



himaya
For innocence in danger

POST-BLAST REPORT

WHAT HAVE WE BEEN UP
TO SINCE AUGUST 4TH?
AUG 4- SEPT 4, 2020

www.himaya.org_











@himayaleb

INTRODUCTION

For many, life stopped on August 4th, 2020 at 6:07 pm.

The unimaginable explosion which devastated Beirut on that day, had a severe impact on the lives of many and most specifically, on the lives of children.

 <p>> 778,000 people living in a two miles radius from explosion (USAID)</p>	 <p>> 178 dead (UN-OCHA, UNHCR)</p>	 <p>> 6,000 injured (UN-OCHA)</p>	 <p>> 30 people still missing (UN-OCHA)</p>
 <p>>300,000 displaced; and elderly refusing to leave damaged houses (ACTED, UN-OCHA)</p>	 <p>>150,000 needing urgent humanitarian assistance (ACTED)</p>	 <p>> 80,000 – 100,000 children affected (UNICEF)</p>	 <p>> 63,000 students affected by damage to education centers (UNICEF)</p>

Source: Strategy&. Beirut Explosion Impact Assessment, Status update #1, August 2020

Following Beirut's tragedy, we went beyond our day-to-day work and mission to respond to the emergency.

During the first phase of our response, and further to the very much needed psycho-social support provided to children and caregivers, we also assessed the needs of our community members, to be able to provide them with what ever need they required most.

We also worked hard on building solid partnerships with local and trusted actors, working hand-in-hand to better respond to the emergency crisis



Our Initial Response Process

These are the steps undertaken by himaya to respond to the emergency on Day 1 throughout Day 2.

Making sure our **team** is safe

STEP
01



Making sure our **beneficiaries** are safe

STEP
02

Initial Needs **Assessments**

STEP
03



On-Ground
Response

STEP
04



Online
Response

STEP
05





DAY 1 & DAY 2 POST-BLAST

Making sure our team is safe

37 team members living in close proximity from the blast, were immediately contacted by himaya's HR department.

10 out of 37 team members suffered material damages, 1 team member was injured and 4 had either injured or missing relatives.

All team members affected either directly or indirectly by the blast, were encouraged to consult psychotherapists to try and cope with the situation.

himaya's Regional teams from Tripoli, Zahle, Baalback and Saida, immediately mobilized themselves to support the teams of Beirut and Mount Lebanon. Later on, a study of the material damages experienced by affected team members, was put in place for himaya to look into and to support financially within its capacity.



DAY 1 & DAY 2 INITIAL ASSESSMENT

Making sure our beneficiaries are safe

12 hours following the traumatic event, himaya conducted an assessment prioritizing our intervention.

We called our beneficiaries and partner community centers who live within the affected localities, making sure everyone was safe while assessing the needs and damages caused by the explosion.



Out of the **130 ongoing families** we were following up with in the Beirut-Mount Lebanon region, **43 families** were in need of direct support in consequence of the blast, noting that the 130 families have more than 2 children among them.

To view the detailed initial assessment, click [here](#).

HIMAYA'S INITIAL ASSESSMENT MADE IT POSSIBLE FOR US TO WORK JOINTLY WITH PARTNER NGOS AND LOCAL PARTNERS, WORKING HARD TOWARDS ENSURING THAT ALL THEIR NEEDS ARE MET



MEDICAL SUPPLIES



PSYCHOSOCIAL SERVICES



FOOD KITS



EDUCATION & TUITION FEES



EQUIPMENT & FURNITURE

DAY 1 & DAY 2 ON-GROUND RESPONSE

Looking after our community



Within 48 hours following the blast, himaya responded to the urgent need of the community and more than **100 of our team members and community groups** volunteered to clean-up affected houses and streets, while doing the necessary needs assessment and referral of cases when needed.



DAY 1 & DAY 2 ONLINE RESPONSE

Making sure the community knows that we are here to support.



Our hearts and prayers are with those who have been affected by yesterday's explosion. Such traumatic events can affect us all and can have long-lasting effects on our lives and the lives of our children.

If you are a parent and you are feeling scared, distressed, reach out to us. We are here to listen and we are here to help. You can contact our resilience team who will further assist you through our hotlines:

03 414 964

71 802 883

79 300 419

79 300 410/411

76 450 753

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himaya immediately shared an online statement urging parents and children who are feeling in distress, to contact us, reminding them that **we are here to listen and help them cope** with this traumatizing experience.

In addition to social media, himaya also used and still is using, traditional media such as TV and radio interviews to have our team of experts **reach a bigger number of individuals** who might be in need of our services.

Watch our shout-out message to the community by Executive Director, Lama Yazbeck [here](#).



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OUR IMPACT 1 MONTH LATER



ON-GROUND ACTIVITIES

After dedicating the first few days following the explosion to cleaning and supporting with the initial assessment, the **Prevention team along with a group of 35 trained animators and volunteers** headed to the field to provide community-based psycho-social support to children who were affected by the blast.



Settling in two gardens, Jesuite in Geitawi and Karm El Aris in Bechoura, Beirut's team along with members from himaya's offices across Lebanon headed down to Beirut to assist in delivering focused psycho-social support sessions and recreational activities, reaching children and parents from Bechoura, Geitawi, Khandak Al Ghamik, Ras El Nabeh, Burj Abi Haidar, and Ashrafieh.



انضموا إلينا

وشاركوا في نشاطات تقدّم الدعم النفسي للأولاد



حتى نهاية شهر آب



كل يوم من 10:00 صباحاً
حتى 5:00 بعد الظهر



البسطة، كرم العريس



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ON-GROUND ACTIVITIES



Through interactive activities and fun games, children who witnessed this traumatic event had a safe space, where they could freely express their emotions of fear, anger, and confusion by validating their experience and developing a healthy acceptance of their feelings.



1200 child benefited from **recreational activities and specialized group interventions**, focusing on key messages about coping with distress, managing emotions, conflict and stress management, online safety, and more.

33 parents and caregivers also got support through **parenting sessions** that the team delivered in collaboration with partnered CBOs, covering topics on how to personally cope with distress and help children to cope with their feelings, managing and expressing emotions, self care, and more.

ON-GROUND ACTIVITIES



AUG 4 -SEPT 4, 2020

1,200
CHILD REACHED

33

CAREGIVERS REACHED



2

MAIN LOCATIONS

ONLINE AWARENESS ACTIVITIES



Not only did we have to adapt our work methods to the crisis situation caused by the Beirut blast, but we also had to mobilize our media channels to be able to reach out to more people, respond to the needs of our community and answer their questions and concerns.

Ever since the tragedy occurred, we have been active on our online and social platforms, with the Communications Department joining forces with a team of psychologists and social workers from the Resilience Program, to develop visuals and a series of short infographic videos, to support parents and caregivers with putting words on the traumatizing experience we have all been through.



Developed content was shared throughout our online platforms to support caregivers in identifying and coping with their own emotions to better manage their children's reactions, in the aftermath of the explosion.

Watch video [here](#).



36

CASES REACHED THROUGH
OUR SOCIAL MEDIA

We also increased the visibility of our **5 hotlines made available 24/7**, by including them on our online posts, aiming to encourage parents in distress to get in touch with us, and remind the public of our main call to action:

We are here to help and support you.





3.5M

INDIVIDUALS REACHED
THROUGH TRADITIONAL MEDIA

We were able to reach more than **1.7 million online users** through our social media pages and an additional 2 million online users with the support of influencers and the general public.

Children affected by the Beirut explosion needed special care and protection to recover. Whether through media appearances, or online awareness sessions, our goal was to reach out to more people and let them know that we are here to support them.



1.7M

INDIVIDUALS REACHED
THROUGH SOCIAL MEDIA

We appeared on several local and regional TV stations to share tips and assist parents from different social backgrounds with helping their children better cope with the current situation and raise awareness among the wide public.

Watch our media interviews [here](#).



20k+

INDIVIDUALS REACHED THROUGH OUR WEBSITE

33 billboards located in Beirut were allocated to himaya, to further encourage every parent reading our message, to speak up and seek support if needed.

33k+

INDIVIDUALS REACHED THROUGH OUT-DOOR MEDIA



110k

INDIVIDUALS REACHED THROUGH OUR MASS SMS MESSAGES

An Audio Ad and mass sms messages were also shared with the wide public, to help spread more awareness about the psycho-social support services that we have been providing to children and caregivers and to all families who've survived the blast.

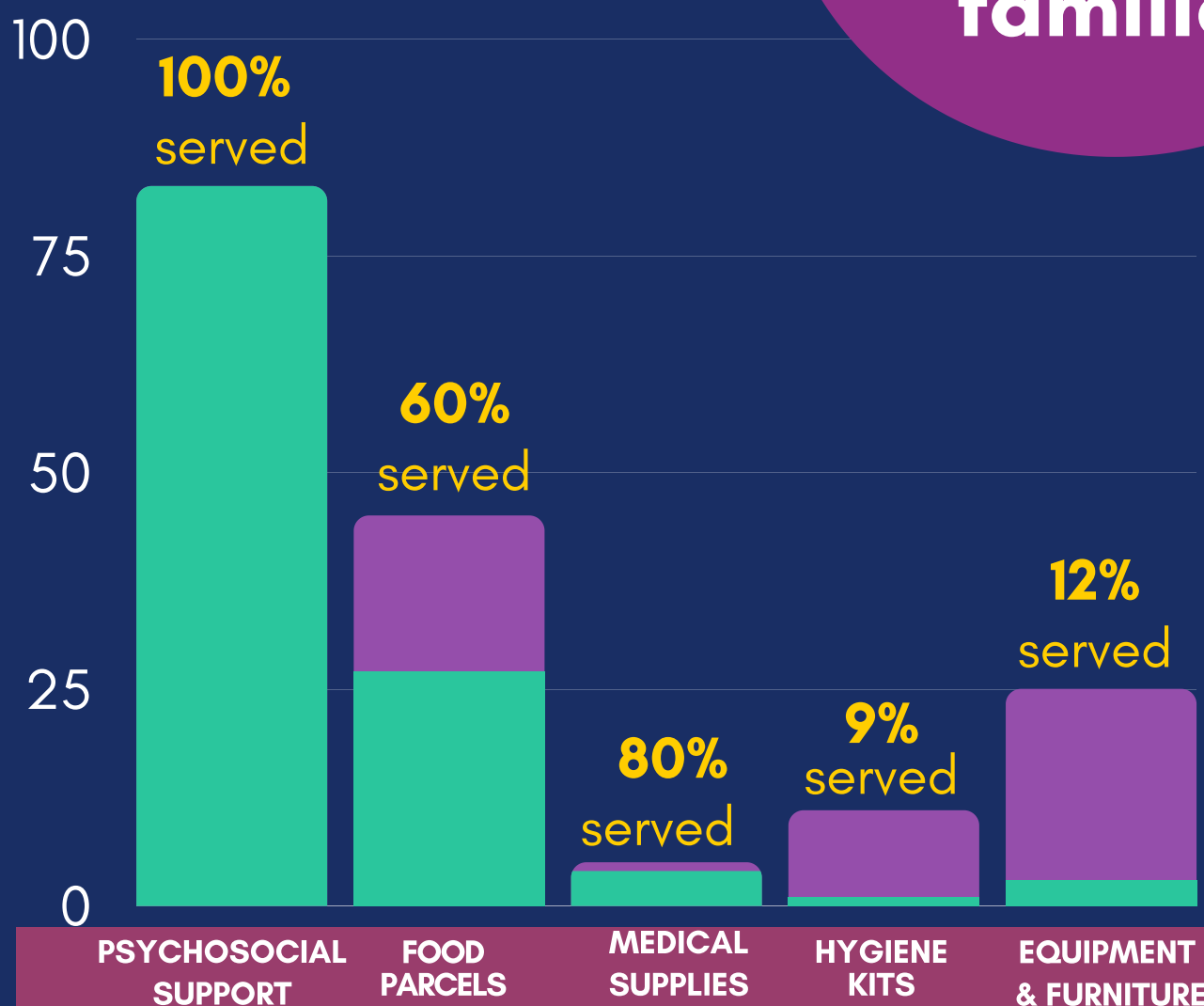
2M+

TOTAL REACH

SERVICES PROVIDED



Results
of the services
provided for
83
families



50

child in need of
HYGIENE KITS

Provided
16%

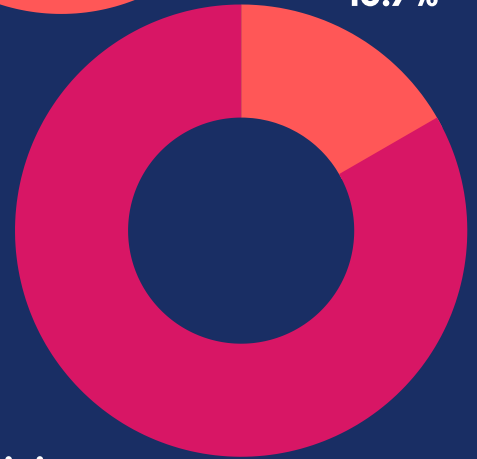


Remaining
84%

20

child in need of
HOME FURNITURE
& **EQUIPMENT**

Provided
16.7%

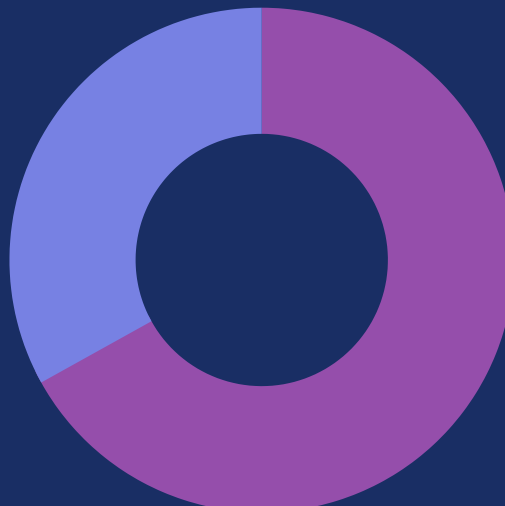


Remaining
83.3%

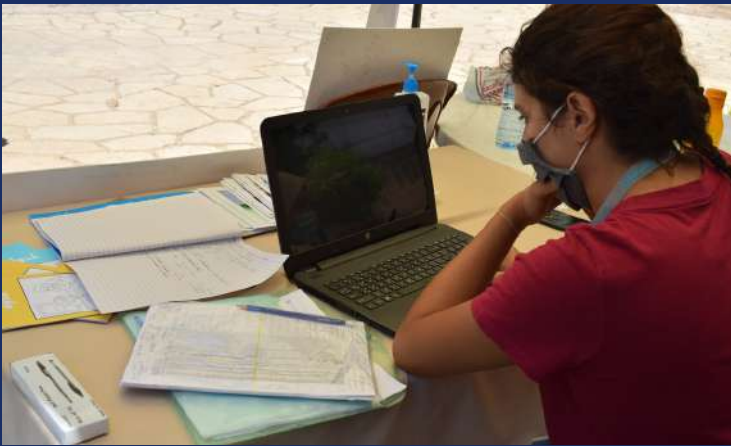
127

child in need
of **FOOD**
PARCELS

Remaining
33.1%



Provided
66.9%



149

**CHILD BENEFITED FROM
OUR PSYCHO-SOCIAL
SERVICES**

81

**PARENT/CAREGIVER
BENEFITED FROM OUR
PSYCHO-SOCIAL SUPPORT**





THE STORY OF ZIAD

1/2

The effect of the explosion on children and families go far beyond economic damage and material losses. Many kids are coping with severe trauma due to the loss of a loved one, the horror they experienced and the distressing images they remember from the day of the explosion. himaya's psycho-social team has been working tirelessly to detect and manage the psychological impact of the explosion on children and families. Only by navigating the trauma with proper therapy, can we prevent it from snowballing out of control on the long run. This was the case of ZIAD, a boy that has been receiving psychosocial support from himaya.

ZIAD is 12 years old. On August 4th, during the hours prior to the explosion, he was playing with his toys, while his mom was in her room. It was another normal summer day at home. Not a single worry a child his age shouldn't have. His dad was working at a nearby library and would come back later that night to spend some family time. At 6:04 of that day everything changed.

The first explosion happened, violently shaking the ground. Like many, ZIAD was terrified after feeling the earth shaking. When she heard her son screaming, ZIAD's mom came out of the room and looked out of the window to try to figure out what had just happened. And then came the second explosion.

The shockwave shattered the windows and severely damaged the walls and furniture. Both ZIAD and his mother were screaming in panic, while trying to figure out the source of the explosion. Looking around, all they saw was chaos and destruction. They were paralyzed in fear, anticipating a second explosion they could have not been as lucky to survive.

Their panic increased thinking of ZIAD's father. They were extremely worried about what could have happened to him. ZIAD's father is disabled, and he is at a higher risk in situations like these. The panic was aggravated by the fact that for 30 minutes after the explosion, there was no service, WIFI or data to check on loved ones. For all ZIAD knew, his father could have died, and that thought triggered significant post-traumatic stress.

Fortunately, ZIAD's father survived the explosion, despite suffering minor injuries after entire shelves of books had fallen on top of him.

THE STORY OF ZIAD

2/2

After the situation had grown calmer and the whole family was back together, they started noticing the heavy mental weight of the aftermath of the explosion. This is where himaya had to step in.

Being able to properly navigate the trauma is crucial for kids at this age. It's not normal for a kid to have to undergo such levels of stress and, without proper help, it can become a bigger problem throughout the years. Our team quickly took over the case, providing support for the mother and ZIAD who were the ones that were suffering the most.

The mother felt like she was lagging behind on what she considered were her "mother duties". She felt like she couldn't even cook or take care of ZIAD, as she was paralyzed by explosion flashbacks and fears such as the roof falling down on her, or another one happening. She couldn't help herself, and that was aggravating the situation at home.

When himaya stepped in, ZIAD was barely sleeping. He had been developing an increased dependency on his parents and was also having trouble expressing his feelings. For the last 3 weeks ZIAD has gradually opened up to our psychologist, addressing worries and feelings such as the sense of increased responsibility for his father, and, just like his mother, the fear of another explosion. It seemed like his childhood was over. No more playing, no more imagining, no more happiness.

The whole situation has taken a heavy toll on ZIAD, but thanks to his efforts with our psychologist, he is gradually channeling that stress and focusing on going back to normal. This is helped by the fact that the parents are also focusing on moving on and building a safe environment at home.

He now understands that he has to look beyond the trauma, focus on how he was before and go back to living his childhood to the fullest. Also, our team has noticed the family bond has strengthened after receiving support, **they have unified their efforts to heal together** and move past the explosion.



DONATIONS

**45,275,000
LBP**



**10,822
USD**





**WE COULDN'T BE
MORE GRATEFUL
FOR YOUR
SUPPORT**

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OUR PARTNERS

