

CIMP QUARTERLY REPORT

Q4: OCTOBER - DECEMBER 2020

This is the Civilian Impact Monitoring Project quarterly report, providing an overview of all incidents of armed violence reported in October, November and December 2020 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

Q4 2020 saw the highest number of civilian casualties in over one year

579 civilian casualties were reported in Q4 2020, an increase for the second consecutive quarter, up 10% from 527 in Q3, and the highest in over a year. The civilian casualties included 171 fatalities, fewer than the 215 civilian fatalities reported in Q3, and 408 civilian injuries, an increase from 312 in Q3. Nonetheless, the number of civilian fatalities increased on a month-to-month basis throughout the quarter, up to 61 in December. Conversely, despite a mass casualty incident in December when Aden airport was struck by missiles, killing and injuring at least 44 civilians, the total number of civilian casualties declined throughout the quarter; October saw more civilian casualties than any other month in 2020, and the highest reported in one month since September 2019, driven largely by high civilian casualty numbers in Hudaydah.

Despite high casualty numbers, the number of women and children among the casualties decreased

In Q3, 40% (212) of the civilian casualties recorded in Yemen were women and children. However, in Q4, although overall civilian casualty numbers increased, the number of women and children among them decreased to 168, or 29% of the total. 98 children were reported to have been killed (27) or injured (71) in Q4, the lowest child casualty count recorded in the country in one quarter since CIMP started monitoring at the start of 2018. Of note, however, is that although child casualties decreased on a country-wide basis, the number of child casualties reported in Ta'izz more than doubled from Q3 to Q4 (discussed below), from 20 to 46, while the number of child casualties also saw an increase in Hudaydah and in Dali'.

Armed violence impacting civilian homes had a disproportionate impact on women and children

The number of incidents of armed violence reported to have impacted civilian homes decreased by 9%, from 234 in Q3 to 213 in Q4. There were also fewer civilian casualties reported on account of homes being impacted, dropping by 36%, from 163 to 104 in Q4. However, of 104 casualties reported in civilian homes, 61 were women and children; 59%, the highest proportion of women and children seen among casualties from incidents impacting the home space since CIMP started monitoring in January 2018. In line with typical casualty trends, the majority (89%) of women and children to be killed or injured in their homes were in Hudaydah (32) and Ta'izz (22).

Despite the ceasefire, Hudaydah saw the highest number of civilian casualties in Q4

Breaking the trend over the past two quarters, during which the highest civilian casualty numbers were recorded in Ta'izz governorate, Hudaydah returned to seeing the highest numbers of civilian casualties in Q4. Despite the ceasefire, 153 civilian casualties were reported in Hudaydah governorate, as hostilities continued in close proximity to residential areas. 74 of the casualties were recorded in October, coinciding with a spike in hostilities in Ad Durayhimi, just south of Hudaydah city. Moreover, the governorate saw three separate incidents resulting in over 10 civilian casualties. Resultantly, Q4 2020 was the second deadliest quarter seen in Hudaydah since the Stockholm Agreement was signed in December 2018, with 46 civilian fatalities reported, superseded only by Q1 2019.

Shelling continues to cause casualties and damages to civilian homes, businesses and infrastructure in Hudaydah

65% (99) of the casualties in Hudaydah in Q4 were on account of shellfire, while another 14% (21) of casualties were from remnant explosive ordnance, including landmines (18) and UXO (3). Shelling also continues to impact civilian homes, businesses and infrastructure in Hudaydah, causing not only displacement but also impacting livelihoods and restricting access to critical infrastructure. There were 106 incidents reported in the governorate over the past three months in which civilian houses were hit by shellfire, while another 10 shelling incidents hit civilian businesses, including the Thabit Brothers Industrial Complex, which has been repeatedly shelled since fighting reached the eastern outskirts of Hudaydah city in 2018.

Hostilities in Ta'izz City drove high casualty numbers in Q4

Ta'izz saw the second highest civilian casualty count across the country during Q4, with 142 civilian casualties recorded. Indiscriminate shelling of residential areas in Ta'izz city has persisted throughout the past three months, and the three districts making up the city (Salh, Al-Mudhaffar and Al-Qahirah) saw 85% (120) of all civilian casualties reported across the governorate in Q4. Shelling was responsible for 61% (86) of civilian casualties across the governorate, over half of whom (44) were women and children. Moreover, the number of child casualties recorded in Ta'izz more than doubled from Q3, rising from 20 to 46, more than in any other governorate. Aside from shelling in frontline areas in the city, there were also a number of incidents driven by localised military conflict, as tensions between competing local factions frequently boil over into hostilities, while dispute-driven violence is also common. IED attacks, a common manifestation of the local rivalries, resulted in another 11% (16) of civilian casualties in the governorate.

Ta'izz was a hotspot for incidents impacting on education and health facilities

There was a decrease in the number of incidents of armed violence impacting education facilities, from 6 incidents to 2 incidents. In October, 2 schools were hit by shellfire in Salh district, in eastern Ta'izz city. On 11 October, 1 child was killed and 5 other civilians, including 3 children and 1 woman, were injured when artillery shells hit 22 May school, and one week prior, Al-Thulaia school in Al-Ardi area was hit by shells in the same district. As hostilities picked up across the city towards the end of the year, there were also reports of several schools having to evacuate, presenting widespread restrictions on access to education across eastern parts of the city. The number of health facilities to be impacted, however, remained unchanged from Q3; 3 incidents impacted health facilities in Q4, all during October, one of which was also in Ta'izz city, when shells hit Al-Amal hospital in Al-Qahirah, injuring a health worker. In Hudaydah, two health centres were hit by shellfire, one in Al-Mandhar village, in the southern outskirts of Hudaydah city, and one in Ad Durayhimi, although no casualties were reported.

Civilians remain at risk from shelling and SAF in Sa'dah's western border districts

69 civilian casualties were reported over the past three months in Sa'dah, all in the western and northern districts bordering Saudi Arabia. Monabbih saw more civilian casualties than all other districts combined, with 41 civilian casualties reported, 33 of whom were in Ar Raqw, a busy, unofficial border crossing point into Saudi Arabia in the west of Sa'dah. 51 (74%) of the civilian casualties in Sa'dah were on account of shellfire, while another 15 (22%) were on account of SAF from border patrols, all of whom were reported in Monabbih (11) and neighbouring Shada'a (4). Furthermore, civilian houses were hit by shellfire in 24 incidents, including 11 times in Razih district and 8 times in Monabbih, causing likely displacement while also putting women and children at particular risk due to the encroachment of armed violence on the domestic space.

Over 40 civilians killed and injured in mass casualty incident in Aden

At least 13 civilians were killed, and at least another 31 civilians were injured in a mass casualty incident in Aden on 30 December, when the airport was exposed to several explosions on account of alleged missile fire. Among the fatalities were 3 aid workers. This is the highest number of civilian casualties reported in the city on one day since widespread clashes broke out in January 2018. In 2020, only 1 other incident in the country saw a higher civilian casualty toll, when airstrikes hit the crash site of a fighter jet in Jawf on 15 February, as locals, including children, had gathered around the wreckage.

Shelling was the deadliest type of armed violence in Yemen in Q4 2020

295 civilians were killed and injured by shellfire in Yemen in the past three months, a 72% increase from 172 in Q3, and the highest number of civilian shelling victims reported since Q3 2019. 72 of the casualties were fatalities, an increase for the third consecutive quarter, up 34% from Q3. Shelling resulted in more fatalities than any other type of armed violence in Q4. Moreover, over a third (100) of the shelling casualties were women and children; 56 children were killed or injured by shelling, almost double the 29 recorded in Q3. As in Q3, Hudaydah saw the highest number of shelling casualties, accounting for 99 (34%) of the country-wide total, followed by another 30% (86) in Ta'izz and 17% (51) in Sa'dah. Furthermore, 164 shelling incidents hit civilian homes, an increase from 162 incidents in Q3.

Airstrikes continue to threaten civilians in frontline areas and in the capital city

In the meantime, despite causing 12% (50) of the 431 civilian impact incidents reported in Q4, including 34 instances that saw airstrikes hitting civilian houses, airstrikes caused only 4 civilian casualties during the past quarter; a drop of 96% compared to the 94 airstrike victims recorded during Q3. Nonetheless, 30 airstrike incidents to have directly impacted civilians in Q4 were reported in Ma'rib governorate, in line with ongoing fighting on the governorate's frontlines in the north, west and south. 7 airstrike incidents were also reported to have struck civilian sites around Sana'a city over the past quarter, a slight increase from 6 during Q3, seemingly linked to broader conflict dynamics, as a retaliatory, responsive measure.

158 civilians were killed and injured by fire from small arms and light weapons

Across the country, 158 civilians were killed or injured by fire from small arms and light weapons (SA/LW) over the past three months, including those involved in small arms fire (SAF) shooting incidents (84), those caught in the crossfire of SA/LW exchanges (47), and those shot by sniper fire (27). Overall, this was a decrease from the last quarter, when 166 civilians were harmed in shooting incidents. Sa'dah saw the highest number of civilian SAF victims (15), driven by violence along the border, followed by Sana'a city (12), as isolated security incidents persist. Hudaydah saw the highest number of casualties on account of civilians getting caught in the crossfire of SA/LW clashes, while both Ta'izz and Hudaydah, which host active frontlines, each saw 9 civilian casualties on account of sniper fire. A third (9) of the 27 sniper casualties across the country in the past quarter were children.

Remnant explosive ordnance, including landmines and UXO, resulted in 82 civilian casualties

Landmines were responsible for 60 civilian casualties in Q4, almost double the 32 reported in Q3. 42% of these were reported in Jawf, predominantly in the frontline district of Khabb wa Ash Sha'af, where 18 civilians were killed or injured by landmines in the past three months. Hudaydah also saw a high number of civilian landmine casualties (18). Of 22 UXO casualties, 8 of whom were reported in Dali' and 6 in Ta'izz, 14 were children. A high proportion of children among UXO casualties has been a long-running theme in the conflict, as curiosity coupled with a lack of awareness of the threat posed by unfamiliar objects combines to put them at particular risk.

33 civilians were killed and injured in targeted attacks with explosive devices

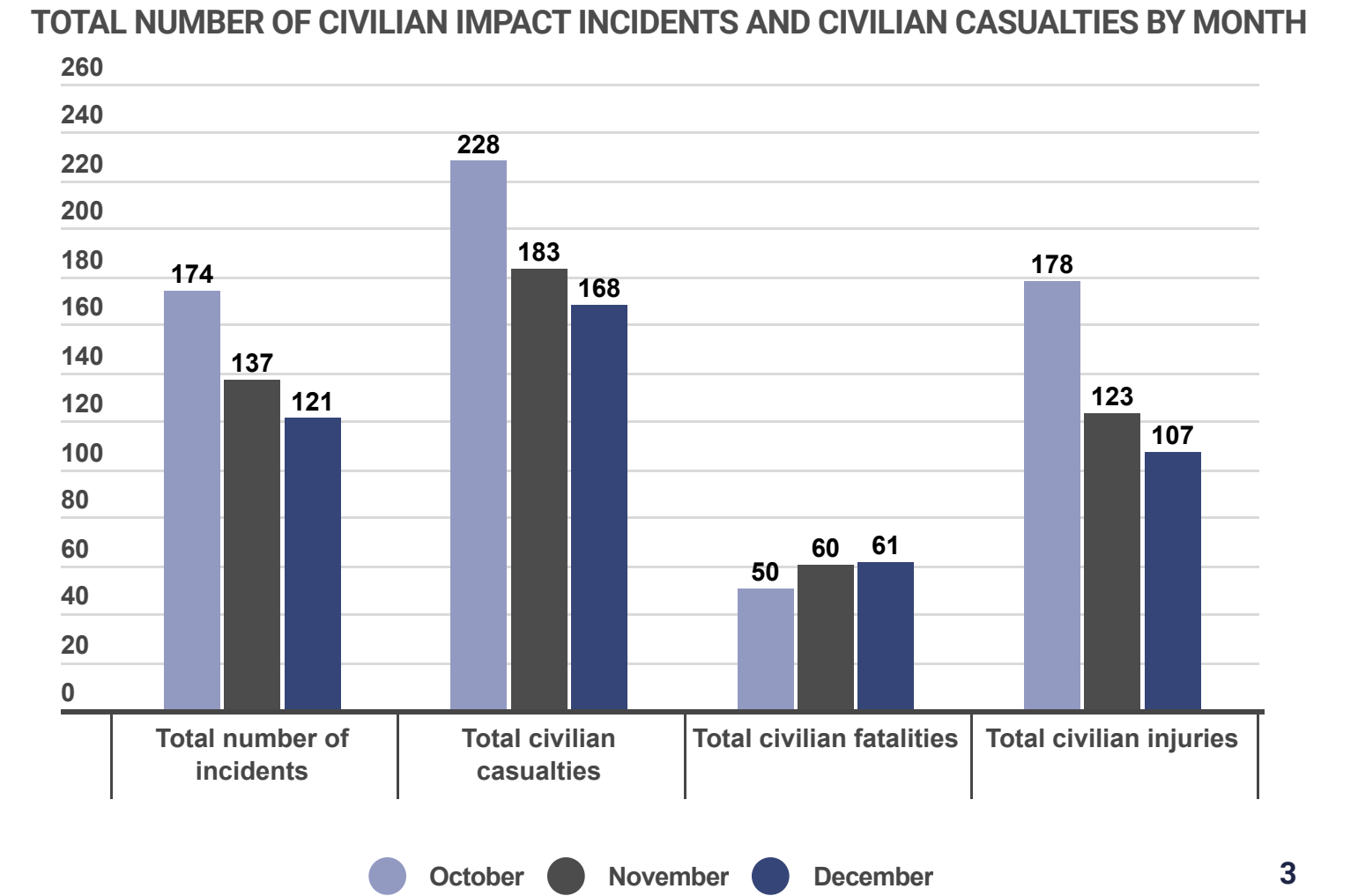
Of explosives used to carry out direct, targeted attacks, hand grenades resulted in 13 civilian casualties in Q4, the highest number of civilian grenade victims reported in one quarter in 2020. All but 1 of the 13 were reported in the capital city, Sana’a. IEDs, another form of targeted explosive attack, resulted in 20 civilian casualties, 80% (16) of whom were in Ta’izz, where IED attacks are a common occurrence, often targeting military or political figures, while frequently harming civilian bystanders.

Q4 2020 saw an uptick of armed violence in marketplaces

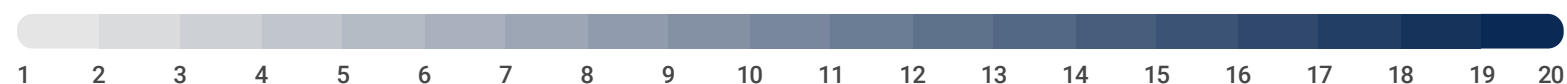
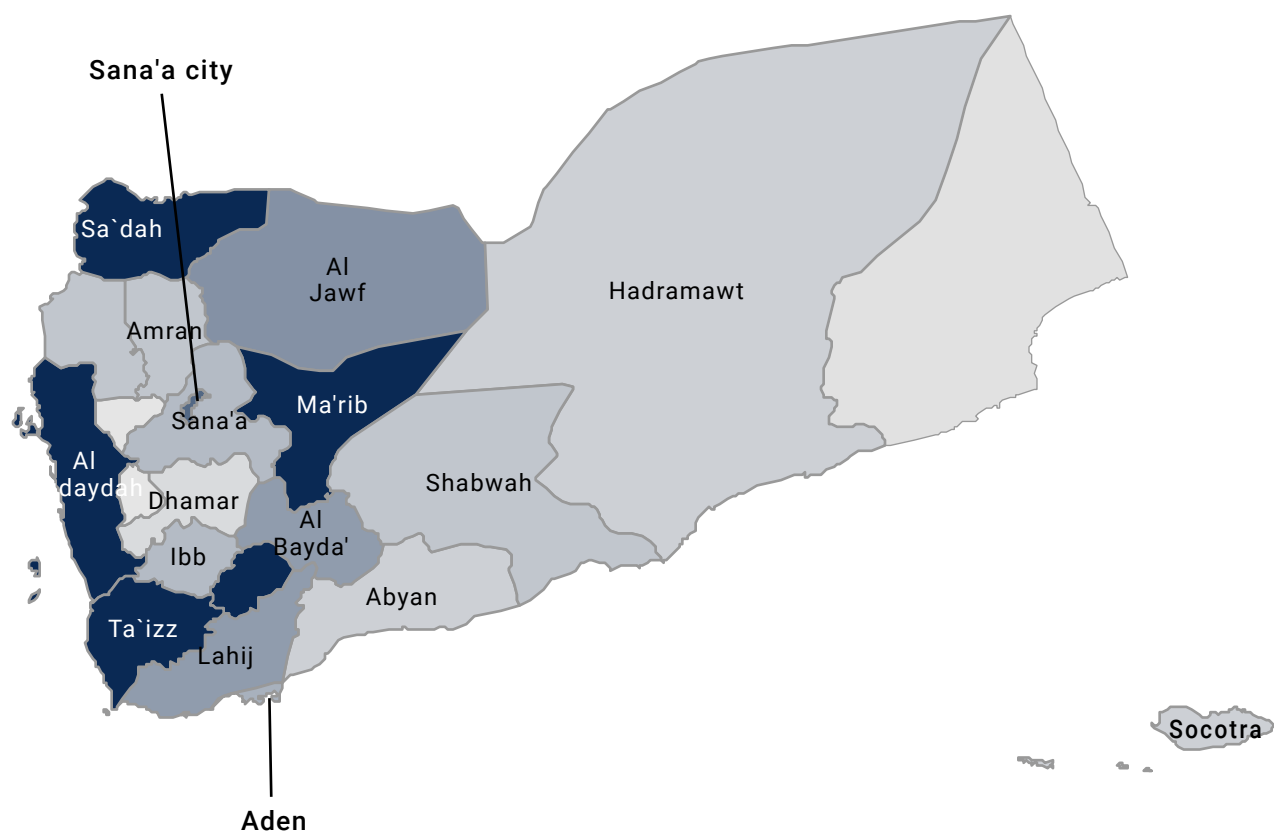
Throughout the quarter, 9 incidents of armed violence were reported to have impacted civilians in or near marketplaces, resulting in 45 civilian casualties. 5 of these incidents were caused by shellfire, which injured 27 people in local markets. This included 13 civilians, including 1 child, who were injured in Ta’izz city on 7 November, when artillery shells hit Al-Ashbat market in the east of the city, in Salh district. Another 18 civilian casualties were reported on account of civilians getting caught in the crossfire of armed clashes that broke out in marketplaces, as disputes escalated into armed violence; 8 civilians were injured when localised clashes broke out in a market in Ataq city on 13 October. Such incidents, while not necessarily causing direct damage to the market, are highly likely to impact on the livelihoods of the market sellers, due to the associated risk of visiting the market.

NATIONWIDE SNAPSHOT: CIVILIAN IMPACT FROM INCIDENTS OF ARMED VIOLENCE
Q4: OCTOBER- DECEMBER 2020

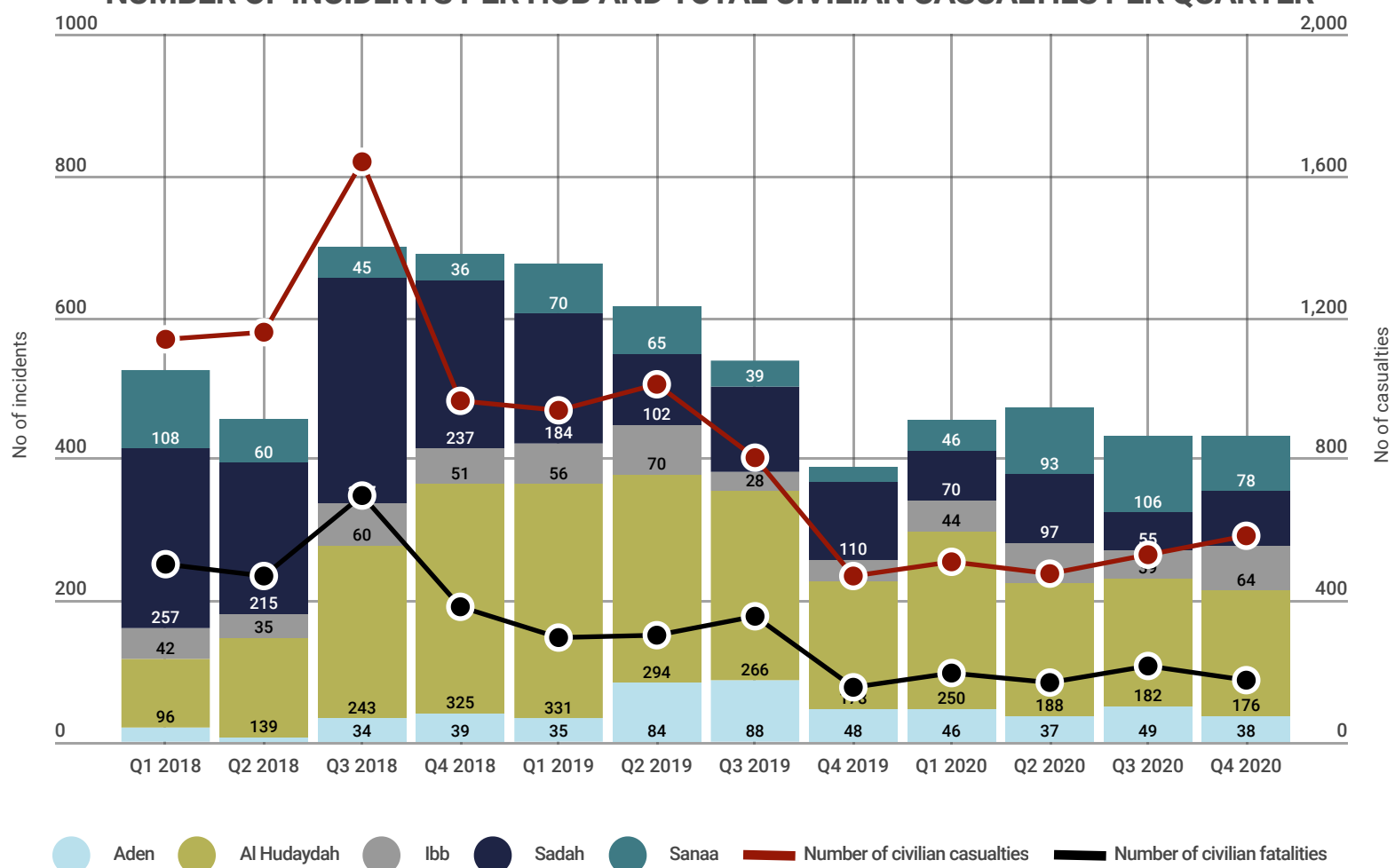
Total Civilian Casualties:	579	Civilian impact incidents:	432
Fatalities:	171	Psychosocial trauma incidents:	393
Children / Women:	27 / 20	Vulnerability incidents:	289
Injures:	498	Children and Women:	228
Children / Women:	71 / 50	Children / Women / IDPs and Migrants:	35 / 24 / 2



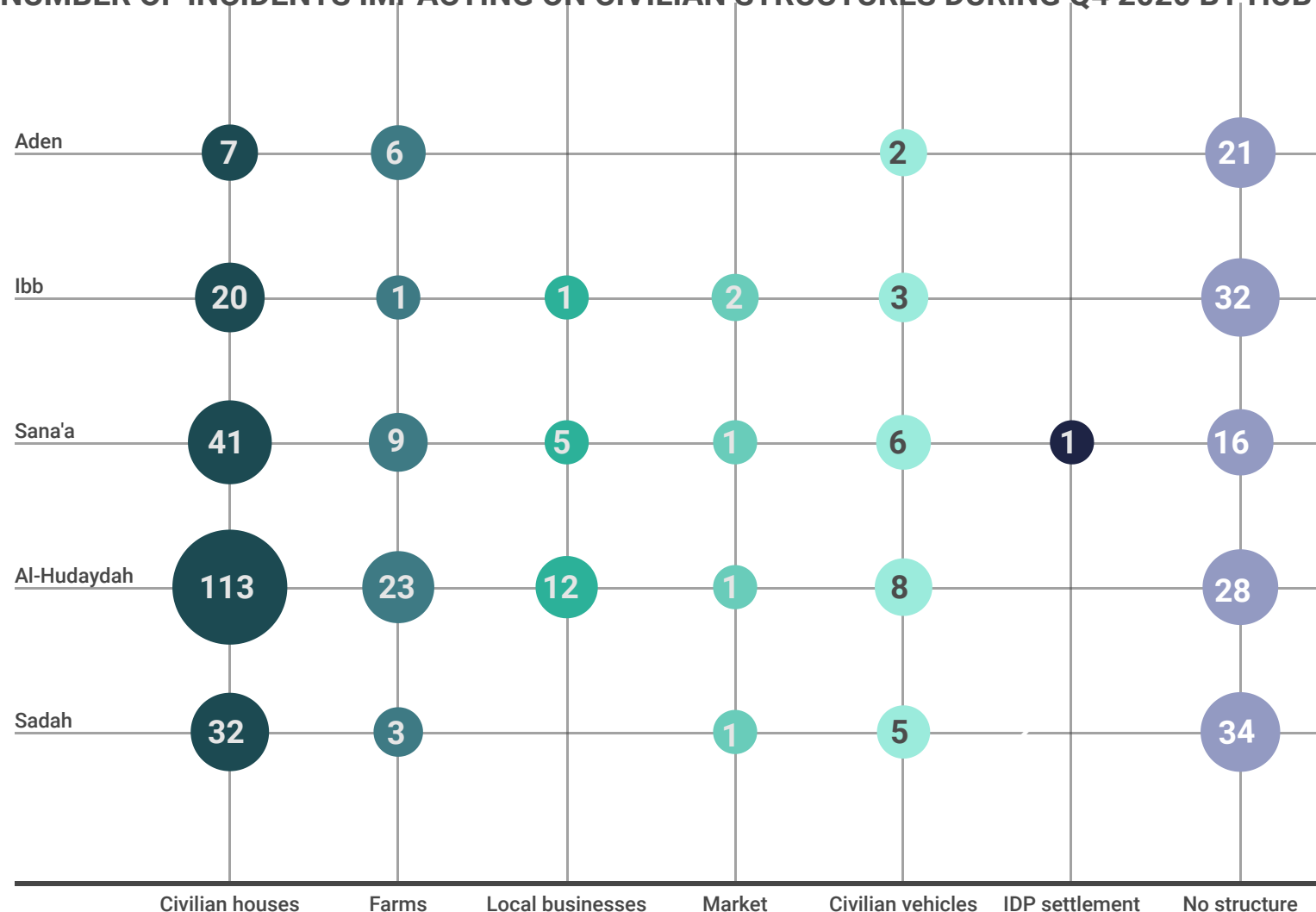
DISTRIBUTION OF CIVILIAN IMPACT INCIDENTS IN Q4 2020 BY GOVERNORATE



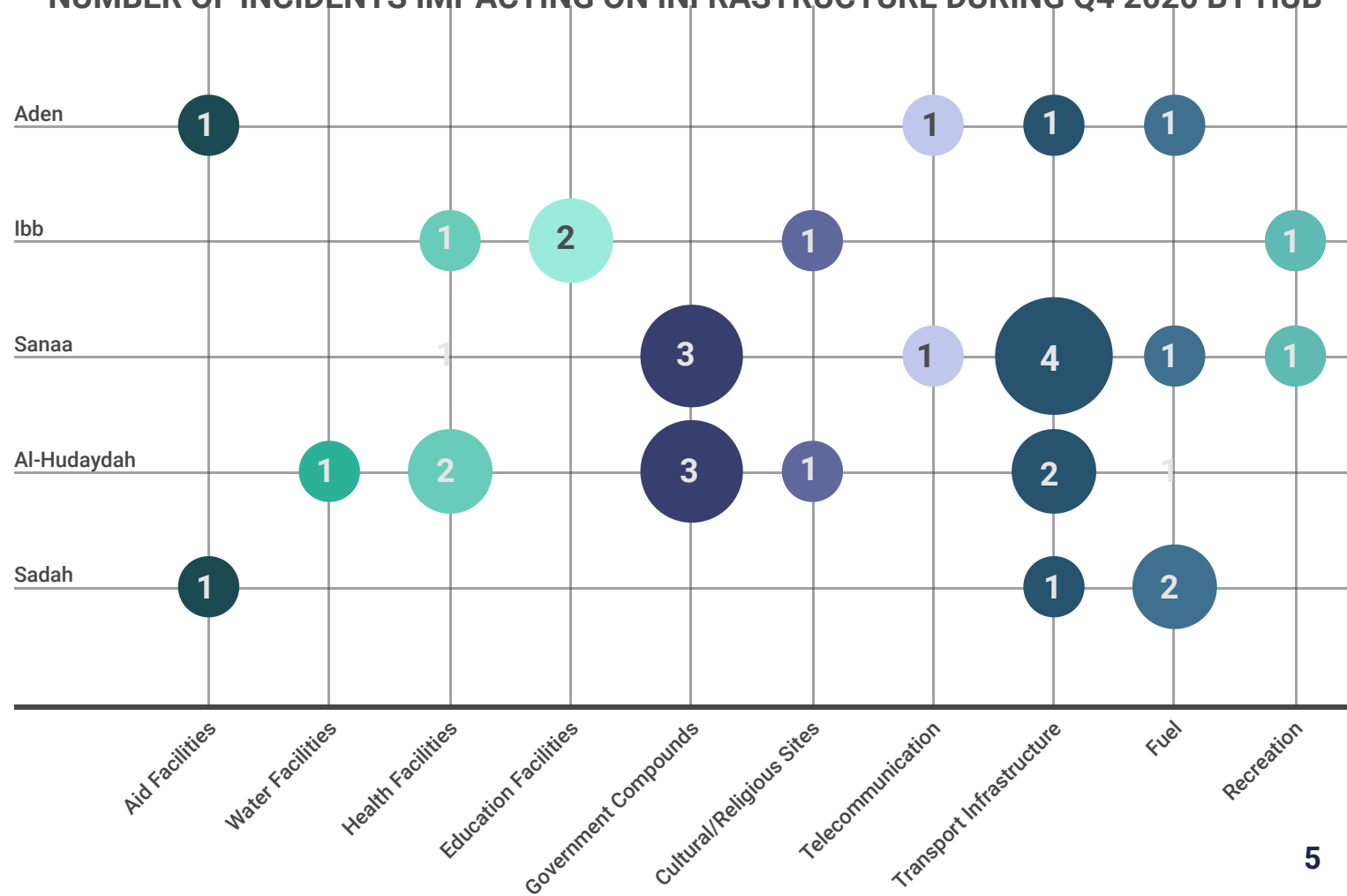
NUMBER OF INCIDENTS PER HUB AND TOTAL CIVILIAN CASUALTIES PER QUARTER



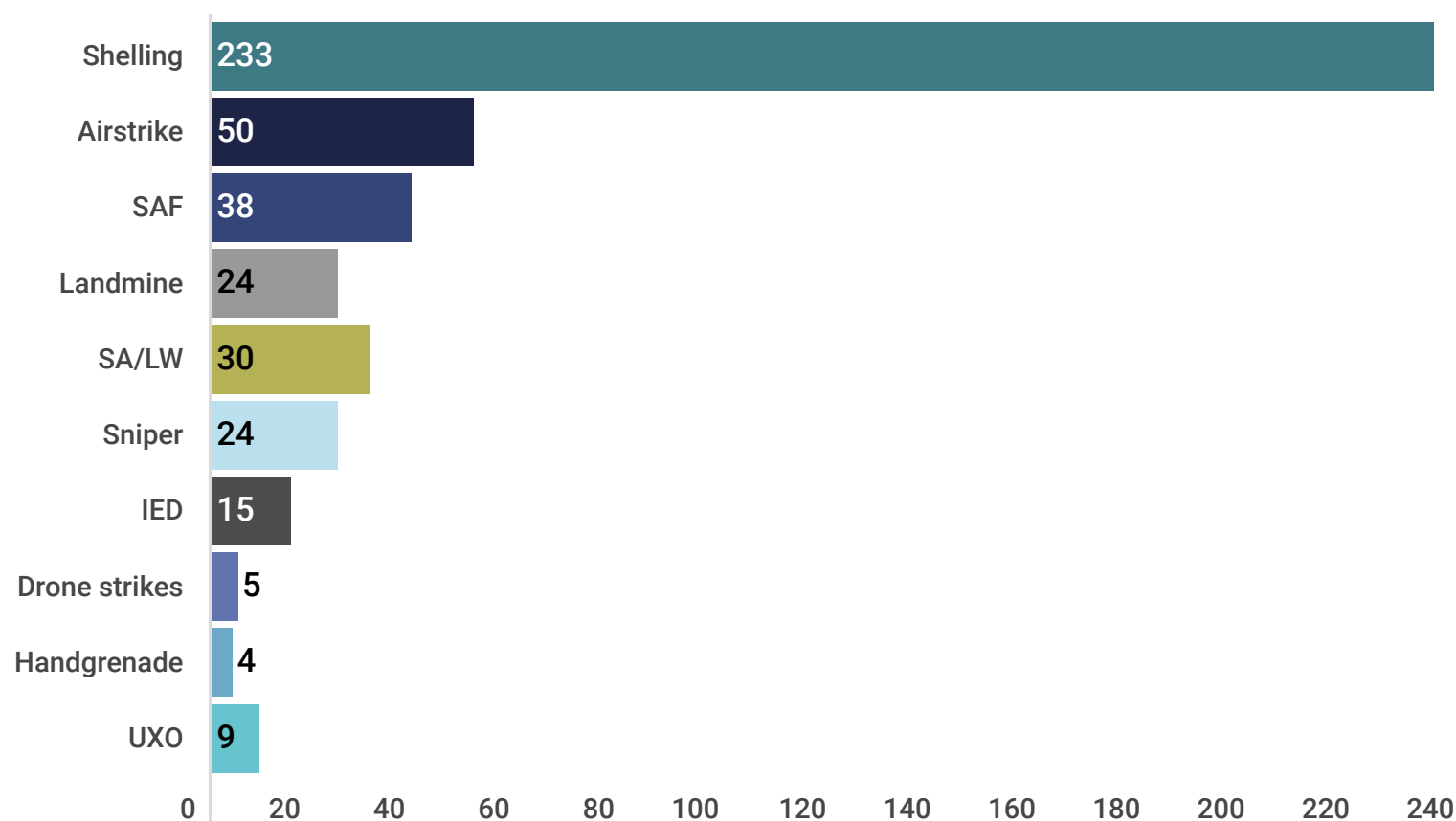
NUMBER OF INCIDENTS IMPACTING ON CIVILIAN STRUCTURES DURING Q4 2020 BY HUB



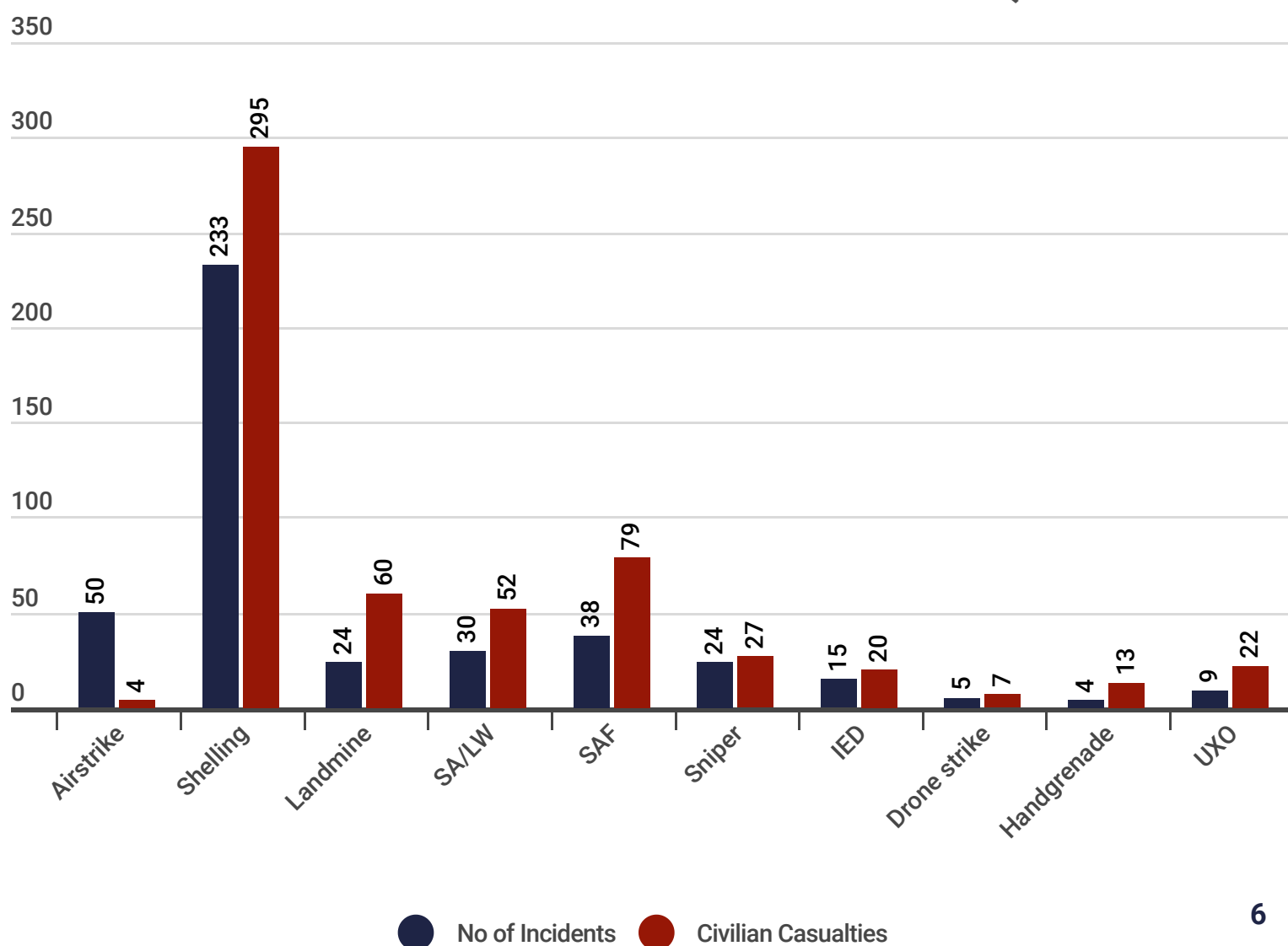
NUMBER OF INCIDENTS IMPACTING ON INFRASTRUCTURE DURING Q4 2020 BY HUB



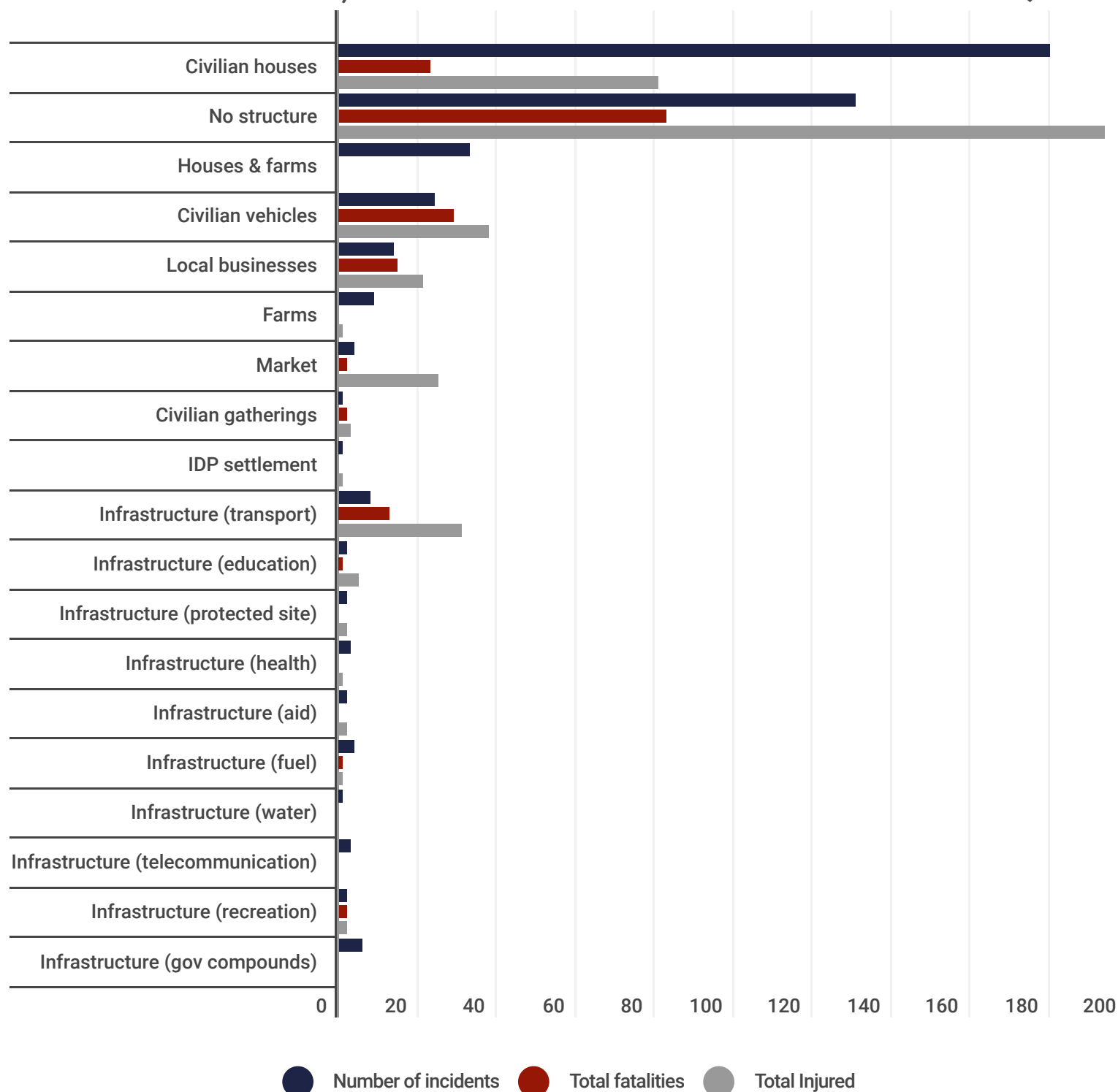
INCIDENTS IMPACTING ON CIVILIANS IN Q4 2020, BY TYPE OF ARMED VIOLENCE



CIVILIAN CASUALTIES BY TYPE OF ARMED VIOLENCE IN Q4 2020



NUMBER OF INCIDENTS, FATALITIES AND INJURIES BY CIVILIAN STRUCTURE IN Q4 2020



DIRECT PROTECTION IMPLICATIONS OF INCIDENTS OF ARMED VIOLENCE ON CIVILIANS

DISPLACEMENT



Number of affected households

976

Number of Incidents
213

LOSS OF LIVELIHOOD



Number of affected households

194

Number of Incidents
42

RESTRICTED FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT AND ASSEMBLY



Number of affected households

321

Number of Incidents
156

OBSTRUCTION TO FLIGHT



Number of affected households

85

Number of Incidents
1

INDIRECT PROTECTION IMPLICATIONS - HOUSEHOLDS EXPERIENCING RESTRICTED ACCESS



74,179

households facing restricted access to:

Health, education, first responders, worship

Number of Incidents

7



1,088,643

households facing restricted access to:

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

Number of Incidents

23



27,017

households facing restricted access to:

Water facilities, aid, food

Number of Incidents

3

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