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YEMEN · WEEKLY SITREP · 3–9 AUGUST 2026

A Sharp Escalation in Houthi Strike Lethality, and a Widening Cross-Border Campaign

119 incidents and 102 confirmed fatalities. Two Houthi mass-casualty strikes on 6 August, against Nation's Shield camps in Hadramawt and against Marib, killed some 45 and drove the week's toll, as ballistic missiles and drones concentrated on the Marib and Hadramawt fronts.

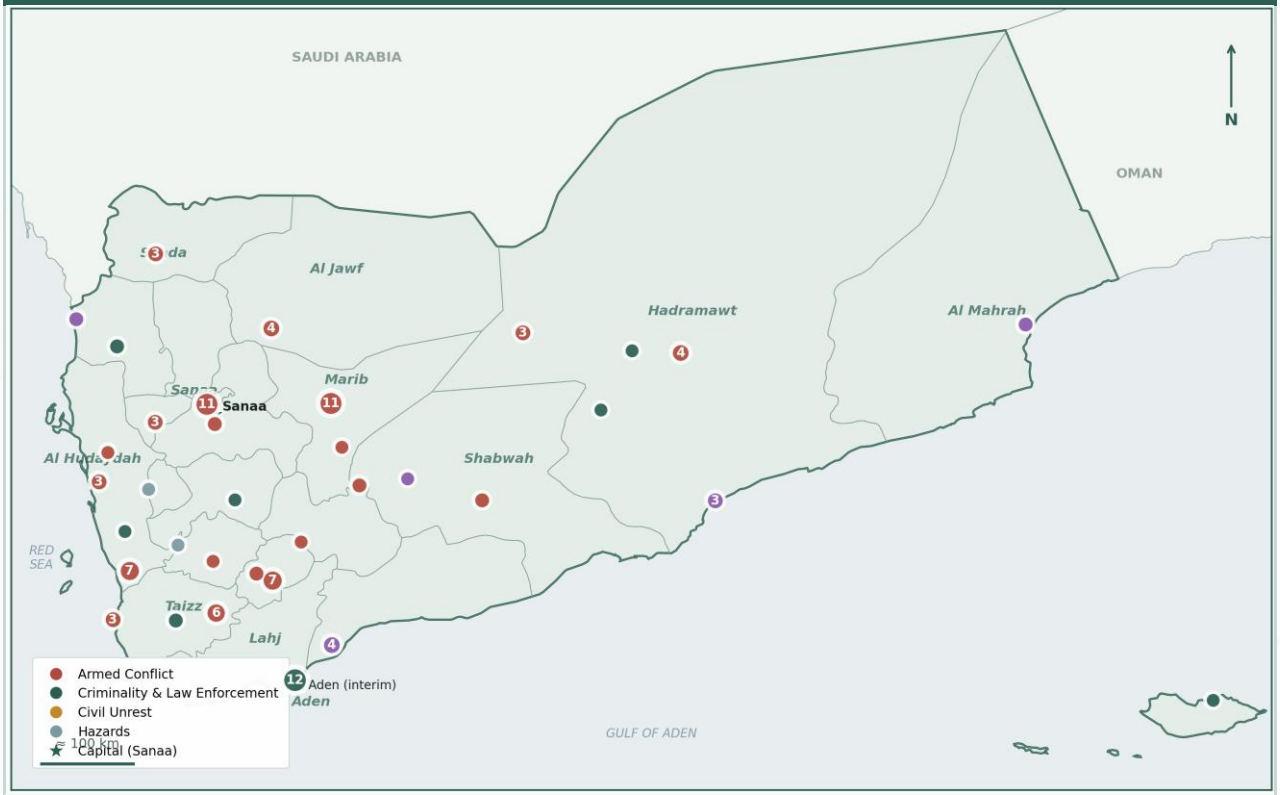


119	102	Marib	61	6 Aug
Incidents	Fatalities	Deadliest gov (34†)	Houthi fatalities	Deadliest day (49)

Data Analysis

119 operational incidents and 102 fatalities were recorded across Yemen from 3 to 9 August 2026, in a week marked by a sharp escalation in the lethality of the conflict. Ansar Allah, the Houthi movement, initiated 36 incidents causing 61 fatalities, and Yemeni Government forces of the Presidential Leadership Council initiated 32 incidents. The single deadliest event was a Houthi strike on camps of the Nation's Shield Forces in Hadramawt on 6 August, which killed approximately 30, while a Houthi ballistic missile and drone strike on Marib the same day killed a further 15, making 6 August the deadliest day of the week with 49 fatalities. 8 August recorded the highest incident volume at 24. Ballistic missiles, drones and artillery were the dominant conflict modalities, concentrated on the Marib and Hadramawt fronts, and Houthi forces also conducted cross-border attacks against Saudi and maritime targets. Hazards, principally flooding and a declared public health emergency in Marib, caused a further 20 fatalities.

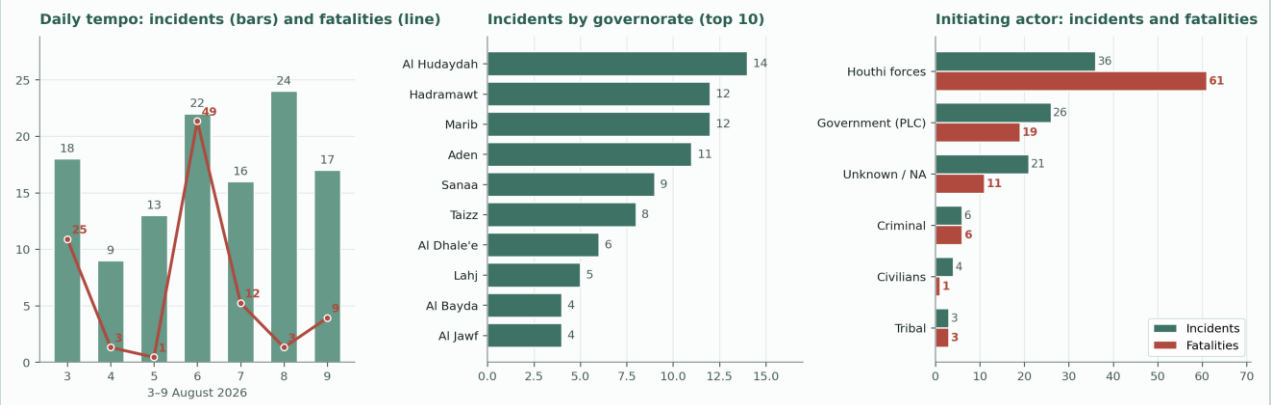
FIGURE 1 · YEMEN: NATIONWIDE INCIDENT DISTRIBUTION, 3–9 AUGUST 2026



113 in-country incidents clustered by proximity; marker size reflects incident count and colour the dominant category. The lethality concentrates on the Marib and Hadramawt fronts, while Al Hudaydah, Aden and the coast show a higher-volume, lower-lethality profile.

SOURCE SARI Global monitoring, 3–9 August 2026 (n = 119; 113 in-country geolocated). Boundaries: Natural Earth 1:10m.

FIGURE 2 · INCIDENT TEMPO, GEOGRAPHY AND ACTORS, 3–9 AUGUST 2026



Left: daily incidents against confirmed fatalities, with the 6 August fatality spike to 49. Centre: incidents by governorate, led by Al Hudaydah (14). Right: initiating actors, with Houthi forces responsible for 36 incidents and 61 fatalities. Category and actor charts exclude non-kinetic political and governance items.

SOURCE SARI Global monitoring, 3–9 August 2026 (n = 119).

Weekly Overview

3 August opened the week with 18 incidents and 25 fatalities, the second-deadliest day of the period. The toll was driven by a public health emergency declared in Marib governorate, a family of four killed by an explosive incident in Al Hudaydah, and a series of smaller conflict and criminal events distributed across the country. The day established the dual character of the week, in which mass-casualty conflict and hazard events sat alongside a steady background of localised violence.

4 August was comparatively quiet at nine incidents and three fatalities, and 5 August recorded 13 incidents and a single fatality. Activity across these two days comprised front-line exchanges of artillery and mortar fire between Houthi and Government forces, Houthi cross-border strikes against Saudi targets, and low-level criminality, with no mass-casualty events.

6 August was the deadliest day of the week by a wide margin, with 22 incidents and 49 fatalities. The toll was concentrated in two Houthi strikes: an attack on camps of the Nation's Shield Forces in Hadramawt that killed approximately 30, and a ballistic missile and drone strike on Marib that killed a further 15. These two events alone accounted for the overwhelming majority of the day's fatalities and represent a significant escalation in the lethality of Houthi operations against Government-aligned forces.

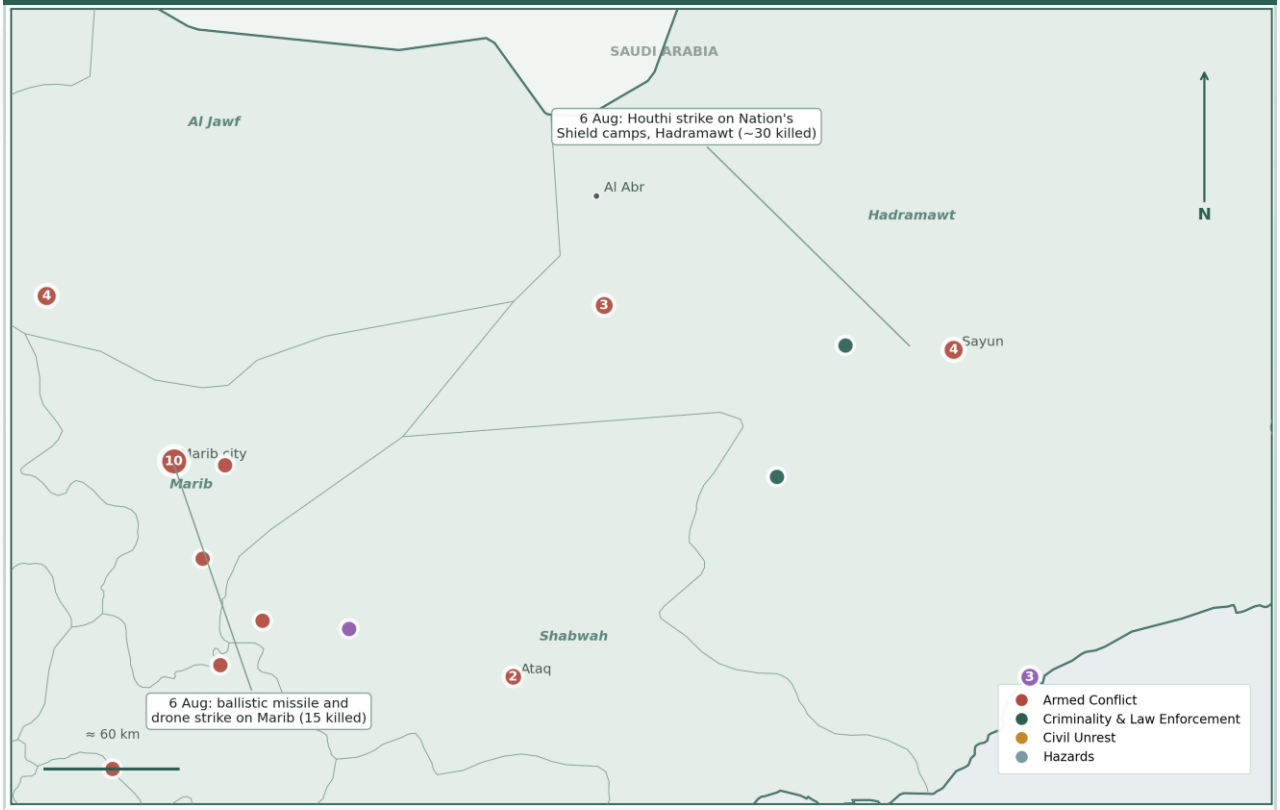
7 August recorded 16 incidents and 12 fatalities, including further Houthi ballistic missile and drone strikes on Marib and a fatal vehicle accident in Al Mahwit. The United Nations Special Envoy issued a statement from Amman addressing the escalation, an early indicator of international concern at the week's intensification. 8 August was the highest-volume day with 24 incidents but only three fatalities, a broad distribution of front-line clashes, Government operations, criminality and civil unrest without a single mass-casualty event; the United Nations Security Council issued a statement condemning the military escalation. 9 August closed the week with 17 incidents and nine fatalities, including successive waves of Houthi ballistic missile strikes on Taizz and a Houthi strike on the Aramco refinery at Jazan in Saudi territory.

Geographic Overview

Marib and Hadramawt: The Escalation Fronts

Marib and Hadramawt were the epicentres of the week's lethality, together accounting for 68 of the 102 fatalities despite representing a modest share of total incident volume. Marib recorded 12 incidents and 34 fatalities, driven by repeated Houthi ballistic missile and drone strikes across the period, while Hadramawt recorded 12 incidents and 34 fatalities, concentrated overwhelmingly in the 6 August strike on camps of the Nation's Shield Forces. These two governorates represent the principal military confrontation line between Houthi forces and Government-aligned formations, and the concentration of mass-casualty strikes there indicates a deliberate Houthi effort to degrade Government military capability at scale. For humanitarian actors, the lethality of operations in these governorates, and the use of ballistic missiles and drones that can strike without warning, make them the highest-risk environments in the country.

FIGURE 3 · THE MARIB AND HADRAMAWT ESCALATION FRONTS, 3–9 AUGUST 2026



The eastern zoom shows the concentration of high-lethality strikes on the Marib–Hadramawt confrontation line, with the 6 August strikes on the Nation's Shield camps in Hadramawt and on Marib marked. This is the geography of a deliberate campaign to degrade Government military capability at scale.

SOURCE SARI Global monitoring, 3–9 August 2026. Boundaries: Natural Earth 1:10m.

Operational implications. Treat Marib and Hadramawt as the highest-risk governorates in the country, subject to sudden Houthi ballistic missile and drone strikes that can produce mass casualties without warning. Ensure that any presence is supported by hardened facilities, tested warning and shelter protocols, and minimised exposure at known military and government sites, which are the primary targets. Factor the demonstrated lethality of these strikes into all duty-of-care and facility-siting decisions.

Al Hudaydah, Aden and the Coast: High Volume, Lower Lethality

Al Hudaydah recorded the highest incident volume of any governorate at 14 incidents, but a comparatively low six fatalities, reflecting a profile dominated by explosive-remnant hazards, criminality and localised violence rather than mass-casualty strikes. Aden, the interim capital, recorded 11 incidents and a single fatality, comprising governance activity, criminality and civil unrest characteristic of a functioning administrative centre rather than an active front line. The coastal and southern governorates broadly exhibit this pattern of high-volume, lower-lethality activity, in which the principal risks to humanitarian actors are explosive remnants of war, criminality including abduction, and the indirect effects of governance instability rather than direct exposure to front-line conflict.

> **Operational implications.** In Al Hudaydah and the coastal governorates, prioritise explosive-remnant awareness and route confirmation, as concealed explosive items remain a persistent lethal hazard to civilians and staff. In Aden and the southern administrative centres, treat criminality, abduction risk and civil unrest as the principal threats, and monitor governance and factional developments that can escalate rapidly. Maintain standard urban security protocols distinct from the conflict-grade posture required on the Marib and Hadramawt fronts.

Cross-Border and Maritime Dimension

The week saw a sustained Houthi cross-border campaign against Saudi territory and against shipping, with strikes reported against targets in Najran, Jazan and Al Madinah, a strike on the Aramco refinery at Jazan, and a claimed ballistic missile strike on a tanker in the Gulf of Aden. While these events occurred outside Yemeni territory and produced no recorded fatalities during the period, they represent a significant widening of the conflict beyond Yemen's borders and carry substantial implications for regional stability, maritime security in the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden, and the risk of retaliatory action that could affect the wider operating environment.

> **Operational implications.** Monitor the cross-border and maritime dimension closely, as escalation against Saudi or international targets carries the risk of retaliatory strikes and a broadening of the conflict that would affect the entire operating environment. Factor Red Sea and Gulf of Aden maritime security into any logistics or supply planning dependent on these routes, and maintain awareness of the potential for rapid regional escalation.

Trend Analysis

The reporting period marks a significant escalation in the intensity and lethality of the Yemeni conflict, driven by Houthi ballistic missile and drone operations against Government-aligned forces. Houthi forces initiated 36 incidents causing 61 fatalities, the majority concentrated in two mass-casualty strikes on 6 August, against Nation's Shield Forces camps in Hadramawt and against Marib, that together killed some 45 people. This represents a departure from the lower-intensity attritional pattern of recent periods toward high-lethality strikes capable of degrading Government military capability at scale. The escalation drew statements from both the United Nations Special Envoy and the Security Council within days, underscoring international alarm. The strategic question for the coming period is whether this intensity is sustained, which

would signal a deliberate Houthi effort to shift the military balance and could precipitate a broader collapse of the fragile de-escalation of recent months, or whether it represents a discrete escalatory episode. Given the simultaneous widening of Houthi operations against Saudi and maritime targets, the risk of a broader regional escalation is materially elevated.

Trend 01 · Houthi Ballistic Missile and Drone Strikes Drive a Lethality Spike

The dominant trend of the week is a sharp increase in the lethality of Houthi operations, delivered through ballistic missiles and drones against Government-aligned military targets. Ballistic missile launches, at 15 events, and drone strikes, at 13, were the two largest conflict modalities, and they were responsible for the week's two deadliest events: the 6 August strike on Nation's Shield Forces camps in Hadramawt, which killed approximately 30, and the ballistic missile and drone strike on Marib the same day, which killed 15. The concentration of fatalities in a small number of high-lethality strikes, rather than a broad distribution across many events, is the defining statistical feature of the period. This pattern indicates a Houthi capability and willingness to inflict mass casualties on Government forces at will, using stand-off weapons that give little or no warning. For humanitarian actors, the implication is that the areas around Government military and security installations, particularly in Marib and Hadramawt, are exposed to sudden catastrophic strikes, and that proximity to such sites represents the single greatest source of mass-casualty risk in the country.

> **Operational implications.** Treat proximity to Government military and security installations as the single greatest source of mass-casualty risk in the country. Site facilities and plan movement to maximise distance from such installations in Marib and Hadramawt, maintain hardened facilities and tested shelter and warning protocols, and assume that stand-off strikes may arrive without warning.

Trend 02 · The Widening Cross-Border and Maritime Campaign

Running alongside the intensification inside Yemen, Houthi forces conducted a sustained campaign against Saudi territory and against shipping during the period. Strikes were reported or claimed against targets in Najran, Jazan and Al Madinah, against the Aramco refinery at Jazan, and against a tanker in the Gulf of Aden. Although these events occurred outside Yemeni territory and caused no recorded fatalities this week, their strategic significance is considerable: they demonstrate that the Houthi movement retains both the capability and the intent to project force well beyond Yemen's borders, and they raise the prospect of Saudi or international retaliation that would broaden the conflict. The maritime dimension is of particular concern for the security of the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden shipping lanes, on which both commercial traffic and humanitarian supply chains depend. The coincidence of intensified internal strikes with an expanded external campaign suggests a coordinated Houthi escalation across multiple theatres simultaneously.

> **Operational implications.** Treat the cross-border and maritime campaign as a leading indicator of regional escalation. Factor Red Sea and Gulf of Aden maritime security into logistics and supply planning, monitor for Saudi or international retaliation, and prepare for the possibility that a broadening of the conflict would degrade the entire operating environment, not only the front lines.

Trend 03 · The Compounding Humanitarian Burden of Hazards

Beyond the armed conflict, the week demonstrated the extent to which natural and public health hazards compound Yemen's humanitarian crisis. Hazards accounted for 20 fatalities during the period, principally through flooding and flash flooding and through a public health emergency declared in Marib governorate. These events are analytically distinct from the conflict but interact with it: displacement driven by fighting increases exposure to flooding and disease, while conflict damage to infrastructure degrades the capacity to respond to health emergencies. The declaration of a public health emergency in Marib, a governorate simultaneously under intense military attack, is emblematic of the compounding crises that characterise the Yemeni operating environment. For humanitarian actors, the hazard burden underscores that risk in Yemen is not confined to the conflict but extends to environmental and public health emergencies that can produce significant mortality independently of the fighting.

> **Operational implications.** Integrate flood and public health risk into contingency planning, with particular attention to displacement-affected areas where exposure is greatest. Prepare response capacity for hazard-driven emergencies that can produce significant mortality independently of the fighting, and recognise the compounding of conflict and hazard as a defining feature of the environment.

Trend 04 · A Persistent Background of Criminality and Explosive-Remnant Hazard

Alongside the front-line escalation, the week recorded a persistent background of criminality, abduction and explosive-remnant hazard that poses a continuous, distributed threat distinct from the mass-casualty strikes. Abductions and kidnappings for ransom, civilian homicides, and the detonation of concealed explosive remnants of war were recorded across multiple governorates, and demining operations by the Masam project continued to destroy thousands of items of unexploded ordnance. This background threat is geographically dispersed and affects the coastal and southern governorates in particular, where the profile is one of high incident volume and lower lethality. For humanitarian actors, this distributed threat requires sustained attention to route security, explosive-remnant awareness and abduction risk mitigation across the whole country, independent of the front-line dynamics that dominate the headline fatality figures.

> **Operational implications.** Sustain abduction risk mitigation, criminal-threat awareness and explosive-remnant protocols across the whole country, with heightened attention to the coastal and southern governorates. Enforce route confirmation and mine-awareness protocols for all field movement, coordinate with demining actors including the Masam project, and maintain low-profile operations and vetted local security arrangements.

Humanitarian Outlook

The 3 to 9 August 2026 period recorded 102 fatalities across 119 incidents, a high toll that reflects a marked escalation in the lethality of the Yemeni conflict. The concentration of fatalities in a small number of Houthi ballistic missile and drone strikes, most significantly the 6 August attacks on Hadramawt and Marib that together killed some 45 people, is the defining feature of the week and signals a shift toward higher-intensity operations capable of degrading Government military capability at scale. The humanitarian consequences of this escalation extend well beyond the immediate casualties: intensified fighting on the Marib and

Hadramawt fronts will drive further displacement, and the demonstrated lethality of stand-off strikes places humanitarian personnel and facilities at elevated risk wherever they operate in proximity to Government military and security sites.

The outlook for the coming period is shaped by three compounding dynamics. First, the sharp escalation in Houthi strike lethality, combined with an expanded cross-border and maritime campaign, raises the risk of a broader collapse of the fragile de-escalation and of regional escalation that would degrade the entire operating environment, including the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden supply routes on which humanitarian logistics depend. Second, the compounding burden of hazards, exemplified by the flooding and the Marib public health emergency that together caused 20 deaths, demonstrates that mortality in Yemen arises from environmental and public health crises as well as from conflict, and that these are intensified by conflict-driven displacement and infrastructure damage. Third, a persistent background of criminality, abduction and explosive-remnant hazard poses a continuous, geographically dispersed threat to humanitarian operations across the country. Humanitarian actors should plan for elevated conflict intensity on the Marib and Hadramawt fronts, sustain explosive-remnant and abduction risk mitigation nationally, prepare for hazard-driven emergencies including flooding and disease, and monitor the cross-border dimension for indicators of regional escalation.

Risk Assessment Matrix

THREAT	LIKELIHOOD	IMPACT	MITIGATION
Houthi ballistic missile and drone strikes	HIGH	SEVERE	Treat Marib and Hadramawt as the highest-risk governorates. Ensure hardened facilities, tested warning and shelter protocols, and minimised exposure near Government military and security sites, which are the primary targets.
Front-line escalation, Marib and Hadramawt fronts	HIGH	SEVERE	Apply conflict-grade posture on the Marib and Hadramawt fronts. Anticipate further escalation and plan for displacement surges. Maintain minimum-footprint operations and robust movement controls near the confrontation line.
Cross-border and maritime escalation	MEDIUM	SEVERE	Monitor the cross-border and maritime dimension for retaliation indicators. Factor Red Sea and Gulf of Aden maritime security into logistics and supply planning. Maintain awareness of the potential for rapid regional escalation.
Hazards, flooding and public health emergency	MEDIUM	SEVERE	Prepare for hazard-driven emergencies including flooding and disease outbreaks, particularly in displacement-affected areas. Integrate public health and flood risk into contingency planning. Recognise hazard mortality can occur independently of the conflict.

Abduction and criminality	MEDIUM	MODERATE	Sustain abduction risk mitigation and criminal-threat awareness nationally, with heightened attention in the coastal and southern governorates. Enforce movement controls, low-profile protocols and vetted local security arrangements.
Explosive remnants of war	MEDIUM	MODERATE	Maintain strict explosive-remnant awareness and route confirmation across the country, particularly in Al Hudaydah and formerly contested areas. Support and coordinate with demining actors, and enforce mine-awareness protocols for all field movement.

Strategic Recommendations

1 **Apply conflict-grade posture on the Marib and Hadramawt fronts.**

The concentration of 68 of the week's 102 fatalities in Marib and Hadramawt, driven by high-lethality Houthi ballistic missile and drone strikes, confirms these two governorates as the highest-risk environments in the country. Apply a conflict-grade security posture there, ensuring that any presence is supported by hardened facilities, tested warning and shelter protocols, and minimised exposure at or near Government military and security installations, which are the primary targets of the strikes. Anticipate further escalation and plan for displacement surges, and maintain minimum-footprint operations with robust movement controls in and around the confrontation line.

2 **Treat the escalation as a potential strategic shift, not an isolated spike.**

The sharp increase in Houthi strike lethality, the concentration of casualties in two mass-casualty events, and the rapid response from the United Nations Special Envoy and Security Council indicate that this may represent a deliberate escalation rather than a discrete episode. Monitor closely for indicators of sustained intensity, which would signal a Houthi effort to shift the military balance and could precipitate a broader collapse of the fragile de-escalation of recent months. Adjust contingency planning to account for a prolonged high-intensity phase, and treat the coming fortnight as a critical window for assessing whether the escalation is sustained.

3 **Monitor the cross-border and maritime dimension for regional escalation.**

The Houthi campaign against Saudi targets in Najran, Jazan and Al Madinah, the strike on the Jazan Aramco refinery, and the attack on Gulf of Aden shipping represent a significant widening of the conflict beyond Yemen's borders. Monitor this dimension closely for indicators of Saudi or international retaliation that would broaden the conflict and degrade the entire operating environment. Factor Red Sea and Gulf of Aden maritime security into any logistics or supply planning dependent on these routes, and maintain awareness of the potential for rapid regional escalation that would affect operations far beyond the immediate front lines.

4 **Integrate hazard and public health risk into contingency planning.**

The 20 hazard fatalities this week from flooding and the declared public health emergency in Marib demonstrate that mortality in Yemen arises from environmental and public health crises as well as from conflict, and that these are intensified by conflict-driven displacement and infrastructure damage. Integrate flood and public health risk into contingency planning, with particular attention to displacement-affected areas where exposure is greatest, and prepare response capacity for hazard-driven emergencies that can produce significant mortality independently of the fighting. Recognise that the compounding of conflict and hazard is a defining feature of the Yemeni humanitarian environment.

5 **Sustain nationwide mitigation of criminality and explosive-remnant hazard.**

The persistent background of abduction, criminality and explosive-remnant detonation recorded across multiple governorates poses a continuous, geographically dispersed threat distinct from the front-line escalation. Sustain abduction risk mitigation, criminal-threat awareness and explosive-remnant protocols across the whole country, with heightened attention to the coastal and southern governorates where the high-volume, lower-lethality profile predominates. Enforce route confirmation and mine-awareness protocols for all field movement, coordinate with demining actors including the Masam project, and maintain low-profile operations and vetted local security arrangements to manage the abduction threat.

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DATA AND ATTRIBUTION

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Subscriptions and general enquiries **info@sari.global**
Analysis and media enquiries **analysis@sari.global**