



Marib Dam Foundation
for Social Development



Justice4Yemen Pact
ميناق العدالة لليمن

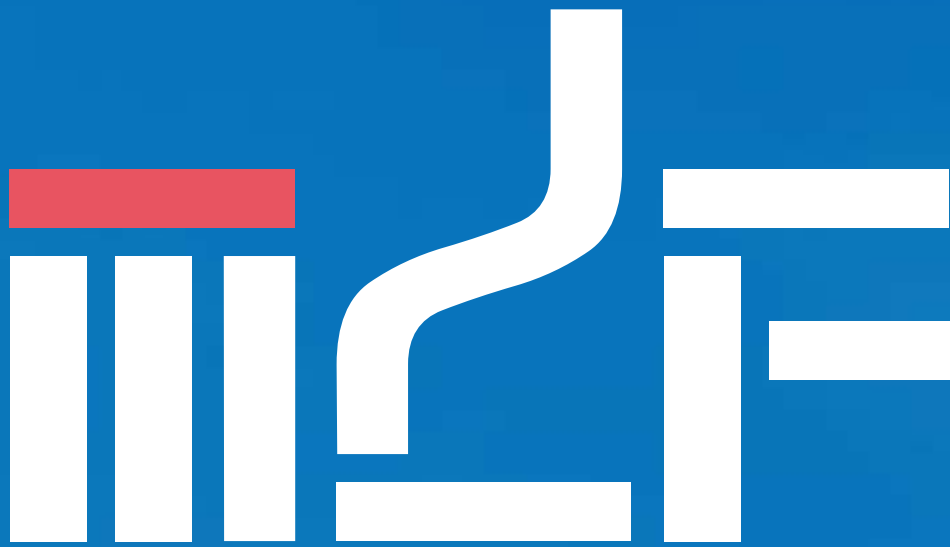
Fields of silent death



A survey documenting mine violation against civilians in Marib Governorate during the period from January 1, 2023 to October 2024

2024/12

DANGER MINES



**Marid Dam Foundaion
for Social Development**

Program

This survey was prepared as part of the Yemen Human Rights Forensic Lab Plus (YHR-FL+) Program, which aims to increase the recognition and protection of human rights by enabling Yemeni civil society to advocate for justice and accountability through human rights documentation, news reporting, and advocacy efforts.

This program works to systematically document, retain, confirm, analyze and report on evidence, obtained from a variety of sources, relating to human rights violations committed by all parties involved in the Yemeni conflict.

The results of this analysis are summarized and presented in a set of investigative reports focusing on specific incidents of human rights violations. The program also supports the efforts of Yemeni civil society organizations to conduct strategic advocacy, community awareness, and intervention in order to engage victims and survivors at both local and international levels.

This investigative program is part of the Justice for Yemen Pact, a coalition of human rights organizations and civil society actors united to promote and protect human rights in Yemen. The mission of the coalition is to advocate for the rights of the Yemeni people, especially vulnerable and marginalized groups.

The coalition is committed to addressing the systematic human rights violations endured by Yemenis over years of conflict and violence. The coalition works to empower the Yemeni people to demand their rights, raise awareness of violations, and advocate for justice and accountability at local, national, and international levels.

The coalition is guided by the principles of respecting human dignity, equality, justice, and non-discrimination. The coalition believes that through collaboration, its members can end impunity, provide essential support, compensate victims, and contribute to a more peaceful, just, and prosperous future for Yemen.

Executor

This survey was carried out by Marib Dam Foundation for Social Development (MDF), a non-profit civil society organization of its activities and programs, operating under activity license No. (292/63) issued by the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor on 6/3/2011. The Marib Dam Foundation for Social Development focuses on the displaced as beneficiaries of its activities and programs and considers the host community as a main group that is targeted in its activities. Marginalized groups pay special attention in its programs. The Foundation works with some targeted and specific groups under each of the main groups, women, youth, children, activists, civil society organizations and youth initiatives. They are the specific sub-groups that the organization works with in order to achieve the desired goals.

The Marib Dam Foundation employs transparency in all its activities and is therefore committed to sharing knowledge and expertise with its staff, development partners and other relevant stakeholders.

The Marib Dam Foundation believes in the value of all people, and the possibility of diversity, difference and disparity in roles, ideas and beliefs to produce a richer and more harmonious society among its members on the basis of integration, solidarity and brotherhood.

The Foundation also believes that its strength stems from the effectiveness of its partnerships with others in completing all humanitarian, social and development efforts and strengthening them within the limits of its capabilities.

The Marib Dam Foundation for Social Development is committed to finding sustainable interventions for its target groups, enhancing cumulative added value, and working to aggregate and maximize results to achieve the greatest possible benefit for goals and beneficiaries. The Foundation focuses the utmost attention on quality standards, and this requires continuous learning from previous experiences and from the experiences of others for the benefit of the target

The activities of the Marib Dam Foundation in aspects of protecting civilians from mines and assisting their victims

Ma 'rib Dam: Activities and a safety fence against mines

The Marib Dam Foundation has been advocating for mine victims since late 2022 through the five-month project (Advocating for Civilian Mine Victims and Demanding Accountability and Justice for Victims).

The Marib Dam Foundation then worked on the "Sanid for Mine Victims in Marib Governorate" project, which began in late 2023 and continues until now.

Sanid project is concerned with monitoring mine violations against civilians, which is preparing this study within the project, in addition to providing legal awareness, psychological and legal support to victims, not to mention various media advocacy activities.

During the period from January 2020 to February 2023, the Marib Dam Foundation concluded in its study (Death Cultivation), which monitored and documented civilian mine victims in Marib Governorate, to come today a study (Death Fields) that documents mine violations against civilians in Marib Governorate during the period from January 1, 2023 to October 2024, to complete its journey in documenting and monitoring mine victims and violations against civilians in Marib Governorate within a unified and continuous project in documenting mine violations.

Whereas, the death cultivation study had documented the occurrence of a total of (72) mine explosions in (11) districts in Marib Governorate, in which a total of (131) civilians were killed, including (28) deaths and (103) people with various injuries and disabilities.

The Marib Dam Foundation will continue its projects in support of mine victims as long as mines continue to claim the lives of civilians, as long as mine maps are absent, and as long as mines wait for humans and animals to kill them in Yemen.

**This survey was prepared by the investigative journalist and researcher:
Mohammed Hfaidh**

He is a Yemeni investigative researcher and journalist, who has prepared qualitative investigative and journalistic studies and investigations in various fields, including human rights, community accountability, anti-corruption and economic.

He has also worked as a reporter from the conflict areas in Yemen for a number of local and foreign news agencies, newspapers and channels, and has published dozens of reports and press materials in Arabic and local newspapers, magazines, channels and websites for more than seven years.

Audit and review : Dr. Yahya Al-Ahmadi, Professor of Literature and Criticism at the University of Saba Region.

General supervision : Mr Salah Al-ghainmi-Director of programs at Marib Dam foundation

Table of contents

General Context	6
Introduction	7
Executive summary	9
Methodology	11
Children's Facts	12
IDP Camp Proceedings	14
Mines threaten livelihoods	16
Roads and Passengers Chronicle	17
Victims of work in collecting remnants of war.....	18
Multiple impacts on civilians.....	19
Legal framework	22
Recommendations	25
Accessories	28

General Context

On September 27, 2024, the UN website published an update noting that UNOPS and the UN Resident Coordinator's Office in Yemen had urged the expansion of much-needed mine action operations across the country.

The update mentioned that Yemen suffers from widespread contamination caused by explosive remnants of war, and said that those deadly remnants of war pose a constant threat to the Yemeni people, especially women and children. The fact that Yemen has become one of the three countries most affected by mines and explosives, according to the International Committee of the Red Cross, which warned that Yemen is suffering from one of the highest rates of contamination with mines and other explosive remnants of war in the world, nine years after the start of the conflict in the country.

As for the statistics on mine contamination, as of January 2023, the total number of planted anti-personnel mines amounted to (5892) mines and anti-tank mines amounted to 632,134, while unexploded ordnance amounted to (738,225), and the number of explosive devices amounted to (7632), knowing that the number is escalating with the continuation of the conflict in Yemen, so that the country needs 8 years to complete the removal of mines if the capabilities and maps of mine cultivation are available.

1.Supporting Humanitarian Mine Action in Yemen, United Nations Office for Project Management

2.Ibid.

3.In addition to Iraq and Afghanistan, this was confirmed by an official at the International Committee of the Red Cross.

4.The Environmental Crisis in Yemen: The Forgotten Repercussions of an Enduring Conflict <https://www.arab-re>

Introduction

For ten years, Yemen has been witnessing a devastating war that has led to the destruction of infrastructure, the displacement of millions and the division of state institutions, all of which have had profound effects and catastrophic repercussions on all aspects of Yemeni life, most notably the spread of landmines and improvised explosive devices.

Prior to the outbreak of the ongoing war, Yemen had made remarkable progress in the field of demining, as Yemen had acceded to [Ottawa]Treaty banning anti-personnel mines, destroyed its stockpiles of mines, and started implementing comprehensive programs to clear mine-contaminated areas. But the ongoing war has changed all that; mines have returned to kill civilians and hinder relief and development efforts. Millions of mines have been indiscriminately planted in residential areas, farms and roads, turning large parts of Yemen into minefields.

Mines have been widely distributed in the main conflict areas, including the governorates of Saada, Taiz, Hodeidah, Dhale, and Shabwa, in addition to Marib, which is witnessing violent confrontations to date, and which is one of the most mine-affected governorates in Yemen for multiple reasons.

Marib Governorate is witnessing the continuous movement of confrontation lines, which leads to the contamination of new areas with mines as the confrontation lines move and move.

The conflict also led to the displacement of large numbers of people to Marib, which increased the risk of exposure to mines by displaced people and travelers, as Marib is located on vital supply lines, making it a major target for the warring parties, and a transit route linking the east of the country to its west and center.

This study represents an attempt to highlight the impact of mines and remnants of war in this governorate, especially on the most vulnerable groups, such as displaced people who have had to leave their homes in search of safety, and travelers who find themselves at risk while crossing mine-contaminated areas through the Ruwaik Desert road linking Marib and Al-Jawf.

This study seeks to document the humanitarian impact of mines on the daily lives of Marib residents, including the psychological, social and economic consequences. It also focuses on the efforts made by the government and humanitarian organizations to demine and mitigate their effects, and the importance of expanding these efforts to ensure the return of displaced people to their areas in safety and to ensure freedom of movement without risks. This survey was based on field research carried out in Marib Governorate during the period from January 1, 2023, to October 2024.

In the course of the research, a number of interviews with victims and witnesses were conducted with 32 interviews and testimonies, and medical reports were documented by field monitors with 28 reports and statements from doctors, in addition to relying on open sources in some of the 8 incidents included in the study.

While the Marid Dam Foundation and the Justice for Yemen Pact, during the period from January 2020 to February 2023, concluded in a study entitled **(After the silence of the voice of the weapon)**, which monitored and documented civilian mine victims in Marib Governorate, today comes a study (death fields) that documents mine violations against civilians in Marib Governorate during the period from 1 January 2023 to October 2024, through which the Foundation continues its journey in documenting and monitoring mine victims and violations against civilians in Marib Governorate within a unified project and continues to document mine violations.

Whereas, the study had documented the occurrence of a total of (72) mine explosions in (11) districts in Marib Governorate, in which a total of (131) civilians were killed, including (28) deaths and (103) people with various injuries and disabilities.



Executive summary

Marib Governorate is one of the governorates most affected by mines, as it has witnessed a longer period in the conflict, and it also includes the most residential communities, displacement camps and roads, in addition to pastures and farms that have become vulnerable to mines because of the accompanying rains and floods, which wash them from places contaminated with mines and explosives.

During the period from January 1, 2023, to October 2024, (the study period), the study documented numbers of victims and cases. Mines, explosives, and various remnants of war continued to kill innocent people in Marib Governorate, of all civilian categories. According to monitoring and documentation, the number of victims documented during the study period was 29 accidents and 68 victims, of whom 22 died, while the number of injuries was 34, while the number of disability cases was 12.

In terms of the targeted segments of society, the segment of children came at the forefront of the victims, with 31 children, then men, with 30 men and 6 women, in addition to one elderly person.

During the study period, targeting cases were distributed, as mines caused 30 victims, IEDs caused 21 victims, and remnants of war caused 17 victims. According to the monitoring and documentation resulting from the survey, the victims of mines and remnants of war were distributed among the groups, as there were 26 victims from the host community, 25 victims from the displaced in Marib, and 12 travelers who were killed and injured on the desert road linking Marib Governorate and Al-Jawf Governorate, one of the wayfarer in Al-wadi area , and 4 farmers were also victims in different areas of Marib Governorate.

Geographically, the study documented 29 incidents of landmine explosions and war remnants across more than 12 geographical areas distributed among six districts, including displacement camps in the city and Al-Wadi districts. Additionally, incidents were recorded along the desert road linking Marib and Al-Jawf, which falls within the geographical boundaries of Marib Governorate. Al-Wadi District reported number of incidents with 8 cases, followed by Sirwah District with 6 cases, city District with 5 cases, Harib District with 4 cases, and the line desert between Marib and Al-Jawf with 4 cases. This was followed by Raghwan District with one incident and Mahliyah District with one incident.

In terms of the parties involved in planting mines and remnants of war by withdrawing documents and statements of witnesses monitored and documented by the study, it was found that the Houthi group was responsible for 20 incidents accounting for 69% of the 29 total incidents, according to statements, documents, monitoring and interviews, while 31 % or 9 incidents out of the total incidents were caused by unknown actors as the witnesses explained in the victim monitoring and documentation forms. The number of total monitored incidents was 29 incidents that resulted in 68 diverse victims, as some incidents injured more than one person, including one of the incidents, which is the highest in terms of the number of victims. In one incident, 11 civilian victims occurred in one explosion, representing one death and ten injuries, including a child, and this was caused by an explosive device planted by unknown persons in a motorcycle, placed at the entrance to a mosque and exploded as citizens left the mosque after the evening prayers in the area of Hosan al-Jalalal in Al-wadi Directorate in Marib Governorate.



Methodology

This survey was based on several methods of data collection and analysis to reach accurate conclusions about the impact of mines and remnants of war on Marib Governorate, which were carried out by field survey teams and conducted according to methods followed by the monitoring teams with victims, witnesses and their families during the interviews. The interview was conducted in an informed manner and a trauma-sensitive approach to avoid the reoccurrence of the event and psychological harm to the victims. The survey teams were keen to take the informed consent of some victims, whether written or oral, and the non-objection of many victims and witnesses to testify, while some refused to be named, and this can be clarified as follows:

Data Sources:

Preliminary data: Field interviews with victims and eyewitnesses in mine-affected areas were relied upon and medical reports of victims who went missing as a result of these incidents were documented.

Secondary data: The study was based on a number of open sources, as it was based on the publications of the victims' relatives on social media, as well as news and reports published by local news sites about incidents of explosions and the occurrence of victims within the framework of Marib Governorate during the period of the study.

Data collection Tools:

Interviews: Interviews were conducted with people who have experienced the impact of mines directly or indirectly, including injured and disabled victims or families and relatives of victims, whether they are IDPs, locals (host community) or travelers.

Data Analytics

Qualitative analysis methods of the data collected from the field interviews were used to identify patterns of impact and methods of dealing with risks. The information was also disaggregated based on target groups, such as IDPs, travelers and local communities, as well as a geographical classification within the geographical scope of Marib Governorate.

Research Challenges:

Difficulty in accessing some affected areas due to security risks, and this has been overcome through the monitoring process through social media sites, or news contained in news sites that published news of mines, IEDs, remnants of war and names of victims during the study period, and within the geographical scope of the study specified in Marib Governorate.

Limited accurate information on emplaced mines was another challenge due to the lack of transparency from parties involved in the conflict, which added to the effort of further investigation and follow-up.

Key Findings

Kids most vulnerable to mines and explosives

Reports indicate that the number of children killed or injured by landmines in Yemen has increased eightfold from 2018 to 2022, with an average of one child killed or injured every three days over the past five years.

Landmines and unexploded ordnance killed and injured 31 children (46%) in Marib during the study period, which is the highest percentage, indicating that children remain the most vulnerable to mines and unexploded ordnance from remnants of war, while participating in daily activities, whether in playing, collecting firewood and water, caring for livestock, especially camels, or when their relatives participate in various works.

Children and tampering with unexploded ordnance

Through the facts, it was found that the injuries of children who were exposed to mine incidents were the result of their tampering, either with fire projectiles or unexploded ordnance, most of which were (23) caliber. On June 3, 2023, a child was injured at Bin Ma'ili station while he was going to fetch water when he found a fire projectile thrown at him, and he threw it among children near him, injuring everyone, including the child, who was seriously injured.

Where do children encounter mines and unexploded ordnance?

Children encounter or find unexploded ordnance near markets and gatherings, such as the "Bin Ma'ili" station, for example, in grazing places and farms, places of collection or garbage incinerators (waste), on the roads and inside displacement camps, and flood water estuaries, which is the same as for mines and IEDs, which were either planted in those places or washed away by floods. Among those incidents, what was observed on April 20, 2024, in the village of Rahba in the Directorate of Sarawah, when the child was (A. A) The 15-year-old, next to his house, found a package washed away by the torrent, so he started tampering with it, which exploded and led to his death.

Pediatric Trauma Oh, in constant pain!

While a number of children have lost their lives, there are survivors who live with severe injuries due to exposure to mines and explosives, ranging from amputated limbs, physical deformities, fractures and serious injuries, which makes them enter a long and exhausting journey of treatment for them and their families, in light of the lack of hospital capabilities and the lack of care and attention from the government or from local or international organizations.

Silent Death Fields

(S.F) was injured on February 22, 2023, when he was playing with other children in Al-Nour camp in Jaw Al-Naseem neighborhood, the city directorate, and a "strange object" exploded with him when he found it. He started playing with the object with a group of children, where they placed the object not far from them and threw stones at it, according to witnesses. When it exploded with them, shrapnel settled in Saif's intestines and in his lungs, and although he was subjected to treatment at the time, the shrapnel did not come out yet, and he still needs another operation according to witnesses and his medical report.

Other Facts for Children

Child (A . H) 12 years Wadi Directorate. Fractures and Serious Injuries

On September 6, 2023, while the child (A. H) In a car wash in the market of "Bin Ma 'ili" accompanied by his uncle (his father's brother), he found a 23-caliber fire projectile, so he started tampering with it until it exploded.

According to the testimonies of his family and other witnesses, the child (A) suffered a fracture in his right hand because he was holding the projectile, and he also lost his index finger as a result of the explosion.

3 children with a projectile explosion in a garbage incinerator (Suweida camp)

On the morning of July 12, 2023, 3 displaced children from one family died, namely: T.S. S.W. A.S.S.KH, and S " When they were near a garbage burner, in As-Suwayda camp. According to witnesses: A fire projectile that was thrown in the garbage exploded, and witnesses did not know the type of projectile, but it hit the three children and led to their death.

Mohanad a mine fragment lodged in his stomach kills him after a whole year (Harib) Died {M D} On October 31, 2023, months after he was injured by a mine explosion, while returning from his school in the district of Harib, south of Marib.

According to witnesses and relatives of the child, he suffered a sudden explosion of the mine, and that a shrapnel settled in his abdomen, he felt a slight pain, and he was not treated, until hours later, when the pain in his abdomen intensified and blood came out through his mouth. However, doctors were unable to remove the shrapnel from his stomach under the pretext of the difficulty of its location and the seriousness of the operation at the time, and he was discharged from the hospital after that and the shrapnel is still in his stomach.

The witnesses stated that the child was neglected and remained without proper medical care, so the complications around the fragment that formed around it increased a cancerous tumor that was discovered late, and the doctors were unable to save him.

IDPs ..Camps IDPs are exposed to mines



Mines and unexploded ordnance continued to lurk in IDP camps throughout the study period, affecting the population, the majority of whom were children, and the camps witnessed the occurrence of explosions of mines and ordnance during the study period, up to 6 injuries from the child segment, and the death of 5 from the same segment.

The study found that the incidents of violations in the IDP camps are the result of unexploded remnants of war, as they are located near the confrontation lines, where they receive projectiles coming from the lines of fire. Due to the non-stop ability of the confrontation lines and their continued movement, the IDP camps have fallen victim to this, as a number of IDP camps have been subjected to military incursions and shelling by the Houthi group during the past years and are currently abandoned by the IDPs who fled with their lives, whether south or north of Marib city.

While the Executive Unit for the Management of IDP Camps (governmental) and humanitarian organizations suffer from finding areas or spaces for the transfer and establishment of IDP camps in safe areas due to the lack of land belonging to the state in the region and the inability of owners to hand over their land to build camps for IDPs. IDPs are currently either threatened with eviction from private land or actual eviction by the owners of the land on which camps were built for displaced families, which poses a major challenge for the concerned authorities to provide safe areas for IDPs in Marib .

The survey found that projectiles (unexploded ordnance) of caliber 23 are usually susceptible to play by children in the camps, and one of the facts is that a child was injured on July 21, 2023, in Tadaween camp after leaving his house.

Witnesses said that the child "S. R.S." was injured inside the camp when he messed with other children with a projectile that exploded after one of the children threw it on the ground, and the child was injured sporadically in his body.

As for the child, "Kh . S" He was injured on his return from school in As-Suwayda camp itself, when he found on his way a caliber of remnants of war, the quality of which was not mentioned by witnesses.

In their statement, they said that the child started playing with caliber until it exploded and caused damage to his left hand.

From the facts, in the same camp (Al-Suwayda), the displaced child " M. S.M " for multiple wounds and deformities in his body, skin , and some of his fingers were amputated.

According to witness statements, the child went out to play with the children, next to his house in a square, and found a 23-caliber projectile, washed away by the torrent to the place.

According to the testimonies, the child threw the projectile on a stone that led to its explosion, after which he was injured in his leg and thigh, and his index finger was amputated in the right hand.



Mines threaten livelihoods

Landmines and unexploded ordnance have caused a lot of physical and material losses to farmers because Marib Governorate is an agricultural governorate, and grazing is a profession for many in a number of directorates, but farms and grazing places have become fraught with mines and explosives, as 9 victims were documented during the study period (2023, 2024), which is the death of a woman and a young man and the injury of 7 children and women while grazing or being on their farms.

Mines have also caused drought and desertification of many agricultural areas in Marib Governorate. Farmers have been deprived of access to their farms, and livestock have been deprived of access to multiple grazing areas due to mines scattered in them in multiple areas of Marib Governorate.

Through the facts, the agriculture and grazing professions become more dangerous the closer they are to the lines of contact between the Houthi militants and the government forces, especially in the districts of Harib, Sarawah and Raghwan. The farms are also placed in greater danger, especially those located on the international road linking the eastern regions of Yemen to its west and center, by the planting of IEDs on its sides or near it, as happened on November 17, 2023, when a car bomb was placed near an orange farm, west of Bin Ma 'ili station, and five of the farm owner's children were injured in the explosion.

The incident dates back to May 9, 2023, and witnesses indicated that the victim was going to graze the sheep as usual. However, shortly after her departure, a strong explosion was heard, and when the people of the area approached, they found the woman and her body had turned to pieces as a result of a mine explosion in her.

Witnesses continued their testimony by saying that the explosion occurred 2 km from the victim's house, accusing the Houthi gunmen of planting it before they withdrew from the place earlier, and that the place planted with the mine is close to the lines of contact between the group's gunmen and the stationing of the forces of the internationally recognized Yemeni government.



Other events

Injury of a "displaced" woman while returning from sheep grazing in Raghwan District

On February 8, 2023, the people of Wadi al-Samra in the Raghwan district, northwest of Marib, lived the tragedy of a displaced woman who returned that afternoon from grazing her sheep in the valley. However, a mine exploded with her, and she was taken to Raghwan Rural Hospital. However, due to her poor condition, she was transferred to Marib General Hospital (HTS).

The displaced woman, 32 years old, was injured by her left hand, the index finger was amputated and the thumb was broken, as explained by witness statements, and medical reports showing her violent injury with the mine, which witnesses say was planted by the Houthis in the valley area (under government control) through cells affiliated with the Houthi group, whose grazing activity is large and affected by mine contamination.

Two children came out after the camels and returned with bodies carrying shrapnel of a fire projectile (Wadi Directorate).

As usual, if they found something they started playing with, on July 21, 2023, two children went out behind their family's camels, near the IDP camps in the treatment area.

Witnesses say that the two children found a fire projectile, so they played with it, and when one of them threw a stone at it, it exploded, and its shrapnel came on separate parts of their small bodies.

Witnesses stated that the injuries were concentrated on the head, abdomen and feet, and when they were transferred to Marib General Hospital (HTS), it became clear that one of the two children was injured in the middle of the leg and a bleeding wound in the left thigh of the leg, and other injuries, while the other was injured in his right leg, and shrapnel dispersed in his body.

Road Mines of the Marib Desert Line with Al-Jawf devour bodies and passing cars

According to reports, mines planted by the Houthis and unknown persons continued to register more casualties in the Marib al-Jawf sub-line through the Ruwaik desert (which is today under the control of both parties to the war and is not currently secured by a specific party, while it had been under the control of the Houthi group for a limited period, which was widely mined during the previous confrontations before turning into a confrontation line after the movement of fire lines in the desert between the governorates of Marib and Al-Jawf), not to mention the termination of cars owned by citizens, especially since most of the mines monitored on that road are anti-tank. During the study period, 4 incidents of car explosions were recorded, killing 3 citizens and injuring 9, most of them coming from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

In an incident dating back to April 27, 2023, witnesses said: "The citizen was S.A. Q" On board the "Hilux Ghamaretin" car and while passing in the desert between Marib and Al-Jawf, a mine exploded with it, which led to his fall from it, so he suffered an eloquent fracture in the upper thigh bone of the left leg, while he handed over the rest of the passengers who were with him."

On February 1, 2024, the citizen "A. H" led to a serious injury to his feet, after a landmine exploded in the car he was traveling in, of the type "Hilux Ghamaretin" According to a medical report, Abdullah's feet were crushed in the bones as a result of the explosion in the desert line between Marib and Al-Jawf.

Another certificate obtained by the study, stating that on February 2, 2024, a 2014 model car "Hilux Ghamaretin", was exposed to a landmine explosion in the Marib Al Jawf desert line, its owner (A. H.D) He was transferred to Marib General Hospital (Authority), knowing that his left foot was amputated from the leg after the explosion, according to witnesses and a medical report.

On April 15, 2024, the Marib al-Jawf desert line witnessed the death of 3 passengers and the injury of 4, while they were on their way from Saudi Arabia to the Yemeni interior.

According to witnesses, the passengers were in a "Fortuner" car, which exploded with a landmine, which was planted near the traffic line of the cars, and the witnesses' statements suggested that the mine was "anti-tank and anti-vehicle" through the intensity of the explosion and the crash of the car that died of flying parts.

Witnesses stated that the mine explosion resulted in the death of W. SH.W.SH..W.A.W.A.M., " while 4 passengers sustained varying injuries.

Another incident recounted by witnesses was on July 28, 2024, where a landmine ended a car that was coming from Saudi Arabia, with four passengers on board, all of whom were injured.

Witnesses indicated that the explosion occurred in the desert line between Marib and Al-Jawf, pointing out that the incident did not record a death despite the end of the car, while its three passengers were injured.

Victims of IEDs and work in collecting remnants of war

The study period witnessed incidents of planting IEDs, which killed one person and injured 16 others, including 5 children, in the Wadi Abida area of the city of Marib, which is under the control of the recognized government, which stated that the suspected parties in planting these IEDs on the international line linking Marib and Hadramout are the Houthi group, according to the statement of government agencies.

While the same period witnessed casualties for some people who work to collect mines and ammunition for the purpose of selling and trading them, with two deaths for two citizens. The Harib district, which is under the control of the government, recorded one incident, while the second was in the Sarawah district, which is under the control of the Houthi group.



Various effects:

Mines and explosives have left direct and indirect effects on the lives of civilian victims, whether on the psychological, social or economic side, and whether on the injured or their families, families of the missing and communities near mine incidents, as well as the displaced, and they are multiple, as follows: -

Psychological effects

Mines and remnants of war have left deep psychological traces suffered by mine and explosive victims in Marib governorate, including IDPs and the local population, in addition to the families of the dead and injured victims. Mines have devastating psychological consequences for crisis individuals and society, and their impact is not limited to those directly injured, but extends to their families and everyone living in affected areas.

The World Health Organization **report** that the number of people suffering from trauma and stress caused by the ongoing conflict in Yemen is estimated at 7 million, nearly a quarter of Yemen's population. While all of them need mental health support, only 120,000 have continuous access to mental health services.

At the level of children, the affected child feels intense fear and anxiety, every loud sound imagines that it is a new explosion, and avoids open spaces for fear of mines. These persistent fears prevent him from living a normal life and restrict his movement and interaction with others.

In addition to fear, children with depression and extreme sadness suffer, as losing the limb, means losing part of their independence and ability to practice the activities they used to love, which leads to them feeling helpless and hopeless. This grief can lead to withdrawal from social life and isolation from friends and family.

Psychological effects on the injured

Mine survivors in Marib live with severe psychological suffering as a result of the physical injuries they have suffered. Loss of limbs or physical deformities resulting from explosions have a significant impact on their self-perception and abilities, leading to low self-esteem and a sense of helplessness. This feeling is often accompanied by a state of severe depression, which is aggravated over time by a sense of loss of independence and dependence on others in their daily lives. Many sufferers also feel constant anxiety and fear, especially in an unstable atmosphere, and fear of the presence of other mines in the areas where they live or have to pass through.

Effects on victims' families

Families of the dead and injured suffer immense psychological stress from the loss of loved ones or dealing with disabilities caused by mines. The loss of a father, mother or child as a result of a mine explosion leads to great psychological trauma, and leaves families in a state of constant grief. Family members also feel a great burden towards caring for the injured, especially if the disability prevents the individual from being able to meet their personal needs. This psychological burden leads in some cases to psychological disorders in family members, such as chronic anxiety and nervous tension.

Effects in the community

Communities in Marib live in a state of constant terror due to the widespread spread of mines. Fear of death or injury makes many feel insecure even in everyday activities such as commuting or working in agricultural fields. This fear reinforces a sense of isolation and affects social relationships within society, as people become more conservative in their movements and interactions.

In addition, communities face a sense of hopelessness and frustration, as residents do not see near solutions to get rid of these persistent threats, further exacerbating their mental disorders.

Social impacts:

Socially, mine survivors and victims' families suffer from marginalization and lack of access to many rights by the concerned authorities, including compensation. People with physical disabilities also find it difficult to integrate into social activities, resulting in them feeling disconnected from their social milieu. Families that have lost their breadwinner suffer from social disintegration, as the family loses the ability to provide adequate support to its members, which exacerbates isolation and separation from society.

Economic Effects

Economically, mines lead to a sharp deterioration in the situation of injured victims and their families who were working before being injured and find themselves unable to continue in their jobs, resulting in loss of income and exposure to poverty.

This particularly affects households that are fully dependent on income provided by a breadwinner who has become incapacitated or died as a result of a mine explosion. Households lose the ability to meet basic needs such as food and health care, and some families are forced to rely on humanitarian aid or debt to make ends meet.

Mines have also deprived farmers and livestock herders of large agricultural areas because they contain mines planted in multiple valleys and farms in different areas. Despite the absence of statistics that may determine the agricultural areas of the land caused by mines from depriving farmers of agricultural crops and grazing areas, this has affected citizens in areas such as the Harib and Sarwah directorates of Marib governorate more broadly.

Silent Death Fields

Impact on education and job loss

A significant impact has been the increasing school dropout rate, especially among children who lose one or both parents to mines. Affected children or children of victims have difficulty pursuing education as a result of the psychological and economic stress experienced by their families. The need to provide families with an additional source of income may lead children to drop out of school and work instead of learning, which negatively affects their future and increases the educational gap in society.

The loss of work is also one of the most prominent challenges faced by mine survivors. Individuals with disabilities find themselves unable to return to their previous jobs, due to the lack of job opportunities commensurate with their disabilities. This leads to their feeling of frustration and despair, and increases the economic burden on their families, who become unable to compensate for this loss of income.

Mines and explosives create a series of psychological, social and economic impacts that have a long-lasting impact on the lives of victims and their families. Destroying lives physical disabilities exacerbates psychosocial problems, requiring serious and comprehensive intervention to address these challenges, whether through providing psychological or economic support, or providing educational and vocational opportunities for survivors and their families.



خطر
توجد الغام



Legal framework

International Law

Under international humanitarian law, in particular the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and their Additional Protocols, all parties to a conflict have a responsibility to treat civilians humanely and to avoid exposing them to violence and violating their rights. Parties to a conflict also have a responsibility to protect civilians and ensure that they are not put at risk. Landmines and booby traps that target civilians or are left in residential areas indiscriminately are a direct violation of international humanitarian law.

Parties to the conflict are also obliged to protect civilians within their territory or occupied territories under the Fourth Geneva Convention. In line with this, parties to the conflict are obliged to alert and clear mines after the end of military operations and to provide clear maps of mine-laying sites within these areas.

In addition, the illegal or indiscriminate laying of mines can constitute a war crime if the aim is to cause harm to civilians and if the laying of mines leads to death or serious injury to a civilian body or health or disruption of civilian life in accordance with international law. Although the Houthi group is not bound by the Convention on the Prohibition of the use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines (Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention), it has claimed adherence to this Convention as well as to international conventions. However, to date, the Houthi group has not signed the memorandum of understanding developed between the group and three demining NGOs.

National laws

In terms of Yemeni laws, the Yemeni state is obligated under the constitution and local laws to protect the lives of its citizens. This includes :

Yemen's criminal law punishes any acts that result in harming citizens or causing loss of life, including any indiscriminate use of mines or negligence in clearing remnants of war. Obligations to those affected where the State is responsible for providing compensation, rehabilitating those affected by mines and providing medical and psychological support to victims.

- Support the related international conventions.

Yemen is one of the signatories to several international conventions that establish a legal framework for dealing with mines, such as:

- Ottawa Convention on the Prohibition of Anti-Personnel Mines (1997): This Convention prohibits the use, stockpiling, transfer and production of anti-personnel landmines, and obliges signatory states to remove them and provide assistance to victims.
- Geneva Conventions of 1949: impose an obligation on all parties to a conflict to treat civilians humanely and avoid subjecting them to violence and violation of their rights.
- Fourth Geneva Convention: imposes an obligation on parties to a conflict to protect civilians within their territory or in occupied territory.
- Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (2006): imposes obligations on States to ensure the protection of the rights of "persons with disabilities" and to provide the necessary support for their rehabilitation and integration into society.



Humanitarian Obligations

Parties and the State have a humanitarian responsibility in accordance with international law to provide protection and assistance to mine-affected civilians. This includes:

Compensation for damages: IHL obliges the state to compensate victims for losses they have suffered as a result of mines. This compensation can be material, or by providing the necessary health and psychological care.

The Houthi group (the de facto authority) claims that it is committed to the Mine Ban Convention, as well as international agreements. As of today, the Houthi group has not signed a memorandum of understanding drafted between the Houthis and three non-governmental demining organizations.

Rehabilitation: The government and humanitarian organizations should provide comprehensive physical and psychological rehabilitation programs for victims.

Awareness and training: The state is committed to implementing awareness campaigns to educate the local population about the dangers of mines, and train them on how to avoid these dangers.

Role of international Local organizations

Under international agreements, international and local organizations should cooperate with the Yemeni authorities to ensure mine clearance and provide support to mine victims. The United Nations and organizations such as the Red Cross have a role in providing technical and financial support to assist Yemen in mine clearance, rehabilitation of those affected as well as monitoring, reporting and following up on compliance with international agreements and ensuring that conflicting parties abide by international laws.

Individual criminal responsibility

Individuals who unlawfully or intentionally lay mines, or who leave remnants of war that result in civilian casualties, may face individual criminal responsibility under Yemeni or international law. National courts may try those responsible for these crimes. The ICC can also prosecute these individuals for violations of international humanitarian law and human rights, if the situation is referred to the court by the Security Council or Yemen agrees to jurisdiction.

Recommendations



Recommendations to civil society

- Provide free legal assistance to mine victims and assist them in obtaining appropriate compensation, both from the State and responsible parties.
- Conducting awareness programs on the dangers of mines and unexploded ordnance, especially in IDP camps, through field visits on an ongoing basis.
- Conducting awareness programs on the dangers of mines and unexploded ordnance on various visual, audio and print media and taking advantage of social media in this aspect.
- Encourage research and innovation to develop mine detection and clearance technologies in Yemen.
- Launching programs focused on assisting and rehabilitating mine victims: with a focus on providing psychosocial support to the injured and their families to mitigate the devastating psychological effects.
- Call on the international community to form an international investigative mechanism of a criminal nature that ensures that violators are held accountable and held accountable, that victims receive redress, and that peace efforts in Yemen are strengthened.

To the internationally recognized government

- Criminalize any persons engaged in the collection and trafficking of mines and explosives by civilians and establish strict laws.
- Take all necessary steps to ensure compliance with requirements under international human rights law and international humanitarian law to protect persons with disabilities and other vulnerable groups, including necessary measures to clear areas under their control of landmines and other explosive remnants of war and to provide the necessary support and services to persons with disabilities caused by such unexploded ordnance.
- The Yemeni government should work to improve domestic legislation related to remnants of war and mines, and strengthen the application of laws related to compensation for victims.
- Include awareness programs in curricula and other printed literature such as newspapers and magazines.
- Provide assistance for the care, rehabilitation, and socio-economic reintegration of mine and UXO victims, as provided for in Article 6 of the Mine Ban Convention. Include the issue of mines in any negotiations and agreements between the Yemeni parties.
- Strengthening the tools of accountability and justice, compensating victims and their families, establishing an independent investigation mechanism into violations, and monitoring the levels of progress in this file.

To the Houthi group

- Commitment to provide detailed maps of landmine sites and cooperate with the United Nations to help remove mine threats to civilians. Contribute to making the issue of demining part of any negotiation process, and provide the necessary facilities for the competent teams to work within the affected areas.
- Encourage local mine risk education efforts in areas under its control.

To the international community

- The international community and the United Nations should compel the Houthis to provide detailed maps of the locations of landmines.
- Continuing to support Yemen in demining programs in addition to training actors in this aspect.
- Launch programmers focused on victim assistance and rehabilitation. Formation of an international investigative mechanism of a criminal nature that ensures accountability of violators, redress for victims, and enhancement of peace efforts in Yemen.
- Strengthen governmental and international demining efforts.
- Supporting and compensating those affected by mines.



Addendums

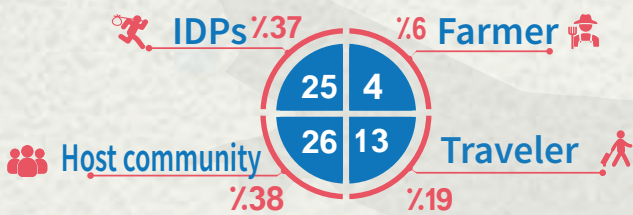
- InfoGraphic Appendix K
- chart of data details and statistics



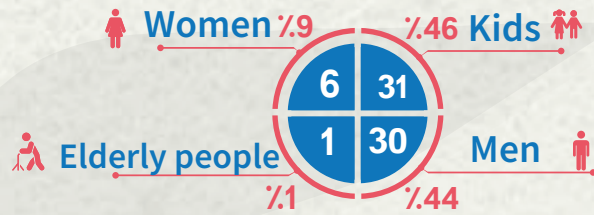
Mine Victims in Marib Governorate

A study that monitors and documents civilian mine victims in Marib Governorate during the period from January 2024 to October 2023 in light of the war between the Houthi group and the internationally recognized government that has been going on for ten years

Categories of victims



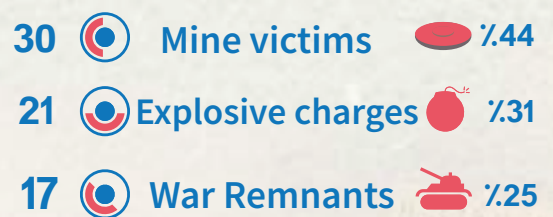
Gender and age



Status



Cause - Infringement



Responsible Entity



Total Violations

68 The number of casualties

29 Number of Incidents

Mine Victims in Marib Governorate

Available evidence relied upon by the report

28



Medical Report

8



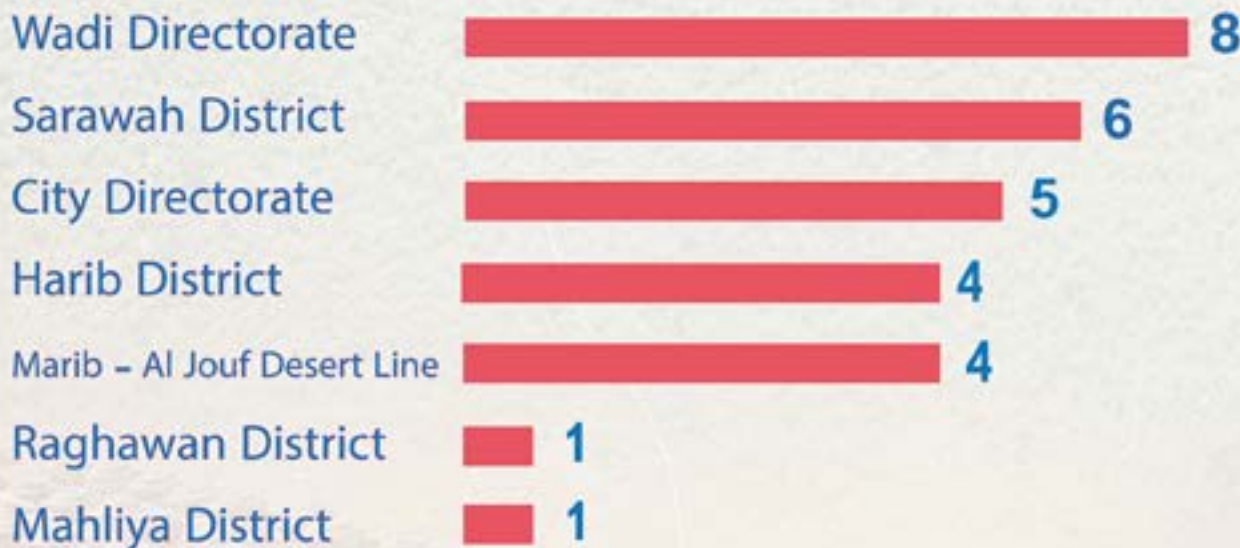
Open source

32



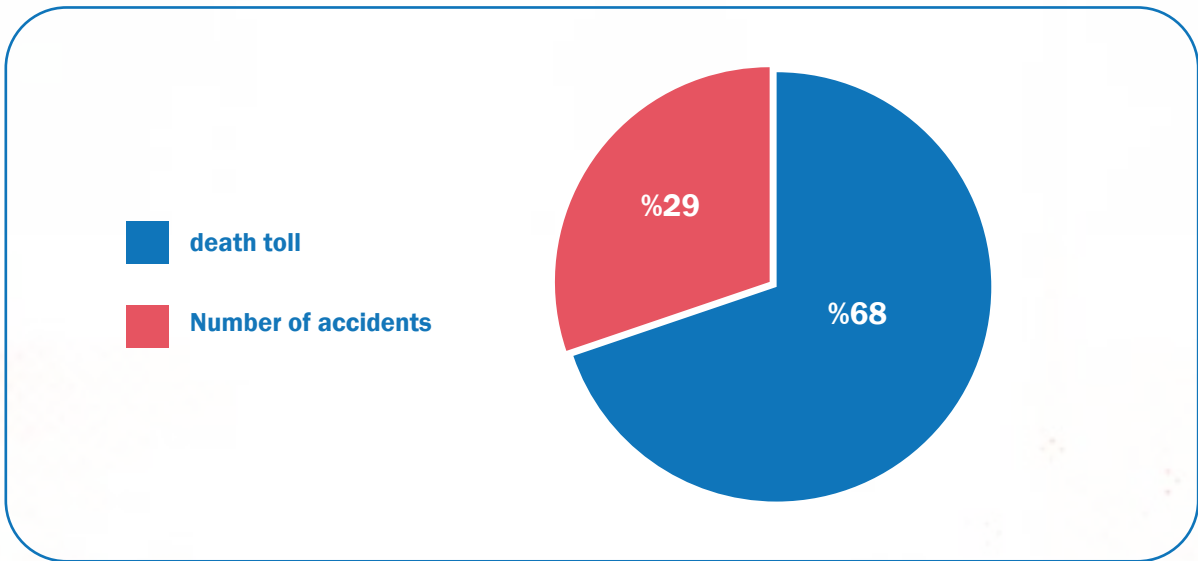
Witnesses

The incidents of mine explosions and remnants of war documented in this study occurred in six districts in Marib governorate , in addition to the Marib-Jawf desert

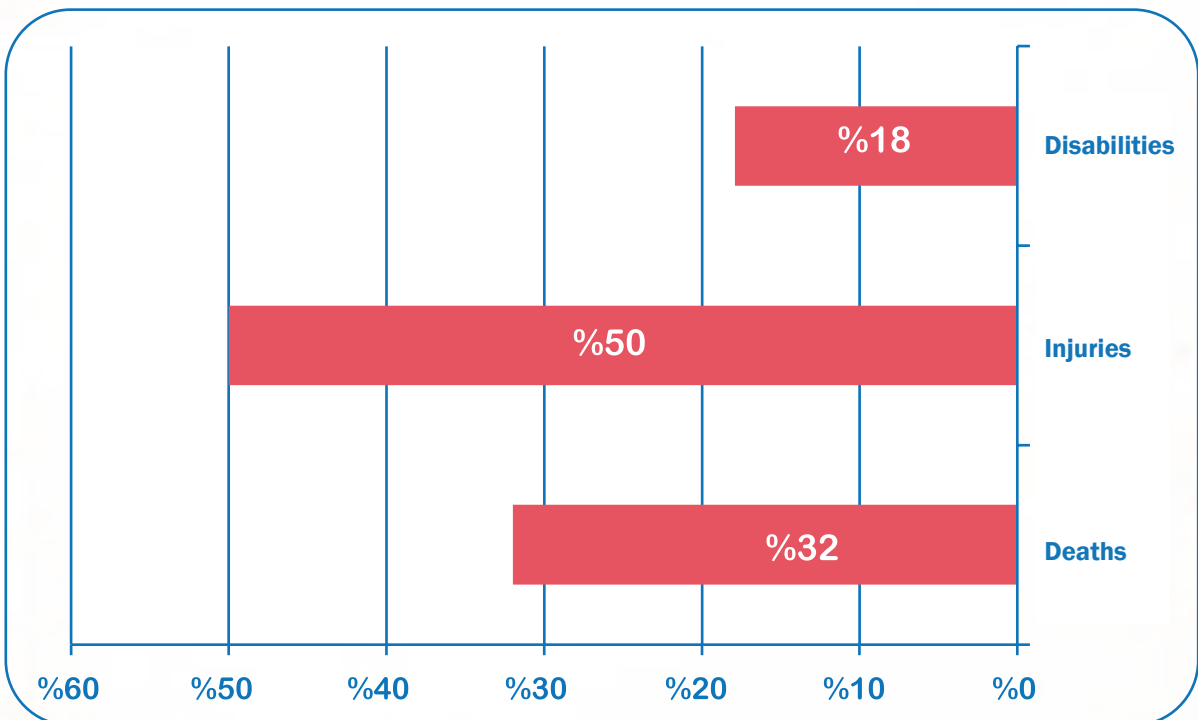


The most prominent camps affected by mine and remnants of war accidents

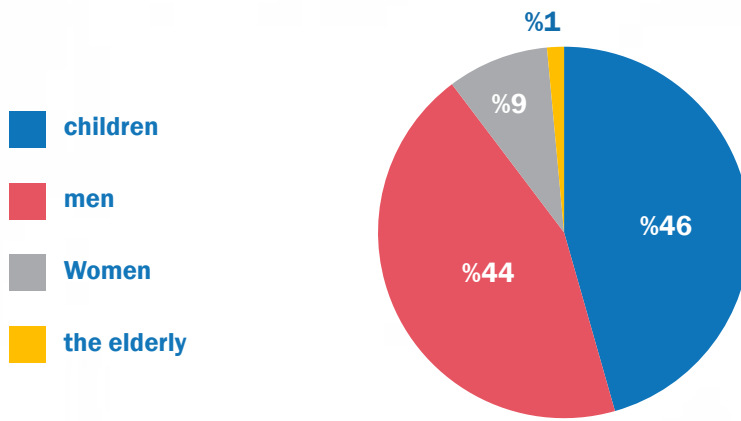




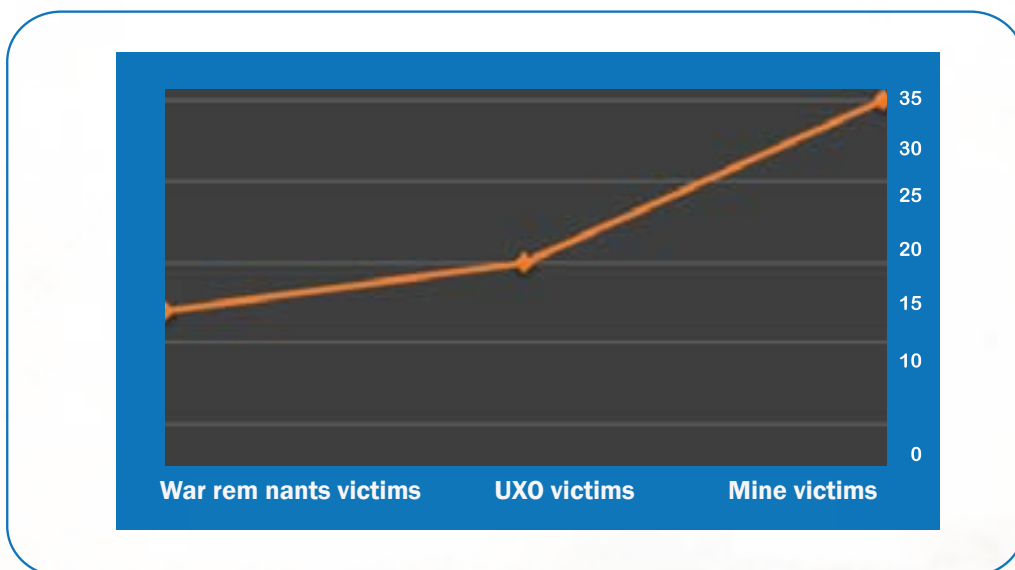
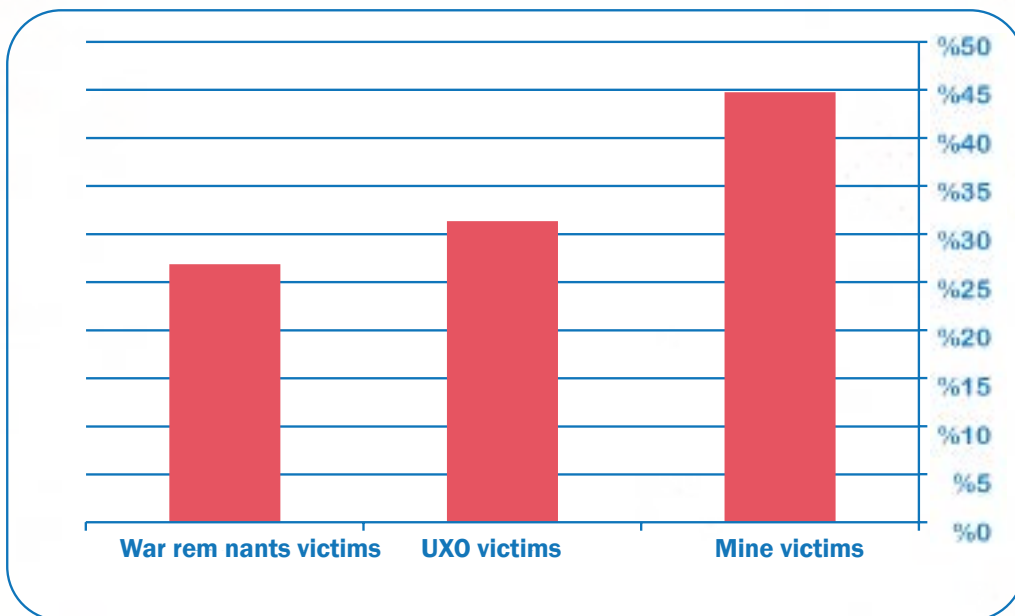
The figure shows the number of incidents and victims of explosions as some incidents left more than one victim.



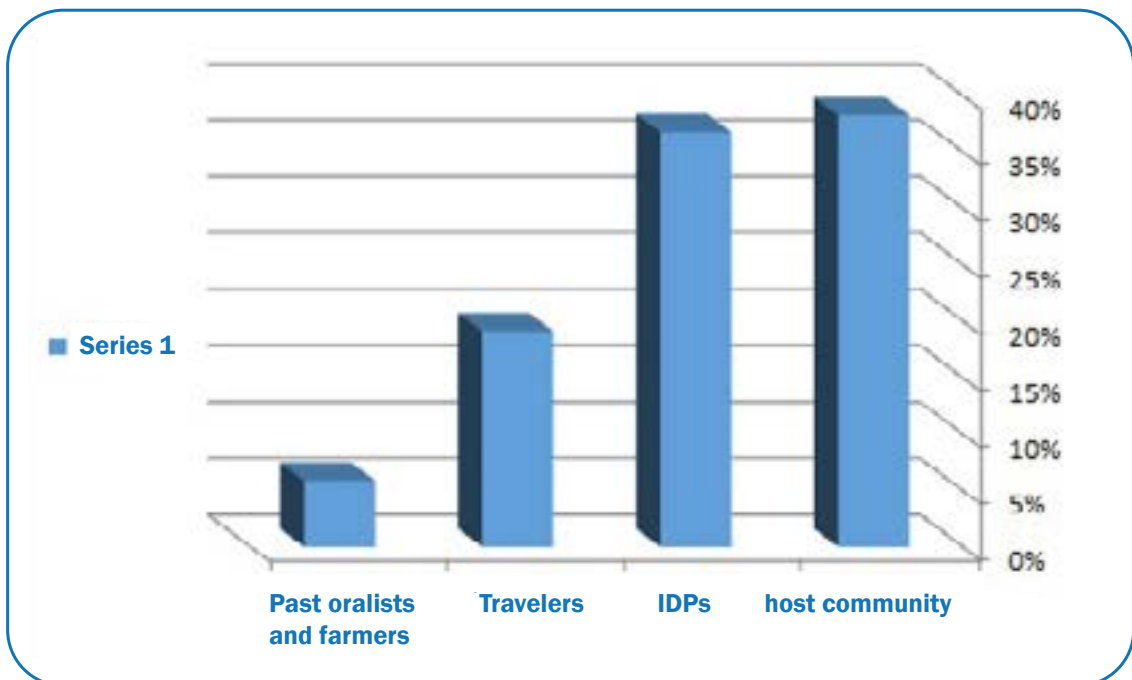
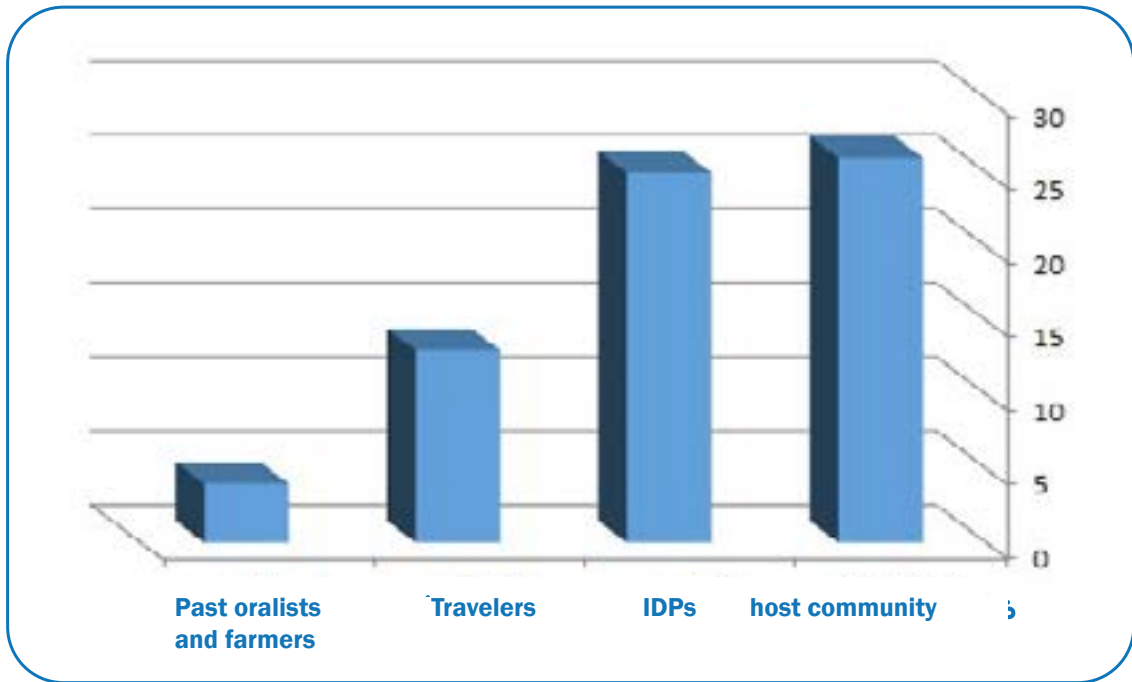
The figure shows what mines and remnants of war have left in terms of the type of physical damage in the victims, including deaths, injuries and disabilities among the victims.



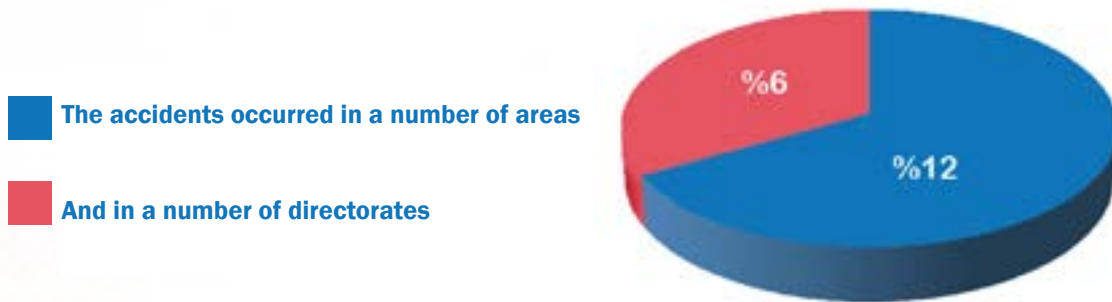
The figure shows the gender and age groups of victims in numbers dropped by mines and remnants of war.



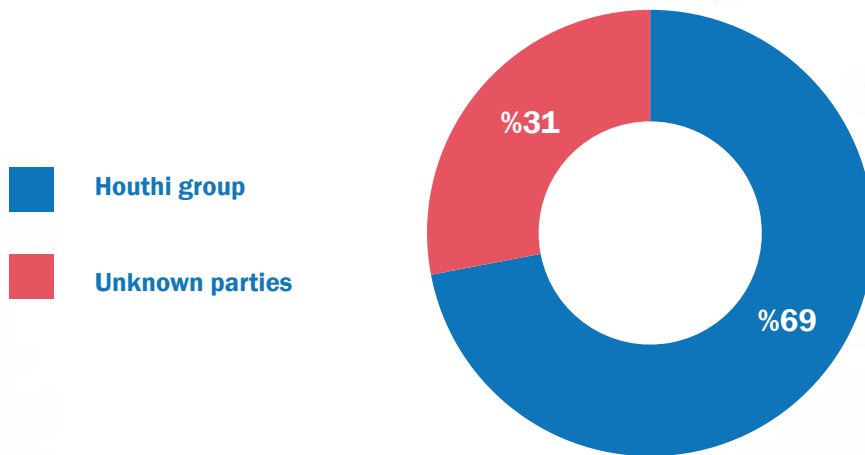
The figure shows the number of victims left by mines, IEDs and remnants of war.



The figure shows in figures the number of victims in each of the community groups present in Marib Governorate between transients and host community, IDPs, shepherds and farmers.



The following figure shows the number of districts in Marib governorate and the areas where the number of incidents of explosions of mines and remnants of war occurred.



The figure shows in numbers who is responsible for planting or leaving mines and remnants of war in residential areas, grazing areas, agriculture and travel roads.

Description	Statistics	Percentage
Deceased Personnel	22	32%
Injuries	34	50%
Disabilities	12	18%
Kids	31	46%
Men	30	44%
Women	6	9%
Elderly people	1	1%
Mine victims.	30	44%
Container Victims	21	31%
War Remnants victims	17	25%
Host Community victims	26	38%
IDPs	25	37%
Travelers	13	19%
Pastoralists and Farmers	4	6%
Houthi group is responsible for	20	69%
Unknown Entities	9	31%
Incidents occurred in a number of areas	12	
And in the number directorates	6	
Death toll	68	
Number of incidents	29	



Marib Dam Foundation
for Social Development



Justice4Yemen Pact
ميثاق العدالة لليمن