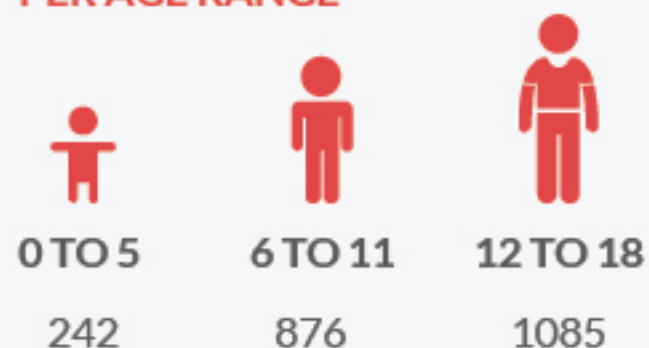


**137**  
Cases Received  
Judicial Protection

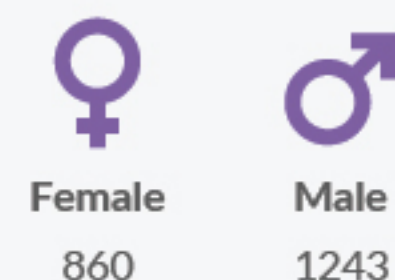


**1,707**  
Children Received  
Psycho-Social Support

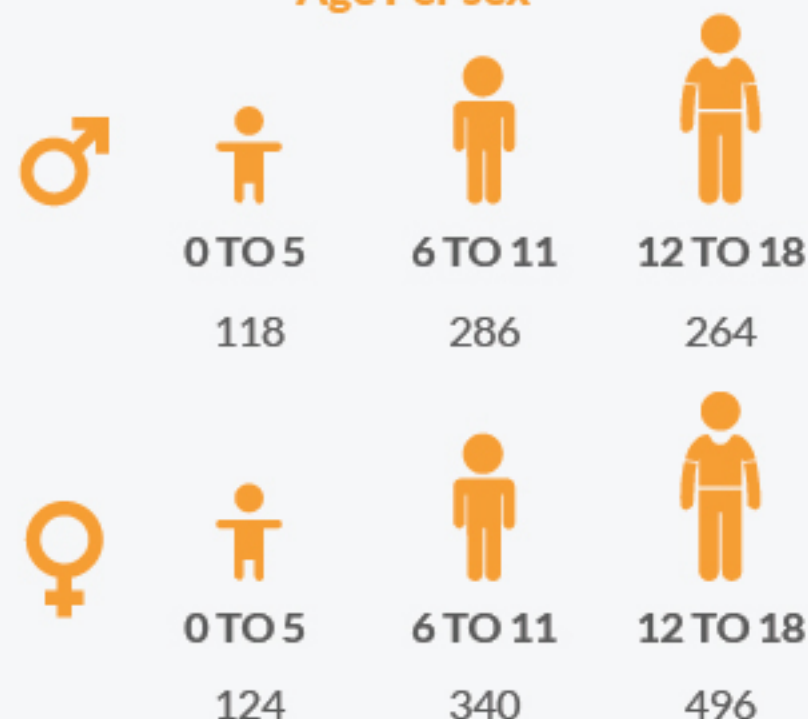
## PER AGE RANGE



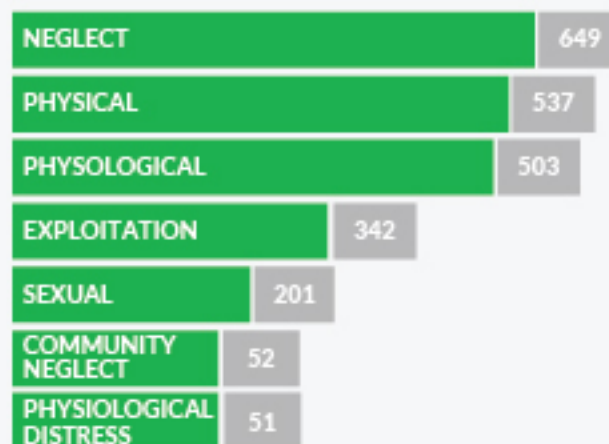
## Per Sex



## Age Per sex



## PER TYPE OF ABUSE



No	Perpetrator profiling
1348	Member of the core family: Mother, Father, Sister, Brother, Half-Brother, Half-Sister, Stepmother, Stepfather
120	Person close to the family: Neighbor, Friend of the family, Tutor, Concierge, Driver, Shawish, Friend of the child
7	Other person living with the family: Relative of the father or the mother, cohabitant
164	Member of the extended family: Paternal grandfather, Maternal grandfather, Paternal grandmother, Maternal grandmother, Paternal uncle, Paternal aunt, Maternal Uncle, Maternal aunt, Step grandmother, Step grandfather, Maternal cousin, Paternal cousin
306	Person Unknown to the family
253	No Perpetrator Identified





### BY RECEPTION PATHWAY

Hotline	469
Social Media via COM department	0
e-helpline	3
Himaya e-mail	1626
In Person	94



### PER REGION

Akkar	174
T5	361
Saida	127
Beirut	14
Mount Lebanon	167
Baalbeck	301
Aarsal	94
Ras Baalbak/Hermel/Laboueh	32
West Bekaa	933
Central Bekaa	



### BY ORIGIN OF REFERRAL

Himaya Team member	200
Prevention Team	80
Prevention Caregiver	4
Prevention CBO	3
Citizen	145
INGO's	1064
Local NGO	156
Judges and General prosecutor	86
MOJ Representative (Ministry of Justice)	18
Public School	10
SDC (Social Development Center)	0
MOSA (Ministry of Social Affairs)	8
Private Practice Professional	12
Residential care	2
Specialized Institution	1
Hospital	6
Municipality	1
Media Entity	1
UPEL without Judge Assignment	64
Beneficiary Himself/Herself	95
ISS (International Social Services)	5
Member of the family	199
Nursery	0
Primary Health Care Center	3
Private School not trained on CPP (CPO)	2
Private School trained on CPP (CPO)	7
Professionals trained by CBRD	9
ISF	0
Anonymous	0
Resilience Outreach	17
Blank (not identified or not reachable)	0

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Kingdom of the Netherlands







[www.himaya.org](http://www.himaya.org)

