



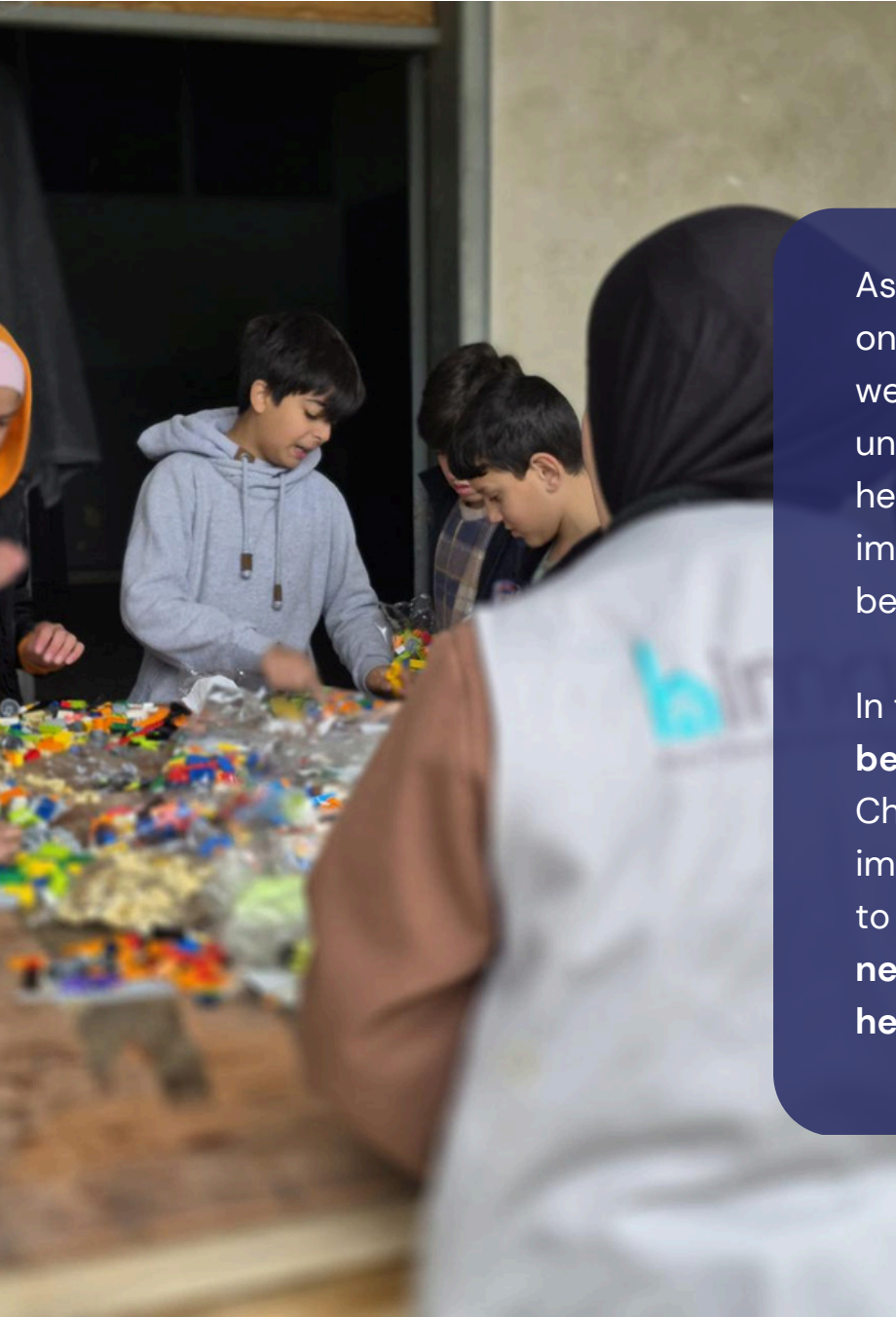
1 Month of Response

Protecting Children

Across Every Level



Protection Must Hold



As the situation in Lebanon escalated on March 2nd, children and families were once again faced with uncertainty, displacement, and heightened risks, many reliving the impact of a crisis they had only just begun to recover from.

In these moments, **protection becomes more critical than ever.** Children are exposed not only to the immediate effects of conflict but also to **increased risks of violence, neglect, and exploitation, including heightened vulnerabilities for girls.**

Throughout the first month, himaya remained present on the ground, responding to urgent needs, adapting services, and ensuring that **children and their caregivers were not left without support.**

Across regions and sectors, the response focused on one priority:

protecting children, in all their realities, and at every level.

This report provides a snapshot of that response, highlighting how services were delivered, coordinated, and adapted during the first month following the escalation.

Numbers



27

Shelters Covered

Across multiple regions in Beirut and Mount Lebanon, South, North, North Bekaa and Central West Bekaa in Lebanon



20

himaya Volunteers Trained On Psychological First Aid (PFA)



1061

Children Reached

Through awareness sessions on child protection and community-based psychosocial support.



86

Caregivers Reached

Through psychosocial support sessions and caregiver engagement activities.



1

Children Supported Through Case Management

Receiving specialized and life-saving services.



1

Separated & Unaccompanied Children Identified

Receiving protection and follow-up support.



How We

Responded

Across Every Level

Protection Response

Shelter Assignment and Coverage

Following coordination with the Protection Sector and the Ministry of Social Affairs (MoSA), himaya is responding across 27 shelters in five regions, based on assigned areas of coverage and existing presence.

Assessing Needs & Organizing the Response

Initial assessments were conducted across shelters to identify priority needs among children and caregivers. Based on these assessments, activities were planned and scheduled to respond to the specific risks identified, including those affecting the most vulnerable. Where needed, cases were also referred to relevant services to ensure appropriate support.

Coordinating with Actors on the Ground

Interventions are currently being implemented in coordination with relevant actors present in shelters, ensuring that child protection and gender-based violence services provided by himaya are aligned with other services, including education and additional support.



Sector Coordination & Guidance

Shaping PSS Emergency Guidance

himaya has been actively engaged from day one in relevant working groups with key actors, including government entities, INGOs, and NGOs, to assess psychosocial support (PSS) needs and identify priority areas for intervention. This included contributing to the review of PSS emergency guidelines, particularly around the prioritization and delivery of services in a prolonged crisis.

Strengthening Case Management Approaches

Through engagement in the Case Management Task Force (CMTF), himaya provided programmatic input on guidance for case management, whether virtual or within shelters, ensuring services are delivered in an ethical, confidential, and respectful manner, with a focus on informed consent, data protection, and the best interests of the child.

Supporting Alternative Care and Family Tracing

himaya has been actively engaged with the Alternative Care Core Group, contributing to coordination efforts for unaccompanied and separated children. This includes supporting the development of guidance materials for families and contributing to sector procedures, as well as preparing to lead an information session on Family Tracing and Reunification.



Children, Caregivers, & Communities

Activating Teams and Volunteers

The team reached out to partners and volunteers in affected areas to check on their wellbeing and assess support needs. Following shelter assignments, prevention teams and volunteers were deployed on the ground.

Providing Immediate Psychosocial Support

Psychological First Aid (PFA) was provided to children, adolescents, and caregivers, alongside recreational activities that helped children express their emotions and cope during the crisis.

Extending Support Beyond Shelters

In parallel, support continued beyond shelters to reach the broader community, ensuring that all those in need, not only displaced populations, had access to services.



Case Management & Support Services

Outreach and Immediate Support to Cases

Social workers reached out to all active cases to provide Psychological First Aid (PFA), assess the impact of the situation on families, and ensure timely referrals to urgent and specialized services where needed.

Adapting Case Management Modalities

To ensure continuity of care, virtual case management was reinforced for families remaining in their homes, supported by refresher sessions for social workers and psychologists on remote case management processes.

Providing Structured Psychological Support

himaya psychologists developed structured, age-appropriate sessions for children addressing displacement, trauma, loss, and grief, alongside sessions for parents to strengthen their ability to support their children. These were delivered in cases where distress was assessed as psychological rather than related to abuse.

Ensuring Staff and Volunteer Wellbeing

Two licensed clinical psychologists facilitated group emotional support sessions for himaya volunteers affected by the war and displacement, ensuring their wellbeing and sustained ability to respond.

Ongoing Core Protection Services

himaya continued to respond to cases of abuse and ensure continuity of care through active case management and an operational hotline, maintaining its core protection services alongside the emergency response.



Judicial Follow-Up in Crisis

Adapting Judicial Procedures to the Context

Since the beginning of the war, the team has been proactively reaching out to families with ongoing cases to assess their situation and safety, ensuring consistent follow-up despite the evolving context. To support this, Judicial Protection (JP) wartime intervention procedures have been applied, combining virtual support with in-person visits whenever security conditions allow.

Leading Family Tracing and Reunification Efforts

In response to the increased risk of unaccompanied and separated children, the JP North team has been designated as the lead for Family Tracing and Reunification (FTR), coordinating reunification efforts at the governorate level.

Strengthening

Team Capacity and Response

Adapting Content and Key Messages

The Capacity Building team developed key messages related to the current situation and adapted internal content to align with the emergency context.

Strengthening Volunteer Readiness

Refresher trainings on Psychological First Aid (PFA) were delivered to himaya volunteers to support their preparedness for field interventions.



Wider Public

In parallel to field interventions, himaya engaged the wider public through targeted digital content and media outreach, aiming to support children and caregivers while raising awareness on protection risks and available support.

Content was developed through close collaboration between technical teams, including psychologists, social workers, and specialists, and the communications team, ensuring that messaging was grounded in real needs observed on the ground and addressed topics that are often left unspoken during times of crisis, reaching not only displaced families, but caregivers and communities across different contexts.

Social Media Series for Parents and Caregivers

Two main content directions were developed to respond to the current situation:



Focused on supporting caregivers in navigating difficult conversations with children. Through simple, age-appropriate guidance, the series addressed common questions children ask during times of crisis and helped parents respond in a reassuring and constructive way.



Created space for caregivers to pause but also served as a moment to speak directly to them. Each piece invites parents to take a step back from the intensity of the situation, while gently highlighting emotions they may be experiencing such as fear, stress, or anger, and how these can affect their children.

It combines reflection with guidance, helping caregivers better understand themselves, and respond more calmly and supportively.

Reach and Access to Content

Through these efforts, himaya reached **400K** people across digital platforms.

[!\[\]\(4e9db7091c22bfa9fd8343485308f15c_img.jpg\) All content can be accessed here.](#)

Media Engagement

himaya also contributed to national awareness through media appearances on television and written press, addressing key child protection issues in the current context.

All interviews are available on [himaya's YouTube channel](#).



Responding to **Challenges**

On the Ground

Limited Access to Safe and Private Spaces in Shelters

Most shelters do not provide dedicated or private spaces for activities or case-related follow-up. Awareness sessions and recreational activities are often conducted in shared or unsuitable environments, sometimes even outdoors or in very constrained areas. At the same time, families may not feel comfortable leaving the shelter to access services in community offices.

Vulnerability of Community-Based Networks

Many community members supporting outreach, referrals, and community-based activities are themselves affected by the crisis, including displacement and direct exposure to the conflict, impacting their ability to engage consistently.

Limited Access to High-Risk Areas

Geographical inaccessibility and security constraints limit access to certain high-risk areas, restricting both prevention activities and timely response to cases of abuse.

Disruptions to Judicial Processes

Security conditions have significantly limited the physical presence of judicial actors, delaying the formal processing of protection requests.

Impact of Crisis on Service Delivery

The ongoing conflict affects both families and professionals, creating a volatile environment that challenges the regular implementation of interventions.

Funding Constraints and Geographic Limitations

While himaya mobilized its resources to respond to the crisis, existing funding structures remain geographically restrictive, limiting the ability to respond equally across all regions and potentially affecting operations in the long term.



→ Activities and follow-up are adapted to available spaces within shelters to ensure continuity of support.

→ In parallel, ongoing advocacy with MoSA, MEHE, and donors is taking place to facilitate access to dedicated spaces that allow for safe and confidential service delivery.

→ Group emotional support sessions (groupes de parole) have been organized to support their wellbeing and sustain their engagement.

→ Team members with safe access to these areas are identified, supported, and equipped to carry out interventions where possible.

→ Virtual coordination mechanisms have been established with the judiciary to ensure the continued review and issuance of urgent protection orders.

→ Wartime intervention procedures have been applied to adapt service delivery and ensure continuity of follow-up for both existing and new cases.

→ Ongoing advocacy with donors is being carried out to allow greater flexibility in project implementation.



Gaps and Emerging Priorities

Pressure on Individuals and Systems



Children and caregivers are experiencing increased psychological distress, while frontline actors, including staff, volunteers, community members, and MoSA focal points, are also directly affected by the crisis, impacting their ability to sustain the response.

Strain on Living Conditions & Protection Environments



Overcrowded shelters and deteriorating living conditions, including hygiene concerns, are affecting the wellbeing of families and increasing protection risks.

Uneven Access to Services



Not all affected populations are equally reached. Displaced families outside shelters and those in hard-to-reach or high-risk areas remain underserved due to security and geographical constraints.

Gaps in Service Availability



Some service providers assigned within the response have not initiated interventions due to funding limitations, while access to specialized child protection and GBV services remains limited in certain locations.

Evolving and Expanding Needs

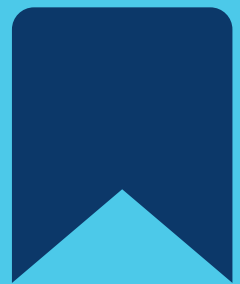


As the situation continues, needs are increasing and extending to new areas, requiring ongoing adaptation of response approaches.





Continuing the Response



As the situation continues to evolve, the needs of children and families are expected to grow and shift across regions and contexts.

himaya will continue to adapt its response to ensure that protection services remain accessible, responsive, and grounded in the realities on the ground.

Ensuring that children remain protected in this context requires sustained efforts, strong coordination, and the continued engagement of all actors involved.

It is a shared responsibility, one that calls for flexible resources, strengthened collaboration, and a collective commitment to safeguarding children in the face of ongoing crisis.

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