Child Protection Working Group
Real time monitoring
April 2020

40 Child Protection focal points from 8 governorates participated in a survey on the situation of children. Data collection took place during the first week of April 2020 and captures the situation of children in March 2020. Key findings are below.

Gaps in services

All child protection partners reported gaps in services over the past 30 days (as compared to 89% in March). The COVID-19 lockdown has hampered service delivery and exacerbated gaps. Education services were reported as the most affected due to school closures.

Difficulty in accessing existing services

A closer look at challenges to access child protection services, shows that most services that require group engagement have been affected, and hence partners have gradually shifted into remote PSS modality for both children and caregivers. It is worth noting that Case Management for high risk children continues to be a mix of both remote and face-to-face modality.

Requests for assistance

The average number of requests for assistance among Lebanese has increased dramatically, with a high spike in requests for residential care for children, as well as for food/non-food items.

Requests for assistance by Lebanese

The average number of requests for assistance among Non-Lebanese has also increased dramatically, with a high spike in requests for food/non-food items, as well as for social assistance.

Trends and Behaviours

Due to lockdowns and limited mobility, 30% of partners reported difficulties in observing trends among children. As a result, focal points could not report or measure any increase in negative behaviors affecting children, apart from an increase in violence against children and gender based violence which have been recorded through referrals (through hotlines or received by other agencies).

Conclusion

The COVID-19 crisis is directly impacting the lives of children, on top of the pre-existing economic and social crisis in the country. There is an increase in worrying trends and requests for social assistance, as well as negative behaviors affecting children. This survey will be repeated monthly to monitor changes.