

CIMP QUARTERLY REPORT

Q4: OCTOBER - DECEMBER 2021

This is the Civilian Impact Monitoring Project quarterly report, providing an overview of all incidents of armed violence reported in October, November and December 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

There was a sharp increase in the number of civilian casualties reported in Yemen during Q4 2021

956 civilian casualties were reported in Yemen as a direct result of armed violence between October and December 2021, marking an 81% from Q3 2021. Among the total were 278 fatalities, an increase of nearly two-thirds from the previous quarter. The Q4 2021 civilian casualty count also sits well above the average of 708 civilian casualties reported on a quarterly basis since CIMP commenced monitoring at the start of 2018, and is the highest civilian casualty count reported in one quarter since Q2 2019. A number of factors appear to have driven the increase, with several governorates seeing significant increases, including Sa'dah, Ma'rib, Ta'izz, Hudaydah and Aden, with most types of armed violence seeing an increased civilian casualty toll from the previous quarter. October and December both saw 358 civilian casualties reported, the highest monthly civilian casualty count recorded by CIMP since September 2019.

The number of casualties among children doubled from Q3 to Q4 2021

Armed violence was directly responsible for a reported 141 casualties among children in Q4 2021, double the 70 child casualties reported during Q3. Moreover, the figure included 43 fatalities, more than double the 17 child fatalities in Q3. Remnant explosive ordnance, including landmines and UXO, was responsible for the highest number of child casualties during Q4, at 43, although this is the same as during the previous quarter. Children remain particularly vulnerable to remnant explosive devices, linked to their heightened mobility and inquisitiveness, coupled with a lack of threat awareness. This was followed by 37 child shelling casualties, up from four during the previous quarter, and 26 child airstrike casualties, up from three during Q3. Ma'rib saw the highest number of child casualties on account of shelling, while Hudaydah saw the highest number of child casualties on account of airstrikes.

An uptick in hostilities in October drove a high casualty count in Ma'rib during Q4 2021

As frontlines shifted in southern Ma'rib at the start of Q4, this was accompanied by an increased toll on the civilian population. Of the 158 civilian casualties reported in Ma'rib during Q4, 133 were reported during October along, the highest monthly civilian casualty count in the governorate on CIMP records. Of these, 117 were on account of shelling, driven by a spate of mass casualty incidents. There were five separate incidents in which at least 10 civilian casualties were reported, three of which were in Al-Jubah, where Al-Umud village was besieged during an offensive. The most notable incidents were on 31 October, when 22 civilians were killed, and a further 19 civilians were injured, when a religious institution in the village was hit by missiles, and three days prior, when another 13 civilians were killed when a sheikh's house was hit by missiles. There was also a mass casualty incident in Ma'rib city, where three children and a woman were killed, and another 31 civilians injured when missiles hit Ar Rawdah neighbourhood.

The shift in frontlines in Hudaydah also shifted the threat landscape for civilians

Hudaydah also saw a shift to its frontlines during Q4 2021, which resulted in a heightened toll on civilians, both on account of renewed airstrikes and remnant explosive ordnance. 117 civilian casualties were reported in Hudaydah throughout Q4, the highest quarterly total since Q4 2020, and up from 71 during the previous quarter. Roughly a third of the casualties were fatalities. Remnant explosive ordnance was responsible for the highest number of civilian casualties, at 47, including 36 on account of landmines and 11 on account of UXO. The high numbers are likely linked to increased mobility of civilians against a backdrop of shifting frontlines, including people fleeing hostilities in new locations, as well as people returning to properties previously vacated. Accompanying the shift to the frontlines, airstrikes on the governorate resumed in force, and were responsible for another 38 civilian casualties in Hudaydah in Q4; this is the highest quarterly civilian airstrike casualty count since the Hudaydah Ceasefire entered into force.

Casualties rise by more than half in Ta'izz between Q3 and Q4

Ta'izz governorate saw a 52% rise in civilian casualties between Q3 and Q4, from 93 to 142. The majority of Q4 casualties (102; 71%) were reported in the last five weeks of the quarter, coinciding with the escalation of direct clashes and remote violence in the governorate's western district of Maqbanah, where hostilities ticked up in line with the shifts on the west coast. Corresponding with the escalation was an increase in airstrikes, which resulted in more civilian casualties across the governorate during Q4 than any other type of armed violence, at 42, almost a third (29%) of the total casualties, all in December. In the deadliest event, on 3 December, 18 civilians were killed and another eight injured when a strike hit Al-Hakimah village in Maqbanah. Shelling resulted in a similarly high number of casualties, at 41, 28 of whom were reported in Maqbanah. In another mass casualty incident, on 7 December, eight civilians were killed and another nine were injured when a missile hit Saied bin Jubayr school in Damin area in northern Maqbanah.

Western Sa'dah has seen the highest civilian casualty numbers in the country, driven by daily border hostilities

338 civilian casualties were reported in Sa'dah during Q4 2021, the highest in the country for the third consecutive quarter. This is the second highest quarterly civilian casualty count reported in the governorate since CIMP commenced monitoring at the start of 2018. Of the 338 civilian casualties, 258 were reported in the western border district of Monabbih, including 216 from border patrol shootings, and another 42 from shellfire, according to open sources. It remains unclear as to what has prompted the sharp increase in reports of civilian casualties over the past three months. Nonetheless, the district hosts at least three informal border crossing points, of which Ar Raqw is the most prominent, and a large number of migrants are understood to be among the casualties. Another 66 civilian casualties were reported in nearby Shada'a.

287 civilian casualties were reported on account of shellfire during Q4 2021, double the Q3 count

Shelling was responsible for the second highest number of civilian casualties, after shooting incidents across the country, the casualties from which were largely contributed to by the border violence in Sa'dah. 287 civilians were killed or injured by shellfire during Q4, double the 146 civilian shelling casualties reported during Q3. Just under half of the shelling casualties were reported in Ma'rib, linked to the surge in hostilities seen in October. Another 96 were attributed to border violence in Sa'dah. Ta'izz also saw an increase in shelling casualties, from 11 in Q3 up to 41 in Q4, over half of whom were reported in Maqbanah, where fighting flared from November in line with the shift in frontlines in Hudaydah.

As airstrikes picked up across the country, civilian casualties increased, as well as damage to critical infrastructure

There was a sharp rise in country-wide civilian airstrike casualties from Q3 to Q4, from 7 up to 130, driven in large part by a surge in airstrike casualties in Hudaydah and Ta'izz. In the former, there were no airstrike casualties reported in Q3, compared to 38 during Q4. In the latter, similarly, having not seen any civilian airstrike casualties during Q3, 42 were reported in Q4, all in December. The Q4 uptick coincides with military offensives mounted in both, which were accompanied by air support. Sana'a city saw the third highest number of civilian airstrike casualties during Q4, at 23, also up from nil during Q3. The city also saw widespread reports of civilian infrastructure being impacted, including workshops, roads, and houses, with reports of strikes near health and education facilities too, threatening to put critical infrastructure and services out of action.

Hudaydah continues to see highest number of landmine and UXO casualties countrywide

There was a 33% rise in countrywide civilian casualties due to remnant explosive ordnance, including landmines and UXO, during Q4, up to 124 from 93 in Q3. The highest number of casualties was seen in Hudaydah, for the third consecutive quarter; shifting frontlines in the governorate in November resulted in the heightened mobility of civilians, including renewed displacement from new frontline areas, and returning IDPs to former frontline areas; 42 civilian landmine and UXO casualties were reported in Hudaydah in the final two months of 2021. 14 landmine incidents impacted civilians while travelling in vehicles, serving as a reminder that the threat persists along routes in civilian use.

Q4 2021 saw the highest number of civilian IED casualties since Q1 2019

42 civilian casualties were reported on account of IEDs during Q4, more than throughout the rest of the year combined. This was driven in large part by a mass casualty incident in Aden on 30 October, attributed to terrorism, which killed five civilians and injured another 25 when an IED exploded at the external gate of Aden airport. The incident also drove the Aden civilian casualty count up for the quarter; 60 civilian casualties were reported in Aden during Q4, double the 30 reported in Q3. IEDs were also responsible for a number of property demolitions across central frontline areas in Yemen during Q4. Property demolition is a common punitive or intimidatory tactic used by warring parties in Yemen, often accompanying territorial shifts in frontline areas, such as those seen in Ta'izz, Ma'rib and Hudaydah in recent months. 19 houses were demolished in Q4, the highest since Q3 2019, and up from just three during the previous quarter. Of these, 15 were reported in Ta'izz, and three in Ma'rib.

Armed violence had an increased impact on education and health infrastructure

There was an increase in the number of incidents impacting critical infrastructure over the past quarter, most notably education and health infrastructure. Six incidents were reported to have impacted education facilities, the highest reported in one quarter since Q3 2020, and five incidents were reported to have impacted health facilities, the highest since Q2 2020. Schools were impacted by remote violence, including shelling, airstrikes and drone strikes, in a number of frontline areas, including two incidents in Maqbanah, Ta'izz, one in Al-Jubah, Ma'rib, and one in Qa'atabah, Dali'. Another school was demolished with explosives in Hays, Hudaydah, and a school was also impacted by nearby airstrikes in Sana'a city. As many as 16,000 households were estimated to have faced potential restricted access to education as a result of the incidents. Three of the incidents to impact health facilities were also on account of airstrikes on Sana'a city, restricting healthcare access for as many as 158,174 households, while a hospital was also reportedly hit by shellfire in Al-Abdiyah, Ma'rib.

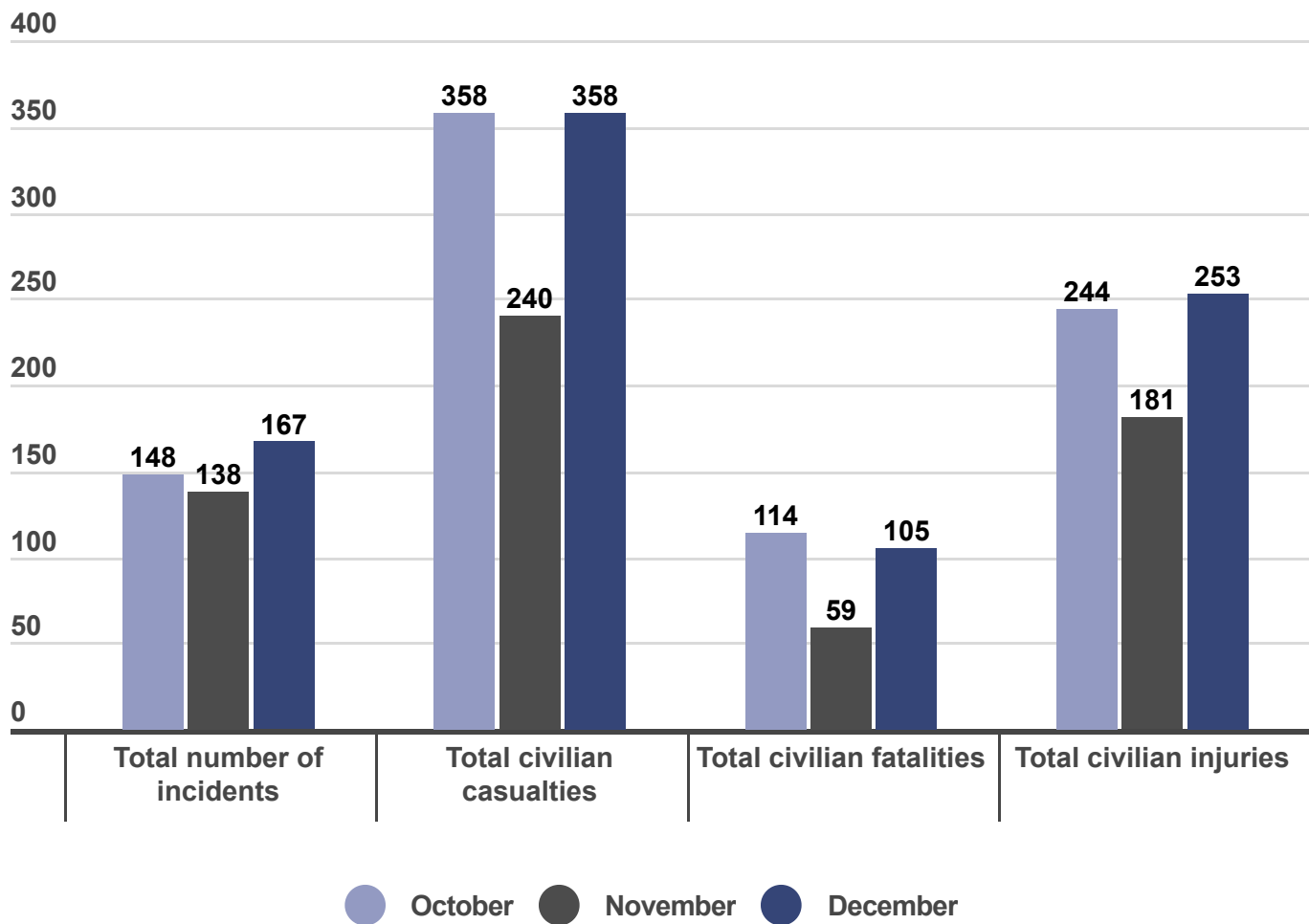
100% rise in attacks on telecommunications infrastructure during Q4

There were 10 separate incidents reported of armed violence impacting telecommunications infrastructure across the country in Q4, marking a sharp uptick, having not seen any similar reports since Q1 2021. The targeting of telecommunications is a common tactic among warring parties to disrupt adversaries' communications, but the incidents also impact civilian connectivity, restricting access to communications for as many as 74,395 households over the past three months. In line with escalating hostilities, four of these incidents were reported in Ma'rib, two in Sa'dah, two in Sana'a, and one in each of Shabwah and Amran. Eight of the ten incidents were the result of airstrikes, with one the result of a drone strike, and one the result of shelling.

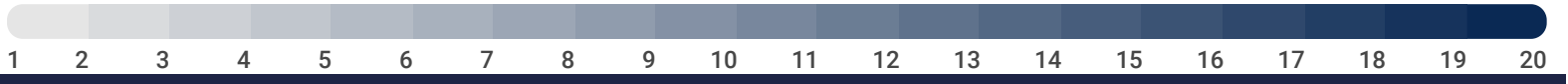
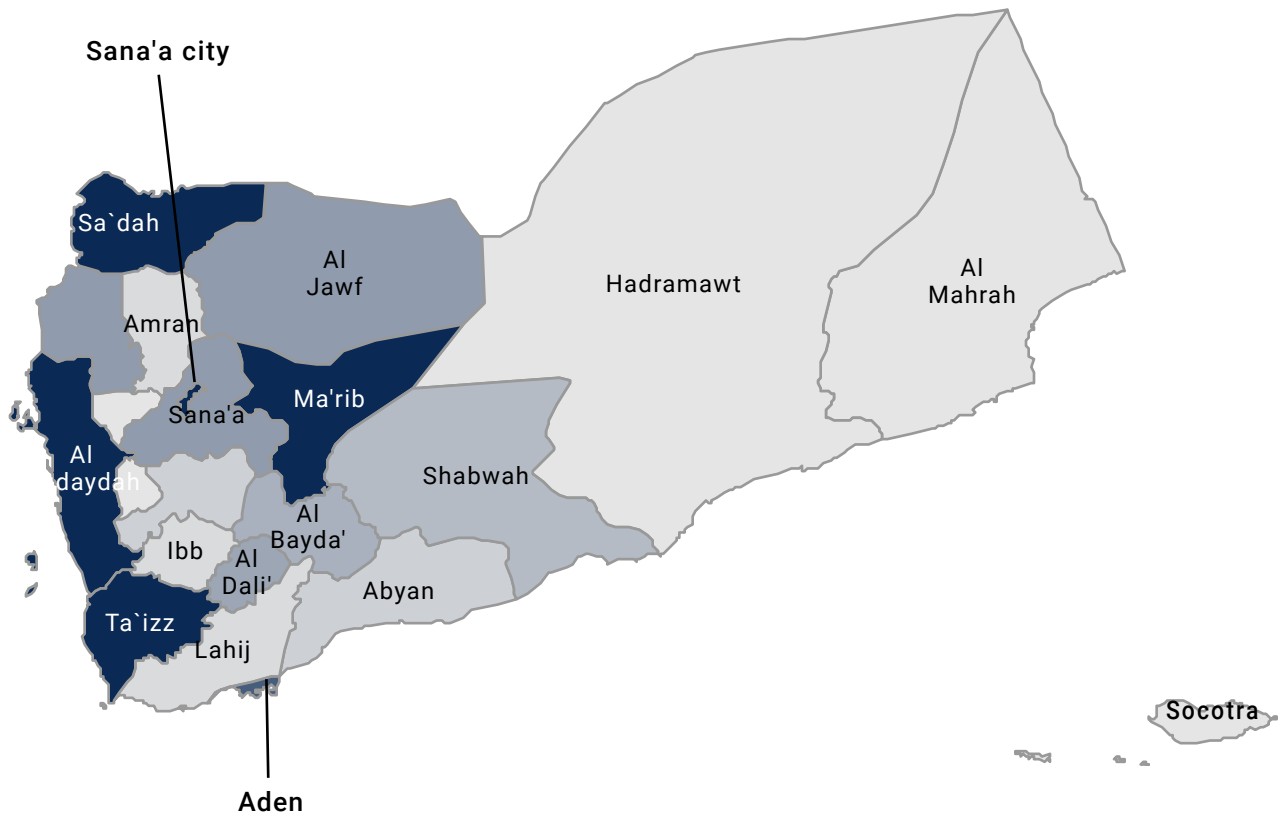
**NATIONWIDE SNAPSHOT: CIVILIAN IMPACT FROM INCIDENTS OF ARMED VIOLENCE
Q4: OCTOBER - DECEMBER 2021**

| | | | |
|-----------------------------------|----------------|--|---------------------|
| Total Civilian Casualties: | 956 | Civilian impact incidents: | 453 |
| Fatalities: | 278 | Psychosocial trauma incidents: | 399 |
| Children / Women: | 43 / 20 | Vulnerability incidents: | 277 |
| Injuries: | 678 | Children and Women: | 187 |
| Children / Women: | 98 / 36 | Children / Women / IDPs and Migrants: | 44 / 15 / 31 |

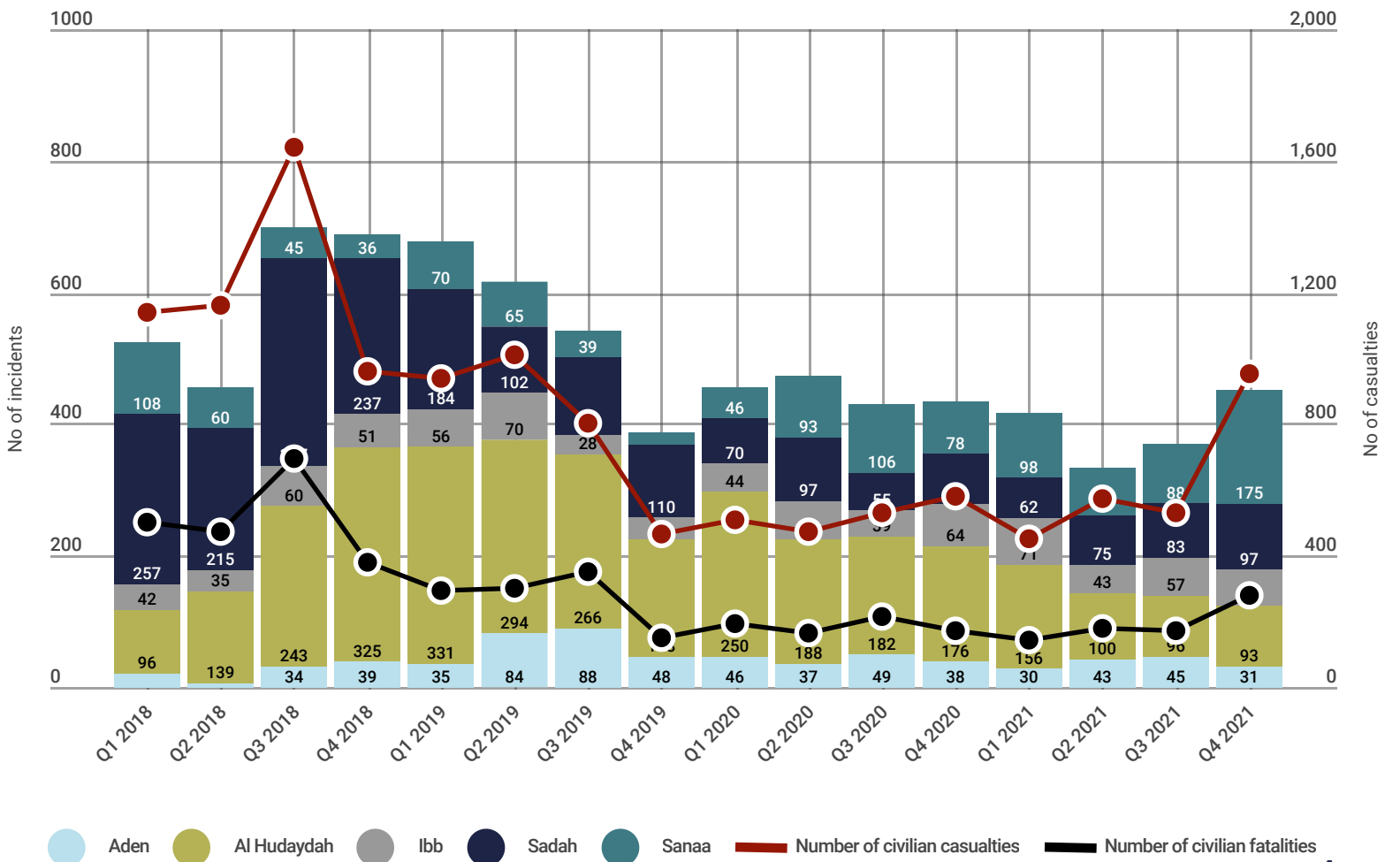
TOTAL NUMBER OF CIVILIAN IMPACT INCIDENTS AND CIVILIAN CASUALTIES BY MONTH



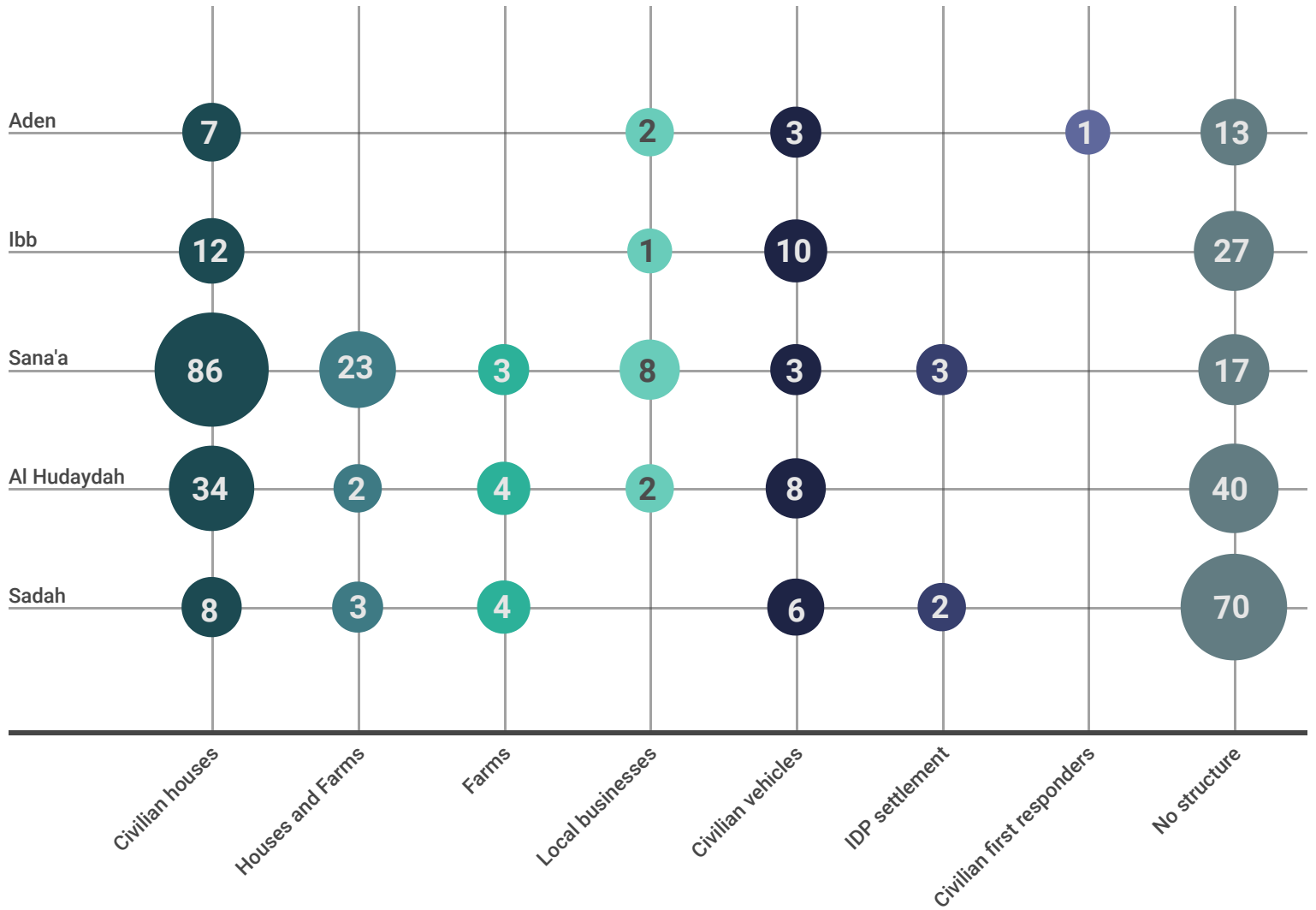
DISTRIBUTION OF CIVILIAN IMPACT INCIDENTS IN Q4 2021 BY GOVERNORATE



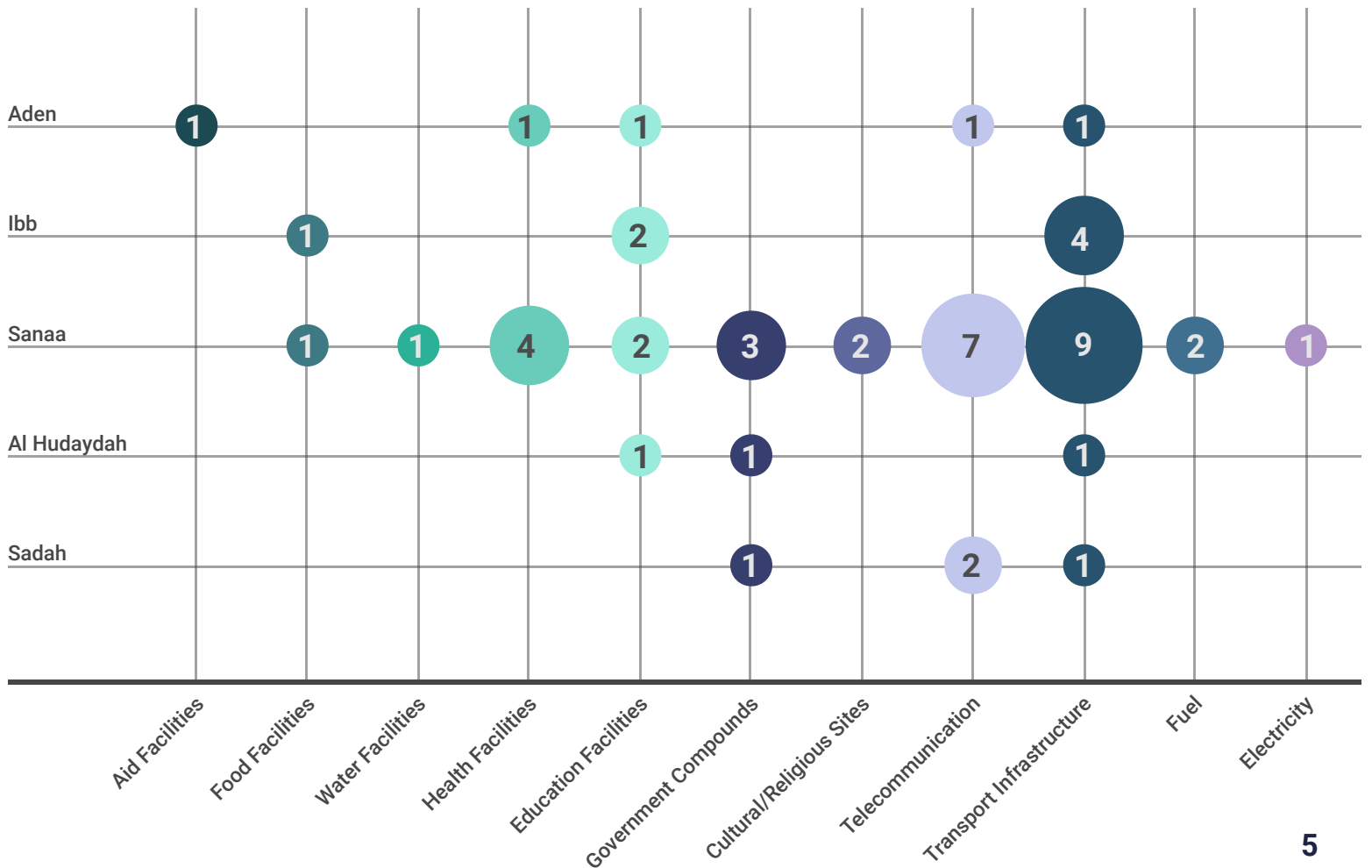
NUMBER OF INCIDENTS PER HUB AND TOTAL CIVILIAN CASUALTIES PER QUARTER



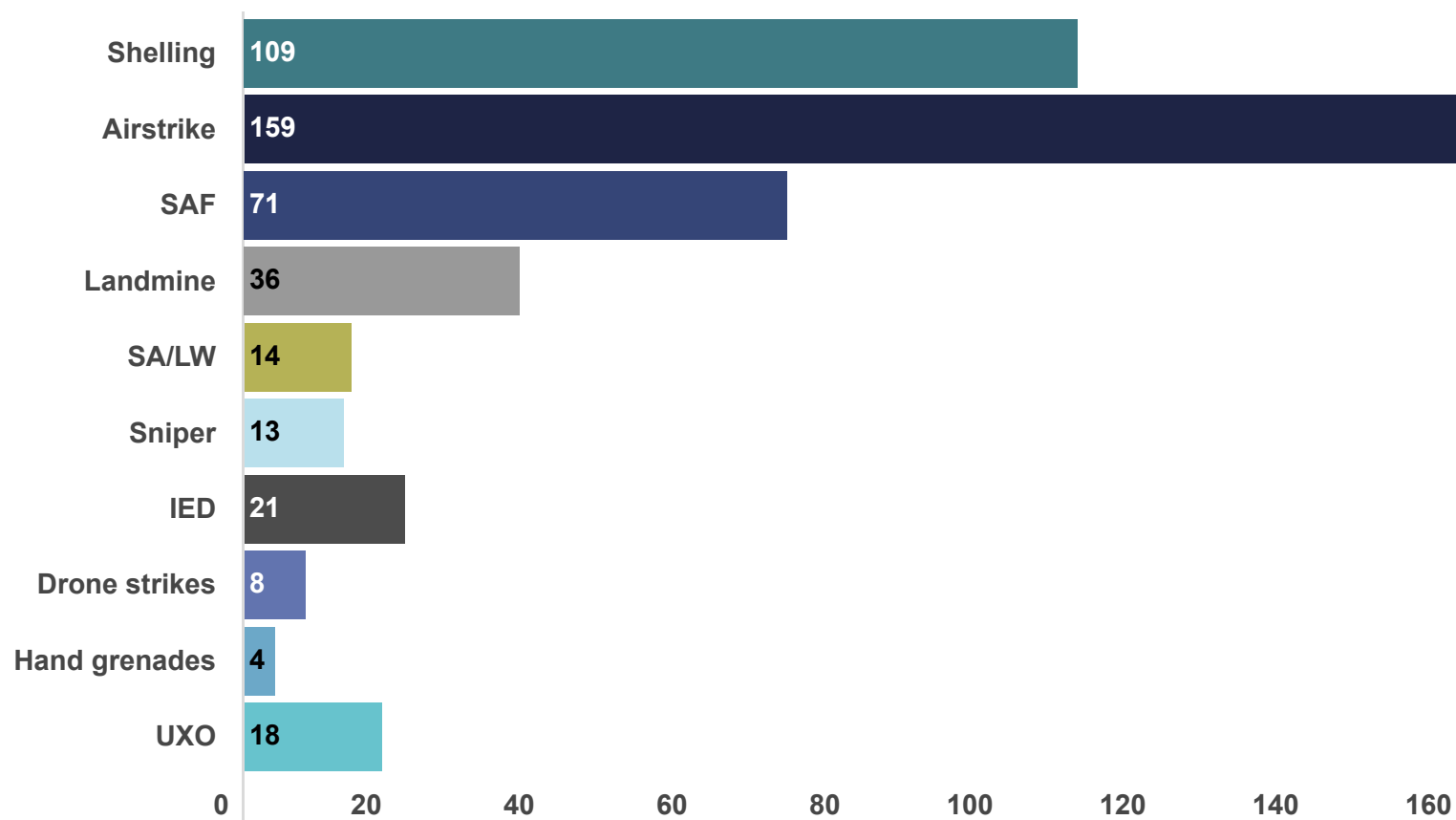
NUMBER OF INCIDENTS IMPACTING CIVILIAN STRUCTURES DURING Q4 2021 BY HUB



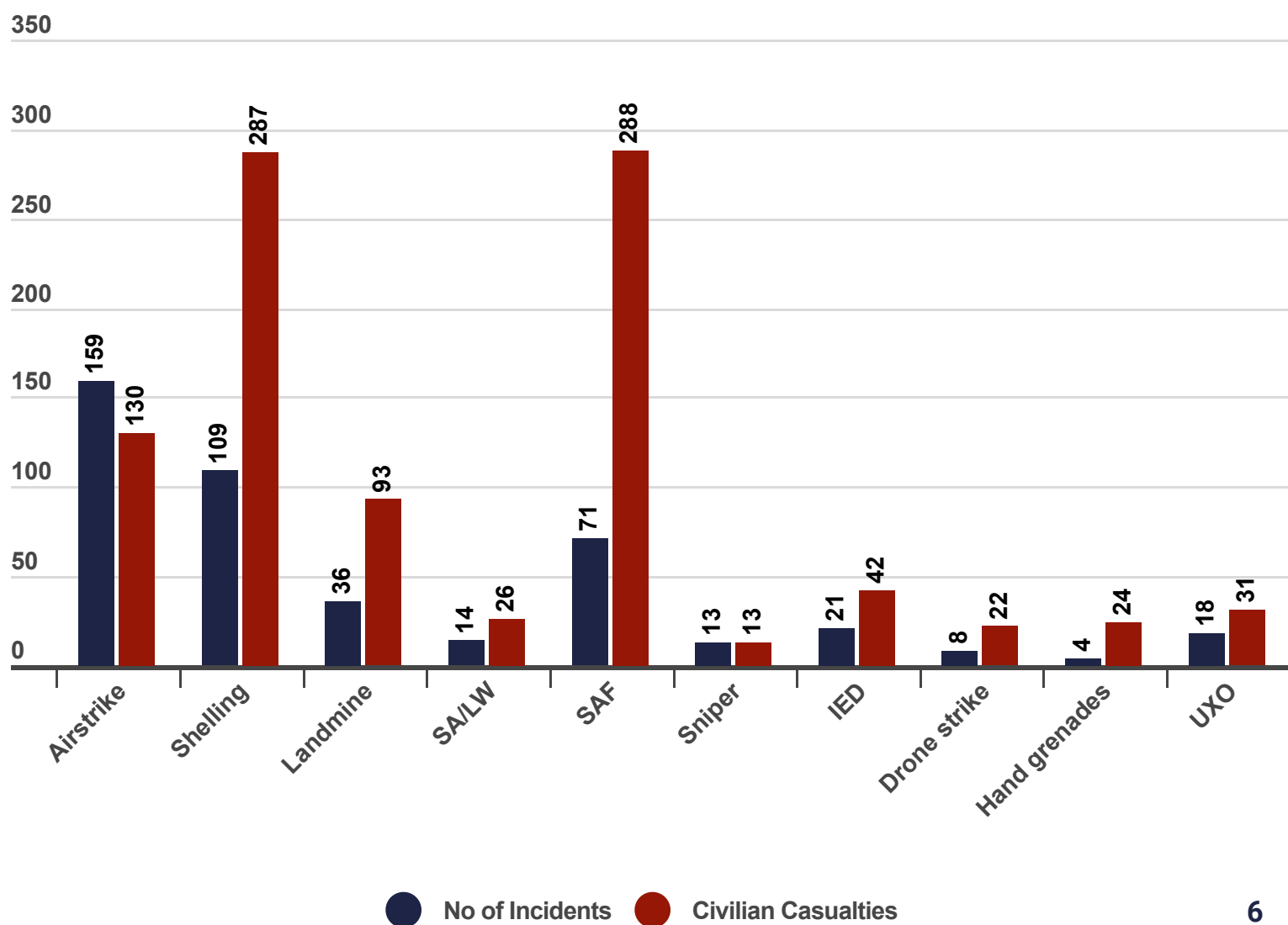
NUMBER OF INCIDENTS IMPACTING INFRASTRUCTURE DURING Q4 2021 BY HUB



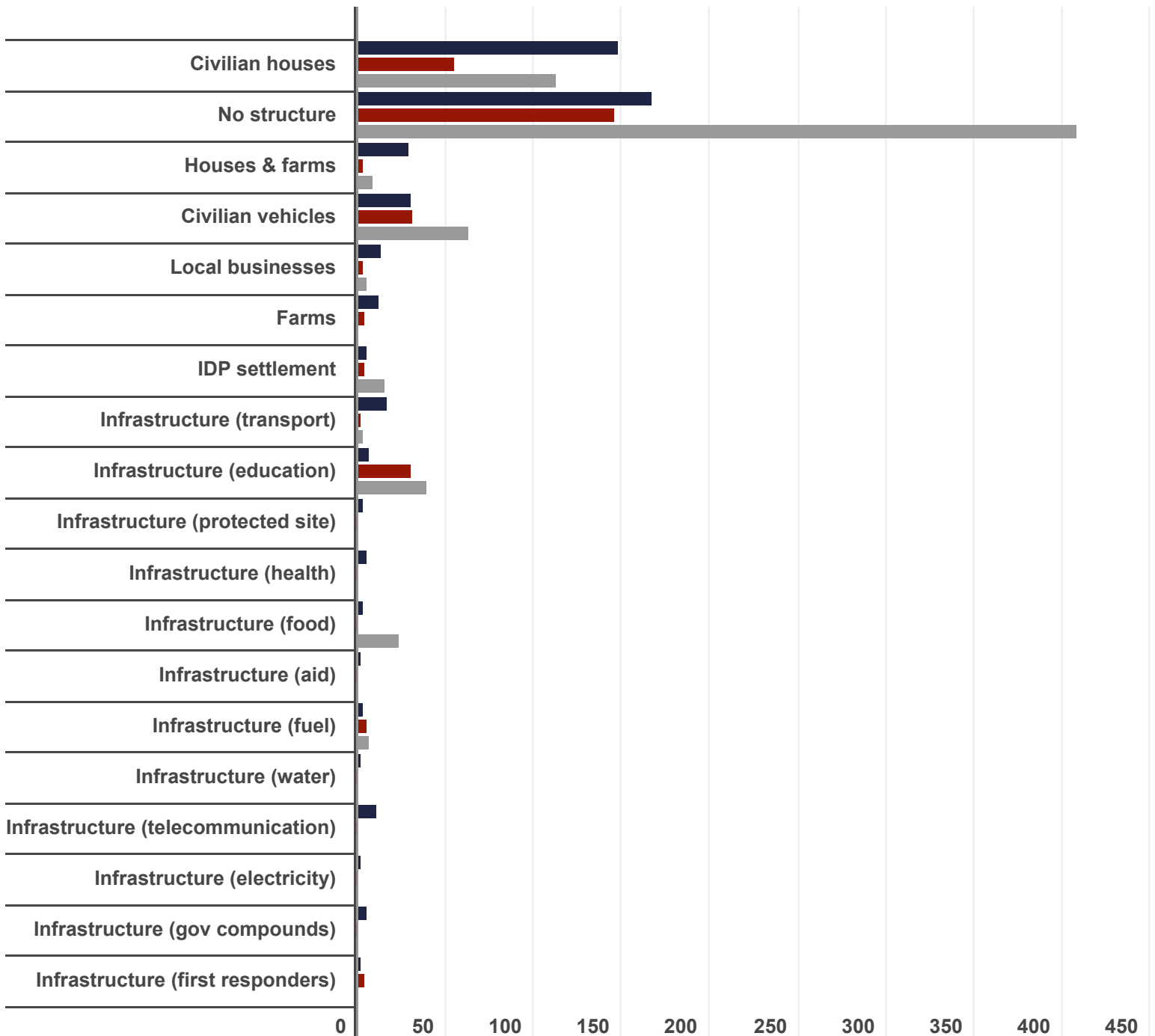
INCIDENTS IMPACTING CIVILIANS IN Q4 2021 BY TYPE OF ARMED VIOLENCE



CIVILIAN CASUALTIES BY TYPE OF ARMED VIOLENCE IN Q4 2021

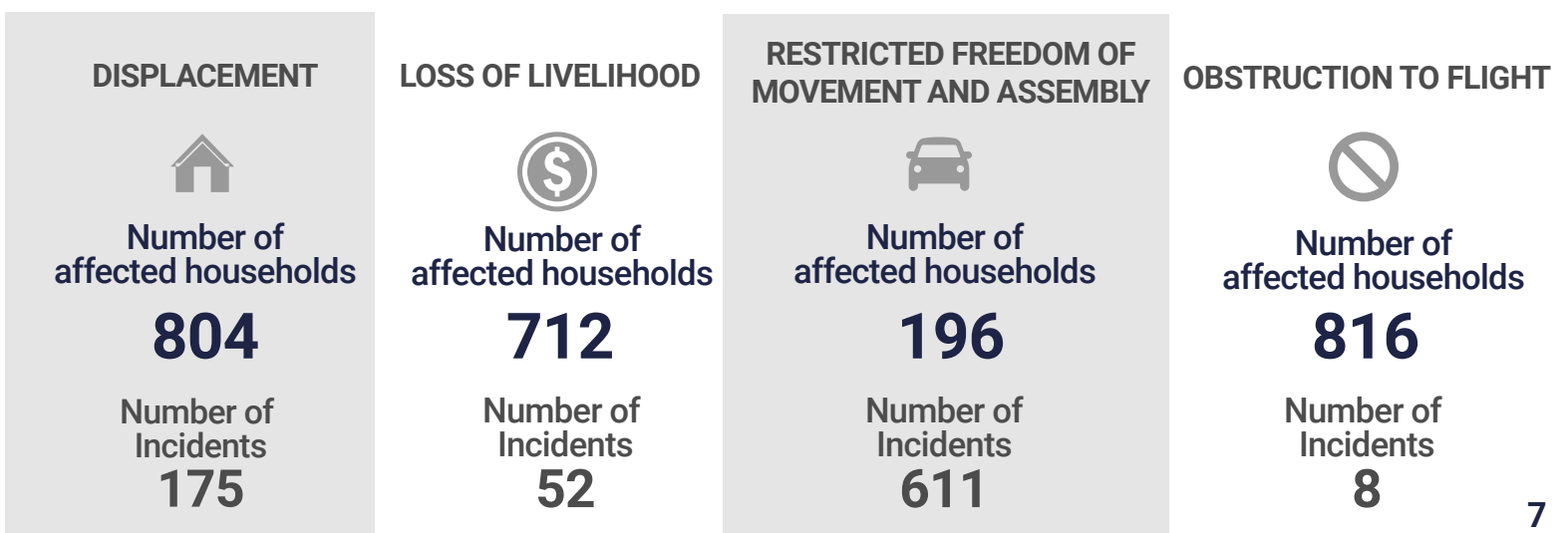


NUMBER OF INCIDENTS, FATALITIES AND INJURIES BY CIVILIAN STRUCTURE IN Q4 2021



● Number of incidents
 ● Total fatalities
 ● Total Injuries

DIRECT PROTECTION IMPLICATIONS OF INCIDENTS OF ARMED VIOLENCE ON CIVILIANS



INDIRECT PROTECTION IMPLICATIONS - HOUSEHOLDS EXPERIENCING RESTRICTED ACCESS



468,948

households facing restricted access to:

Health, education, first responders, worship

Number of Incidents

13



1,264,936

households facing restricted access to:

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

Number of Incidents

34



16,593

households facing restricted access to:

Water facilities, aid, food storage

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.



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