



**United
Nations**

Overview of SDG 16 in the Arab region

Prepared by the governance team at ESCWA

15 October 2024

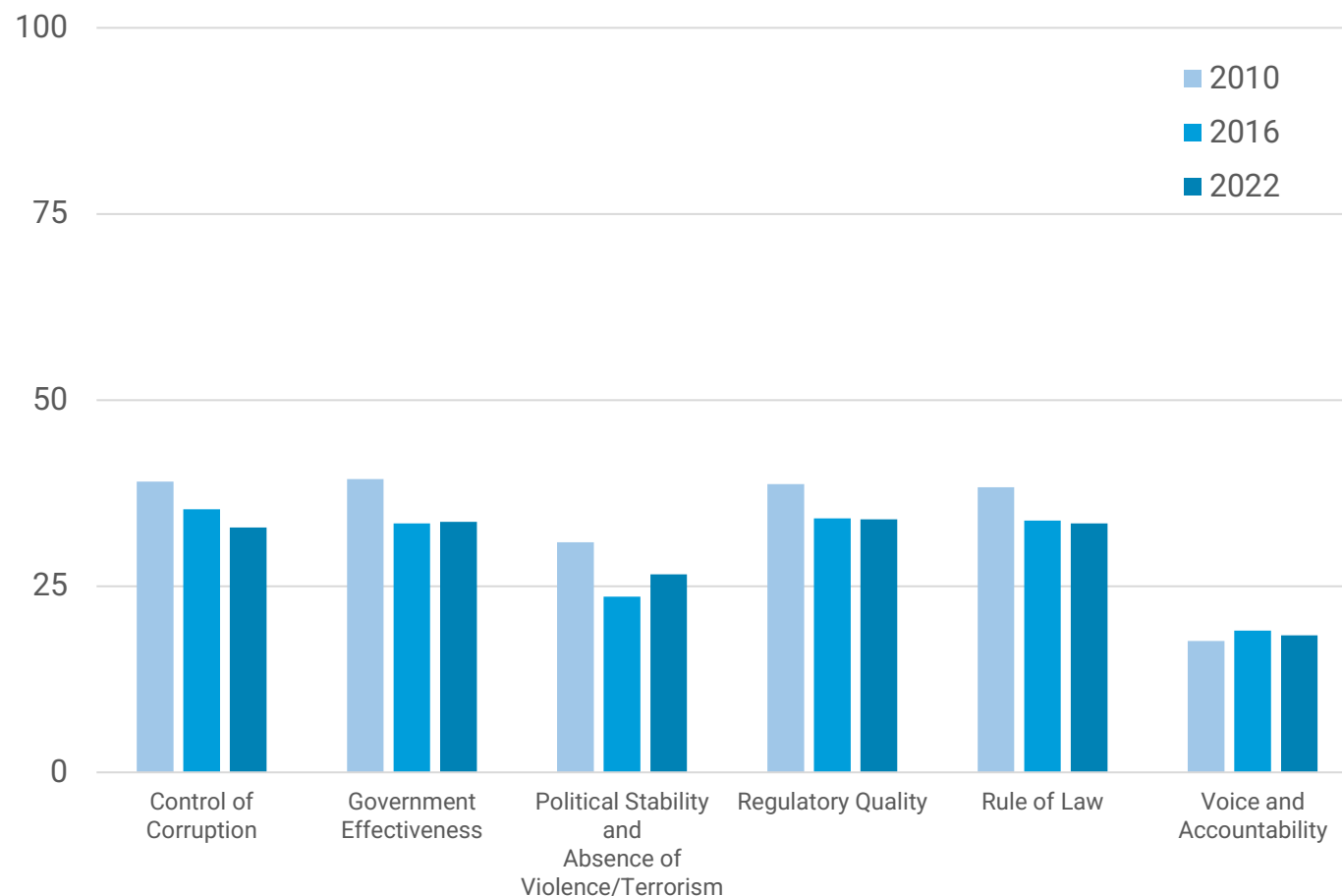
UN Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)

SDG 16: The Transformational Goal and Key to Ensuring that the Agenda can be Accomplished



Bridging the Gap in Public Governance

- Weak Governance Performance and Lags in Accountable and Effective Governments.
- Improvement in these indicators is necessary to achieve the targets set by SDG 16, reflecting the urgency of enhancing state-society relations.

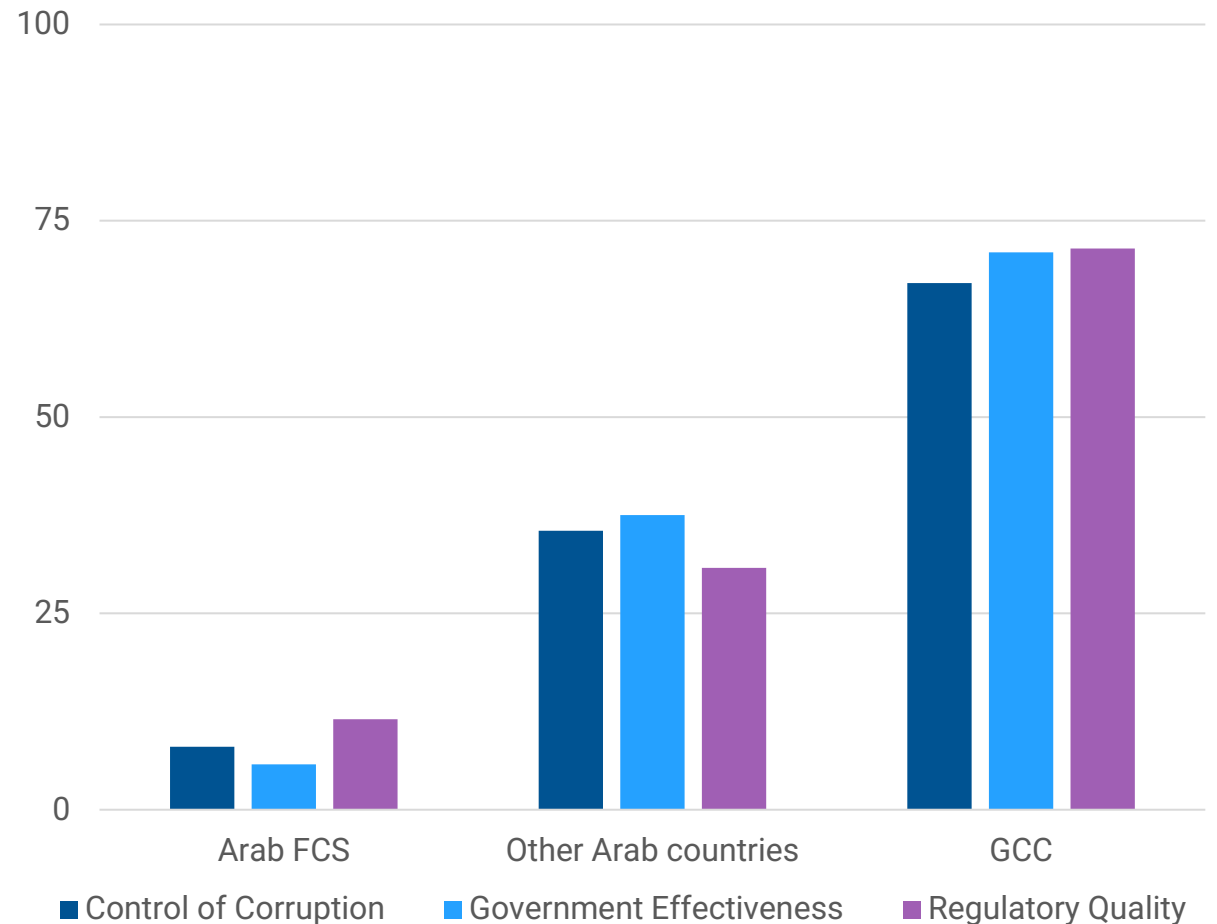


Source: ESCWA calculations, based on data from the World Bank.
* Simple averages of percentile rank, which range from 0 - 100



Governance performance varies within the region

- GCC perform above the global average
- Fragile and conflict-affected Arab states are among the worst performers globally

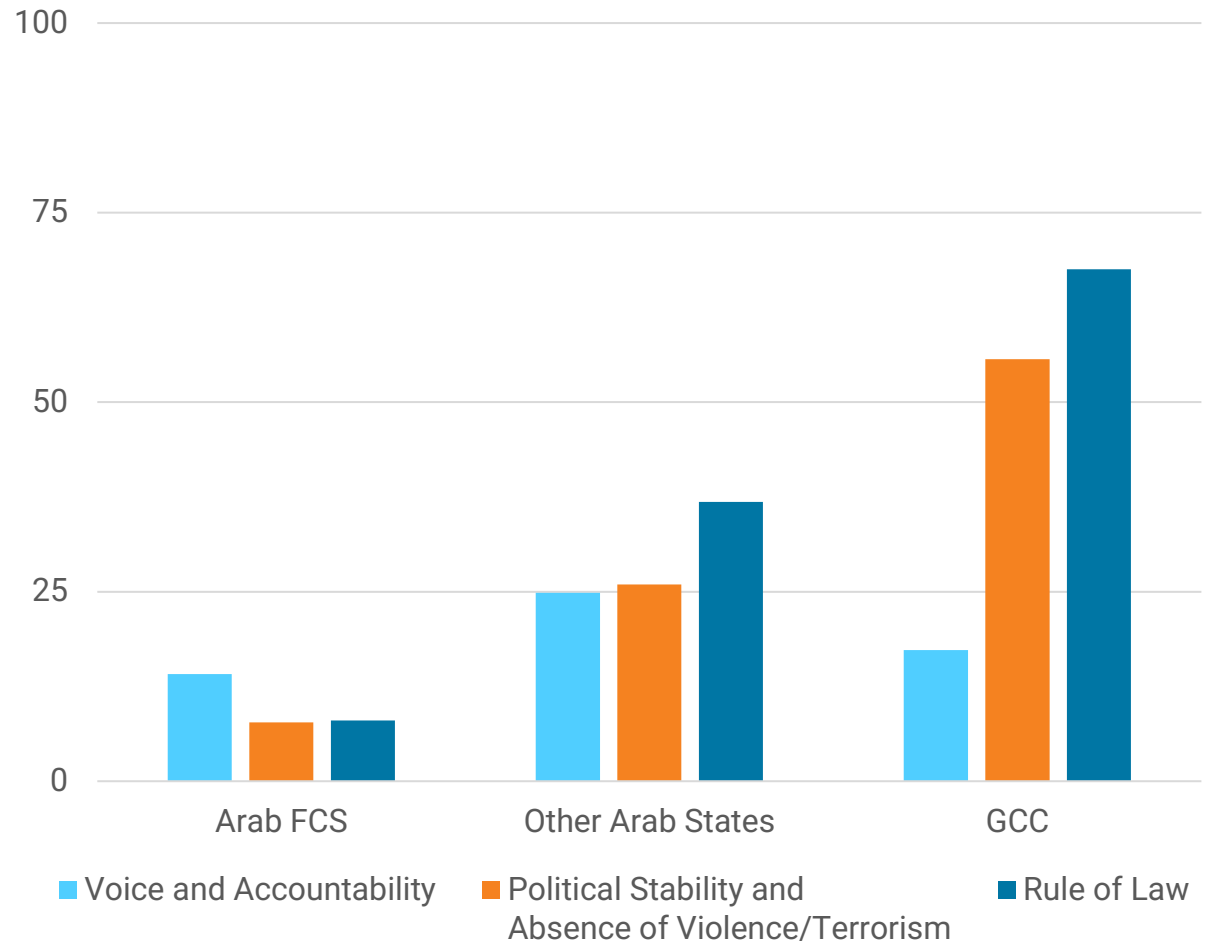


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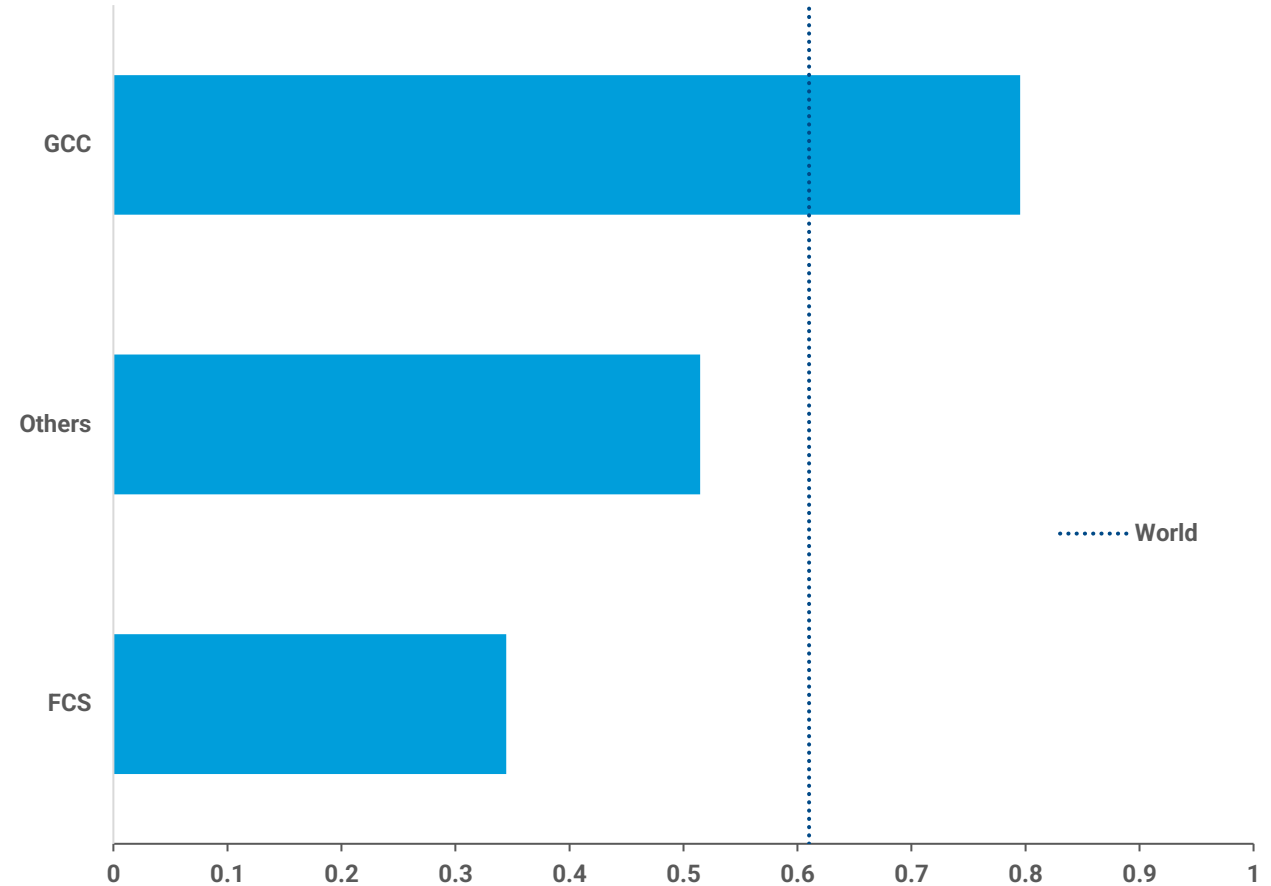


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Digitalization of government services

- Key tools for building effective and resilient institutions.
- Wide regional differences that tend to be explained by income levels and workforce composition.

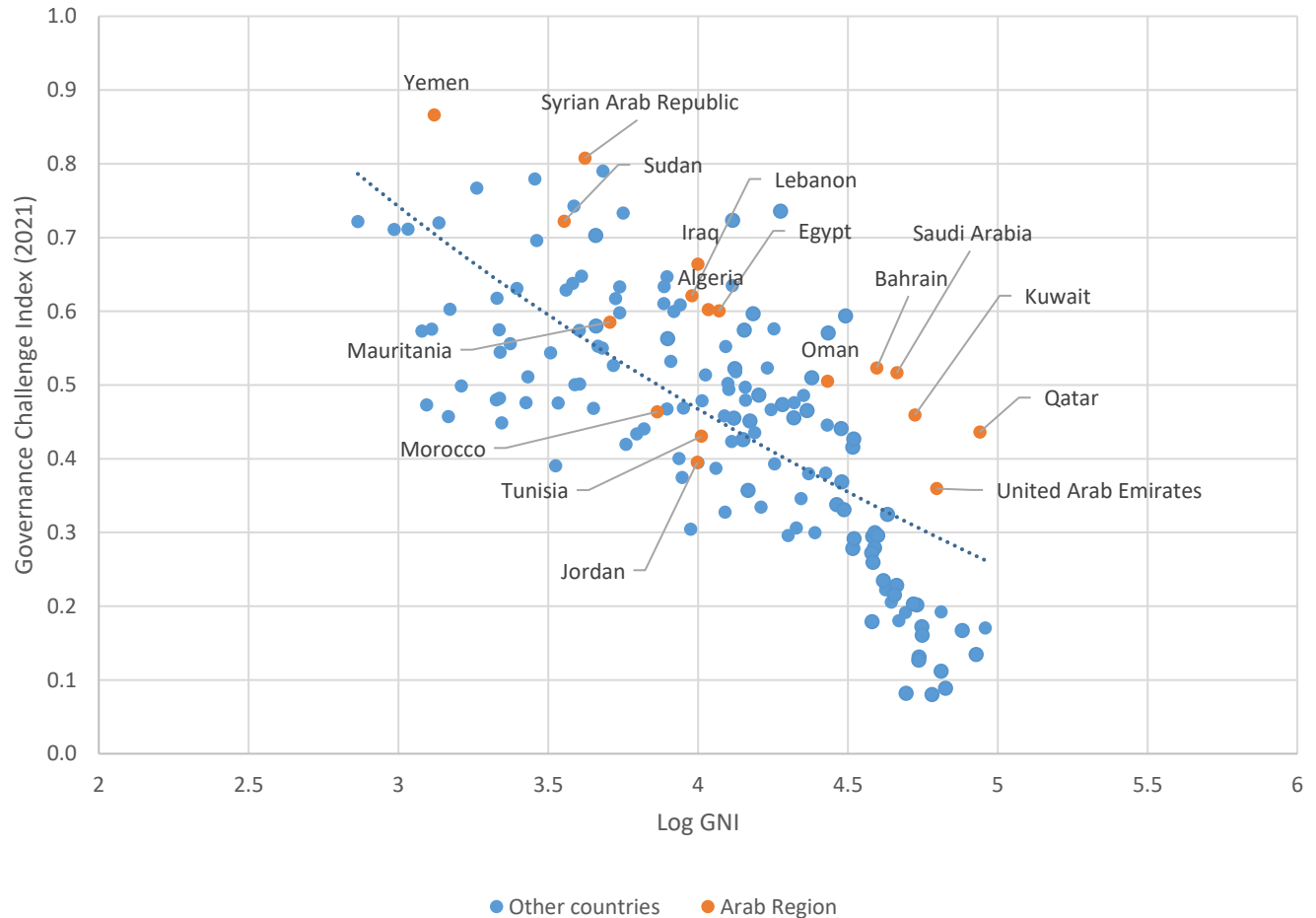


Source: Average E-Government Index Score (2022)



Higher Income, Lower Governance challenges:

- A general trend broken by Arab States
- Despite their income levels, Arab States underperform in governance indicators, when compare countries with similar incomes.

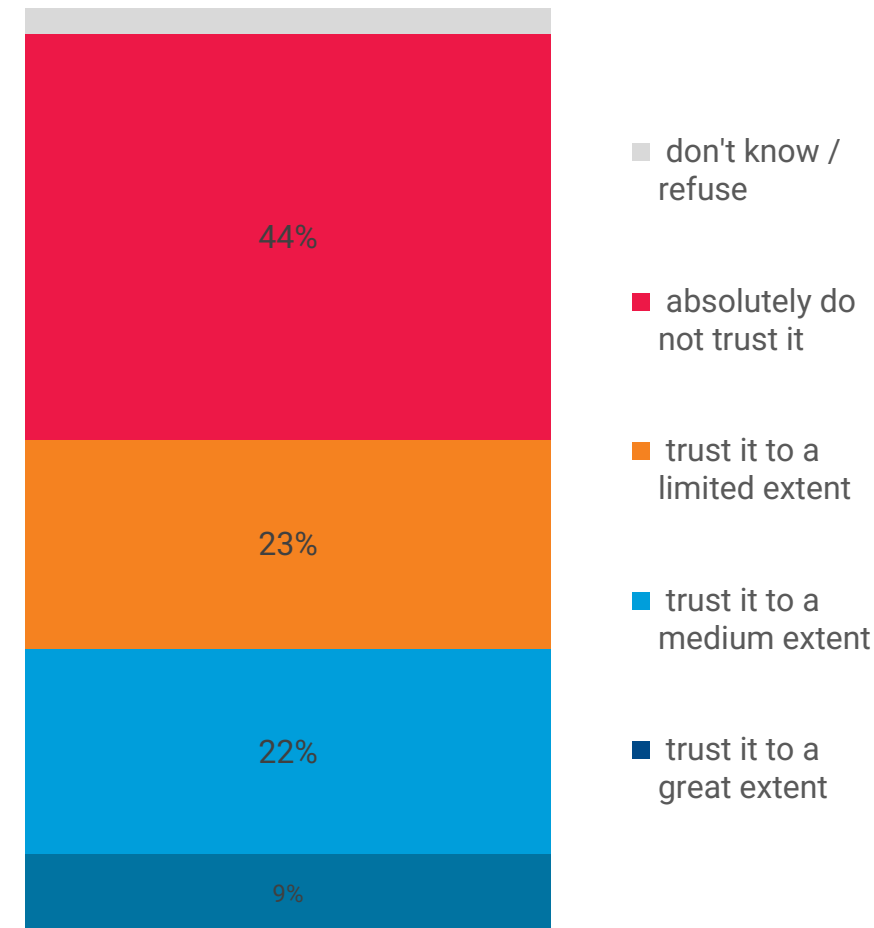


Source: ESCWA Development Challenges Report 2022



Low levels of trust in public institutions

- Across the Arab region, most people have low trust in the Government:
 - 44% absolutely does not trust it
 - 23% trust it only to a limited extent



Note: the average between Palestine, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco, Sudan, Tunisia
Source: ESCWA calculations based on Arab Barometer Wave VII (2022)

Low levels of trust in public institutions

- Distrust has increased in several Arab countries since 2011

	2007	2011	2013	2016	2019	2022
Algeria	51%	68%	28%	67%		
Palestine	30%	44%	47%	65%	63%	70%
Iraq		58%	53%		78%	74%
Jordan	27%	26%	34%	46%	60%	66%
Kuwait			16%		49%	
Lebanon	66%	77%	86%	91%	81%	91%
Libya			79%		86%	61%
Mauritania						54%
Morocco	56%		54%	56%	67%	61%
Sudan		40%	56%		63%	67%
Tunisia		32%	57%	64%	74%	54%
Egypt		18%	77%	31%	32%	

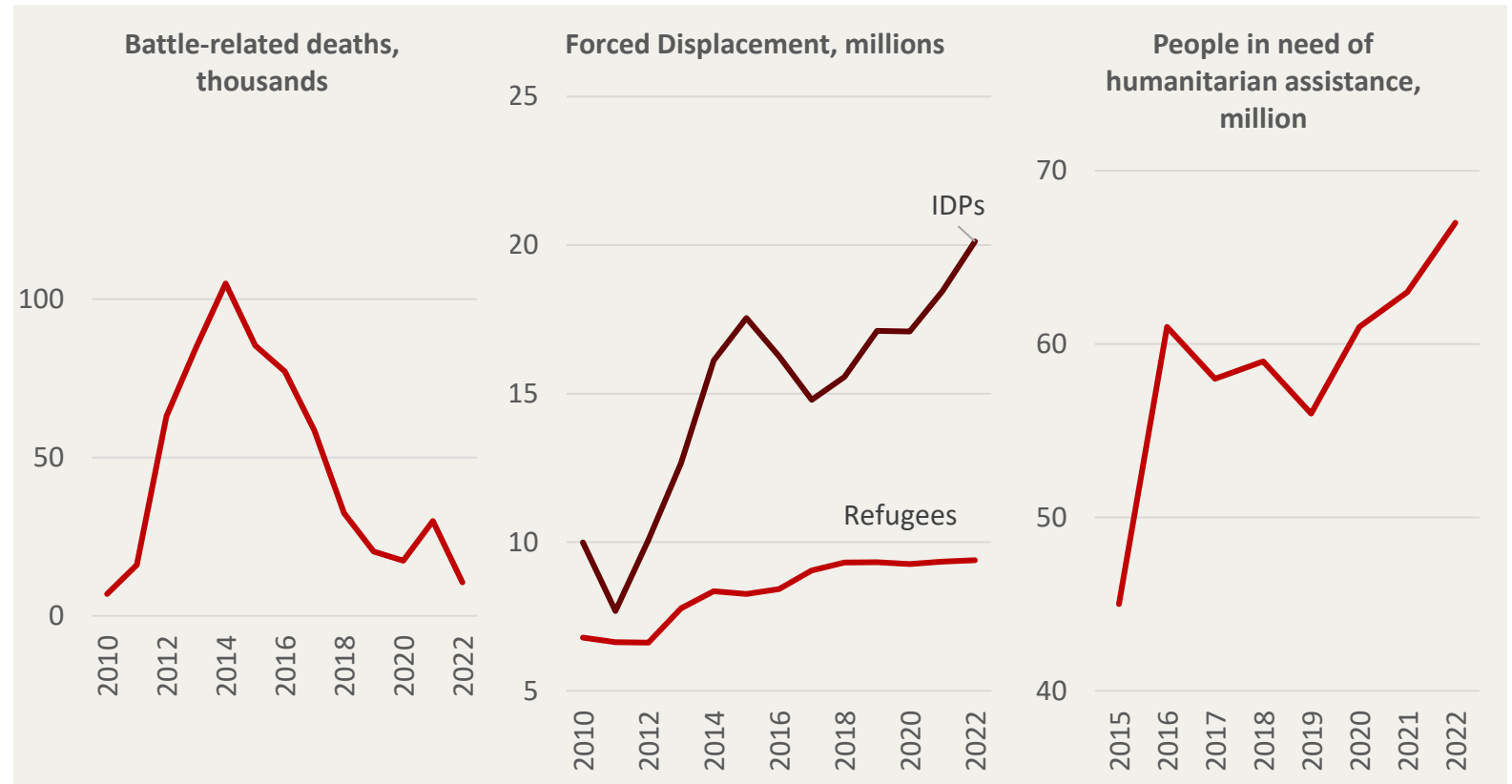
Note: the sum of the share of people who say they absolutely do not trust it and those who trust it to a limited extent

Source: ESCWA calculations based on Arab Barometer (waves I to VII)



Conflict Legacies

- Incidence of conflict and instability: Root causes and driver remain unaddressed
- Vulnerabilities and hazards increasing to unprecedented levels
- Transformations (from conflict/megatrends) threaten future generations



Source: Authors based on data retrieved from UCDP Georeferenced dataset (GED), version 23.1 – Left. Authors based on refugee data retrieved from UNHCR’s Refugee Data Finder and IDP data retrieved from Internal Displacement Monitoring Center (IDMC) – Center. Source: Authors based on data retrieved from OCHA’s Global Humanitarian Overview Right. The figure on the right includes data for Iraq, Lebanon, Libya, Somalia, the State of Palestine, Sudan, the Syrian Arab Republic and Yemen.

Military expenditure:

- A worrisome trend of militarization and securitization of public policies globally and in the region divert resources from other policy options

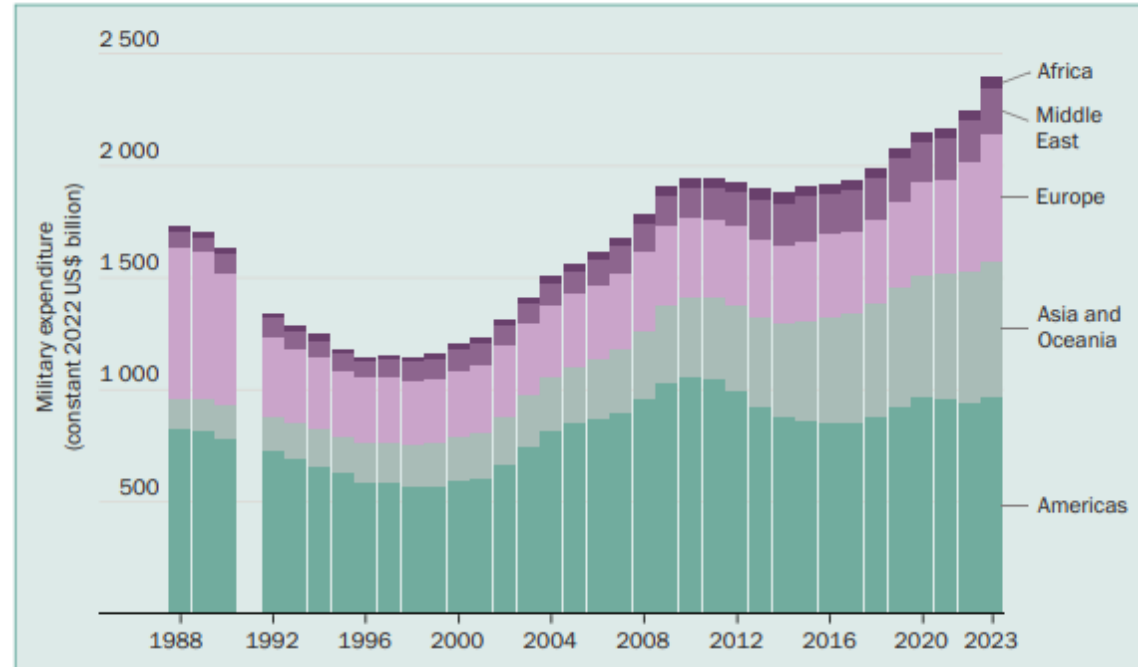


Figure 1. World military expenditure, by region, 1988–2023

Note: The absence of data for the Soviet Union in 1991 means that no total can be calculated for that year.

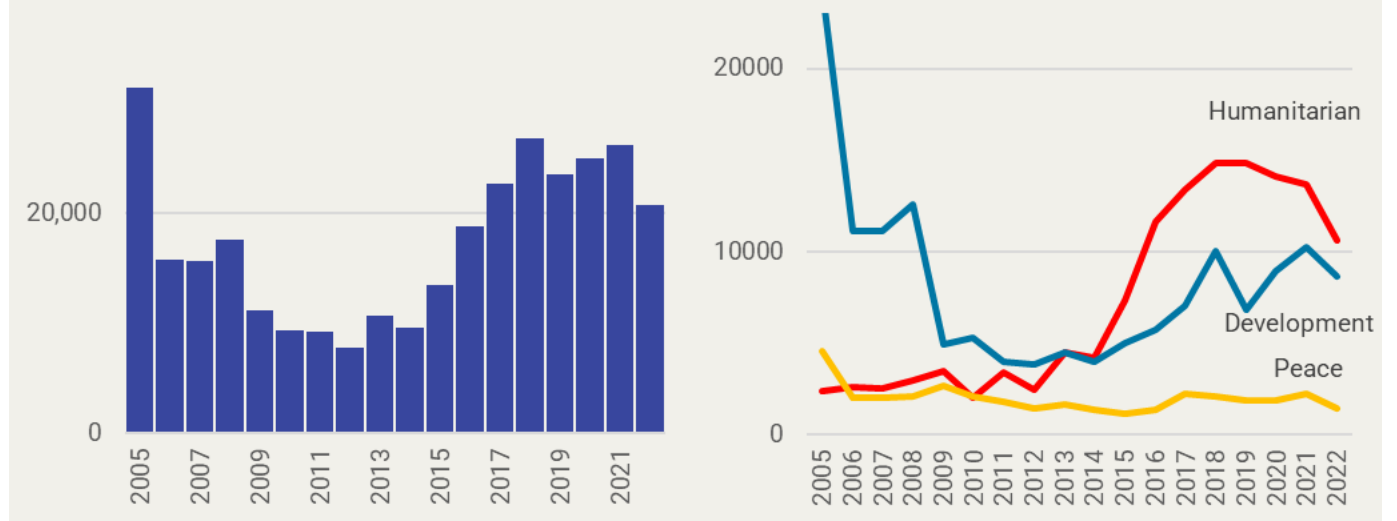
Source: SIPRI Military Expenditure Database, Apr. 2024.



Aid trends:

- Declining ODA and focused on crisis response vs development and peace
- Tendency, over the last few years, to devote a much larger share of aid to crisis responses

Official development assistance, total (left), and breakdown by pillar (right), millions of USD



THANK YOU

