

A photograph showing the silhouettes of four young people against a bright, hazy sky. They are all raising their right hands, with their index fingers pointing upwards. The person on the far left is a man with a beard. The person next to him is a man wearing a white t-shirt with the word 'refocus' and a graphic of grass. The person in the center is a woman wearing a headscarf and a light-colored vest over a dark shirt. The person on the far right is a man wearing a white t-shirt with the word 'refocus' and a graphic of grass. The background is a bright, hazy sky with some clouds. The overall mood is one of hope and optimism.

# After Arab Spring: What's next for Arab youth?

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# THEIR TRUE POWER.



# CHALLENGE OR OPPORTUNITY?







# POLITICAL PARTICIPATION VS YOUTH PARTICIPATION



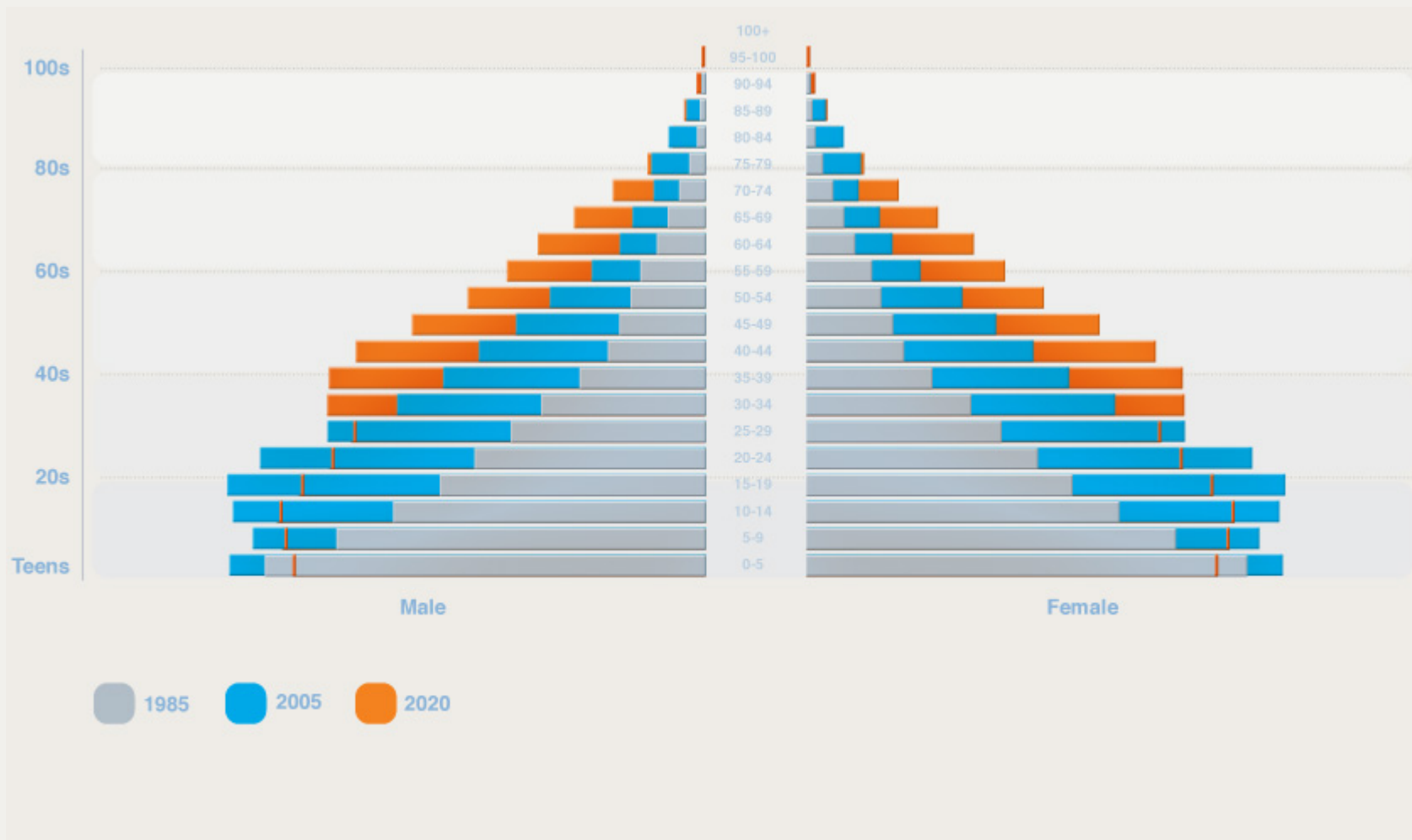
**WHERE DID HUMAN RIGHTS  
AGENDA DISSAPEARED?**



# WAS THE SPIRIT OF YOUTH LED “ARAB SPRING” HIJACKED?

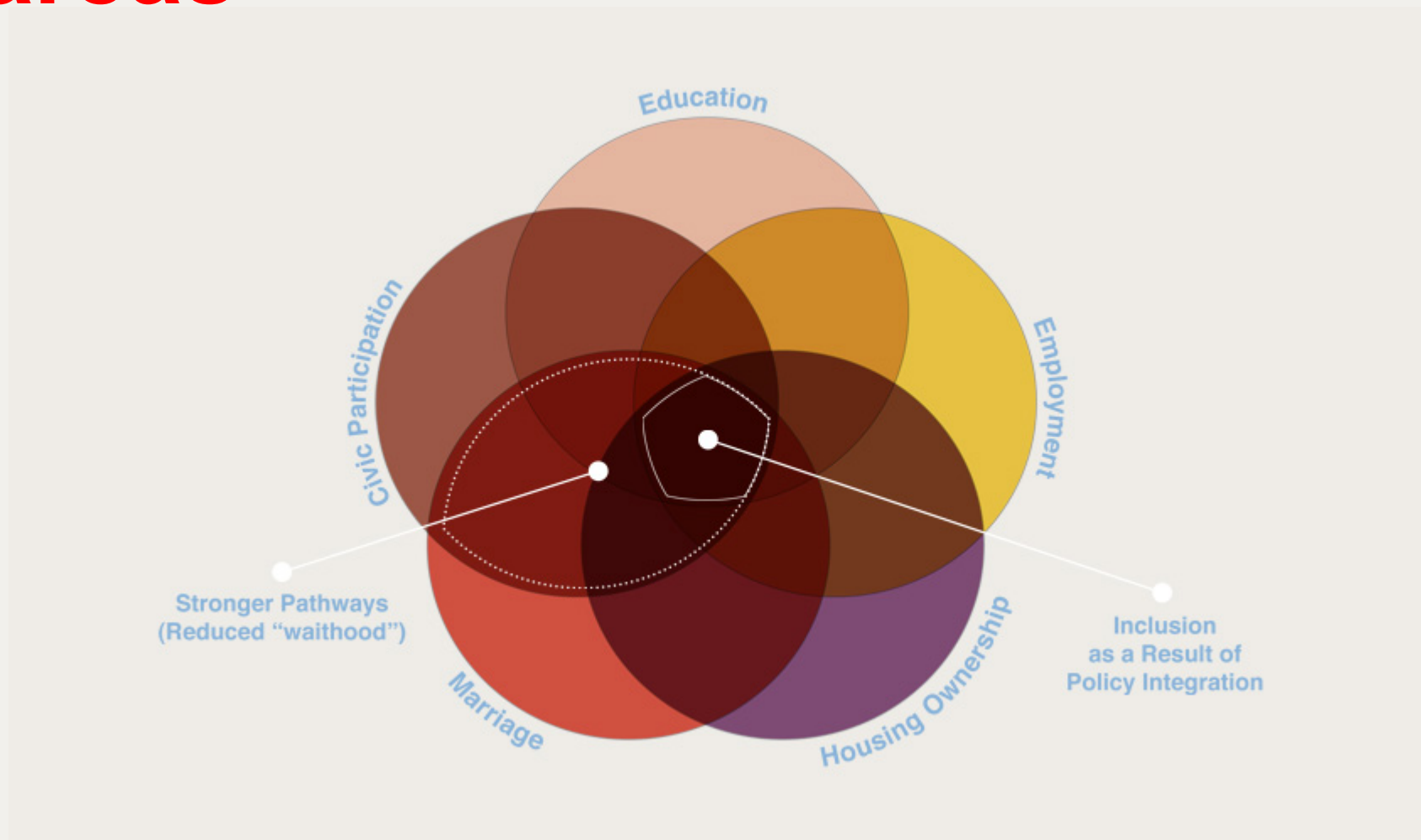


# Youth Bulge



Aleksander  
Sasha Bodiroza

# Life Milestones: Intervention areas



Aleksander  
Sasha Bodiroza





## Young People as a Priority

Arab States have highest global **youth unemployment** rate at 25.7%, 3X rate of general unemployment and more than double the global average of youth unemployment 11.9%

**Early marriage:** 1 in 4 in Sudan, 1 in 5 in Iraq and Yemen

**FGM/C:** over 85% In Djibouti, Egypt and Sudan

**4.3 million out- of-school adolescents**, in LDCs 73% girls  
Nearly a ¼ of children in West Bank were not enrolled in secondary school in 2009/2010, 75% were adolescent boys

**Gender gaps** in literacy rates in youth wider than in adults

**High Youth Inactivity Rate (out of school, out of work)**  
among young women: 58% in Egypt and 60% in Syria

84 million adolescents  
in MENA (20% popln)

# WHAT CHANGED? WHY NOW?

## ENABLING FACTORS

- **Frustrated** with corruption, lack of transparency, violence, abuse of authority (home, school, state) and HRts violations
- Cumulative effect of 'waithood' - **issues became personal**
- Increasingly **educated** and accessing varied sources of **information**
- **New media** – offered alternative outlet for freedom of speech and mobilization
- **Aware of political developments** and developing strong convictions about what constitutes a more just society
- **Loss of fear** and renewed **confidence** in their own **capacity** and **potential for change**
- **Ready to challenge the concept of power** (the political elite has to learn to share decision making with civil society)



*"Dear Dictators, no matter what you'll do today to oppress your people. Just remember: Power of People is stronger than People in Power" - @ghonim*





## Response Strategy



**RESPOND TO DEMANDS FROM YOUNG PEOPLE FOR CHANGE, INCLUDING FROM UN – ADJUST UN RESPONSE STRATEGY AND WORK FOR/WITH YOUNG PEOPLE**

**TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THIS “NEW WAVE OF CITIZENSHIP” - SUPPORT EFFORTS TO CREATE REAL CULTURE OF CITIZENSHIP**

**ASSESS AND STRENGTHEN PARTNERSHIPS & WORK WITH EXISTING & EMERGING YOUTH CIVIL SOCIETY / NETWORKS (COALITION)**

**CAPITALIZE ON THE MOMENTUM TO PROMOTE A STRONG HUMAN RIGHTS AGENDA**

# Advocacy & Communication

## What:

High-Level Multi-Stakeholder Conference on Investment in Young People in the Arab States/MENA Region

## Where:

Cairo, Egypt

## When:

October 2012

## Convened by:

R/UNDG Arab States / MENA Region

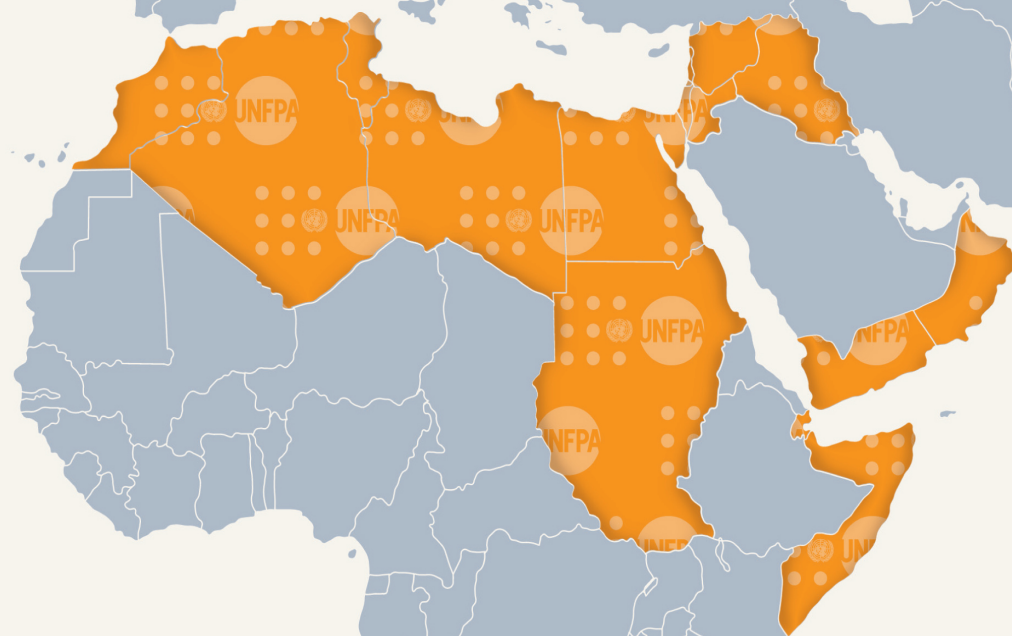
## Organizers:

UNFPA on behalf of UNDG



# UNFPA

Youth Operations



# Top Tweets

**“Dear Dictators, no matter what you’ll do today to oppress your people. Just remember: Power of People is stronger than People in Power.”**

Wael Ghonim (@ghonim)

**“Now that we have gone so far, we will not give it up”**

@sandmonkey  
(twitter) Egypt

**“I can’t believe my eyes... It actually happened in my lifetime!! An Arab nation woke up and said enough!! #SidiBouزيد”**

From Bahrain, a blogger named Mohammed AlMaskati exclaimed on Twitter.

**“I am just a young man who ousted a dictator”**

Egyptian Protester  
after Mubarak’s resignation  
(twitter)

**“I lost all the fear when I saw people killed by cops during the demonstrations”**

Ahmad Chibel  
Los Angeles Times  
30 Jan 2011

**“You, young people, did what we, older generation, failed in doing! We have grown so old, waiting for this moment”**

Protester, Tunisia  
Reported by Al-Jazeera Arabic

**“We are not afraid anymore”**

Protester. Sidi Bouzid, Tunisia  
NY Times 31 Dec 2010