Preventing harm and abuse against children through child protection integration in education: evidence from Lebanon and lessons learnt.

Back to the Future

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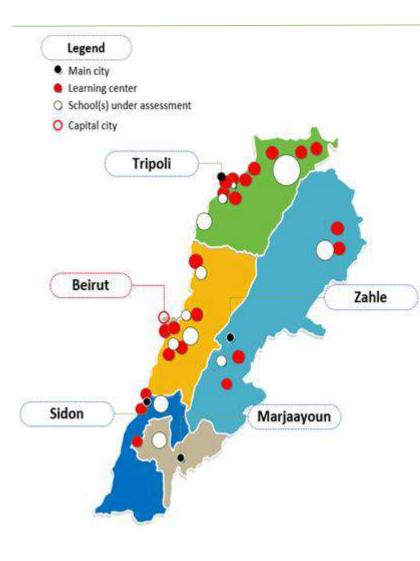




THE ALLIANCE FOR CHILD PROTECTION IN HUMANITARIAN ACTION



CONTEXT



The prolonged economic depression is just one of the mutually reinforcing crises in Lebanon:

- The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- The aftermath of the massive Beirut Port explosions.
- The impact of persistent political instability.

Children across Lebanon are the worst hit.

- Before October 2019, 40% children were the main income earners.
- After October 2019, 61% of children were the main income earners.
- After Covid-19, 67% of children confirmed they are the main earner of their families (Lebanon Protection Consortium, 2021).





CONTEXT

"Back to the Future" is a 32-month project part of a 5-year overall action funded by the European Union, through the EU Regional Trust Fund in response to the Syrian crisis, the EU Madad Fund, that aims at increasing the access of vulnerable girls and boys in marginalized communities in Lebanon to an integrated quality basic education and protection services.







PREVENTION APPROACH

The program aims at *primary prevention* through addressing root causes exposing children to harm, particularly drop out and consequent child labor, early marriage, neglect and abuse.

Root causes:

- Worsening economic situation
- Inadequate social protection mechanisms/ humanitarian assistance
- Safety and security
- Lack of political will to combat child labor
- Culture







PREVENTION APPROACH

key factors:

- ★ Assessing multi-sectoral vulnerabilities.
- ★ Integration of child protection activities.
- ★ Working across the socio-ecological model in large society.
- ★ Capacity building of education staff with Ministry of Education and Higher Education (MEHE), establishing a national IM system for formal/non formal education referrals and advocacy.







- Child Protection (CP) and Education (EDU) activities conducted with children and caregivers. \star
- Capacity building activities for education staff working on CP including: \star
 - Safe identification and referral
 - Signs of abuse
 - Child development
 - **PSEAH** ٠
 - Positive teaching techniques ٠
 - Inclusion and children with disability ٠







ACTIVITIES

- ★ Community engagement Awareness raising activities with communities on CP to encourage social behavioral change;
 - Early marriage
 - Violence against women and children
 - Mental health and children in protest key- messages
- ★ IMS is being established with MEHE to strengthen data collection and coordination for Non-Formal Education (NFE).
- ★ Continuous collaboration between the Education and Child Protection departments.







Throughout the course of the "Back to the Future" programme, data has been collected for programmatic monitoring and learning.

Education and Child Protection Outputs

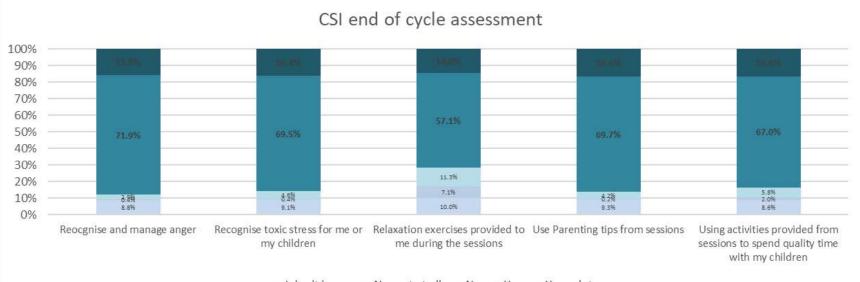
- 1128 BTF learners receiving psychosocial support
- 785 educational personnel trained
- 4068 refugees and host community members receiving psychosocial support
- 224 cases referred for specialized services





Education and Child Protection Outcomes

CSI: Strengthening parenting among conflict-affected caregivers

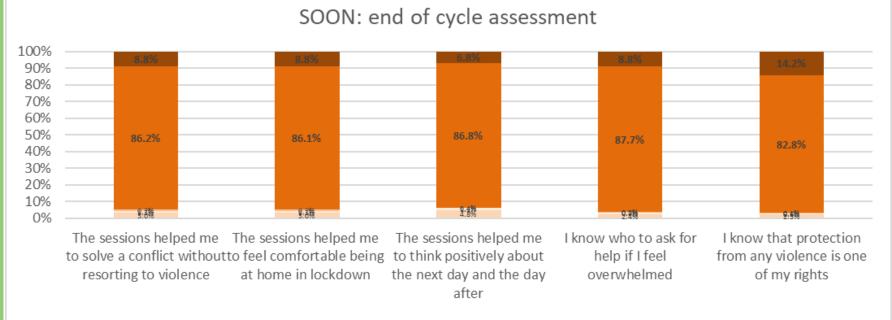


■ I don't know ■ No, not at all ■ No ■ Yes ■ Yes, a lot



Education and Child Protection Outcomes SOON: Structured psychosocial support for children

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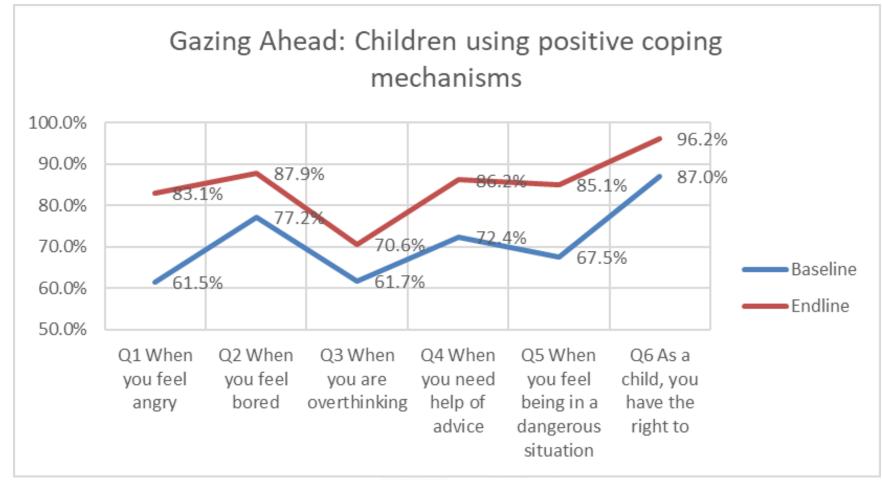


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Ε S

Education and Child Protection Outcomes Gazing Ahead: Child protection prevention program through storytelling





My name is Kotaiba.



LESSONS LEARNT

- ★ "Back to the Future" is completing research on the integration of CP and EDU using various methodologies to understand how the project has helped to prevent and respond to harm and abuse.
- ★ As the project is in its final stages, the program will transition to a different third phase.
- ★ Further look at root causes of drop out and child labor and other forms of abuse for more effective primary prevention approach.
- ★ There is an incredible opportunity for child protection actors to design and implement primary prevention programs.
- ★ Education provides an extremely important entry point to effectively reach primary prevention levels.



• Video here



