CIMP QUARTERLY REPORT
Q4 2023: OCTOBER - DECEMBER 2023

This is the Civilian Impact Monitoring Project quarterly report, providing an overview of all incidents of armed violence reported across Yemen in October, November and December 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
Q4 2023: OCTOBER - DECEMBER 2023

	Total number	Compared to previous quarter	Compared to 2022 average
Civilian Impact Incidents	176	- 26%	- 46%
Civilian Casualties* (Fatalities / Injuries)	326 (103 / 223)	- 7%	- 48%
Child Casualties (Fatalities / Injuries)	55 (18 / 37)	- 35%	- 46%
Women Casualties (Fatalities / Injuries)	35 (14 / 21)	+ 6%	- 24%

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

Overall casualties, including fatalities, decreased from Q3 2023 to Q4 2023
Armed violence was responsible for 326 civilian casualties in Yemen in Q4 2023, marking a slight decrease (-7%) from the 350 civilian casualties reported in Q3 2023. This was the lowest quarterly civilian casualty count on CIMP records, and the 103 fatalities among the casualties also mark the lowest quarterly fatality count recorded since the project commenced. The most significant decrease was seen among child casualties, which dropped by 35% compared to Q3 2023, while the number of women casualties increased by 6%. Sa'dah saw almost a third of the past quarter's casualties, at 99, due in large part to ongoing border violence. This was followed by 35 casualties reported in Amran, and 33 in Ta'izz. For the third consecutive quarter, shooting incidents were responsible for the highest casualty numbers.

Shootings continued to drive the highest civilian casualty numbers countrywide
Small arms fire (SAF) was responsible for 74 civilian casualties in Yemen over the past three months, marking a 26% decrease compared to Q3 2023, and the lowest quarterly SAF casualty count recorded since Q1 2022. Nonetheless, SAF was responsible for more civilian casualties than any other type of armed violence. The majority of SAF casualties were reported in Ta'izz and Ibb, which each saw 13, followed by 10 in Aden. Certain economic and commercial sites continue to see regular reports of shootings. For instance, there were three marketplace shootings in Q4 2023, resulting in four civilian fatalities. Two of the fatalities were the result of separate shootings that came as a result of disputes escalating at qat markets, including a civilian who was killed in the crossfire of clashes that broke out between armed factions at a qat market in Al-Karaa area in Dar Sad, Aden, on 20 December, and another who was killed in the crossfire of clashes between two armed factions at a qat market in Ad Dabuah, central Ta'izz city. There were also three checkpoint shootings, resulting in five civilian casualties, including two fatalities. One checkpoint shooting was reported in each of Jawf, Amran and Ma'rib, with the latter linked to mounting grievances over oil production, supply and revenues in the governorate.

Women casualties increased in Q4 2023
35 women were killed or injured by armed violence in Yemen in Q4 2023, the highest number of women casualties to be reported in one quarter in the country since Q2 2022. 14 fatalities were among the casualties, the joint highest number of women to be killed by armed violence in one quarter since Q1 2022. A third of the women casualties were the result of small arms fire (SAF) shooting incidents, and of the 12 women SAF casualties, at least seven were the result of family disputes that had escalated, reflecting the prevalence of armed violence in domestic spaces. There were another six women casualties resulting from three instances of hand grenades detonating inside civilian homes, similarly demonstrative of the vulnerability of women to incidents of armed violence that occur at home.

Explosion at munitions store results in mass civilian casualties in Amran
On 17 October, three civilians were killed and another 27 civilians were injured when a munitions store exploded at an arms dealer's house in Al-Mamar in Jabal Iyal Yazid district, Amran. The explosion was also reported to have damaged a number of houses in the area, with some reports suggesting that five houses were completely destroyed, and others damaged. Weapons cache explosions are relatively infrequent in Yemen, but of the two weapons cache explosions reported in 2022, the average civilian casualty count per incident was 35. The incident was the only weapons storage explosion to be reported in 2023. The explosion pushed the total civilian casualty count in Amran in Q4 2023 to 35, the second highest casualty count in the country by governorate. The remaining five casualties were on account of localised shooting incidents.

Sa'dah border violence remained responsible for highest civilian casualty numbers in the country
During every quarter in 2023, Sa'dah saw the highest number of civilian casualties reported. In Q4 2023, 99 civilian casualties were reported in the northern governorate, up 14% from Q3 2023, and again marking a higher civilian casualty count than any other governorate. Among the 99, 89 were the result of border violence in western Sa'dah, where the flashpoints remain unchanged; 44 civilian casualties were reported in Monabbih district in Q4, 39 in Shada'a and six in Qatabir. The types of armed violence driving casualties on the border also remain unchanged, with cross-border artillery fire resulting in 50 civilian casualties, and light weapons fire, typically machine gun fire from border patrols and outposts, accounting for another 38 civilian casualties. There was also one civilian drone strike casualty on the border. Migrants were reported among the casualties in eight incidents.

Explosive remnants of warfare responsible for majority of child casualties
Of 55 child casualties reported countrywide in Yemen in Q4 2023, almost half (22), were the result of incidents involving explosive remnants of warfare (ERW), including 14 on account of UXO incidents, seven in landmine blasts, and one in a remnant IED explosion. Of 24 civilian UXO casualties reported in Q4, 58% were children, while 20% of the 35 landmine casualties were children. Over a third of the child ERW casualties were reported on the west coast, in Hudaydah, which continues to see the highest civilian ERW casualty numbers in the country. Moreover, at least four children were killed or injured by ERW while tending to livestock. There was also an incident in Marib in which an 11-year-old boy was injured when a UXO exploded in As Suwayda IDP camp, the second ERW incident to be reported on the site this year. Since frontline hostilities declines, ERW has continued to drive among the highest civilian casualty numbers of all types of armed violence in Yemen. Children remain particularly vulnerable to ERW incidents, most notably UXO.
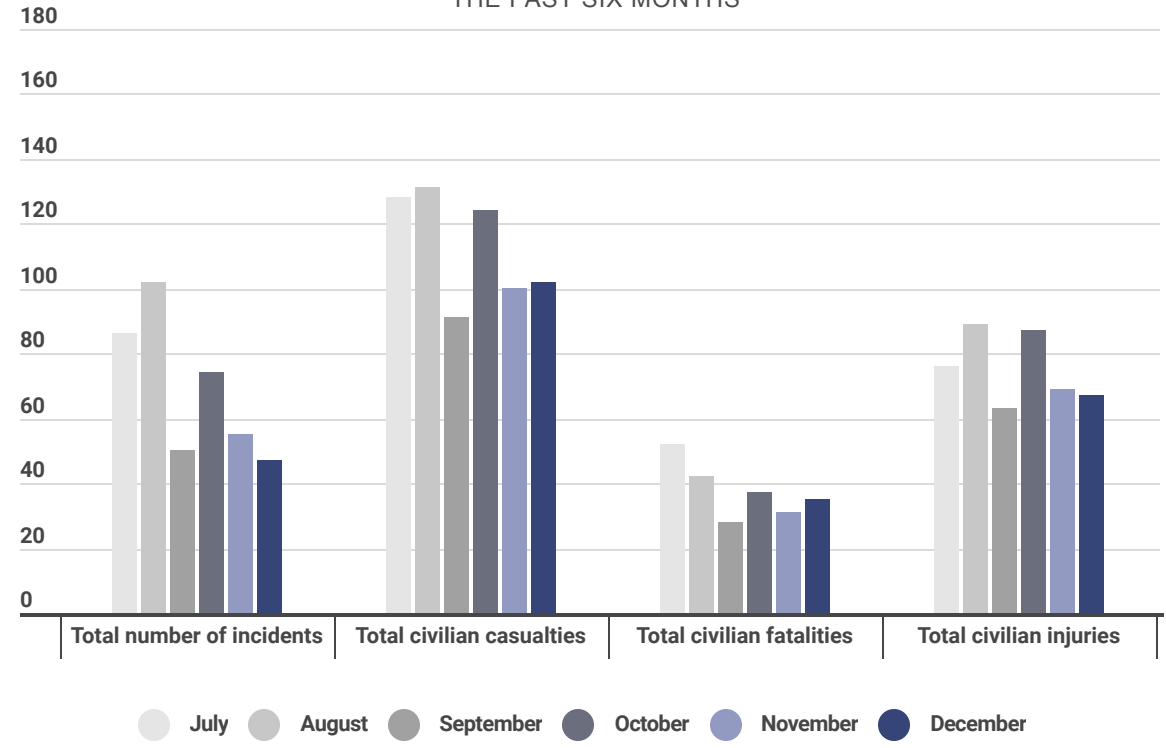
Drone strike near school in Dali' kills one child and injures another eight
Although no incidents were reported to have directly impacted schools over the past three months, two incidents were reported in close proximity to schools in Ta'izz city and in Qa'atabah, Dali'. The latter resulted in the highest number of child casualties to be reported in one incident in Q4: on 1 November, a six-year-old boy was killed, and 10 civilians were injured, including eight boys aged between 6 and 14 years old, when drone strikes hit Hammam An Nubayjah, near a school in Bilad Al-Yubi. The incident also accounted for half of the 21 civilian drone casualties reported in Yemen in Q3 2024; the highest quarterly drone casualty count since Q4 2022. In the incident near the school in Ta'izz, a woman was killed, and her sister injured in the crossfire of clashes that erupted near a school in Al-Mudhaffar, in the northwest of Ta'izz city.

More farmland was impacted by armed violence in Q4 than in Q3
There were 15 instances of farmland being impacted by armed violence in Q4 2023, more than doubling from seven such events in Q3 2023. All 15 incidents were the result of artillery fire, including eight instances of shellfire hitting farmland in Maqbanah, in western Ta'izz, five incidents in southern Hudaydah, in At Tuhayat, Al-Garrahi and Hays, and two incidents in Harib district, southern Marib. Although no casualties were reported in the incidents, hostilities impacting farmland can hinder civilian access to a critical food source, and can serve to undermine livelihoods. Despite the increase in reports of farmland being impacted, Q4 saw a decrease in reports of civilian homes being impacted, down to 43 incidents, compared to 75 in Q3. 28 of the incidents reported to have impacted houses were caused by shellfire, primarily in Ta'izz, southern Hudaydah, Ma'rib and Sa'dah. There were also six reports of hand grenades detonating inside civilian homes, resulting in 26 civilian casualties.

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

Legend: July, August, September, October, November, December

Categories: Total number of incidents, Total civilian casualties, Total civilian fatalities, Total civilian injuries

DISTRIBUTION OF CIVILIAN CASUALTIES IN Q4 2023 BY GOVERNORATE

Governorates: Sana'a city, Sa`dah, Jawf, Hadramawt, Mahrah, Hajja, Amran, Sana'a, Ma'rib, Hudaydah, Dhamar, Bayda', Shabwah, Ibb, Dali', Abyan, Ta`izz, Lahij, Aden, Socotra

Scale: 5 10 15 20 25 30 35 40 45 50 55 60 65 70 75 80 85 90 95 100
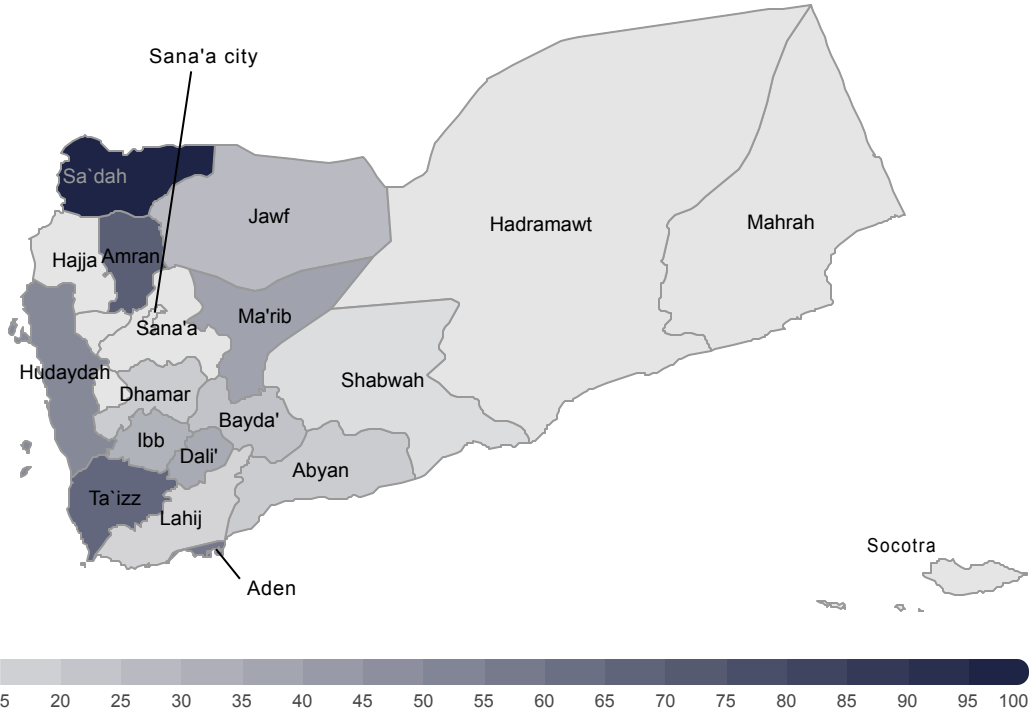
NUMBER OF CIVILIAN CASUALTIES, DISAGGREGATED BY FATALITIES AND INJURIES, AND CIVILIAN IMPACT INCIDENTS PER QUARTER

Legend: Civilian fatalities · Civilian injuries · Number of civilian impact incidents
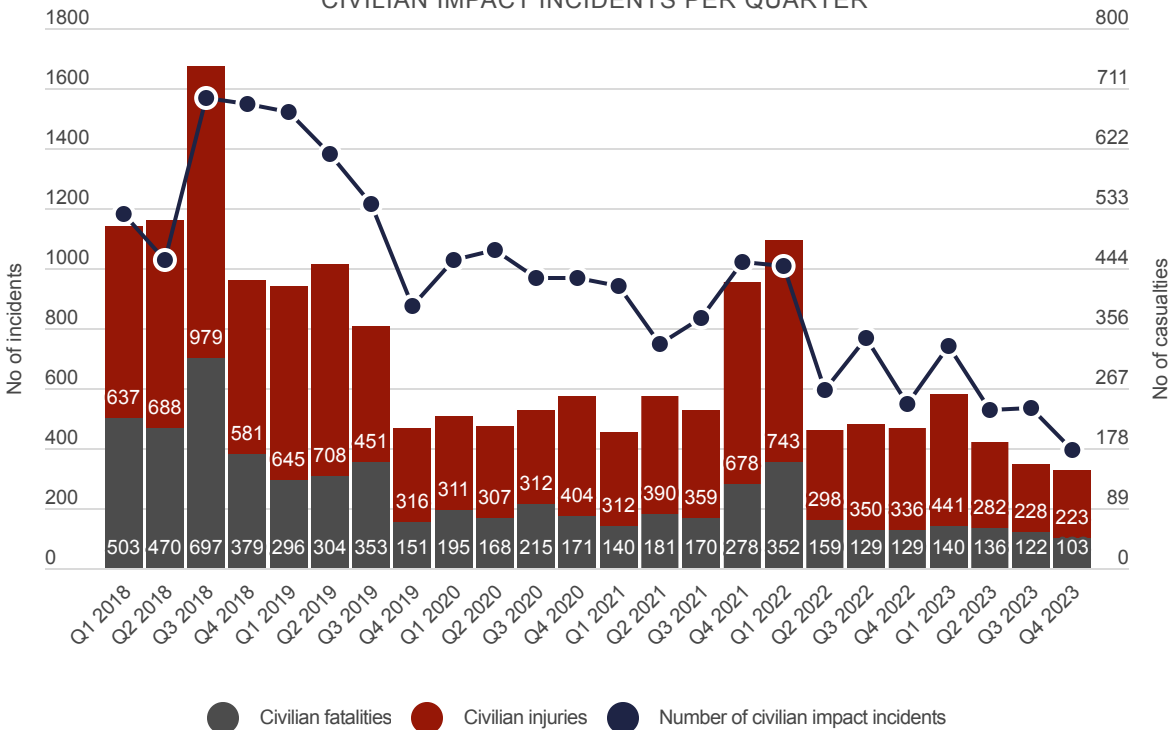
NUMBER OF INCIDENTS IMPACTING CIVILIAN PROPERTY AND INFRASTRUCTURE DURING Q4 2023 BY TYPE OF ARMED VIOLENCE

	Shelling	SAF	Hand grenades	Drone strikes	SA/LW	Sniper	Landmines	IEDs	UXO	Weapons cache explosi...
Civilian houses	28		6	2		2		1	3	1
Farms	15									
Civilian vehicles		1			1		8			
Infrastructure (transport)	1									
Infrastructure (recreation)		1								
Market				1						
IDP settlement	2								1	
No structure	14	40	1	4	21	5	16	1	8	
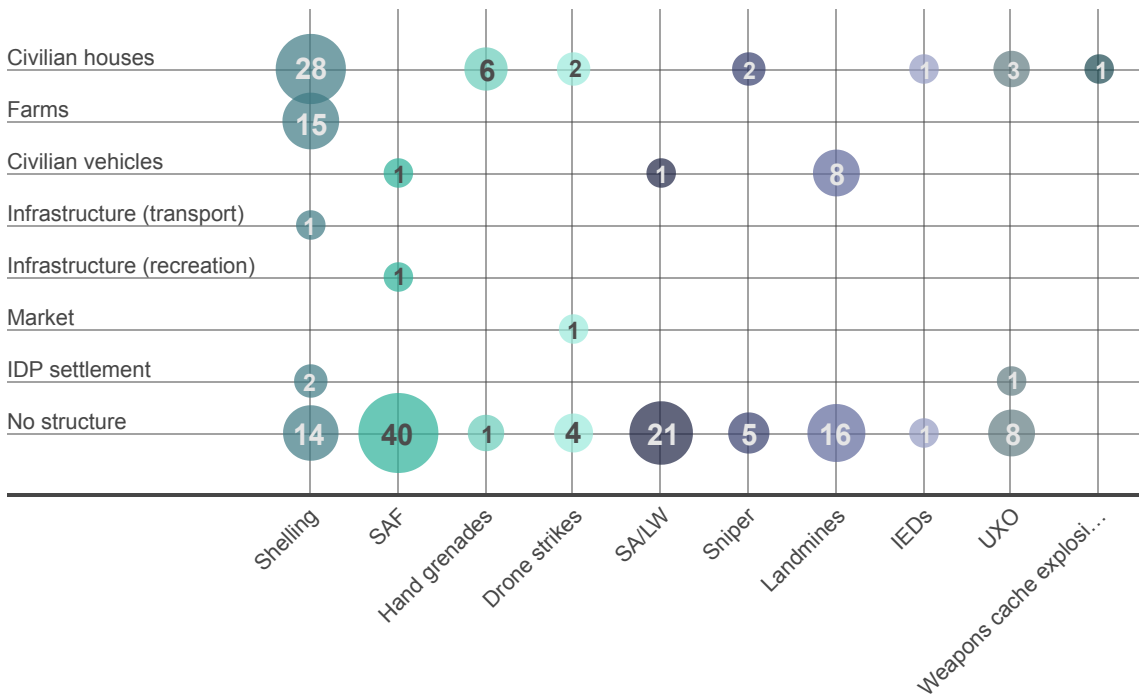
INCIDENTS IMPACTING CIVILIANS IN Q4 2023 BY TYPE OF ARMED VIOLENCE

Type	Number of civilian impact incidents
Shelling	50
SAF	42
Landmine	24
SA/LW	22
UXO	12
Hand grenade	9
Sniper	7
Drone strike	7
IED	2
Weapons cache explosion	1

Number of civilian impact incidents
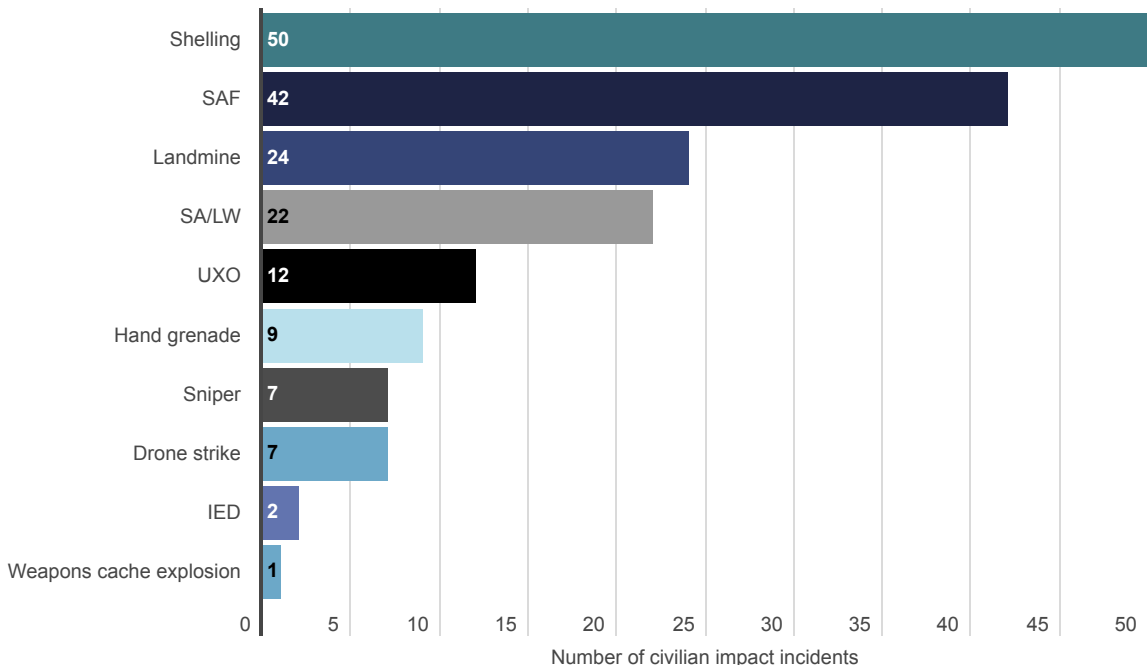
CIVILIAN FATLITIES AND INJURIES BY TYPE OF ARMED VIOLENCE IN Q4 2023

Number of civilin casulties

Type	Total civilian fatalities	Total civilian injuries
SAF	43	31
Shelling	8	51
SA/LW	9	32
Landmine	16	19
Weapons cache explosion	3	27
Hand grenade	10	20
UXO	9	15
Drone strike	4	17
Sniper	1	7
IED	0	4

● Total civilian fatalities   ● Total civilian injuries
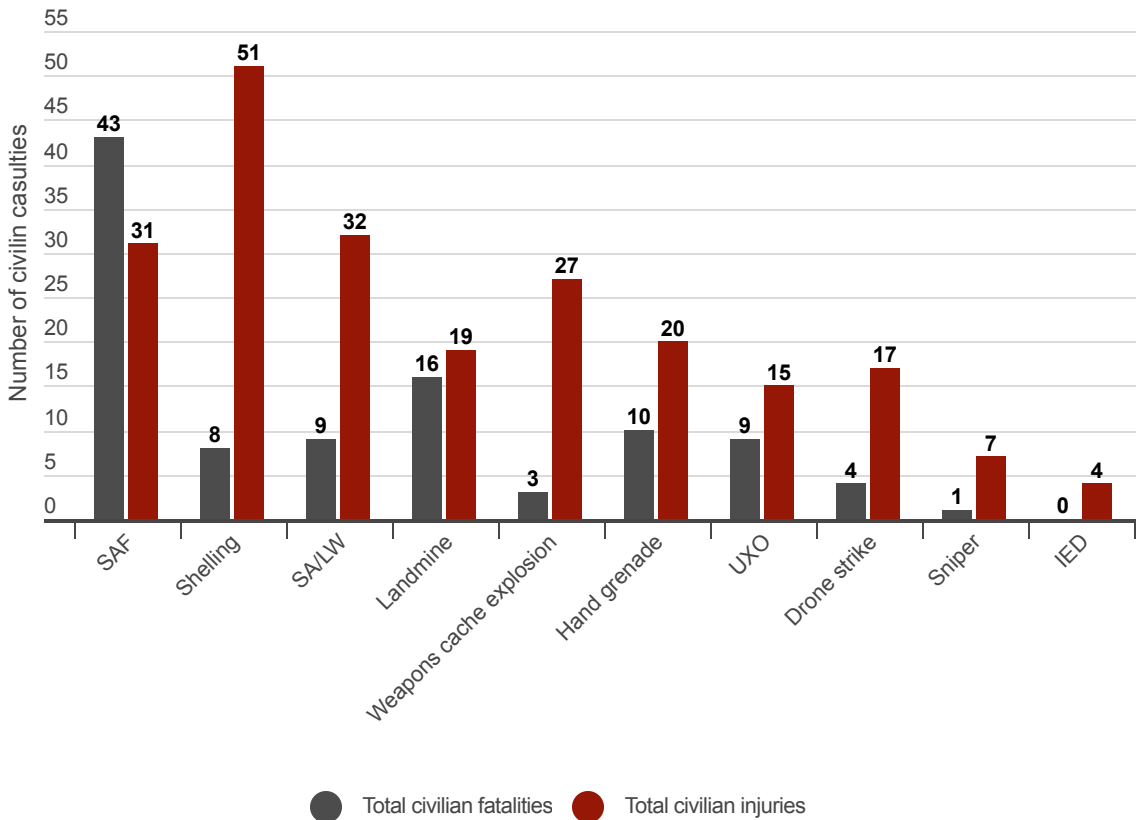
NUMBER OF INCIDENTS, FATALITIES AND INJURIES BY CIVILIAN STRUCTURE IN Q4 2023

Legend:
- Number of incidents
- Total civilian fatalities
- Total civilian injuries
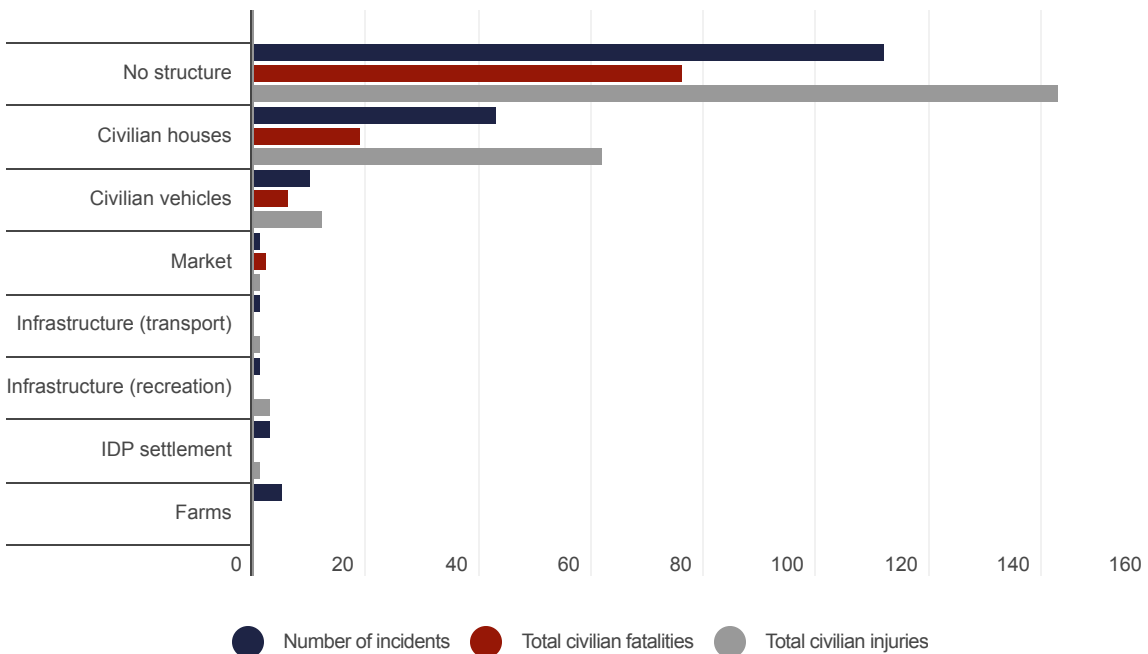
DIRECT PROTECTION IMPLICATIONS OF INCIDENTS OF ARMED VIOLENCE ON CIVILIANS

DISPLACEMENT	LOSS OF LIVELIHOOD	RESTRICTED FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT AND ASSEMBLY	OBSTRUCTION TO FLIGHT
Number of affected households **154**	Number of affected households **90**	Number of affected households **218**	Number of affected households **2,213**
Number of incidents **44**	Number of incidents **16**	Number of incidents **121**	Number of incidents **3**
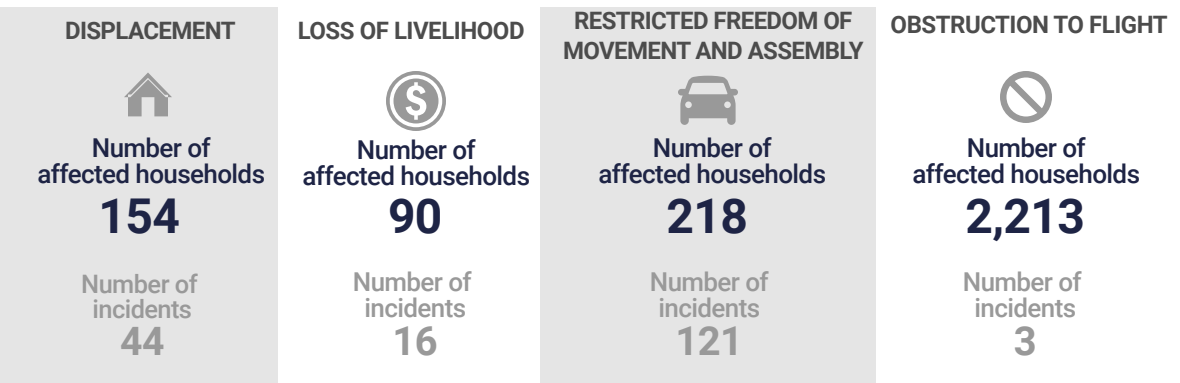
INDIRECT PROTECTION IMPLICATIONS - HOUSEHOLDS EXPERIENCING RESTRICTED ACCESS

0 households facing restricted access to:	**2,485** households facing restricted access to:	**0** households facing restricted access to:
Health, education, first responders, worship	Transport, telecommunication, media, fuel, governmental buildings, recreation, electricity	Water facilities, aid, food storage
Number of Incidents **0**	Number of Incidents **2**	Number of Incidents **0**

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