

CIMP QUARTERLY REPORT

Q1: JANUARY- MARCH 2020

This is the Civilian Impact Monitoring Project quarterly report, providing an overview of all incidents of armed violence reported in January, February and March 2020 across the country that had a direct civilian impact. The report covers civilian casualties, incident distribution, type of armed violence and impact upon civilian infrastructure, as well as providing key analytical takeaways from the quarter.

ANALYTICAL HIGHLIGHTS

Civilian casualties increased in the first three months of 2020, although remain lower than the average casualty rates in 2018 and 2019

Armed violence in Yemen directly resulted in 506 civilian casualties from 1 January to 31 March 2020 (Q1 2020); an increase of 8% from the 467 civilian casualties reported in the final three months of 2019 (Q4 2019). The increase to start this year ended two successive quarters of falling civilian casualty totals. However, the 506 casualties recorded this quarter is still 37% below the quarterly average for 2019 (806) and less than half the 1,233 average reported in 2018.

There was an increase in civilian impact incidents in Q1 2020, driven by developments in Al-Hudaydah

The number of civilian impact incidents increased this quarter, bringing an end to five consecutive quarters of falling incident rates countrywide. 456 incidents of armed violence were reported to have directly impacted on civilians, up 18% from Q4 2019. More than half of the incidents (52%) were reported in Al-Hudaydah governorate, a greater proportion than in the previous quarter, when the governorate saw 43% of country-wide incidents. More than half of the impacted governorates saw an increase in incident levels, including in Sana'a, Al-Jawf, and Marib, coinciding with a re-eruption in fighting on the three fronts.

Al-Hudaydah saw more civilian casualties than any other governorate

In line with the most civilian impact incidents in the country, Al-Hudaydah governorate also saw the highest civilian casualty toll, constituting 27% of the country-wide total. 136 civilian casualties were reported in the governorate in Q1 2020, 60% more than the 80 recorded in Q4 2019. Civilian casualties also significantly increased in Al-Jawf, more than tripling from the previous quarter as they rose from 28 to 87. This was largely the result of a mass casualty incident that caused 58 civilian casualties, detailed below, the most casualties reported in a single incident this quarter.

Shelling remains the primary cause of civilian casualties

For the sixth consecutive quarter, shelling was responsible for the most civilian casualties, directly causing 201 civilian casualties in Q1 2020. This is, however, the fewest casualties resulting from shelling since Q2 2018. The toll from shellfire has been gradually declining on a quarterly basis since a peak of 594 civilian casualties in Q3 2018. Al-Hudaydah saw the most civilian casualties from shellfire, 84 in total, 42% of all shellfire casualties countrywide.

Small arms and light weapon fire was the deadliest type of armed violence this quarter

There was a significant increase in the number of civilian casualties caused by small arms and light weapon fire (SA/LW). 146 civilian casualties were caused by SA/LW in Q1 2020, up 55% from 94 in Q4 2019. Of these casualties, 16 were caused by sniper fire, 69% of whom were women (7) and children (4). SA/LW was also responsible for the highest number of civilian fatalities, 66, double the death toll from such incidents in Q4 2019. Despite causing the highest casualty rate overall, shellfire resulted in only 48 fatalities in Q1 2020.

There was an increase in child casualties in the first quarter of the year

156 (31%) of the 506 civilian casualties in Q1 2020 were children, up 38% from the 113 child casualties reported in Q4 2019. The proportion of child casualties also increased, from 1 in 4 in 2019, to 1 in 3 during the first quarter of 2020. Over the second half of 2019, Al-Hudaydah governorate saw the most child casualties. However, despite Al-Hudaydah again seeing the overall highest civilian casualty numbers this quarter, the child casualty toll in the governorate (39) was exceeded by Al-Jawf (46), where more than half of the civilian casualties (53%) reported in Q1 2020 were children.

Civilian impact increased in Sana'a, Al-Jawf, and Marib as hostilities escalated

The start of 2020 saw an escalation in fighting in the north of the country as fierce hostilities re-erupted on the frontlines in Sana'a governorate and subsequently spread to Al-Jawf and Marib. The escalation saw intense clashes and quickly moving frontlines, which, now concentrated in Marib, continue to threaten civilians. Both civilian impact incident rates and civilian casualty numbers steadily increased on a monthly basis from December 2019 through March 2020. Across the three governorates, Q1 2020 saw 43 civilian impact incidents, higher than the previous two quarters combined. 114 civilian casualties were also reported in Sana'a, Marib, and Al-Jawf, more than triple the 37 civilian casualties reported in the governorates in Q4 2019. This is the most civilian casualties recorded in the three governorates in a single quarter since CIMP began monitoring in 2018.

Critical civilian infrastructure has also been impacted by hostilities in Marib, including schools and hospitals

Amid ongoing hostilities in Marib, there were repeated instances of rocket and missile fire hitting civilian neighbourhoods, including Marib city, in Q1 2020. Of 5 incidents reported to have impacted on education infrastructure across the country, 3 were reported in Marib. 2 schools were reportedly destroyed in Majzar district, one demolished with explosives in February and another struck by airstrikes in March, restricting access to education for as many as 2,000 households in the district. A school was also damaged when a missile hit As Salam neighbourhood in Marib City on 17 March. Furthermore, countrywide, 6 incidents of armed violence impacted directly on health facilities in Q1 2020, a threefold increase from Q4 2019. The majority (4) of these were in Al-Hudaydah, though 2 hospitals were also reportedly hit by shellfire in Majzar.

Airstrike incident in Al-Jawf caused the most civilian casualties in the quarter

After a significant reduction in civilian casualties caused by airstrikes in Q4 2019, following the negotiation of a partial ceasefire, Q1 2020 saw civilian casualties from airstrikes increase more than fourfold, from 15 to 71. This was driven largely by a mass casualty incident in Al-Jawf. On 15 February, airstrikes hit the crash site of a jet fighter in the Al-Hayjah area of Al-Maslub district, where civilians had been gathering, killing and injuring 58 civilians. 35 civilians, including 26 children, were reportedly killed in the incident, and 23 injured, including 18 children. Nihm district in Sana'a also saw a significant uptick in airstrike incidents impacting on civilian structures, rising from 0 to 9, more than any other district in the country, though no civilian casualties were reported.

Telecommunications infrastructure impacted by airstrikes

The first three months of 2020 saw 4 incidents of armed violence impact directly on telecommunications infrastructure, after no incidents during the previous quarter. 3 of the incidents were reported in Sa'ada, assessed to have restricted access to telecommunications infrastructure for as many as 25,128 households. Sa'ada saw 5 of the 10 incidents reported to have impacted directly on telecommunications infrastructure in 2019. 1 incident was also reported in Al-Hudaydah, impacting an estimated 518 households when the communications building on Kamaran island was hit by airstrikes. All of the incidents were caused by airstrikes, in line with the 80% caused by airstrikes during 2019.

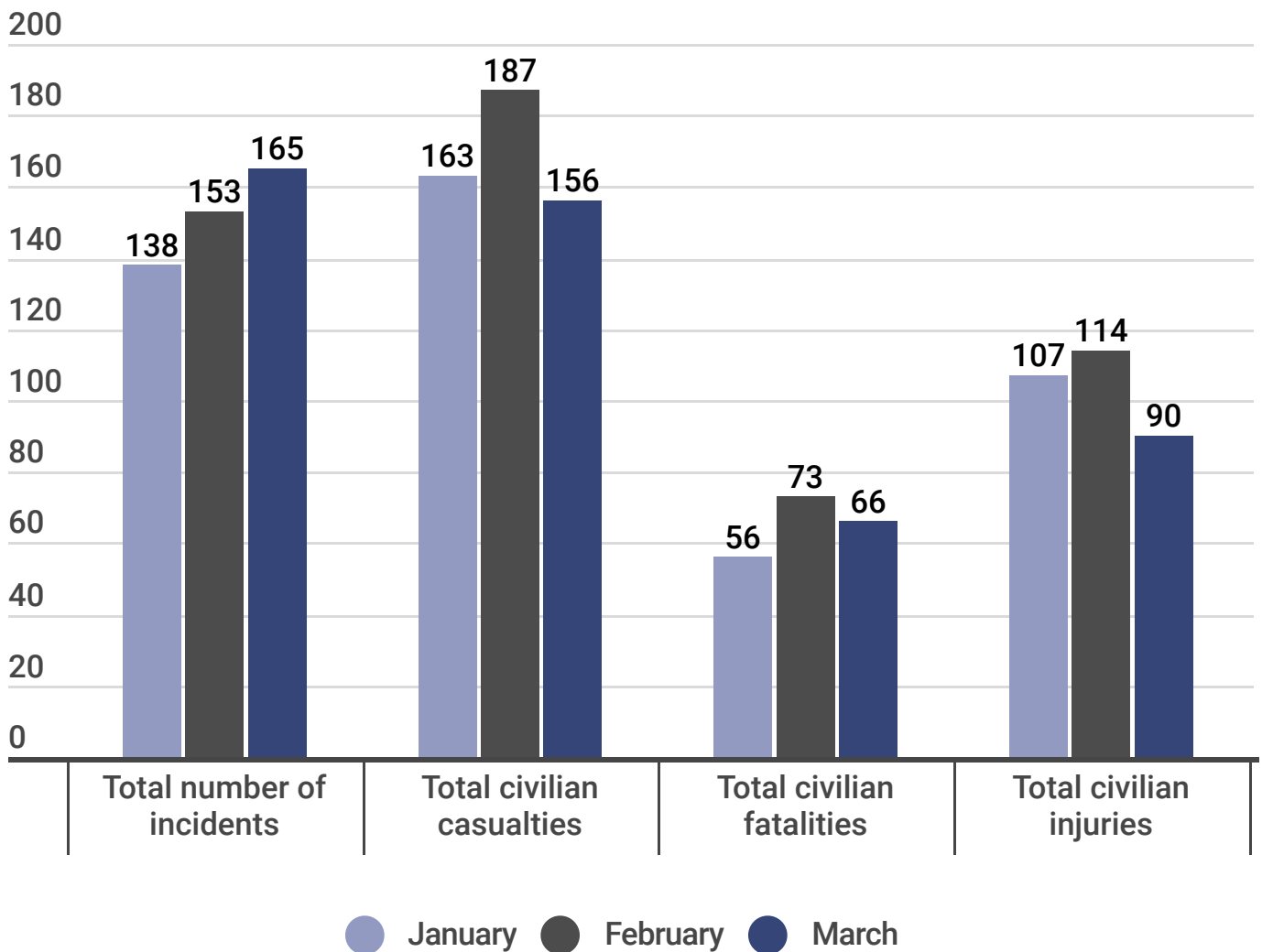
Transport infrastructure also impacted by hostilities in Q1 2020

8 incidents of armed violence were reported to have impacted on transport infrastructure during Q1 2020, up from 5 during the previous quarter and the highest seen since Q1 2019. Corresponding with the uptick in airstrikes on the north of the country, 6 of the incidents were caused by air raids. 2 airstrikes reportedly destroyed bridges in Khawlan district in eastern Sana'a governorate in March, restricting access for as many as 5,173 households, while a main road was also hit by airstrikes in Nihm district in Sana'a, restricting access for another 7,841 households. 2 airstrike incidents also hit roads in Razih and Shada'a districts in Sa'ada on 26 March, assessed to have impacted over 16,000 households. Shelling was also responsible for 2 incidents in Al-Hudaydah, damaging bridges in Hays in January and February, restricting access for 9,620 households.

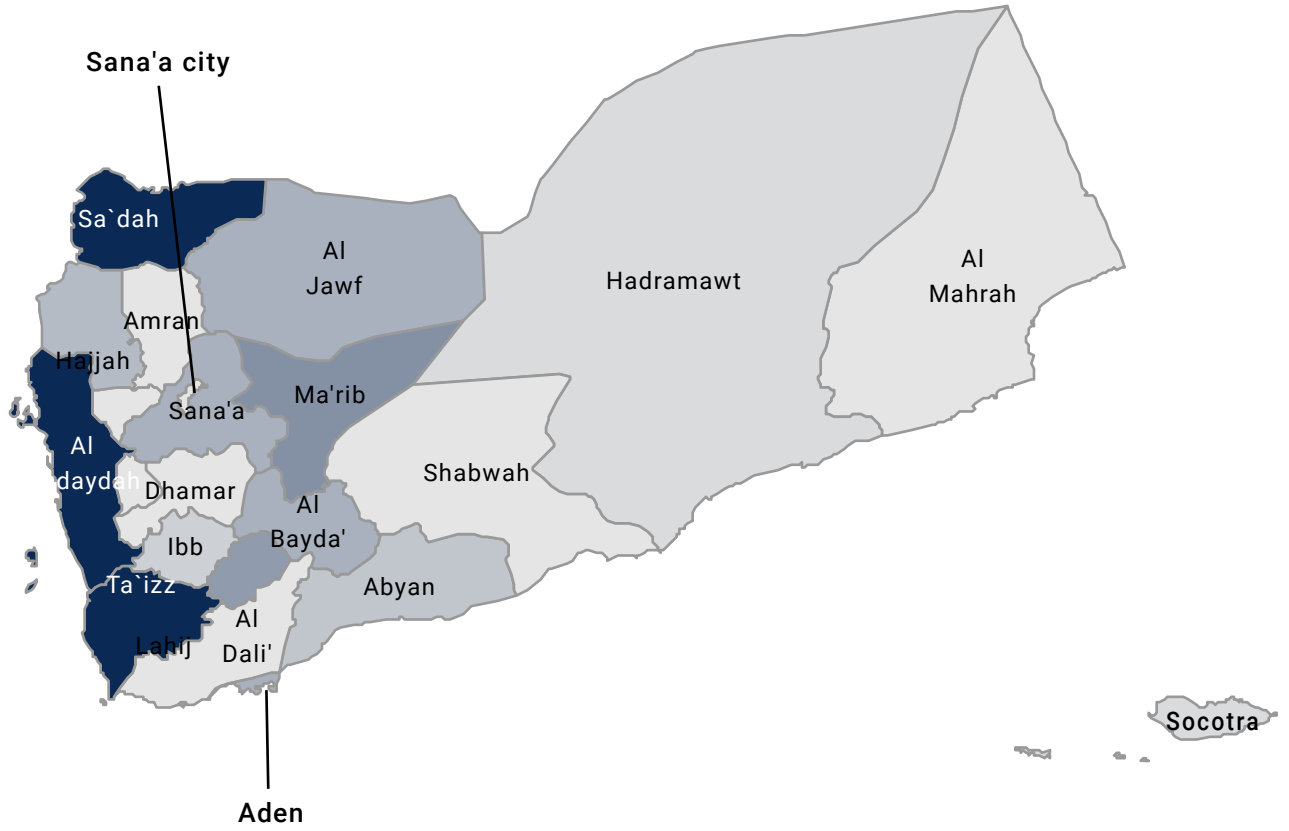
NATIONWIDE SNAPSHOT: CIVILIAN IMPACT FROM INCIDENTS OF ARMED VIOLENCE (JANUARY- MARCH 2020)

Total Civilian Casualties:	506	Civilian impact incidents:	456
Fatalities:	195	Psychosocial trauma incidents:	408
Children / Women:	66/29	Vulnerability incidents:	325
Injures:	311	Children and Women:	269
Children / Women:	90/ 32	Children / Women / IDPs / Refugees:	37/ 13/ 04/ 02

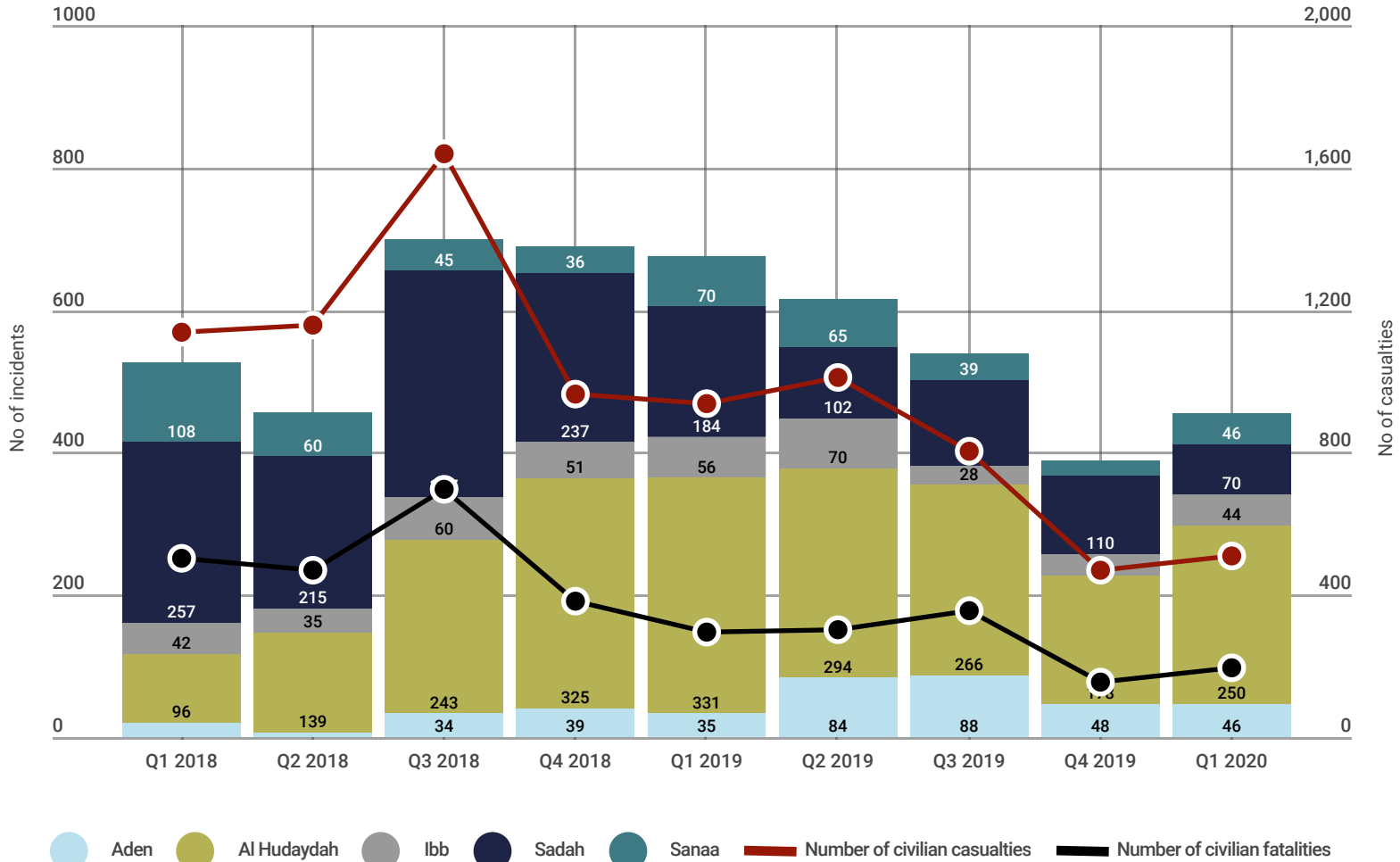
TOTAL NUMBER OF CIVILIAN IMPACT INCIDENTS AND CIVILIAN CASUALTIES BY MONTH



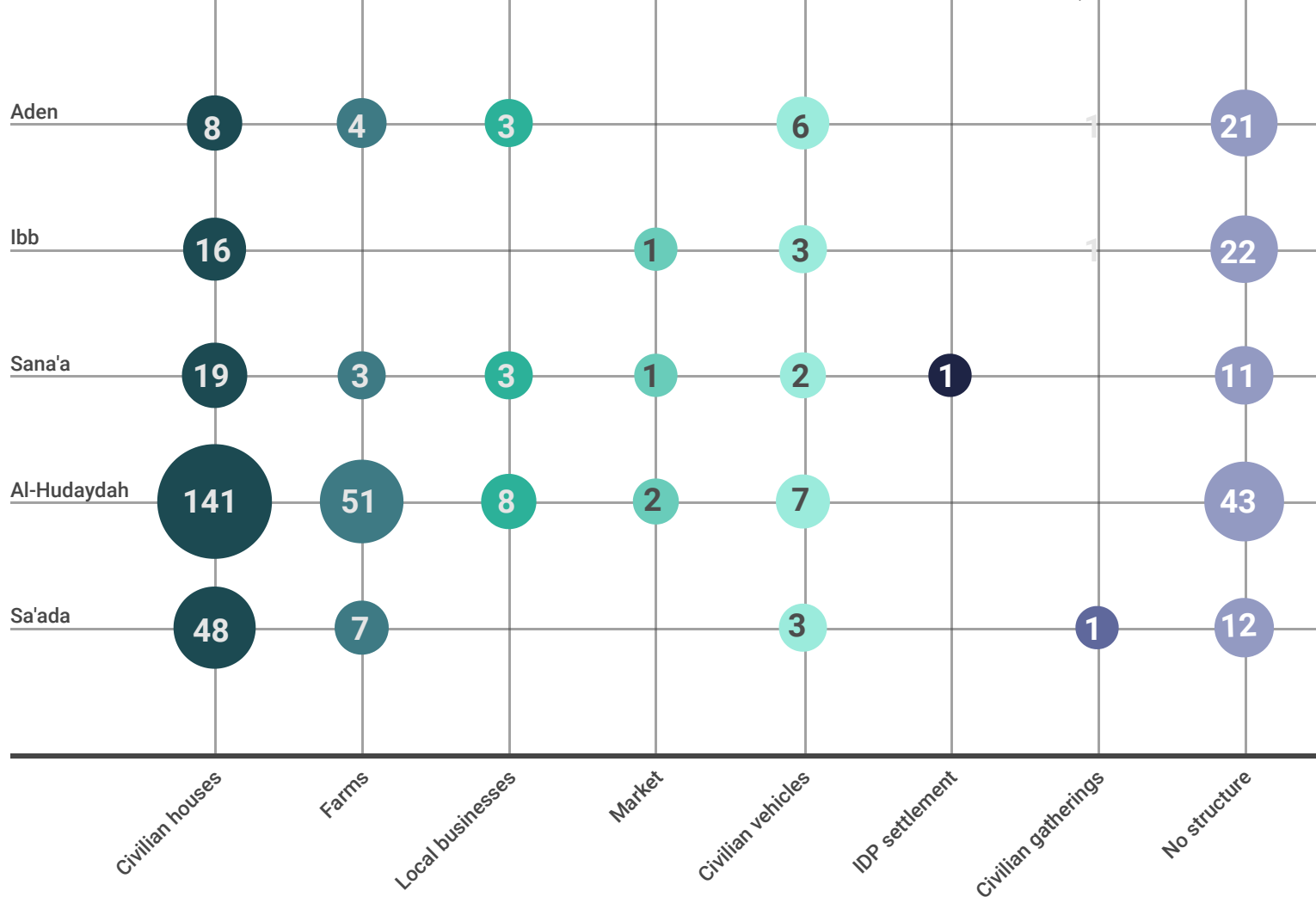
DISTRIBUTION OF CIVILIAN IMPACT INCIDENTS IN Q1 2020 BY GOVERNORATE



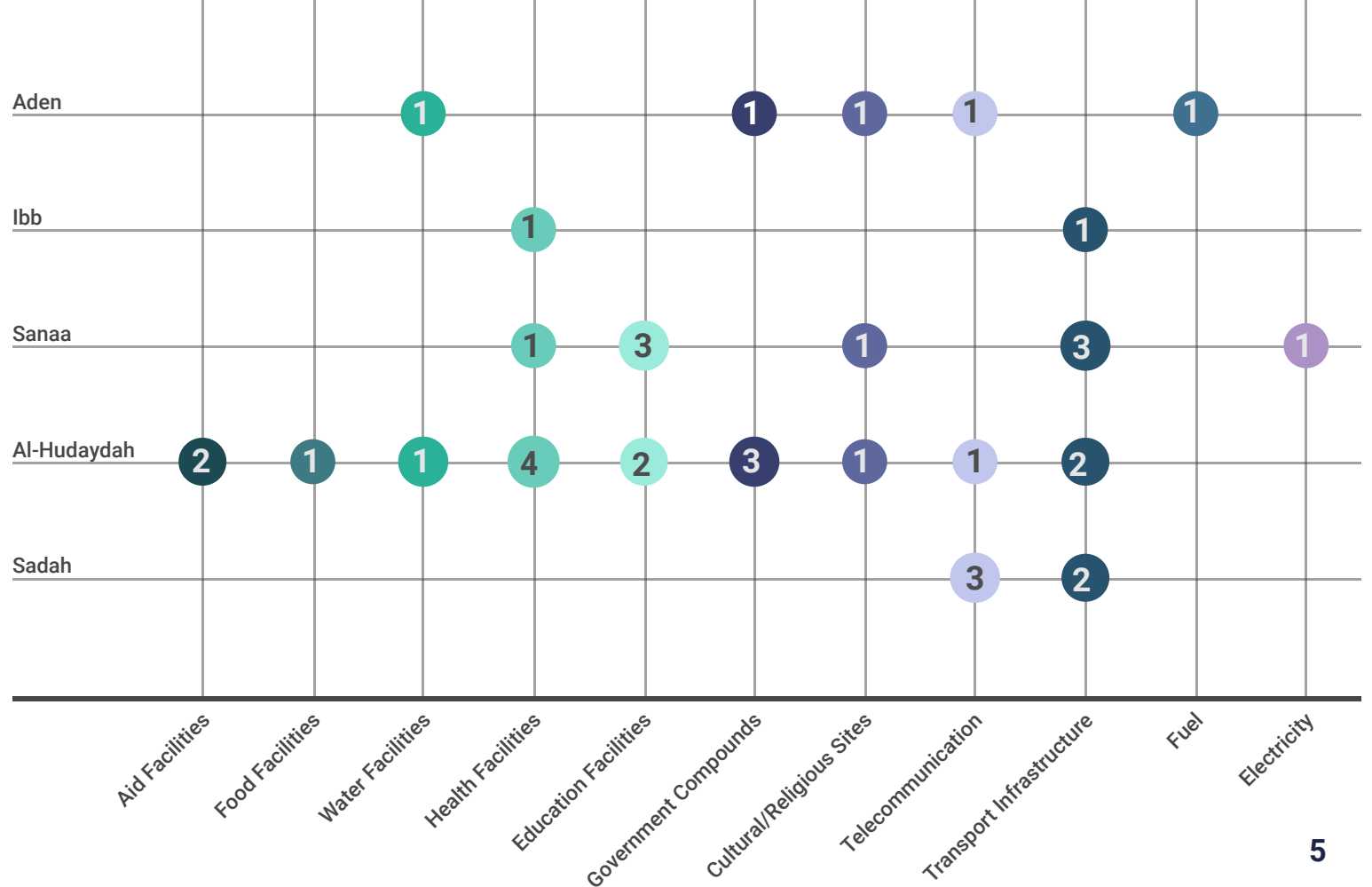
NUMBER OF INCIDENTS PER HUB AND TOTAL CIVILIAN CASUALTIES PER QUARTER



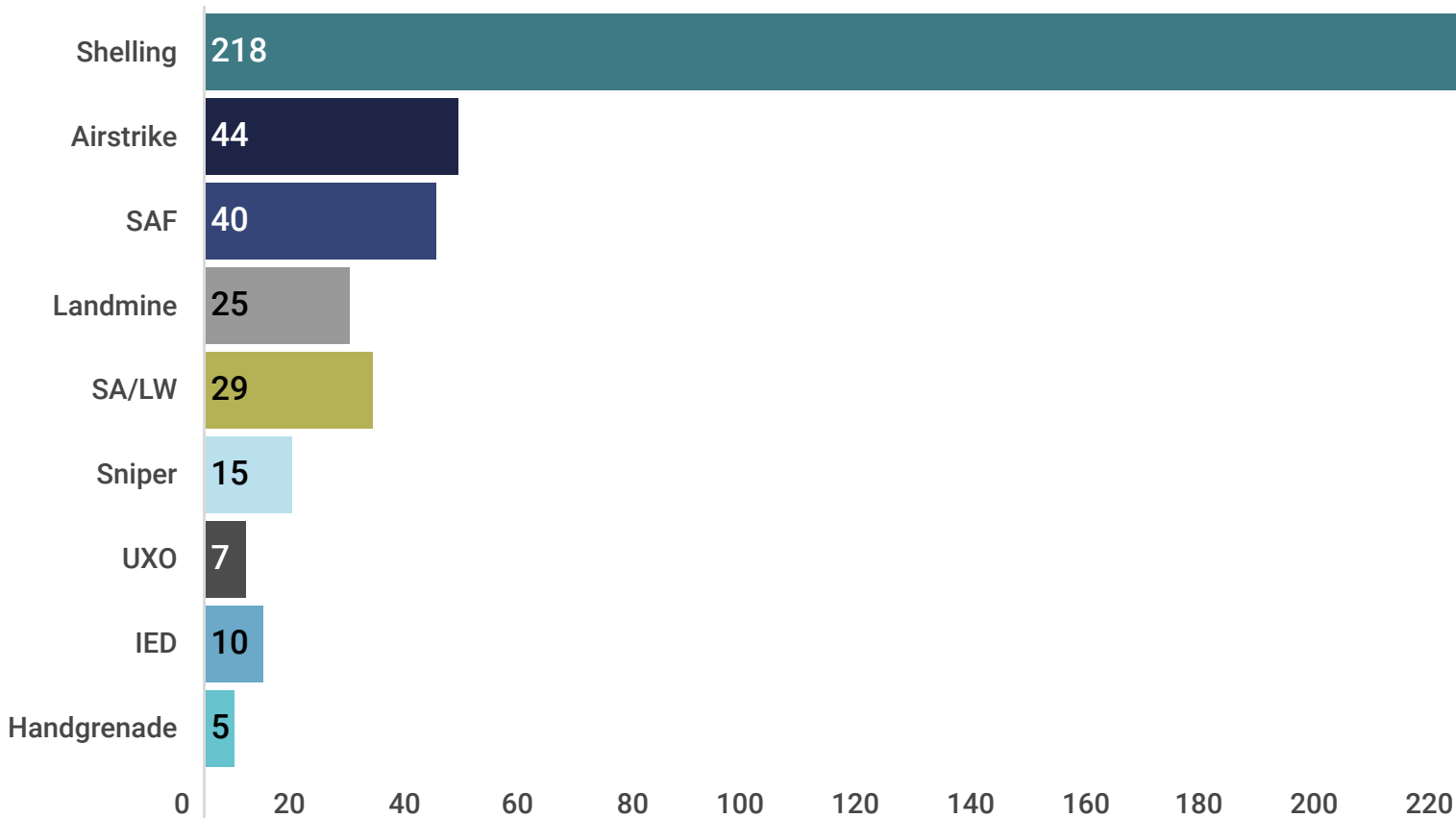
NUMBER OF INCIDENTS IMPACTING ON CIVILIAN STRUCTURES DURING Q1 2020 BY HUB



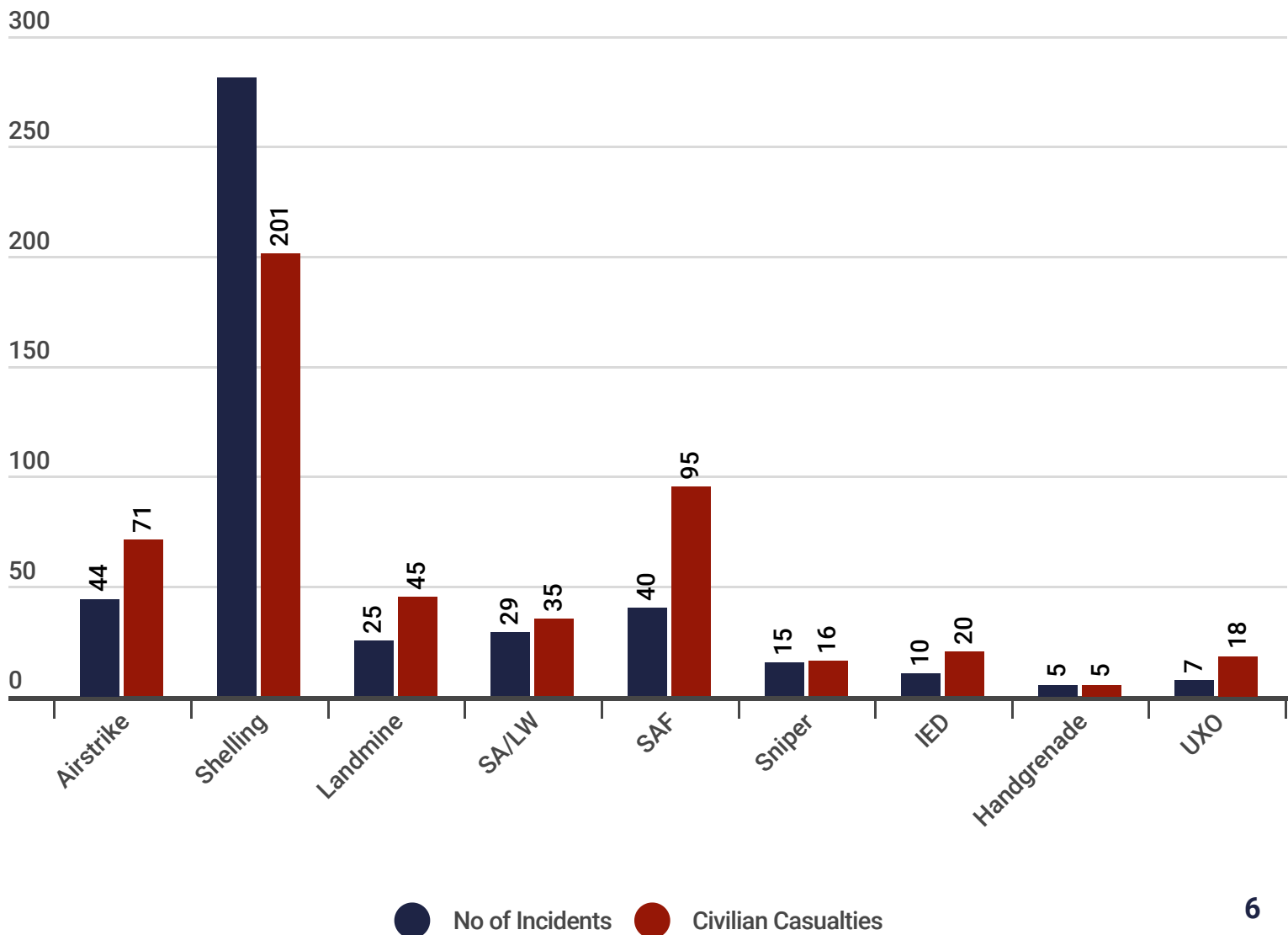
NUMBER OF INCIDENTS IMPACTING ON INFRASTRUCTURE DURING Q1 2020 BY HUB



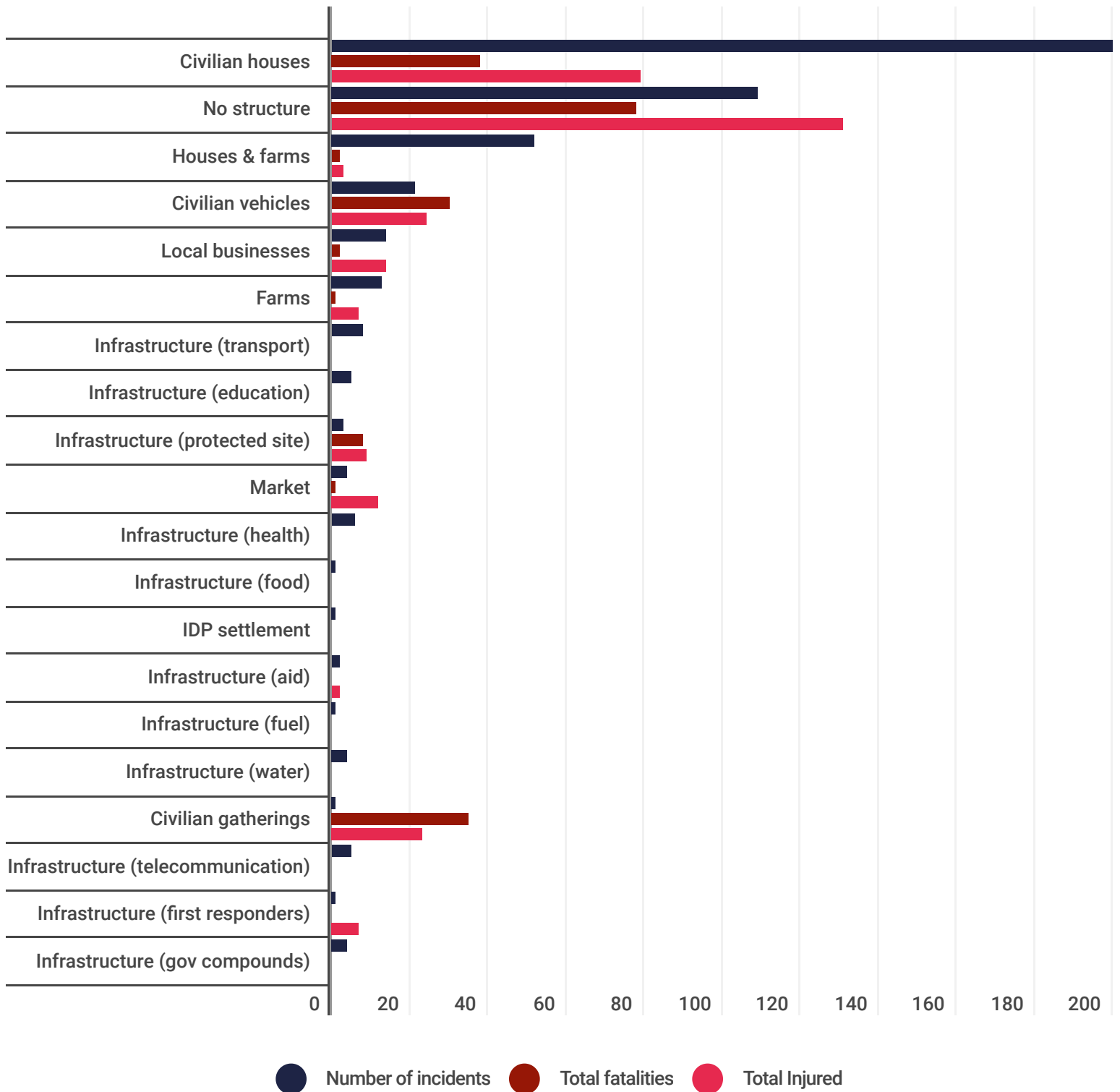
INCIDENTS IMPACTING ON CIVILIANS IN Q1 2020, BY TYPE OF ARMED VIOLENCE



CIVILIAN CASUALTIES BY TYPE OF ARMED VIOLENCE IN Q1 2020



NUMBER OF INCIDENTS, FATALITIES AND INJURIES BY CIVILIAN STRUCTURE IN Q1 2020



DIRECT PROTECTION IMPLICATIONS OF INCIDENTS OF ARMED VIOLENCE ON CIVILIANS

DISPLACEMENT



Number of affected households

1,116

Number of Incidents
251

LOSS OF LIVELIHOOD



Number of affected households

1,181

Number of Incidents
81

RESTRICTED FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT AND ASSEMBLY



Number of affected households

321

Number of Incidents
133

OBSTRUCTION TO FLIGHT



Number of affected households

1,550

Number of Incidents
1

INDIRECT PROTECTION IMPLICATIONS - HOUSEHOLDS EXPERIENCING RESTRICTED ACCESS



107,669

households facing restricted access to:

Health, education, first responders, worship

Number of Incidents

15



558,534

households facing restricted access to:

Transport, telecommunication, media, fuel, governmental buildings, recreation, electricity

Number of Incidents

19



476,123

households facing restricted access to:

Water facilities, aid, food

Number of Incidents

7

The Civilian Impact Monitoring Project is a monitoring mechanism for the collection, analysis and dissemination of open source data on the civilian impact from armed violence in Yemen, in order to inform and complement protection programming.



CIVILIAN IMPACT MONITORING PROJECT
a service of the Protection Cluster Yemen



Protection Cluster Yemen

For further information, please contact us at contact@civilianimpact.org or visit our website: civilianimpactmonitoring.org