Newsletter on Children’s rights – Middle East and North Africa

May 2020

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Afghanistan – Coronavirus: Seven million Afghan children risk hunger – report

1st may – More than seven million children in Afghanistan are at risk of hunger as food prices soar due to the coronavirus pandemic, a report warns. A Save the Children spokesman said the country faced a "perfect storm of hunger, disease and death" unless the international community took action.

BBC News – Full article
Egypt – Coronavirus Adds Urgency to Ending Egypt’s Detention and Torture of Children

5 may – The United States has long justified its support for Egyptian security services as necessary for the security and stability of Egypt and the region. Yet the means by which the Egyptian security services operate include arbitrarily arresting and torturing some of the most vulnerable members of the population – children.

Just Security – Full article

Iran – Romina Ashrafi: Outrage in Iran over 'honour killing' of girl

27th may – Police in northern Iran have arrested a man accused of murdering his 14-year-old daughter in an "honour killing" that has sparked widespread outrage.

BBC News – Full article

Maroc – Droits des enfants : Des réalisations importantes, mais encore des défis à relever

26 mai – La célébration de la Journée nationale de l’enfant, le 25 mai de chaque année, décidée par Feu S.M. Hassan II en mai 1994, constitue une occasion de réitérer l’engagement du Royaume pour la promotion des droits des enfants.

Le Matin – Article complet

Maroc – Coronavirus Maroc : Les enfants, ces victimes du confinement

25 mai – La Journée nationale de l’enfance intervient cette année dans un contexte très particulier. Le confinement obligatoire n’a pas été sans conséquence sur certains enfants déjà fragiles avant la crise sanitaire.

La quotidienne – Article complet

Middle East – Fighting for an education: How children in the Middle East are learning under lockdown

12th may - Coronavirus has swept across the world and brought with it not only deaths, but also a lockdown of entire countries and their public services - including the closure of schools. Will children have to repeat the year? And what of their academic progress? Such questions prove difficult to answer, and despite the pandemic, governments are looking for ways to maintain normalcy and in the case of children, education.

The New Arab – Full article
Middle East – Hollywood artist tutors Arabic-speaking kids during pandemic

3rd may – It was during a phone conversation with her sister back in Qatar that the idea clicked for Hollywood animation artist Reem Ali Adeeb. Like other regions across the world, young children in the Middle East were confined at home because of the COVID-19 pandemic, but there was not nearly enough original content online in Arabic to keep them entertained, such as fun tutorials and other activities.

The Jakarta Post – Full article

Middle East – Middle East Children and the ‘Corona Monster’

14th may – Under quarantine, children talk to their parents about coronavirus as an imaginary “corona monster.” This imaginative version confronts parents with questions from their kids about the virus and the threats it poses locally that are particularly insightful, given that they live in countries where political and social conflicts are not rare.

Pulitzer Center – Full article

Palestine – UN officials call on Israel to release Palestinian children from prison

12th may – In a joint press statement sent to MEMO on Sunday, senior UN officials have called on Israel to release Palestinian children from prison in the light of the spread of Covid-19.

Middle East Monitor – Full article

Tunisie – En Tunisie, une entrepreneure utilise la technologie pour soigner les enfants souffrant de troubles de l’apprentissage

25 mai – Hidayat Ayadi est la fondatrice de SgharToon, une plateforme en ligne consacrée à l’éducation d’enfants souffrant de troubles de l’apprentissage. Elle cible particulièrement les enfants de 4 à 11 ans atteints de dyslexie, une maladie caractérisée par des difficultés à reconnaître ou à reproduire le langage écrit. La plateforme utilise des dessins animés pour faciliter l’apprentissage.

Agence Ecofin – Article complet

Tunisie – Enfants à besoins spécifiques: Un confinement insupportable

11 mai – Les enfants porteurs de handicap ou les autistes éprouvent parfois les pires souffrances pendant le confinement, tenus loin d’un milieu propice à leur évolution. Les parents sont amenés à composer avec les aléas de la situation peu joyeuse.
UAE – Canon Middle East launches 'Hakawaty' to inspire and entertain children

3rd may – Dubai: The rich tradition of Arabic storytelling, which brings to life fables, legends and tales of kings and warriors, gets a new platform with Canon Middle East bringing captivating stories, narrated by expert Hakawatis, through the newly launched ‘Hakawaty.’ A digital platform for Arabic storytelling, which underlines the vast and varied Arabic content that has been handed down over generations through the art of storytelling, comes just in time for the Holy Month of Ramadan and as families stay at home following the Covid-19 situation.

Yemen – Coronavirus: Yemen child marriages and begging on rise as virus spreads, says UN

26th may – The UN refugee agency said on Tuesday that its work in Yemen was near a "potential breaking point" as the coronavirus spreads, with rising numbers of families resorting to begging, child labour and the marrying of children.