Measures impacting refugees in Lebanon
Shop closures (June - December 2019)

OVERVIEW
Following the introduction of administrative and policy measures impacting the protective environment in Lebanon, UNHCR – in collaboration with partners – has systematically been monitoring measures affecting refugees since June 2019. Enforcement of existing Lebanese regulations in 2019, coupled with a Higher Defence Council decision to ensure compliance with work permit regulations for foreign workers to increase formality and subsequently protection of the labour force, led to a series of shop and business closures. Refugees have been negatively impacted, as this directly affects their access to livelihoods opportunities.

This dashboard outlines the closure by authorities of shops that are owned or managed (or perceived to be) by Syrians, in the period June-December 2019. Most shop closures during this period took place in July 2019, shortly following the issuance of an action plan by the Ministry of Labour, and mostly in the governorates of Akkar and the Bekaa. The vast majority of shop closures are due to the lack of the required work permit or operational licence, or the lack of legal residency. Since the start of nation-wide protests in October 2019, no shop closures have been recorded.

KEY FIGURES
168 incidents (on average 24 per month)

BY GOVERNORATE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Governorate</th>
<th>Number of Shop Closures</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Akkar</td>
<td>44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bekaa</td>
<td>43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mount Lebanon</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baalbek-El Hermel</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beirut</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>El Nabatieh</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

MONTHLY TREND

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Number of Shop Closures</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jun</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jul</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sep</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

SOURCE OF INFORMATION

- Outreach volunteer(s): 12%
- Partner(s): 30%
- UNHCR observation: 17%
- Others: 5%
- Media: 36%

REASON(S) (official and/or presumed)

- Not having required work permit: 95%
- Not having required operational license: 89%
- Lack of legal residency: 78%
- Tensions with host community: 30%
- Competing with Lebanese owned shops: 26%
- Discrimination (nationality/religion/other): 20%
- Not respecting standards shops/supermarkets in…: 8%
- Security-related considerations: 5%
- Political considerations: 5%
- Risk to the environment: 1%
- Inability to pay municipal fees or taxes: 1%
- Other: 14%

MAIN ACTOR(S) INVOLVED IN ORDERING

- Ministry of Labour (MoL): 53%
- General Security Office (GSO): 45%
- Internal Security Forces (ISF): 13%
- Municipal Police: 10%
- Municipality official(s): 9%
- Lebanese Armed Forces (LAF): 2%
- Other state actors: 3%
- Other non-state actors: 1%

MAIN ACTOR(S) INVOLVED IN IMPLEMENTING/ENFORCING

- General Security Office (GSO): 67%
- Ministry of Labour (MoL): 53%
- Municipal Police: 30%
- Internal Security Forces (ISF): 13%
- Municipality official(s): 9%
- Lebanese Armed Forces (LAF): 2%
- Other state actors: 4%
- Other non-state actors: 1%

Note: A shop closure can have more than one alleged reason.

Note: A shop closure can be ordered by more than one actor.

Note: A shop closure can be implemented/enforced by more than one actor.

Prepared by UNHCR
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