

CIMP QUARTERLY REPORT

Q2: APRIL - JUNE 2020

This is the Civilian Impact Monitoring Project quarterly report, providing an overview of all incidents of armed violence reported in April, May and June 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

More incidents of armed violence impacted civilians in Q2 2020 than in Q1 2020

Despite efforts to mediate a cease in hostilities in various parts of the country, the number of incidents of armed violence reported to have directly impacted on civilians saw a slight increase in Q2 2020, up 3% from 456 in Q1 to 472. From 9 April, coinciding with Ramadan, a unilateral ceasefire was announced in the north of the country, in a bid to rein in hostilities and refocus efforts on combatting the coronavirus outbreak in the country. Although the ceasefire saw several extensions, a de-escalation on the ground failed to materialise. Under the Hodaydah Agreement, the frontlines on the west coast remain fixed in place, yet still active, with daily reports of direct and indirect fire. The northern border with Saudi Arabia also remains turbulent, particularly in Sa'dah's border districts, where an almost daily volley of hostilities across the border has continued. Meanwhile efforts to curtail tensions in the south of the country also appear to have been largely unsuccessful. As hostilities persisted across the country, an average of 157 civilian impact incidents were reported on a monthly basis in Yemen, up from 152 during Q1.

The number of airstrikes to have impacted on civilians increased, despite the unilateral Ramadan ceasefire

Despite the Ramadan ceasefire, airstrikes persisted across northern parts of Yemen, prompting an uptick in the number of airstrikes reported to have directly impacted on civilians during Q2, largely responsible for the increase in total country-wide civilian impact incident rates. The number of airstrike incidents reported to have impacted directly on civilians in Yemen in Q2 doubled from Q1, rising from 44 to 88 incidents, 68% (60) of which hit civilian houses. Through each month in Q2, the number of airstrike incidents increased, from 24, to 31, to 33 in April, May and June respectively, resulting in a growing impact on civilians. By contrast, the number of shelling incidents reported to have directly impacted on civilians dropped by 8% from Q1; from 281 to 258.

More civilian houses were impacted by armed violence in Q2 than in Q1, the majority on account of shelling

The total number of incidents of armed violence reported to have impacted on civilian houses rose 17%, from 252 in Q1 to 295 in Q2. Despite an overall drop in shelling incidents, 220 (75%) of incidents to have impacted on civilian houses were on account of shelling, while 60 (20%) were account of airstrikes. As the number of incidents to impact on civilian houses increases, so too do numbers of households assessed to have been directly displaced: 1,369 houses were directly impacted by armed violence during Q2, up from 1,121 in Q1, potentially displacing as many households. 1,049 (77%) of these houses were impacted by shellfire, up from 1,005 in Q1. More houses were impacted by shelling than by any other type of armed violence combined in Q2. Furthermore, exposure to armed violence in the domestic space is likely to exacerbate psychosocial trauma, while also putting women and children at increasing risk. However, despite the increase in civilian houses impacted by armed violence, the number of resultant civilian casualties remained similar to the first quarter of the year, with another 115 reported, down just 7 from the 122 reported during the previous quarter.

Airstrikes are responsible for a growing proportion of incidents impacting on civilian houses

Although shelling remains the primary type of armed violence responsible for impacting civilian houses, 3 times as many airstrike incidents impacted civilian houses in Q2 than in Q1, rising from 21 incidents to 60. Furthermore, the total number of houses impacted by these airstrike incidents almost tripled in Q2, rising from 97 in Q1 to 284 in Q2. This has also caused the proportion of houses impacted by airstrikes to more than double: airstrikes were responsible for 21% of the homes impacted in Q2, compared to 9% in Q1. By contrast, the number of shelling incidents to have impacted on civilian houses remained similar to the previous quarter, with 220 incidents reported; a marginal increase from 217 in Q1.

There was a slight reduction in the number of civilian casualties caused by armed violence, with the biggest proportion on account of shelling

The total number of civilian casualties on account of armed violence decreased by 6%, from 506 in Q1 to 475 in Q2; this coincided with a drop in the number of civilian casualties on account of shelling, which decreased for the seventh consecutive quarter since Q4 2018, from 201 in Q1 to 185 in Q2. Nonetheless, also for the seventh consecutive quarter, shelling remained responsible for more civilian casualties across the country than any other type of armed violence, causing 39% (185) of the total. Shelling was also responsible for the most civilian fatalities; 50, out of a total of 168. This was closely followed by fire from small arms and light weapons (SA/LW), which was responsible for 49 civilian fatalities in Q2. In Q1, SA/LW caused more fatalities than shelling. Of all of the governorates, Ta'izz saw the highest number of civilian casualties in Q2; 132 (28%) out of a country-wide total of 475.

The decrease in civilian casualties was not uniform; in some governorates, civilian casualty numbers from armed violence increased

Despite a country-wide decrease in civilian casualties, the number of civilian casualties in Bayda increased almost threefold from Q1 to Q2, from 14 to 40, as the weight of the fighting shifted south from frontlines on the trisect between Jawf, Marib and Sana'a to Marib's southern border with Bayda. Both Bayda and Marib saw an increase in civilian impact incidents from the first to second quarter, largely on account of airstrikes (43 incidents) and shelling (18 incidents). While shelling continued in Sa'dah's western border districts, the governorate saw an uptick in airstrikes: despite the unilateral ceasefire, airstrikes resulted in 32 civilian casualties in Sa'dah in Q2, 8 times more than during Q1. The number of civilian casualties from shelling in Sa'dah also increased 50%, from 10 to 15. As a result, the governorate saw civilian casualty numbers almost double, from 28 in Q1 to 50 in Q2. There was also an uptick in localised clashes across Ta'izz, where casualty numbers increased by 53% (86 to 132), driven by increases in both shelling casualties (46 up to 77) and SA/LW casualties (24 to 47).

Shelling on Ta'izz prison resulted in a mass casualty incident, killing and injuring 34 women

Contributing heavily to Ta'izz's Q2 casualty count was a mass casualty shelling incident that hit the women's section of the Central Prison in Al-Jibali area in Al-Mudhaffar district on 5 April. 8 women, including 1 child visiting her mother, were killed in the incident, and at least 26 women were injured. The incident made up 44% of the civilian shelling victims in the governorate during Q2, and was responsible for more than two thirds (33) of the 48 women casualties reported in Ta'izz during Q2; more women casualties than has been recorded during any quarter in Ta'izz since CIMP started monitoring at the start of 2018.

Q2 saw the highest number of women casualties reported countrywide in the past year

Driven largely by the mass casualty incident in Ta'izz, there were 90 women casualties reported across the country on account of armed violence during Q2 2020; the highest reported in one quarter since Q2 2019. 1 in 3 (31) of the casualties was a fatality. The increase follows two consecutive quarters during which the numbers of women casualties decreased country-wide. Ta'izz saw the highest number of women casualties (48), followed by Hudaydah (13) and Sa'dah (9). Shelling was responsible for two thirds of casualties among women in Q2, also driven by the prison incident in Ta'izz.

Q2 saw the fewest child casualties reported in one quarter since CIMP started monitoring at the start of 2018

While casualties among women saw an increase, armed violence caused 110 child casualties in Q2 2020, down from 156 in Q1; the fewest reported in one quarter since CIMP started monitoring at the start of 2018. The number of child fatalities halved, from 66 to 33, while injuries went down from 90 to 77. However, the number of child casualties in Sa'dah doubled from 8 to 16. Furthermore, shelling was responsible for more child casualties in Q2 (60) than in Q1 (53); the highest since Q3 2019.

The proportion of children among civilian casualties in Hudaydah increased to 40%

The most child casualties (37) were reported in Hudaydah, where the number of children killed or injured by armed violence remained similar to the previous two quarters; a total of 37, down slightly from 39 during Q4 2019 and Q1 2020. However, total civilian casualty numbers from armed violence dropped in Hudaydah, from 136 in Q1 to 92 in Q2, pushing the proportion of child casualties up: children comprised 29% of civilian casualties in Hudaydah in Q1, but this increased to 40% in Q2.

Shelling on the outskirts of Hudaydah city resulted in a mass child casualty incident

Contributing to the child casualties in Hudaydah was a mass casualty incident on 31 May, when artillery shells hit a gathering near a house in Az Zuhur neighbourhood, in an area near As Salakhanah hospital in Al Hali. 4 civilians were killed in the incident, including 3 children, and a further 18 civilians were injured, including 15 children. Although residential, the area sits near active frontlines on Hudaydah city's eastern outskirts, where almost daily exchanges of direct and indirect fire are reported.

Civilian casualties on account of landmines increased

There was an increase in the number of civilian casualties on account of landmines, up from 49 during Q1 to 68 in Q2, over half of whom (37, 54%) died. It is possible that heavy rains across the country in April and June contributed to the increase, potentially causing landmines to drift to new locations, or bringing them closer to the surface; more landmine incidents were reported during April and June than during May. 46 (68%) of the landmine casualties were on account of devices exploding beneath civilian vehicles, restricting freedom of movement for civilians along roads. The highest proportion of landmine casualties was in Hudaydah, where 18 casualties were reported on account of landmines during Q2, followed by Bayda, which has also remained a hotspot for incidents attributed to remnant explosive ordnance throughout the past two years.

The number of incidents impacting on telecommunications infrastructure almost doubled from Q1 to Q2

The number of incidents of armed violence reported to have impacted on telecommunications infrastructure in Yemen almost doubled from Q1 to Q2, rising from 5 to 9, restricting access to communications infrastructure for as many as 55,579 households. All but 1 of the incidents were on account of airstrikes, including 5 air raids which targeted telecommunications infrastructure in Amran in June, restricting access for as many as 10,898 households across Bani Suraim and Dhi Bin districts. Similar incidents were reported in Haydan, Sa'dah; in Al-Hawiri, located in the more densely populated outskirts of Sana'a city in Hamdan district; and in Az Zahir, Bayda. In the remaining incident, on 25 June, telecommunications towers

were demolished with explosives in Radman Al-Awad, Bayda. It is not an uncommon tactic for warring parties to cut telecommunications across districts prior to the launch of military offensives. However, such incidents also restrict civilians’ access to critical communications infrastructure, which is likely to have a particularly isolating impact in the often remote landscapes where fighting is ongoing. The incident in Sa’dah’s peripheral district of Haydan is a prime example of this, where as many as 13,449 households were assessed to have been impacted.

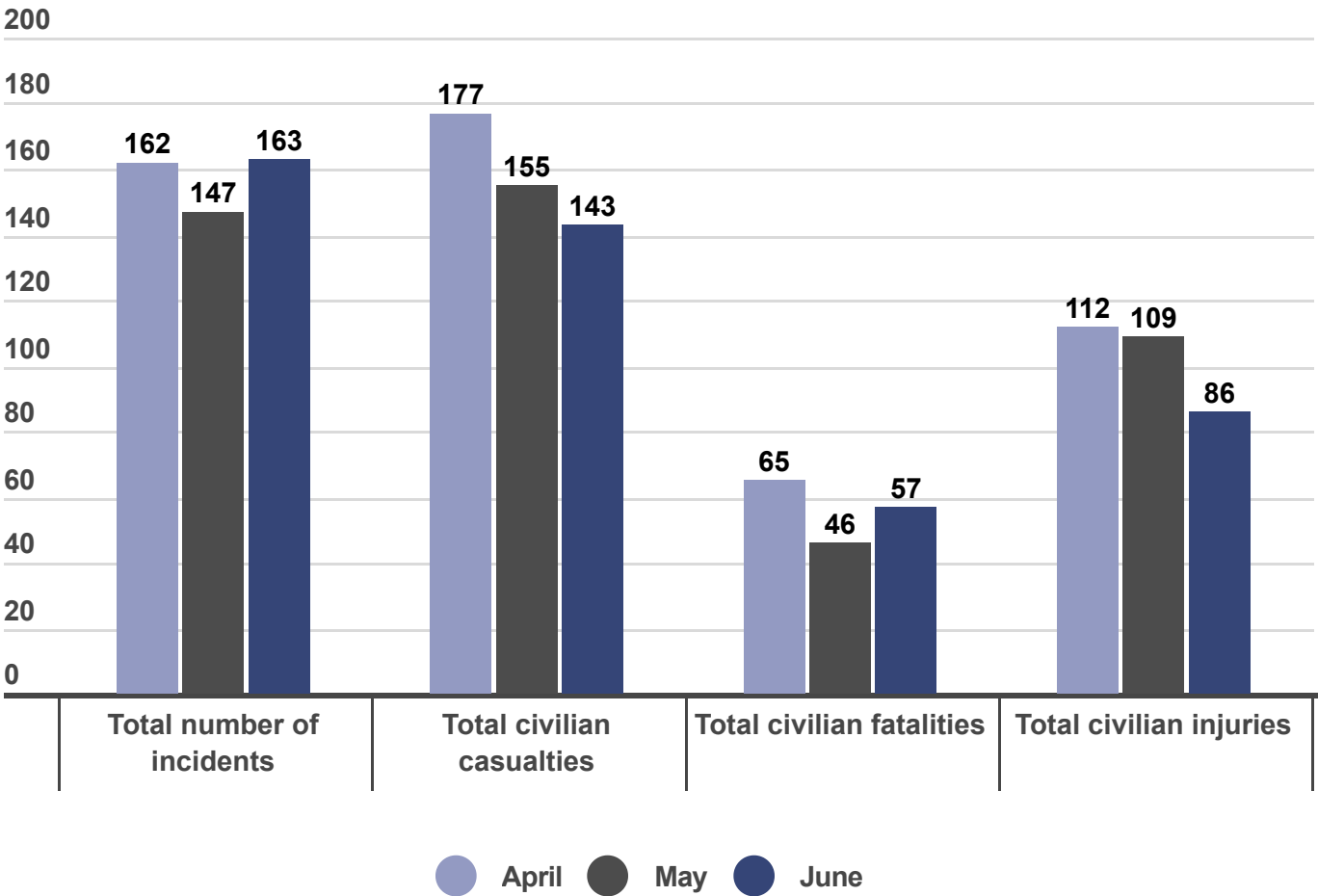
Armed violence caused an increased impact on health facilities

50% more health facilities were reported to have been impacted by armed violence during Q2 2020 than during Q1. 9 facilities were impacted across a number of governorates, caused by a range of armed violence, up from 6 facilities during the previous quarter. 127,222 households were assessed to have faced restricted access to health facilities as a direct result of armed violence impacting health facilities. Shelling was responsible for 4 incidents, hitting a field clinic near the Qaniyah frontline in Radman Al-Awad district in northern Bayda; a hospital in Al-Jafrah, another frontline area in Majzar, Marib; and two medical centres, one in the south of Hudaydah city, and one in An Nur in Al-Mudhaffar district, Ta’izz. Fire from small arms and light weapons were accountable for another two incidents, each resulting in 2 civilian casualties, as civilians came under fire on hospital premises, while a hand-grenade injured another 2 civilians when it was thrown at An Nasr hospital in Dali’ city. Attacks on health facilities are prohibited under IHL, and such incidents endanger patients and hospital staff, while also restricting access to critical health services for surrounding populations. There were also unconfirmed reports of airstrikes on Bayda hitting two COVID-19 quarantine centres on 8 April. No casualties were reported in the incident, although it was assessed to have restricted access to health facilities for over 5,500 households.

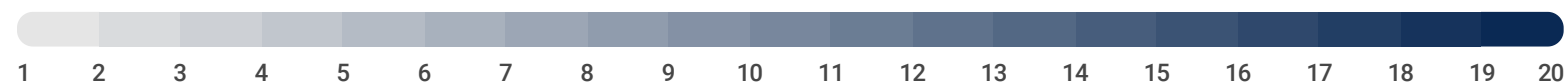
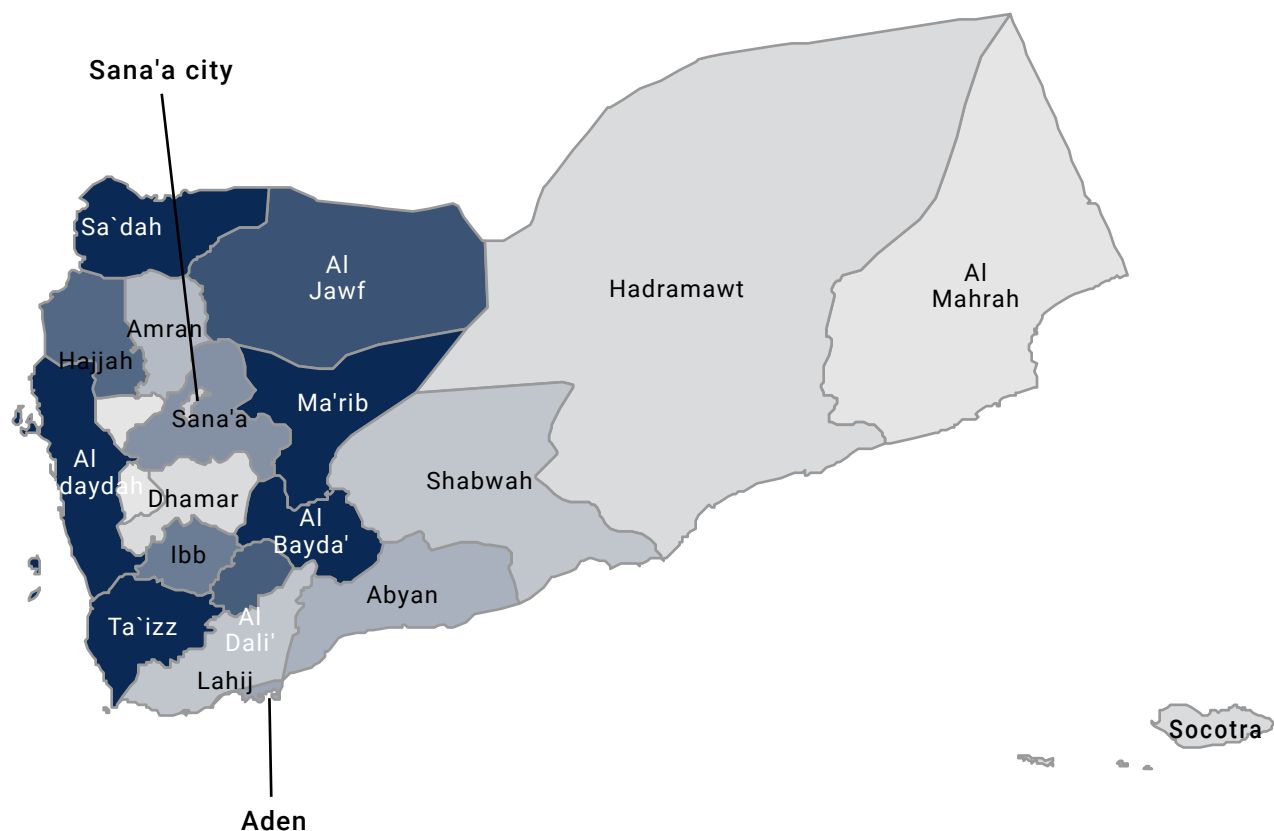
NATIONWIDE SNAPSHOT: CIVILIAN IMPACT FROM INCIDENTS OF ARMED VIOLENCE
Q2: APRIL - JUNE 2020

Total Civilian Casualties:	475	Civilian impact incidents:	472
Fatalities:	168	Psychosocial trauma incidents:	434
Children / Women:	33/31	Vulnerability incidents:	351
Injures:	307	Children and Women:	319
Children / Women:	77 / 59	Children / Women / IDPs	21 / 09 / 2

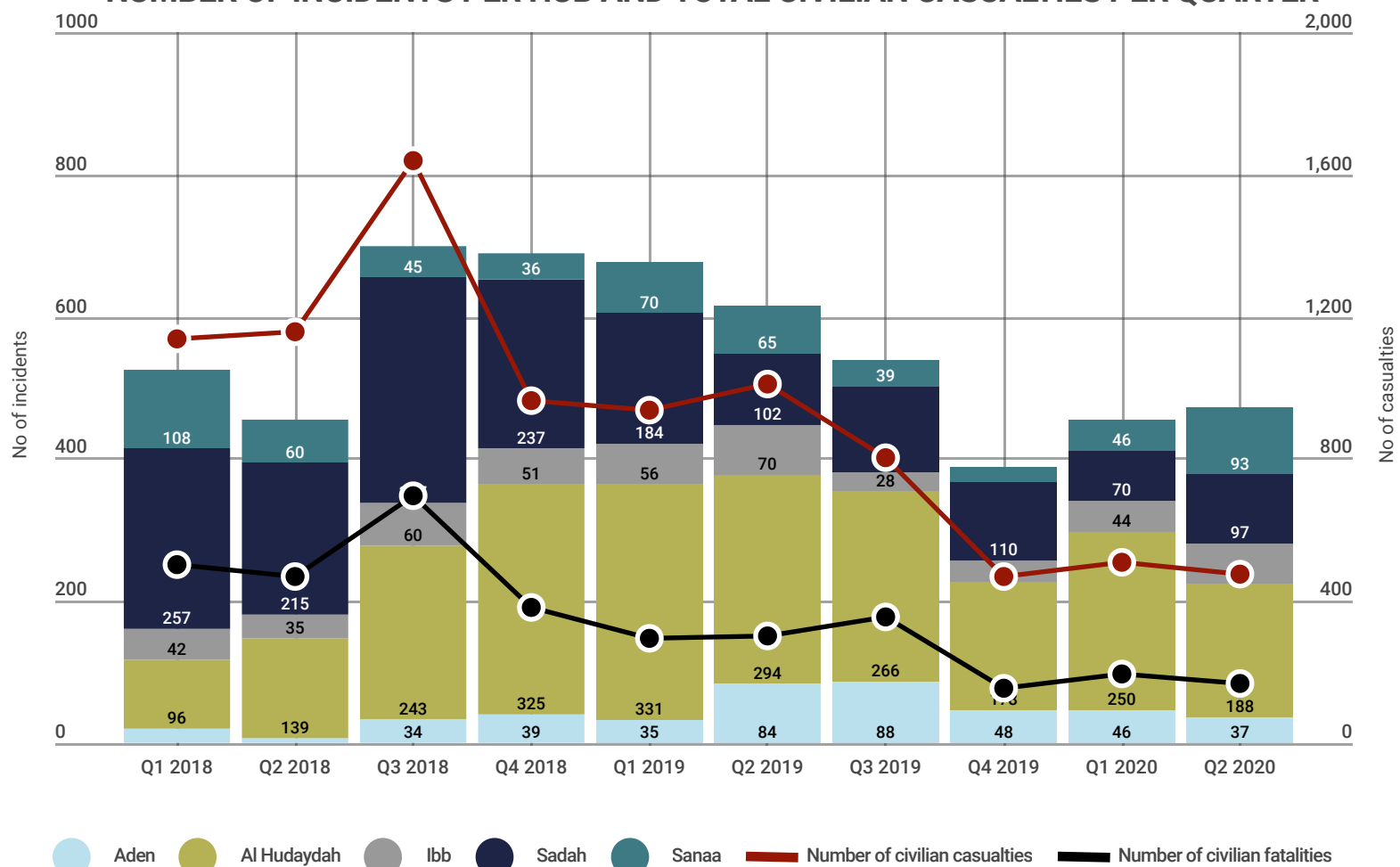
TOTAL NUMBER OF CIVILIAN IMPACT INCIDENTS AND CIVILIAN CASUALTIES BY MONTH



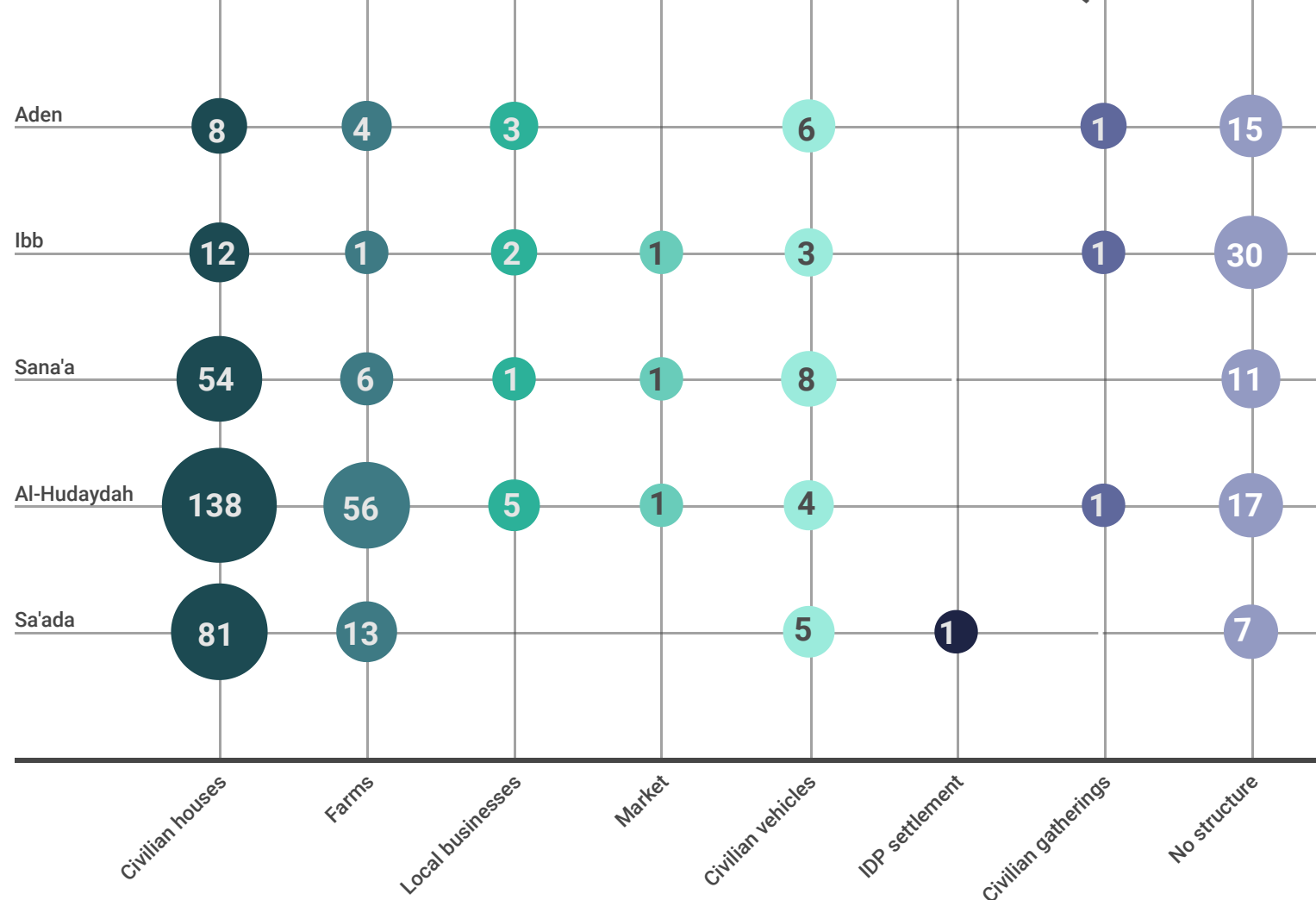
DISTRIBUTION OF CIVILIAN IMPACT INCIDENTS IN Q2 2020 BY GOVERNORATE



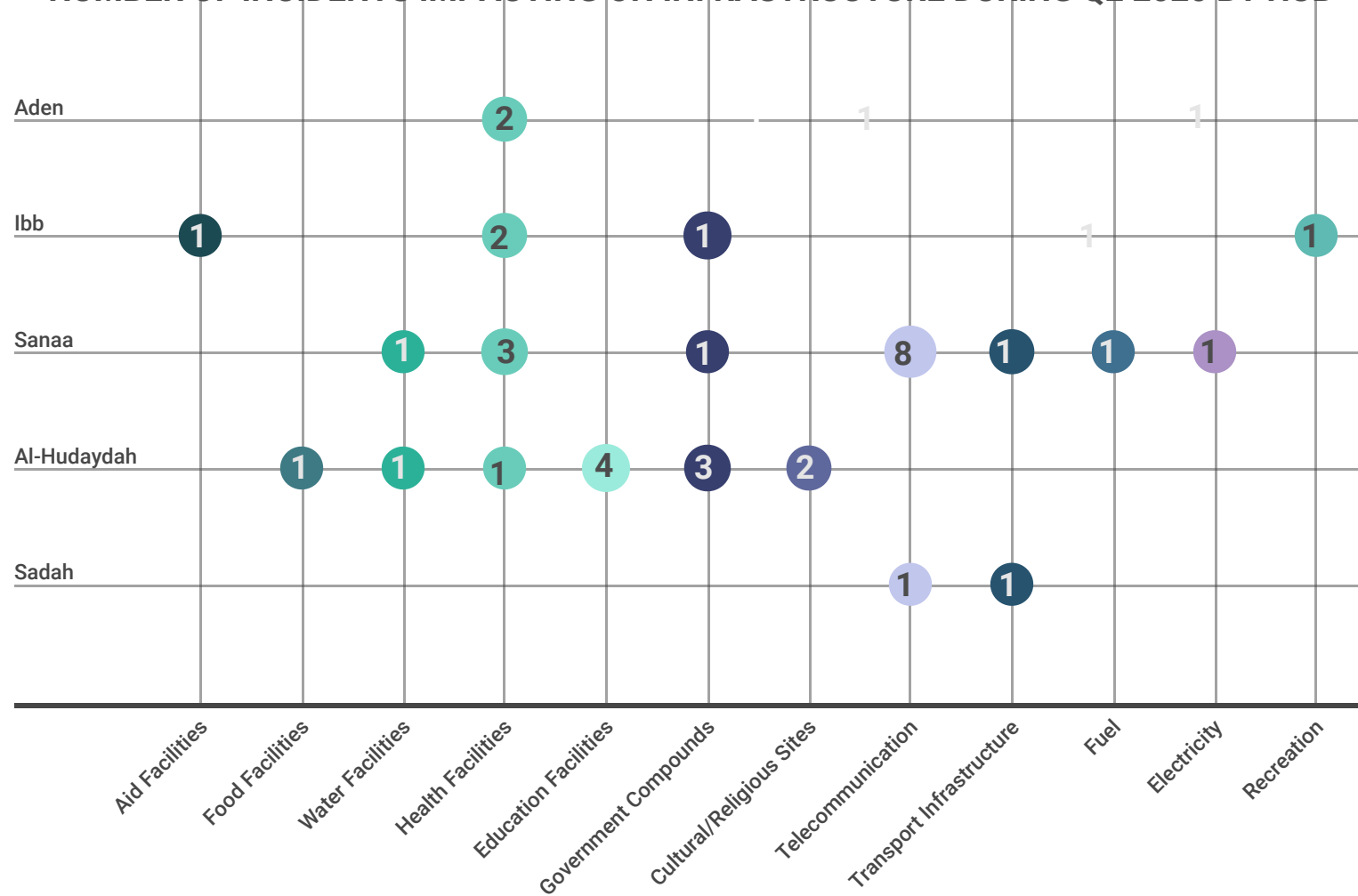
NUMBER OF INCIDENTS PER HUB AND TOTAL CIVILIAN CASUALTIES PER QUARTER



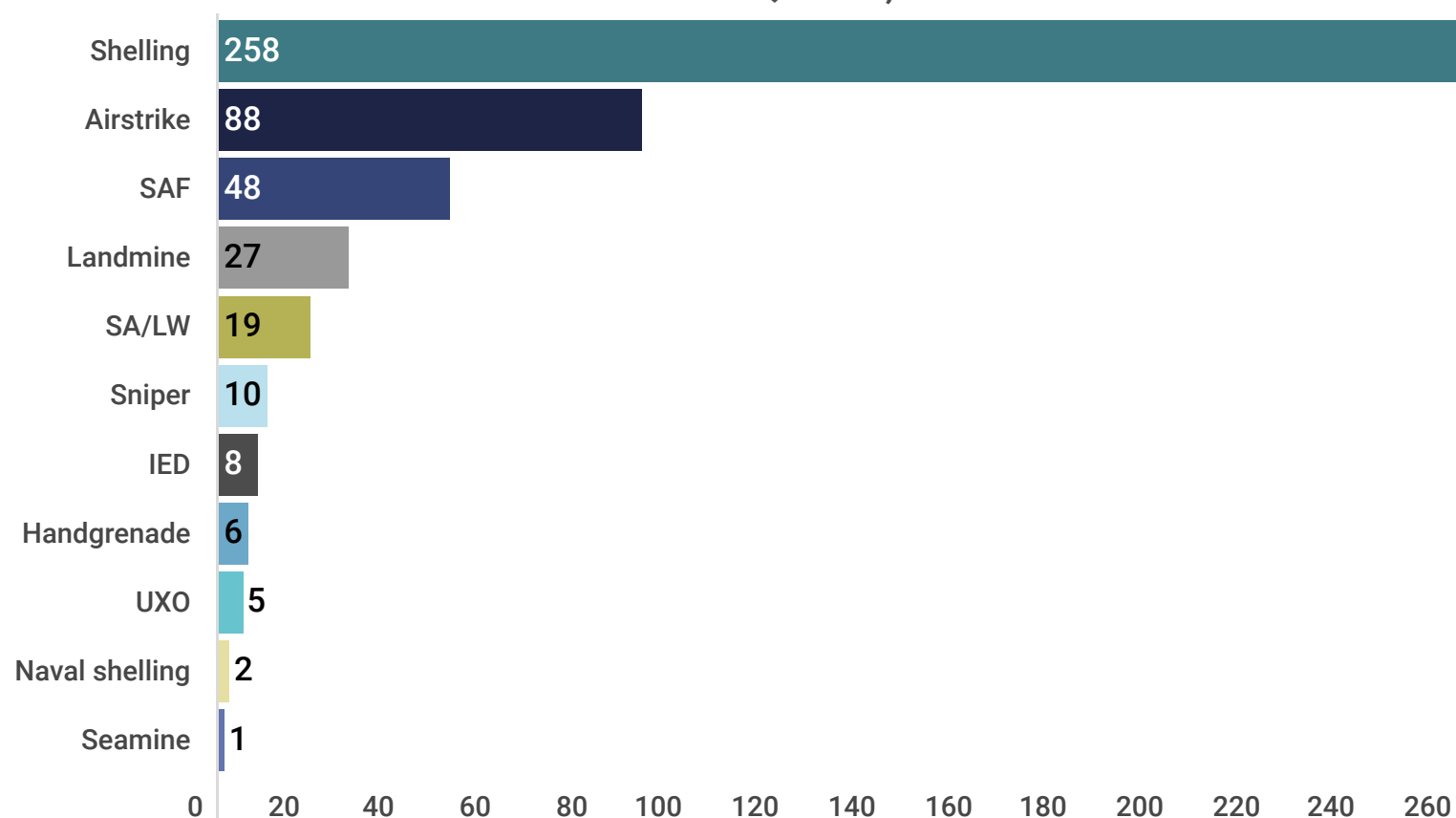
NUMBER OF INCIDENTS IMPACTING ON CIVILIAN STRUCTURES DURING Q2 2020 BY HUB



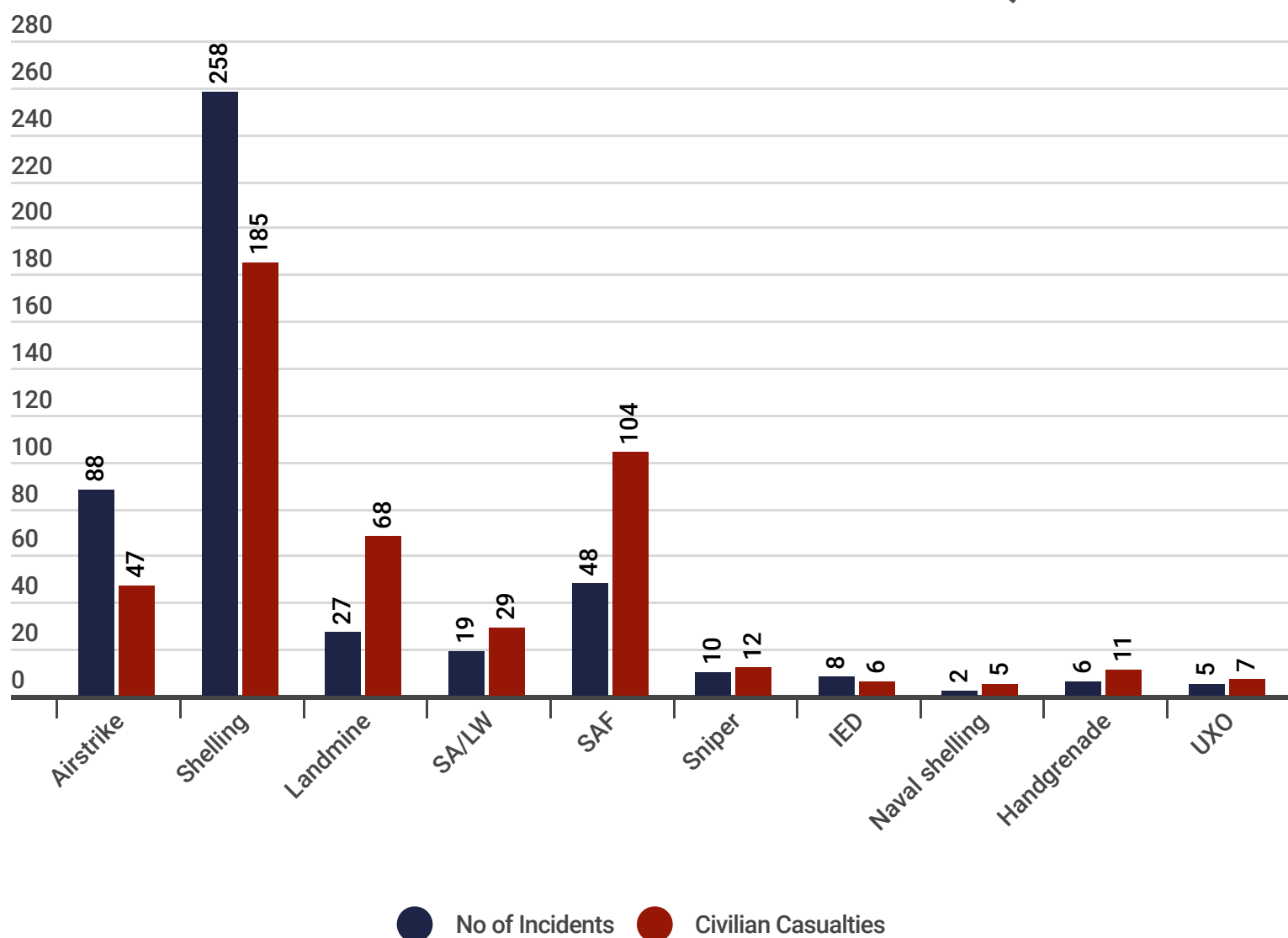
NUMBER OF INCIDENTS IMPACTING ON INFRASTRUCTURE DURING Q2 2020 BY HUB



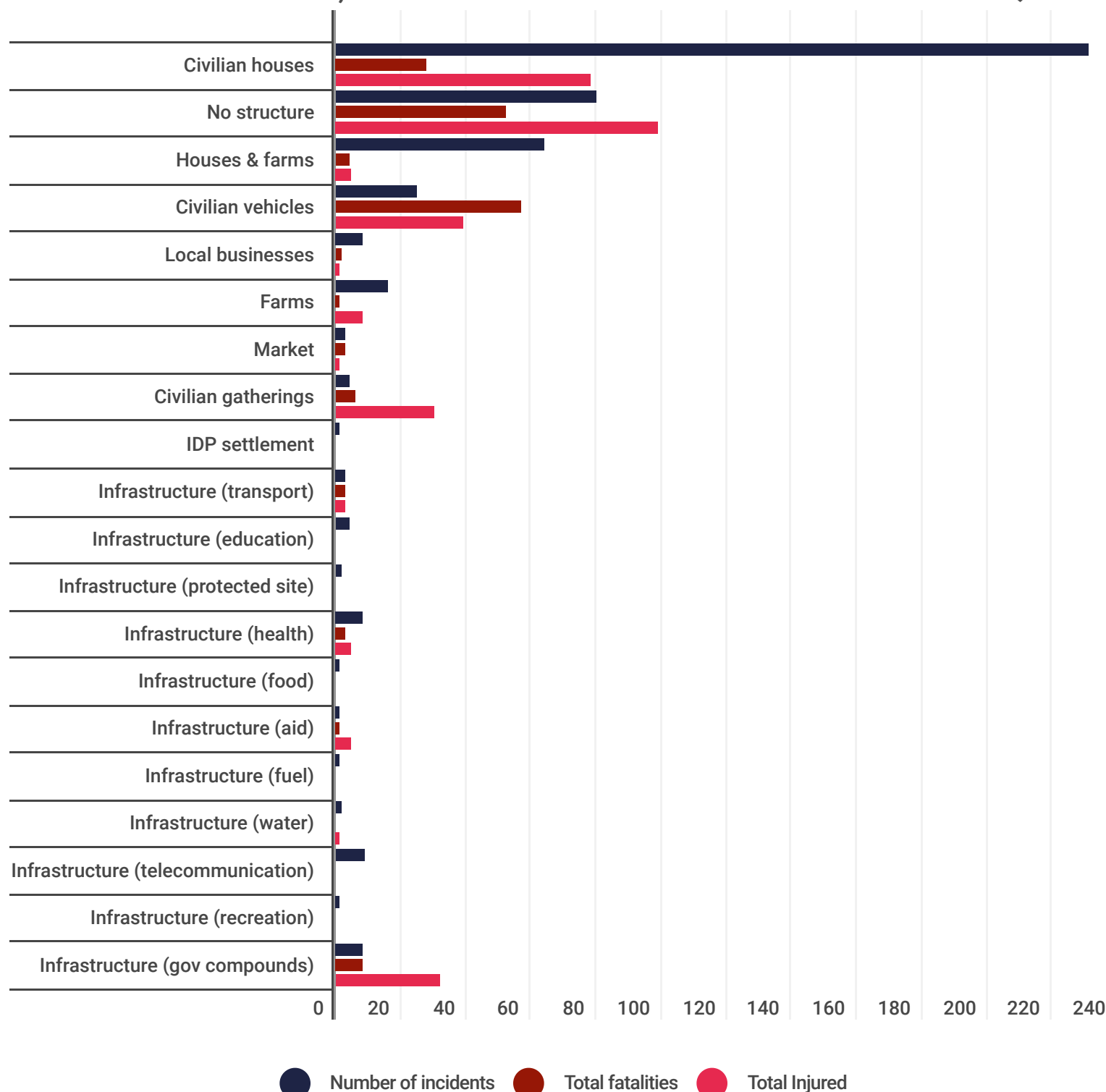
INCIDENTS IMPACTING ON CIVILIANS IN Q2 2020, BY TYPE OF ARMED VIOLENCE



CIVILIAN CASUALTIES BY TYPE OF ARMED VIOLENCE IN Q2 2020



NUMBER OF INCIDENTS, FATALITIES AND INJURIES BY CIVILIAN STRUCTURE IN Q2 2020



DIRECT PROTECTION IMPLICATIONS OF INCIDENTS OF ARMED VIOLENCE ON CIVILIANS

DISPLACEMENT



Number of affected households

1,373

Number of Incidents
295

LOSS OF LIVELIHOOD



Number of affected households

572

Number of Incidents
91

RESTRICTED FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT AND ASSEMBLY



Number of affected households

258

Number of Incidents
109

OBSTRUCTION TO FLIGHT



Number of affected households

1

Number of Incidents
1

INDIRECT PROTECTION IMPLICATIONS - HOUSEHOLDS EXPERIENCING RESTRICTED ACCESS



133,622

households facing restricted access to:

Health, education, first responders, worship

Number of Incidents

14



190,800

households facing restricted access to:

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

Number of Incidents

22



461,571

households facing restricted access to:

Water facilities, aid, food

Number of Incidents

4

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