The situation in Lebanon has remained difficult for the past 6 months, due to the multifaceted economic problems and the consequences of the COVID19 pandemic. During the first quarter of 2021, Lebanon has faced the worst COVID19 pandemic situation, where the number of cases reached a peak of 5,800 cases per day in January. As a result, the country went into three weeks of a strict lockdown (1).

Additionally, with the delay in government formation, Lebanon’s economic has faced a dramatic contraction including drops in private consumption, exacerbation of the economy, exchange rate, and debt crises. The Lebanese pound continues to devaluate, where it has lost 85% of its value since the inflation of 2019. The inflation rates flew intensely from 11.4% in February 2020 to dramatically reach 155.40% in February 2021, which increased the price of the goods and services in the country (2). The decrease of the US dollar reserve in the central bank (Banque du Liban-BDL) directly affected the subsidization of the imported goods including wheat, fuel, and medicine. As a consequence, Lebanon faced a shortage in fuel, affecting the functioning of the country’s main power plants, causing a major shortage in electricity coverage (3).

Since the beginning of the year 2021, the child protection (CP) actors have responded to the deteriorating crises to meet the needs of children and their caregivers. With the sharp decrease in COVID19 cases starting March 2021, the CP actors went back to the blended approach while increasing the face-to-face activities. On the other hand, as a response to the shortage of fuel that created a transportation challenge for the beneficiaries, stressing the online modality became the main solution. Despite all these challenges, CP actors reached out to more than 6,545 children through case management services, with a 58% increase comparing to the first half of 2020. The real time monitoring data shows that the majority of the cases were of emotional abuse, the worst form of child labor and neglect. The Hotline tracker shows an increase in the requests for child protection services, where 25% of the total calls are CP-related. The number of referrals to child protection services has increased by 203%, comparing with the same period of 2020, which also reflects the increased needs for children. As for the accessibility of child protection services, data has shown an increase in accessibility with time, especially after the end of the lockdown in February 2021.

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Case Management

Case management services received by children: comparison between January and June of 2020 and 2021.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>M/Y 2020</th>
<th>M/Y 2021</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nabatieh</td>
<td>277</td>
<td>185</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South</td>
<td>719</td>
<td>611</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baalbek</td>
<td>388</td>
<td>690</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bekaa</td>
<td>434</td>
<td>786</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Akkar</td>
<td>412</td>
<td>747</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North</td>
<td>971</td>
<td>1,178</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mount Lebanon</td>
<td>2,190</td>
<td>1,820</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beirut</td>
<td>328</td>
<td>903</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The highest increase in services was registered in Mount Lebanon followed by Akkar, Bekka and Baalbek-El Hermel.

**Managed cases per Risk Criteria**

- **Sex. Abuse**: M/Y 2020 (185), M/Y 2021 (1,820)
- **Exploitation**: M/Y 2020 (185), M/Y 2021 (1,820)
- **Em. Abuse**: M/Y 2020 (185), M/Y 2021 (1,820)
- **Neglect**: M/Y 2020 (185), M/Y 2021 (1,820)
- **Ph. Abuse**: M/Y 2020 (185), M/Y 2021 (1,820)
- **WFCL**: M/Y 2020 (185), M/Y 2021 (1,820)

6,545 is the total number of boys and girls, who have received case management services in the first half of 2021. This represents 58% increase compared to the same period of 2020.

The Top 3 criteria for providing case management services to children were Emotional abuse, Worst forms of child labor, and Neglect.

Noting that Exploitation, as a risk criteria for case management, has registered the highest increase (+125%), compared to 2020, followed by Emotional abuse (+106%) and Neglect (+65%).

Same as in 2020, the majority of case management services were provided to boys.

65%
In the first half of 2021, there were on average **796 calls per month**, received on the Hotlines operated by two CPWG Partners across the country*, with on average **194 CP-related calls**.

The average number of children referred to **Case Management Services** through the Hotlines is **153 children per month**.

25% of all calls received by Hotline operators are related to **Child Protection**.

72% of calls received are related to children between the ages of 6 and 14.

82% of calls received are related to **Syrian children**.

The average number of children referred to Case Management Services through the Hotlines is **153 children per month**.

**Child Protection Referrals**

1,499 is the total number of CP referrals in the 1st half of 2021.

78% are referred to CP Case Management services.

22% are referred to CP prevention and/or to psycho-social service providers.

**54%** of total referrals during this period have been Intra-Sectoral, i.e. within the **CP Sector**, which is comparable to last year. Whereas referrals from the **Education Sector** were much more significant this year with **22%**, compared to only 2% last year.

**Protection** and **GBV** Sectors account respectively for **13%** and **6%** of referrals to the CP Sector.

Source: DRC-RIMS

* Note: Himaya operates Hotlines across the country, whereas TdH-Italia covers only Mount Lebanon and Baalbek.
Accessibility to Child Protection Services
as monthly observed by CPWG Partners (in % of responses)

Most of inaccessibility reasons are related to restrictions due to COVID-19.

277 new requests for assistance were received, on average, per Organization per month, in the 1st half 2021.

Prevalence of CP concerns/negative trends
as observed by NGO's between Jan. and June 2021

Most respondents have reported a major increase in Child Labour (25.2% of respondents) and Violent Discipline (24.8%), followed by trends of Street and Working Children (19.6%).

Health services, Food/NFI & Cash Assistance are the main 3 assistance requests asked for by households.

Abbreviations used in the document:
CBPSS: Community-based psychosocial support
CL : Child Labour
CM : Child Marriage
CPWG: Child Protection Working Group
F/NFI : Food and Non-Food Items
FPSS : Focused psychosocial support
GBV : Gender-based Violence
GoL : Government of Lebanon
RC : Residential Care
RIMS : Referral Information Management System
RTM : Real-time Monitoring
SA : Social Assistance
SAWC: Street and Working Children
SUBT : Use of Substances
UASC: Unaccompanied and Separated Children
VD : Violent Discipline

We thank the following INGO’s for their participation to the CP Real-time Monitoring surveys: Abaad, ACTED, AFEL, AND, Al Najdeh, Al-Midan, Al-Mobader, Amel Association, AeC, ARCPA, Borderless NGO, Caritas Lebanon, ConcernWW, Dorchas/Tabitha, DRC, Expertise France, Fraternity, Himaya, Himaya Daemen Asia, Human Development Center, IHSS, Interosos, IRC, KAFA, LebRelief, LOST, LU, Makhzoumi Foundation, MoSADCDC, Movement Social, Naba’s, NISCVT-Beit Atafl Al Somoud, NRDC, Orphan Welfare Society, Rahma for Special needs, Right to Play, RMF, Save the Children (SCI), Sawas Group, Shahid, SIF, SWSL, Tahaddi, TdH-Italy, TdH-L, URDA, WCH, WVL, WNCA.

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