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Human Development in the Arab Region

Regional United Nations Development Group Arab States/ MENA

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WHO Regional Office

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Arab Human Development Report 2016



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Youth in the Arab Region:
Prospects for Human Development in a Changing Reality



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Arab Human Development Report 2016

Youth in the Arab Region: Prospects for Human Development in a Changing Reality



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Chapter 1: Youth and Human Development in Arab Countries: the Challenges of Transitions

Chapter 2: Values and Civic Participation

Chapter 3: Education and the Transition to Work

Chapter 4: Young Women Inclusion and Empowerment

Chapter 5: Health Status and Access to Health Services

Chapter 6: The Effects of War and Conflict on Youth

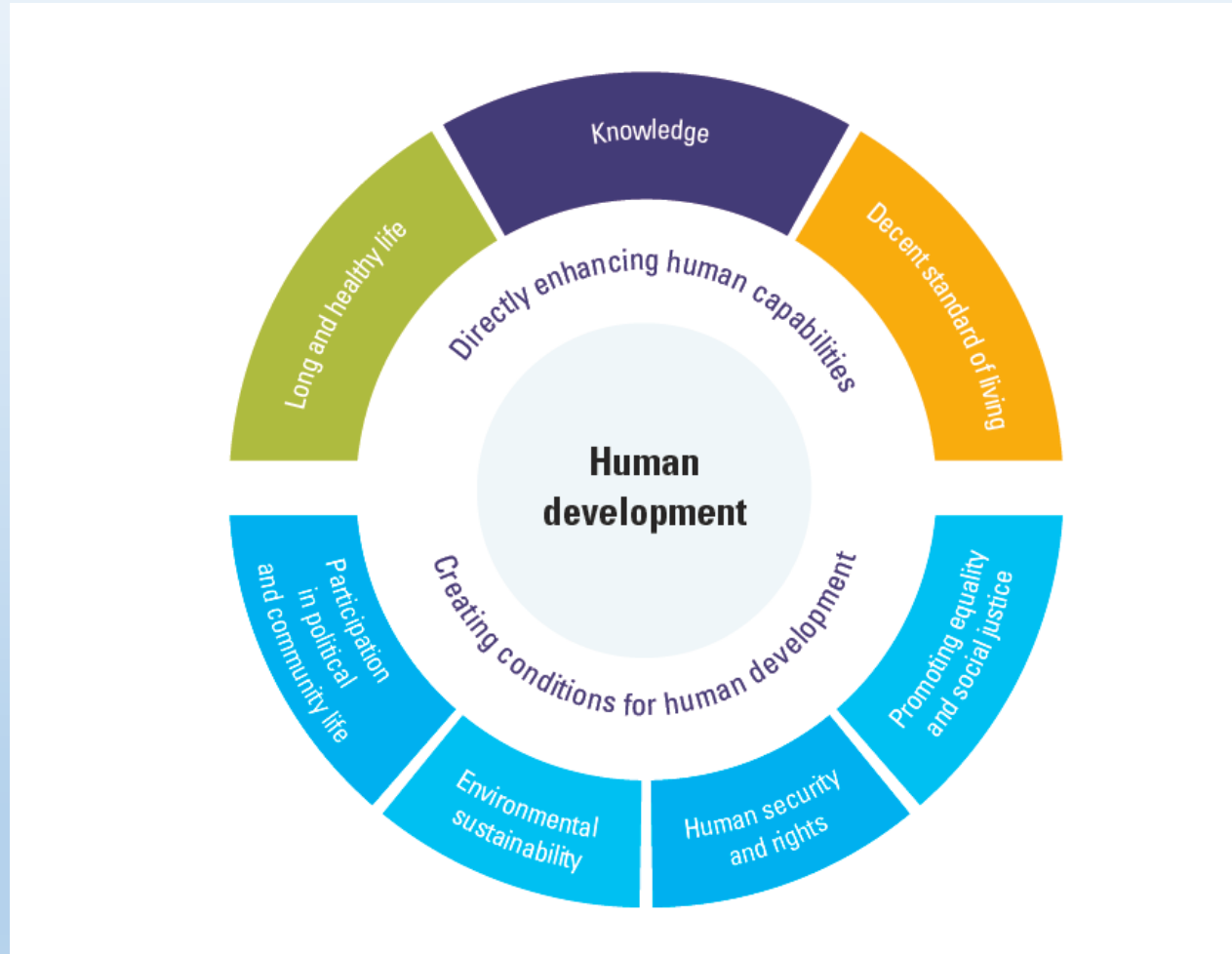
Chapter 7: Exclusion, Mobility and Migration

Chapter 8: Empowering Youth Securing the Future: Towards an Arab Development Model Fit for Youth

Dimensions of Human Development



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Source: HDR 2015

2. Status of Human Development in Arab countries



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- ❑ According to the 2015 Global Human Development Report, out of 188 countries, Arab countries rank in the range between 32 (Qatar) and 168 (Djibouti).
- ❑ 5 of 22 Arab countries are classified among the “very high human development”, and 5 among the “low human development”.

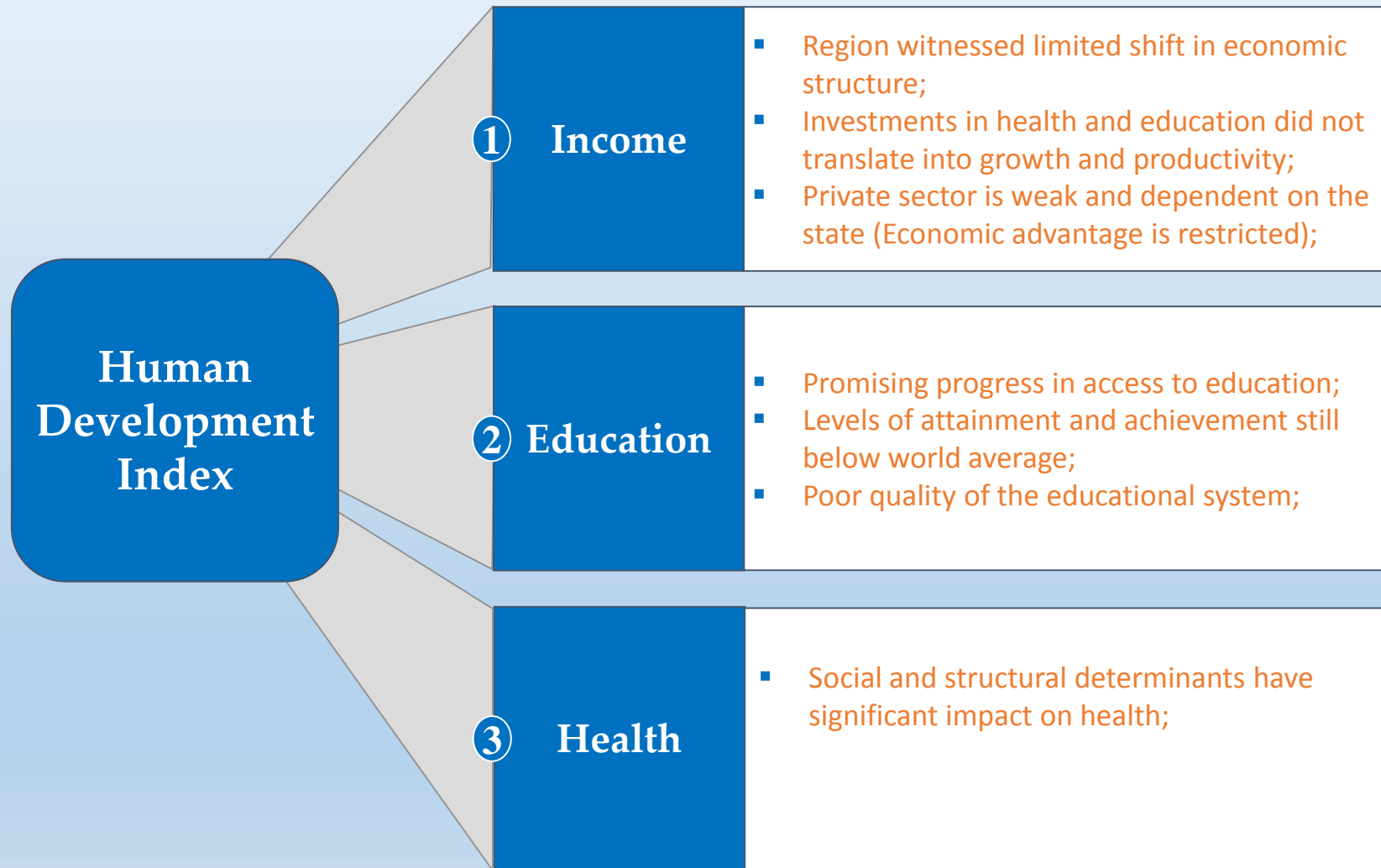
Human Development level	Country
Very high Human development	Bahrain, Kuwait, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, UAE
High Human development	Algeria, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Oman, Tunisia
Medium Human development	Egypt, Iraq, Morocco, Palestine, Syria
Low Human development	Comoros, Djibouti, Mauritania, Sudan, Yemen

**No HDI value for Somalia*

...Status of HD in the Arab Region



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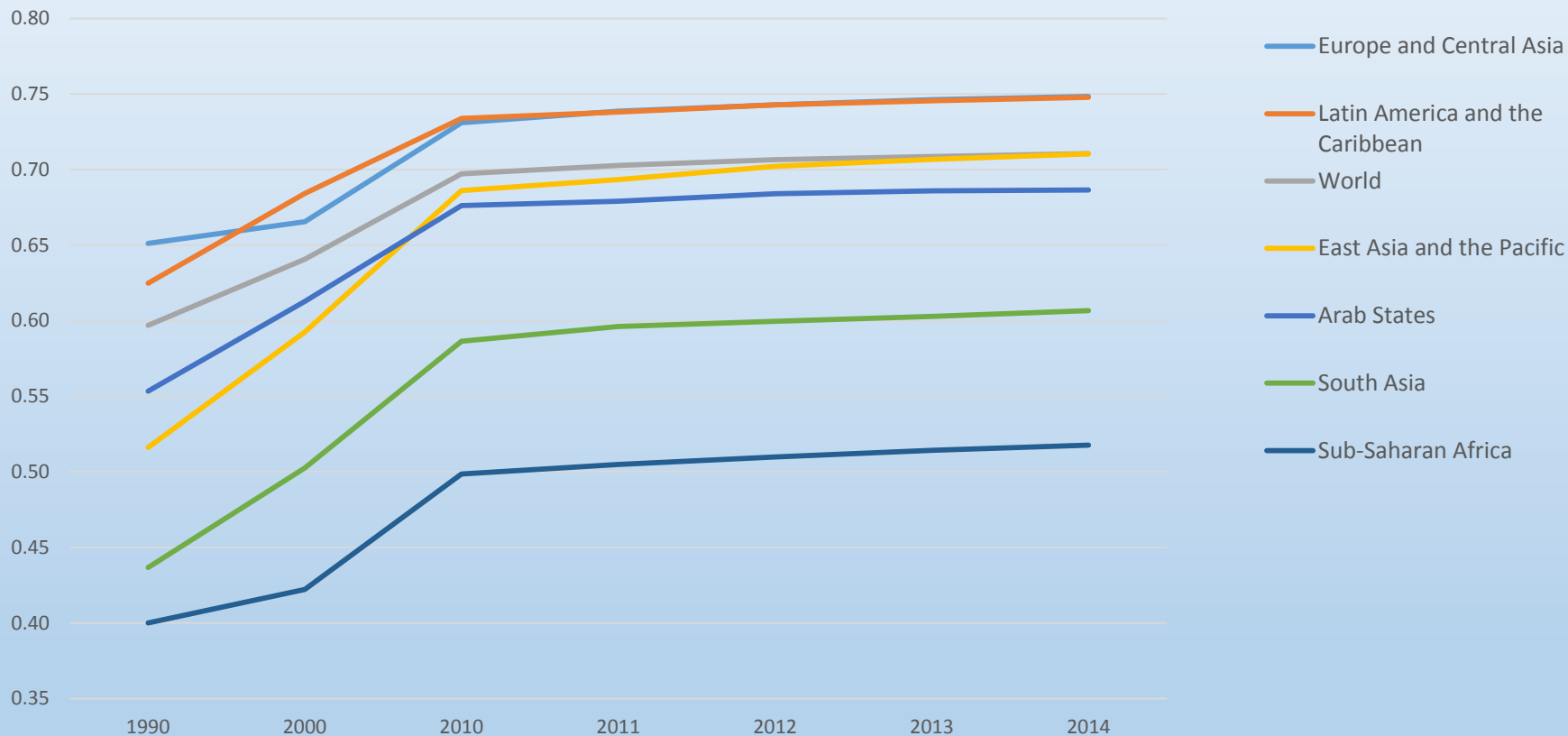


A comparison of HD by Region

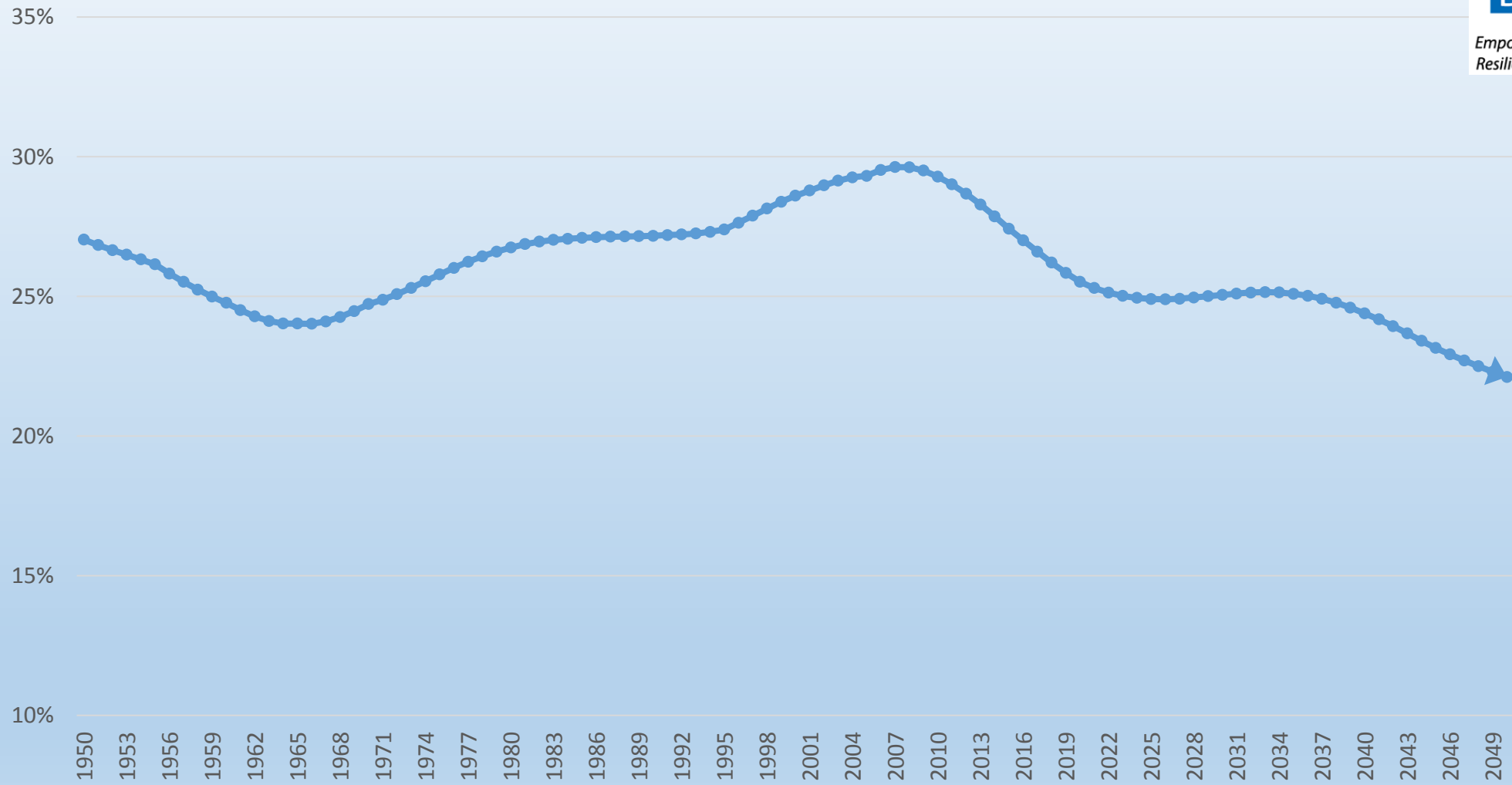


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HDI trend

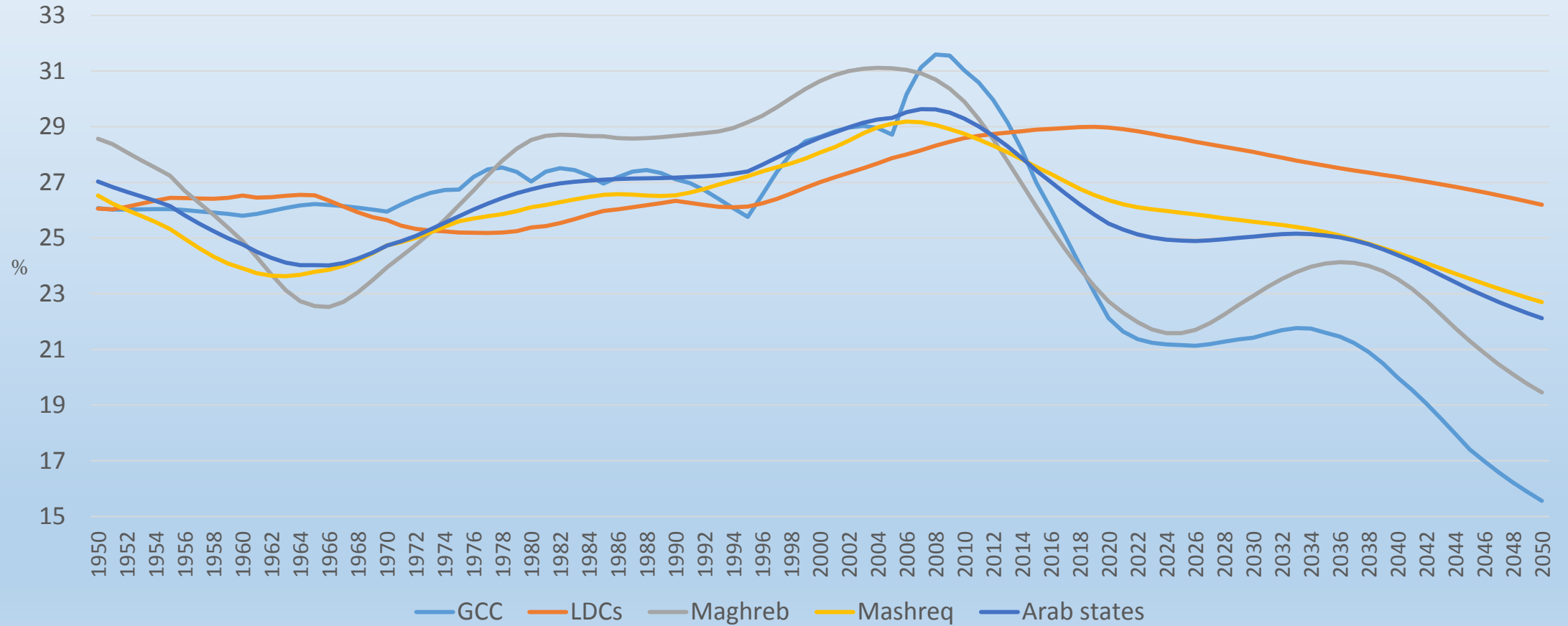


Evolution of the Share of Youth (15-29) in the total Population, Arab region



Source: UNDESA. WPP (2012 revision)

Evolution of the Share of Youth (15-29) in the total Population, Arab sub-regions, 1950-2050





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Demographically....

The Arab region has experienced the highest population growth rate in the past 50 years.

Due to high fertility rates and declining infant mortality rates, the current youth generation in the Arab world is historically the largest youth cohort.

In a region of 370 million:

- **60%** of the population is below the age of 29
- **29%** of the population is aged 15-29 years (105 million)
- **19%** of the population is aged 15-24 years
- **51.5%** of youth 15-29 currently lives in 4 countries:
Egypt 21.6%, Sudan 10.4%, Algeria 10.2% and Iraq 9.3%

The region's demography will continue to be dominated by such a young cohort for the next two or three decades at best... a blink of an eye in the history of the Arab world.

1970–1990 and 1990–2010: the biggest rise in youth populations in the Arab region



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	Youth population increase, 15–29 years									
	1950–1970	Increase as % of total population, 1970	1970–1990	Increase as % of total population, 1990	1990–2010	Increase as % of total population, 2010	2010–2030	Increase as % of total population, 2030	2030–2050	Increase as % of total population, 2050
Sub-Saharan Africa	25,521	9%	55,832	11%	101,473	12%	154,835	11%	174,896	8%
Arab states	11,085	9%	29,458	13%	41,800	12%	20,208	4%	11,326	2%
Africa	32,583	9%	73,303	12%	121,189	12%	162,809	10%	178,810	7%
Latin America & the Caribbean	29,189	10%	52,018	12%	31,860	5%	2,286	0%	-13,110	-2%
Asia	169,880	8%	378,188	12%	192,653	5%	-57,138	-1%	-76,549	-1%
Oceania	1,921	10%	1,975	7%	1,526	4%	1,663	4%	1,413	2%
Northern America	16,429	7%	9,816	3%	6,477	2%	2,896	1%	7,471	2%
China	70,146	9%	146,539	13%	-6,248	0%	-95,377	-7%	-38,726	-3%
Europe	6,452	1%	15,792	2%	-13,312	-2%	-26,805	-4%	-8,315	-1%
Japan	6,652	6%	-2,167	-2%	-6,418	-5%	-3,738	-3%	-2,044	-2%

Total population (thousands), 15-29 years, Arab states

1950	19709.99
1970	30795.20
1990	60253.48
2000	79467.52
2010	102053.03
2020	107598.78
2030	122261.33
2040	133919.67
2050	133587.48

Youth in the Arab countries are increasingly living in urban areas...

- ❑ 81.9 % in Jordan
- ❑ 67.4 % in Tunisia
- ❑ 41.5 % in Egypt



The Arab region is one of the most urbanized regions in the world
(**57%** of the region's **370** million residents live in cities)

Young Arabs growing up in slums and informal settlements, and are increasingly subject to social exclusion, violence and pervasive poverty.

They are increasingly on the move in search of better opportunities due to:

- Lack of decent employment;
- Low wages;
- Conflict and political instability.

They are increasingly connected to the world through information technology:

- 67% Among people with Facebook accounts, 67% are youth aged 15–29.
- 59% get their news from online sources (vs. 24% from newspapers)
- 50%+ are active on twitter
- 46% read blogs / 18% have their own blogs

What do we know about Arab Youth (15-29 years)?

- Demography*
- Health*
- Transition to adulthood ('Waithood')*
- Migration*
- Connectivity*
- Perceptions regarding:*
 - *Challenges they face*
 - *Religion*
 - *Da'esh (ISIS)*
 - *Democracy*
 - *Gender equality*
 - *Migration*
 - *Employment*
 - *Adulthood*

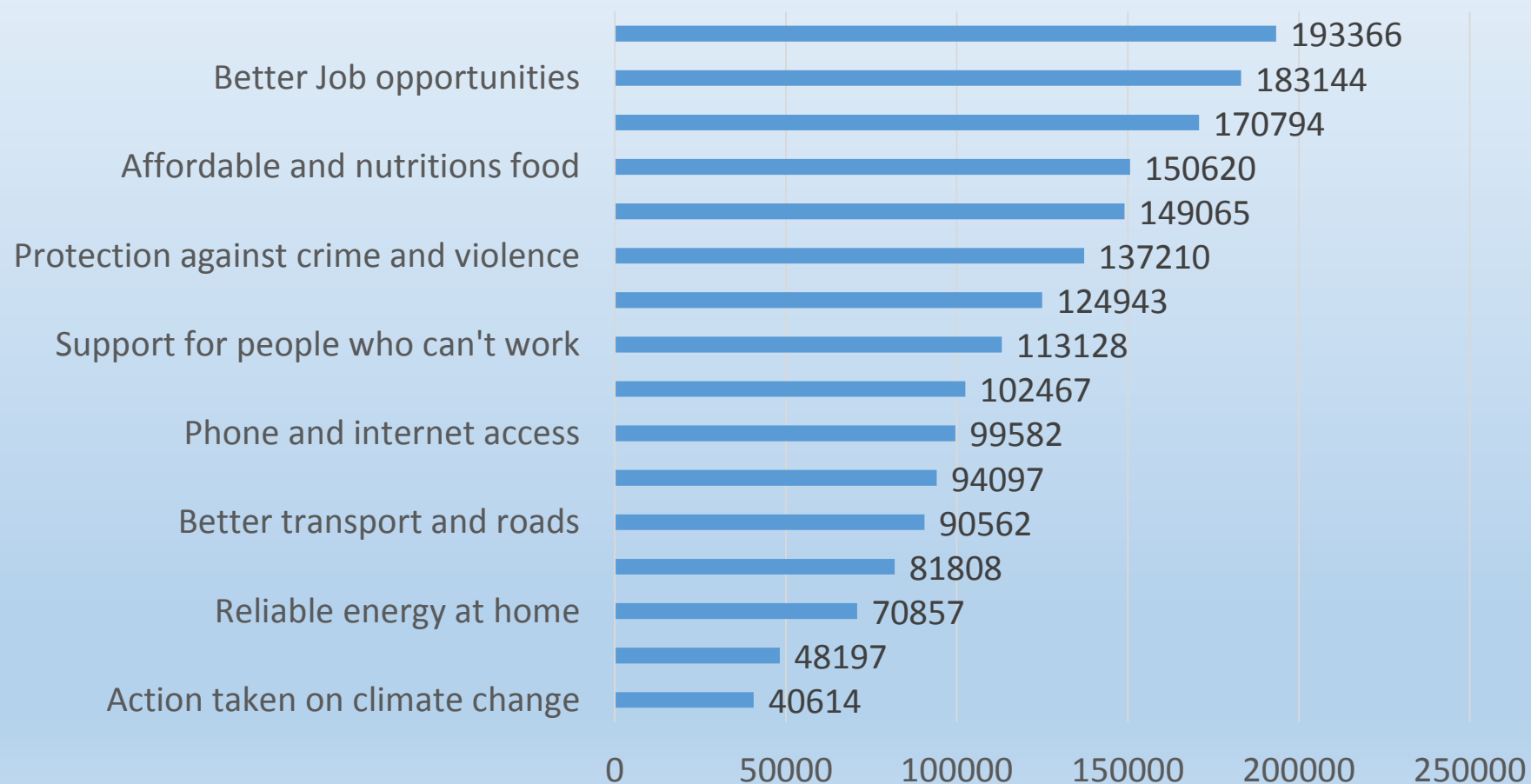


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Youth priorities for the post-2015 development agenda around issues that would make the greatest difference to their lives



Volatile transitions post 2011

What are the most important challenges your country faces today (%)?

	The economic situation (poverty, unemployment, and price increases)	Financial and administrative corruption	Enhancing (strengthening) democracy	Achieving stability and internal security	<i>Other</i>
Algeria	76.9	14.9	2.7	3.3	2.2
Egypt	87.6	6.5	1.4	1.3	3.1
Iraq	52.5	32.5	3.5	9.7	1.7
Jordan	81.0	14.0	1.1	0.7	3.3
Kuwait	56.5	25.3	9.4	0.9	8.0
Lebanon	60.6	24.4	3.5	7.1	4.3
Libya	23.1	32.3	2.3	0.7	41.6
Morocco	83.9	9.6	2.1	0.8	3.6
Palestine	50.3	8.7	1.3	3	36.6
Sudan	74.2	17.2	2.3	3.4	2.8
Tunisia	88.4	8.6	0.7	0.9	1.6
Yemen	74.6	17.1	3.9	2.8	1.6

Source: Arab Barometer 2012–2014.

Reasons for delayed adulthood, 2009

	1 Affordable and Available housing	2 Quality Jobs	3 Cost of Marriage	Don't know/ refused
Egypt	10.3%	84.2%	5.0%	0.5%
Jordan	11.4%	82.2%	5.5%	0.9%
Yemen	7.7%	81.7%	8.8%	1.8%
Tunisia	12.6%	80.0%	5.4%	1.9%
Comoros	8.4%	79.2%	9.9%	2.5%
Palestine	10.8%	77.8%	8.4%	3.0%
Sudan	10.7%	76.2%	9.1%	4.0%
Lebanon	17.4%	74.1%	6.1%	2.4%
Syria	15.0%	72.6%	5.6%	6.8%
Mauritania	14.8%	69.7%	7.1%	8.3%
Djibouti	22.1%	69.3%	8.3%	0.3%
UAE	21.1%	67.6%	6.4%	4.8%
Iraq	22.6%	62.7%	10.1%	4.6%
Bahrain	26.2%	61.0%	9.6%	3.2%
Qatar	20.7%	60.0%	13.4%	5.9%
Saudi Arabia	28.2%	59.3%	9.7%	2.8%
Morocco	24.2%	59.0%	8.4%	8.4%
Algeria	30.7%	54.7%	10.9%	3.7%
Kuwait	33.1%	54.1%	7.8%	5.1%

Gallup World Poll Data Set

Inequality of educational attainment

Simulated probabilities of 12–17-year-olds attending school and reaching secondary level, by family background

	Ever attending school (%)				Reaching secondary school (%)			
	Most vulnerable		Most advantaged		Most vulnerable		Most advantaged	
	Boy	Girl	Boy	Girl	Boy	Girl	Boy	Girl
Egypt	83	75	100	100	54	43	100	99
Iraq	38	24	100	100	8	3	94	96
Jordan	99	89	100	100	52	46	91	100
Palestine	81	66	100	99	25	31	92	93
Syria	91	79	100	100	17	10	93	96
Tunisia	100	95	100	100	41	30	100	99
Yemen	40	6	100	99	27	4	99	99

Source: Assaad, Salehi-Isfahani, and Hendy 2014.

Note: Predicted probabilities of ever entering school and reaching secondary school by synthetic backgrounds of rural, illiterate parents, in lowest wealth quintile (most vulnerable); and urban parents with above secondary education in top wealth quintile (most advantaged). Sample covers children 12–17 years of age who live with their parents

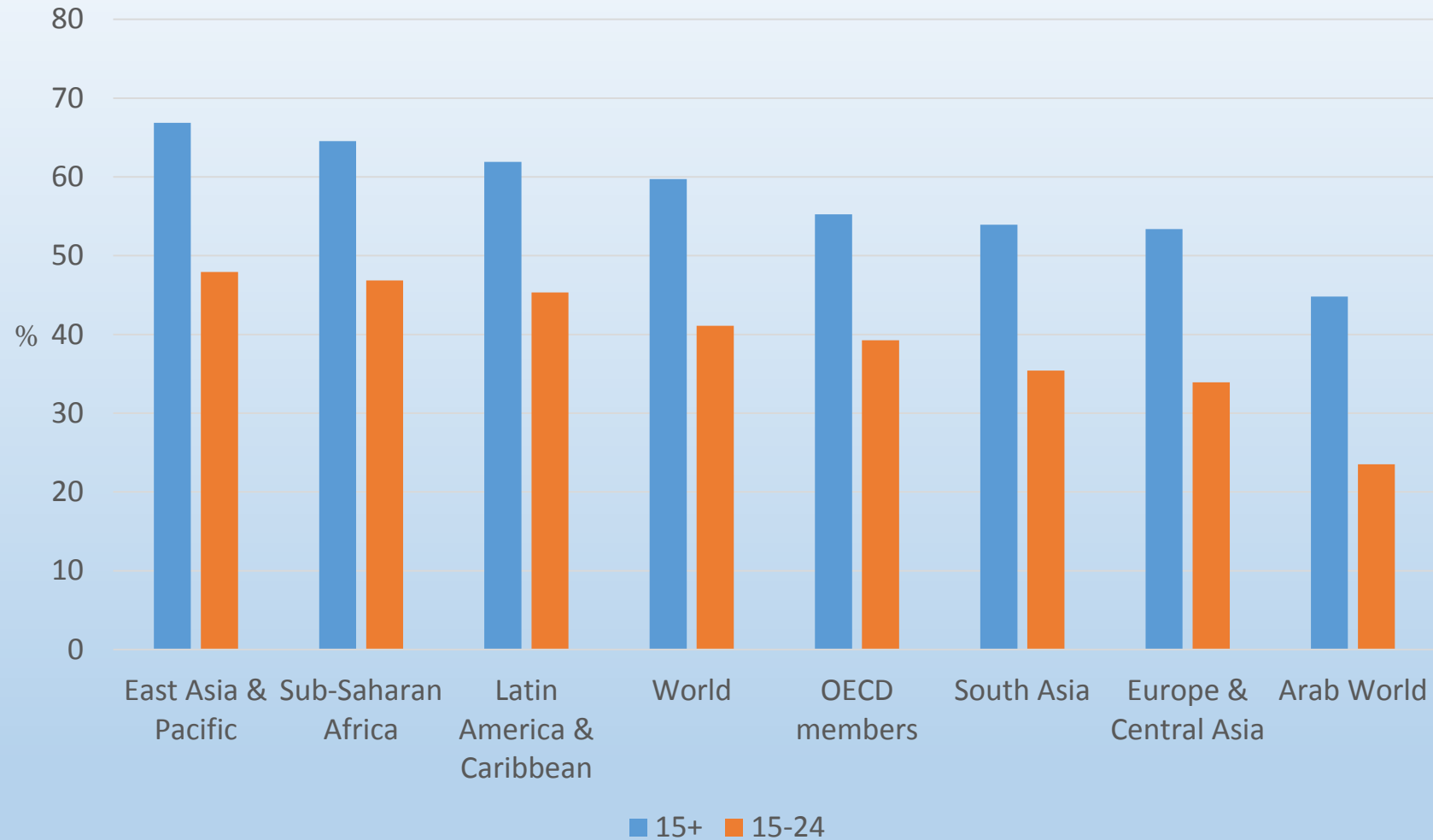


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Employment to population ratio, 2014 (modeled ILO estimate)

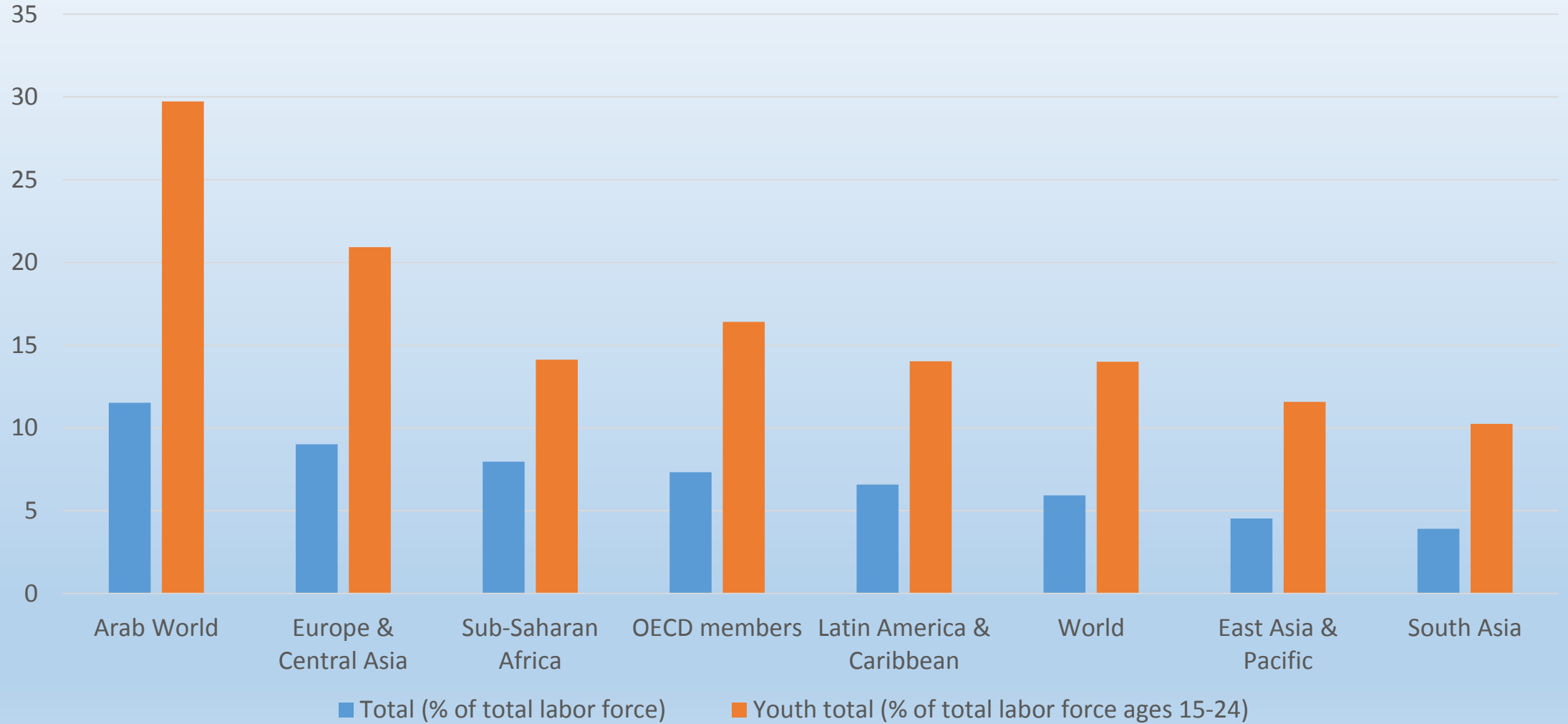


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Source: World Bank. WDI 2015.

Unemployment, 2014, (modeled ILO estimate)

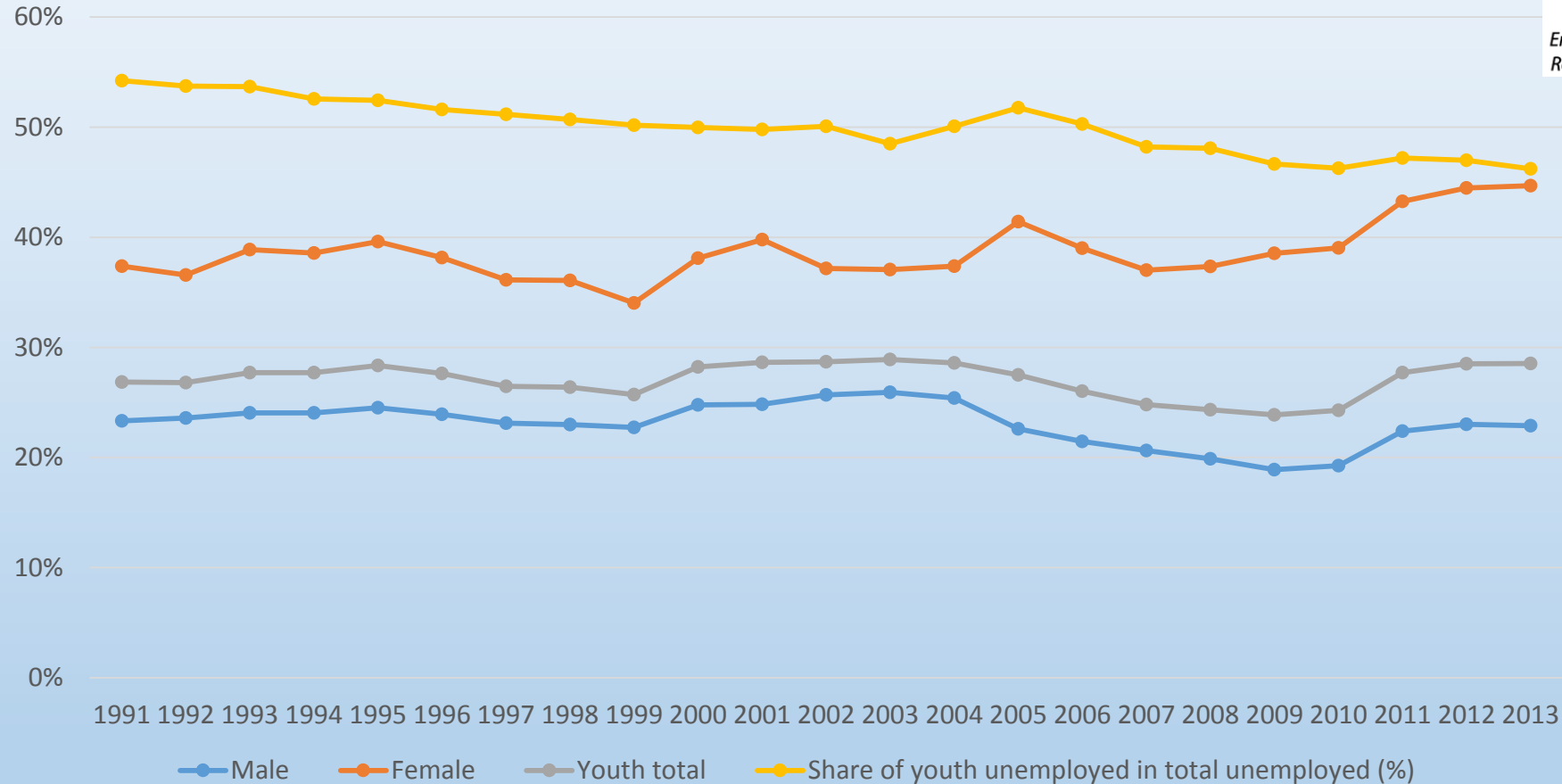


Unemployment Rate (%), Female Youth (15-24 years)

(Twice that of male youth in the last 5 years)

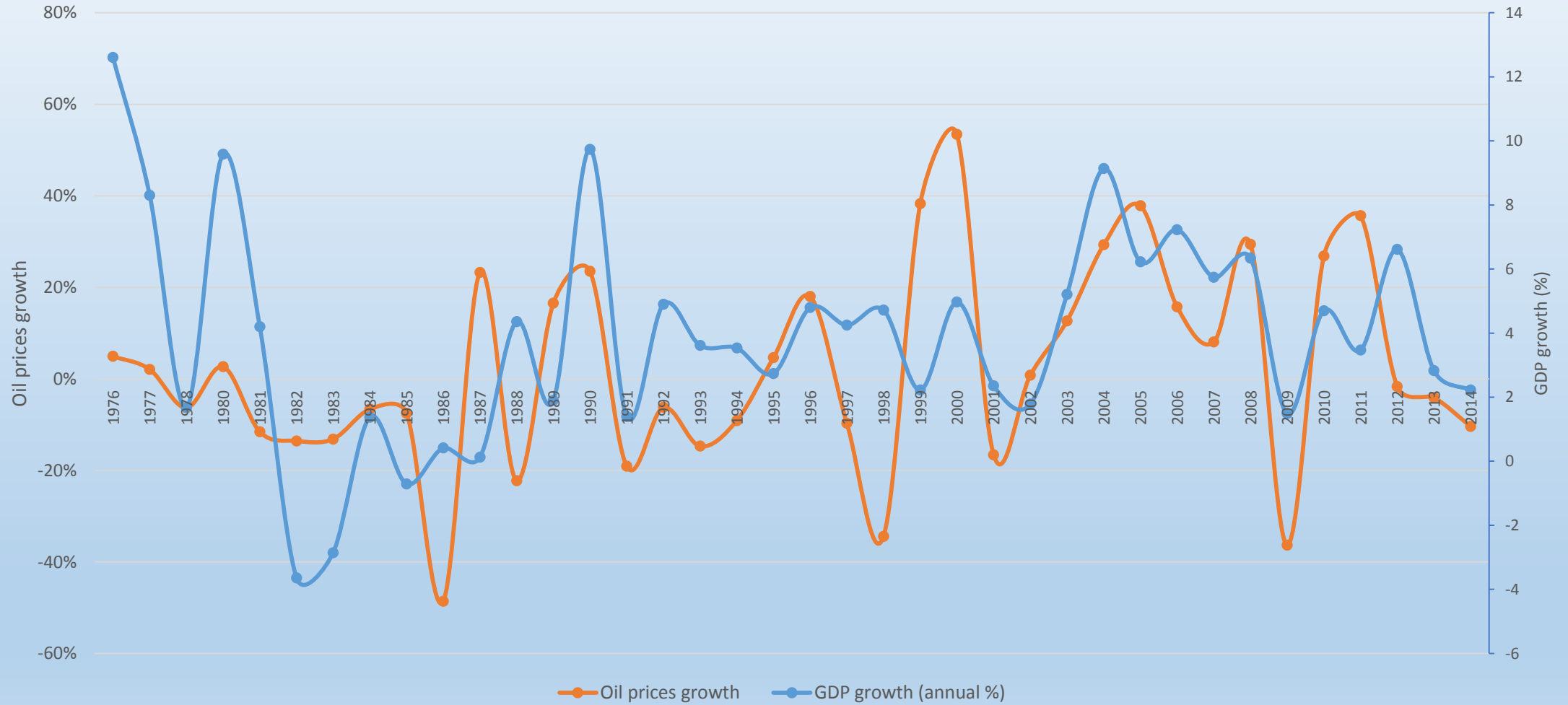


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Source: Calculations based on ILO KILM database 2014.

Oil prices and regional growth intertwined

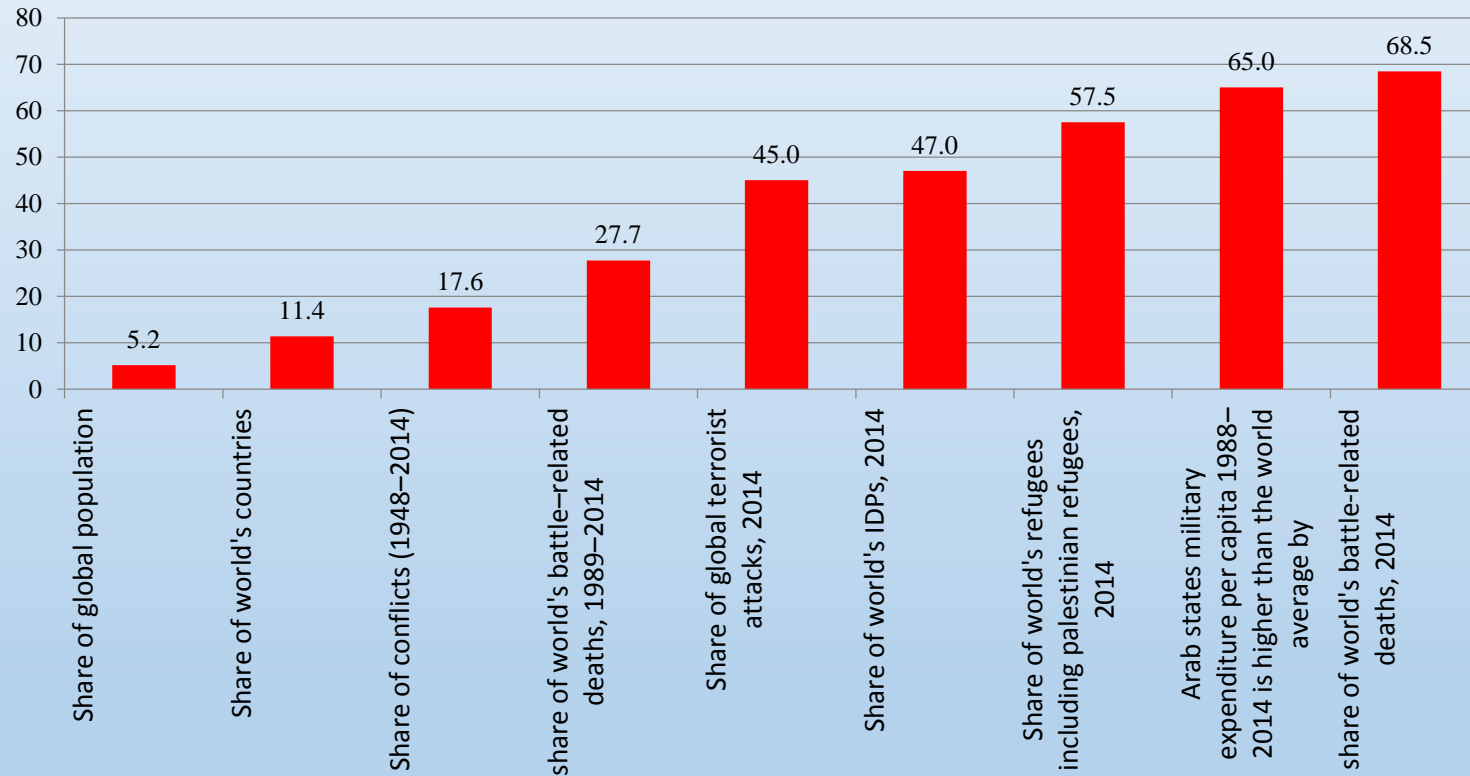


3.1 Conflict is *Human Development in reverse*



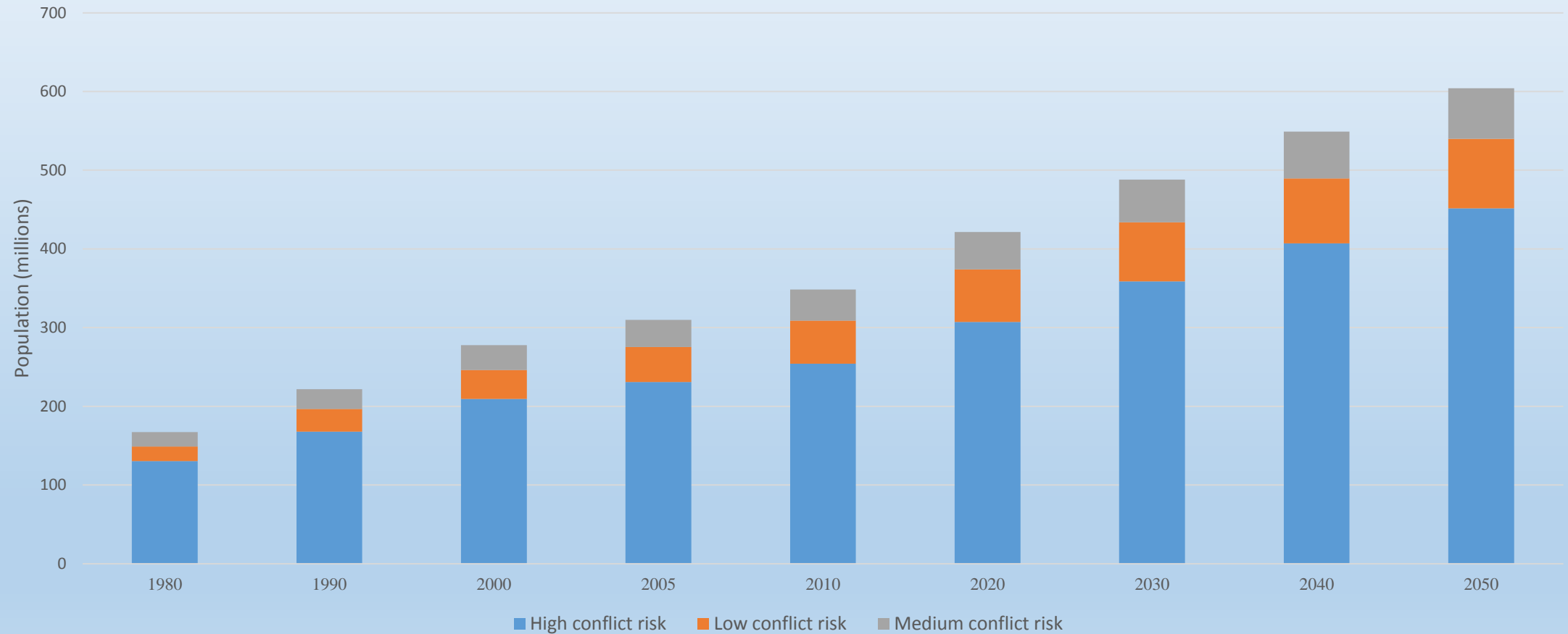
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The Arab region is home to 5% of the world's population, is also home to...



Source: AHDR Report team calculations based on START 2015, SIPRI 2015, UCDP/PRIO 2015, UCDP 2015, UN DESA 2013, and UNRWA 2015.

Arab countries most at risk of conflict have the largest populations in the region



Source: AHDR Report team calculations based on UNDESA 2013 and UCDP/PRIO 2014.

Some Arab countries are witnessing an **absolute collapse** in human development outcomes



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SYRIA

- 250K deaths
- 4.8M refugees (2016)
- 7.6M IDPs (2015)



YEMEN

- 2.8K deaths (2015)
- 172K refugees
- 2.5M IDPs (2016)
- 21.1M require humanitarian assistance

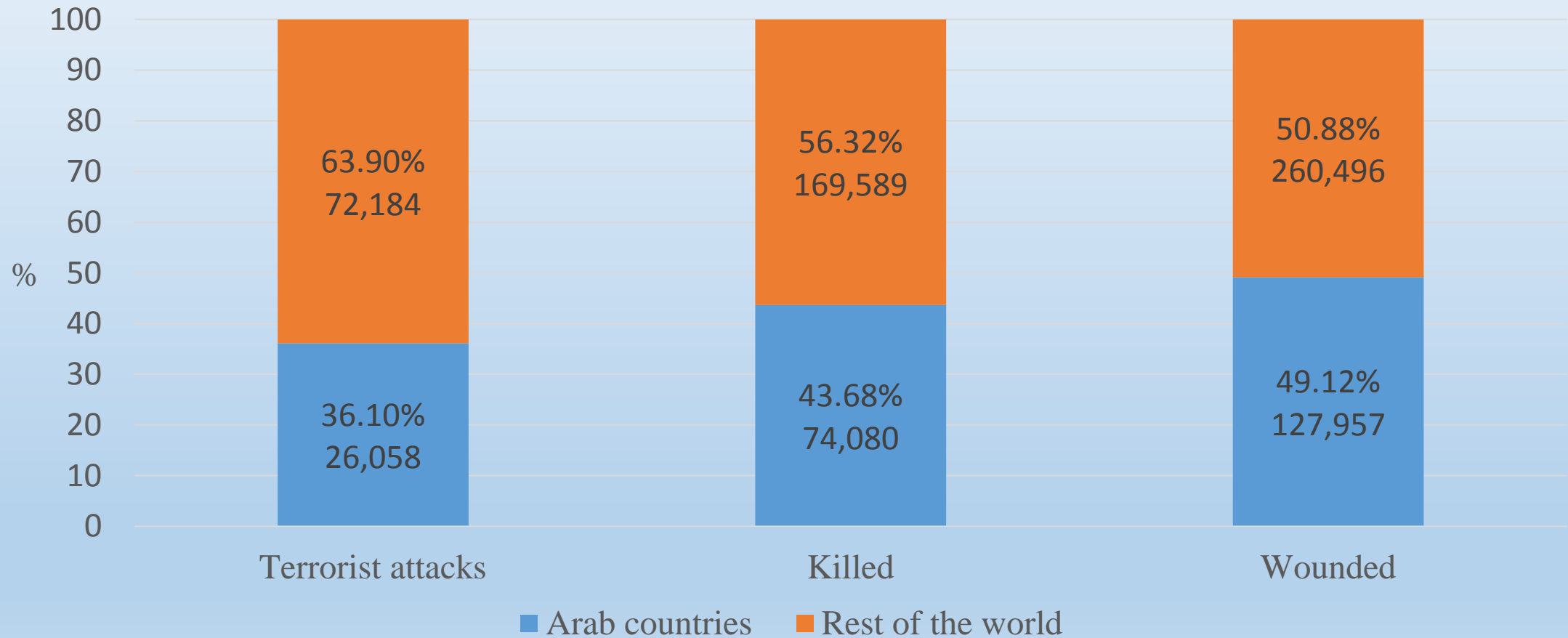


IRAQ

- 18.8K deaths Jan2014-Oct2015
- 3.3M IDPs
- 10M require humanitarian assistance

Terrorist attacks and their victims in the Arab region vs. rest of the world, 2000–2014

% of world total



Source: START 2015.

WHAT COULD BE DONE?

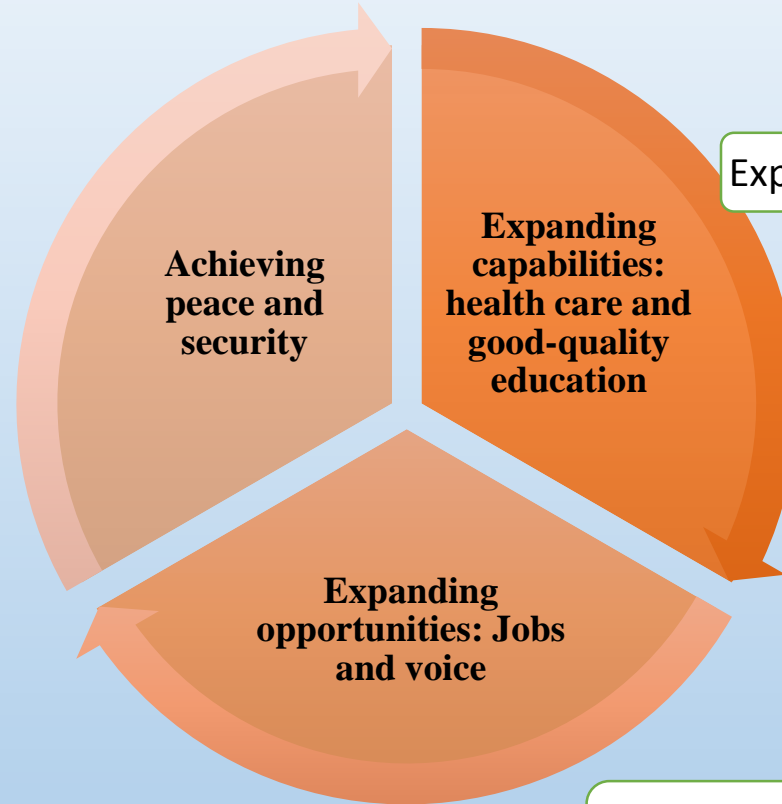
Development Model Fit 4 Youth



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Build a database of policy intervention strategies

Build awareness and **Collaborate** on achieving the Sustainable Development Goals



Expand the knowledge base

Develop the capacity of civically engaged youth



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The 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and 169 related targets address the most important economic, social, environmental and governance challenges of our time.

