

CIMP QUARTERLY REPORT

Q1: JANUARY - MARCH 2021

This is the Civilian Impact Monitoring Project quarterly report, providing an overview of all incidents of armed violence reported in January, February and March 2021 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

Overall, the number of civilian casualties on account of armed violence decreased in Q1 2021

452 civilians were killed and injured by armed violence in Yemen during Q1 2021. However, this is the lowest civilian casualty count recorded in Yemen in one quarter since CIMP started monitoring at the start of 2018, and down from 579 in Q4 2020. Among these, the number of civilian fatalities decreased from 171 to 140. The decrease was largely driven by a drop in civilian casualties in Hudaydah, where casualty numbers more than halved, from 153 in Q4 2020 to 71 in Q1 2021.

March saw the highest civilian casualties reported in one month in Yemen since October 2020

Despite casualty numbers dropping in Q1, on a month-to-month basis, March saw a significant increase, with civilian casualties almost doubling to 209 from 111 in February, as armed violence persists across the country. The last time numbers this high were seen in one month in Yemen was a peak in October 2020, and prior to that, in November 2019. A number of factors drove the March uptick in civilian casualties, from a governorate-wide escalation in Ta'izz and hostilities encroaching upon residential areas, including IDP sites, in Ma'rib, to protest-related casualties in Hadramawt and suspected terrorist activity in south eastern Abyan, as hostilities persist in close proximity to residential areas, and insecurity drives a general decentralisation of armed violence, most notable in the south.

Civilian shelling casualties dropped in Q1 2021, most notably in Hudaydah, Sa'dah and Aden

186 civilians were reportedly killed and injured by shellfire in Yemen in Q1 2021, down from 295 in Q4 2020. The most notable decreases were in Hudaydah where, having seen 99 civilian shelling casualties in Q4 2020, 25 civilians were killed or injured by shellfire in Q1 2021. There was also drop of 43% in the number of civilian shelling casualties in Sa'dah as the typically turbulent western border districts, which come under near daily shellfire, saw a slight drop in levels of armed violence. Nonetheless, shelling remains responsible for the highest number of civilian casualties across the country, as it has been now for ten consecutive quarters, since Q3 2018. This quarter, shelling was responsible for 186 of a total of 452 civilian casualties across the country, predominantly in Ta'izz (83 civilian shelling casualties), Ma'rib (46), Sa'dah (29) and Hudaydah (25).

Civilian casualties from small arms fire shooting incidents continue to rise

Q1 2021 saw more civilian casualties (104) on account of small arms fire (SAF) than any previous quarter since CIMP started monitoring at the start of 2018. Over the past three years, the quarterly average number of civilian casualties from SAF incidents, such as isolated and often dispute-driven shootings, has increased, from 39 in 2018, to 67 in 2019, to 84 in 2020. The 104 civilian SAF casualties during the first quarter of 2021 indicates that the upward trend is continuing. Among governorates to see an increase were Abyan and Hadramawt, as mentioned above, linked to checkpoint violence and protest-related violence. Sa'dah, meanwhile, saw an increase in civilian SAF casualties for the third consecutive quarter, up to 24 from 15 in Q4 2020, 17 of whom were reported in the western border district of Monabbih.

The number of airstrike incidents to impact civilians in Yemen increased by a third in Q1 2021

The number of airstrike incidents reported to have directly impacted civilians in Yemen increased by 34% from Q4 2020, rising from 50 incidents to 67. The number of resultant casualties also increased, increasing threefold from 4 to 12, including 6 workers in Hudaydah who were injured when a food production company's warehouse in As Saleef was hit by airstrikes. 46 (69%) of the airstrike incidents were reported in Ma'rib, where over 200 houses are estimated to have been impacted by airstrikes during the first quarter of 2021; higher than during any other quarter in Ma'rib since CIMP started monitoring, and corresponding with the escalation in the governorate, which has been ongoing since the start of the year, predominantly focused in Sirwah, to the west of Ma'rib city.

As fronts reopened, there was a shift in the nature of armed violence impacting civilians in Ta'izz in Q1 2021

The frontlines both in Ta'izz city and in western and southern parts of Ta'izz governorate have seen an escalation in recent weeks, driving a significant uptick in resultant civilian casualties. In March alone, 72 civilian casualties were reported in Ta'izz, having seen 39 in January and 17 in February. Of the 128 civilian casualties reported in Ta'izz so far this year, 83 (65%) have been on account of shellfire, 50 of whom were in the past month. In the meantime, although the escalation on the frontlines in Ta'izz have taken a heavy civilian casualty toll, this quarter saw a drop in the civilian impact of localised military conflict; Q4 2020 saw 16 civilian casualties in Ta'izz on account of IED attacks targeting local security actors, but in Q1 2021, this dropped to 1 civilian IED casualty, present restrictions on access to education, inhibiting access for as many as 9,000 households in Q1

More than twice as many incidents impacted on education infrastructure in Q1 2021 than Q4 2020

In Q1 2021, 5 incidents of armed violence were reported to have directly impacted education infrastructure in Yemen, up from 2 during Q4 2020. All 5 incidents were reported during March, including 4 in Ta'izz, where hostilities have escalated in recent weeks, with a number of dormant fronts re-opening. Aside from the detonation of Al-Anwar school, 3 shelling incidents reportedly impacted schools in the governorate, resulting cumulatively in 11 civilian casualties, including 4 children. Beyond Ta'izz, a school was also reportedly hit by airstrikes in Arhab district, Sana'a, on 10 March, although no civilian casualties were reported. Such incidents not only serve to exacerbate the vulnerability of children, impacting schools, which should be a safe space for children, but also present restrictions on access to education, inhibiting access for as many as 9,000 households in Q1.

There has been a drastic increase in the number of IDP sites being impacted by armed violence

There has been a significant increase in the number of IDP sites being impacted by armed violence, largely tied to the escalation in Ma'rib, although sites have also been impacted in Hudaydah and Hajjah. 11 incidents of armed violence are reported to have directly impacted IDP sites during Q1 2021, compared to 16 such incidents throughout the 3 years prior. Throughout 2020, 1 IDP site was impacted by armed violence each quarter. In Ma'rib, as hostilities have progressed closer towards Ma'rib city, closing in along the two main asphalted roads to the west of the city, there have been increasing reports of IDP sites coming under shellfire. Impacted sites include As Sawabin and Wadi Al-Hayyal, to the south of Ma'rib dam, Az Zour, to the north of the dam, and Al-Mil, Al-Khair, At Tawasul and As Suwayda sites, to the west of Ma'rib city. Although many of the sites' residents are understood to have already fled the sites ahead of the frontlines reaching them, the final week of March saw 13 civilian casualties on account of shelling impacting IDP sites in Sirwah, including 12 women. Moreover, numerous families at this stage are likely to have been displaced on multiple occasions as a direct result of armed violence impacting IDP sites, exacerbating protection concerns associated with the displacement.

More women were killed and injured by armed violence in Ma'rib in Q1 2021 than during 2020

Across the country, Q1 2021 saw more women casualties (66) than Q1 2020 (61), despite seeing a 6% decrease from the 70 women casualties reported in Q4 2020. 14 women casualties were reported in Ma'rib in Q1 2021, and already exceeds the 2020 total of 12 women casualties in Ma'rib. Prior to 2021, the quarterly average number of women casualties in the governorate was 2. Moreover, of the 14 women casualties reported in Ma'rib, 13 were on IDP sites at the time. With a high proportion of IDP households headed by women, women are particularly vulnerable to the risks pose by armed violence encroaching on the sites. There was also an increase in women casualties in Ta'izz, up to 19 from 15 during the last quarter. This included 14 on account of shelling, and 4 on account of sniper fire. Hudaydah saw the third highest number of women casualties during Q1 (13), as hostilities continue to encroach on residential areas in the governorate.

Nationwide, the number of child casualties decreased, but in Ta'izz, the child casualty count increased

On the whole, the number of child casualties reported in Yemen decreased from 98 in Q4 2020 to 90 in Q1 2021. However, in Ta'izz, the numbers increased, up to 50 from 46 during Q4. This is the highest child casualty count reported in one quarter in the governorate since Q2 2019, and sits 72% above the quarterly average of 29 child casualties in the governorate. There was an increase in child casualties from both shellfire and sniper fire. Ibb governorate also saw an increase in child casualties, up from 1 to 9, all but 2 of whom were on account of hand grenades, discussed below, while in Sana'a, child casualties increased from 1 in Q4 2020 to 6 in Q1 2021, all but 1 of whom were on account of UXO detonations.

There has been a significant increase in the civilian casualties on account of hand grenades

The number of civilian casualties on account of hand grenade incidents more than doubled from Q4 2020 to Q1 2021, up to 27 from 13, including 14 civilian hand grenade casualties in Ibb; more than had been seen cumulatively in the governorate during the three years prior (13). Another 9 civilians were killed and injured on account of grenade incidents in Aden, and 4 in Hudaydah. Of the 4 grenade incidents responsible for the 14 civilian casualties in Ibb, 3 (and 10 of the casualties) were due to the devices being mishandled. Moreover, the mishandling of grenades in Ibb since the start of the year has killed 4 children and injured 2 children, reflective of the threat posed by the profuse weaponisation across the country breaching domestic spaces, coupled with a lack of awareness of correct handling and associated risks. Another child, an 11-year-old boy, was killed after playing with a landmine that had been brought back to a village in Dhi As Sufal village from another area.

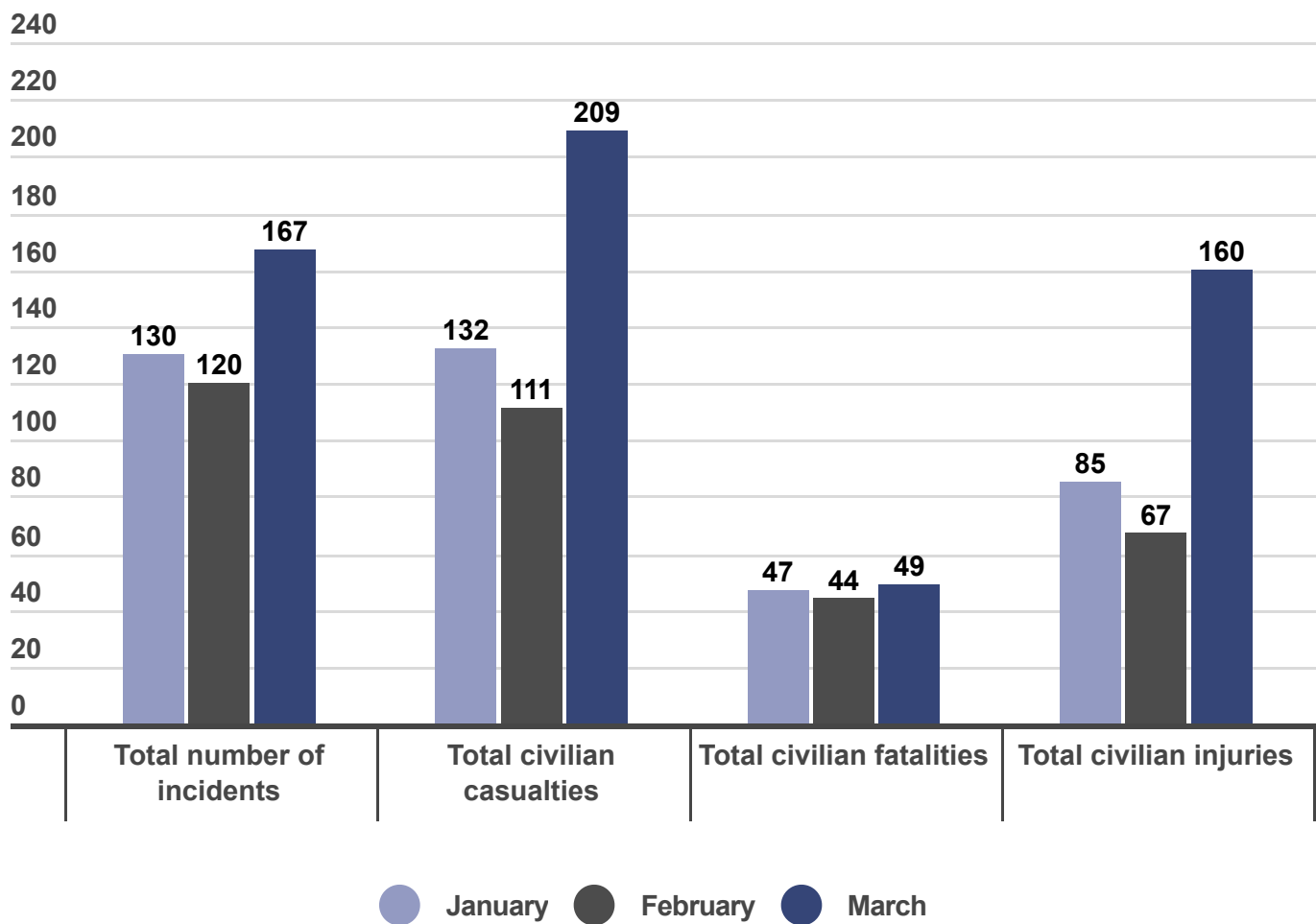
Amid heightened civil unrest in the south, civilian casualties from protest-related violence have increased

Q1 2021 saw 21 civilian casualties as a result of protest-related violence, the majority of whom (18) were in the south. This is the highest number of civilian casualties in one quarter on account of protest-related violence since CIMP commenced, and coincides with an uptick in demonstrations across the south in response to ongoing electricity blackouts, poor service provision and a deteriorating economic situation pushing the prices of basic commodities up. Hadramawt has seen the highest numbers of civilian casualties (15) on account of live fire being used to disperse protests in Sayun and Al-Mukalla City. Shabwah also saw 3 civilian casualties when a demonstration was dispersed in Ataq city. With the protest drivers remaining unsolved, civil unrest is likely to persist, and the potential for further live fire in response persists.

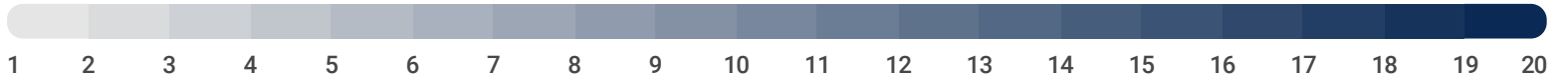
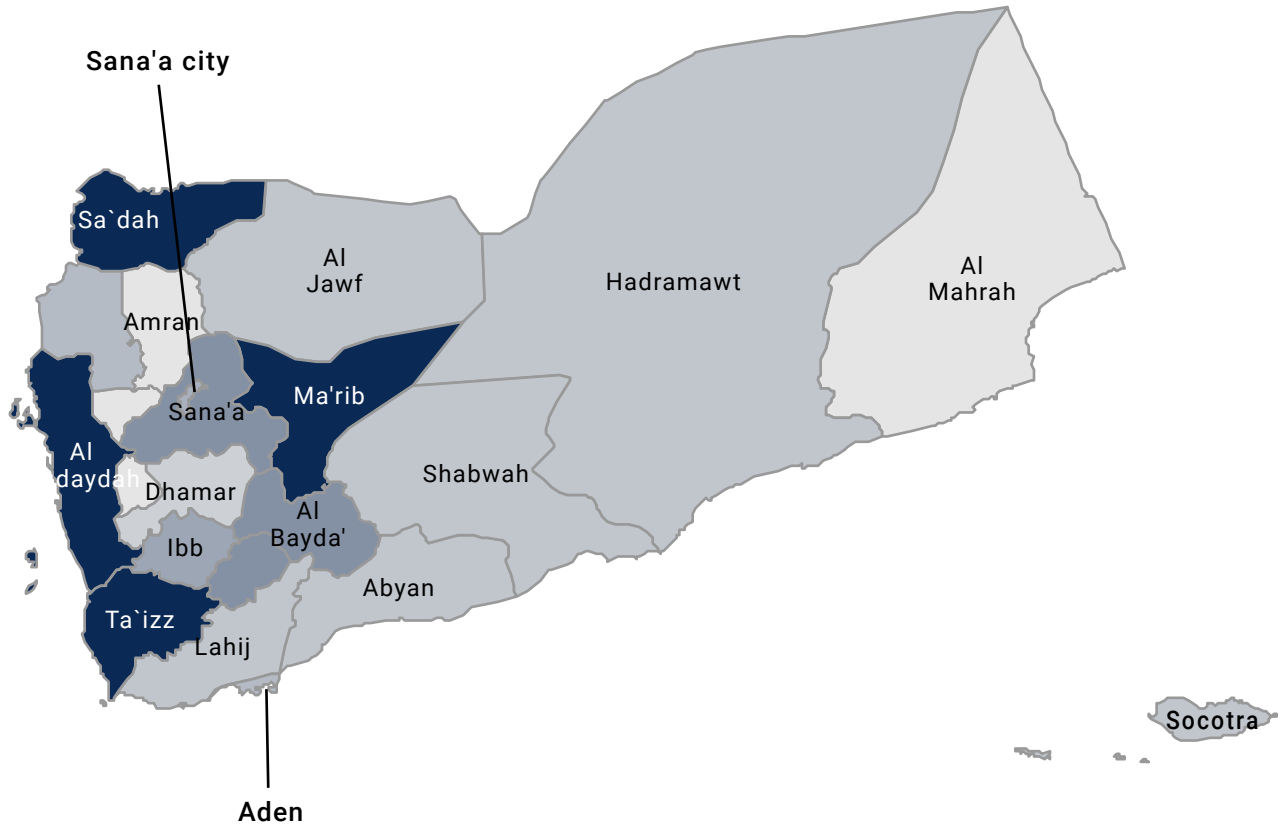
**NATIONWIDE SNAPSHOT: CIVILIAN IMPACT FROM INCIDENTS OF ARMED VIOLENCE
Q1: JANUARY - MARCH 2021**

Total Civilian Casualties:	452	Civilian impact incidents:	417
Fatalities:	140	Psychosocial trauma incidents:	392
Children / Women:	28 / 14	Vulnerability incidents:	299
Injures:	312	Children and Women:	232
Children / Women:	62 / 52	Children / Women / IDPs and Migrants:	31 / 21 / 15

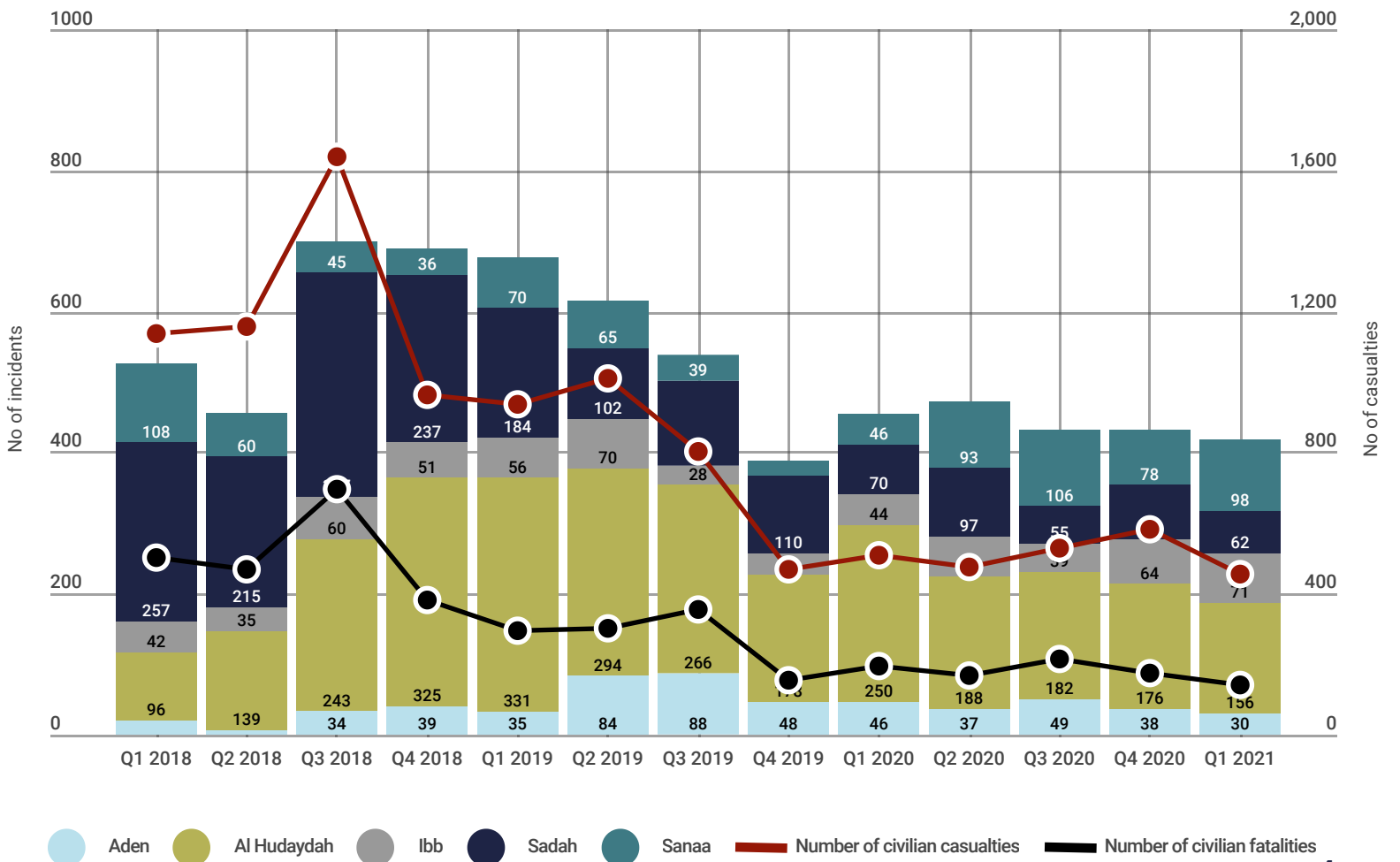
TOTAL NUMBER OF CIVILIAN IMPACT INCIDENTS AND CIVILIAN CASUALTIES BY MONTH



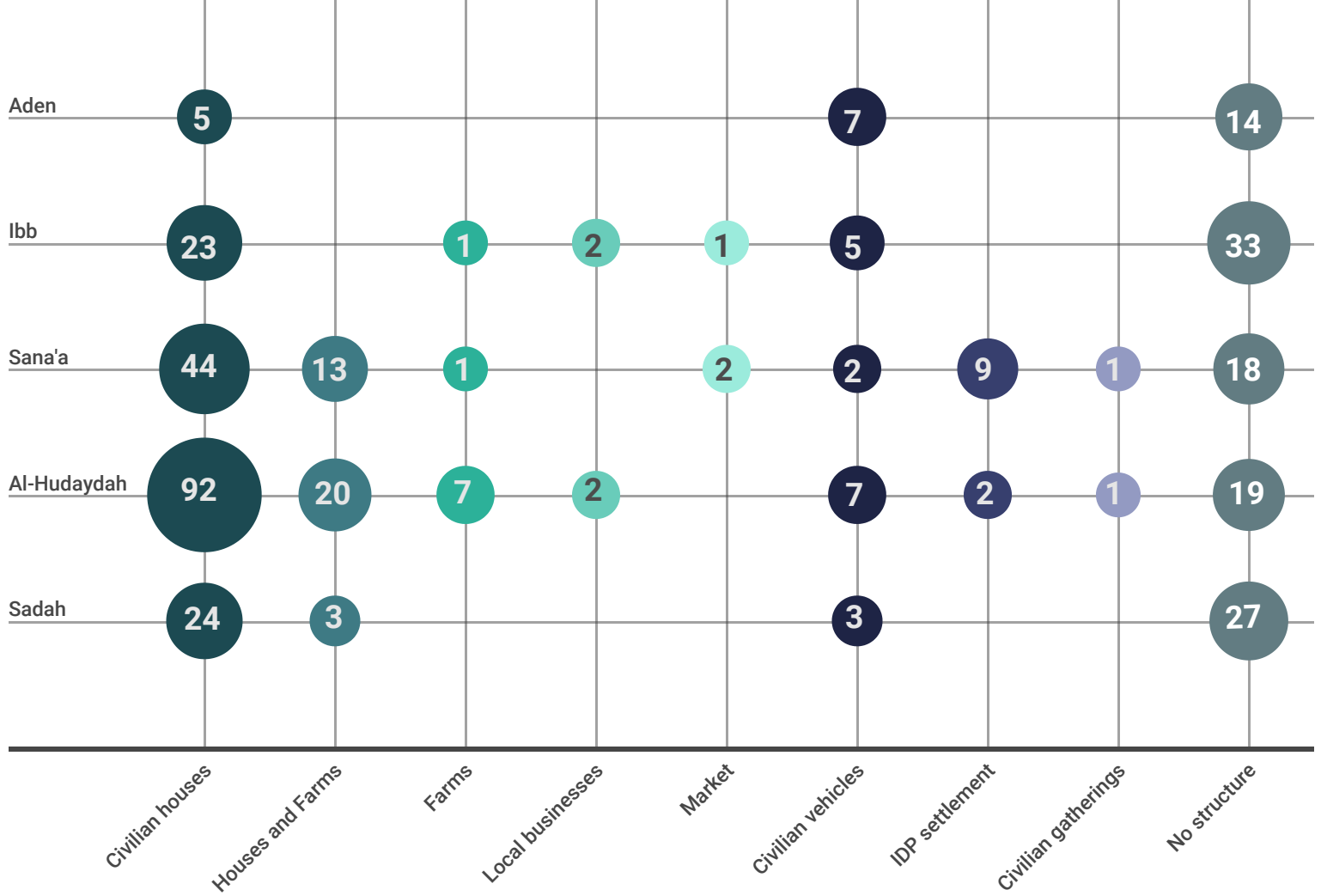
DISTRIBUTION OF CIVILIAN IMPACT INCIDENTS IN Q1 2021 BY GOVERNORATE



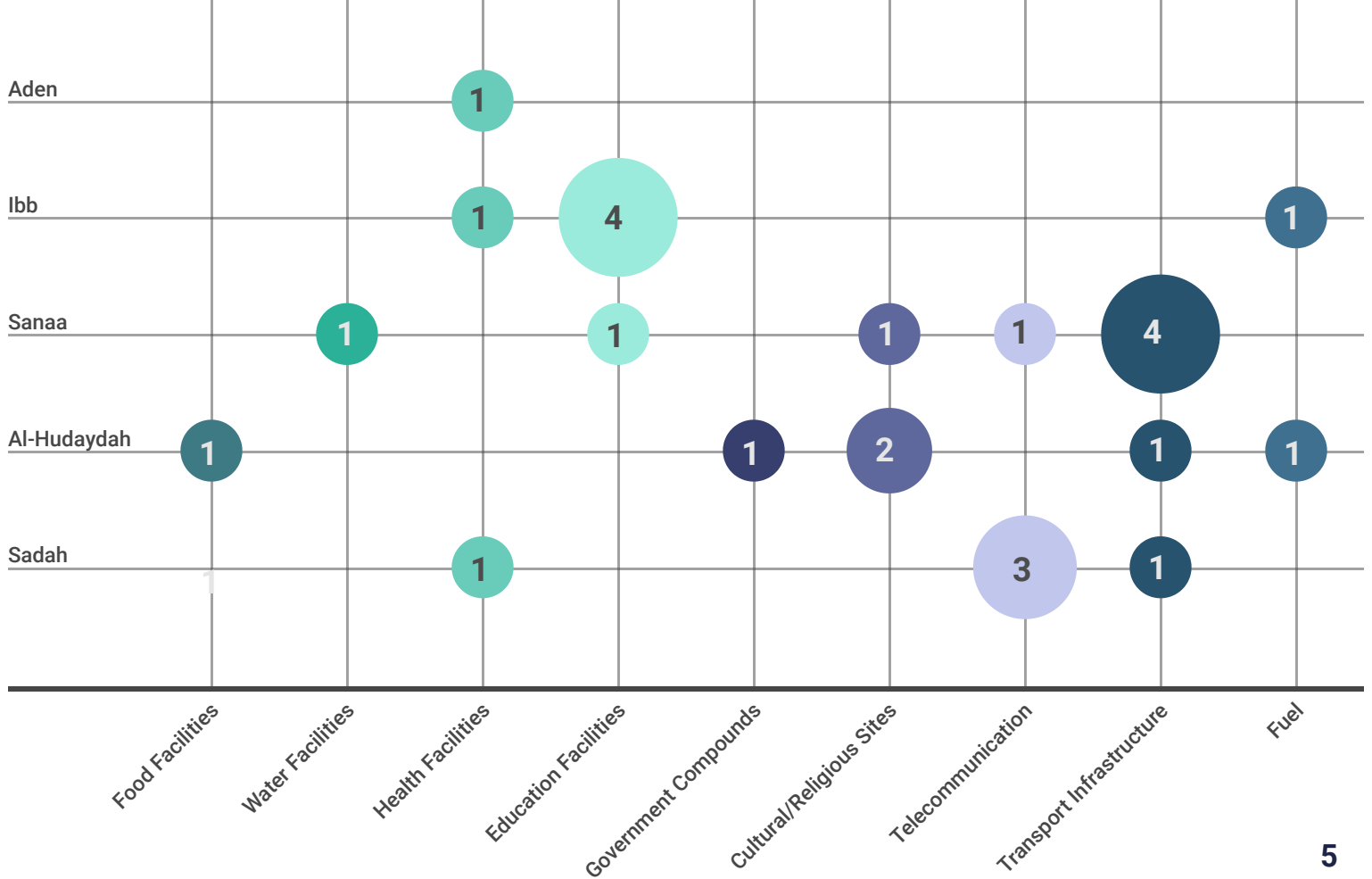
NUMBER OF INCIDENTS PER HUB AND TOTAL CIVILIAN CASUALTIES PER QUARTER



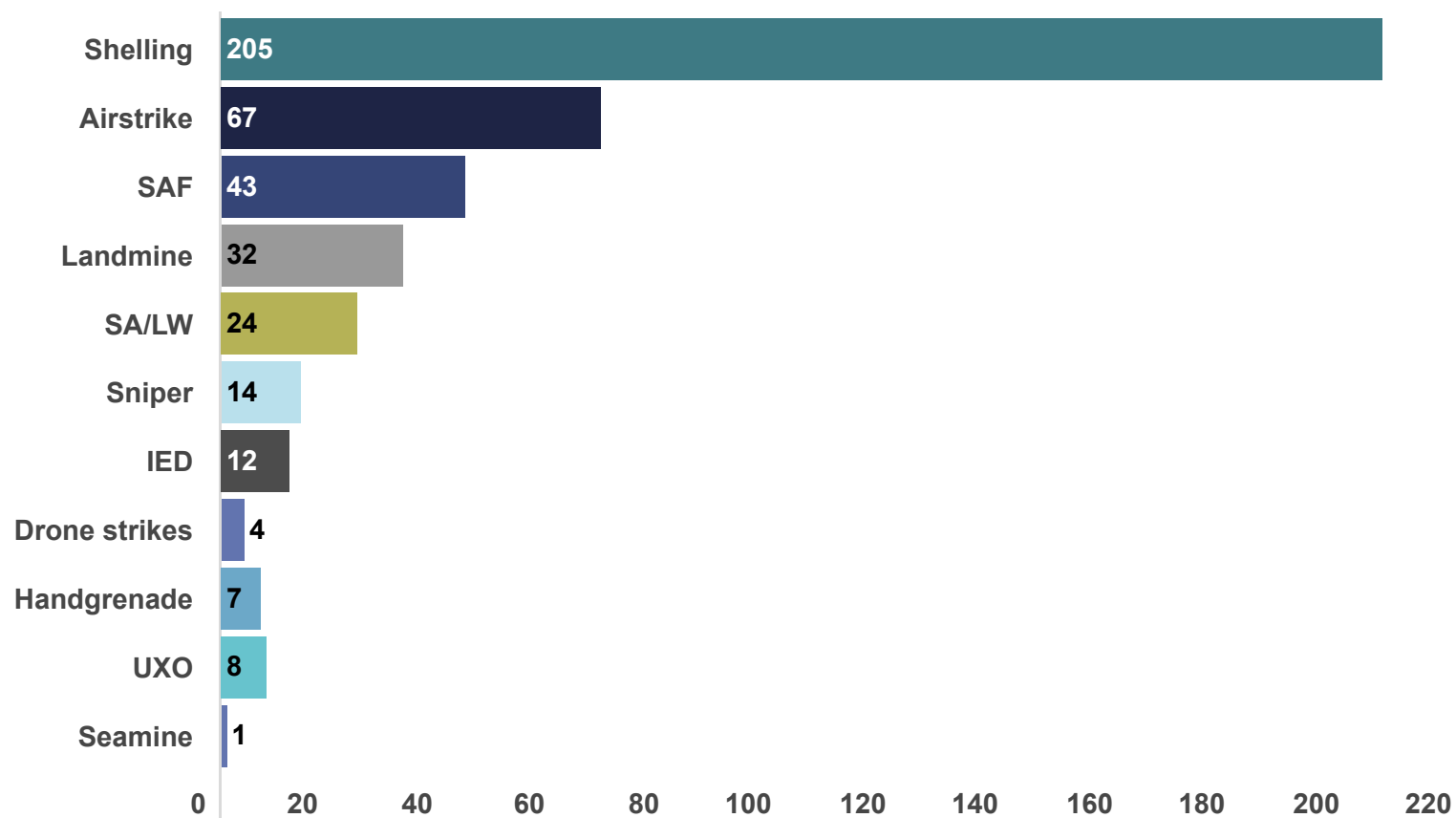
NUMBER OF INCIDENTS IMPACTING ON CIVILIAN STRUCTURES DURING Q1 2021 BY HUB



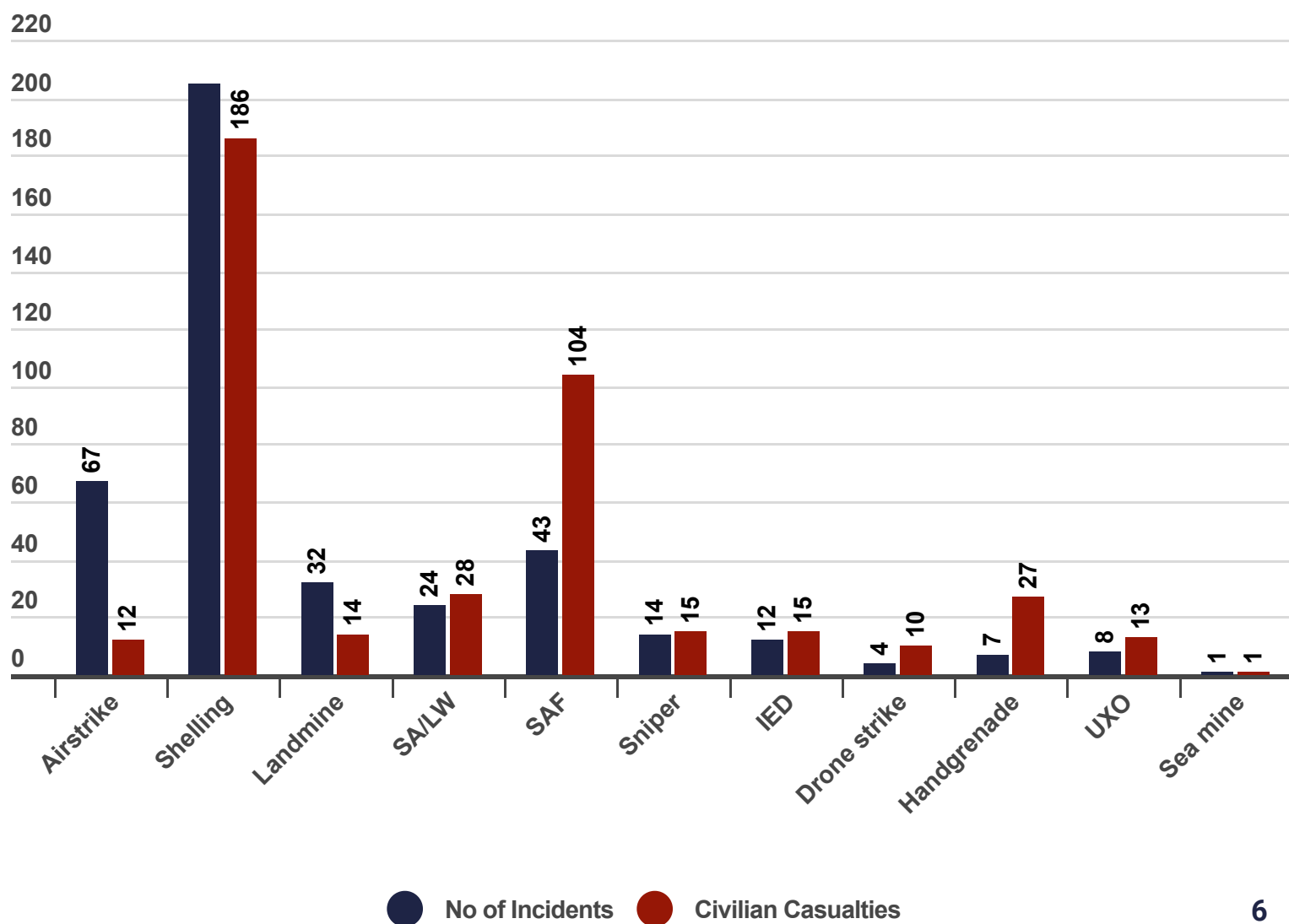
NUMBER OF INCIDENTS IMPACTING ON INFRASTRUCTURE DURING Q1 2021 BY HUB



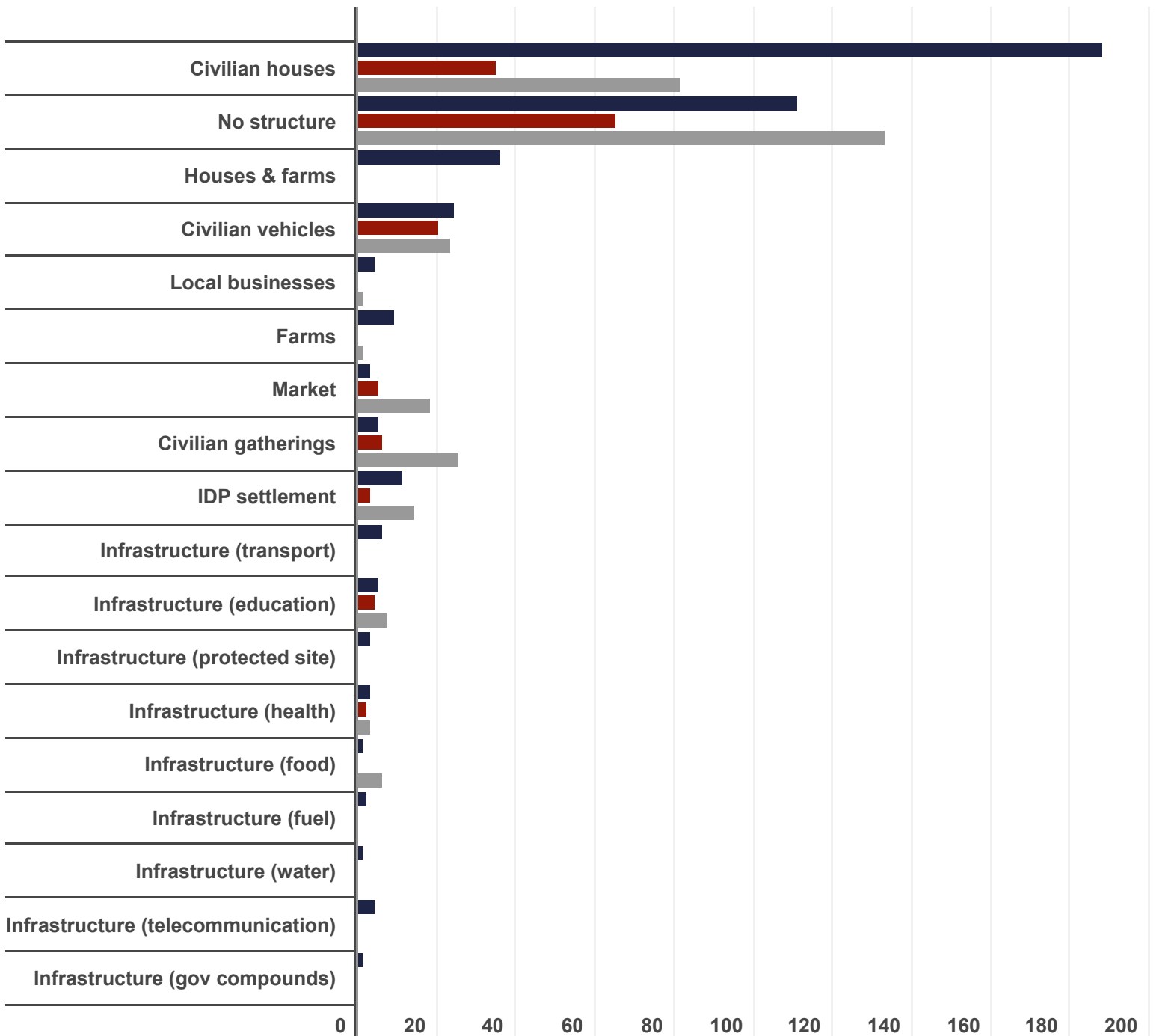
INCIDENTS IMPACTING ON CIVILIANS IN Q1 2021, BY TYPE OF ARMED VIOLENCE



CIVILIAN CASUALTIES BY TYPE OF ARMED VIOLENCE IN Q1 2021

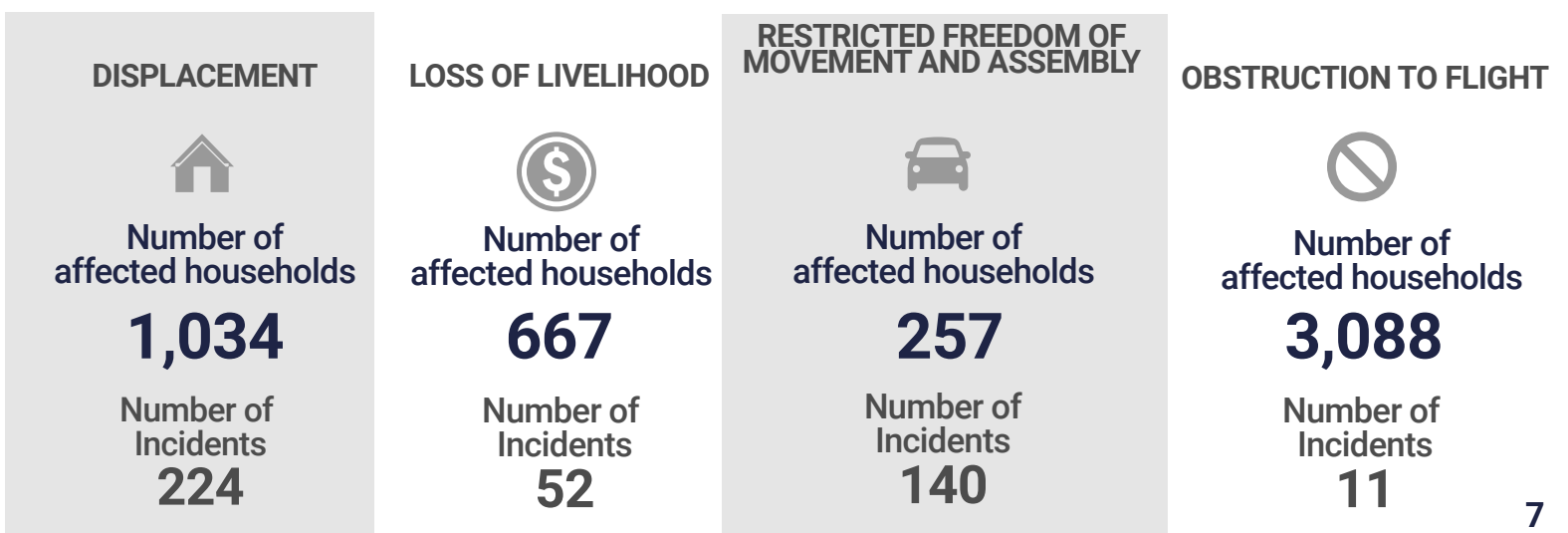


NUMBER OF INCIDENTS, FATALITIES AND INJURIES BY CIVILIAN STRUCTURE IN Q1 2021



● Number of incidents
 ● Total fatalities
 ● Total Injuries

DIRECT PROTECTION IMPLICATIONS OF INCIDENTS OF ARMED VIOLENCE ON CIVILIANS



INDIRECT PROTECTION IMPLICATIONS - HOUSEHOLDS EXPERIENCING RESTRICTED ACCESS



56,503

households facing restricted access to:

Health, education, first responders, worship

Number of Incidents

11



964,754

households facing restricted access to:

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

Number of Incidents

13



3,311

households facing restricted access to:

Water facilities, aid, food storage

Number of Incidents

2

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.



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