Addressing Inequalities and Challenges to Social Inclusion through Fiscal, Wage and Social Protection Policies
Inequality of Opportunities in the Arab Region

- Health
- Education
- Social Protection
- Employment
Four Groups Facing High Levels of Inequality and Exclusion

- Youth
- Older Persons
- Persons with Disabilities
- Displaced Persons
The Arab Population Has More Than Tripled in the Past Half Century

- 1970: 130 Million
- 2017: 400 Million
- 2050: 600 Million
Youth in the Arab Region

60% of the Total Population

71 million in 2015 estimated to reach 92 million by 2030
Severe Youth Unemployment

30% of Youth Unemployed

47% Women

High Rural Areas

Alarming Conflict Zones
Older Persons in the Arab Region

100 Million by 2050

Older women are more than half
Workforce Pension Coverage

70% of the Workforce Do not have pension coverage
Older Persons Health Challenges

Geriatric health and need for long-term care services will rise exponentially

Reforms are needed now in the area of social protection of the elderly
Disabled Persons in the Arab Region

11 Million Disabled Persons

Real numbers are expected to increase as a result of conflict. Challenge of integration will present pressure on strained fiscal resources.
Disabled Persons in the Arab Region

22.8% of Syrian refugees in Lebanon and Jordan have disabilities.
Refugees & IDPs in the Arab Region

29 Million are forcibly displaced

15 million IDPs + 14 million Arab refugees globally
There are 9 million Arab refugees in the Arab region
Refugees & IDPs in the Arab Region

The number of Syrian registered refugees peaked in 2014

20.5% of the population in Lebanon

7.1% of the population in Jordan
Solutions and Progress
Addressing the Challenges

- Social Protection Systems Reform
- Inequality of Autonomy
- Tools & Mechanisms
- Ageing with Dignity
- Fiscal Policy
- Social Expenditure Monitor
Reforming Social Protection Systems

Improving delivery channels via unified registries
• Improves targeting the most needy, especially rural areas and marginalized groups
• Optimizes impact
• Enhances implementation of 8 SDGs and 16 targets, including those on poverty, education, decent work, sustainable cities and peace and justice
Inequality of Autonomy

- 2018 ESCWA analysis: Inequality of income and opportunity linked to inequality of autonomy
- The autonomy gap in the region has implications for policies towards inequality: gender roles, social and religious tolerance, and preference for social justice and civic action
Tools & Mechanisms: Youth Voices in Decision Making

• A joint effort by ESCWA, ESCAP and ECA: Tools to engage youth in public policy making (Jordan, Kuwait and Tunisia)

• ESCWA initiative in Jordan fostered more integrated, sustainable and inclusive policies on population and development, focusing on youth unemployment
Engaging Youth with Policies, Programmes & Investments

Properly Addressed = Economic Growth & Stability
Engaging Youth with Policies, Programmes & Investments

Poorly Addressed = Challenge to Stability & Crisis
ESCWA analysis on population and development emphasizes that older persons are an asset and can contribute to supporting families, communities and countries.
As Governments engage with other stakeholders in a holistic, integrated approach to development planning and policymaking under the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, it is vital to ensure that current and future older persons are not left behind.
ESCWA analysis highlights that fiscal policy choices need to consider setting medium- and long-term fiscal rules to guide and sustain adequate and appropriate social expenditure, with an aim to accelerate progress on the SDGs, while maintaining a balanced and sustainable set of fiscal policies.
ESCWA is developing a comprehensive Social Expenditure Monitor:
The result will be a pool of data and tools to

- Inform policy analysis and reform
- Improve social protection
- Reduce poverty and inequality
- Enhance human capital and innovation
- Promote gender equality and inclusive growth
Conflict is Development in Reverse

- Forced Migration
- Health and Social Burdens
- Family Fragmentation
- Infrastructure Destruction
Thank you