

Originally posted on Israel Today, Israel, 7.6.2020

## **Special report: The Corona's effect on at-risk youth**

**ELEM: 72% of the at-risk youth suffered from depression and 13% of starvation • A 50% increase in cases of homelessness • ELEM CEO: "The emotional consequences will be long lasting."**

Written by Noam Dveer and Yuri Yalon

An increase in violence, in alcohol consumption, in anxiety and running away from home – these are the unfortunate results of the Corona crisis among the at-risk youth.

A first-of-its-kind report composed by ELEM examines the Corona effects on at-risk youth. The presented information is based on data collected from 4,800 at-risk youths who received assistance from ELEM between the months of March – May 2020.

According to the report, 251 youths found themselves with no roof over their heads (a 47% increase compared to 2019.) The majority of the youth (72%) reported suffering from depression, anxiety, emotional crises and loneliness. 40% reported using alcohol and drugs as "means of escape." 13% reported suffering from hunger and poverty.

In addition we learned that 232 youths attempted self-harm, 159 developed eating disorders (a 50% increase compared to 2019.)

ELEM CEO, Inbal Dor Kerbel: "Even with the extreme distress the youth experienced during this crisis, and in spite of the new challenges brought by this period, our teams kept locating, listening and assisting the youth, without losing a single person. There's no doubt that the social and mental implications of this crisis on the youth will remain with us for a long time to come."

During the Corona the communication with the youth took place with the help of street teams and also included nearly 3000 interceptions on social media. 12,449 group and one-on-one calls were held on zoom, and in 572 cases ELEM provided humanitarian support.

President Rivlin spoke of the report saying that “during this time, the marginalized people in our society became even more so. The shut down of the Welfare and Education systems puts the at-risk youth in even greater danger, which sometimes means life or death situations.”