

CIMP QUARTERLY REPORT

Q1 2023: JANUARY - MARCH 2023

This is the Civilian Impact Monitoring Project quarterly report, providing an overview of all incidents of armed violence reported across Yemen in January, February and March 2023 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.

NATIONWIDE SNAPSHOT: CIVILIAN IMPACT FROM INCIDENTS OF ARMED VIOLENCE

Q1 2023: JANUARY - MARCH 2023

	Total number	Compared to previous quarter	Compared to 2022 average
Civilian Impact Incidents	328	+ 36%	+ 1%
Civilian Casualties* (Fatalities / Injuries)	581 (140 / 441)	+ 25%	- 7%
Child Casualties (Fatalities / Injuries)	94 (34 / 60)	- 23%	- 7%
Women Casualties (Fatalities / Injuries)	34 (10 / 24)	<i>unchanged</i>	- 26%

**Please note, all information and numbers included in CIMP reporting are based on information publicly available in open sources, and have not been independently verified*

ANALYTICAL HIGHLIGHTS

Civilian casualties increase from Q4 2022 to Q1 2023, from 465 to 581

Armed violence was responsible for a reported 581 civilian casualties in Yemen from January to March 2023, up 25% from 465 civilian casualties reported in the final quarter of 2022, and the highest seen since the first quarter of 2022, since before the truce commenced. More than half of the past quarter's civilian casualties were reported in Sa'dah, where border violence continues to drive high civilian casualty numbers. As a result of the border violence, shelling and light weapons fire were the two types of armed violence responsible for the highest civilian casualty numbers over the past three months

Border violence in western Sa'dah responsible for nearly 300 civilian casualties in the past three months

Cross-border artillery fire, drone strikes and border shootings were responsible for 294 civilian casualties in western Sa'dah during the first three months of 2023. This is the highest quarterly total to be seen in the governorate since late 2021, and marks a fivefold increase from the 58 civilian casualties reported in the western Sa'dah border areas in Q4 2022. Shada'a district saw the highest numbers of civilian casualty numbers, at 171, followed by 116 in Monabbih. Shada'a consistently sees higher casualty numbers as a result of shelling, which accounted for three quarters of the district's civilian casualties in Q1 2023, while in Monabbih, three quarters were the result of border outpost shootings, many of whom were in Ar Raqw area at the time. The two districts cumulatively saw 98% of all border violence casualties in Sa'dah. The remaining seven were reported across Qatabir, Razih and Baqim, where the border areas also continue to see intermittent unrest, but at a lower pace than in Shada'a and Monabbih.

Number of child fatalities increased for second consecutive quarter

Although the overall number of child casualties reported decreased from 122 to 94 between Q4 2022 and Q1 2023, the number of fatalities among the child casualties increased, up to 34, the highest since Q1 2022. 32 child fatalities were reported in Q4 2022. Explosive remnants of warfare (ERW) continue to drive the highest numbers of child casualties, with landmines and UXO accounting for 56% of the Q1 2023 child casualties. With regards to child fatalities specifically, the proportion for whom ERW was responsible is even higher, at 62%, almost two thirds.

The west coast saw more than half of the countrywide civilian ERW casualties for second consecutive quarter

Explosive remnants of warfare (ERW) were responsible for 121 civilian casualties in Q1 2023. This marks a decrease for the second consecutive quarter, down from 140 in Q4 2022. Nonetheless, quarterly ERW casualties have not dipped below 120 since Q3 2021. ERW casualty numbers started to increase in late 2021 after the frontlines in Hudaydah shifted south, facilitating greater freedom of movement of civilians in areas where hostilities had de-escalated, but that had not been fully cleared of remnant ordnance. Since then, Hudaydah has consistently seen the highest ERW casualty numbers in the country, and Q1 2023 was no exception; half of the Q1 ERW casualties were reported in Hudaydah. After Hudaydah, 19 civilian ERW casualties were reported in Jawf, and eight in Marib, both of which have seen several warnings of floodwaters from heavy rainfall dislodging remnant explosive devices in recent months.

Localised shootings continue to drive high civilian casualty numbers across the country

Small arms fire (SAF) was responsible for 80 civilian casualties in Q1 2023, marking a slight reduction from Q4 2022, but still the type of armed violence responsible for the fourth highest number of civilian casualties in the country. SAF incidents were reported across 16 different governorates, with Ta'izz and Ibb seeing the highest SAF casualties, at 15 and 14, respectively. Over half (42) of the shooting casualties were the direct result of dispute-driven violence, including tribal conflicts, land disputes, family quarrels, and economic disputes relating to levies and revenues. The latter is particularly prevalent against the backdrop of the ongoing economic crisis in the country; at least 15 of the casualties were the result of shootings in the vicinity of marketplaces, a key flashpoint for economic disputes, and there were at least three instances of checkpoint disputes escalating into shootings.

Two thirds of the sniper casualties in Q1 2023 were women and children

Sniper fire was responsible for 16 civilian casualties during the first three months of 2023, a third of whom were fatalities. Seven children and four women were among the casualties, together accounting for over two thirds of the sniper casualties reported in Q1 2023. This marks a proportionate increase from 2022; on average, over the past year, over a third of sniper casualties reported on a quarterly basis were women and children. It remains unclear as to why such a high proportion of sniper casualties are women and children. All but three of the Q1 sniper casualties were reported in Ta'izz, which consistently sees the highest numbers of civilian sniper casualties, likely due in part to the proximity of the frontlines to civilian areas. Two particular flashpoints were in Al-Qahirah district in Ta'izz city, where two sniper casualties were reported in separate shootings on 40 Street, and in Ash Shaqab area in Sabir Al-Mawadim district, where five sniper casualties were reported in three separate incidents.

Q1 2023 saw an increase in reports of civilian gatherings being impacted

There were five reports of civilian gatherings being directly impacted as a result of armed violence over the past quarter, the highest seen since Q3 2021. Throughout 2022, only three incidents were reported to have impacted civilian gatherings. In the incident to see the highest casualties, on 26 January, nine civilians were injured when a hand grenade was thrown at a group of civilians gathered by the Red Sea Mall in Al-Mansura district in Aden. Another grenade was thrown at a group of people at a fuel station on 40 Street in Ta'izz city on 6 March, injuring at least two civilians. There were also two instances of disputes escalating during wedding ceremonies, resulting in shootings; two civilians were shot dead when a wedding convoy came under fire Al-Hada district of Dhamar in March, and another two civilians were injured when a dispute escalated at a wedding in Ibb in January. It is unclear as to what has driven the increase in incidents impacting civilian gatherings, but against a backdrop of localised rivalries exacerbated by economic grievances, there is a risk of further civilian gatherings being impacted, particularly amid shootings and grenade attacks, in the coming months.

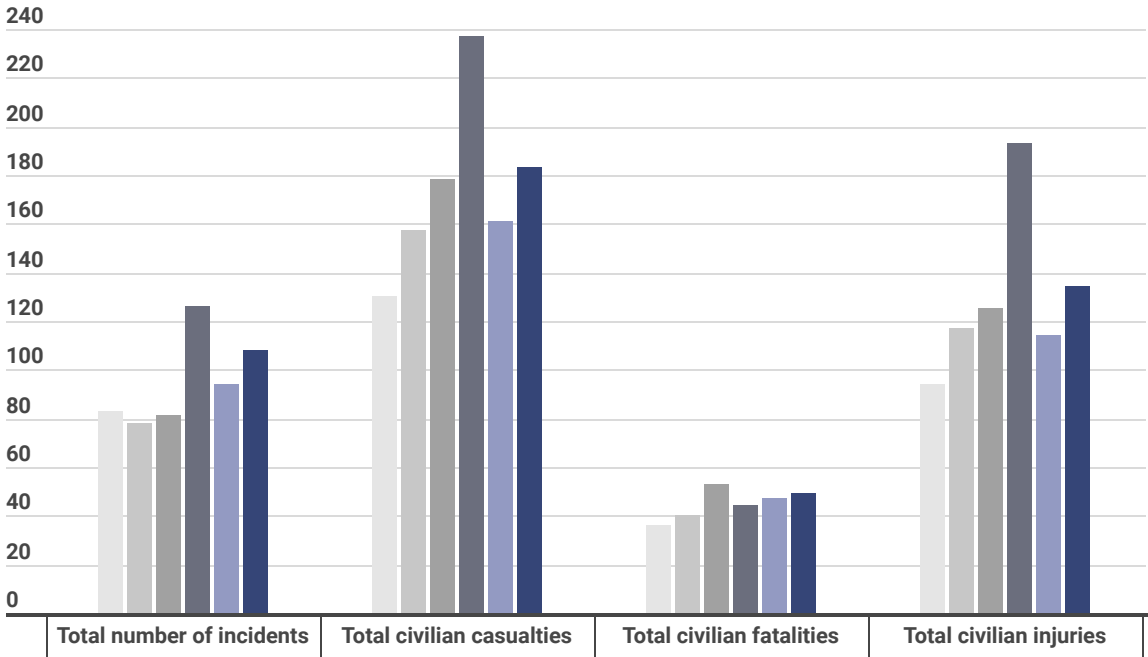
Incidents impacting health and education infrastructure are gradually picking up post-truce

For the first time in eight months, 13 March saw reports of drone strikes hitting a hospital in the Hajar area, in western Qa'atabah district, Dali'. By contrast, during the first quarter of 2022, 10 health facilities were impacted by armed violence, but these incidents largely lapsed during the six-month truce period, during which time two health facilities were impacted by armed violence, both in Ta'izz city. With the lapse of the countrywide truce, reports of civilian infrastructure being impacted have started to slowly pick up. March also saw another instance of an educational facility being impacted, also on account of drone strikes, on the west coast, in Hays district, Hudaydah. Throughout the truce period in 2022, from April to October, there were no reports of educational facilities being impacted, but in December 2022, two incidents impacted educational facilities.

Increase in houses impacted by armed violence in frontline areas

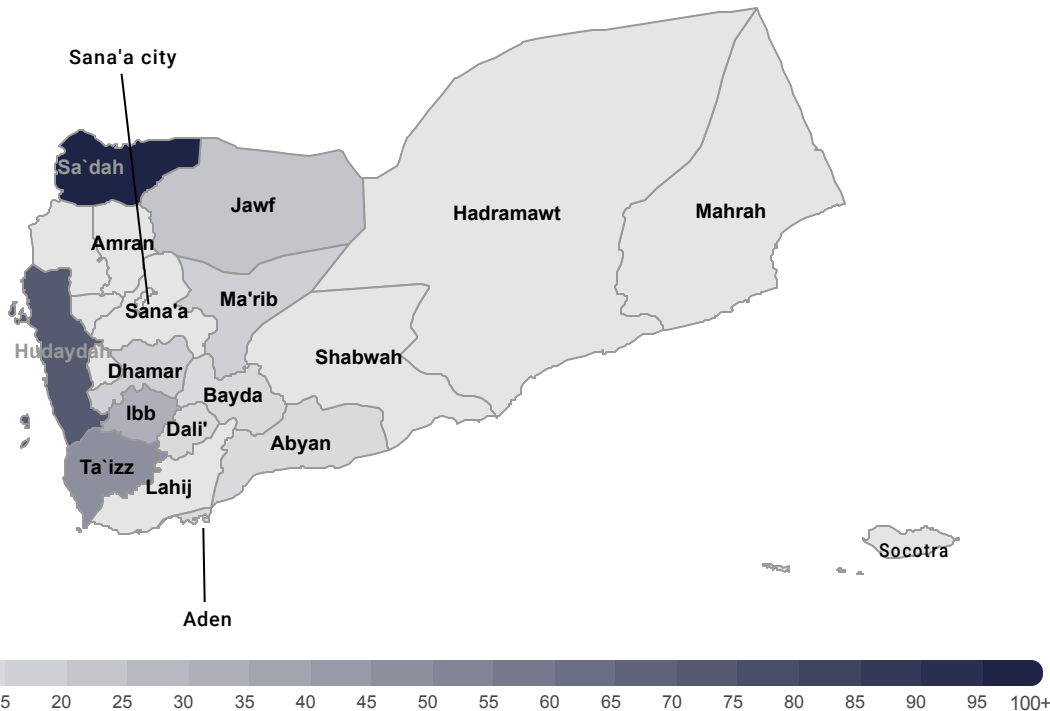
The number of incidents of armed violence reported to have directly impacted civilian houses across Yemen also increased in the first quarter of 2023, up by 43% from 63 incidents to 90. The incidents cumulatively resulted in 59 civilian casualties. Three quarters of the incidents in which houses were impacted were the result of shellfire, with Ta'izz seeing the highest number of incidents, at 24, followed by hostilities in other frontline areas, including 16 instances of houses being impacted in Hudaydah, 15 in Sa'dah and 14 in Ma'rib. In the latter, numbers picked up in March, coinciding with a sudden surge in hostilities in Harib district, where the frontlines have since quietened. In at least 16 incidents, nearby farmland was also impacted, threatening not only to displace people, but also putting a critical source of sustenance and livelihood at risk.

TOTAL NUMBER OF CIVILIAN IMPACT INCIDENTS AND CIVILIAN CASUALTIES BY MONTH OVER THE PAST SIX MONTHS

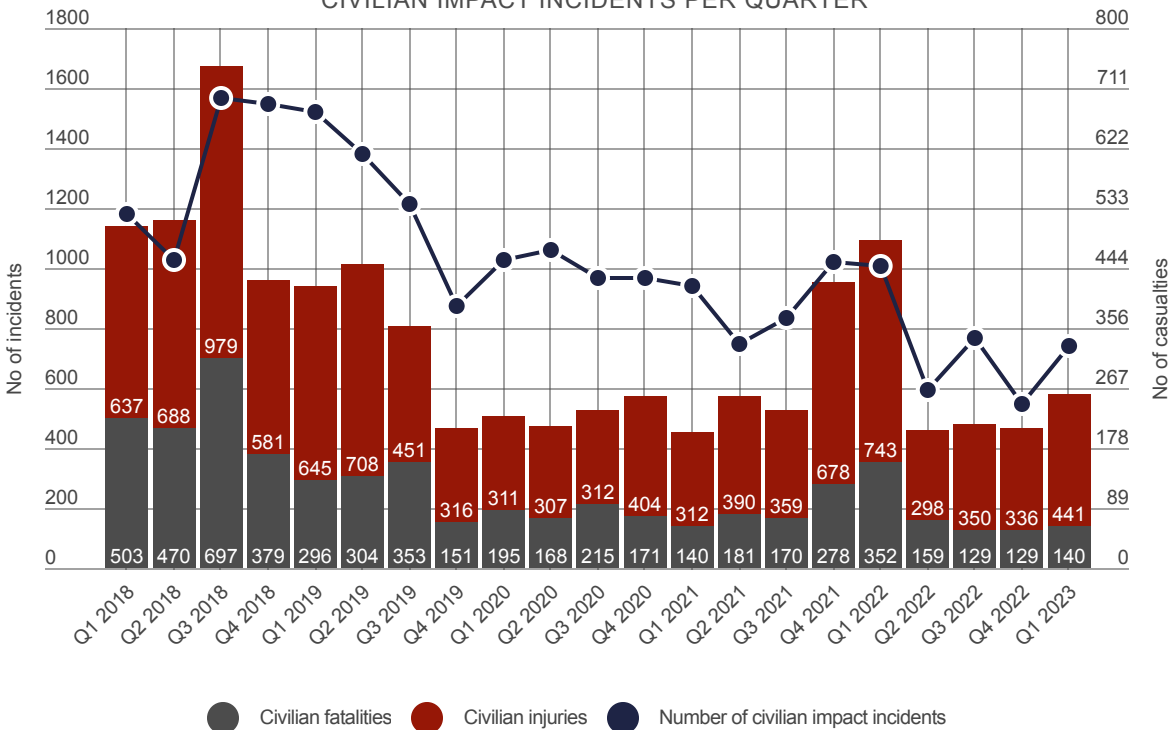


October November December January February March

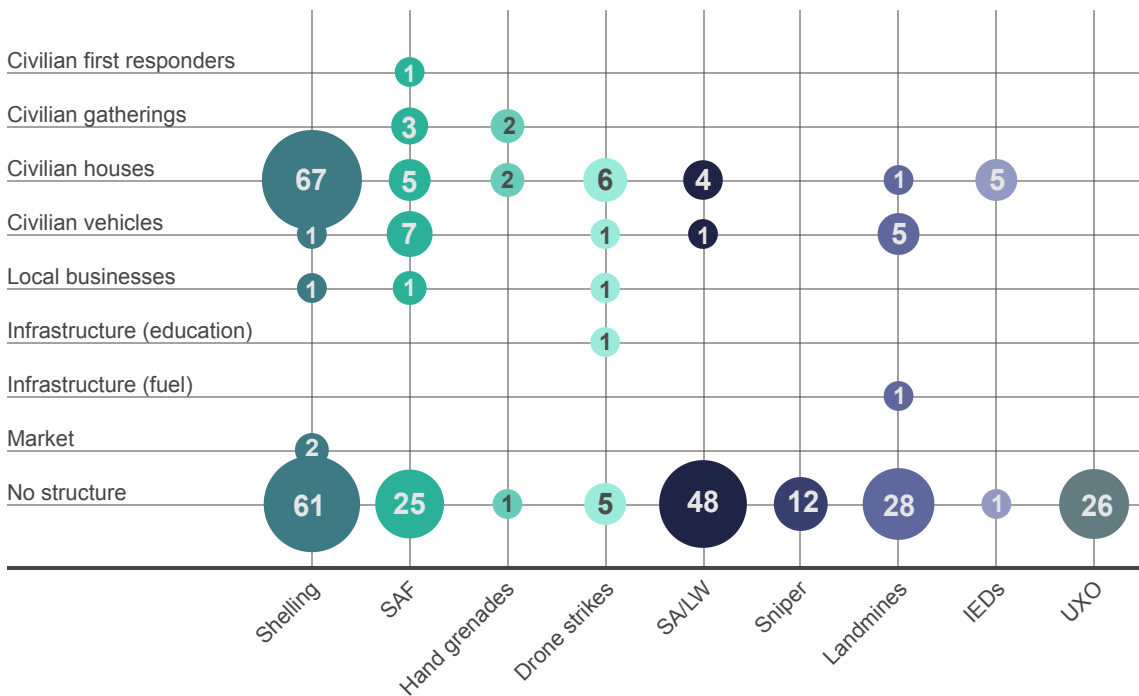
DISTRIBUTION OF CIVILIAN CASUALTIES IN Q1 2023 BY GOVERNORATE



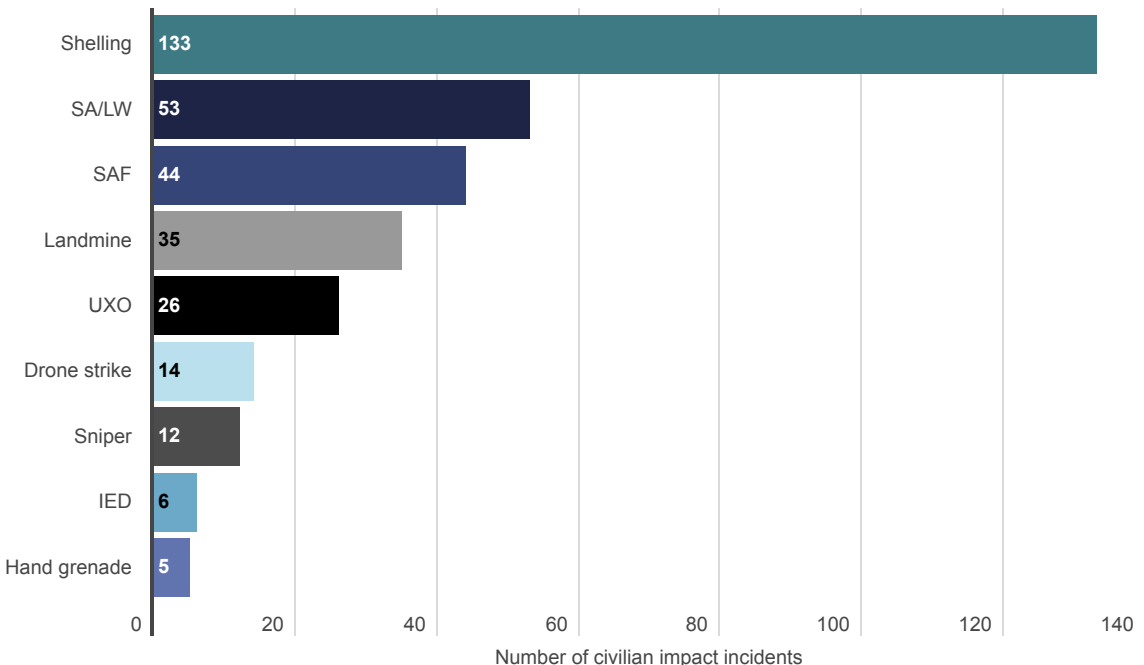
NUMBER OF CIVILIAN CASUALTIES, DISAGGREGATED BY FATALITIES AND INJURIES, AND CIVILIAN IMPACT INCIDENTS PER QUARTER



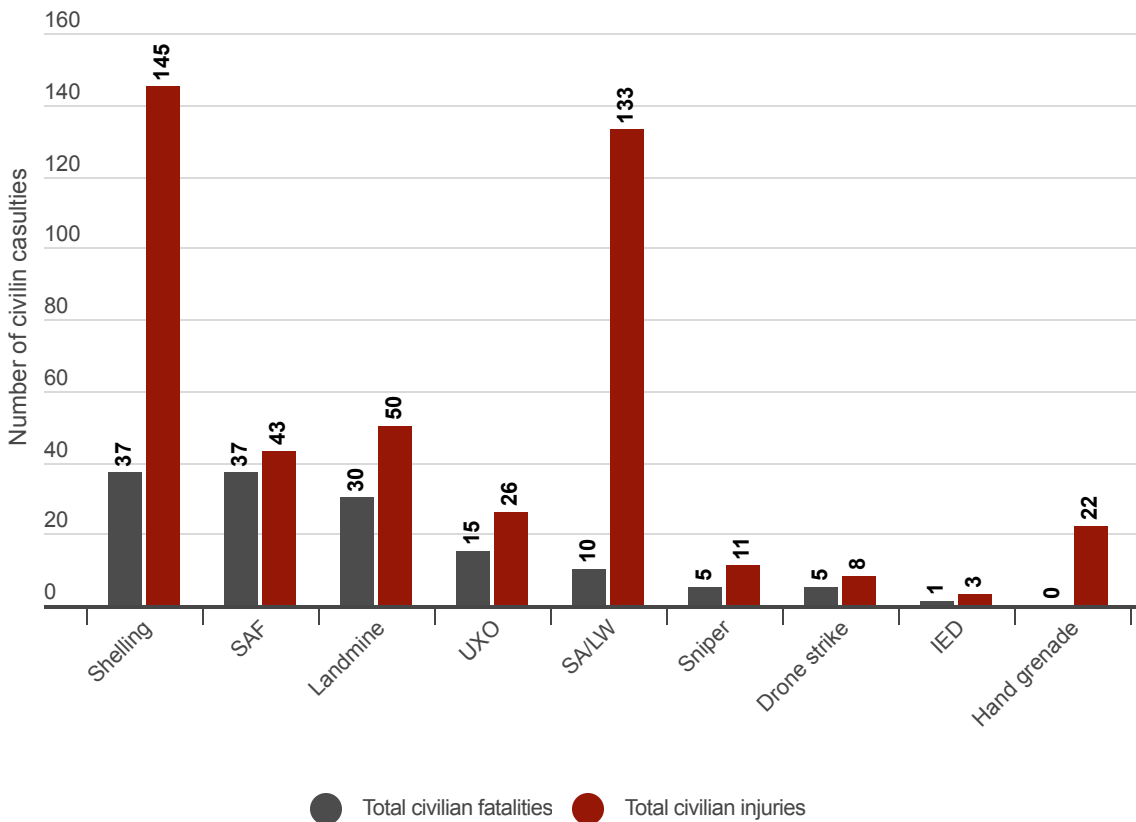
NUMBER OF INCIDENTS IMPACTING CIVILIAN PROPERTY AND INFRASTRUCTURE DURING Q1 2023 BY TYPE OF ARMED VIOLENCE



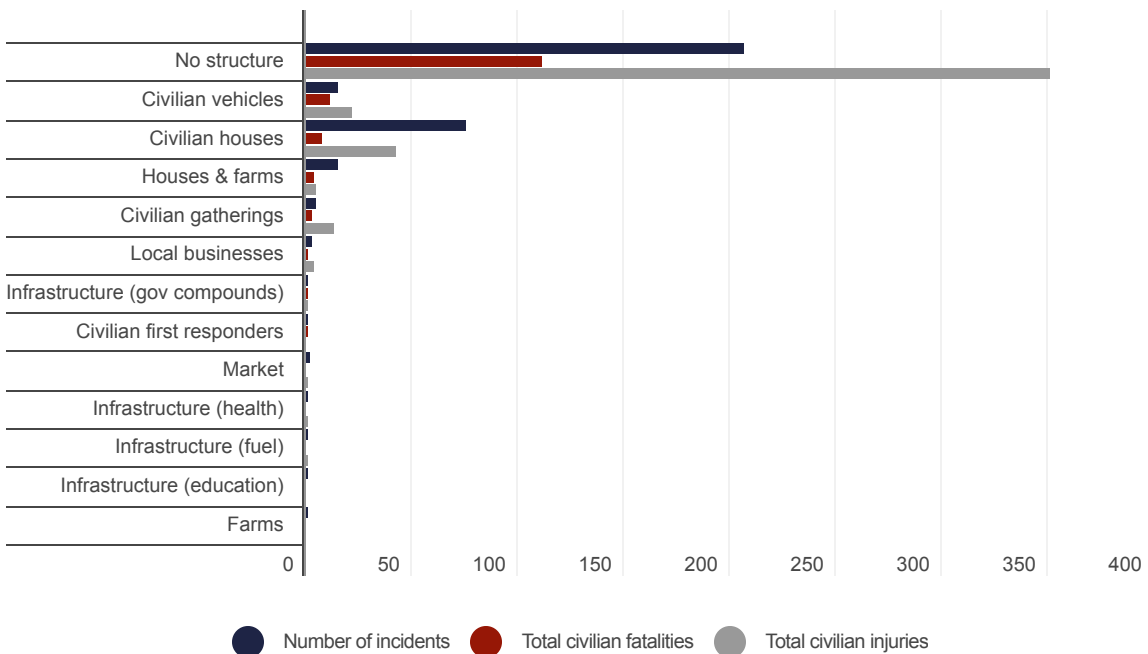
INCIDENTS IMPACTING CIVILIANS IN Q1 2023 BY TYPE OF ARMED VIOLENCE



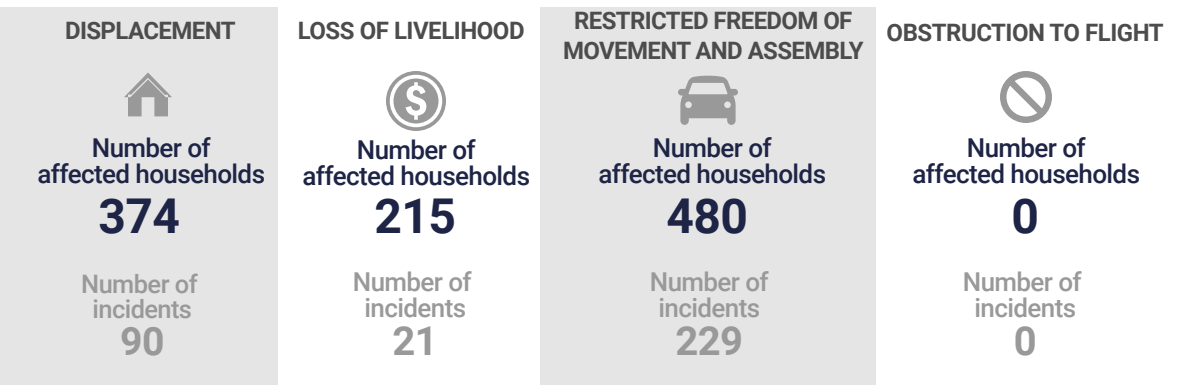
CIVILIAN FATALITIES AND INJURIES BY TYPE OF ARMED VIOLENCE IN Q1 2023



NUMBER OF INCIDENTS, FATALITIES AND INJURIES BY CIVILIAN STRUCTURE IN Q1 2023



DIRECT PROTECTION IMPLICATIONS OF INCIDENTS OF ARMED VIOLENCE ON CIVILIANS



INDIRECT PROTECTION IMPLICATIONS - HOUSEHOLDS EXPERIENCING RESTRICTED ACCESS



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