

Aid Security in Lebanon

Aid in Danger partner-reported incidents in 2020

10 May 2021



This document is based on information shared by the Aid in Danger partner agencies operating in Lebanon in 2020.

Aid agencies reported 25 incidents that directly affected aid operations, staff or assets, and 91 occasions when aid agencies undertook security reviews and issued security instructions in response to the general security context in the country.

25	91
INCIDENTS ¹	MEASURES ²
Source: 2020 Lebanon Incidents Affecting Aid Operations, Staff and Assets	

The high number of reported concerns that triggered these security reviews is testimony to the high situational awareness among those NGOs that shared data.

This document uses reported data on incidents affecting aid agencies to illustrate the specific risks to aid agencies and individuals within the general security context in Lebanon in order to support mitigation measures tailored to the aid sector. It can be read in conjunction with [Vigil InSight's Situation Report](#).

Aid delivery disruption (6) Shootings NGO property damage	Crime incidents (3) Carjackings Thefts
Operational space (6) Allegations State interventions	Staff safety, security and well-being (10) Beneficiary/protester violence Self-harm Sexual harassment Threats

GENERAL SECURITY CONCERNS FOR THE AID SECTOR IN LEBANON

The 4 August 2020 explosion at the Beirut seaport prompted several INGOs to conduct security reviews. Staff members were frequently instructed to remain at home, while one organisation also suspended its programmes in reaction to the event.

EXTERNAL EVENTS THAT TRIGGERED AID AGENCY SECURITY MEASURES

Frequent

- Armed carjackings, particularly on the Riyaq-Baalbek international road
- Armed robberies
- Civil unrest and violent protests
- Conflict between criminals
- Disputes involving small arms fire
- Police raids on terrorist suspects and criminals, at times involving exchanges of gunfire

Occasional

- Killing of soldiers
- Road blocks
- Violence against aid beneficiaries

Rare

- Crossfire in border areas
- Landmine explosions

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AID AGENCY SECURITY INCIDENTS REPORTED IN LEBANON IN 2020



Aid delivery disruption (6)

- An **NGO vehicle** was damaged by a stray New Year's Eve celebratory bullet in Beqaa governorate, 31 December 2020.
- **Shootings** in Baalbek-Hermel governorate disrupted aid distributions more than once.
- Window **damage** occurred at a project site in Beqaa governorate, March 2020.



Crime incidents (3)

- **Carjackings** occurred in Beqaa and Baalbek-Hermel governorates. In one incident four INGO staff members were attacked but not injured by armed persons, and in the other, staff personal property was also stolen.
- **Theft**: There were multiple thefts of staff personal property and small amounts of money at various locations.



Operational space (6)

- **Allegations** affected aid delivery in Beqaa governorate, April 2020, and Baalbek-Hermel governorate, June 2020. In one incident influential local people spread allegations of misconduct by aid agencies or their staff.
- **State intervention** affected aid activities in South governorate, February 2020. Intelligence officers ordered INGO staff members to stop their needs assessment and report to the military base in Tyre city. Four other incidents of government measures were reported without details of their locations.



Staff safety, security and well-being (10)

- **Beneficiary violence** occurred in Beirut, August 2020. An INGO volunteer was threatened at knifepoint and forced by a group of six or seven people to write aid vouchers.
- **Protester violence** affected aid delivery in Bar Elias town, Beqaa governorate, January 2020. A staff member was beaten by protesters and his ID papers and car key were taken, but were returned following negotiations.
- **Self-harm**: Two incidents of staff self-harm were reported.
- **Sexual harassment** occurred in Beirut, August 2020 and Baalbek-Hermel governorate, September 2020. On two occasions Lebanese volunteers were sexually harassed by male beneficiaries while at project sites.
- **Threats**: Staff were threatened, some over contractual issues.

This summary of incident data supports situational awareness for the aid sector in Lebanon. Situational awareness:

- improves safety, team and organisational performance, and access for aid agencies;
- is about knowing what is going on around you; and
- distinguishes between the general security context and the specific risks to aid agencies and individuals.

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¹ Number of incidents reported by Aid in Danger partners that affected aid operations, staff and assets.

² Number of security measures reported by Aid in Danger partners (e.g. curfews, measures to limit visibility, travel warnings, and programme suspensions or relocations) taken in response to the general security situation.