

Human Development Report 2021/22



Uncertain Times, Unsettled Lives:

Shaping our Future in a Transforming World

PART II

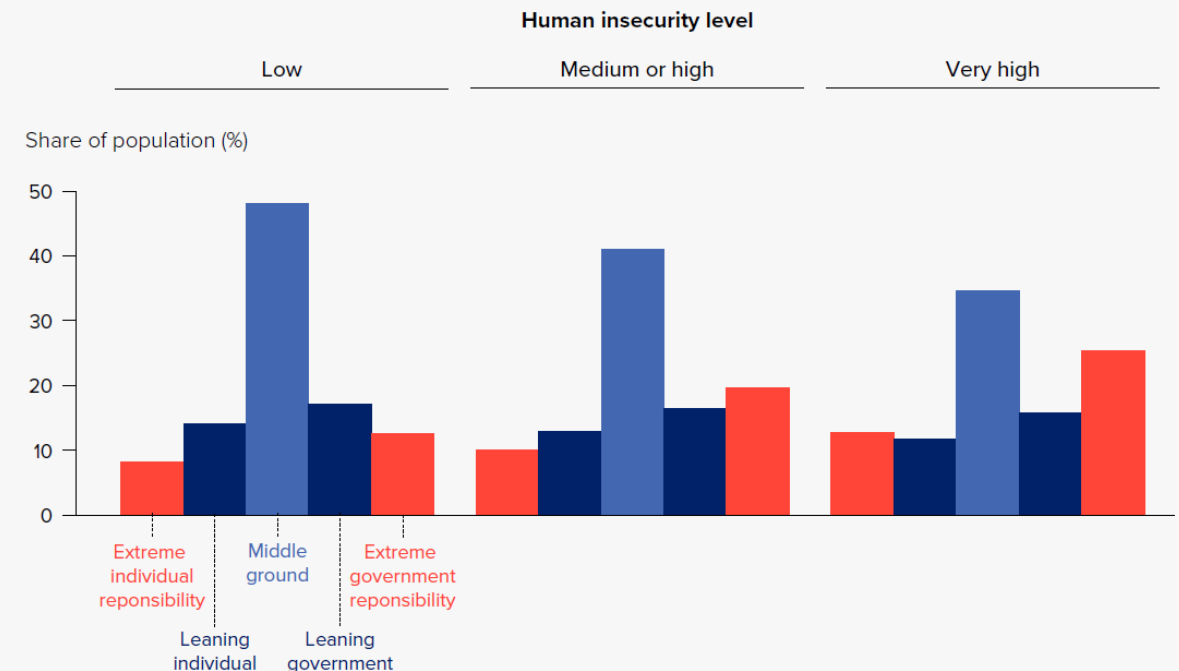
**What's standing
in the way of our
acting together?**

Our societies are increasingly divided



- **Uncertainty and insecurity** are driving divisions between groups in society and affecting our ability to **cooperate and engage in dialogue** with each other.
- **Human insecurity** is linked to political extremism, diminished trust and lower individual agency.
- We are seeing democratic backsliding and intensified **polarization** across the world.

People who feel more insecure tend to hold more extreme preferences



Preference for individual versus government responsibility

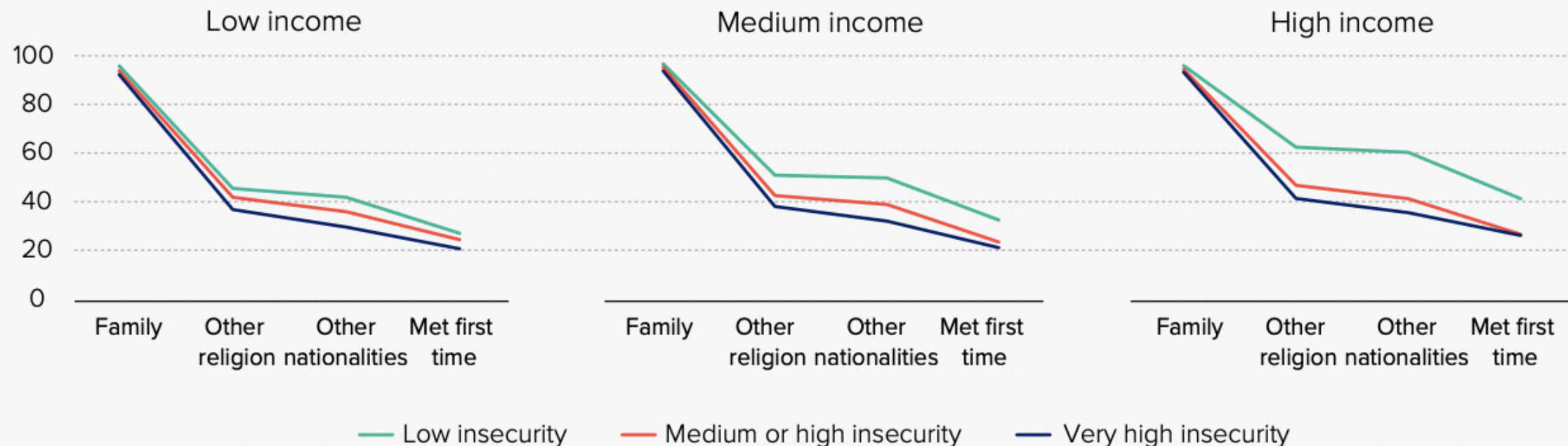
Source: Human Development Report Office based on World Values Survey, waves 6 and 7.

Our societies are increasingly divided

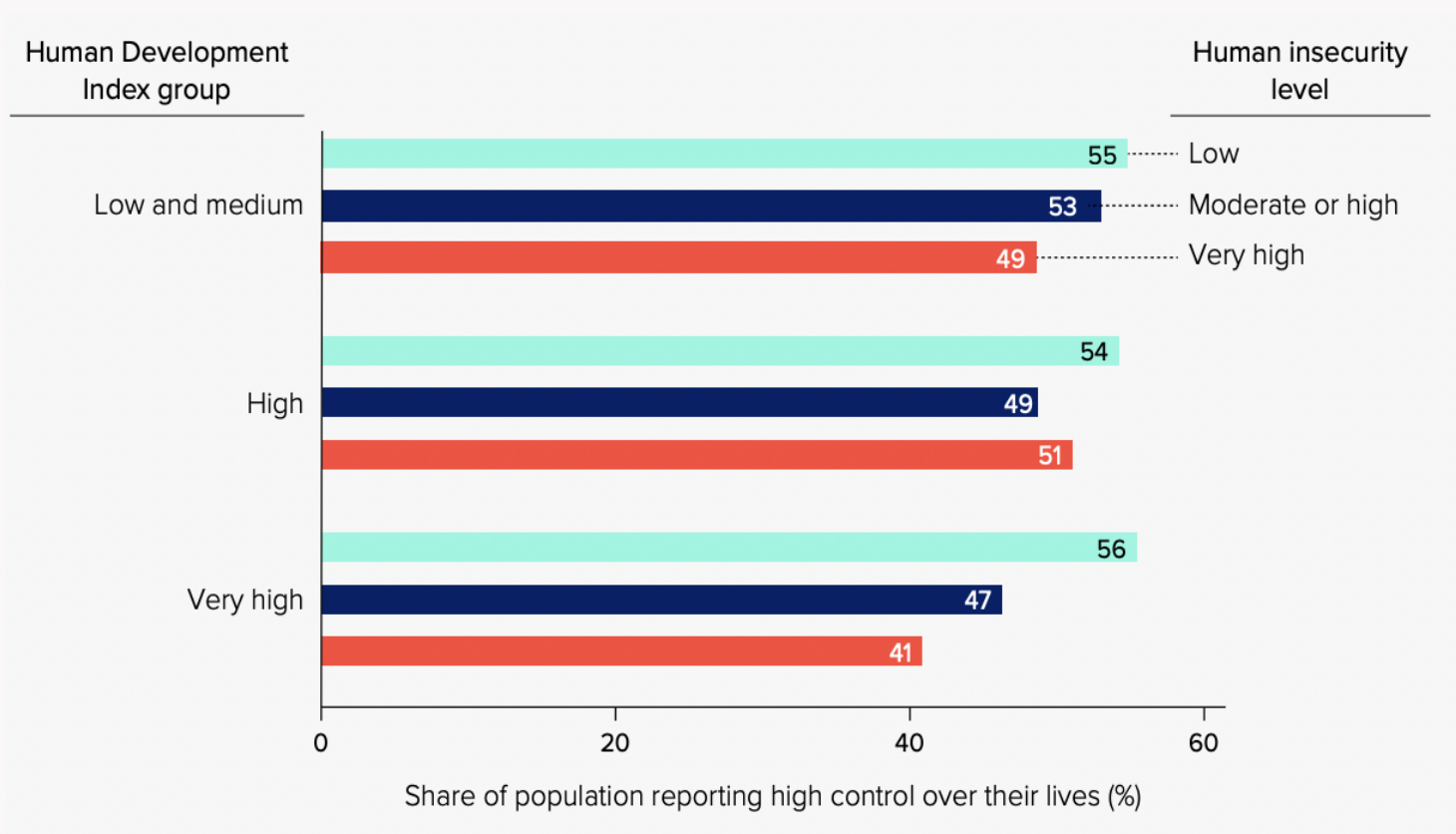


Trust declines with social distance more steeply at lower incomes and higher insecurity

Interpersonal trust and social groups (% of population)



Our societies are increasingly divided



Insecurity is associated with lower personal agency



Scale

Structure

Information fidelity

Algorithmic decision-making

**Technology:
potential enabler
and disruptor**

**Advancing human
development in
uncertain times**

Uncertainty can also break open our imaginations – we must embrace it

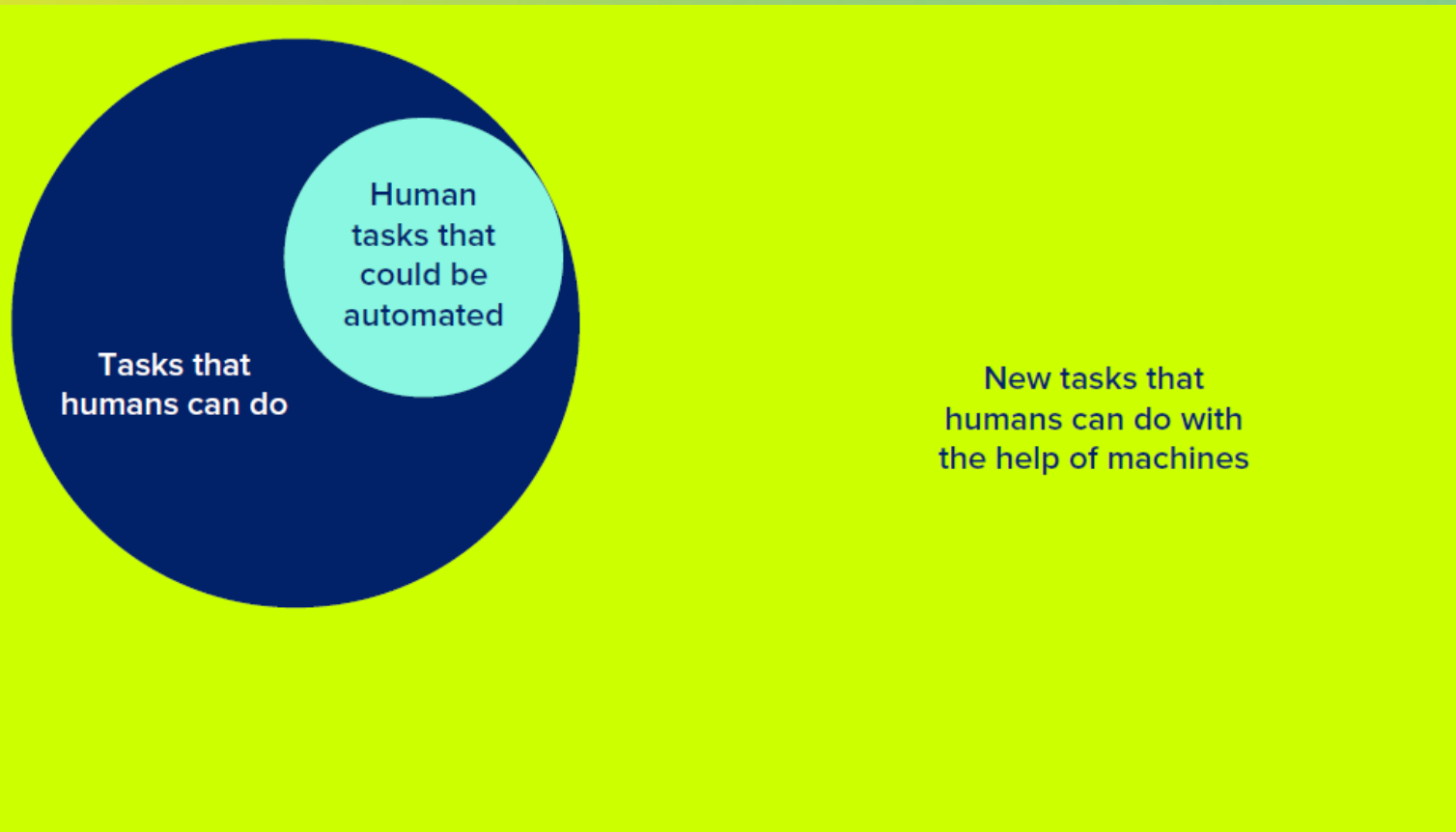


**New reference
points for
technological
breakthroughs**

**New reference
points for social and
fiscal protection**

**New reference
points for altering
norms and
behaviour**

Uncertainty can also break open our imaginations – we must embrace it

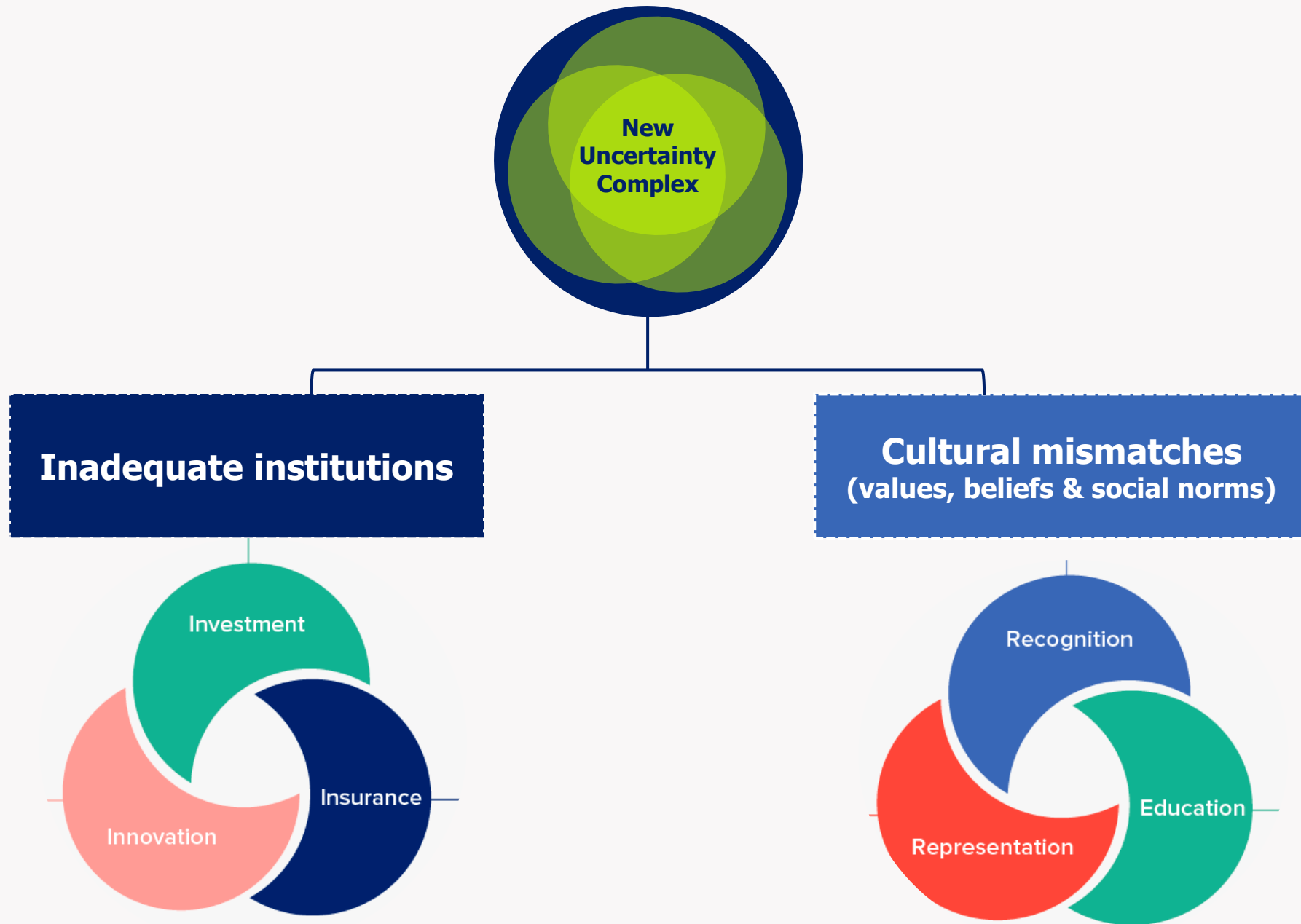


Opportunities for augmenting what people do are far greater than opportunities to automate existing tasks

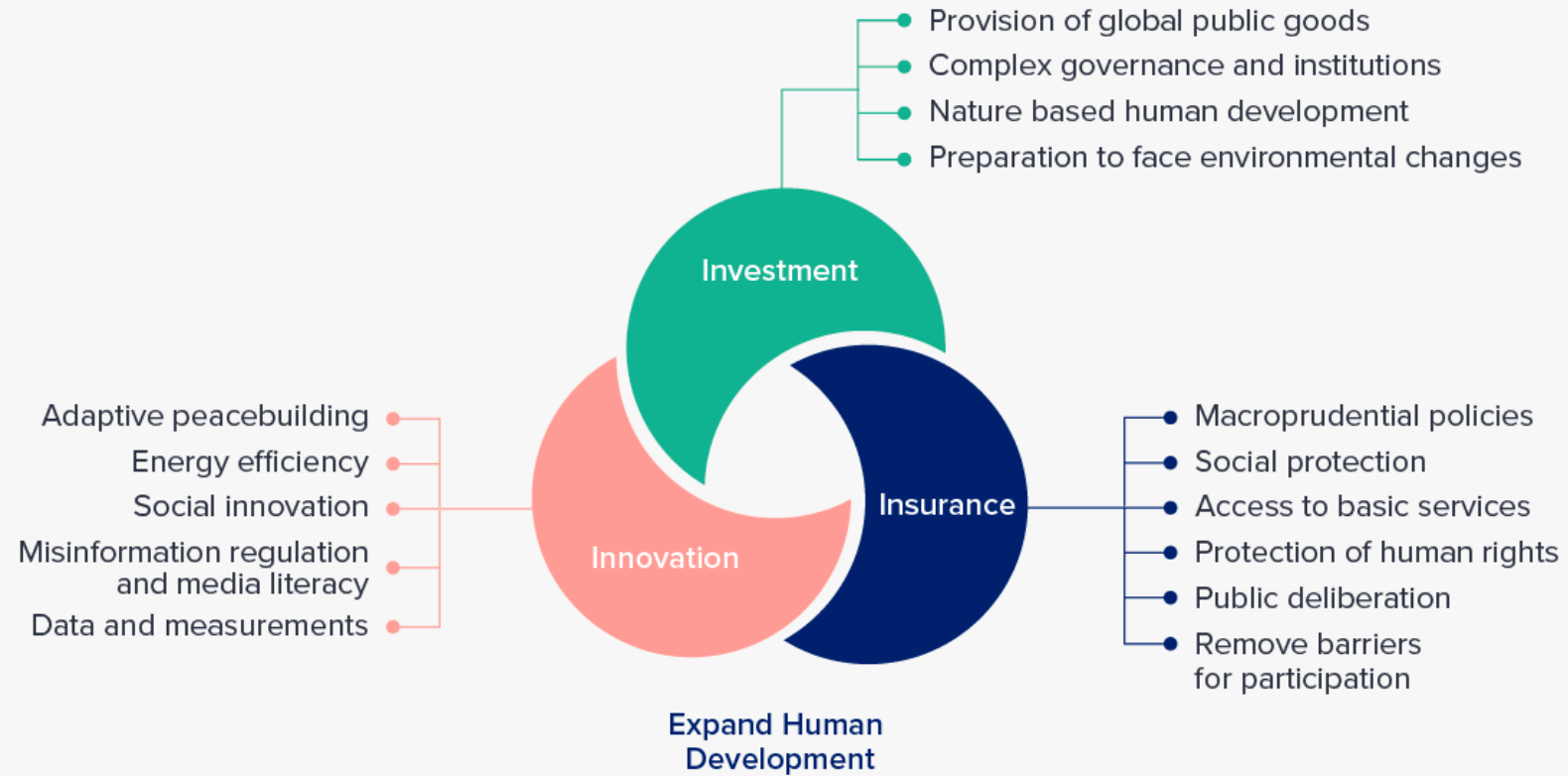
Note: Figure is illustrative.

Source: Human Development Report Office based on Brynjolfsson (2022).

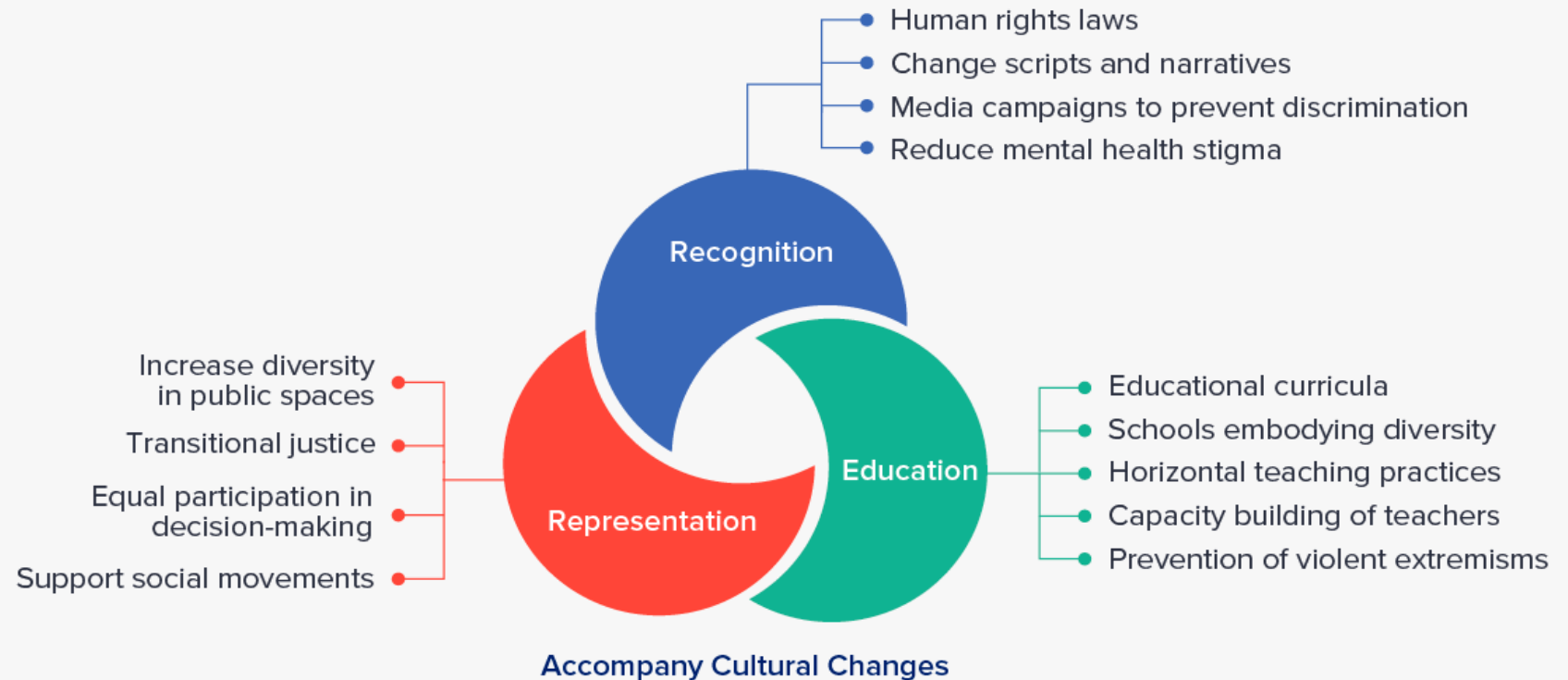
Charting paths to transformation



How to navigate uncertainty?



How to enable cultural change?




A photograph of two young children walking away from the camera on a dirt path. They are wearing school uniforms and carrying backpacks. The child on the right has their arm around the child on the left. The background is a dry, open landscape with tall grasses and trees under a clear blue sky.

Where we go from here is up to us

- We can imagine and create futures in which both people and planet thrive
- We can accomplish a lot with very little if we work together towards shared goals



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