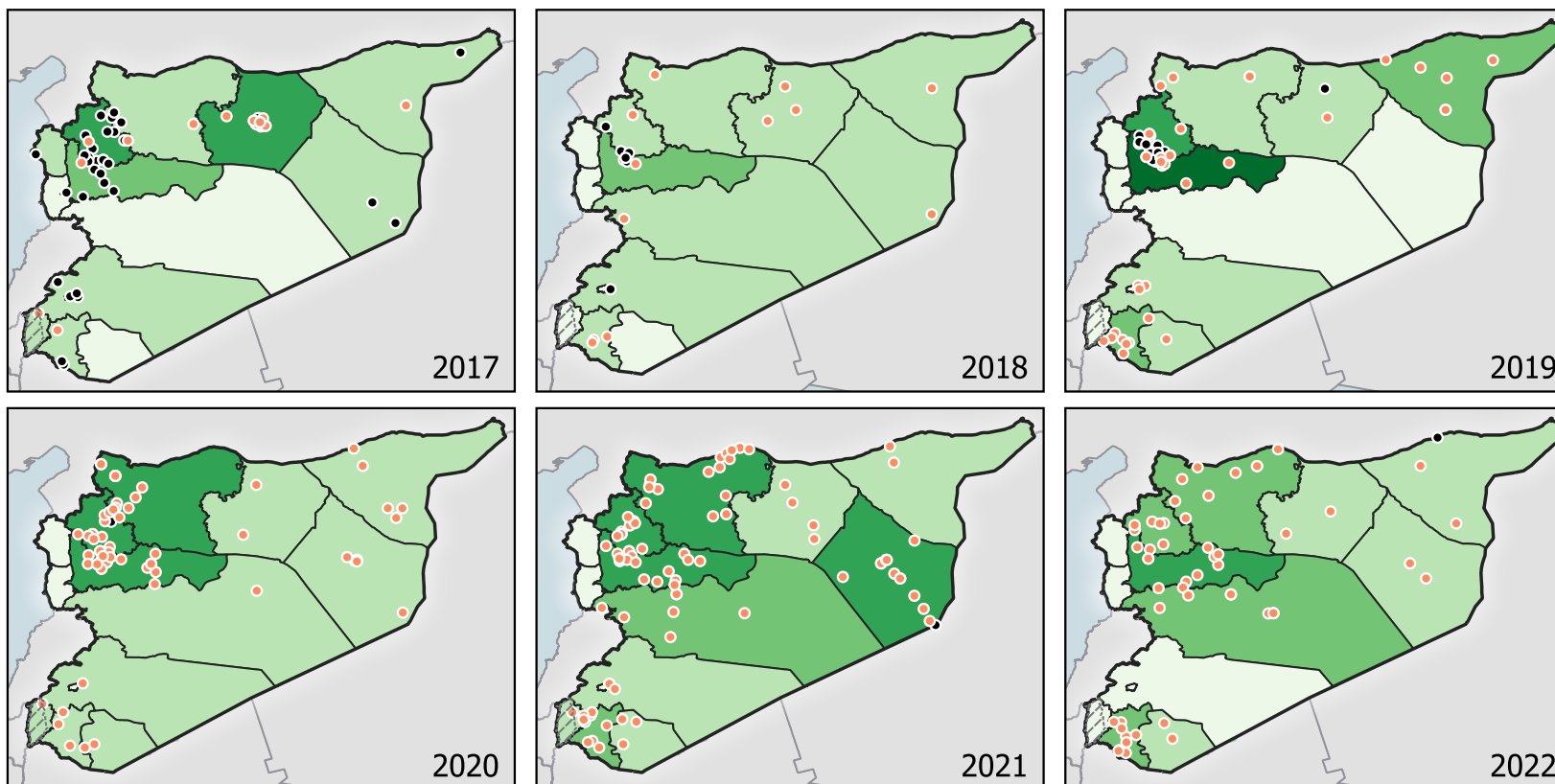


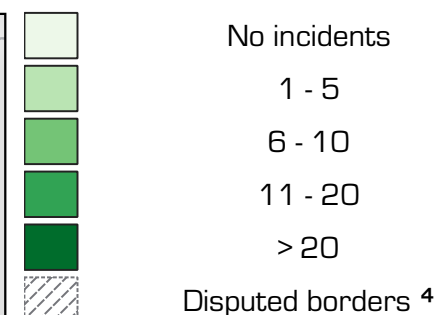
The Persisting Challenges for Syrian Agriculture from Air-Delivered Explosive Weapons and Ground-Based Explosives



Impact on agriculture

- Reported incidents of air delivered explosive weapons striking agricultural land ¹
- Reported incidents of ground-based explosives detonating on agricultural land ²

Reported incidents per governorate ³



Insecurity Insight's Food Insecurity and Violent Conflict (FIVC)-Syria dataset (2017-2022) shows that reported incidents in which air-delivered explosive weapons struck agricultural land were highest between 2017 and 2019, especially in the opposition stronghold governorates of Idlib, Hama and Aleppo. They have since declined. Simultaneously, detonations of ground-based explosives increased overall across Syria between 2017 and 2022. However, the highest numbers were recorded in 2021 when they occurred most often in the same three governorates (Idlib, Hama and Aleppo) where air-delivered explosives had previously been frequent.

IMPACT ON AGRICULTURE

These findings illustrate the long-term impact of explosive weapons use and persisting challenges for Syrian agriculture from conflict. Airstrikes on agricultural lands destroyed harvests which impacted food supplies and despite an overall reduction in the frequency of newly reported airstrikes, ground-based explosives accumulated throughout the war continue to kill and injure farmers and their livestock rendering land unsafe with consequences for food security.

Between 2017 and 2022, there were at least:



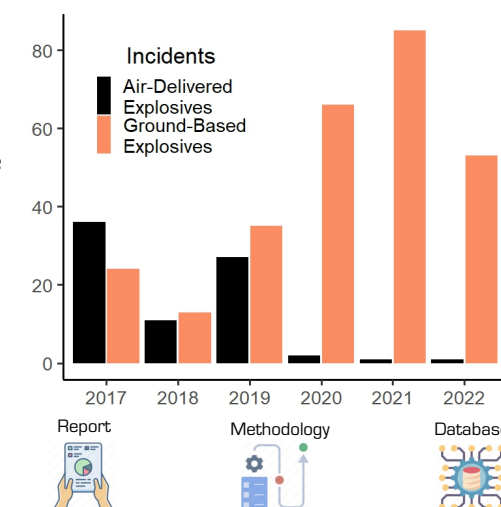
79 incidents of air-delivered explosive weapons striking agricultural land.



279 incidents of ground-based explosives detonating on agricultural land.



203 incidents in which farmers or agricultural workers were killed or injured by ground-based explosives.



¹Explosive weapons delivered by drones, helicopters and planes are included within 'air delivered explosive weapons' alongside other means of delivering explosive weapons from the air to the ground. ²Landmines, unexploded ordnances and improvised explosive devices are included within 'ground-based explosives'. ³The numbers of incidents per governorate are the combined incidents for air-delivered explosive weapons striking agricultural land and ground-based explosives. ⁴The disputed border represents the unilateral annexation of the Golan Heights by Israel in 1981. This document is published by Insecurity Insight - a Humanitarian to Humanitarian (H2H) organisation committed to the Humanitarian Principles. This document was developed with the financial assistance of the Basque Agency for Development Cooperation and the H2H Fund, which is supported by aid from the UK government. The opinions expressed in it do not reflect in any way the position of the Basque Agency for Development Cooperation, the H2H Network or the UK government, who are not responsible for either the content expressed in this document or its use.