
COMMISSION for SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

United Nations Headquarters, New York



United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs
Division for Inclusive Social Development



#CSocD #SDGs #GlobalGoals WEBSITE: social.un.org/csocd



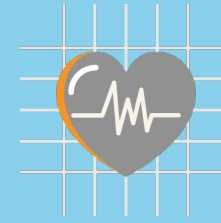
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ESCWA

**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**

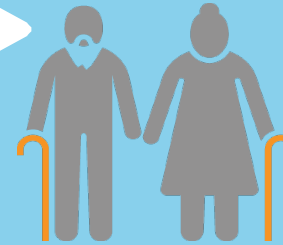


Employment

Four Groups Facing High Levels of Inequality and Exclusion



Youth



**Older
Persons**

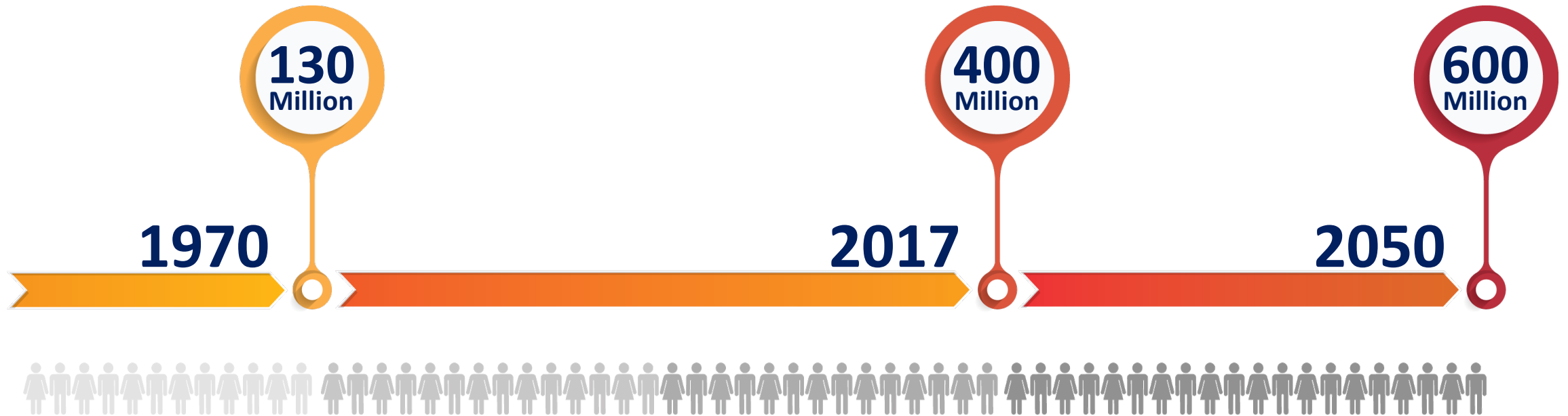


**Persons with
Disabilities**



**Displaced
Persons**

The Arab Population Has More Than Tripled in the Past Half Century



Youth in the Arab Region

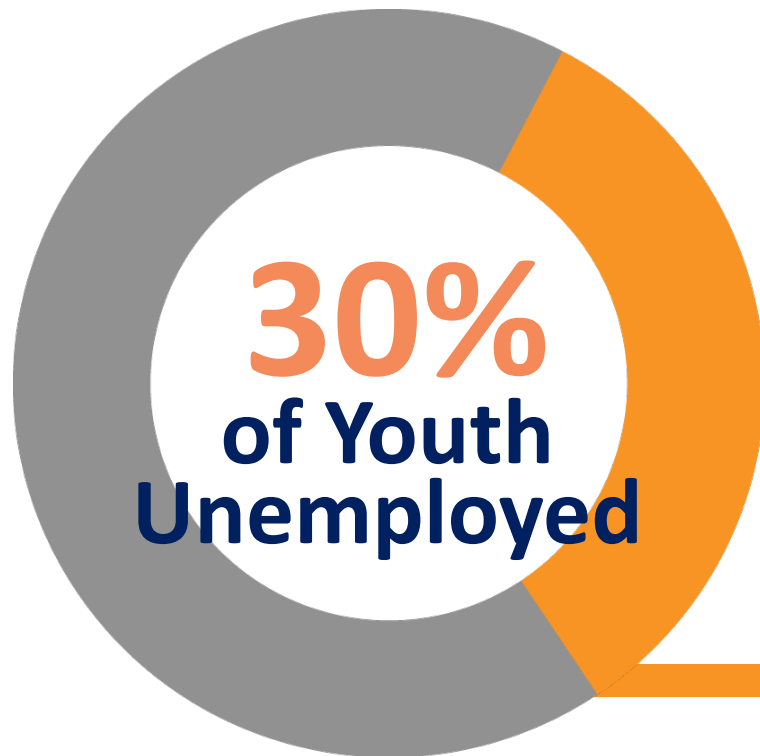
60%

of the Total Population

71 million in 2015
estimated to reach
92 million by 2030



Severe Youth Unemployment



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



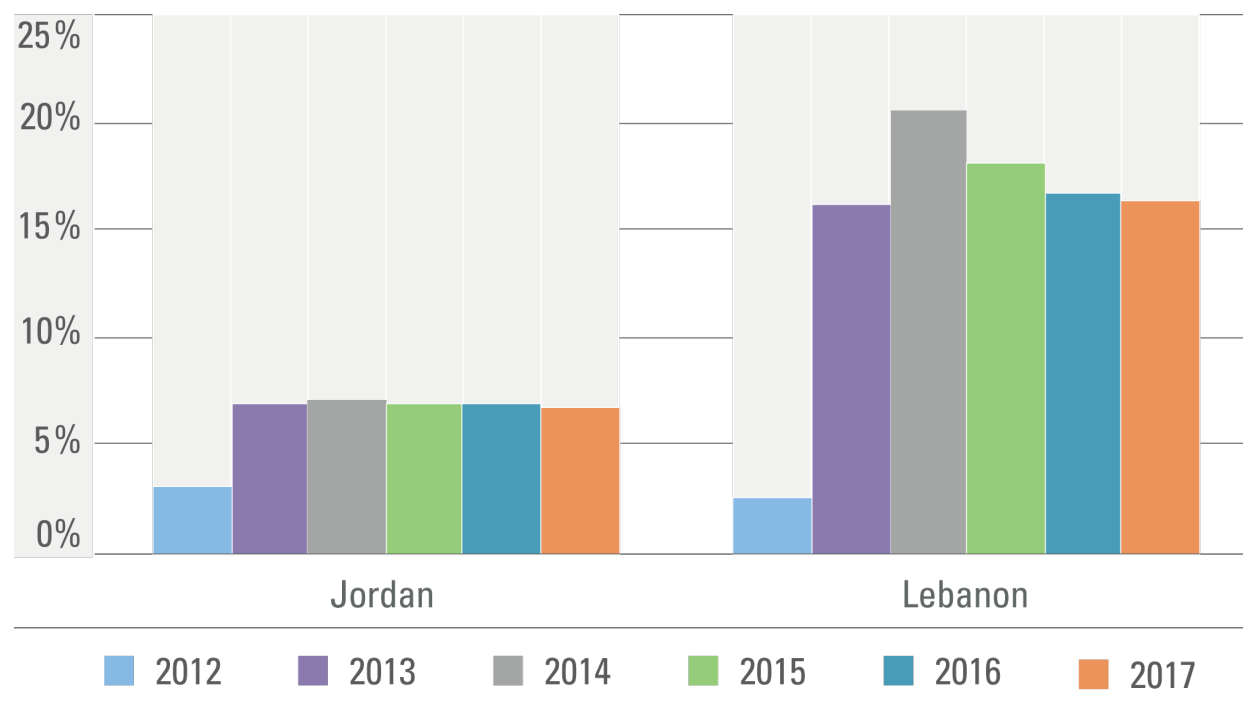
15 million IDPs + 14 million Arab refugees globally
There are 9 million Arab refugees in the Arab region

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



Source: ESCWA calculations, based on data from UNHCR

Note: These figures include registered refugees only

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



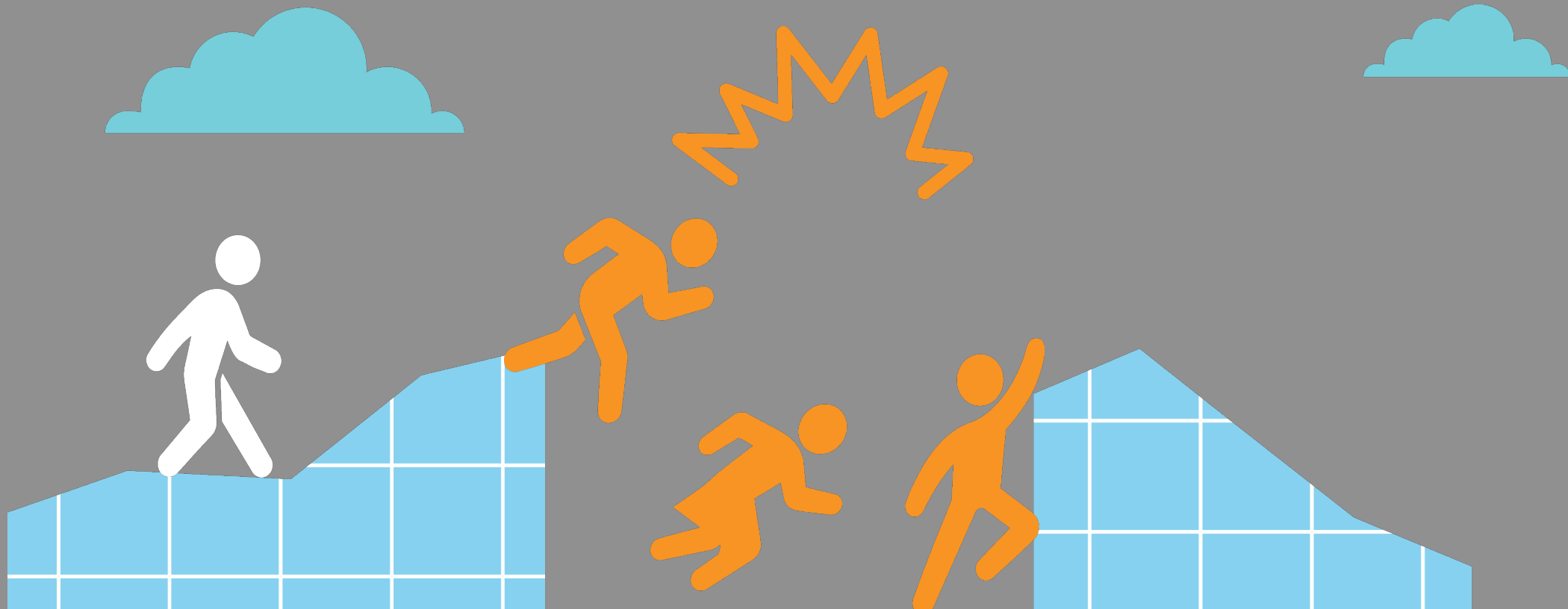
Engaging Youth with Policies, Programmes & Investments

Properly Addressed = Economic Growth & Stability



Engaging Youth with Policies, Programmes & Investments

Poorly Addressed = Challenge to Stability & Crisis



Ageing with Dignity

Ageing Population Should Not Be Ignored

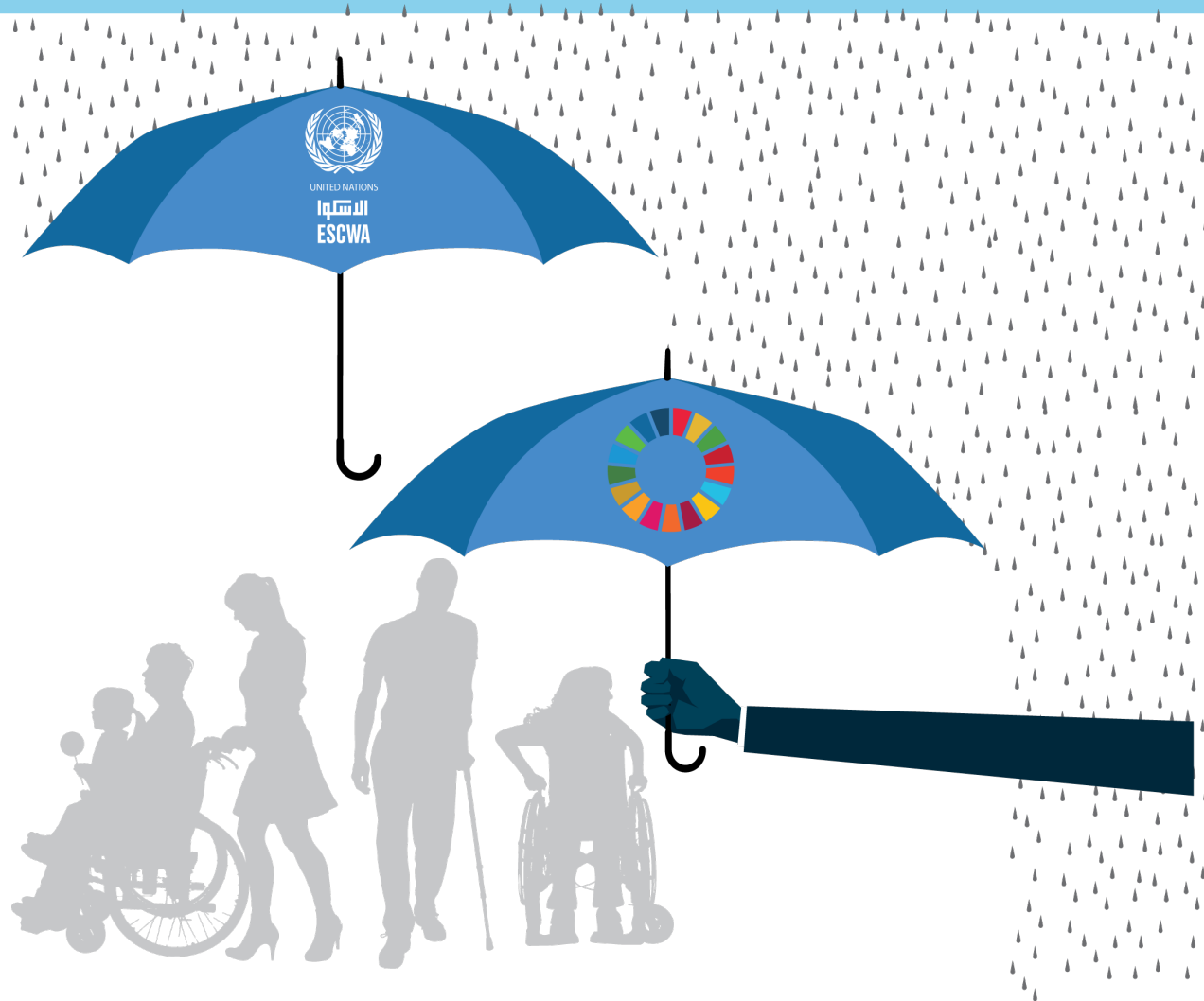
ESCWA analysis on population and development emphasizes that **older persons are an asset** and can contribute to supporting families, communities and countries



Ageing with Dignity

Ageing Population Should Not Be Ignored

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**



Rethinking Fiscal Policy

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



Social Expenditure Monitor

ESCWA is developing a comprehensive

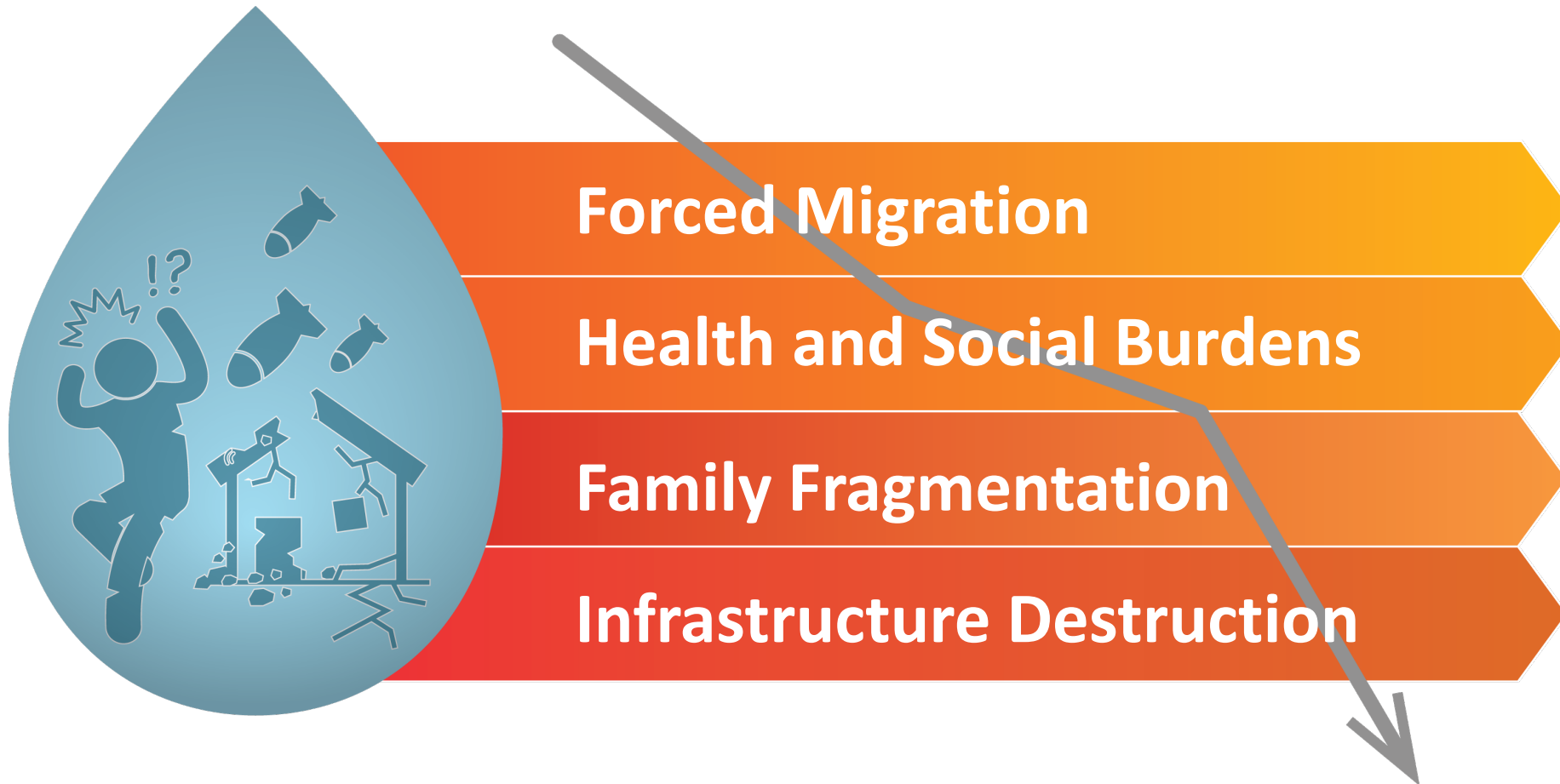
Social Expenditure Monitor:

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



Thank you



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