

CHILD PROTECTION IN EMERGENCIES

Professional Development Programme

“The job placement was a good opportunity for me. As I have never worked outside of Turkey, going to Lebanon was useful for me to see a different context.”

Mustafa Korkutata is a Psychologist at Concern Worldwide in Turkey and a participant on the pilot cycle of the Child Protection in Emergencies Professional Development Programme (CPiE PDP) in the Middle East and Eastern Europe region. As part of the programme, Mustafa completed a two-week job placement with Concern Worldwide Lebanon where he primarily worked with the child protection team and focused on psychosocial support for children.

Job Placement Experience

During Mustafa’s job placement with Concern Worldwide Lebanon, his main takeaways were centred around how to work in informal tent settlements and the different types of child protection risks in this context. Mustafa reflects, “Visiting the informal tent settlements and camps was a good opportunity for me because I do not normally have access to camps in my work in Turkey. I observed a lot of child protection risks in the settlements, including children working in agriculture and children without caregivers.” Working closely with the Child Protection and the Psychosocial Support teams, he provided support on how to identify Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) cases, provide psychological first aid, and make referrals. He also attended a session on non-violent communication for boys and men and conducted two trainings upon the request of his colleagues.



Mustafa (centre) participating in CPiE PDP activities during the residential in Jordan

Mustafa worked with the child protection team on conducting psychological first aid assessments and designing subsequent planning for cases when needed. He reflects: “It is interesting to compare the different approaches to MHPSS and the different child protection risks in the Turkey and Lebanon contexts.”

When thinking about how he has already applied some of his learnings to his daily job, Mustafa comments, “I feel I am more effective in my contributions to the recently formed Child Protection Committee within Concern Worldwide, which was formed upon my recommendation. The CPiE PDP gave me a framework to explore my field as it relates more specifically to child protection.”

“I’ve never been part of such an organised training. It has affected my career plan in that I am now thinking more about MHPSS specifically within the Child Protection field ”