Child Protection needs continue to be on the rise as the socio-economic crisis remains challenging, affecting vulnerable population’s access to basic goods and services. Several incidents of community tension were reported in different areas of the country over bread shortage. In addition, the number of daily COVID-19 positive cases have increased during the first half of 2022, particularly during June.

Child Labor and/or Street-Connected Children is still the most prominent child protection issue reported by sector and field partners and as confirmed by the sector’s case management analysis which indicates more than 50% of the children receiving case management services in the first half of 2022 are children in Worst Forms of Child Labor. IRC protection monitoring reports for January to June 2022 also show the increase in the number of children engaged in labor. Compared to the same period in 2021, the percentage of households with at least one child engaged in Child Labor has increased in the first half of 2022 from 9% to 10% on average. It is also worth noting that several interviewed households reported having multiple children working within the same household.

Child Protection sector partners received more than 4,020 referrals during the first two quarters of 2022, which represents 185% increase compared to the same period of last year. Out of which, 1,610 referrals were made to Child Protection Case Management (CPCM) services, a 49% increase compared to same period in 2021. Additionally, 2,362 referrals were made to Psychosocial Support Services, compared to 2021 (241 referrals only), this represents an increase of 880%. The increase in total number in referral to Child Protection services highlights the deteriorated child protection situation, particularly in schools/non-formal education where more than 2,586 referrals were made by Education sector partners to Child Protection services during the first half of 2022, compared to only 311 referrals in the same period last year, a 64% increasei.

Case Management

Case management (CM) services received by children: comparison between January and June of 2020, 2021 and 2022.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>2020</th>
<th>2021</th>
<th>2022</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nabatieh</td>
<td>286</td>
<td>185</td>
<td>965</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South</td>
<td>338</td>
<td>277</td>
<td>825</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baalbek</td>
<td>434</td>
<td>388</td>
<td>922</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bekaa</td>
<td>562</td>
<td>434</td>
<td>766</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Akkar</td>
<td>412</td>
<td>562</td>
<td>747</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North</td>
<td>971</td>
<td>1472</td>
<td>1247</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mount Lebanon</td>
<td>903</td>
<td>1806</td>
<td>2193</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beirut</td>
<td>328</td>
<td>219</td>
<td>1105</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

8,105 is the total number of boys and girls, who have received case management services in the first half of 2022. This represents 60% increase compared to the same period of 2021.

The highest increase in services was registered in Beirut (237%) followed by South and Mount Lebanon. While these services have decreased in Akkar and South compared to the same period of 2021.

Managed cases per Risk Criteria*

- Exploitation
- Em. Abuse
- Neglect
- Ph. Abuse
- WFCL

**A Case Management file is opened based on either one of the above risks, and a child may be reported here with one or multiple risk criteria, regardless of the child's vulnerability, i.e. a child may be vulnerable but living in a caring environment with no risks at all.

The Top 3 criteria for providing CM services to children in 2022 were Worst forms of child labor, Neglect and Emotional abuse.

Noting that, compared to 2021, Exploitation, as a risk criteria for case management, has registered the highest increase again (+56%), followed by Emotional abuse (+52%) and Neglect (+40%).

Same as in 2020 and 2021, the majority of CM services were provided to boys, with a 2% increase for boys in 2022 (compared to 65% in 2021).
CP Hotline tracking

In the first half of 2022, there were on average **526 calls per month**, received on the Hotlines operated by some of the CPWG Partners across the country*. Compared to the same period of 2021, this represents an increase for the total number of calls (up from 398 calls per month), while the CP-related calls have decreased (down from 97 calls per month).

* Note: Himaya and WVI operate Hotlines across the country, whereas TdH-Lausanne does not cover the North and TdH-India covers only Mount Lebanon and Baalbek-Ala, info from TdH-Lausanne and WVI Hotlines are only for 2022.

- **1,385 total calls on CP cases**
  - 58% female
  - 42% male

- **1,141 calls on cases of Abuse**
  - 56% outside home
  - 44% inside home

- **94% of calls received are related to children between the ages of 6 and 14** (compared to 72% in 2021).

- **78% of calls received are related to Lebanese children.**

The average number of children referred to **Case Management Services** through the Hotlines is **165 children per month** (compared to 153 in 2021).

**Child Protection Referrals**

- **4,020** is the total number of CP referrals in the 1st half of 2022 or 19% of all referrals (up from 14% in 2021).

  - **185% increase compared to the same period last year (around 1,400 referrals).**

- **1,610** are referred to CP Case Management services. Compared to the 1,080 in the same period of 2021, this represents an increase of 49%.

- **2,362** are referred to PSS service providers. Compared to 2021 (241 referrals only), this represents an increase of 880%.

- **64%** of total referrals during this period were done from the **Education Sector**, while these were 22% in 2021. The number of intra-sectoral referrals (from the **CP Sector**) slightly increased (with around 800 referrals).

  - Referrals from **Protection** and **GBV** sectors have dropped from 13% to **5%** and from 6% to **3%** respectively.

Source: DRC-RIMS
Children engaged in child labor
as reported by IRC through the monthly Protection Monitoring (in % of respondents responding “Working Children” in the household).

Compared to the same period of 2021, the % of households with at least one child engaged in Child Labor has increased in the 1st half of 2022 from 9% to 10% on average.

* Source: CP Sector Real-time monitoring (CP RTM).

284 new requests for assistance were received, on average, per Organization per month, in the 1st half 2022, slightly higher than in 2021, with 277 requests, with an increase in requests from Lebanese population in 2022.

Health services, Food/NFI & Cash Assistance are still the main 3 services asked for by the households, similar to 2021.

* Source: Protection Monitoring Report - IRC (June 2022)

Prevalence of CP concerns/negative trends as observed by NGO’s between Jan. and June 2022

Most respondents have reported Child Labour, Violent Discipline, as well as Street and Working Children as the main child protection concerns throughout the reporting period.

* Source: Protection Monitoring Report - IRC (June 2022)

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
WFCL : Worst Forms of Child Labour

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