

Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia

Achieving SDGs in Fragile Contexts: countries in special situations, conflict and post-conflict countries

UNOSD 2022 Sustainable Development Transformation Forum

Achieving the SDGs through Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions: Arab regional Context

Thursday, 27 October 2022



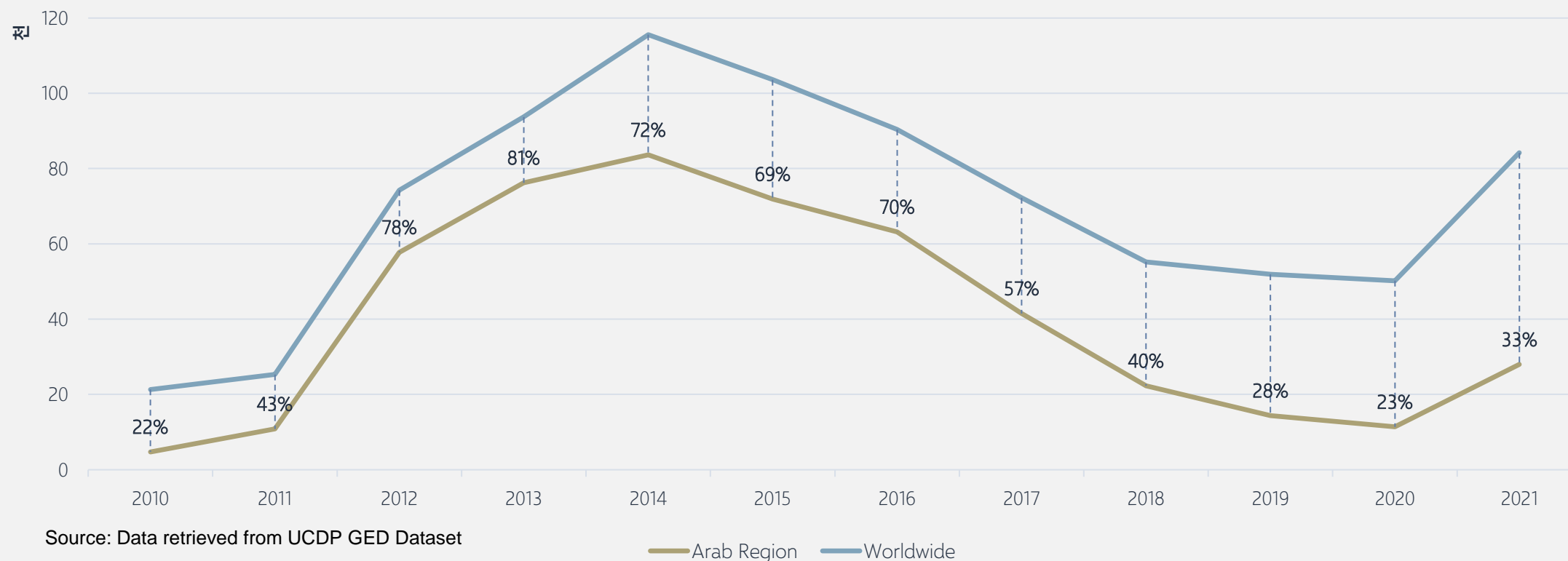
Shared Prosperity **Dignified Life**



Ms. Radia Sedaoui
Chief Energy Section, ESCWA

State-based Fatalities from 2010 to 2021

Arab Region vs. Worldwide



At the end of 2019, still before the onset of the global COVID-19 pandemic, the UNHCR counted some 79.5 million forcibly displaced people worldwide, 29 many of them with little and improvised access to energy.

The Arab Region Remains a Prominent Region of Origin and Transit and One of the Top Destinations for International Migration and Forced Displacement

The Arab region has been shaken by **conflict** to an extent not seen, in addition to the **prolonged dilemma** of the State of Palestine.



The Arab region is experiencing unprecedented **flows of international migration**, with the region hosting around **40 million migrants**.



As a result, **mass migration** imposed tremendous material and logistical **challenges** for host countries and deprived millions of refugees of **secure access to energy**, clean water, sewage, food, health care...

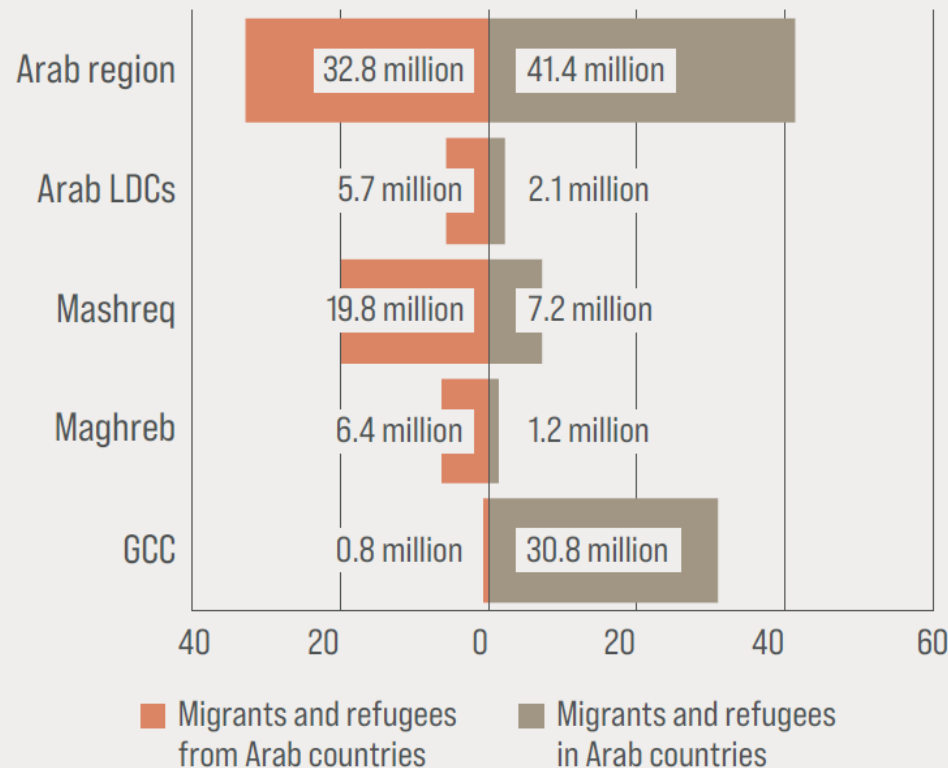


Most **energy infrastructure** in the region was severely damaged and access to energy is precarious for a significant portion of this population.

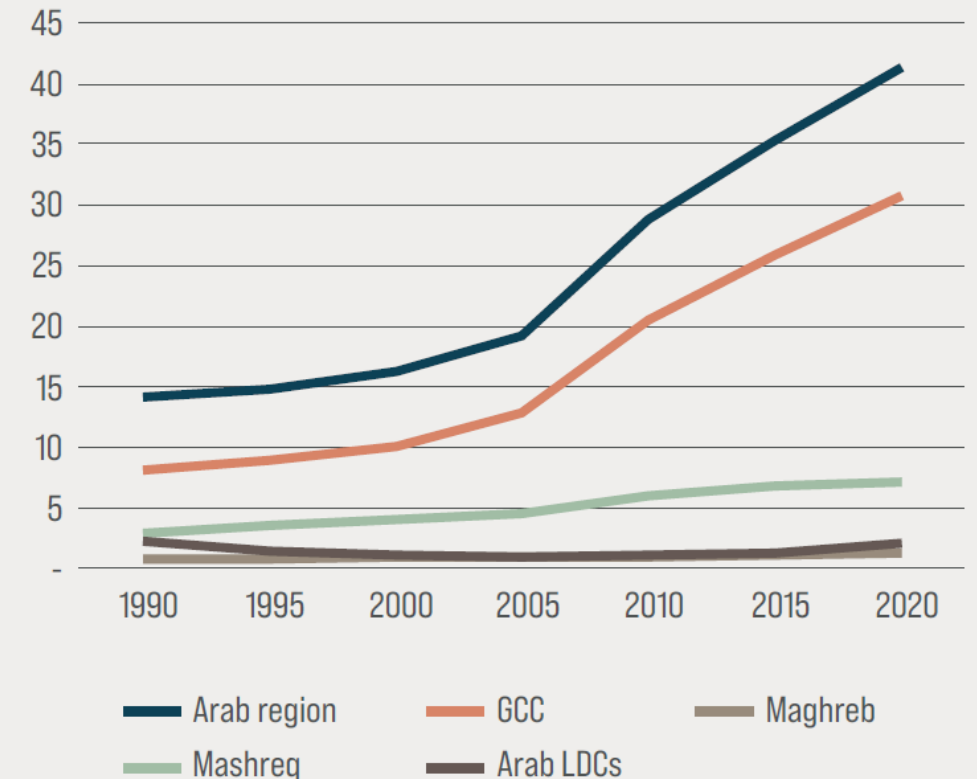
Migrants and refugees are among the population groups most affected by the COVID-19 pandemic

In 2020, Arab countries hosted almost **15 per cent of migrants and refugees** worldwide, with 12 of the Arab countries hosting 14 per cent of migrant workers globally.

Number of migrants and refugees from and in Arab countries by subregion, 2020



Number of migrants and refugees in Arab countries (Millions) by subregion, 1990-2020



Migrants and refugees are among the population groups most affected by the COVID-19 pandemic

Internally Displaced Persons Owing to Conflict and Violence in Arab Countries, 2014-2020

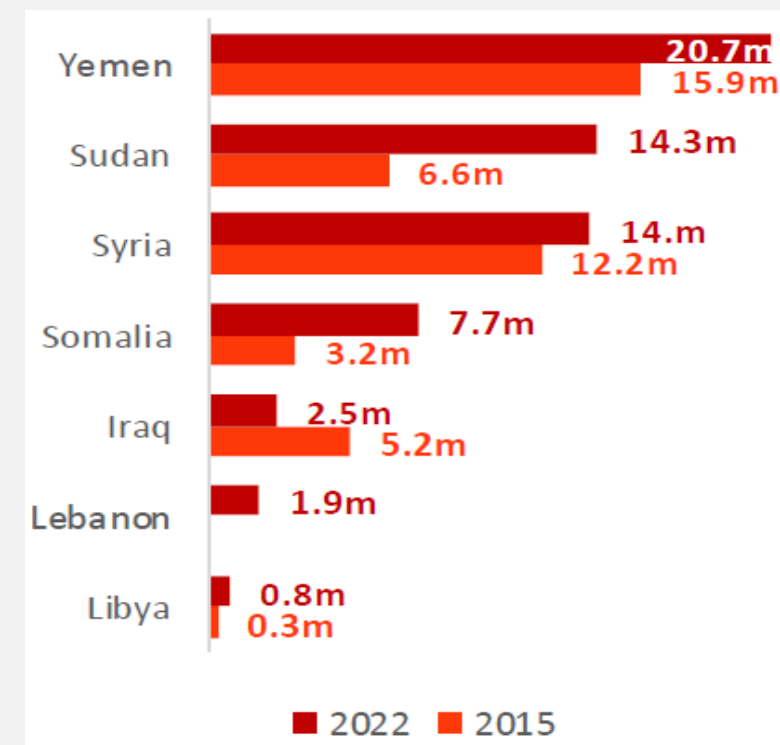
Country	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Egypt	4,100	9,100	9,100	36,000	3,200	3,200	3,200
Iraq	3,276,000	3,290,000	3,035,000	2,648,000	1,962,000	1,555,000	1,224,000
Lebanon	20,000	12,000	12,000	11,000	11,000	7,000	7,000
Libya	400,000	500,000	304,000	197,000	221,000	451,000	278,000
Somalia	1,107,000	1,223,000	1,107,000	825,000	2,648,000	2,648,000	2,968,000
State of Palestine	275,000	221,000	193,000	231,000	238,000	243,000	131,000
Sudan	3,100,000	3,182,000	3,300,000	2,072,000	2,072,000	2,134,000	2,276,000
Syrian Arab Republic	7,600,000	6,600,000	6,326,000	6,784,000	6,119,000	6,495,000	6,568,000
Yemen	334,000	2,509,000	1,974,000	2,014,000	2,324,000	3,635,000	3,635,000
Total Arab region	16,116,100	17,546,100	16,262,600	14,818,000	15,598,200	17,171,204	17,090,200

Source: Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre, 2020.

Note: Data does not include disaster-induced displacement. Only countries with more than 3,000 conflict-induced IDPs in a given year have been included in table 1. The total includes all Arab countries.

Source: Data retrieved from UNHCR's Refugee Data Finder and IDMC.

People in Need of Humanitarian Aid



Source: Data retrieved from OCHA's Humanitarian Overview

Results of Instability in Countries with Conflict in the Arab region

State of Palestine

- **5.7 million refugees** registered with UNRWA, with large populations in Jordan and Lebanon
- Despite having total energy access, **frequent disruptions** in energy supply **power outages** of up to 16 hours/day persisted in 2022

Libya

- **17,595 refugees** registered with UNRWA
- Has the largest migrant/ refugee population in the Maghreb subregion
- Hosted 67% (827,000) of the migrants/refugees in the subregion in 2020
- Energy access rate in 2020 was almost 70% with **electricity cuts** of over 10 hours a day.

Yemen

- Ongoing **conflict** and humanitarian crisis led to destruction of **infrastructure** and undermining of the economy and food security
- **Hosts** over 141,000 refugees from Somalia and Ethiopia
- **1.3 million migrants and refugees** in 2020
- **Electricity access** in 2020 at 74% with frequent **power outages** in many provinces

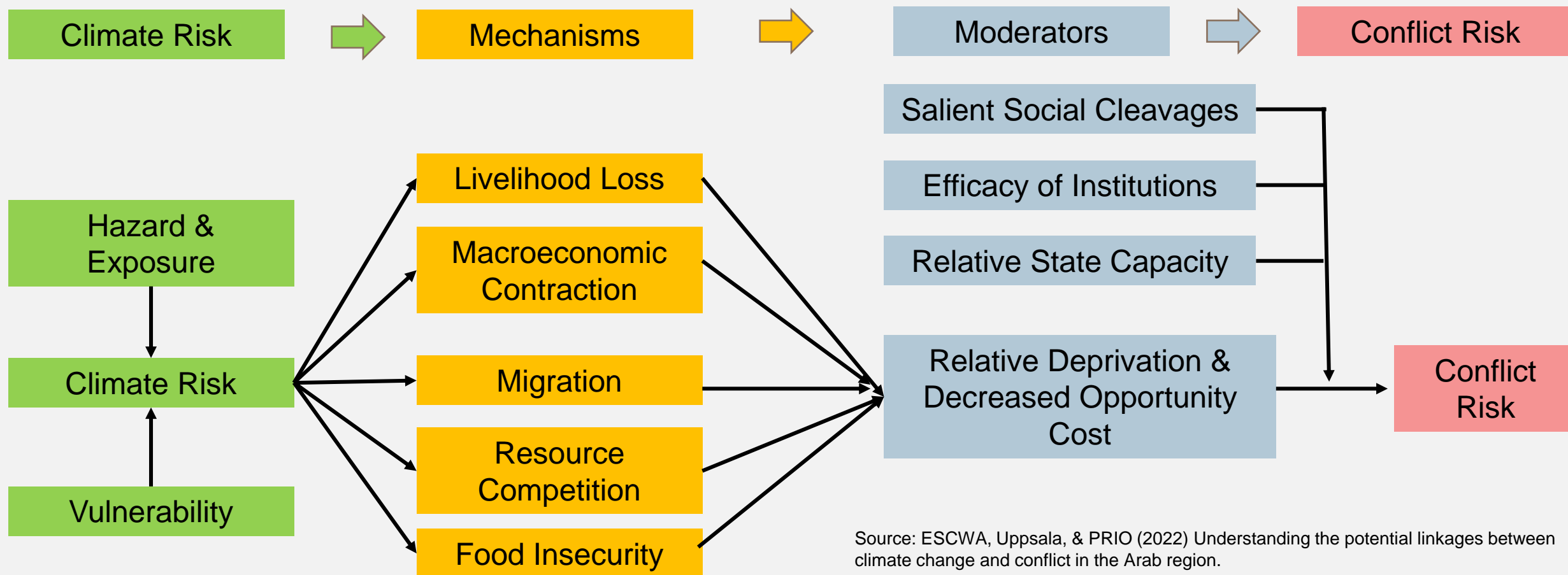
Iraq

- **333,418 refugees** registered with UNRWA
- Dramatic **deterioration** in most **basic services** electricity, water, health, education, security...
- Devastating effects on **sustainable energy** sector planning and service provision
- **Energy transmission lines** were subject to a series of terrorist attacks in 2021 and caused severe damages

Syria

- Biggest **humanitarian and refugee crisis** of our time
- Around **6.7 million refugees** registered with UNRWA
- Most **energy infrastructure** severely damaged
- Energy access rate in 2020 was 89%.

Potential Linkages Between Climate Risk and Conflict Risk



Access to safe and sustainable energy is a basic human need.

A Case Study: The First Two Refugee Camps Powered by Solar PV Technology

- Jordan's **Za'atari** refugee camp has the largest solar power plant ever built in a refugee setting with **40,000 solar panels**.
- This provides free and sustainable power to 80,000 Syrian refugees and provides **electricity access** between 12 and 14 hours daily as opposed to the previous rationed six to eight hours of electricity per day.



In May 2017, Jordan's **Azraq** became the first refugees' camp to be entirely powered by **Solar PV technology**.

Around 20,000 Syrian refugees are directly benefiting from the power plant, with a **capacity of 2 MW**.

REGEND's Role in Improving the Arab Rural Communities Particularly Marginalized Groups by Addressing Energy Poverty, Water Scarcity and Vulnerability to Climate Change and other Natural Resources Challenges



Improve the livelihood, economic benefits, social inclusion, and gender equality of Arab rural communities by addressing energy poverty, water scarcity, vulnerability to climate change, and other natural resources challenges.



Inclusive, sustainable, environmental and economic revival and development of Arab rural communities.



Human rights, gender equality, resilience to climate change



Untapped renewable energy resources, high unemployment, chronic poverty, water scarcity, food insecurity, energy poverty and vulnerability to climate change in rural communities in Arab countries.

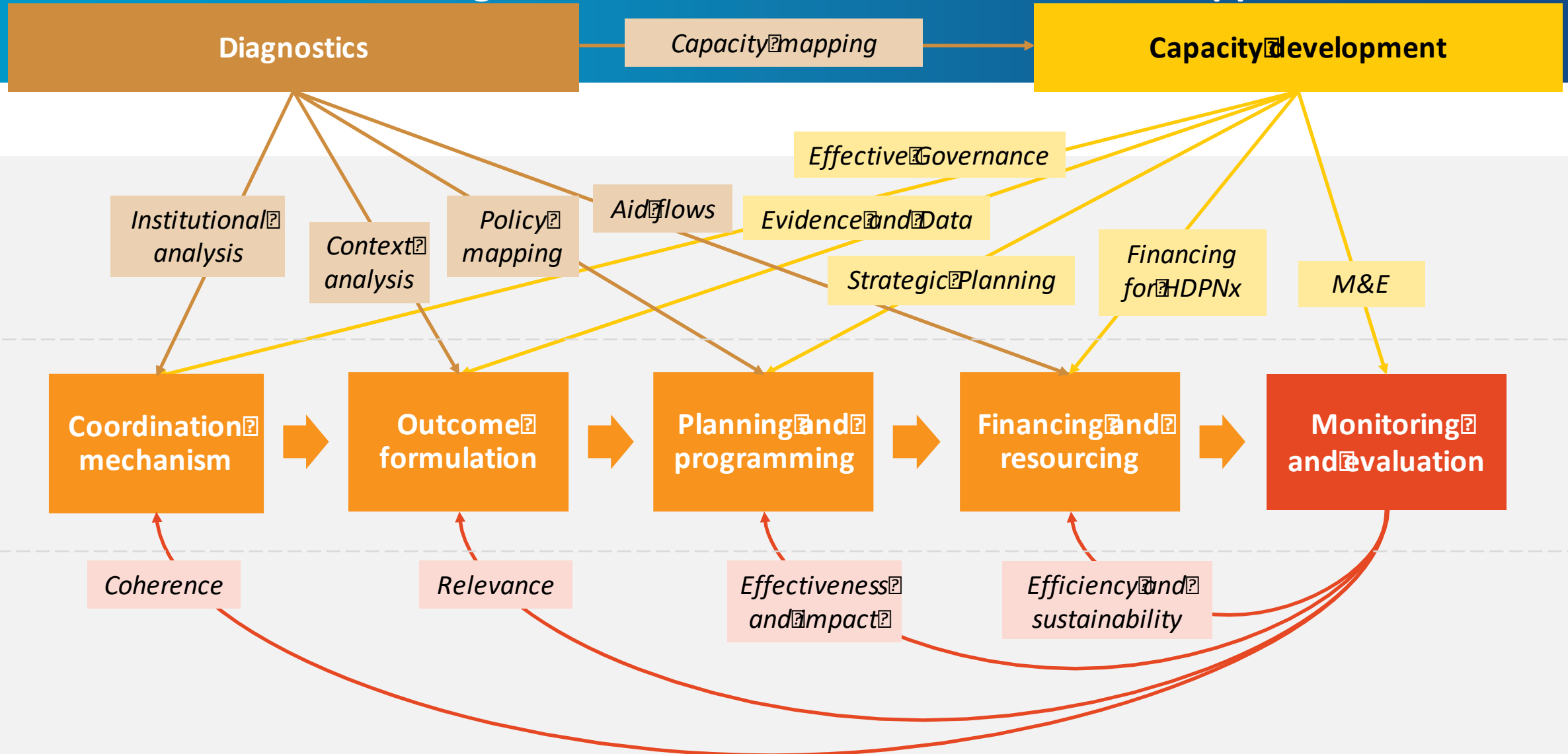


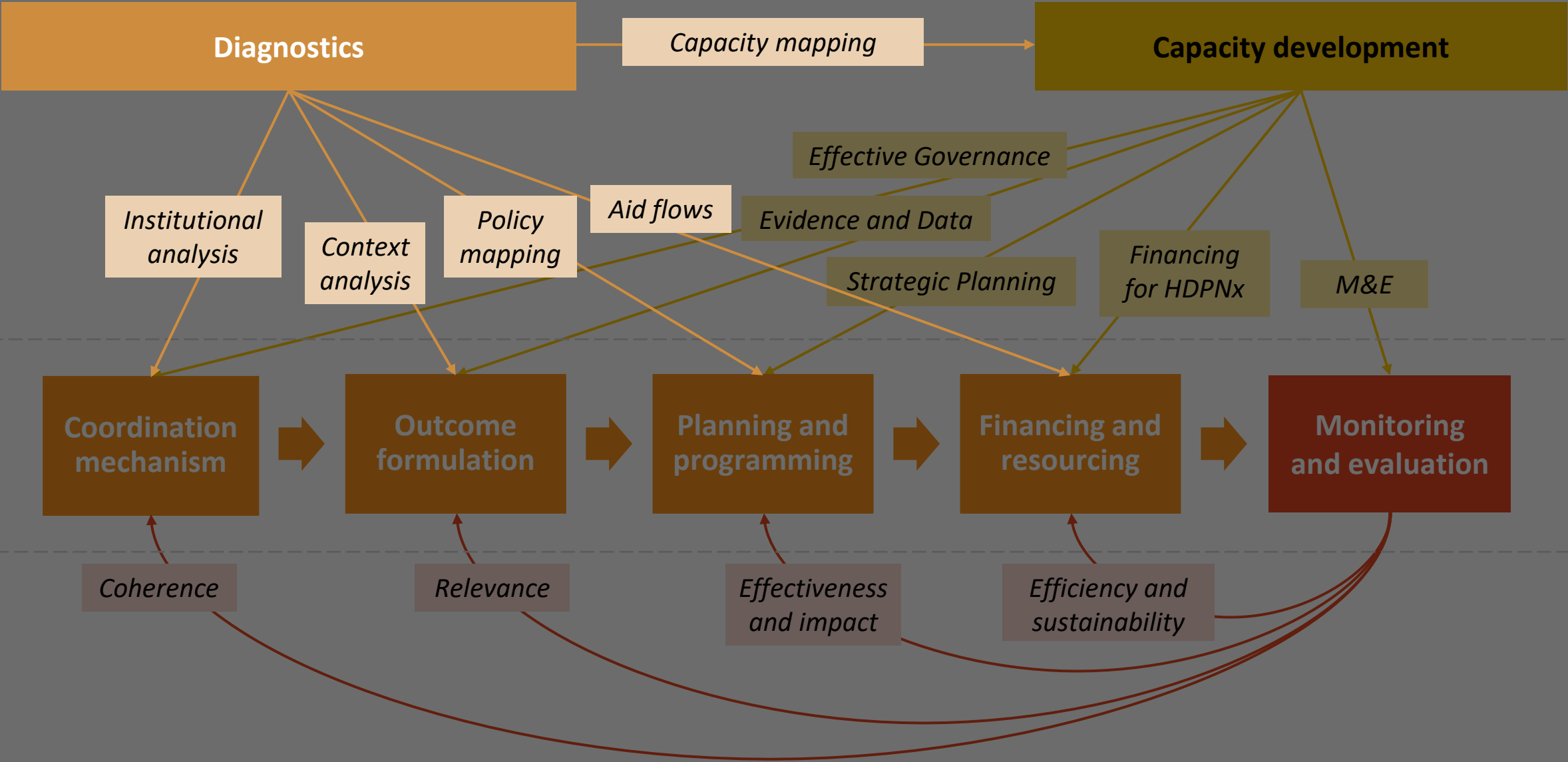
Renewable energy technologies	Human capacity	Women's empowerment and social inclusion	Entrepreneurial development	Policy and institutional framework
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Effective and innovative small-scale decentralized and modular renewable energy systems• Water-energy-food nexus• Access to productive resources and appropriate and reliable services	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Model based on know-how• Trainings, knowledge, skills/ advisory services• Improved living standards in resource-poor rural communities through reliable, affordable and modern energy	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Economic power in rural women's hands• Female mentors• Participative and bottom-up approach	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Economic transformation, environmental and socioeconomic development priorities• Entrepreneurial jobs in productive sectors• Spawn energy-based enterprises around renewable energy-based service providers	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Pro-poor investments and private sector involvement• Synergies among national and regional stakeholders• Innovative incentive mechanisms

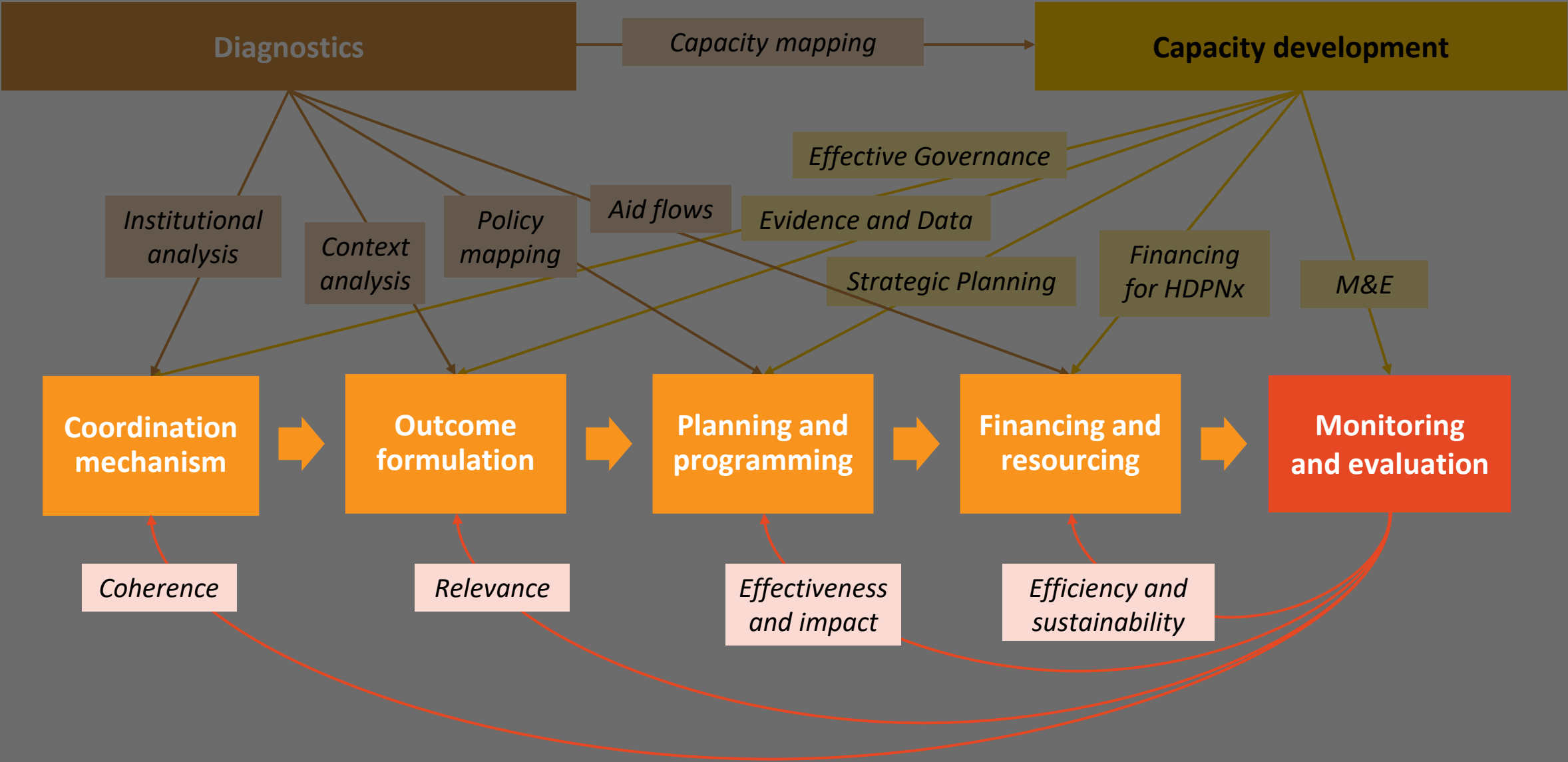
The Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus (HDPNx)

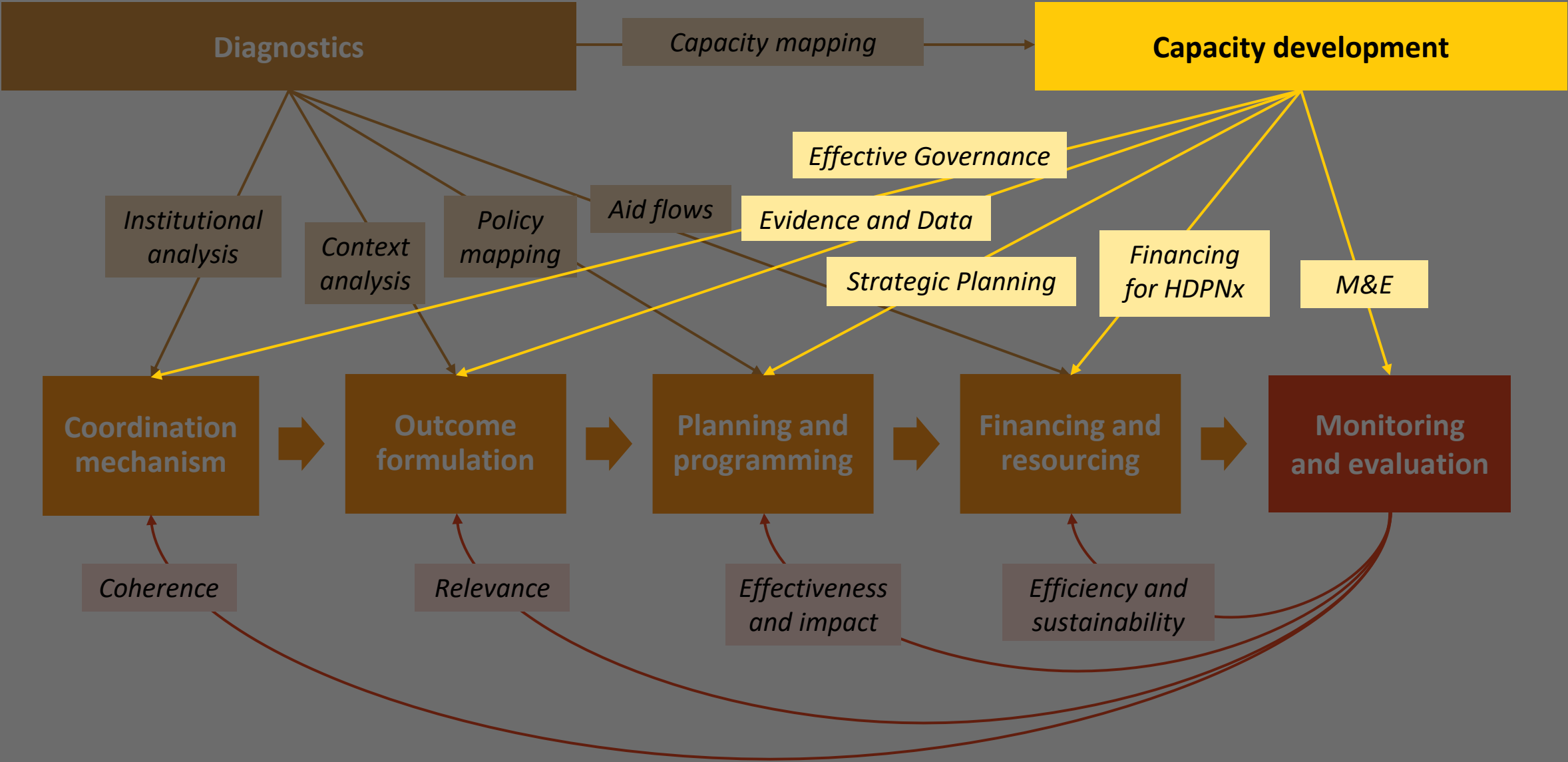
- ❑ Protracted and complex crises demand **long-term, sustainable solutions**
- ❑ Cooperation between concerned national, regional, and international organizations and the private sector is a key.
- ❑ Humanitarian, development, and peace actions do not take place in chronological order: **coordination is essential**
- ❑ **Work together towards ‘collective outcomes’** that reduce need, risk and vulnerability over multiple years and serve as instalments towards the achievement of the SDGs

Mainstreaming HDPNx in the Public Sector: ESCWA's approach









Strengthening Public Institutions: Key recommendations

Building consensus to protect the integrity of public institutions from conflict

Bureaucratic quality and public administration

Mainstreaming the Triple Nexus approach within the public sector

Understanding and addressing needed public institutional capacities

Arresting the depletion of human resources or brain drain from the public sector

Tackling the War Economy



Shared Prosperity **Dignified Life**



Radia Sedaoui

Chief Energy Section
Climate Change and Natural
Resource Sustainability Cluster
ESCWA
Sedaoui@un.org

Thank you