

Following the introduction of administrative and policy measures impacting the protective environment in Lebanon, UNHCR in collaboration with partners has systemically been monitoring measures affecting refugees since June 2019. This dashboard outlines measures implemented throughout the country in 2020, based on reports from the authorities, partners and refugees.

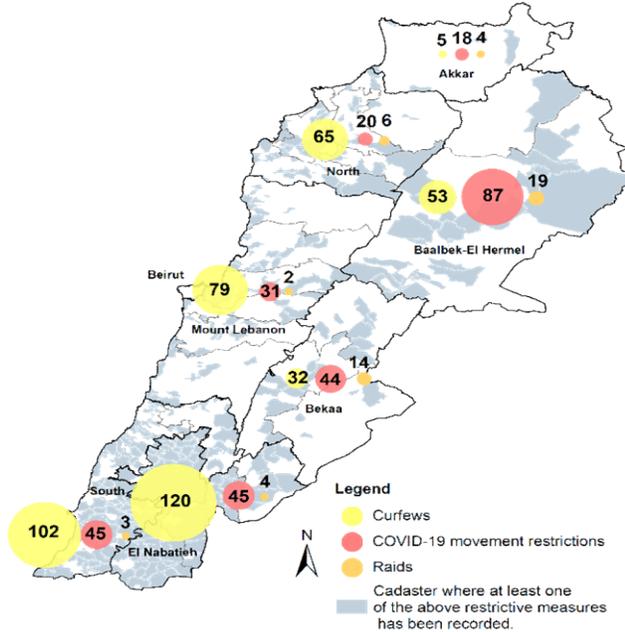
KEY FIGURES

755,771 refugees were targeted by curfews and COVID-19 movement restrictions

325 municipalities with curfews in place that specifically targeted refugees, of which **255** curfews were strictly enforced

290 discriminatory COVID-19 movement restrictions were implemented across **132** municipalities

52 raids were carried out, with **33** raids in the Bekaa and Baalbek El-Hermel



OVERVIEW

Curfews and COVID-19 movement restrictions were the most significant and widespread forms of measures impacting refugees in 2020. All measures reported here either targeted refugees only, or applied to them more harshly. Measures affecting both communities equally, such as national lockdowns, are not reported. The socio-economic effects of these measures, such as isolation and loss of livelihoods, increased the vulnerability and exposure to protection risks of refugees who were already facing dire circumstances.

Authorities also continued to carry out raids of refugee places of work or residence. While the number of refugees arrested or impacted by these raids is much lower than last year, raids, and potential thereof, nevertheless have a serious impact on refugees' sense of security. Many refugees feel under constant threat as a result of their inability to secure legal residency.

COVID-19 movement restrictions

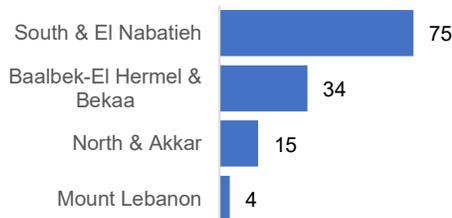
While all population groups in Lebanon were affected by COVID-19 movement restrictions, many of these measures were either applied only to refugees or were applied more harshly to them. Some of the most common measures implemented included prohibitions forbidding refugees from leaving informal settlements, neighbourhoods or municipalities and receiving visitors from outside the community. In some instances these restrictions resulted in refugees being isolated in settlements or underserved communities. Family and support networks were disrupted and those impacted faced greater difficulties accessing workplaces, hospitals, grocery stores, schools and ATM machines. While the penalties imposed for breach of movement restrictions were most often fines, refugees were worried that they would suffer from the harshest penalties, noting that 116 orders included arrest, detention, eviction and expulsion as potential punishment. As a result, refugees were overall more severely impacted by these measures, even when the order itself was not discriminatory.

KEY FIGURE

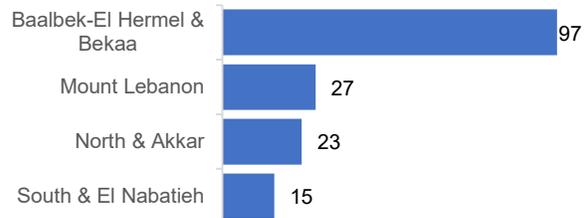
441,246

refugees affected by COVID-19 movement restrictions targeting them

128 applied to refugees only

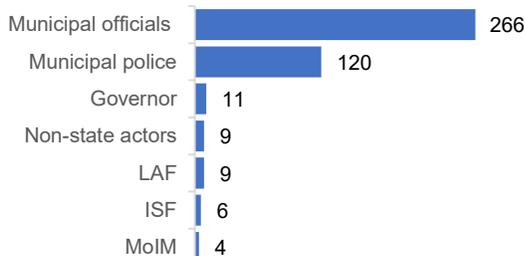


162 applied to refugees more harshly



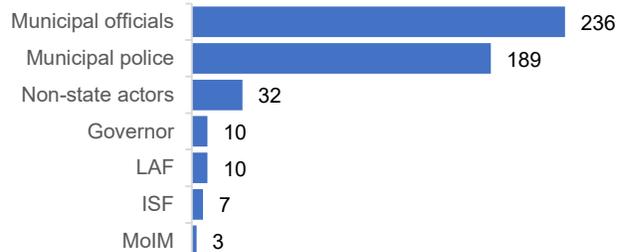
MAIN ACTOR(S) INVOLVED IN ORDERING

Note: Can be ordered/publicized by more than one actor



MAIN ACTOR(S) INVOLVED IN IMPLEMENTING/ENFORCING

Note: Can be implemented/carried out by more than one actor



Curfews

Refugees were reported to be affected by 456 total curfews in 2020 which either targeted them only or applied to them more harshly. COVID-19 precautions were indicated as a main cause for 119 of the 135 curfews which began in 2020, while a mix of security concerns, tensions with host communities and discrimination were indicated as the leading reasons for the 320 curfews which continued into 2020 from previous years.

Many municipalities implemented curfews related to COVID-19 for both host and refugee communities. However, refugees often faced greater time restrictions under these curfews. One such example is a daily curfew that began at 7pm for host communities, but 2pm for refugees. These curfews, in combination with movement restrictions, limited refugees' freedom of movement and severely impacted their ability to access employment and essential services. The effect was to add to the marginalization and vulnerability of already fragile refugee communities.

KEY FIGURES

662,691

refugees affected by curfews targeting them

456

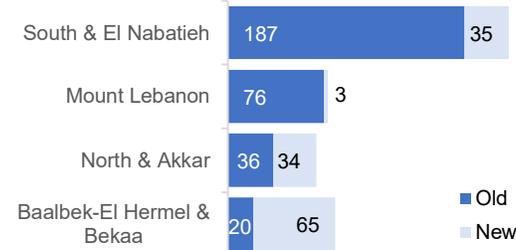
curfews targeted refugees in 2020. Of these, **396** applied to refugees only, while **60** applied more strictly to refugees

135

new curfews specifically targeting refugees were imposed in 2020

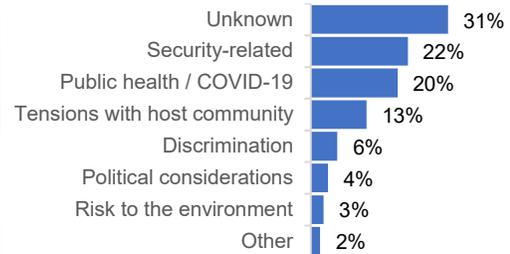
CURFEWS THAT WERE IN PLACE DURING 2020

Note: Old curfews are those that carried over from previous years, while new began in 2020



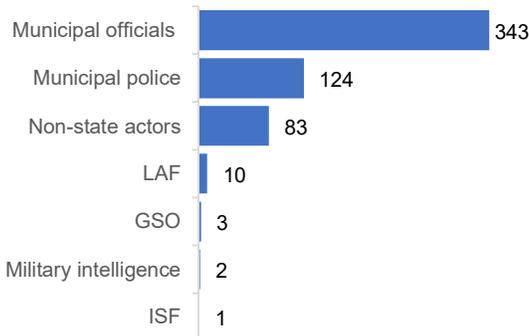
REASON(S) (official and/or presumed)

Note: A curfew can have more than one alleged reason.



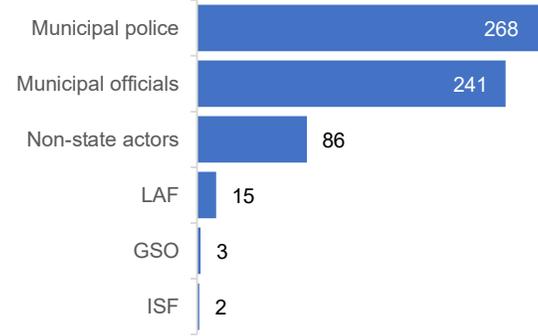
MAIN ACTOR(S) INVOLVED IN ORDERING

Note: A curfew can be ordered/publicized by more than one actor



MAIN ACTOR(S) INVOLVED IN IMPLEMENTING/ENFORCING

Note: A curfew can be implemented/carried out by more than one actor



Raids

Fewer raids occurred in 2020 than in 2019, largely because authorities took steps to limit the number of arrests and detention following the start of the health crisis to reduce overcrowding and the spread of COVID-19 in detention facilities. Only one raid was recorded during the 2nd and 3rd quarters of 2020. Raids also appeared to be much more specifically targeted, resulting in a lower number of arrests (187, compared to 1,130 in 2019). 40 of the 52 raids were ordered for security-related concerns, while other reasons included tensions with the host community and inability to pay municipal fees. Refugee communities residing in the Bekaa and Baalbek El-Hermel governorates were the most impacted, with 63% of all raids taking place there. In particular, refugees in Aarsal faced just over 1 in 5 (21%) of all raids in 2020.

KEY FIGURES

52

raids occurred, of which:

- 40** were ordered for security related concerns
- 18** resulted in arrests of **335** adult males and **4** children

Other restrictive measures

Other measures impacting refugees decreased in 2020, both because of the general COVID-19 context that impacted all aspects of society and likely because government and security officials were preoccupied with the implementation and enforcement of public health measures and with the response related to the socio-economic crisis. In this context, there were fewer instances of shop closures, discriminatory taxes, confiscation of IDs, restrictions on accommodation rental, etc., specifically targeting refugees. The number of collective evictions was also lower than in 2019 (see the Collective Evictions dashboard for further information).