

CIMP QUARTERLY REPORT

Q3: JULY - SEPTEMBER 2020

This is the Civilian Impact Monitoring Project quarterly report, providing an overview of all incidents of armed violence reported in July, August and September 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

28% more civilians were killed by armed violence in Q3 2020 than in Q2 2020

Across the country, the number of incidents of armed violence reported to have directly impacted on civilians decreased from the previous quarter. However, the number of civilian casualties reported during Q3 2020 increased to 527, up 11% from Q2 2020, and the highest since Q3 2019. There were several factors responsible for the uptick in civilian casualties. The most significant increases were seen in Jawf, which saw a more than sixfold increase from Q2, driven by a high casualty count (52) from airstrikes, and in Ma'rib and Bayda, which together saw a 78% increase in civilian casualties, in line with the escalation in hostilities seen in southern Ma'rib along the border with Bayda and the accompanying uptick in airstrikes. By type of armed violence, the increase in civilian casualties can largely be attributed to airstrikes, sniper fire and UXO. Furthermore, the number of civilian fatalities saw a proportionately higher increase, up 28% to 215 in Q3, from 168 during Q2, and the highest toll reported since Q3 2019.

The number of civilian casualties caused by airstrikes doubled in Q3 2020

Twice as many civilians were killed and injured by airstrikes during Q3 than during Q2, up to 94 from 47. Having seen no civilian casualties on account of airstrikes during Q2, airstrikes resulted in 52 civilian casualties in Jawf during Q3; more than all other governorates combined. The high number was largely driven by two mass casualty incidents. On 15 July, 24 civilians were killed, including 6 children and 2 women, and 7 civilians were injured, including 5 children and 2 women, when airstrikes hit a house during a celebratory occasion in Al-Maraziq area in Khabb wa ash Sha'af district. Three weeks later, on 6 August, 9 children were killed and 12 civilians were injured, including 7 children and 4 women, when airstrikes hit 3 civilian vehicles in Al-Maatarah area in Khabb wa ash Shaaf. The civilians were reportedly hit while travelling to Eid festivities. A mass casualty airstrike incident was also reported in Hajjah on 12 July; 7 children and 2 women were killed and 2 children and 2 women were injured when airstrikes hit a house in Bayt Al-Qutayb in Washhah district.

Child casualties increased during Q3, particularly on account of airstrikes

135 child casualties were reported as a result of armed violence during Q3, 53 of whom were fatalities. This is a 61% increase in child fatalities on account of armed violence compared to Q2, when 33 children were killed by armed violence. Notably, five times as many children were killed or injured by airstrikes during Q3 than during Q2, up to 45 from 9. More children were killed or injured by airstrikes than by any other type of armed violence over the past three months. Conversely, the number of reported women casualties saw a decrease, dropping by 14% from 90 to 77, of whom 32 died. Despite the overall decrease, more than twice as many women (18) were killed or injured by airstrikes during Q3 than during Q2. This is also the highest number of women to be harmed by airstrikes in one quarter since Q2 2019. Resultantly, two thirds (63) of the 94 airstrike casualties in Q3 were women and children, an increase from Q2, when one third (16) of the 47 civilian casualties reported from airstrikes were women and children. The high casualty toll among women in Q2 was driven in large part by a shelling incident on the women's section of Ta'izz Central Prison in Al-Mudhaffar, in which 8 women were killed and at least 26 injured.

Shelling continues to result in the most civilian casualties (one in three) in Q3 2020

Despite airstrikes causing more civilian casualties in Q3 than in Q2, for the eighth consecutive quarter shelling remained responsible for more civilian casualties across the country than any other type of armed violence, resulting in 172 civilian casualties; roughly a third (32%) of the total. Shelling was also responsible for almost half (204) of all 431 civilian impact incidents reported during Q3. The 172 civilian casualties it caused, however, marks a small decrease compared to the previous quarter, when shelling resulted in 185 civilian casualties. This is the eighth consecutive quarter to have seen this downward trend. It is also the third consecutive quarter to see a decrease in the proportion of casualties on account of shellfire, down from 38% in Q2 2020, 39% in Q1 2020, and 49% in Q4 2019. Moreover, half as many children were harmed by shellfire in Q3 2020 than in Q2 2020; 29, down from 60. The same was true for women; 57% fewer were harmed by shellfire in Q3 than Q2, down from 65 to 25. The decrease is likely largely on account of frontlines shifting away from residential areas: 27% fewer houses (765) were hit by shellfire in Q3 than during Q2 (1,049), with the reduction most notable

4 in 5 civilians injured or killed by sniper fire in Q3 were women and children

The number of women and children killed or injured in sniper incidents this quarter almost tripled, rising from 12 to 31, of whom 25 (81%) were women (11) and children (14). Ta'izz saw the highest number of civilian casualties on account of sniper fire; 12, of whom 10 were women and children, followed by Dali', where all 9 civilian sniper casualties were women and children. In Ta'izz, civilian sniper victims were reported across frontlines in and around the city, including in Salh and Al-Qahirah, and in the districts on main routes to the south of the city, including Al-Ma'afer, Al-Misrakh and Sabir Al-Mawadim. While it remains unclear as to what has driven the increase in sniper casualties, particularly among women and children, it is possible that the shootings are being carried out as an intimidatory tactic in line with mounting hostilities, particularly on the outskirts of Ta'izz city.

For the second consecutive quarter, Ta'izz saw the highest number of civilian casualties

Despite seeing a decrease compared to Q2, when Ta'izz saw 132 civilian casualties on account of armed violence, 94 civilian casualties were reported in the governorate in Q3, more than in any other governorate. Each month through Q3 saw an increase in civilian casualties, rising from 22 in July to 28 in August, and jumping to 44 in September, coinciding with an uptick in clashes on the outskirts of Ta'izz city, which has included repeated reports of shelling hitting civilian neighbourhoods. Of the September casualties, 18 were reported in Salh, a hotspot district on Ta'izz city's eastern outskirts. The second highest number of civilian casualties was reported in Hudaydah, where 76 civilian casualties were reported, more than half (60%) on account of shelling, although this was also a decrease from the 92 civilian casualties reported in Q2.

Q3 saw the most civilian casualties on account of UXO in one quarter since Q2 2019, mostly children

Unexploded ordnance (UXO) killed and injured 28 civilians across Yemen in Q3, of whom 23 (82%) were children. This is a fourfold increase from the 7 civilian UXO victims reported in Q2. Q3's UXO casualties were on account of 7 instances of UXO detonating, averaging 4 civilian casualties per detonation. In north western Ma'rib, 6 children were killed, and another 4 children injured, in 2 separate UXO incidents in the space of less than two weeks, on 27 July and 7 August, both in Harib Al-Qaramish district. Another 9 children were injured in a UXO explosion in Al-Mualla, Aden, on 1 July. Further casualties, including children, were reported in explosions in Dali', Hudaydah, Lahij and Shabwah. Children are particularly susceptible to UXO incidents, due in part to their inquisitiveness, coupled with a lack of awareness of the dangers of unfamiliar devices. However, while UXO casualties increased, the number of civilian casualties on account of landmine explosions halved during Q3 compared to Q2. It is possible that the higher landmine casualty counts earlier this year were partly driven by heavy rains, which not only hold the potential to cause landmine drift, bringing devices closer to the surface or into new areas, but can also, due to route disruptions, force civilians to pass through areas where the risk of landmines is higher.

Airstrikes hit an estimated 244 houses this quarter, 186 of which were in Ma'rib

As hostilities escalated in Ma'rib during the past quarter, so too did accompanying airstrikes, particularly along the frontline areas and main routes leading to these. However, a high number of airstrikes also directly impacted on the civilian population in the governorate. Although the civilian casualty count from airstrikes in Ma'rib was relatively low, at 13, this also is the first quarter since Q4 2018 to have seen civilian casualties on account of airstrikes in the governorate, accompanying an escalation in hostilities in the south of the governorate. All 13 civilian airstrike casualties were reported in the south, in Mahliyah district (11) and neighbouring Rahabah (2), on account of strikes hitting civilian vehicles and local businesses. Furthermore, of 244 houses impacted by airstrikes in Q3, three quarters (186) were in Ma'rib, distributed across the frontlines in the north, west and south of the governorate. Although no casualties were reported in these incidents, such incidents put women and children at particular risk, due to the domestic nature of the spaces impacted, while also threatening displacement.

Cross-border attacks on Shada'a and Monabbih saw an increase towards the end of the quarter

Cross border hostilities persisted in Sa'dah throughout Q3. While the number of civilian casualties as a result of armed violence remained unchanged from Q2, with another 50 civilian casualties reported in the governorate over the past three months, this included 17 civilian casualties in Shada'a and 18 in Monabbih, the latter of whom were all reported during September. Civilian casualties were last reported in Monabbih in February, and the increase over the past quarter appears to be on account of a recent uptick in reports of civilians being subjected to violence in the border areas, particularly around Ar Raqw market, which has a high migrant population and sees frequent attempts at border crossings into Saudi Arabia. 13 of the casualties in the district were on account of shelling, and 5 on account of SAF from border patrols. The last time Monabbih saw a high casualty count was in Q4 2019, when hostilities along the border resulted in 127 civilian casualties, driven largely by several mass casualty incidents in Ar Raqw.

Increase in incidents of armed violence impacting on education infrastructure

6 incidents of armed violence were reported to have directly impacted on education infrastructure during Q3 2020, an increase from 4 such incidents reported during the previous quarter. Of these, 3 were reports of shellfire hitting the Hudaydah University Faculty of Engineering, which sits in an area in the eastern outskirts of the city that has been subsumed by hostilities since 2018, when the Hudaydah Ceasefire fixed the frontlines in place. Since then, while there has been little change to the frontlines in Hudaydah, the weight of civilian impact incidents have been concentrated in these areas too. A school was also reportedly demolished with improvised explosives in Bayt Maghari, a hotspot village in Hayz,

in southern Hudaydah, which has seen regular clashes throughout the year. Property demolitions are a common intimidatory tactic deployed by the warring parties in Yemen. Of note, Q3 2020 also saw the highest number of civilian houses demolished by IEDs in one quarter since Q3 2019, the majority of which corresponded with the main frontlines in Bayda (6), Ma'rib (7) and Hudaydah (7). The other 2 incidents saw 2 schools hit by shellfire, one in Ma'rib city, and another in Sabir Al-Mawadim, on the outskirts of Ta'izz city, each restricting access to education for children from as many as 1,000 households, while also increasing the likelihood of psychosocial trauma among children living through the conflict.

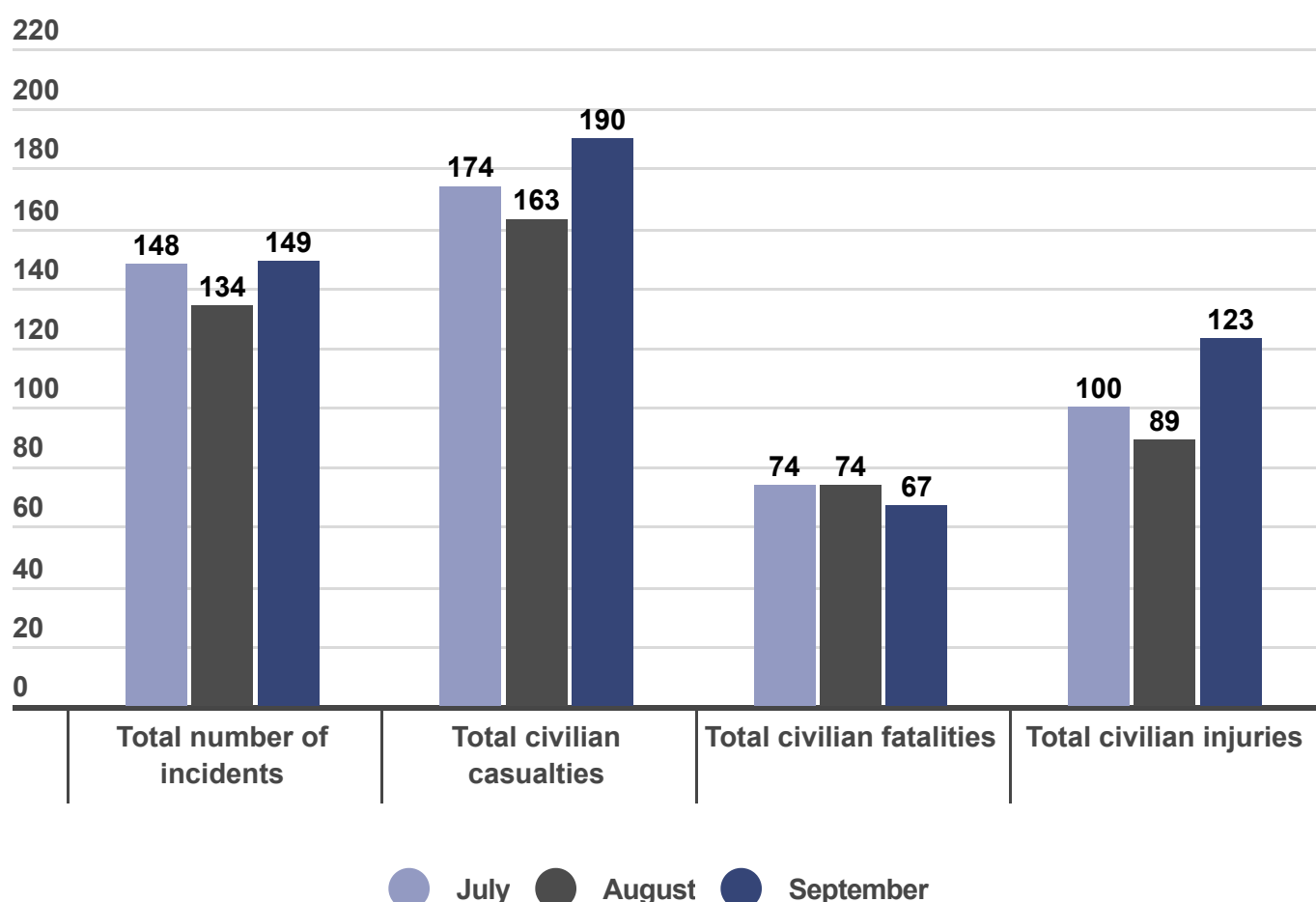
Incidents of armed violence impacting on transport infrastructure more than doubled

There was an increase in the number of incidents impacting on transport infrastructure in Q3 compared to Q2, more than doubling from 3 to 7. In line with a surge in airstrikes across the country in September, 2 airstrikes were reported to have hit Sana'a International Airport, presenting ongoing restrictions to civilians' access to overseas travel options. There were also 5 instances of shellfire hitting main roads. 3 of these were in Sa'dah's western border districts, in Razih, Ad Dhaher and Shada'a, all of which saw main roads hit by shellfire on 18 August, restricting access to critical transport infrastructure for as many as 21,178 households. In what is already highly restrictive mountainous terrain, such instances serve to further isolate communities in remote, peripheral areas, holding the potential to sever critical links with other communities, trading hubs, and social ties. The remaining 2 incidents were also on account of shelling hit main roads; one incident in Mahliyah, Ma'rib, as hostilities advanced through the area in early August, restricting access for as many as 1,824 households, while also likely implicating all movement along the main north-south route in southern Ma'rib, and the other incident on the outskirts of Sheerah, Abyan, restricting access along the main coastal road linking other southern governorates with Aden.

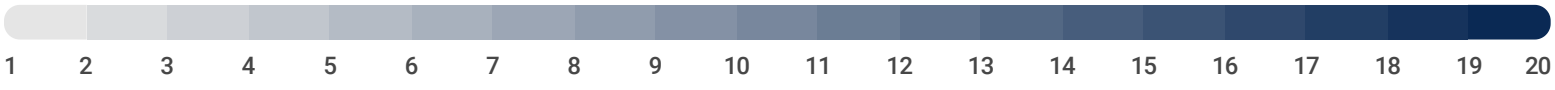
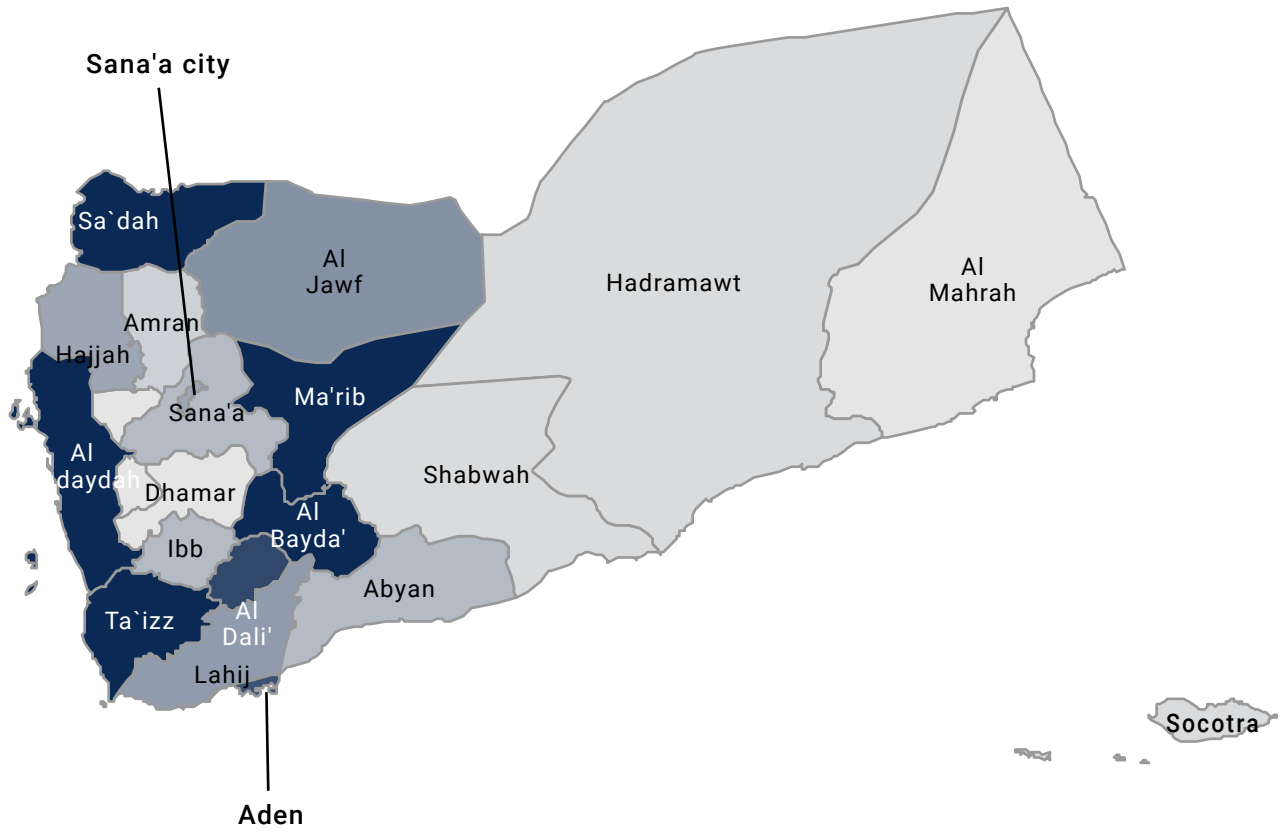
NATIONWIDE SNAPSHOT: CIVILIAN IMPACT FROM INCIDENTS OF ARMED VIOLENCE Q3: JULY - SEPTEMBER 2020

| | | | |
|-----------------------------------|----------------|--|--------------------|
| Total Civilian Casualties: | 527 | Civilian impact incidents: | 431 |
| Fatalities: | 215 | Psychosocial trauma incidents: | 388 |
| Children / Women: | 53 / 32 | Vulnerability incidents: | 309 |
| Injures: | 312 | Children and Women: | 249 |
| Children / Women: | 82 / 45 | Children / Women / IDPs and Migrants: | 34 / 24 / 2 |

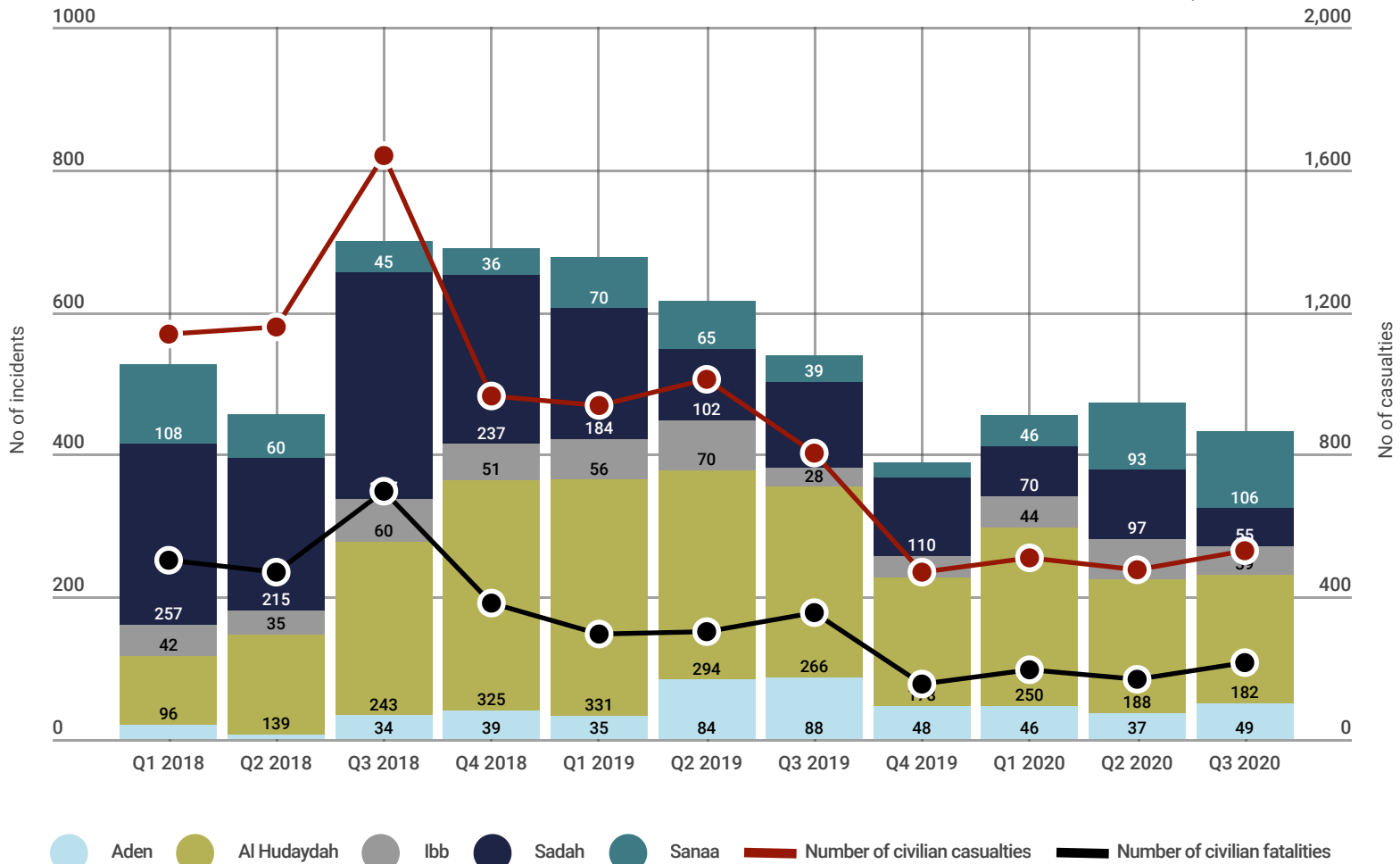
TOTAL NUMBER OF CIVILIAN IMPACT INCIDENTS AND CIVILIAN CASUALTIES BY MONTH



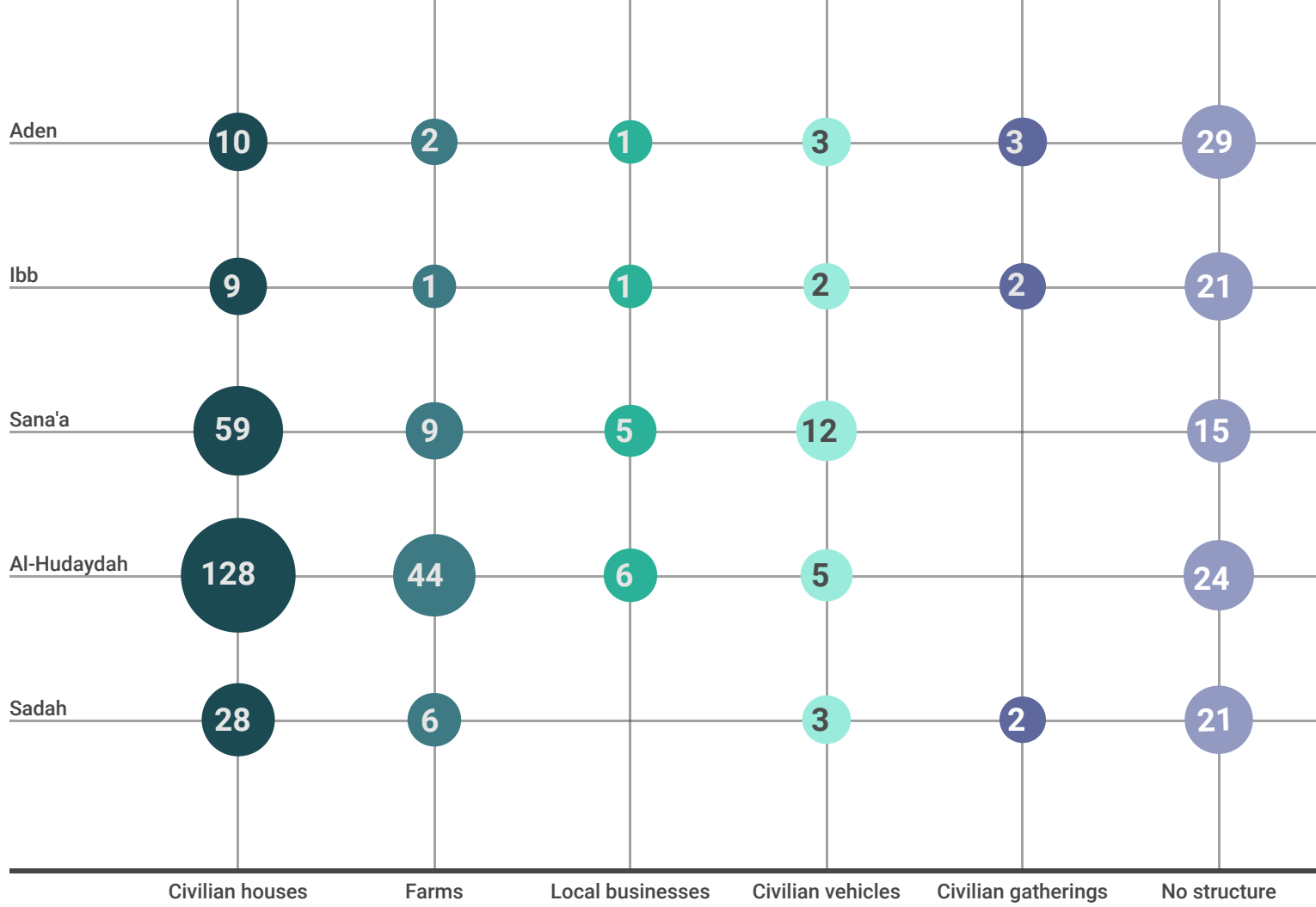
DISTRIBUTION OF CIVILIAN IMPACT INCIDENTS IN Q3 2020 BY GOVERNORATE



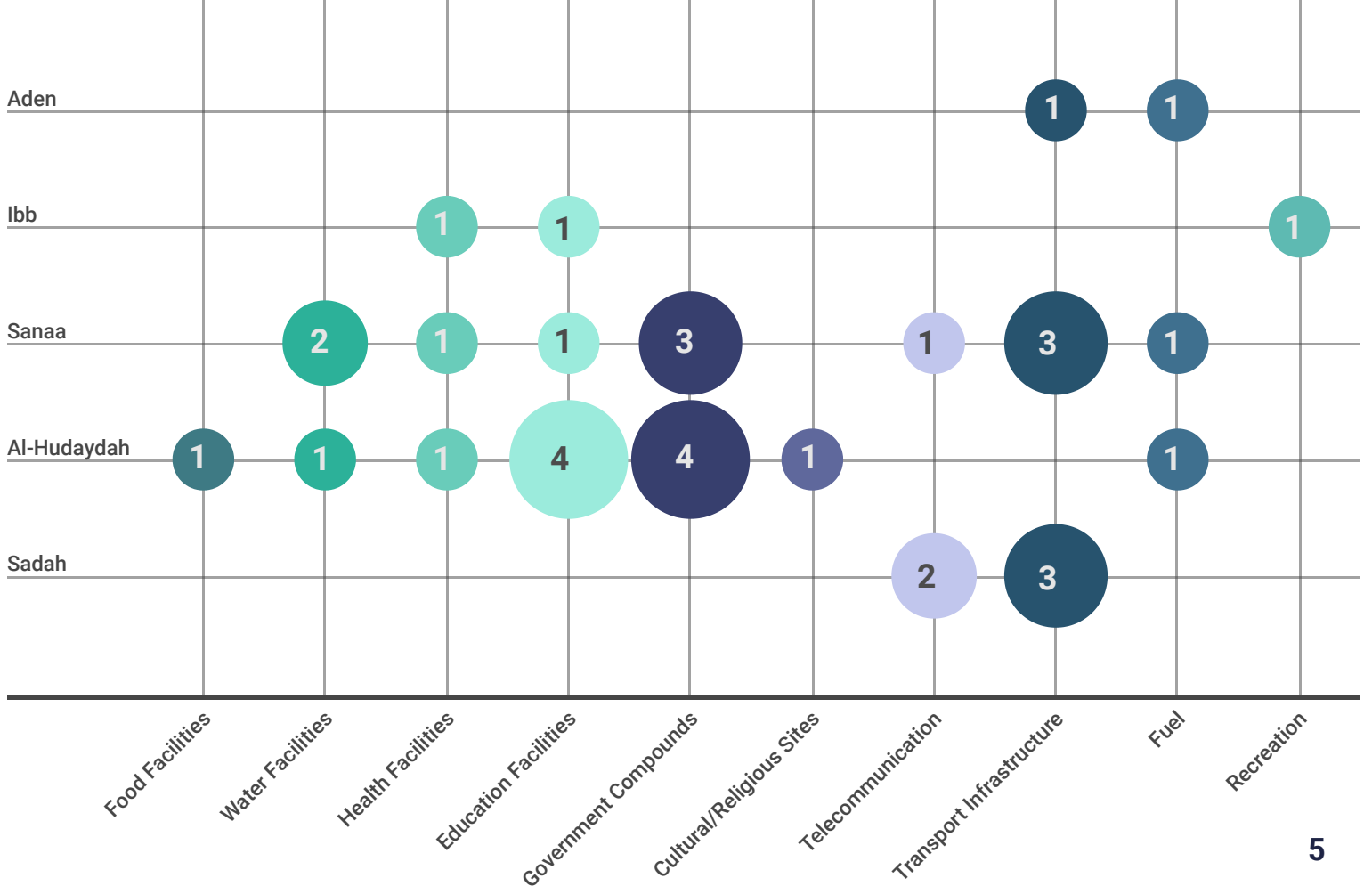
NUMBER OF INCIDENTS PER HUB AND TOTAL CIVILIAN CASUALTIES PER QUARTER



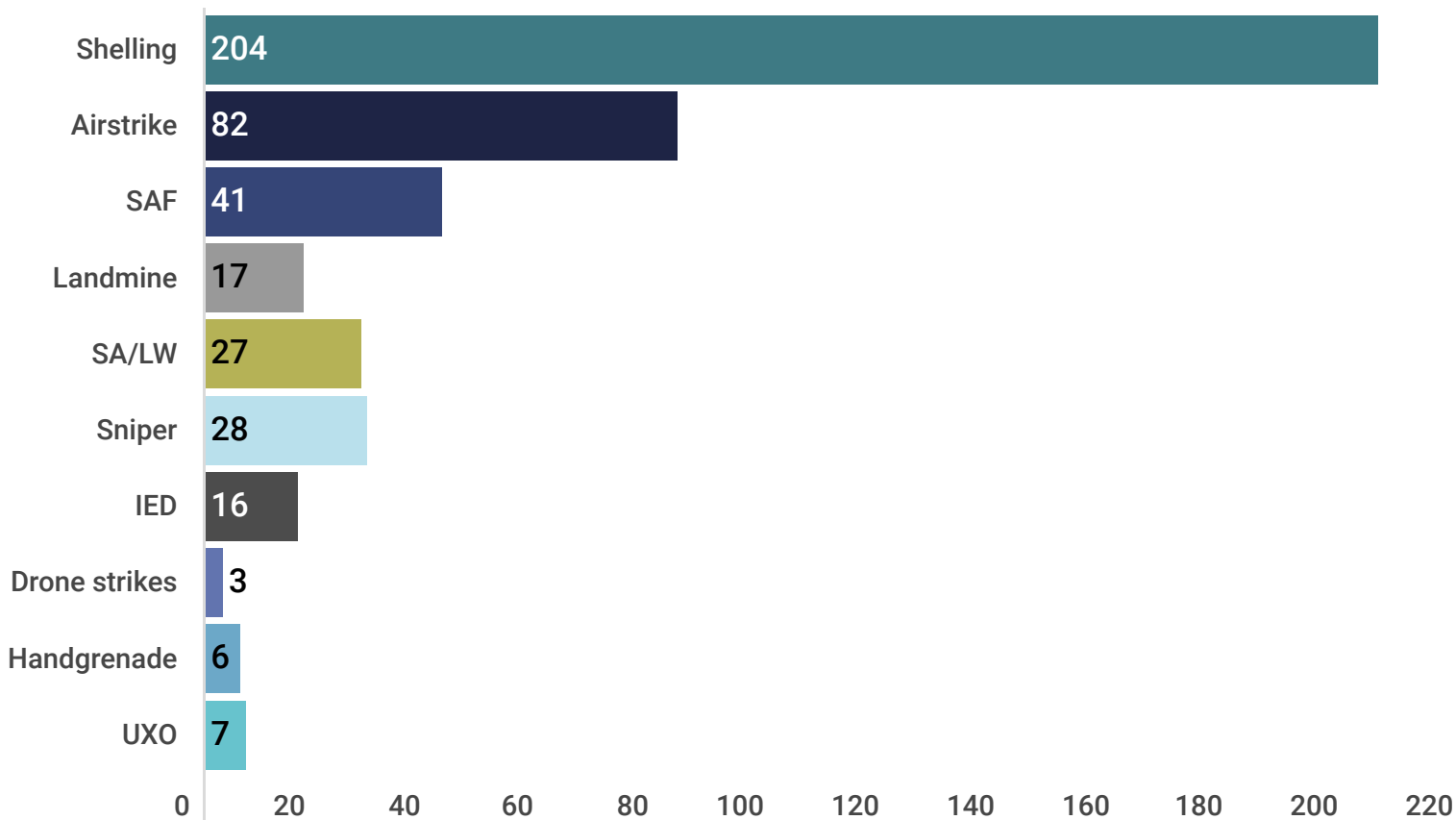
NUMBER OF INCIDENTS IMPACTING ON CIVILIAN STRUCTURES DURING Q3 2020 BY HUB



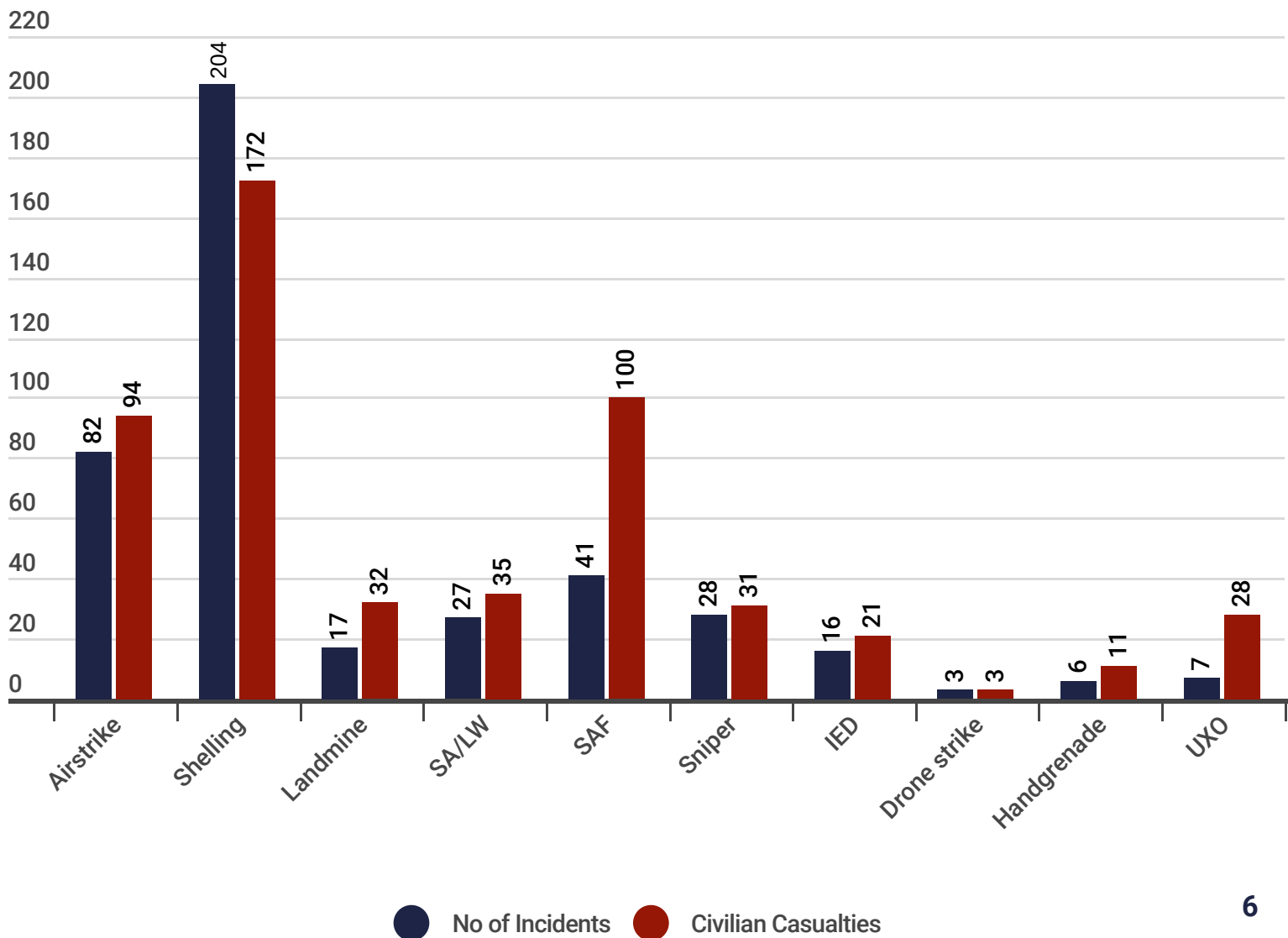
NUMBER OF INCIDENTS IMPACTING ON INFRASTRUCTURE DURING Q3 2020 BY HUB



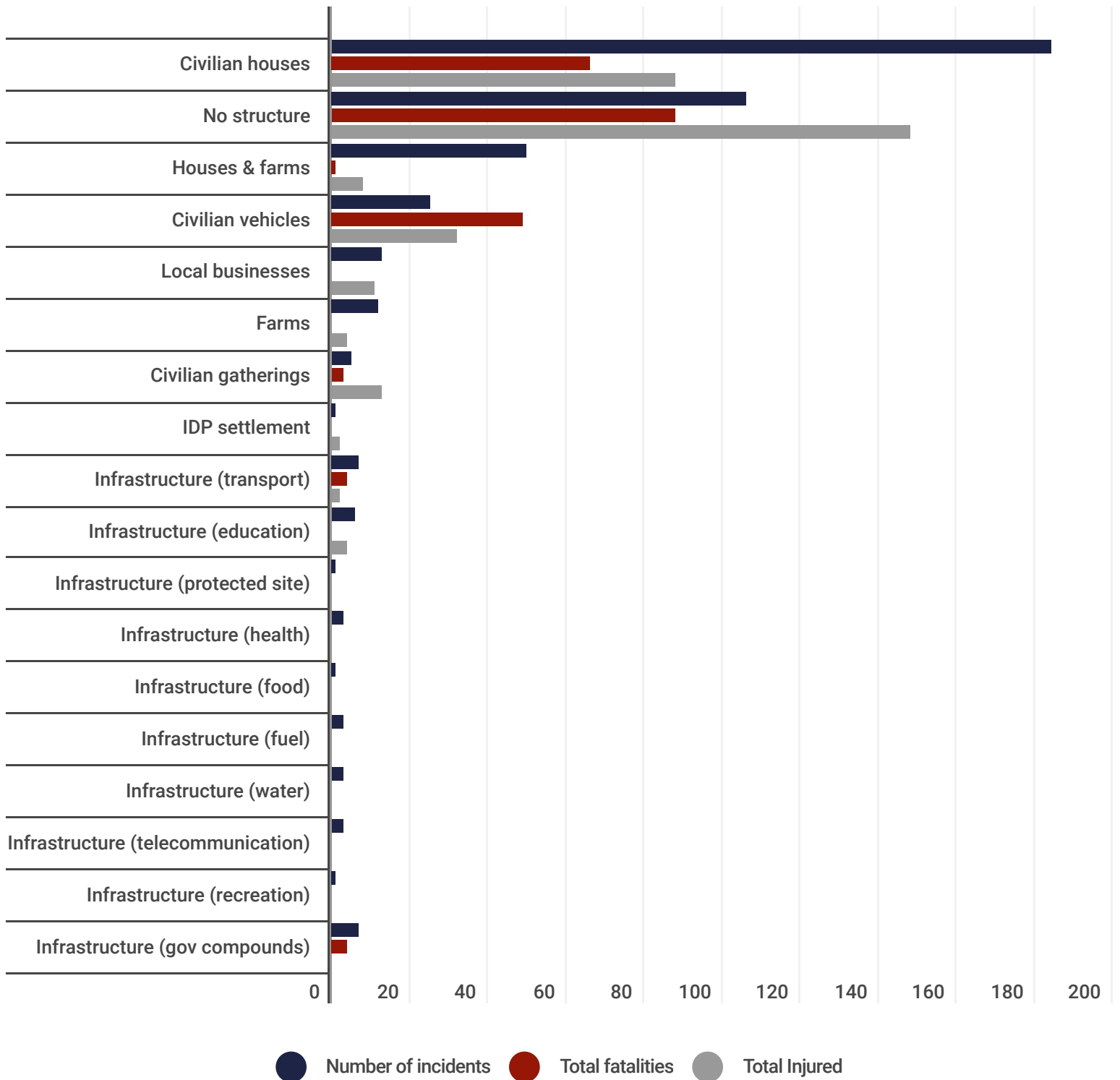
INCIDENTS IMPACTING ON CIVILIANS IN Q3 2020, BY TYPE OF ARMED VIOLENCE



CIVILIAN CASUALTIES BY TYPE OF ARMED VIOLENCE IN Q3 2020



NUMBER OF INCIDENTS, FATALITIES AND INJURIES BY CIVILIAN STRUCTURE IN Q3 2020



DIRECT PROTECTION IMPLICATIONS OF INCIDENTS OF ARMED VIOLENCE ON CIVILIANS

DISPLACEMENT



Number of affected households

1,051

Number of Incidents
234

LOSS OF LIVELIHOOD



Number of affected households

297

Number of Incidents
62

RESTRICTED FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT AND ASSEMBLY



Number of affected households

291

Number of Incidents
135

OBSTRUCTION TO FLIGHT



Number of affected households

5

Number of Incidents
1

INDIRECT PROTECTION IMPLICATIONS - HOUSEHOLDS EXPERIENCING RESTRICTED ACCESS



30,265

households facing restricted access to:

Health, education, first responders, worship

Number of Incidents

10



557,412

households facing restricted access to:

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

Number of Incidents

21



459,653

households facing restricted access to:

Water facilities, aid, food

Number of Incidents

4

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