

Civilian Impact Monitoring Project 2020 Annual Report

1 January - 31 December 2020



Mountain Town, Yemen by Rod Waddington

The Civilian Impact Monitoring Project annual
report on the direct impact of armed violence
on civilians in Yemen

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Executive Summary

Over 2,000 civilians in Yemen were killed or injured by armed violence in 2020

2,087 civilian casualties were reported in Yemen in 2020, a decrease for the second consecutive year, and a decrease of over a third (35%) from 3,224 civilian casualties in 2019. On average, armed violence killed or injured 174 civilians each month in 2020, with October seeing a peak of 228 civilian casualties.

1 in 4 civilian casualties in Yemen in 2020 was a child

Armed violence resulted in 499 casualties among children in Yemen in 2020, a quarter of the total number of civilian casualties reported. On average, 4 children were killed or injured by shelling each week in 2020, and another 2 children killed or injured each week by airstrikes. There were 4 incidents in which over 10 children were killed or injured, 3 of which were on account of airstrikes.

For the second consecutive year, shelling caused the highest number of civilian casualties

853 civilians were killed and injured amid shellfire in Yemen over the past year, 41% of the countrywide total. This is, however, 30% fewer than in 2019. Airstrike casualties saw a greater reduction still, down 73%, from 796 to 216. Conversely, the number of civilian casualties from small arms fire (SAF) shooting incidents increased for the second consecutive year, up 22% from 267 to 342, potentially reflective of a deteriorating security situation across the country.

Shelling was responsible for more women casualties than any other type of armed violence

298 women casualties were reported in Yemen in 2020, including over 100 fatalities. Over half of the women casualties (157; 53%) were on account of shelling, including 34 women who were killed and injured when the women's section of the central prison in Al-Mudhaffar, Ta'izz, was hit by shellfire. Moreover, 126 women were killed or injured while inside civilian homes.

Despite the ceasefire, Hudaydah again saw the highest number of civilian casualties, followed by Ta'izz

Hudaydah saw more civilian casualties than any other governorate in 2020. 457 civilians were killed and injured by armed violence in the governorate, 61% of whom were on account of shellfire. This was closely followed by neighbouring Ta'izz, another governorate where populous urban areas have been subsumed by hostilities. 454 civilian casualties were reported in Ta'izz, of whom 61% were in Ta'izz city.

Ma'rib, Bayda and Jawf saw an increase in civilian casualties in 2020

Yemen's northern frontlines saw an escalation at the start of the year, resulting in a heightened civilian impact, with each of Ma'rib, Bayda and Jawf seeing an increase in civilian casualties compared to 2019. The increase in Jawf was almost entirely due to an uptick in airstrikes, which killed and injured over 100 civilians in the governorate. In Bayda and Ma'rib, the increase was on account of shelling; 71% of civilian casualties in Ma'rib were on account of rocketry and shelling attacks on Ma'rib city.

Armed violence continues to result in mass civilian casualty incidents

The year was punctuated by several mass casualty incidents. There were 20 incidents in which at least 10 civilians were killed or injured, 12 of which were on account of shellfire, 5 caused by airstrikes, 2 mass casualty landmine incidents and 1 mass shooting. Moreover, 4 incidents in 2020 resulted in over 30 civilian casualties, including 2 mass casualty airstrike incidents in Jawf, the women's prison shelling in Ta'izz, and the Aden airport attack.

Attacks on telecommunications infrastructure have heightened civilians' virtual isolation

20 incidents of armed violence impacted telecommunications infrastructure in 2020, twice as many as in 2019, exacerbating the isolating effect of the conflict by restricting virtual access for over 110,000 households, the majority in Amran and Sa'dah. All but 3 of the incidents to impact telecommunications infrastructure were on account of airstrikes.

Armed violence continues to restrict civilians' freedom of movement, particularly in mountainous areas

Transport infrastructure sites were hit 26 times by armed violence, causing widespread restrictions on civilians' freedom of movement. Moreover, of 16 incidents to impact domestic transport infrastructure such as roads and bridges, 11 were in mountainous areas in Sa'dah and Sana'a, where damage to roads, and bridges in particular, can entirely cut communities off from essential supplies and services.

Over 200,000 households faced restricted access to healthcare on account of armed violence

18 health facilities were hit by armed violence in 2020, restricting access to critical healthcare for as many as 200,486 households. This is an increase from the 12 health facilities hit by armed violence in 2019. While two thirds (65%) of the incidents to have impacted healthcare were on account of shelling, there were also reports of shootings in hospitals in Ta'izz, airstrikes on quarantine centres in Bayda and Hudaydah, grenade attacks on a hospital in Dalī' and a pharmacy in Ibb, and a clinic detonated in Bayda.²

Introduction

The Civilian Impact Monitoring Project (CIMP) is a service under the Protection Cluster Yemen, monitoring the civilian impact of armed violence in Yemen. CIMP is a mechanism for real-time collection, analysis and dissemination of data on the civilian impact from armed violence countrywide, with the purpose of informing and complementing protection programming.

CIMP collects, analyses and disseminates data in real-time to allow for early warning and early protection response directed at communities affected by armed violence, including new and emerging local conflicts. This is done through daily reports on the civilian impact of armed violence across the country, instant flash reports on significant events that require rapid follow-up from protection partners, and weekly, monthly, quarterly and annual analysis to inform protection strategies. CIMP also produces thematic reports that provide the opportunity for more in-depth analysis of any pertinent trends that have been identified in how armed violence is impacting civilians across the country.

Much of the reporting is divided geographically into five hubs, each covering a subset of Yemen's governorates. Hudaydah hub covers Hudaydah, Hajjah, Mahwit and Raymah governorates; Sa'dah hub covers Sa'dah and Jawf governorates; Sana'a hub covers Sana'a, Ma'rib, Amran, Dhamar and Bayda governorates; Ibb hub covers Ibb and Ta'izz governorates; and Aden hub covers Aden, Lahij, Dali', Abyan, Shabwah, Hadramawt, Mahrah and Socotra.

The annual report aims to strengthen the understanding of how armed violence across Yemen impacts on communities over time, including by understanding trends and patterns in the types and drivers of armed violence, its geographic spread and the subsequent impact on civilians. CIMP data and analysis is used to inform long-term protection planning and response, strengthen prevention and mitigation strategies and inform advocacy at local, national and international levels, for increased protection of civilians caught in armed conflict.

Methodology

CIMP collects data via systematic, open source information on all incidents of armed violence. The data is filtered by the CIMP team in order to evaluate incidents with possible civilian impact. Those incidents are then further researched and cross-referenced via multiple sources and graded based on their level of credibility. When available, video material, lists of victims and supplementary information from protection cluster partners is incorporated.

Civilian impact incidents recorded by CIMP are assessed for their primary impact and associated protection implications. The primary impact includes incidents in which individuals or households are directly affected by the incident, such as civilian injuries and fatalities, damage to civilian property, including houses, farms and vehicles, and damage to markets and local businesses. CIMP then uses these numbers to provide an indication of the likely protection implications civilians are facing as a result, such as displacement, loss of livelihood or restricted freedom of movement. The numbers recorded by CIMP reflect only the number of households assessed to have been directly impacted by each incident, such as the number of houses damaged or destroyed, or the number of vehicles hit. As a result, CIMP numbers on displacement, loss of livelihood or restricted freedom of movement are not necessarily reflective of the total number of households impacted as a result of insecurity or conflict developments, where numbers are typically significantly higher than those provided by CIMP.

CIMP also records incidents of armed violence that have impacted civilian infrastructure and basic services, which in turn restrict civilian access to various vital services, infrastructure, facilities and goods, such as healthcare, education, food and water and transport infrastructure. In such incidents, the range of households impacted is typically assessed to be much higher than in those incidents directly harming civilians or causing damage to civilian property and businesses, due to the broader catchment area of those being supported by different types of infrastructure. Collectively, CIMP's figures on the number of households facing different protection implications provide an indicator of the extent of the impact of armed violence for the civilian population in Yemen.

As CIMP aims to collect and disseminate data on civilian impact that occurs as a result of armed conflict, some incidents are excluded from the dataset. This includes incidents related to crime, domestic violence and small arms fire incidents that occur away from areas of active conflict and have fewer than two casualties. Small arms fire incidents are always included when they occur in areas of active conflict.

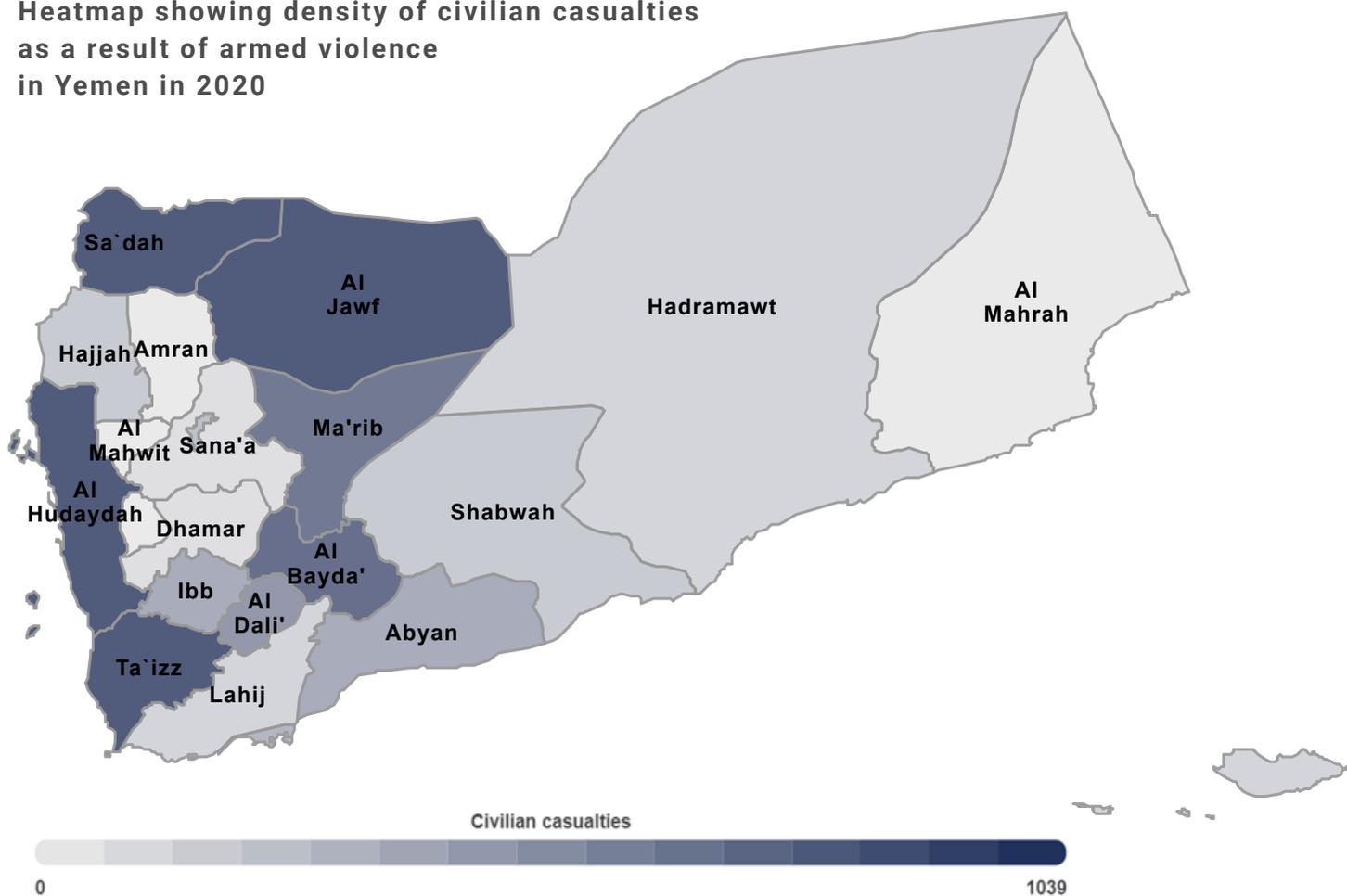
Conflict Developments

Yemen's **northern border** with Saudi Arabia sees frequent unrest, most notably in the form of cross-border shellfire, especially in the western districts of Sa'dah, although sporadic clashes are also reported along the border in Sa'dah, and airstrikes are not uncommon in the border areas, including in Hajjah.

Frontlines in northern parts of the country, particularly in **Ma'rib, Jawf** and **Bayda**, saw an escalation at the start of 2020, with dynamic frontlines. Through the latter half of the year, these reached a holding pattern, predominantly focused in Ma'rib, characterised by regular clashes and airstrikes.

Airstrikes are often reported in Yemen's frontline areas, but are also seen on other northern parts of the country, including on the capital city, and on Amran, Hajjah and Hudaydah. Upticks are often seen in response to broader conflict dynamics, including extra-territorial, aerial or maritime attacks.

Heatmap showing density of civilian casualties as a result of armed violence in Yemen in 2020



The west coast of Yemen remains one of the most violent parts of the country, with swathes of **Hudaydah** subsumed by hostilities on longstanding frontlines, many in close proximity to residential areas. Tensions between allied factions also see sporadic surges, including in Al-Mukha, Ta'izz.

Ta'izz city is the largest urban settlement in the country to host active frontlines, with shelling, armed clashes and IED attacks a frequent occurrence, despite the proximity of the surrounding civilian population. Southern parts of Ta'izz governorate have also seen tensions, often disrupting travel.

Southern parts of Yemen, particularly **Aden** city, see high levels of insecurity, characterised by attacks targeting security personnel, coupled with civil unrest. Although hostilities escalated on frontlines in Abyan earlier in 2020, these subsided with the implementation of the Riyadh Agreement.

Civilian Casualties

2,087 civilian casualties were reported in 2020, a decrease for the second consecutive year since CIMP started recording at the start of 2018. 2020 marked a decrease of over a third (35%) from 3,224 civilian casualties in 2019. Among the casualties were 749 civilian fatalities, down 32% from 2019, and 1,338 civilian injuries, 37% fewer than in 2019. Nonetheless, on average, 174 civilian casualties were reported as a direct result of armed violence each month in 2020, with October seeing a peak of 228 civilian casualties, although this remains below the 2019 monthly average of 269 civilian casualties.

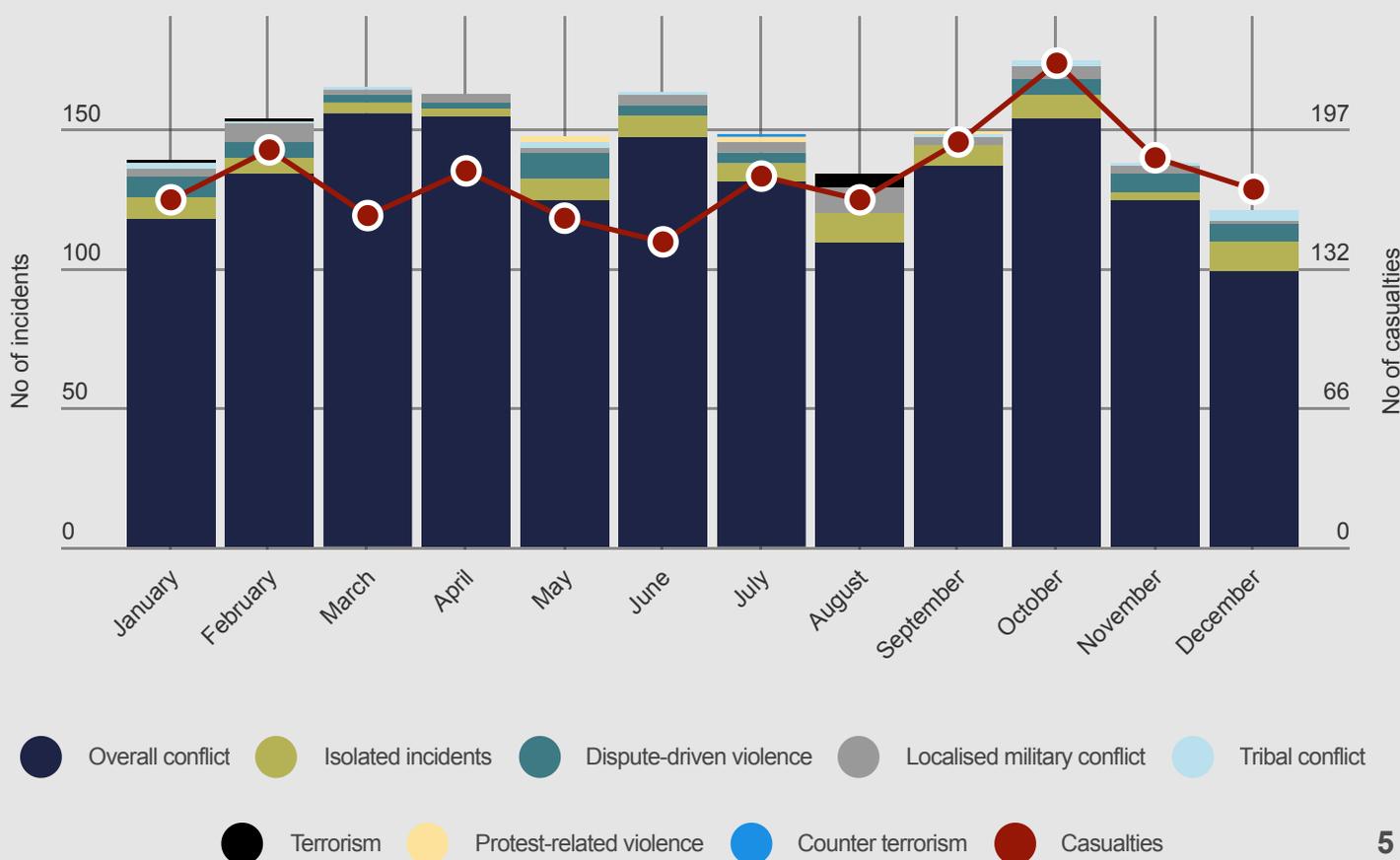
The year was punctuated by several mass casualty incidents. There were 20 incidents in which at least 10 civilians were killed or injured. Moreover, 4 incidents in 2020 resulted in over 30 civilian casualties, including 2 airstrike incidents in Jawf: In February, 35 civilians were killed, and 23 injured, when airstrikes hit a fighter jet crash site in Al-Maslub district. In July, another 24 civilians were killed, and 7 injured, when airstrikes hit a house during a celebratory event in Al-Hazm. Shelling was responsible for the other 2 incidents; the Aden airport attack on 30 December resulted in 44 civilian casualties, and another 34 civilian casualties were reported in a prison shelling in Ta'izz city in April.

Countrywide Civilian Impact Snapshot 1 January - 31 December 2020

Civilian casualties	2,087	Incidents causing psychosocial trauma	1,623
Fatalities	749		
Injuries	1,338		
Child casualties	499	Incidents impacting vulnerable groups	1,274
Fatalities	179		
Injuries	320		
Women casualties	298	Incidents impacting Children & Women	1,065
Fatalities	112	Children	127
Injuries	186	Women	70
		IDPs	8
		Refugees	4

While the majority of governorates in Yemen saw a decrease in civilian casualties from 2019 to 2020, this was not uniform across the country. Coinciding with a surge in hostilities and rapidly shifting frontlines in the north of the country at the start of the year, Jawf, Ma'rib and Bayda all saw an increase in civilian casualties in 2020. As shown in the chart below, the overall conflict in the country remains the overarching driver of incidents of armed violence impacting civilians, while dispute-driven violence, localised military conflict, tribal conflict and isolated incidents are also among the contributory factors.

Number of civilian impact incidents and civilian casualties per month



Women and Children

Women and children remain at risk amid the ongoing hostilities in Yemen. Despite the number of children killed or injured by armed violence in 2020 dropping by 40%, from 828 to 499, 1 in 4 civilian casualties in 2020 was still a child, the same proportion as was seen in 2019. Another 14% of the civilian casualties in Yemen in 2020 were women; 298, down 29% from 420 in 2019.

Shelling was responsible for the highest number of child casualties across Yemen, resulting in 198 child casualties during 2020, down from 344 in 2019. Another 99 children were killed or injured by airstrikes in 2020, which averages at 2 child airstrike casualties each week; almost three quarters of the child airstrike casualties were in Jawf, detailed below. Children are also particularly vulnerable to UXO incidents, which in 2020 killed and injured 55 children, while another 48 children were harmed by landmines. Children's susceptibility to remnant explosive ordnance such as UXO and landmines is exacerbated by a combination of their inquisitive nature, limited awareness of the associated risks, and propensity to move across spaces that may not yet have been cleared. A further 87 children were killed or injured by fire from small arms and light weapons (SA/LW), including 32 children who were shot by sniper fire, a risk particularly apparent in Hudaydah and Ta'izz; 31 children who were caught in the crossfire of armed clashes; and 24 children who were killed or injured in isolated shooting incidents.

Shelling was responsible for more casualties among women (152) than all other types of armed violence combined, or 52%, in part driven by a mass casualty incident in Ta'izz, detailed below. After shelling, airstrikes were responsible for the second highest number of women casualties, at 33, the majority of whom were reported in Jawf and Sa'dah. SA/LW was collectively responsible for 78 women casualties, including 26 who were shot by sniper fire; two thirds of sniper casualties in 2020 were women and children. Also among the 78 were 28 women who got caught amid the crossfire of armed clashes.

Women and children are particularly vulnerable when domestic spaces are impacted. Of 797 women and children to be killed or injured by armed violence in Yemen in 2020, over a third (281, 35%) were killed or injured inside civilian homes.

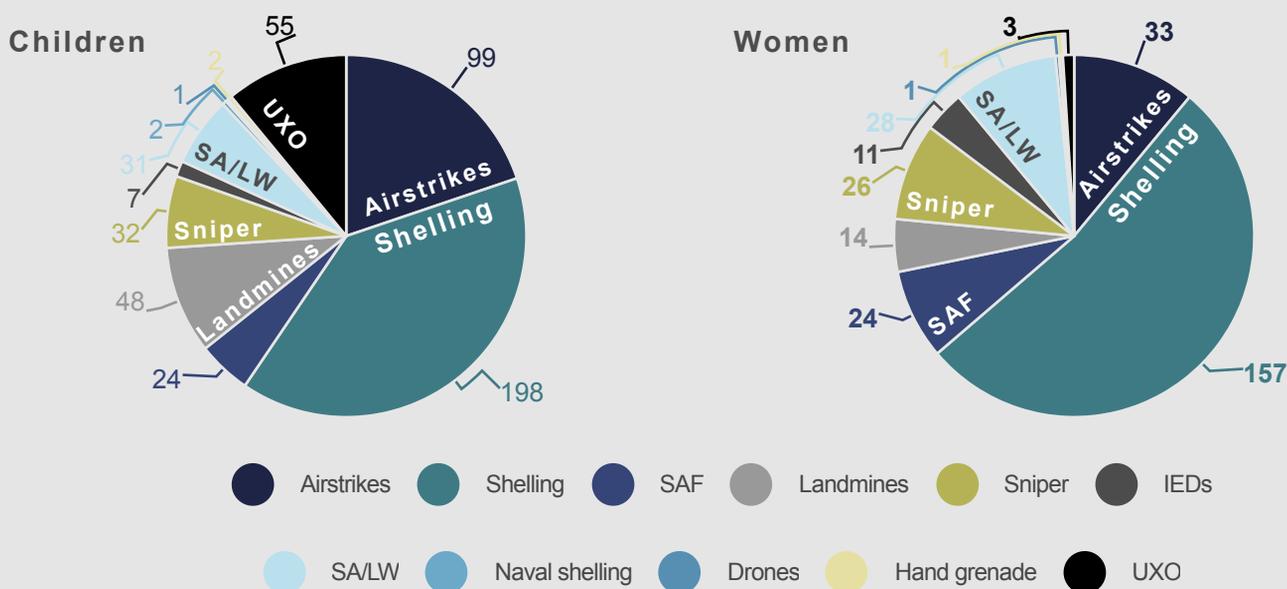
Case study 1: Mass child casualty incidents

Airstrikes resulted in 71 child casualties in Jawf in 2020, including 55 in mass casualty incidents. On 15 February, 35 civilians were killed, including 26 children, and 23 injured, including 18 children, when airstrikes hit a fighter jet crash site in Al-Hayjah area in Al-Maslub district, where civilians, many of whom were children, had subsequently gathered. Another 24 civilians, including 6 children, were killed and 7 civilians, including 5 children, were injured when airstrikes hit a house during a celebratory occasion in Al-Hazm on 15 July.

Case study 2: Mass women casualty incident

A mass casualty shelling incident in Ta'izz City resulted in 34 women casualties. On 5 April, 8 women were killed and at least 26 women were injured when artillery shells hit the women's section of the Central Prison in Al-Jibali area in Al-Mudhaffar district. Since CIMP started monitoring, Yemen has seen three mass casualty incidents at prisons, where inmates have no opportunity to flee the attack.

Types of armed violence responsible for women and children casualties



Type of Armed Violence

Of the different types of armed violence posing a threat to civilians in Yemen, **shelling** remains responsible for the highest number of civilian casualties, although this has been decreasing consistently over the past two years. In 2020, shellfire resulted in 853 civilian casualties, of whom 223 (26%) were fatalities. This is a 30% reduction from 2019, when shelling resulted in 1,216 civilian casualties. In 2020, shelling was a particular threat in frontline areas, most notably in the flashpoints of Hudaydah (280 civilian casualties), in and around Ta'izz city (244) and in the border districts of Sa'dah (107).

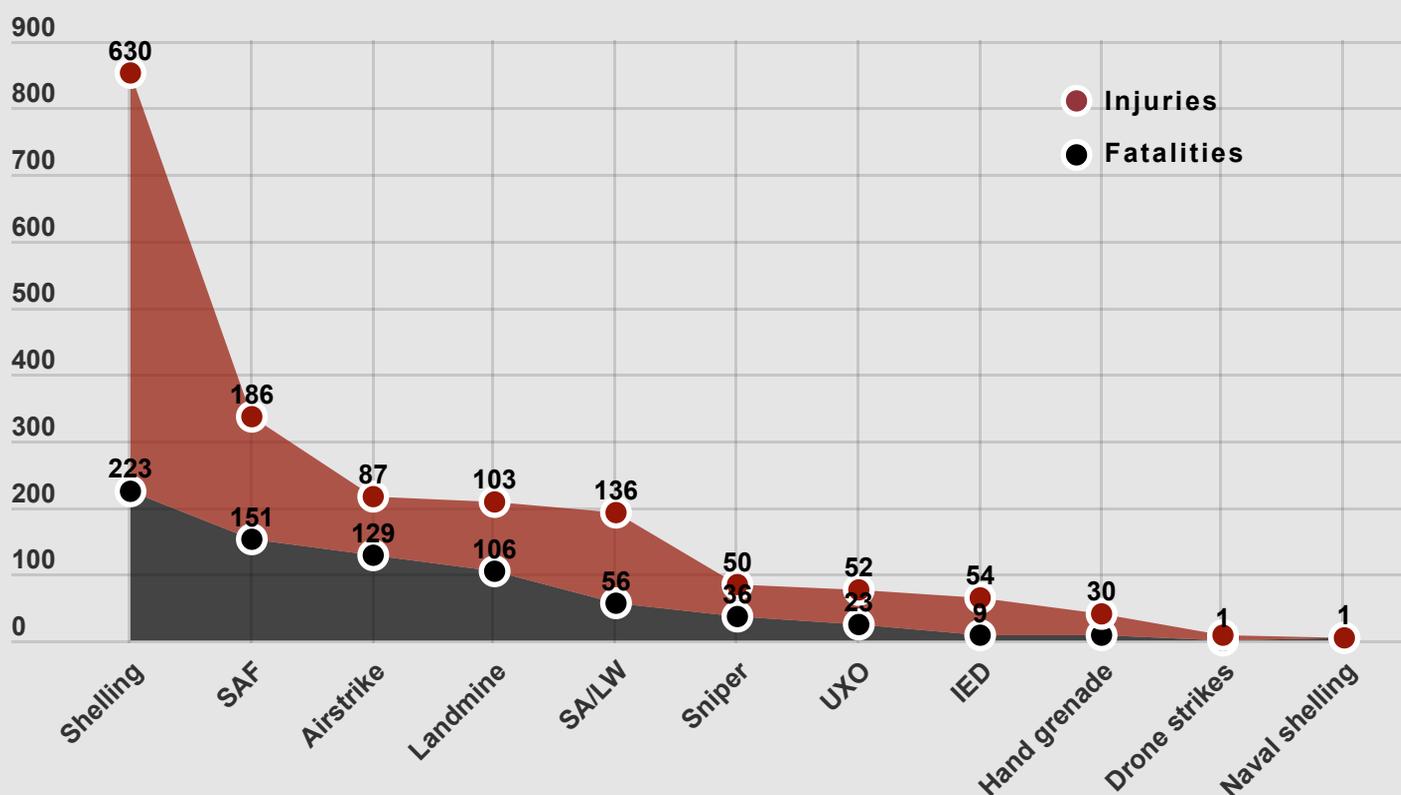
Since the Stockholm Agreement at the end of 2018, the number of civilian casualties on account of **airstrikes** has seen a significant reduction. This year, airstrikes resulted in 216 civilian casualties, over half of whom were children (99) and women (33). Despite being a significant decrease from 796 civilian casualties in 2019 and 2,588 civilian casualties in 2018, airstrikes also continue to impact civilian homes, property and infrastructure. 167 airstrikes were reported to have directly hit civilian houses in Yemen in 2020, threatening displacement and putting women and children at particular risk.

Remnant explosive ordnance, including **UXO** and **landmines**, was responsible for 284 civilian casualties in 2020, almost half of whom (129) were fatalities. There was some correlation between landmine casualties and heavy rainfall in Yemen, possibly due in part to ground saturation causing landmine drift, bringing devices closer to the surface or into previously safe areas, but also due to flooding presenting access restraints, forcing civilians to take alternative, unsafe routes. Conflict-related access restraints are likely to have a similar effect. As discussed in the previous section, children are particularly vulnerable to remnant explosive ordnance. Over a third (36%) of landmine and UXO casualties in 2020 were children.

Collectively, fire from small arms and light weapons was responsible for 615 civilian casualties in Yemen in 2020, disaggregated into three categories: 342 civilians were killed or injured in small arms fire (**SAF**) shootings, typically isolated incidents, and/or on account of dispute-driven violence or tribal conflict. This is the only type of armed violence to have seen consistent increases in the numbers of resultant civilian casualties, potentially reflective of a deteriorating security situation across the country. Another 187 civilians were caught in the crossfire of **SALW** clashes, typically in frontline areas, although this is down from 304 in 2019. Moreover, 86 civilians were killed or injured by **sniper** fire, down from 116 in 2020.

Targeted explosive attacks, including **IED** and **hand grenade** attacks, resulted in 103 civilian casualties in 2020. While the number of civilian IED casualties decreased, likely reflecting a drop in IED attacks in Ta'izz and Aden, the number of hand grenade attacks increased, with grenades reported to have killed and injured 16 civilians in Aden, and another 13 in Sana'a city.

Civilian casualties by type of armed violence, disaggregated by fatalities and injuries

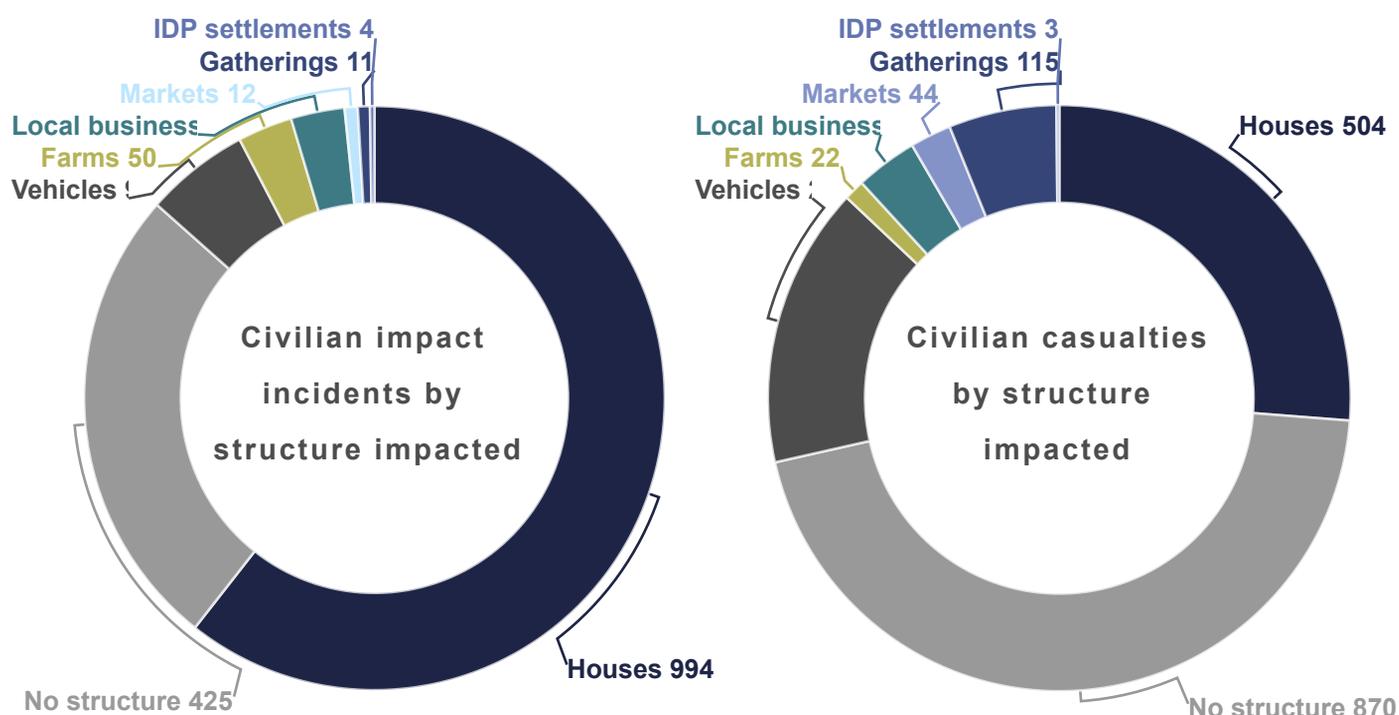


Civilian Property Impacted

994 incidents of armed violence hit civilian houses in 2020, down from 1,268 in 2019, but still displacing as many as 4,521 households, while putting women and children at particular risk due to the domestic nature of the space impacted. Over half of these incidents were reported in Hudaydah governorate, where despite the ceasefire, hostilities persist in close proximity to residential areas, with the frontlines fixed in place on the outskirts of Hudaydah city and in towns and villages to the south. Civilian businesses have also come under repeated fire in Hudaydah, most notably the Thabit Brothers Industrial Complex, which sits in a frontline area and has been shelled over 40 times since the start of 2018. Such incidents, along with those impacting farms (249 incidents in 2020), serve to threaten civilians' livelihoods, prolonging the damaging legacy of the conflict.

Markets were also a frequent site for armed violence in 2020, particularly as, being economic hubs, they commonly become the focal points for escalatory disputes over qat or revenues, which are a common driver of localised violence in Yemen. 42 incidents of armed violence were reported to have impacted civilians in or near marketplaces, resulting in 136 civilian casualties. Civilians are at particular risk of harm in these areas due to the more crowded nature of marketplaces, while incidents impacting markets also present further threats to civilian livelihoods.

Charts to show incidents and casualty numbers by structure impacted



Protection Implications

DISPLACEMENT



Number of affected households

4,521

Number of incidents
994

LOSS OF LIVELIHOOD



Number of affected households

3,789

Number of incidents
310

RESTRICTED FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT



Number of affected households

1,183

Number of incidents
531

OBSTRUCTION TO FLIGHT



Number of affected households

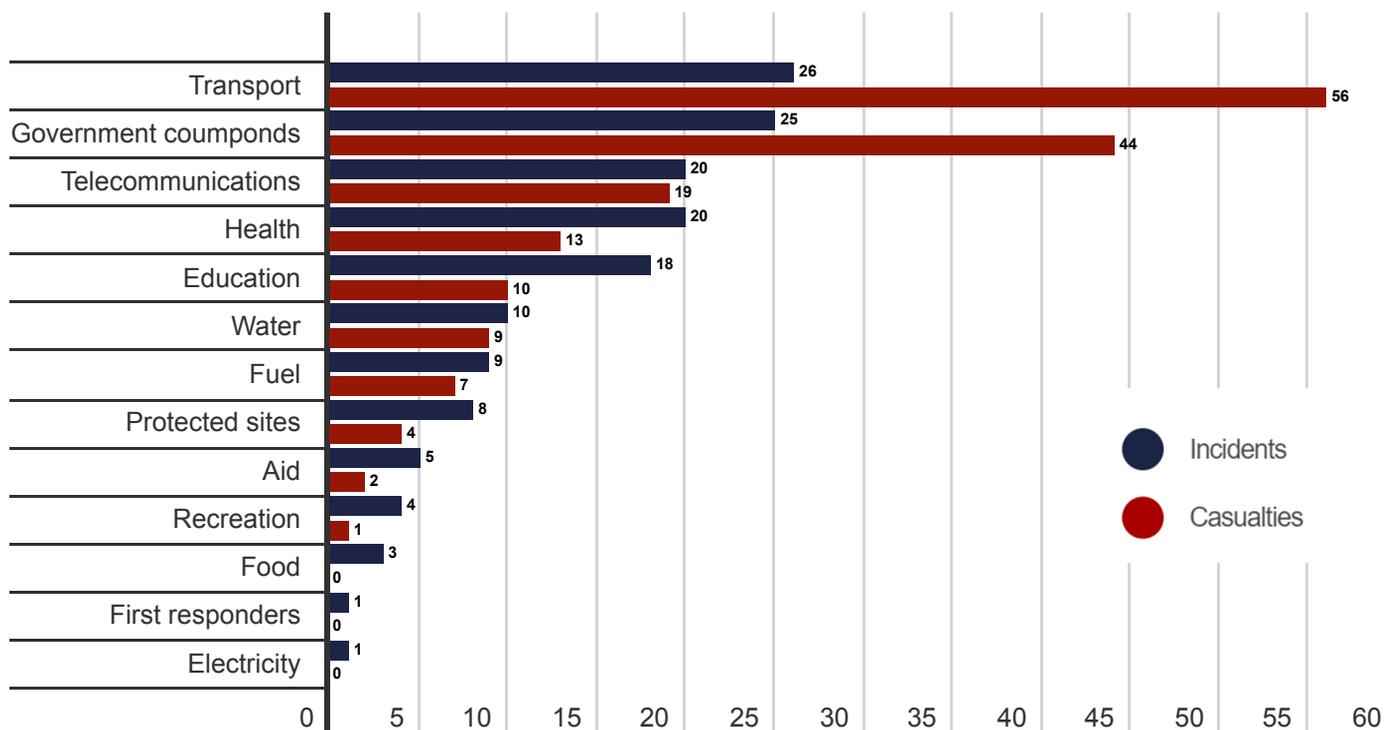
1,550

Number of incidents
4

Civilian Infrastructure Impacted

Armed violence continues to impact a broad range of infrastructure across Yemen, restricting civilians' access to critical services and facilities. Further details of the 4 main types of infrastructure impacted by armed violence in 2020 are provided below. Of incidents to impact infrastructural sites in 2020, 61 were on account of airstrikes, and 55 from shelling.

Incidents impacting on civilian infrastructure in 2020



200,486 households facing restricted access to **healthcare facilities**

There was an increase in the number of incidents reported to have impacted health infrastructure, up to 20, from 14 incidents in 2019. 18 facilities were impacted in these incidents, including 22 May Hospital in Hudaydah, which was hit by shellfire twice in the past year, and a hospital in Al-Jufrah, Ma'rib, which was shelled twice as frontlines swiftly swept through the area earlier this year. 8 incidents impacted health facilities in Hudaydah, 4 in Ta'izz city and 3 in Bayda. Such incidents restrict civilians' access to critical healthcare, including specialist clinics and hospitals.



15,000 households facing restricted access to **education facilities**

The number of incidents of armed violence reported to have impacted education facilities halved from 2019 to 2020, dropping from 37 to 18. Of the 18 incidents, 7 were instances of the Hudaydah University Faculty of Engineering getting hit by shellfire, as the building sits on an active frontline in the eastern outskirts of Hudaydah city. 11 schools were impacted by armed violence, including 4 in each of Ta'izz and Ma'rib. 6 schools were hit by shellfire, and 2 by airstrikes, while another 2 were demolished by IEDs, restricting access to education for as many as 11,000 households.



110,869 households facing restricted access to **telecommunications infrastructure**

Twice as many incidents impacted telecommunications infrastructure in 2020 as in 2019, from 10 up to 20. All but 3 of the incidents to impact telecommunications infrastructure were on account of airstrikes, with the most incidents seen in Amran (7 incidents) and Sa'dah (6), serving to restrict civilians' access in a more virtual sense, with a particularly isolating effect for those communities already in peripheral or remote areas. Targeting telecommunications networks is a common tactic to impede adversaries' communications channels, but often impacts local populations.

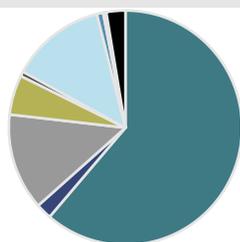


1,514,665 households facing restricted access to **transport infrastructure**

26 incidents of armed violence directly impacted transport infrastructure in 2020, down from 31 in 2019. Main roads were hit 6 times by airstrikes and 5 times by shelling, while bridges were hit 5 times, twice by airstrikes, twice by shellfire and once demolished by IEDs. Of these 16 incidents, 11 were in mountainous areas in Sa'dah and Sana'a, where damages to roads, and bridges in particular, can entirely sever routes, presenting severe access restrictions and cutting communities off from essential supplies and services. Air raids also hit Ta'izz, Sana'a and Hudaydah airports, while Aden airport was hit by missile fire.

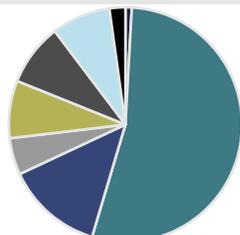
Governorate Snapshots

The below snapshots provide a profile of the civilian impact in each governorate to have seen over 100 civilian casualties in 2020:



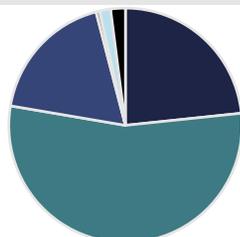
Hudaydah

Hudaydah saw more civilian casualties than any other governorate in 2020, but fewer than 2019, dropping from 768 to 457, 61% of whom were on account of shellfire. Although the Stockholm Agreement fixed the frontlines in place, fire from light and heavy weaponry continues to encroach on the city, towns and villages, putting civilians at ongoing risk of getting caught in the crossfire. There were 6 incidents in Hudaydah in which at least 10 civilian casualties were reported, including 4 mass casualty shelling incidents and 2 mass casualty landmine incidents.



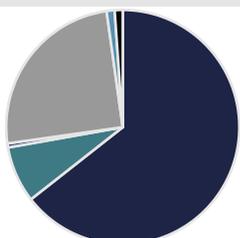
Ta'izz

Although civilian casualties remain high in Ta'izz, this decreased from 2019, from 530 to 454 in 2020. Over 60% of civilian casualties across Ta'izz governorate were reported in Ta'izz city; a densely-populated area hosting active frontlines. Residential areas are exposed to violence on a weekly basis, and civilians risk being caught in the crossfire of light and heavy weaponry, and of being harmed in attacks targeting security personnel. 6 shelling incidents in Ta'izz in 2020 resulted in at least 10 civilian casualties.



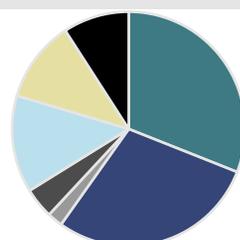
Sa'dah

197 civilian casualties were reported in Sa'dah, where, although shelling has decreased, it continues to hit the western border districts, including civilian settlements, on a weekly if not daily basis, most notably in Monabbih, Shada'a and Razih. In Ar Raqw, an informal border crossing point in Monabbih, a high number of attacks, including SAF from border patrols, impact civilians, many of whom are migrants. Sa'dah's roads and communications networks are commonly impacted, the effects of which are amplified in the remote, mountainous west.



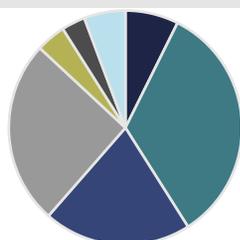
Jawf

Jawf was one of few governorates to see a significant increase in casualties in 2020, up to 180, almost entirely due to an uptick in airstrikes. Having seen no civilian airstrike casualties in 2019, coinciding with an escalation in hostilities in the governorate at the start of 2020, airstrikes picked up, killing and injuring 116 civilians in Jawf last year. Landmine casualties also remain high, at 45, the same as 2019, when landmines were responsible for more civilian casualties than any other type of armed violence. Hostilities remain focused in the frontline areas in Khab wa Ash Sha'af.



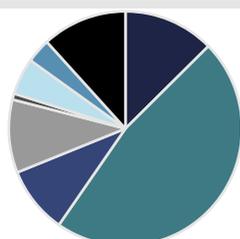
Aden

Aden also saw an increase in civilian casualties in 2020; up to 142 from 104 in 2019. The attack on Aden airport at the end of 2020 resulted in at least 44 civilian casualties. Nonetheless, as high levels of insecurity persist in the city, SAF shooting incidents were responsible for the highest civilian casualty numbers in the city, at 46. Aside from Khur Maksar, where the airport is located, the district to see the highest civilian casualty toll was Ash Sheikh Othman. The city also sees frequent protests condemning failed service provision and power outages.



Bayda

Bayda saw an increase in the number of civilian casualties compared to 2019, up to 122 in 2020, from 104 in 2019. The increase was largely on account of shelling, as frontlines swept through northern parts of the governorate, spurred on by a fierce campaign in Radman Al-Awad in June. Radman Al-Awad saw the highest civilian casualties, followed by Al-Quraishyah, another northern district. Shelling caused a third (41) of the civilian casualties in Bayda, followed by landmines, responsible for a quarter (31).



Ma'rib

In Ma'rib, civilian casualties increased fourfold, from 32 to 119, 56 of whom were on account of shelling. However, despite the frontlines being removed from densely populated areas, 71% of the civilian shelling casualties were not in frontline areas but in Ma'rib city, which came under repeated missile and rocket attacks, hitting residential and commercial property. Airstrikes were responsible for another 15 civilian casualties in Ma'rib, and 103 airstrikes were reported to have hit civilian houses across the governorate, as hostilities progressed along frontlines in the north and south.

