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**Tapping into the Arab Spring horizons for youth: socio-economic rights relating to migration and perspectives to more dignity and development**

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# Context and background

- The Arab Spring (2011) was fundamentally an **economic revolt**, driven by **youth frustration** over unemployment and lack of opportunities.
- The spark: **Mohamed Bouazizi**, a street vendor, self-immolated in Tunisia due to economic precarity.
- Protest slogans: **Labor, Freedom, and Dignity**—highlighting economic and social grievances.



To what extent have the socio-economic factors, like unemployment, homelessness, poor or unequal access to land and housing, have pushed countless young Arabs to seek more viable paths outside their countries?

# Context and background



# Three major issues regarding land and migration

Internal migration to counter food insecurity and poor access to land

External migration, or migration of last resort

Brain drain – a major development crisis

# Three major issues regarding land and migration

## 1/ Migration as a key component of rural livelihood and a way to counter food insecurity:

- The **Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)** has documented how land access affects youth employment and migration patterns in North Africa.

- FAO Reports on Land Tenure & Youth Migration**

One of the indirect underpinnings of the socio-economic exclusion was this finding by one of the Food & Agriculture Org. report on land tenure.

The same report shows that, since 1960 until 2017, in Tunisia unequal land distribution remained the same amongst youth, with 22% of total farms belonging to 1 % of the richest farmers.

**The movement LAND RIGHTS NOW** assume that **ONE THIRD** of the world population, is exposed to the risk of being dispossessed from their land property rights, by stronger actors.

# Three major issues regarding land and migration

**2/ « Distress migration » as a last resort solution for youth and women to escape:** political instability, conflicts, poverty

## Migration desires

- Tunisia 46%.
- Jordan 42%
- Lebanon's (38%)
- Morocco (35%)

Source: Arab Barometer 2023-2024

## Economic motives

Economic dissatisfaction is a major driver behind emigration with potential MENA migrants:

- Jordan (90%)
- Tunisia (89%)
- Lebanon (72%)
- Mauritania (69%)
- Morocco (45%)

Number of tunisian arrivals to Italy

2023	17322
2022	18148
2021	15670
2020	12865
2019	2654
2018	5344
2017	6151
<b>Total</b>	<b>85831</b>

Source: FTDES

# Three major issues regarding land and migration

## 3/ « Brain Drain »

The Arab barometer show that younger MENA citizens and those with college education are **more likely** to consider migration , driven by their desire to seek better jobs.

Source: Arab Barometer 2023-2024



## Policy Recommendations:

- ✓ **Locally** - (Tunisia) Implement fair land distribution policies and facilitate access to land for young entrepreneurs, particularly in agriculture and small enterprises
  - ✓ Establish community-led or youth farming cooperatives to help young Tunisians pool resources and access productive land
- ✓ **Regionally** – (Arab League) : Strengthen regional cooperation to create cross-border economic opportunities, reducing the need for external migration



# THANK YOU!

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