

Civilian Impact Monitoring Project

2021 Annual Report

1 January - 31 December 2021



Mountain Town, Yemen by Rod Waddington

The Civilian Impact Monitoring Project annual
report on the direct impact of armed violence
on civilians in Yemen

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CIVILIAN IMPACT MONITORING PROJECT
a service of the Protection Cluster Yemen



Protection Cluster Yemen

Executive Summary

Over 2,500 civilians were killed or injured by armed violence in Yemen in 2021, marking a 20% increase from 2020

Armed violence was directly responsible for a reported 2,508 civilian casualties in Yemen in 2021, marking a 20% increase from the previous year, breaking a two-year downward trend in civilian casualty numbers in the country. With 358 civilian casualties reported, October saw the highest monthly civilian casualty count in the country since September 2019.

2021 was punctuated by several mass casualty incidents in Yemen

There were 43 incidents in 2021 in which 10 or more civilian casualties were reported, and eight incidents in which over 20 civilian casualties were reported, a significant increase from the year before. The three incidents to result in the highest civilian casualty counts were all on account of missile strikes in Ma'rib, linked to the ongoing hostilities in the governorate.

Significant increases in civilian casualties were reported in Ma'rib and Sa'dah during 2021

Sa'dah saw more civilian casualties than any other part of the country, with a more than threefold increase in civilian casualties from 2020, up to 682, driven by ongoing violence in the western border districts. Meanwhile, as hostilities escalated in central Yemen, more civilian casualties were reported in Ma'rib during 2021 than during the three previous years combined, at 344, also almost three times the 2020 casualty count in the governorate.

One in five civilian casualties in Yemen in 2021 was a child

421 child casualties were reported in 2021, including 130 fatalities. Remnant explosive ordnance, including landmines and UXO, was responsible for more child casualties than any other type of armed violence throughout 2021, at 145, a third of whom were in Hudaydah alone. This marks a 46% increase from 2020. Shelling saw the second highest number of child casualties, at 122, over half of whom (55) were reported in Ta'izz.

Shelling was the deadliest type of armed violence for civilians in Yemen in 2021

For the third consecutive year, shelling was responsible for the highest number of civilian casualties in Yemen in 2021, at 850. Although the total number of civilian shelling casualties saw a slight decrease from 853 in 2020, the number of resultant fatalities increased, up to 229. More than a third of the civilian shelling casualties were reported in Sa'dah.

December saw more civilian airstrike casualties than throughout the rest of 2021 combined

There was a sharp increase in airstrikes on northern parts of the country at the end of the year, resulting in 94 civilian casualties in December alone; more than the total of 91 civilian casualties reported throughout the first 11 months of the year. This is also the highest monthly civilian airstrike casualty count to be seen in Yemen since September 2019. The upward trend in civilian impact from airstrikes appears set to continue, with proliferating reports of airstrikes on the capital city, Sana'a.

Civilian casualties on account of shooting incidents almost doubled from 2020 to 2021

420 civilians were killed and injured in small arms fire shootings, up 40% from 2020, driven primarily by localised incidents, including disputes and protest-related violence, which increased in 2021. Another 408 civilians were killed and injured by light weapons fire, almost double the 228 reported in 2020, the vast majority of whom were (325, 80%) reported amid border patrol shootings in western Sa'dah.

Remnant explosive ordnance casualties increased in 2021, most notably in Hudaydah

Remnant explosive ordnance, including landmines and UXO, was responsible for 338 civilian casualties in 2021, including 129 fatalities, also an increase from 2020. Landmines specifically were responsible for 252 civilian casualties in the past year. Almost a third of the civilian landmine casualties were reported in Hudaydah.

Armed violence drove further displacement, with over 3,300 homes directly impacted, while also impacting livelihoods

728 incidents of armed violence impacted civilian houses in 2021, displacing as many as 3,347 households. Farmland was also impacted in 156 incidents, threatening not only livelihoods, but also a critical source of sustenance. There were 27 instances of local businesses being impacted by armed violence, further impacting civilian livelihoods, while armed violence in or near marketplaces resulted in 164 civilian casualties, with incidents driven by underlying economic tensions and local rivalry.

Armed violence restricted access to healthcare facilities for over 250,000 households

Amid an uptick in airstrikes the end of 2021, four hospitals in Sana'a city were impacted. Elsewhere in the country, a range of armed violence was responsible for another nine instances of health facilities being impacted throughout the year, including on account of shellfire, dispute-driven shootings and grenade attacks.

Introduction

The Civilian Impact Monitoring Project (CIMP) is a service under the UN Protection Cluster Yemen, monitoring the civilian impact of armed violence in Yemen. CIMP is a mechanism for real-time collection, analysis and dissemination of data on the civilian impact from armed violence countrywide, with the purpose of informing and complementing protection programming.

CIMP collects, analyses and disseminates data in real-time to allow for early warning and early protection response directed at communities affected by armed violence, including new and emerging local conflicts. This is done through daily reports on the civilian impact of armed violence across the country, instant flash reports on significant events that require rapid follow-up from protection partners, and weekly, monthly, quarterly and annual analysis to inform protection strategies. CIMP also produces thematic reports that provide the opportunity for more in-depth analysis of any pertinent trends that have been identified in how armed violence is impacting civilians across the country.

The annual report aims to strengthen the understanding of how armed violence across Yemen impacts on communities over time, including by understanding trends and patterns in the types and drivers of armed violence, its geographic spread and the subsequent impact on civilians. CIMP data and analysis is used to inform long-term protection planning and response, strengthen prevention and mitigation strategies and inform advocacy at local, national and international levels, for increased protection of civilians caught in armed conflict.

Methodology

CIMP collects data via systematic, open source information on all incidents of armed violence. The data is filtered by the CIMP team in order to evaluate incidents with possible civilian impact. Those incidents are then further researched and cross-referenced via multiple sources and graded based on their level of credibility. When available, video material, lists of victims and supplementary information from protection cluster partners is incorporated.

Civilian impact incidents recorded by CIMP are assessed for their primary impact and associated protection implications. The primary impact includes incidents in which individuals or households are directly affected by the incident, such as civilian injuries and fatalities, damage to civilian property, including houses, farms and vehicles, and damage to markets and local businesses. CIMP then uses these numbers to provide an indication of the likely protection implications civilians are facing as a result, such as displacement, loss of livelihood or restricted freedom of movement. The numbers recorded by CIMP reflect only the number of households assessed to have been directly impacted by each incident, such as the number of houses damaged or destroyed, or the number of vehicles hit. As a result, CIMP numbers on displacement, loss of livelihood or restricted freedom of movement are not necessarily reflective of the total number of households impacted as a result of insecurity or conflict developments, where numbers are typically significantly higher than those provided by CIMP.

CIMP also records incidents of armed violence that have impacted civilian infrastructure and basic services, which in turn restrict civilian access to various vital services, infrastructure, facilities and goods, such as healthcare, education, food and water and transport infrastructure. In such incidents, the range of households impacted is typically assessed to be much higher than in those incidents directly harming civilians or causing damage to civilian property and businesses, due to the broader catchment area of those being supported by different types of infrastructure. Collectively, CIMP's figures on the number of households facing different protection implications provide an indicator of the extent of the impact of armed violence for the civilian population in Yemen.

As CIMP aims to collect and disseminate data on civilian impact that occurs as a result of armed conflict, some incidents are excluded from the dataset. This includes incidents related to crime, domestic violence and small arms fire incidents that occur away from areas of active conflict and have fewer than two casualties. Small arms fire incidents are always included when they occur in areas of active conflict.

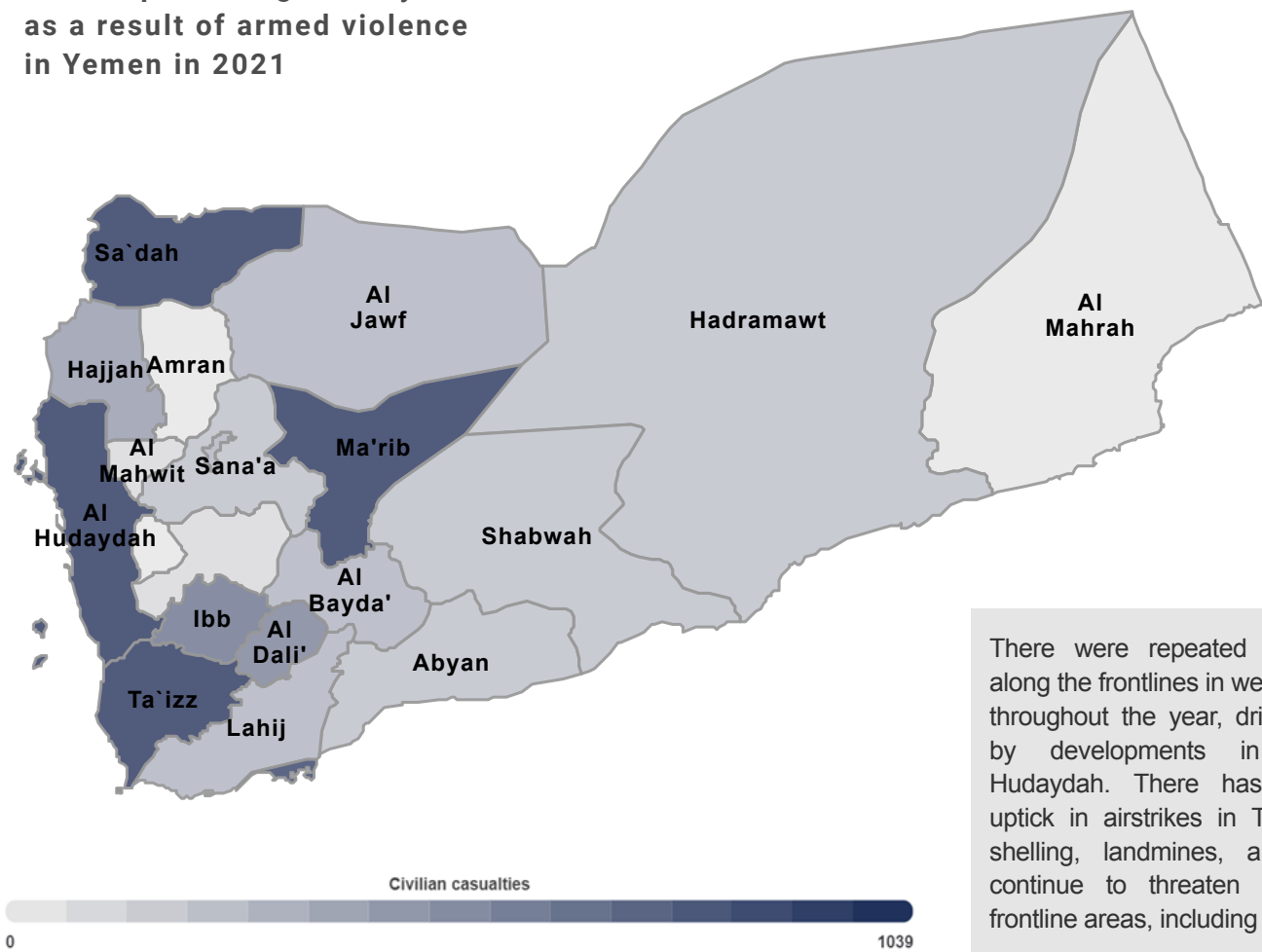
Conflict Developments

The north-eastern border areas, particularly in **Sa'dah**, have seen a regular stream of cross-border violence, taking a heavy toll on migrant groups who are prominent in the area. This regularly takes the form of border patrol shootings and cross-border shellfire, but airstrikes have also been reported consistently across the governorate and in neighbouring Hajjah.

Similar to recent years, hostilities persisted along the **northern Ma'rib** frontlines throughout 2021, in the vicinity of Ma'rib city as well as in southern **Jawf**. These surged in the early part of the year, but settled into a holding pattern during the second half of the year, characterised by frequent airstrikes and shelling. There were also numerous reports of missile strikes on Ma'rib city.

The **southern Ma'rib** frontlines saw regular hostilities throughout 2021, pushing north to within 20km of Ma'rib city. These were accompanied by two phases of hostilities in neighbouring northern **Shabwah**, control over which changed hands twice during the year, and **Bayda**, where the frontlines in the north and south also saw periodic surges in hostilities.

Heatmap showing density of civilian casualties as a result of armed violence in Yemen in 2021



There were repeated escalations along the frontlines in western **Ta'izz** throughout the year, driven in part by developments in southern Hudaydah. There has been an uptick in airstrikes in Ta'izz, while shelling, landmines, and snipers continue to threaten civilians in frontline areas, including Ta'izz city.

The frontlines in **Hudaydah** de-escalated in 2021, but shifted south in early November, kicking off weeks of clashes and remote violence. In the southern districts of Hays, Jabal Ras and At Tuhayat, shelling, airstrikes and drone strikes were reported consistently during the last months of the year. Landmines are also a latent issue, exacerbated by the recent frontline shifts.

There has been an increase in reports of airstrikes hitting residential areas and civilian infrastructure in **Sana'a city**, which appears unlikely to ease. The risk of civilian harm and damage to critical services from airstrikes is particularly heightened in dense urban areas. There have also been a number of reports of telecommunications infrastructure being hit.

Persisting insecurity in **Aden** is exacerbated by political deadlock and weak governance. Aden sees regular infighting and targeted attacks, including shootings and IEDs. Civil unrest also featured heavily in the city in 2021, with widespread protests reported in Aden and other cities throughout summer, accompanied by violent responses from security forces.

Civilian Casualties

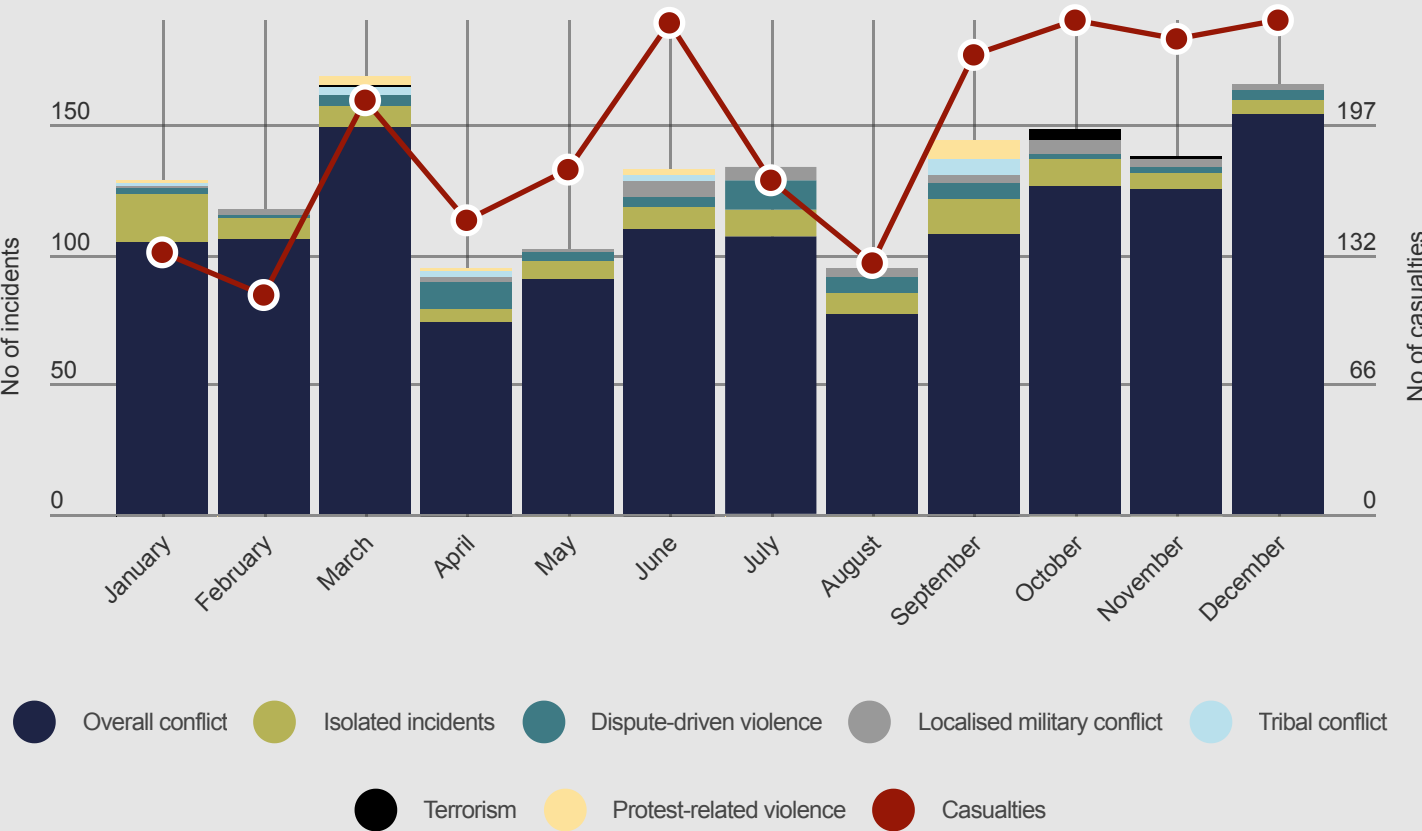
Armed violence was directly responsible for a reported 2,508 civilian casualties in Yemen in 2021; a 20% increase from the previous year, breaking a two-year decrease in civilian casualty numbers in the country. The number of fatalities among the casualties also increased, although to a lesser extent, rising by 3%, from 749 in 2020 to 769 in 2021. On average, 209 civilian casualties were reported as a direct result of armed violence every month. October and December jointly saw the highest civilian casualty numbers, each with 358, the highest since September 2019. The highest fatality count was in October, at 114.

Driving the high casualty count in 2021 were a number of mass casualty incidents. There were 43 incidents in which at least 10 civilians were killed or injured, more than double the 20 mass casualty incidents the year before. Moreover, there were eight incidents to result in over 20 civilian casualties. The three incidents to result in the highest casualty counts were all on account of missiles in Ma'rib, linked to ongoing hostilities. On 31 October, as frontlines pushed through Ma'rib's southern districts, 22 civilians were killed, and a further 19 injured, when a religious institute was hit by missiles in Jubah. Another two missile strikes on Ma'rib city in June and October each resulted in 35 civilian casualties.

| Countrywide Civilian Impact Snapshot 1 January - 31 December 2021 | | | |
|--|-------|---------------------------------------|-------|
| Civilian casualties | 2,508 | Incidents causing psychosocial trauma | 1,457 |
| Fatalities | 769 | | |
| Injuries | 1,739 | Incidents impacting vulnerable groups | 1,034 |
| Child casualties | 421 | | |
| Fatalities | 130 | Incidents impacting Children & Women | 767 |
| Injuries | 291 | Children | 138 |
| Women casualties | 212 | Women | 68 |
| Fatalities | 57 | IDPs | 28 |
| Injuries | 155 | Refugees | 32 |

While some governorates saw a decrease in civilian casualties over the past year, notably Bayda, Hudaydah and Jawf, these were outweighed by increases in other governorates. Sa'dah saw 682 casualties, more than three times the 2020 count, and the highest in the country, driven by ongoing border violence. As hostilities escalated in central Yemen, more civilian casualties were reported in Ma'rib during 2021 than during the three previous years combined, at 344. Shabwah, Sana'a and Hajjah also saw increased casualty counts. Amid tensions in the south, including protest-related violence and local disputes, Hadramawt and Lahij also saw increased civilian casualty numbers. Despite seeing the second highest casualty numbers in the country, at 435, civilian casualty numbers in Ta'izz actually decreased compared to the year before.

Number of civilian impact incidents and civilian casualties per month



Women and Children

Despite overall civilian casualty numbers increasing, the number of child and women casualties decreased for the fourth consecutive year. 421 child casualties were reported during 2021, including 130 fatalities, down 15% from 495 during 2020. 1 in 5 civilian casualties reported in Yemen over the past year were children; a lower proportion than the previous year, when 1 in 4 casualties were children. Similarly, among women, casualty numbers dropped 29%, from 298 during 2020 to 212 last year.

Remnant explosive ordnance was responsible for more child casualties than any other type of armed violence throughout 2021, at 145, including 77 on account of landmines and 68 on account of UXO. This marks a 46% increase from 2020, when landmines and UXO were responsible for 48 and 51 child casualties respectively. Children are particularly vulnerable to remnant explosives, due to their heightened mobility and inquisitiveness, coupled with a lack of awareness of the threat they pose. A third of the child remnant explosive casualties over the past year were in Hudaydah, where the shift in frontlines was accompanied by a sharp uptick in civilian landmine and UXO casualties, as civilian mobility increased across the governorate, including returning IDPs. Shelling saw the second highest number of child casualties, at 122, over half of whom (55) were reported in Ta'izz, and another third (37) in Ma'rib. Airstrikes and SAF were each responsible for another 40 child casualties.

For the second year running, Ta'izz saw more women casualties reported than any other governorate, at 43, closely followed by 41 in Hudaydah, and 34 in Ma'rib. Shelling was responsible for over a third of the women casualties reported in Yemen in 2021, including all but three of the women casualties reported in Ma'rib, and half of those in Ta'izz. Remnant explosives were responsible for the second highest number of women casualties, at 33, including 28 on account of landmines and five from UXO explosions, while 28 women were killed and injured in SAF shootings.

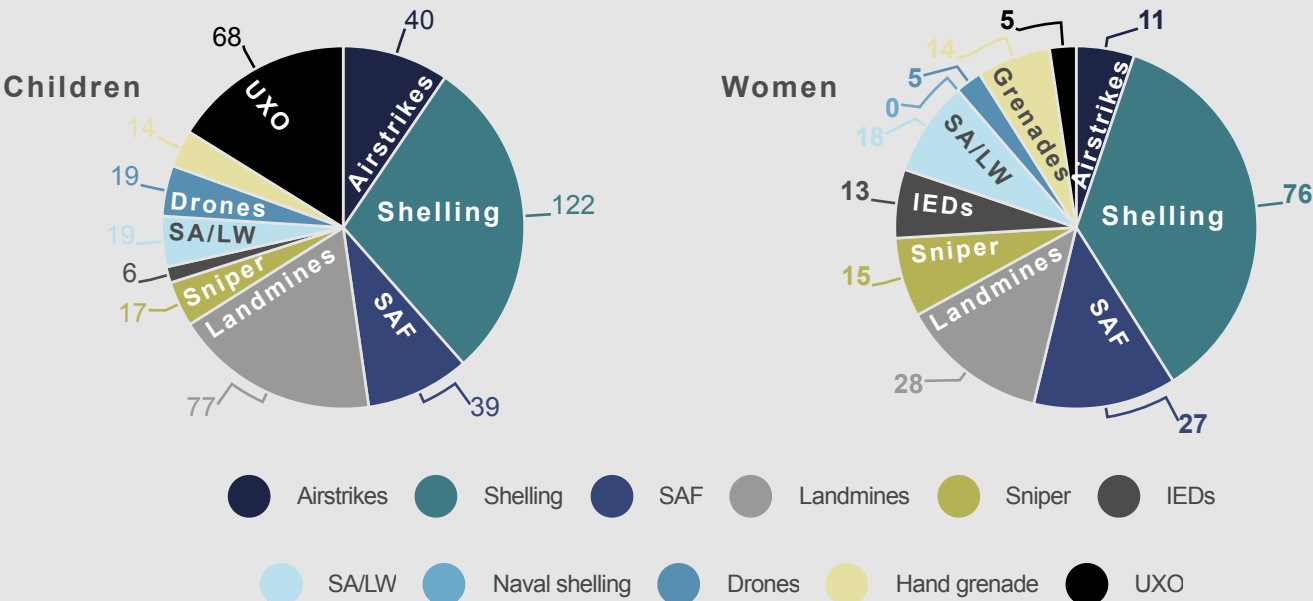
Case study 1: 11 women injured when IDP sites hit by shellfire in Ma'rib

At the end of March, three IDP sites near Ma'rib city, were caught amid hostilities. Al-Mil site was hit by shellfire twice within the space of a week as frontlines pushed towards the area, injuring 11 women. One of the women, who had been pregnant at the time, later passed away from her injuries. Women are particularly vulnerable when domestic, residential spaces are hit, and this vulnerability is drastically exacerbated while living in temporary accommodation, having already fled hostilities at least once. At least another three women were injured in other instances of shellfire hitting IDP sites in Ma'rib in 2021.

Case study 2: Mass child casualties when residential neighbourhood hit by shellfire in Ta'izz

On 4 March, three children were killed and 10 other children were injured when artillery shells hit houses in Al-Jumlah neighbourhood in Salh district, in western Ta'izz city. Shelling incidents in densely populated urban areas carry a higher risk of bearing a greater impact on civilians, due to the likelihood of a higher number of civilians in the potential blast radius. Moreover, children are particularly vulnerable when residential areas come under shellfire. Salh sees among the highest rates of incidents impacting civilians in Ta'izz governorate, and in 2021 saw 31 child casualties, more than any other district in the country, 23 on account of shellfire.

Types of armed violence responsible for women and children casualties



Type of Armed Violence

Of the different types of armed violence threatening civilians in Yemen, for the third consecutive year, **shelling** saw the highest number of civilian casualties in 2021, at 850. Although numbers of shelling casualties have been decreasing each year since 2018, a quarter of 2021's shelling casualties (229, 27%) were fatalities, a slight increase from 2020. More than a third of the shelling casualties (320) were reported in Sa'dah, where border violence was rife in Q4 2021. Another 281 were reported in Ma'rib, driven by repeat cases of missiles hitting residential areas in Ma'rib city, and 143 were reported on the Ta'izz frontlines.

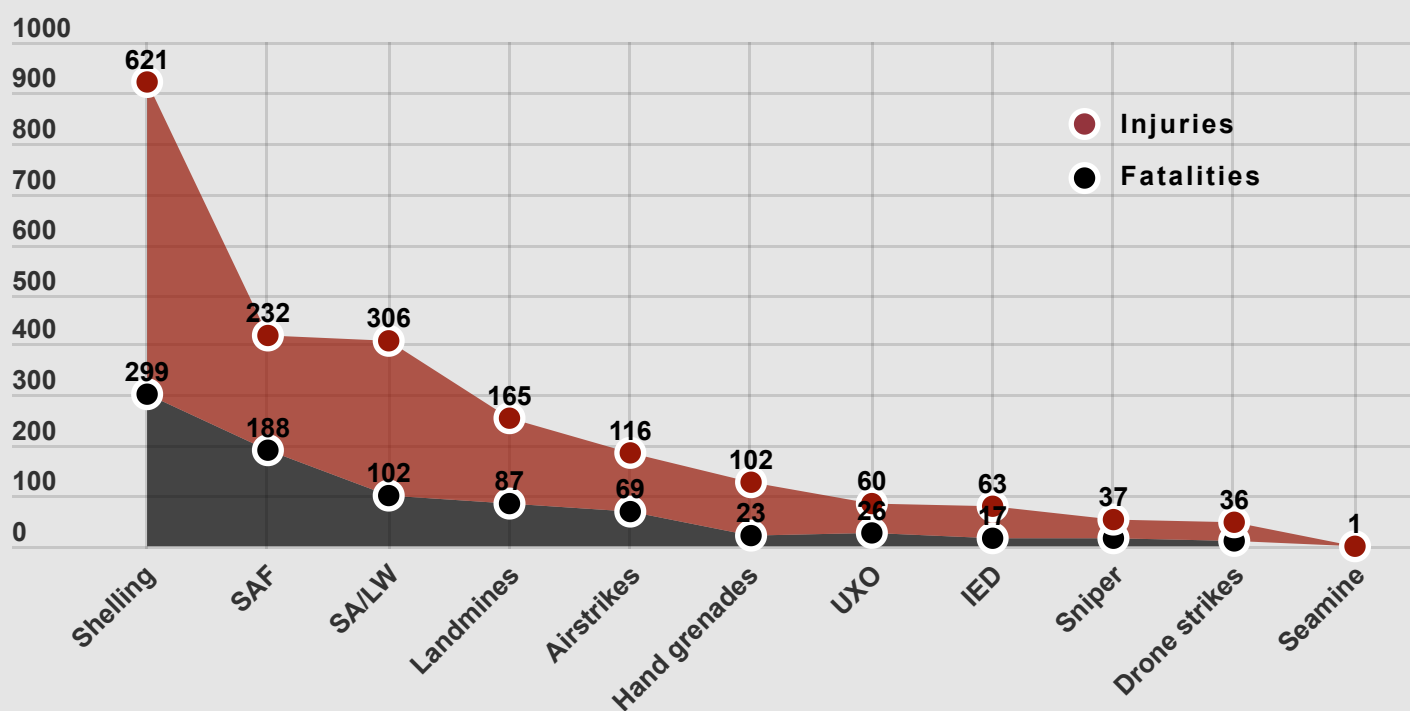
Fire from small arms and light weapons was cumulatively responsible for 881 civilian casualties in 2021, up by a third from 615 in 2020. These casualties are disaggregated into three sub-categories: 420 civilians were killed and injured by small arms fire (**SAF**), a 40% increase from the 301 SAF casualties reported in 2020. Another 408 civilians were killed and injured by light weapons fire (**SA/LW**), almost double the 228 SA/LW casualties seen in 2020, driven in large part by ongoing reports of border patrol shootings in western Sa'dah, which accounted for 325 (80%) of 2021's SA/LW casualties. **Sniper fire** saw 53 civilian casualties in 2021, two thirds of whom (64%) were reported in Ta'izz. This is a decrease from 86 sniper casualties in 2020.

Remnant explosive ordnance, including **landmines** and **UXO**, was responsible for 338 civilian casualties in 2021, including 129 fatalities. Landmines were responsible for 252 civilian casualties, up from 209 the year before, while 86 civilian casualties were reported on account of UXO, also an increase from 2020. Almost a third of the landmine casualties were seen in Hudaydah, where shifting frontlines during the final couple of months of 2021 resulted in heightened civilian mobility, including renewed displacement from new frontline areas, and returning IDPs to other areas. 42 landmine and UXO casualties were reported in Hudaydah in the final two months of 2021 alone. Just under half of the remnant explosive casualties countrywide were children.

For the third year running, the number of civilian casualties on account of **airstrikes** decreased, down to 185, with a two-month hiatus in airstrike casualties seen in July and August 2021. However, reports of airstrike casualties then picked up; December saw more airstrike casualties than throughout the rest of 2021 combined, at 94, the highest monthly civilian airstrike casualty count seen in Yemen since September 2019. Hudaydah and Ta'izz saw the highest casualty numbers. 239 airstrikes were reported to have directly hit civilian houses in Yemen in 2021, threatening displacement and putting women and children at particular risk. Of the 60 casualties reported on account of strikes hitting civilian homes, over half (32) were women and children.

There was a threefold increase in the number of civilian **hand grenade** casualties reported, up to 125 from 40 during 2020. Almost half (54) were due to devices being mishandled, reflecting the dangers of the profuse weaponisation in the country, especially when weapons enter domestic spaces. Ta'izz and Ibb saw the highest numbers of grenade casualties in 2021, accounting for half of the countrywide total. The number of civilian casualties from IEDs also rose, from 63 in 2020 to 80 in 2021, over a third of whom were the result of a mass casualty IED attack in Aden in October, which killed five civilians and injured 25.

Civilian casualties by type of armed violence, disaggregated by fatalities and injuries

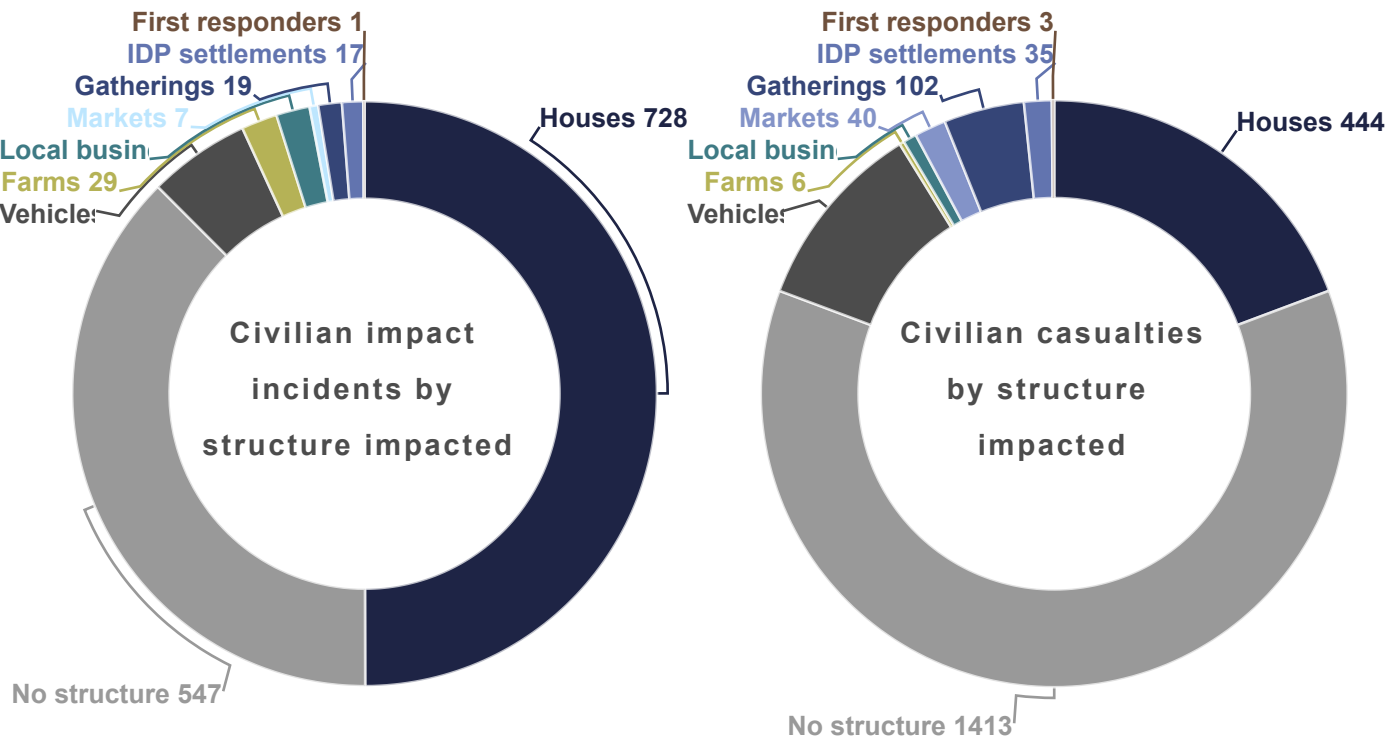


Civilian Property Impacted




728 incidents of armed violence hit civilian houses in 2021, down from 994 in 2020, but still displacing as many as 3,347 households, while putting women and children at particular risk due to the domestic nature of the space impacted. Over a third of these incidents were reported in Hudaydah governorate, where despite the ceasefire, hostilities persist in close proximity to residential areas, with 262 reports of shellfire hitting homes. Similar numbers were seen in Ma'rib, where 240 incidents of armed violence impacting houses were reported, 200 of which were on account of shelling. Ma'rib also saw ten instances of shellfire hitting IDP sites during 2021, and another two airstrike incidents, exacerbating displacement and the related protection issues.

Markets remain a flashpoint for armed violence, driven by economic tensions and localised rivalry. In 2021, 33 incidents of armed violence were reported to have impacted civilians in or near marketplaces, resulting in 164 civilian casualties. Civilians are at particular risk of harm from violence in these areas due to the crowded nature of marketplaces. Moreover, such incidents, along with those impacting farms (156 incidents in 2021), serve to threaten civilians' livelihoods, prolonging the damaging legacy of the conflict, while also potentially threatening access to crucial food sources. There were also 27 instances of local businesses being impacted by armed violence, the majority on account of airstrikes (11) and shellfire (10), further impacting civilian livelihoods.

Charts to show incidents and casualty numbers by structure impacted



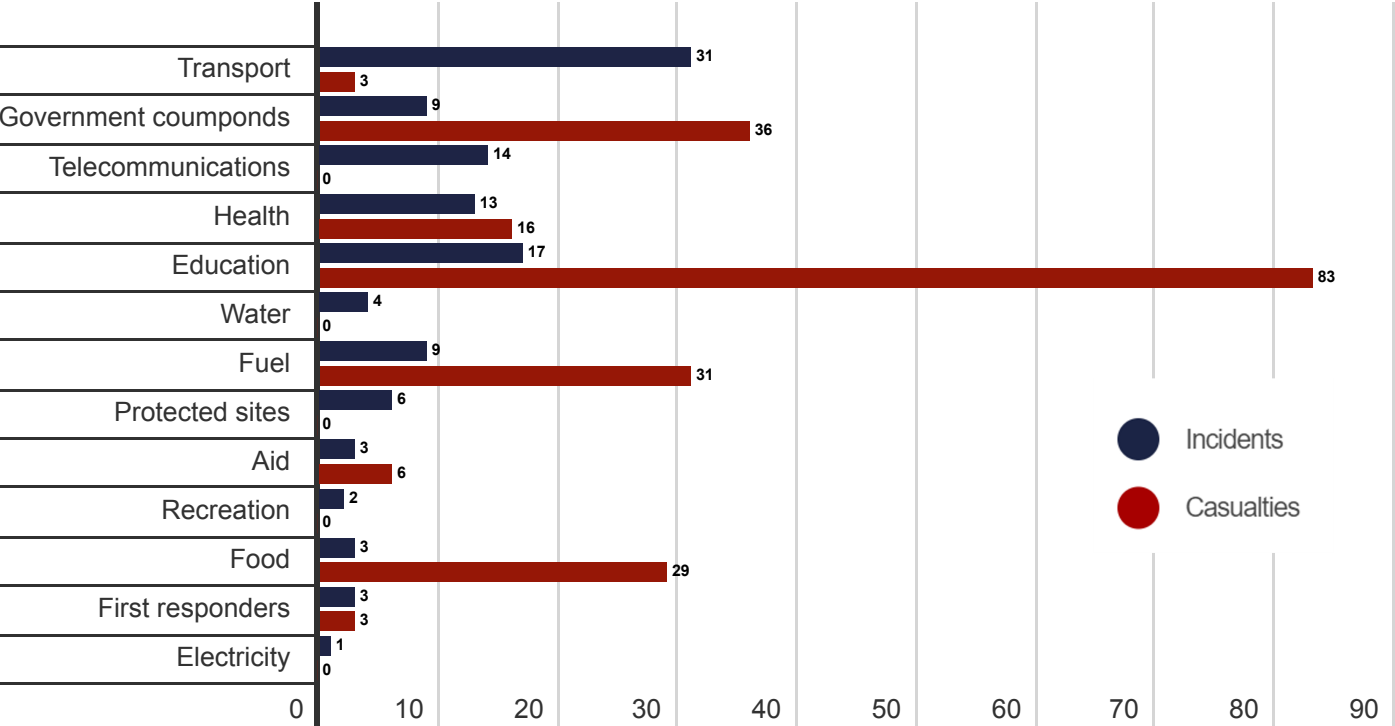
Protection Implications


| DISPLACEMENT | LOSS OF LIVELIHOOD | RESTRICTED FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT | OBSTRUCTION TO FLIGHT |
|---|---|--|---|
|  |  |  |  |
| Number of affected households | Number of affected households | Number of affected households | Number of affected households |
| 3,347 | 2,408 | 1,655 | 5,554 |
| Number of incidents | Number of incidents | Number of incidents | Number of incidents |
| 728 | 190 | 647 | 20 |

Civilian Infrastructure Impacted

Armed violence continues to impact a range of infrastructure across Yemen, restricting civilians' access to critical services and facilities. Further details of the four main types of infrastructure impacted by armed violence in 2021 are below. Of incidents to impact infrastructural sites in 2021, 63 were on account of airstrikes (55), 26 caused by shelling, and another 15 caused by IEDs.


Incidents impacting on civilian infrastructure in 2021






1,467,351 households facing restricted access to **transport infrastructure**

31 incidents of armed violence impacted transport infrastructure in 2021, up from 26 in 2020. 19 incidents impacted Yemen's airports, including at least 11 strikes in the vicinity of Sana'a Airport, and six near Ta'izz Airport. Four main roads were hit in mountainous areas in western Sa'dah, threatening to sever critical routes connecting people, goods, and services. At least seven bridges were demolished with IEDs, all but one in frontline areas in Ma'rib, Dali', Bayda and Hudaydah; a common tactic to deny adversaries' freedom of movement, but bearing the same effect on civilians.




17,000 households facing restricted access to **education facilities**

Education facilities were impacted in 17 incidents in 2021, similar to 2020. Eight schools were hit by shellfire in Ma'rib, Ta'izz and Bayda, resulting in 69 civilian casualties, including eight children. Another five schools were demolished with IEDs in frontline areas, including in Hudaydah, Ta'izz and Dali'. Warring parties sporadically demolish property for reprimand or intimidation. Although no casualties were reported, the incidents may have restricted education access for as many as 5,000 households. Three airstrikes and two drone strikes also impacted schools in 2021.



89,598 households facing restricted access to **telecommunications infrastructure**

Telecommunications infrastructure was impacted in 14 incidents in 2021, across Amran, Ma'rib, Sana'a and Shabwah, mainly by airstrikes. Telecommunications sites are frequently targeted to disrupt adversaries' communications, but this can also impact local citizens; as many as 89,598 households were impacted in 2021. Telecommunications damage can have a heavily isolating effect, particularly for those already in remote areas. The frequency of such incidents in 2021 saw an increase from October, with 10 of the 14 incidents reported in the final three months of the year, a pace which has continued into the early part of 2022.

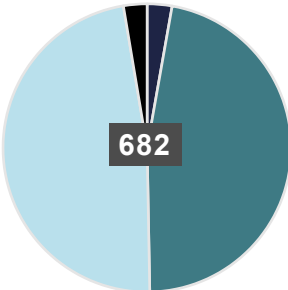


274,330 households facing restricted access to **healthcare facilities**

Amid an uptick in airstrikes the end of 2021, four hospitals in Sana'a city, including a maternity hospital, sustained damages, restricting access to healthcare for as many as 202,799 households. Elsewhere, a range of armed violence impacted another nine facilities. Two hospitals were hit by shellfire in Ma'rib, and another in eastern Ta'izz city. Meanwhile, grenades were thrown at two hospitals in central Ta'izz city in July and September, killing one civilian and injuring another four. There were also three shootings reported in hospitals in Jawf, Hadramawt and Lahij, the latter two driven by tribal disputes, resulting in eight civilian casualties.

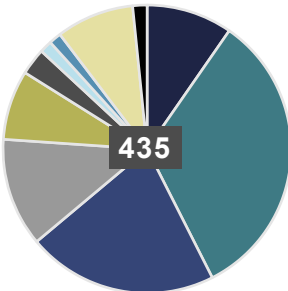
Governorate Snapshots

The below snapshots provide a profile of the civilian impact in each governorate to have seen over 100 civilian casualties in 2021:



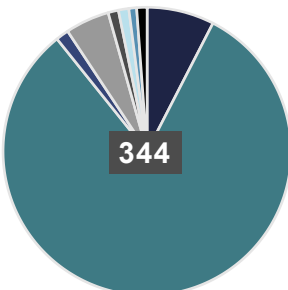
Sa'dah

Sa'dah saw more civilian casualties than any other governorate in 2021, at 682, 27% of the countrywide total, and more than threefold the 2020 total (197). The majority of casualties were linked to ongoing border violence in western Sa'dah; 507 civilians were killed and injured in Monabbih district alone, more than any other district in the country, followed by 133 in Shada'a. There are frequent reports of civilian casualties on the Sa'dah border, particularly in Monabbih, which hosts at least three informal border crossings. The latter end of 2021 saw near daily reports of border patrol shootings, and of shellfire hitting the border areas, including civilian homes. SAL/W was responsible for 325 civilian casualties in Sa'dah in 2021, and shelling for 320.



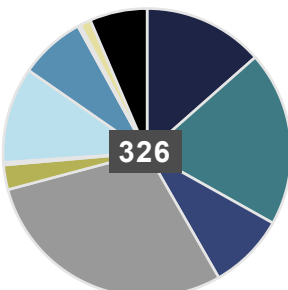
Ta'izz

In 2021, 435 civilian casualties were reported in Ta'izz; the second highest in the country, down 4% from 2020. More than a third (158) were reported in Ta'izz city, where active frontlines infringe upon densely populated residential areas. Shelling remains the main type of armed violence responsible for civilian casualties in Ta'izz; almost half of the 2021 count (65 of 143) were reported in Ta'izz city. This was a decrease compared to 2020, but SAF, landmines and hand grenades saw an increase in resultant casualties. Maqbanah saw a surge in civilian casualties at the end of the year, as hostilities picked up in concert with shifting frontlines in Hudaydah. 107 civilian casualties were reported in the district, more than any other district in Ta'izz, including 42 on account of airstrikes.



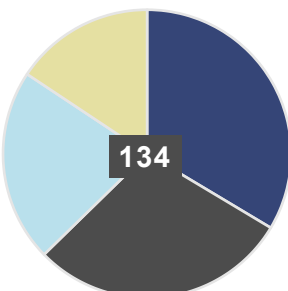
Ma'rib

The number of civilian casualties reported in Ma'rib in 2021 almost tripled from 2020, up to 344 from 119, including 173 on account of missiles on Ma'rib city. Amid a surge in hostilities in the south of Ma'rib in October, Al-Umud village in Jubah also came under heavy shellfire, resulting in another 68 civilian casualties. Shellfire was responsible for 82% of the civilian casualties reported in Ma'rib in 2021. The governorate also saw widespread displacement and access constraints during the year, with reports of civilians getting cut off in Al-Abdiyah district. Along with fast-moving frontlines, airstrikes also likely contributed to the displacement; 200 incidents of airstrikes hitting houses were reported, resulting in 26 civilian casualties.



Hudaydah

Hudaydah saw a decrease in civilian casualties for the fourth consecutive year, down to 326 from 457 in 2020, but still saw the fourth highest civilian casualty count in the country. Remnant explosive ordnance was responsible for the highest casualty numbers, including 95 from landmines and 21 from UXO, among whom were 50 children. The frontlines in the governorate de-escalated through the year, with shelling responsible for 64 civilian casualties, less than a quarter of the 280 civilian shelling casualties seen in Hudaydah in 2020. The number of civilian airstrike casualties, however, increased, up to 44, having not seen any in 2020, as frontline shifts towards the end of 2021 were accompanied by a resumption in airstrikes on southern parts of Hudaydah.



Aden

Aden saw the fifth highest number of civilian casualties reported countrywide in 2021, at 134, a small decrease from 142 last year. This included 30 civilian casualties reported in a mass casualty incident, when an IED detonated near the airport on 30 October, killing five and injuring 25. However, with insecurity remaining rife, the biggest driver of civilian casualties in Aden in 2021 were shooting incidents. SAF accounted for 45 civilian casualties, and SAL/W, driven by localised military conflict, another 29. Among the 45 civilian SAF casualties, 19 were in isolated incidents, and 13 linked to protest-related violence, as the city saw widespread protests during summer, which several occasions were dispersed with live fire. Grenades caused another 18 casualties.