

CIVILIAN IMPACT MONITORING PROJECT

THEMATIC REPORT: THE AL-HUDAYDAH CEASEFIRE, ONE YEAR ON

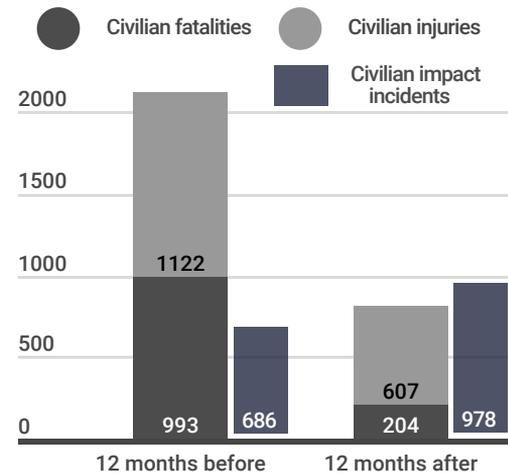
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The Al-Hudaydah Agreement was signed in Stockholm on 13 December 2018. Shortly after, on 18 December, a ceasefire in Al-Hudaydah entered into force. One of the instant achievements of the agreement was a halt to an offensive that threatened to engulf the critical port city of Al-Hudaydah, fixing the warring sides to their respective positions, while also leading to a significant reduction in airstrikes across the governorate. However, Al-Hudaydah did not see an absolute ceasefire.

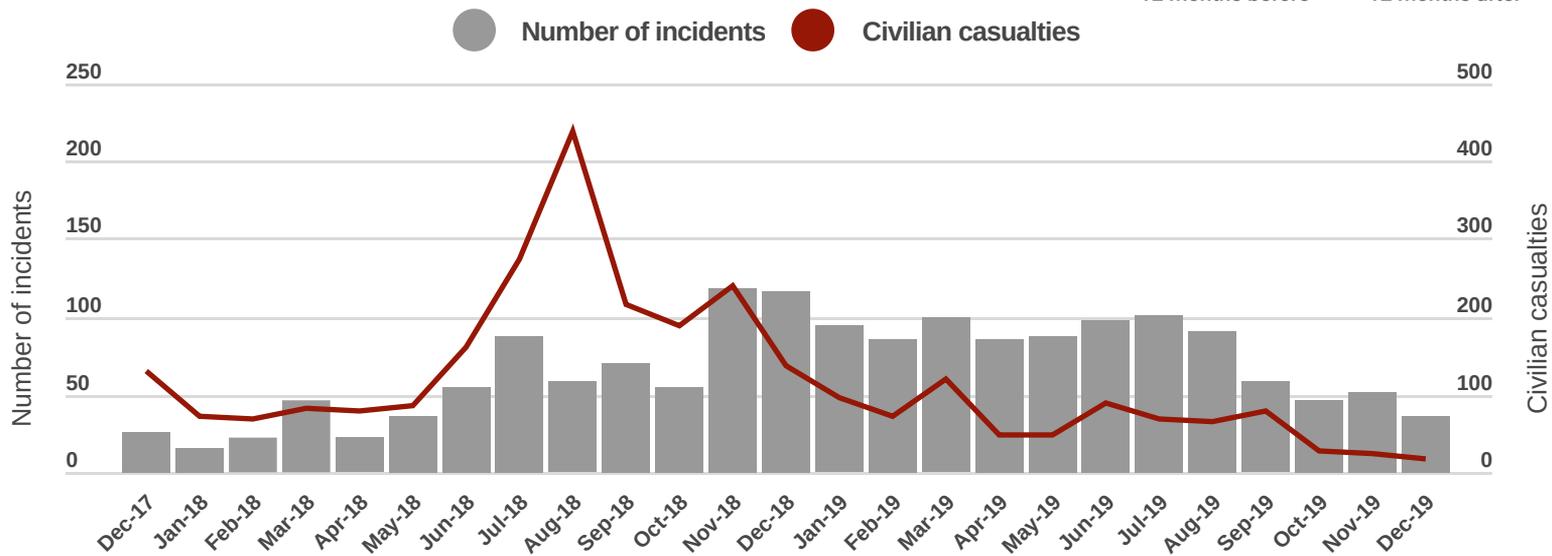
Along all main frontlines, on the outskirts of the city and in southern districts, hostilities continued between the opposing forces, as other elements of the Al-Hudaydah Agreement stalled into a political stalemate. Although the frontlines remained static over the past year, the number of civilian impact incidents actually increased, and while the total number of civilian casualties was reduced, casualty rates in the governorate were still the highest in the country. The post-agreement period has also seen a shift in the nature of the impact of armed violence on civilians, with an uptick in direct fire on residential areas, resulting in more incidents directly impacting on civilian households than before the ceasefire.

OVERALL FIGURES: 12 MONTHS BEFORE THE CEASEFIRE, COMPARED TO 12 MONTHS AFTER

The total number of civilian casualties fell 62% in the 12 months after the ceasefire compared to the previous 12-month period, from 2,115, from 18 December 2017 to 17 December 2018, to 811, from 18 December 2018 to 17 December 2019. The rate of civilian casualties per month as a direct result of armed violence fell from an average of 176 in the 12 months prior to the start of the ceasefire, driven largely by high casualties from airstrikes, to 68 civilian casualties per month in 2019. The rate of civilian fatalities also decreased, from 47% in the 12 months before the ceasefire to 25% in the past year.



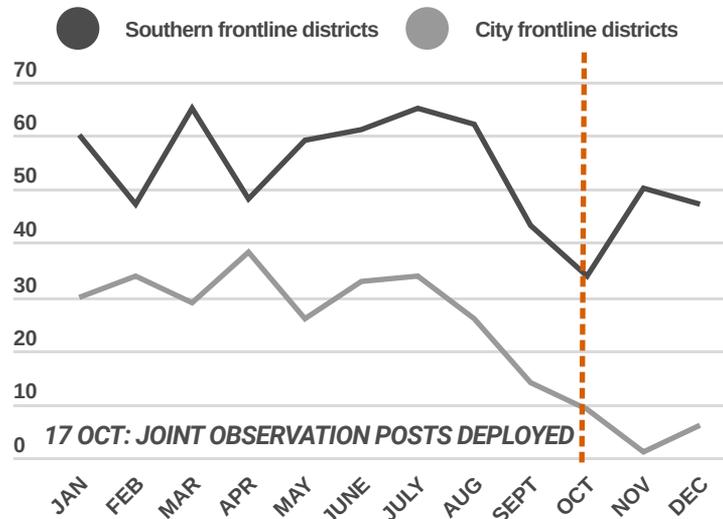
Civilian casualty rates steadily decreased throughout 2019. The final quarter of the year saw the lowest civilian casualty toll since CIMP began monitoring at the start of 2018. This is likely caused in large part by the deployment of joint observation posts on frontlines around Al-Hudaydah city in October 2019, which resulted in a significant reduction in hostilities in the city, as discussed below. However, despite significant decreases in civilian casualty rates, the number of incidents of armed violence reported with a direct civilian impact increased, from 686 in the 12 months prior to 978 in the 12 months since.



INCIDENTS IN AL-HUDAYDAH CITY IN 2019 COMPARED TO SOUTHERN AL-HUDAYDAH DISTRICTS

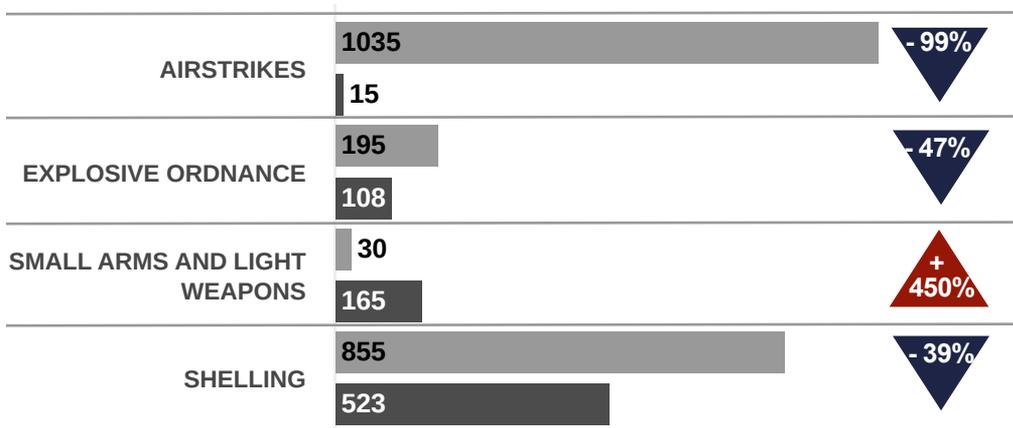
Despite a slow start to the ceasefire, a particularly notable reduction in hostilities was recorded in Al-Hudaydah city from October 2019, when joint observation posts were deployed across the main frontlines around the city. Accompanying this, the downward trend in civilian casualties that started in August continued in the city through October and November. However, while the city saw a reduction in hostilities, which drove an overall decrease in the governorate, incident and casualty rates remained high in the southern districts.

The graph to the right compares civilian impact incidents by district, showing those in the two city districts of Al-Hali and Al-Hawak compared to the four main hotspot southern districts of Al-Tuhayat, Al-Durayhimi, Bayt Al-Faqih, and Hays. While both showed a decrease in incident rates from mid-2019, after the five joint observation posts were established in October, incident rates in Al-Hudaydah city continued to fall, but those in the southern districts increased, as it appeared combat efforts re-focused to the governorate's southern frontlines.



CIVILIAN CASUALTIES FROM ARMED VIOLENCE BEFORE AND AFTER THE CEASEFIRE

● 12 months before ● 12 months after



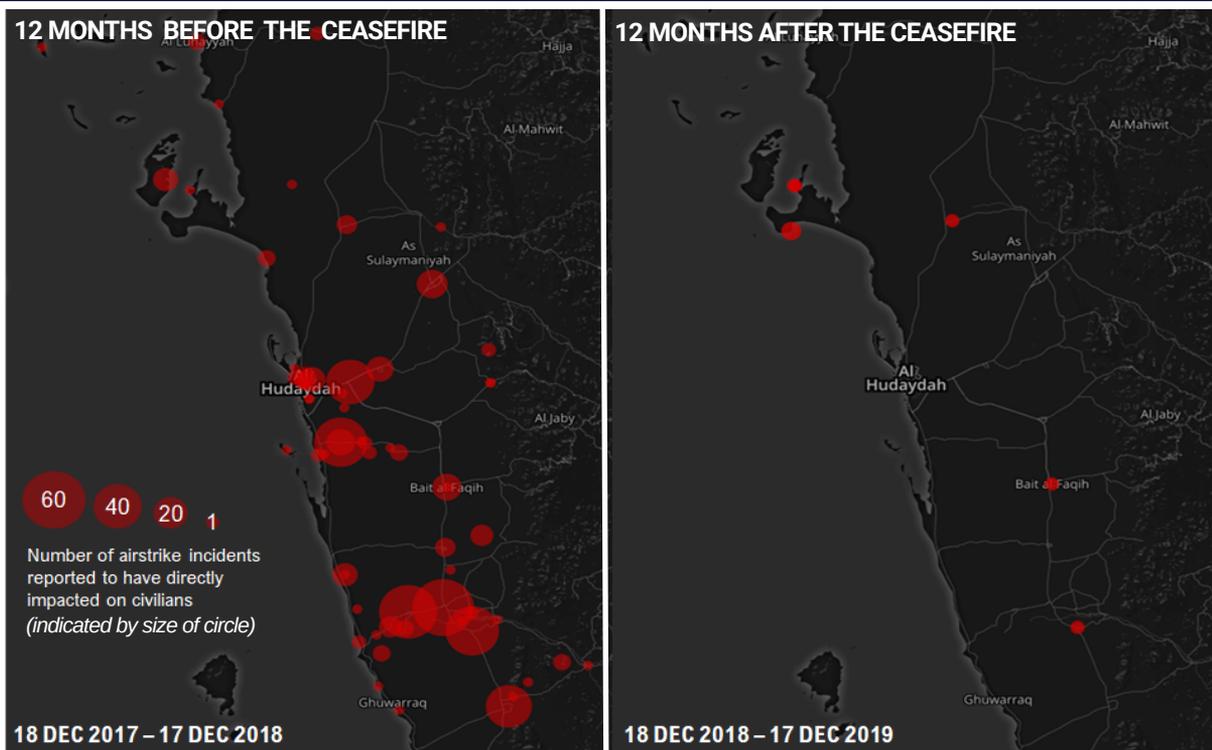
There has been an overall decrease in civilian casualties since the start of the ceasefire. This was most notable in the number of civilian casualties caused by airstrikes, which fell 99% in 2019 compared to the 12 months prior to the ceasefire. Casualties from shelling and explosive ordnance also decreased.

However, civilian casualties caused by fire from small arms and light weapons, including sniper fire, increased more than 400% as direct clashes continued in close proximity to residential areas. Casualties as a result of sniper fire at civilians increased from 10 to 58, of whom 19 were children, up from 4 during the 12 months prior to the ceasefire.

GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION OF AIRSTRIKE INCIDENTS

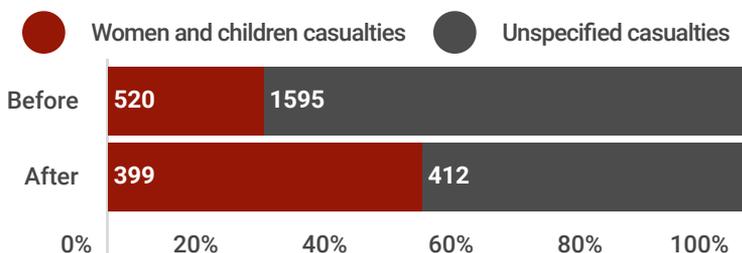
The maps show the distribution and density of airstrike incidents reported to have directly impacted on civilians in Al-Hudaydah in the 12 months before the ceasefire compared to the 12 months since.

In the 12 months before the ceasefire, 363 airstrike incidents were reported to have had a direct civilian impact, resulting in 1,035 civilian casualties. Since 18 December 2019, just 9 airstrike incidents were reported to have impacted on civilians in the governorate, resulting in 15 civilian casualties, just 1% of those seen in the year prior.



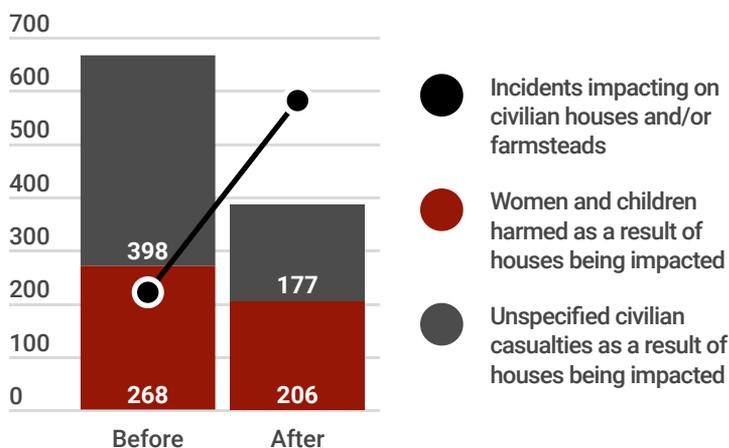
THE PROPORTION OF WOMEN AND CHILDREN HARMED HAS INCREASED SINCE THE CEASEFIRE COMMENCED

While the overall rates of civilian casualties decreased in the 12 months since the start of the ceasefire, a greater proportion of civilian casualties have been women and children. Before the ceasefire, 25% of civilian casualties was a woman or a child, in the 12 months since this has doubled to almost half (49%). Of the 2,115 civilian casualties in the 12 months prior to the ceasefire, 334 were children and 186 were women, a quarter of the total. In the 12 months after the ceasefire entered into force, almost half (49%) of the 811 civilian casualties were children (259) and women (140).



Despite overall decreases, the number of casualties among women and children as a result of fire from small arms and light weapons increased from 17 before the ceasefire to 87 in the 12 months after. There has also been a slight increase in women and children casualties as a result of explosive ordnance (EO). Furthermore, increasing incidents impacting directly on houses correlated with an increase in injuries among women and children.

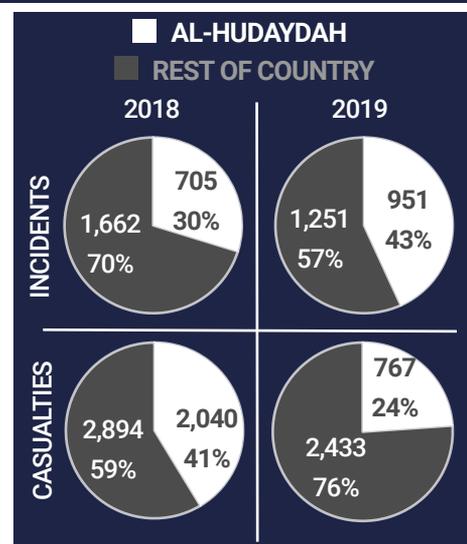
In 2018, 220 incidents of armed violence impacted on homes and/or farmsteads in Al-Hudaydah, resulting in 666 civilian casualties, of whom 268 (40%) were women and children. In 2019, this rose to 578 incidents impacting on homes and/or farmsteads, a 62% increase, resulting in 383 civilian casualties, of whom 206 (54%) were women and children. Due to the repeated encroachment of armed violence on domestic civilian spaces, the effects of psychosocial trauma are likely to be made more acute, while women and children, who are increasingly reported to be household heads, especially among displaced families, are likely to be particularly vulnerable when residential spaces are impacted.



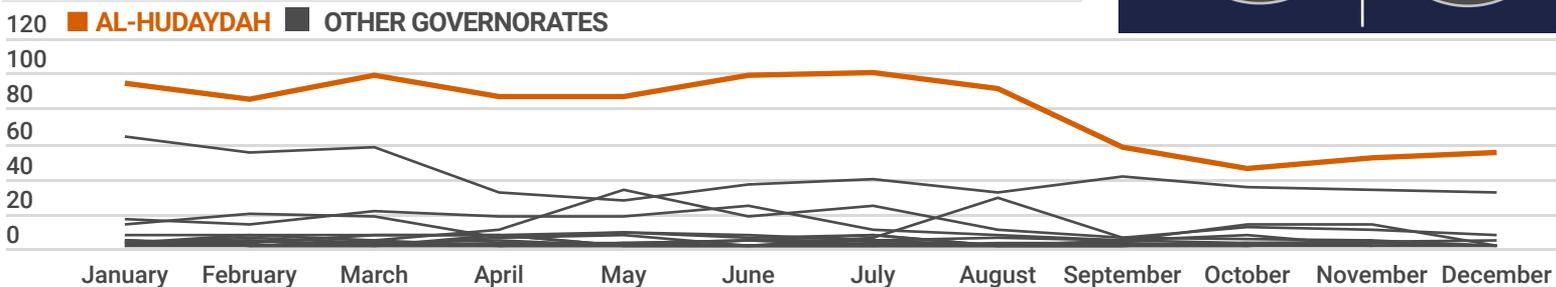
AL-HUDAYDAH CONTINUES TO SEE THE MOST CIVILIAN IMPACT INCIDENTS AND CASUALTIES COUNTRY-WIDE

Despite the ceasefire, Al-Hudaydah continued to be the governorate with the highest number of incidents of armed violence with a direct civilian impact in 2019. With 951 civilian impacts reported, this was 43% of the country-wide total; a significantly higher proportion than during 2018, when 705 civilian impact incidents in the governorate accounted for 30% of the country-wide total. By comparison, Sa'ada governorate saw the second-highest civilian impact incident total in 2019, 484 incidents, half the number in Al-Hudaydah.

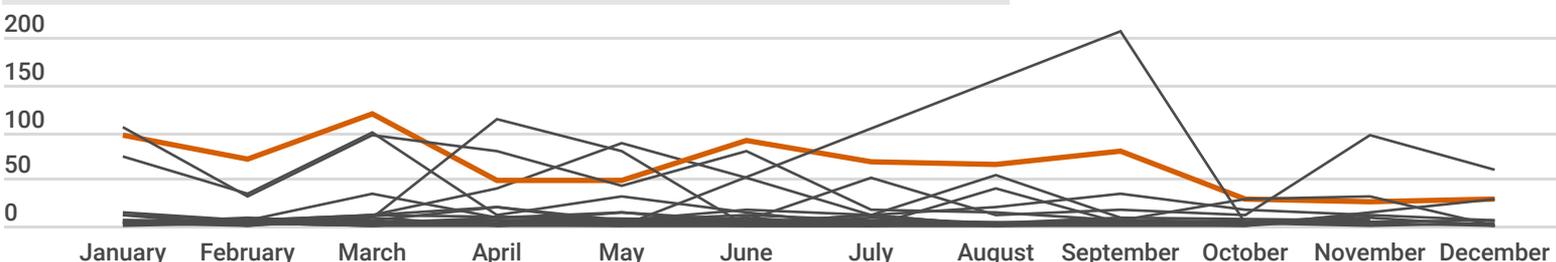
Al-Hudaydah also saw the highest number of civilian casualties in the country, 767, 24% out of a country-wide total of 3,200 in 2019. Unlike with civilian impact incidents, this was a smaller proportion than in 2018, when Al-Hudaydah saw 41% of the country's civilian casualties as a direct result of armed violence. This did, however, start to change towards the end of 2019, as civilian casualty figures continued to fall. For the first time since the first quarter of 2018, during the final quarter of 2019 the civilian casualty rate in Al-Hudaydah was superseded by Sa'ada, where several mass casualty incidents were reported in November and December 2019.



CIVILIAN IMPACT INCIDENTS IN 2019 IN AL-HUDAYDAH COMPARED TO OTHER GOVERNORATES



CIVILIAN CASUALTIES IN 2019 IN AL-HUDAYDAH COMPARED TO OTHER GOVERNORATES



THE IMPACT OF ARMED VIOLENCE ON CIVILIAN INFRASTRUCTURE IN AL-HUDAYDAH HAS REDUCED

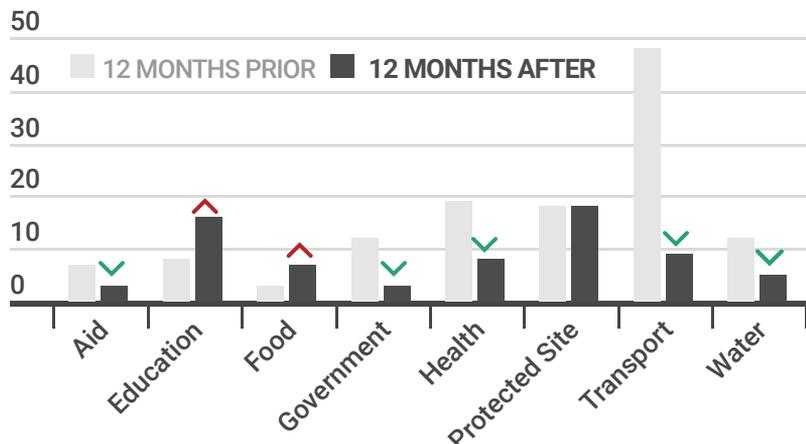
Case study 1: Restricted access to food and education

There was an increased impact on education and food infrastructure in the past 12 months. 7 incidents reportedly impacted food infrastructure, all of which were repeat instances of shellfire hitting the Red Sea Flour Mills, in one of the main contested areas on the outskirts of Al-Hudaydah city. The incidents potentially pose continued restricted access to crucial food supplies for as many as 500,000 households. Similarly, 16 incidents were reported to have impacted on education facilities in the past year. 5 of these were schools, while 11 were incidents impacting on Al-Hudaydah University medical and engineering faculties, which have been commandeered by military forces as defensive and firing positions.

Case study 2: Fishing communities in Al-Hudaydah

Al-Hudaydah's fishing community saw a significantly reduced impact from incidents of armed violence since the ceasefire commenced. In 2018, 77 fishermen were reportedly killed, 37 injured, and another 17 reported missing as a result of incidents of armed violence, the majority of which were as a result of airstrikes, along with three instances of naval shelling and three seamine incidents. Over 25 boats were reportedly destroyed. Fishing ports in Al-Hawak and Al-Tuhayat, fishing huts on Kamaran island, and the Ministry of Fisheries in Al-Luheyah were also reportedly hit by airstrikes last year. The Al-Hawak fish market was also hit by shellfire on 2 August 2018 which, together with a follow-up attack outside the Al-Thawra hospital gates, was reported to have resulted in 55 civilian fatalities and 170 civilian injuries. Since the ceasefire entered into force, airstrikes are reported to have hit 5 fishing boats, killing 9 fishermen and injuring 6.

On the whole, the introduction of the ceasefire resulted in a decrease in incidents impacting on civilian infrastructure in Al-Hudaydah. In the 12 months prior to the ceasefire, 139 incidents impacted on civilian infrastructure, while in the 12 months after, this almost halved, dropping to 73. The most frequently impacted types of infrastructure are shown in the chart below by number of incidents. The 2 infrastructure types to have seen an increase in the past 12 months were education and food, explained in case study 1, to the left.



CIVILIAN IMPACT MONITORING PROJECT
a service of the Protection Cluster Yemen

The Civilian Impact Monitoring Project is a service under the United Nations Protection Cluster for the collection, analysis and dissemination of open source data on the civilian impact from armed violence in Yemen, to inform and complement protection programming.

For further information, please visit www.civilianimpactmonitoring.org.