





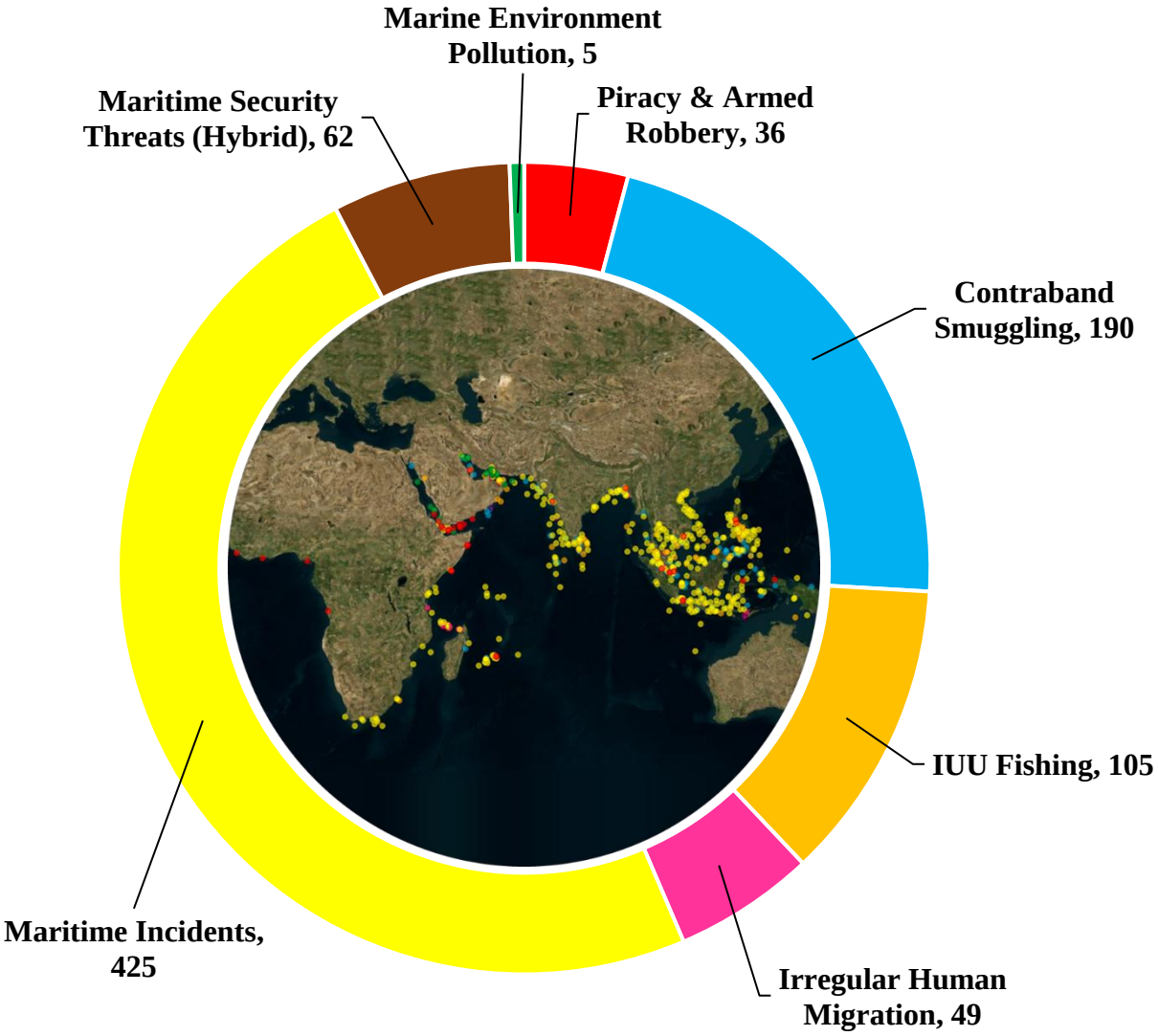


Q3 | 26 QUARTERLY MARITIME SECURITY UPDATE

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

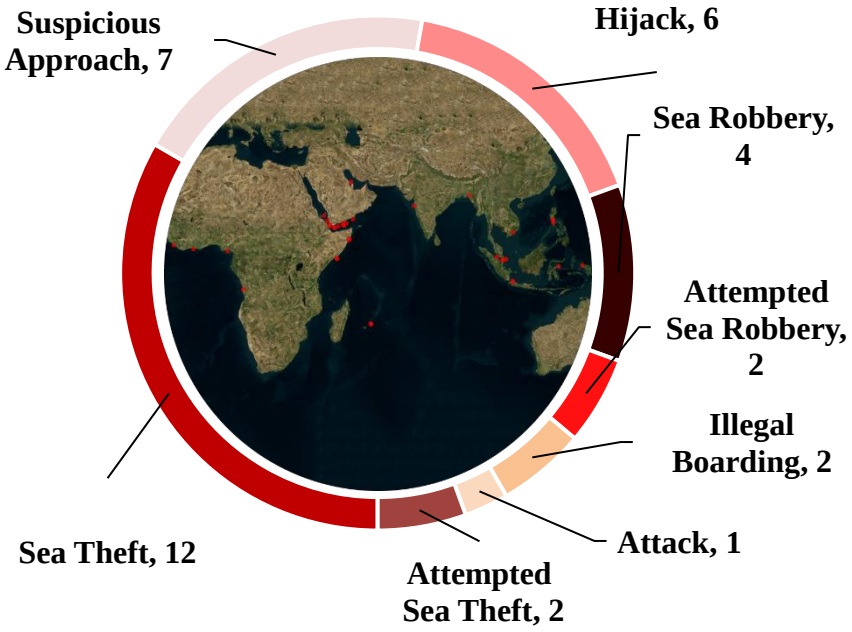
Q3 25	Q2 26	Q3 26	
890	832	872	05% WRT Q2 26

In Q3 26, the Centre monitored, recorded, and analysed 872 incidents, under seven clusters namely Piracy and Armed Robbery, Contraband Smuggling, Illegal Unreported and Unregulated Fishing, Irregular Human Migration, Maritime Incidents, Maritime Security Threats (Hybrid) and Maritime Environment Pollution. Incidents are geographically grouped across four regions, namely West Asia, East Africa, South Asia and Southeast Asia. Further, Piracy and Armed Robbery incidents in the Gulf of Guinea are also monitored and recorded.



PIRACY AND ARMED ROBBERY

Q3 25	Q2 26	Q3 26	
34	66	36	45% WRT Q2 26



Vessels Targeted

10	Tanker
07	Bulk Carrier
05	Container Vessel
04	Passenger Vessel
01	Tug/Barge
03	Fishing Vessel
01	Supply Vessel
02	Dhow
03	Unknown

Status of Vessel

Underway 21	03 Alongside
Anchored 12	Nil Unknown

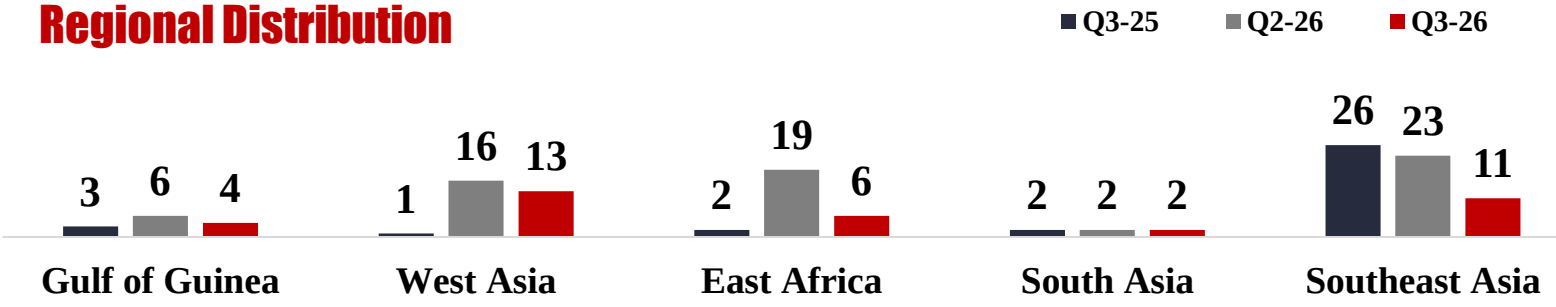
Time of Incident

16 | 11

Unknown - 09

85	Perpetrators Involved
09	Injuries
05	Lives Lost

Regional Distribution



Highlights

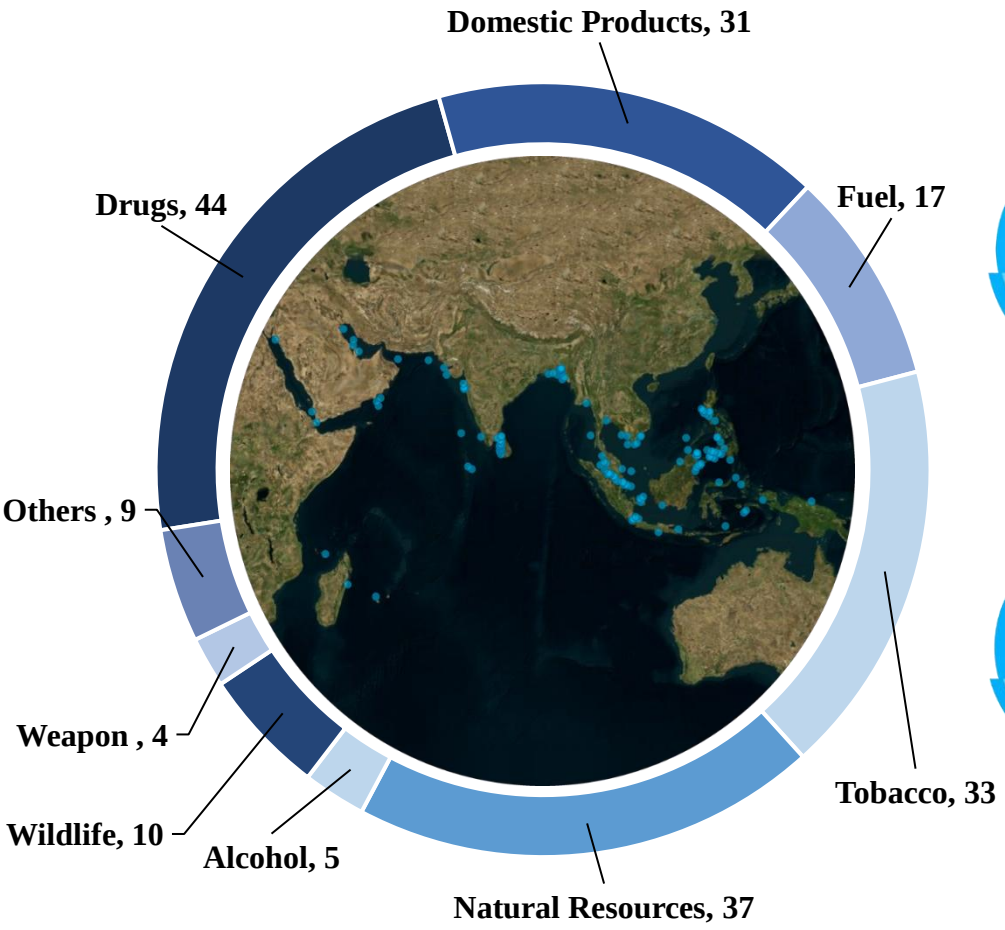
West Asia and East Africa continued to record piracy activity during Q3 26, including hijacking-linked incidents, although numbers reduced from Q2 26 with multiple hijackings indicating a shift towards hijacking-for-ransom. PAG operations were observed to be restricted closer to coast in view of heavy weather which may change in upcoming months as weather improves, enabling PAGs to operate farther offshore utilising hijacked vessels. Notably, law enforcement action resulted in release of four hijacked vessels and safe rescue of 56 crew members onboard these vessels. Five fatalities were reported in one of these incidents.

- *Incidents in GoG, South Asia and Southeast Asia remained confined to low-level petty thefts– both attempted and actual.*
- *Vessels are advised to exercise caution, remain vigilant, follow best practices as per BMP MS, maintain contact with regional authorities for risk mitigation and report any suspicious activities to ifc-ior.gurugram@navy.gov.in*

CONTRABAND SMUGGLING

Q3 25	Q2 26	Q3 26
307	263	190

28% WRT Q2 26



Drug Seizures



29



02

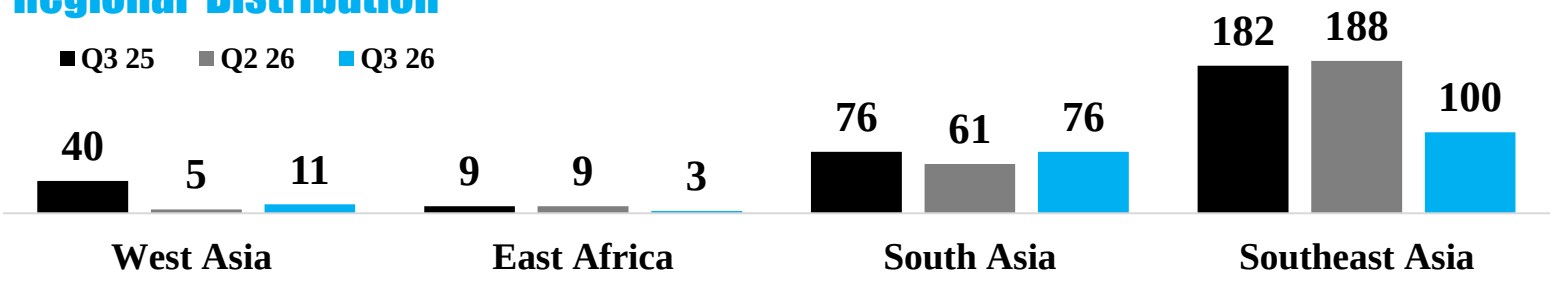


07



07

Regional Distribution



Highlights

190 contraband smuggling incidents were monitored in Q3 26, representing a 38% decline compared to Q3 25 (307 incidents) and a 28% decline compared to Q2 26 (263 incidents). The reduction was mainly reflected in West Asia and East Africa.

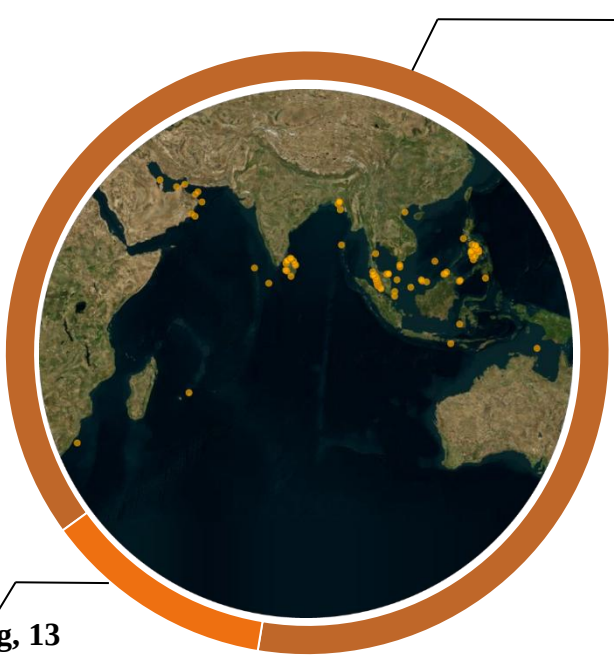
➢ *This notable reduction stems primarily from reduced trafficking across West Asia and East Africa, though the driving factors require continued monitoring.*

➢ *Drug smuggling remained the leading contraband category, with 44 incidents, predominantly involving ATS, followed by cannabinoids and other drugs. Tobacco smuggling remained significant, with 33 incidents involving approximately 134 million cigarette sticks and 4,562 kg of chewing tobacco. Natural resources smuggling recorded 37 incidents, including kendu leaves, tin sand and rubber scrap among others, highlighting the exploitation of maritime routes for illicit movement of varied commodities.*

IUU FISHING

Q3 25	Q2 26	Q3 26
141	86	105

22% WRT Q2 26



Q3-26
7,797 kg

ECHINODERMS /OTHERS

Q3-25
5,097 kg

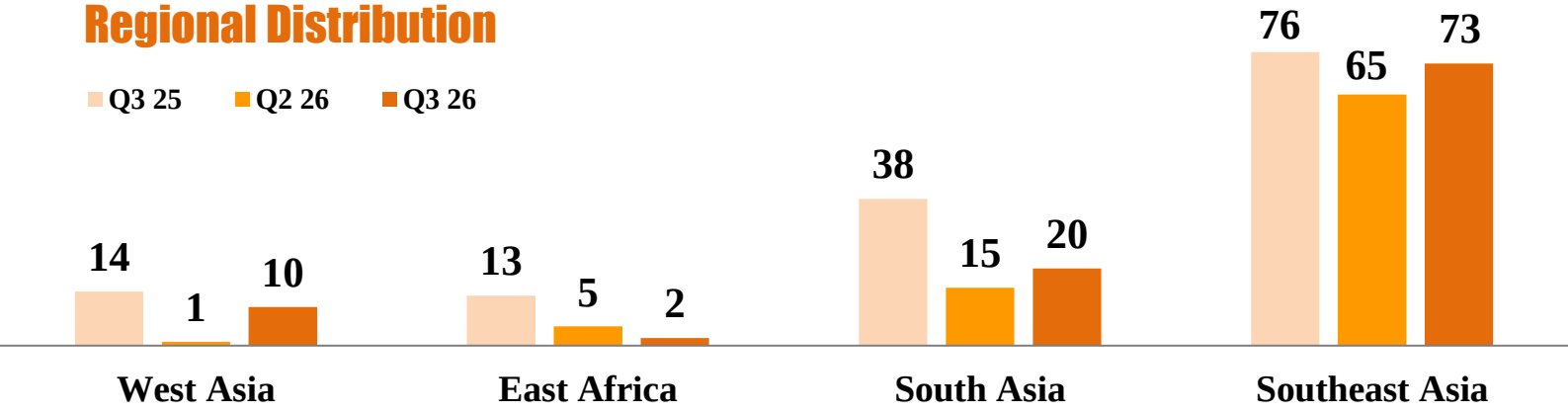
Q3-26
88,969 kg

LARGE/ SMALL PELAGIC

Q3-25
8,026 kg

Overview	Q3 25	Q2 26	Q3 26	Remarks
Fishermen Apprehended	877	589	1,381	Considerable Increase
Fishing Vessels Seized	233	174	221	Moderate Increase

Regional Distribution



Highlights

IUU incidents rose 22% to 105 in Q3 26 as compared to 86 incidents in Q2 26 while fishermen apprehended increased to 1,351, from 589 in Q2 26.

➢*Prohibited-gear violations were cited in 38 incidents (36%) in Q3 26 as compared to 16 incidents (19%) in Q2 26. Licence and documentation offences increased to 21 (20%), from 6 incidents in Q2 26. Blast and dynamite fishing stayed marginal at 4 incidents (7 in Q2 26).*

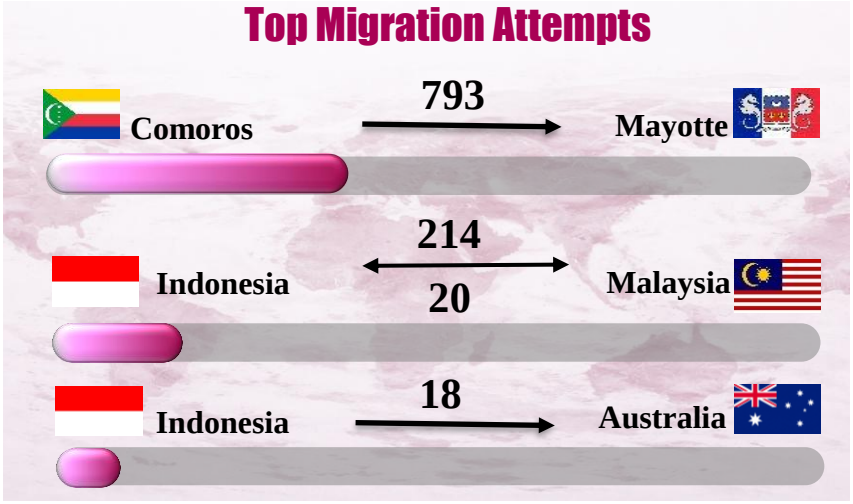
➢ *Notably, four incidents during the period involved deliberate identity or tracking manipulation viz cloned registration numbers, a vessel using another vessel's VMS (Vessel monitoring system) device, false registration with sealed VMS units and AIS not operated.*

IRREGULAR HUMAN MIGRATION

Q3 25	Q2 26	Q3 26	16% WRT Q2 26
48	58	49	

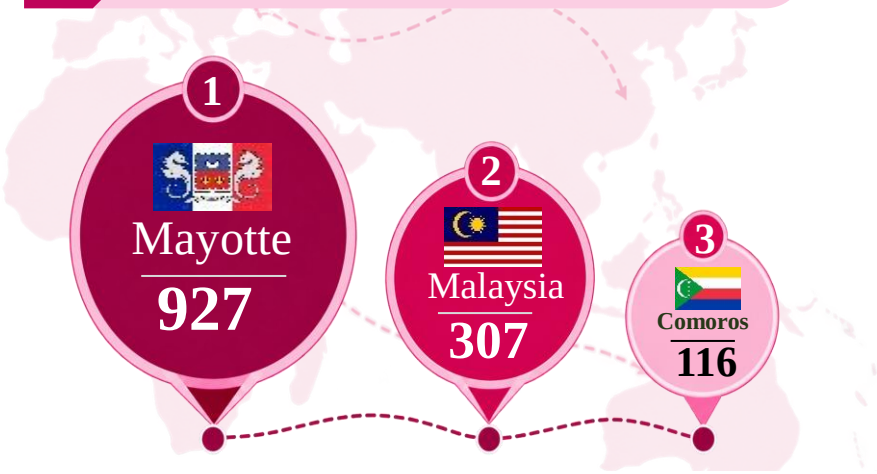


Top Migration Attempts

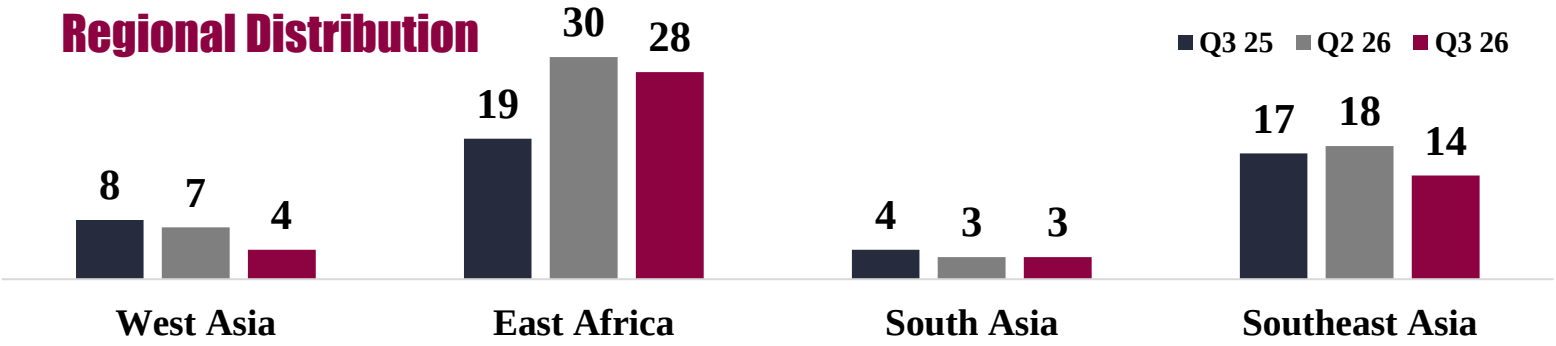


Migrants Rescued	1,598
Smugglers	77
Lives Lost	17
Missing	Nil
Boats	127

Top 03 Destinations - No of Migrants



Regional Distribution



Highlights

Kwassa-kwassa boats, fishing vessels, speedboats and other small craft remained the primary means of migrant transportation during Q3 26, with repeated use of these vessels observed across East Africa and Southeast Asia.

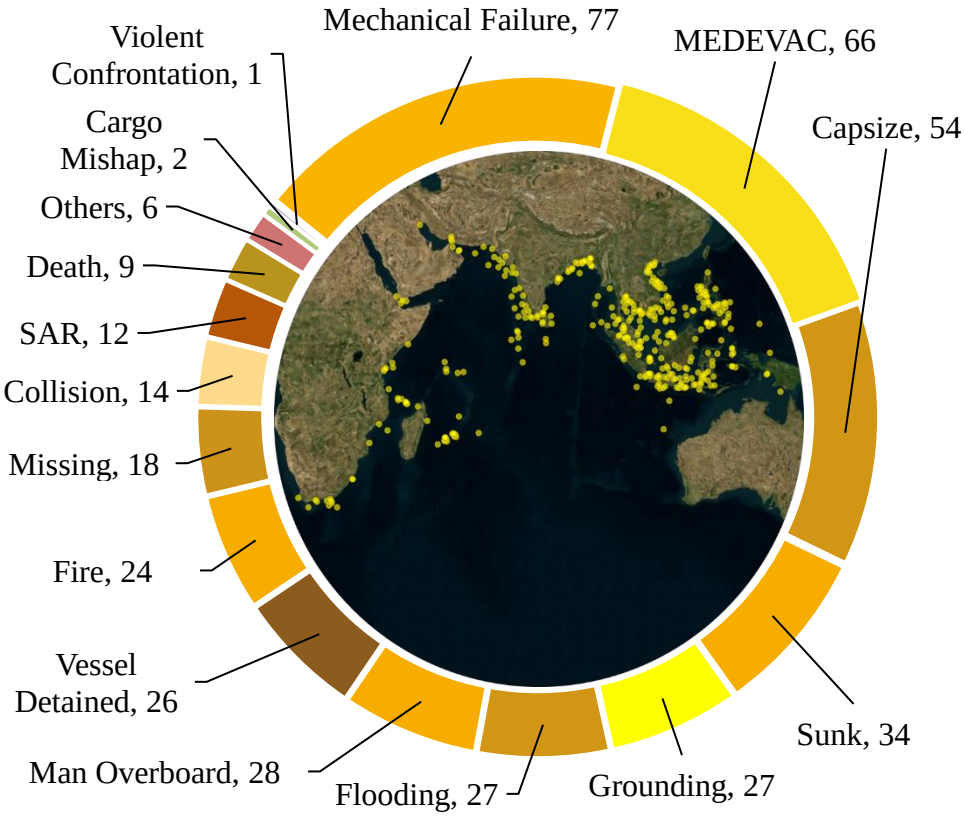
➢*A new smuggling modus operandi was identified off Malaysia, wherein migrants were initially transported aboard ordinary fishing vessels to blend with legitimate maritime traffic before being transferred at sea to high-speed boats, indicating adaptive measures to reduce detection.*

➢ *In a notable incident, a vessel remained adrift for eight days off Mafia Island, Tanzania, following heavy weather and engine failure, resulting in 22 migrants being rescued and 14 fatalities.*

MARITIME INCIDENTS

Q3 25	Q2 26	Q3 26
365	341	425

24% WRT Q2 26



Incidents Affecting Vessels

Q3 25	Q2 26	Q3 26
227	200	265

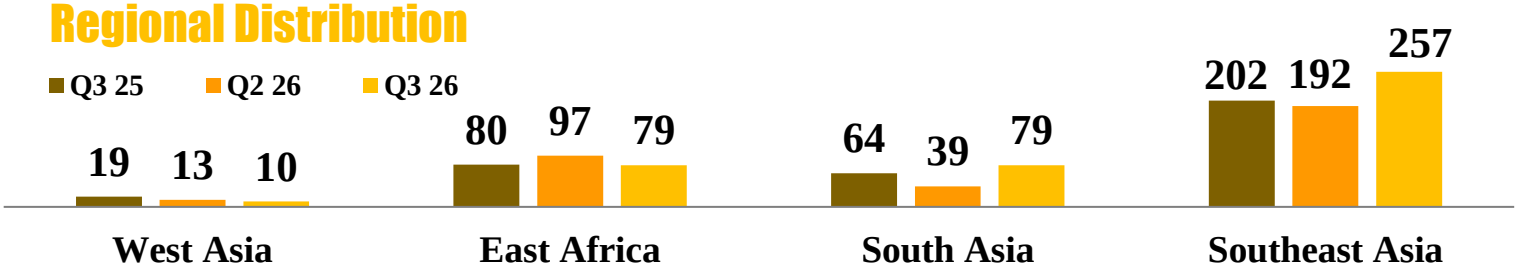
Incidents Affecting Individuals

Q3 25	Q2 26	Q3 26
110	115	133

Incidents with Legal Connotations

Q3 25	Q2 26	Q3 26
28	26	27

Regional Distribution



Highlights

➢ *Total incidents rose by 24% to 425, but incidents resulting in deaths or missing persons doubled to 120, or 28% of the quarter's total. The increase came mainly from vessels capsizing and sinking.*

➢ *South Asia and Southeast Asia made up 79% of all incidents, up from 68% in Q2-26. South Asia more than doubled its incident count, consistent with the monsoon season, while East Africa declined for the third quarter in a row.*

➢ *Fishing and small vessels accounted for 60% of incidents. Passenger vessels contributed a smaller share of incidents but produced the largest losses, including all three of the quarter's worst missing-person events. Heavy weather caused 94 incidents in Q3 26, compared to 45 in Q2 26.*

Rescued 3354

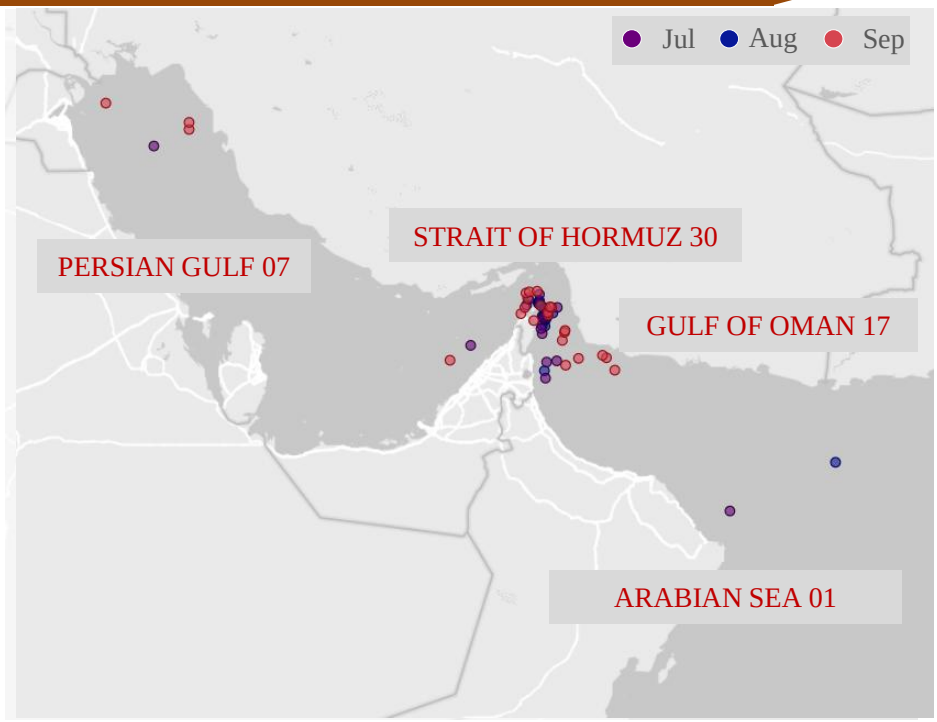
Missing 494

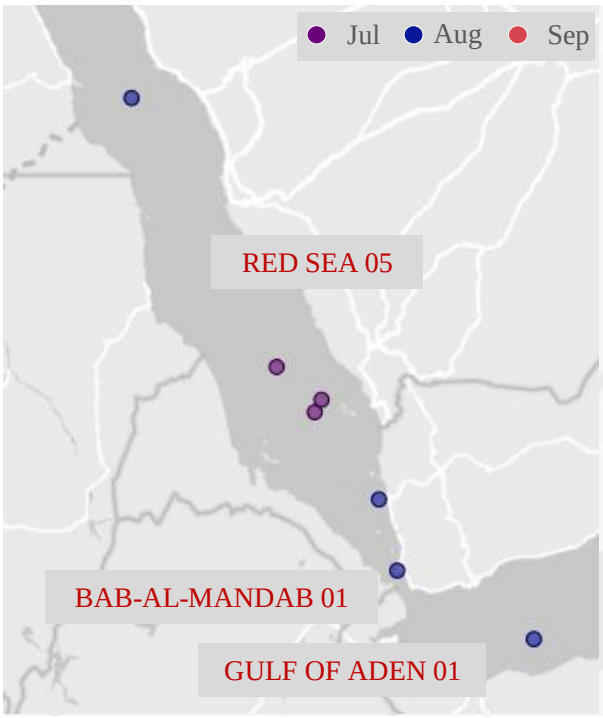
Deaths 109

MARITIME SECURITY THREATS (HYBRID)

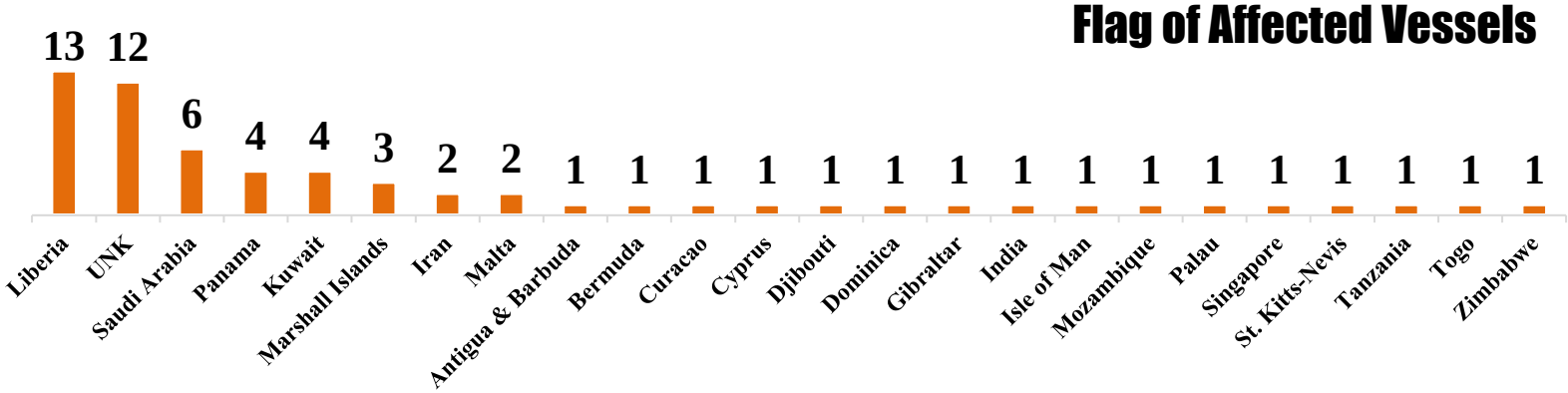
Q3 25	Q2 26	Q3 26
09	29	62

SIGNIFICANT INCREASE WRT Q2 26

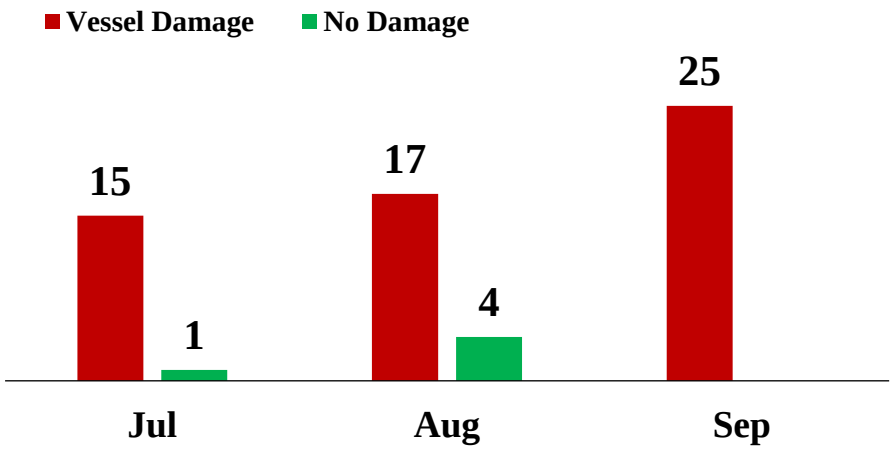




Flag of Affected Vessels



Monthly Damage Assessment

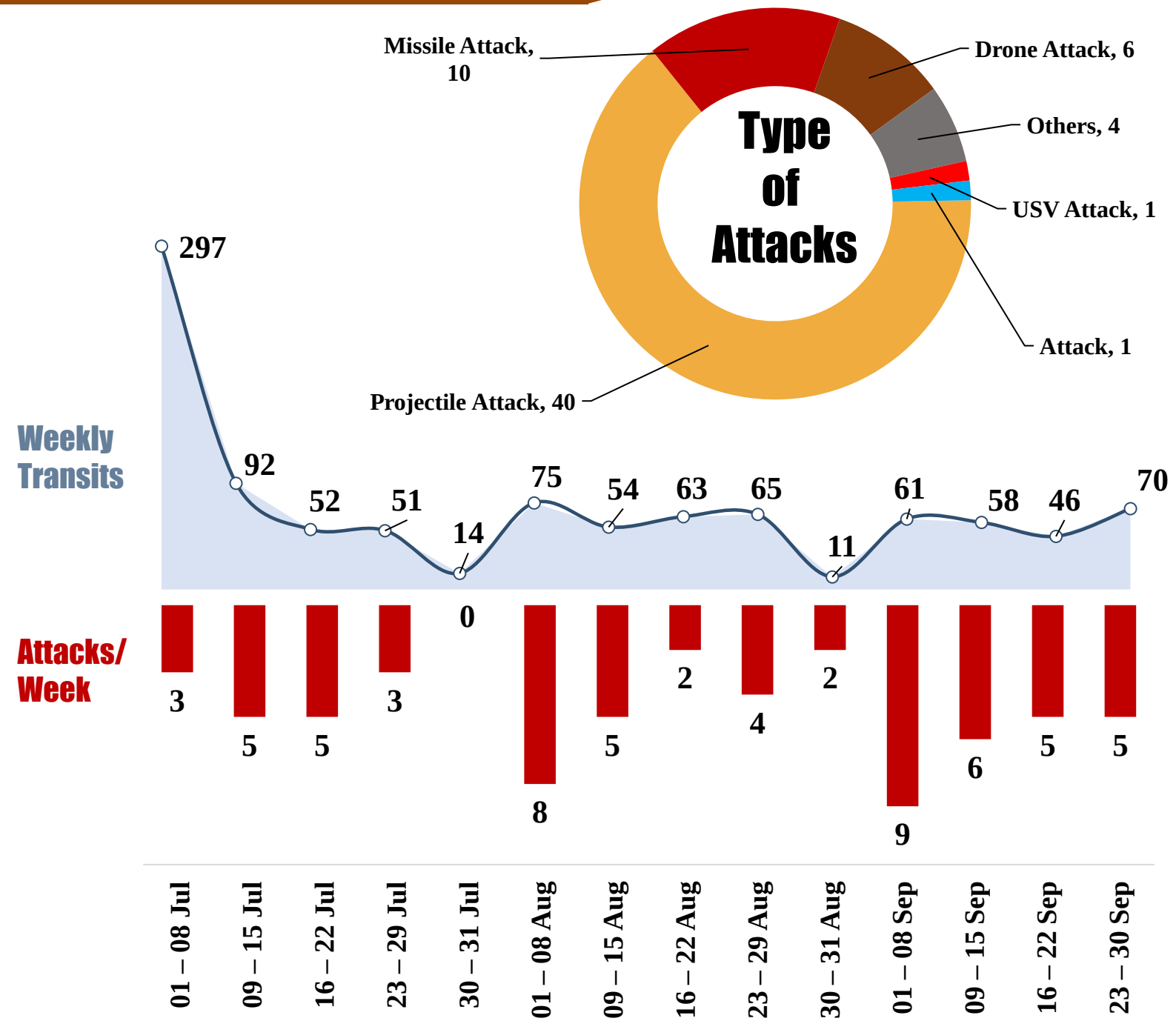


Human Impact

Lives Lost	Rescued
09	133

Missing	Injured
05	18

Day	Night	Unspecified Time
05	31	26



Highlights

A total of 62 maritime security incidents were recorded in Q3-26, more than double the 29 recorded in Q2-26. Activity rose steadily in each month after June, indicating sustained escalation rather than a one-off spike. The threat was concentrated around the Strait of Hormuz (SoH), Gulf of Oman, Persian Gulf and Arabian Sea, which together accounted for 55 incidents (89%). The remaining seven incidents occurred across the Red Sea, Bab-el-Mandeb and Gulf of Aden.

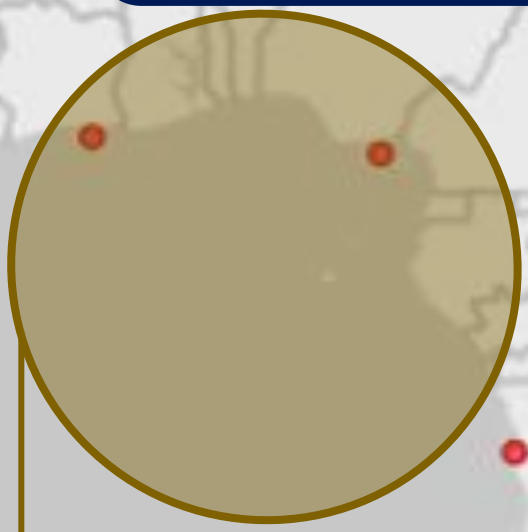
➢ *Two incidents stood out. On 04 Aug 26, a USV attack sank a cargo vessel off the Red Sea coast, the only attack of its kind in the reporting period. On 11 Aug 26, MV TIHAMAH was struck in the Bab-el-Mandeb area, leaving two crew dead, four injured and an uncontrolled fire on board.*

➢ *Attacks also showed a pronounced nocturnal pattern: of the 36 incidents with timing available, 31 (86%) occurred at night, against 32% in Q2-26. Combined with the concentration on tankers, this shows commercial energy shipping increasingly exposed at the hours when threat detection and response are hardest. The human and material toll rose accordingly. At least nine seafarers were killed, five remain missing and 18 were injured. Confirmed vessel damage was reported in 57 of the 62 incidents (87%).*

West Asia

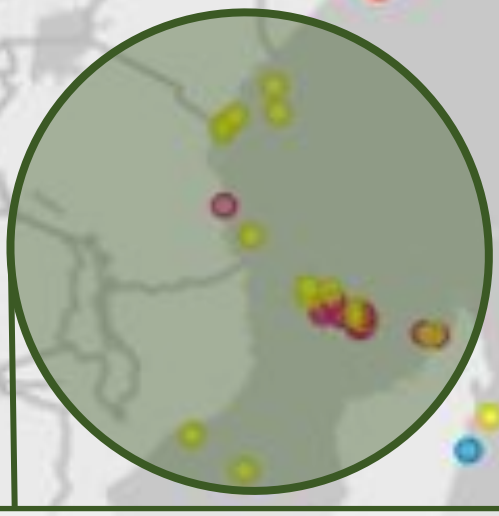
- *The Centre monitored 111 incidents in Q3 26, compared to 71 in Q2 26.*
- *The reported incidents comprised Maritime Security Threats (Hybrid) (62), Piracy and Armed Robbery (13), Contraband Smuggling (11), IUU Fishing (10), Maritime Incidents (10) and Irregular Human Migration (04). One incident of Marine Environment Pollution was also reported.*
- *Attacks on commercial shipping in the Persian Gulf, Strait of Hormuz and Gulf of Oman regions remained the principal concern in the region.*





Gulf of Guinea

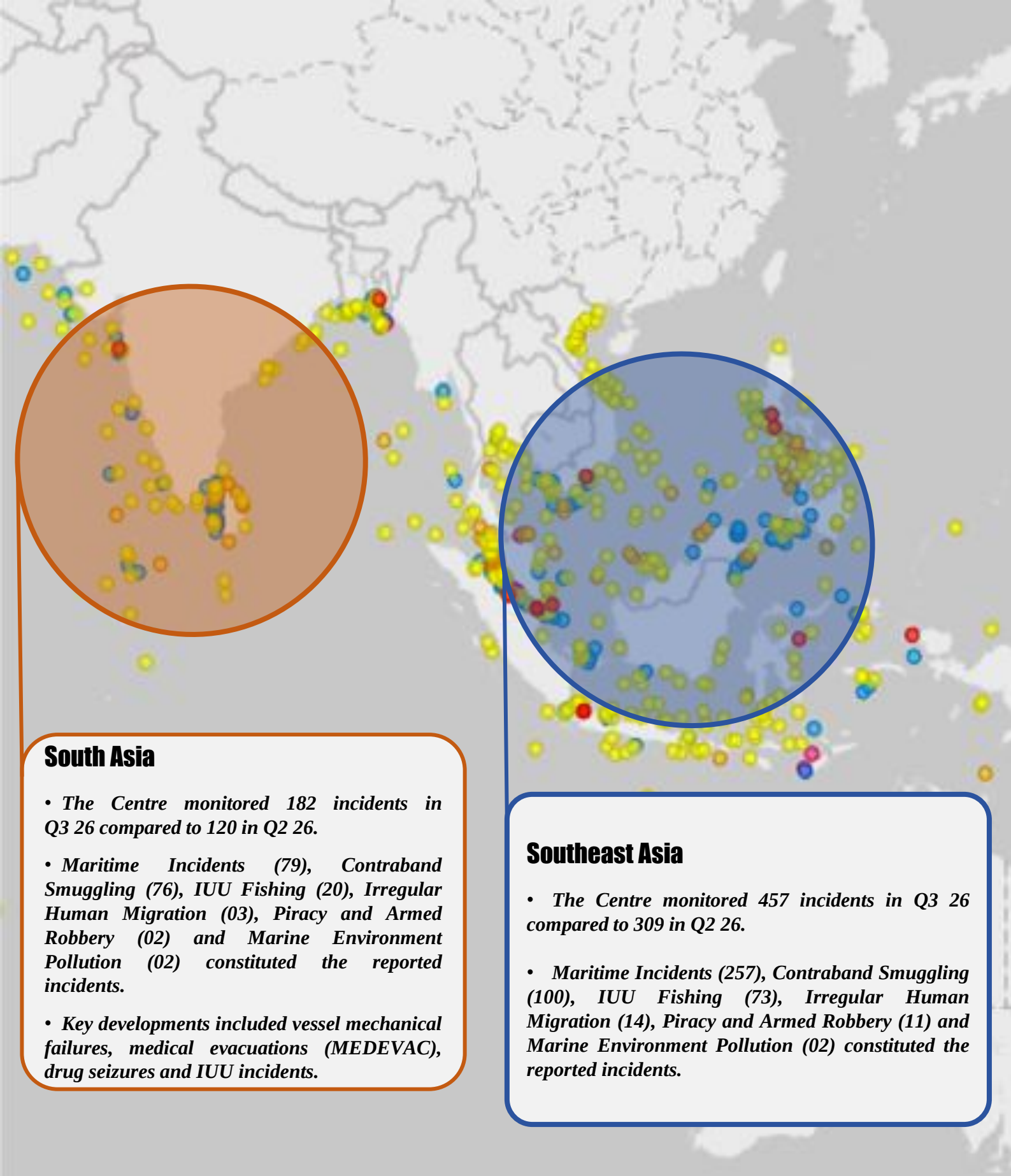
- *Four incidents of Piracy and Armed Robbery in Q3 26, compared to six in Q2 26.*
- *The incidents included two sea robberies and two attempted sea robberies.*



East Africa

- *118 incidents in Q3 26 compared to 160 in Q2 26.*
- *The reported incidents comprised Maritime Incidents (79), Irregular Human Migration (28), Piracy and Armed Robbery (06), Contraband Smuggling (03) and IUU Fishing (02).*
- *Reduction in incident count stemmed from reduced contraband smuggling across East Africa and West Asia.*

INDIAN OCEAN REGION
MARSEC SCAN Q3 - 2026



South Asia

- *The Centre monitored 182 incidents in Q3 26 compared to 120 in Q2 26.*
- *Maritime Incidents (79), Contraband Smuggling (76), IUU Fishing (20), Irregular Human Migration (03), Piracy and Armed Robbery (02) and Marine Environment Pollution (02) constituted the reported incidents.*
- *Key developments included vessel mechanical failures, medical evacuations (MEDEVAC), drug seizures and IUU incidents.*

Southeast Asia

- *The Centre monitored 457 incidents in Q3 26 compared to 309 in Q2 26.*
- *Maritime Incidents (257), Contraband Smuggling (100), IUU Fishing (73), Irregular Human Migration (14), Piracy and Armed Robbery (11) and Marine Environment Pollution (02) constituted the reported incidents.*



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