


Development and the Next Generation: Reaching Youth in MENA

*John Blomquist, World Bank
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Youth Represent Opportunity

- Youth (aged 15-24) are simply people. They are not a problem to be feared.
 - Youth want to contribute to society, to be leaders, and societies want them to be productive.
 - But we must have the right policies, involving all partners: governments, civil society, religious and charity institutions, international organizations.
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Tremendous Progress for Children and Youth In Recent Years

- Child mortality has decreased xxxx;
 - Enrollment rates in primary and secondary school have doubled since 1980 (for boys, girls are not) xxxx
 - xxxxShifting approach -- Government's acknowledgement of youth issues; Call for mainstreaming and demand for action
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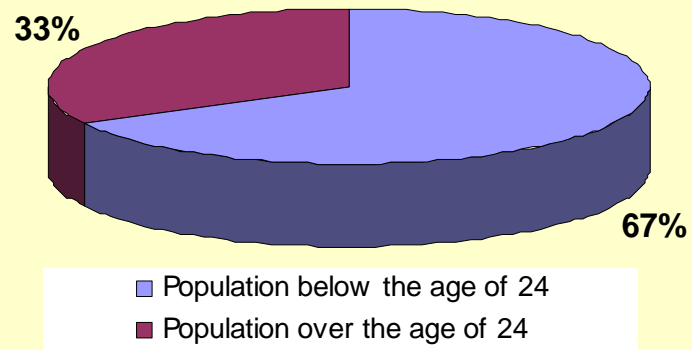
But something is missing

- Regional growth has been relatively stagnant; Average annual growth between x and $x\%$;
- Not enough (good) jobs are being created: it is estimated that MENA needs to create up to 100 million jobs by 2020.

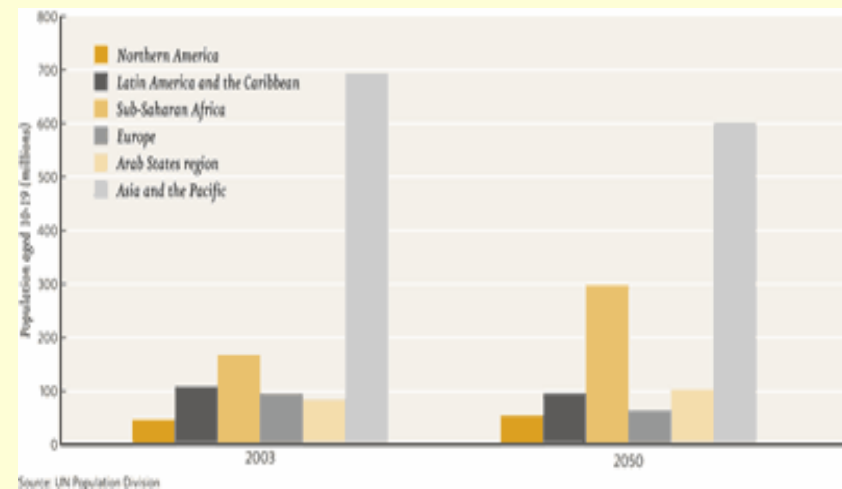


MENA Youth “Bulge”

2/3rd of the population are under the age of 30



One of the highest in the World





Country Responses

- Current approaches -- ad hoc, in silos and coping, not preventing
- Shifting approach -- Government's acknowledgement of youth issues; Call for mainstreaming and demand for action





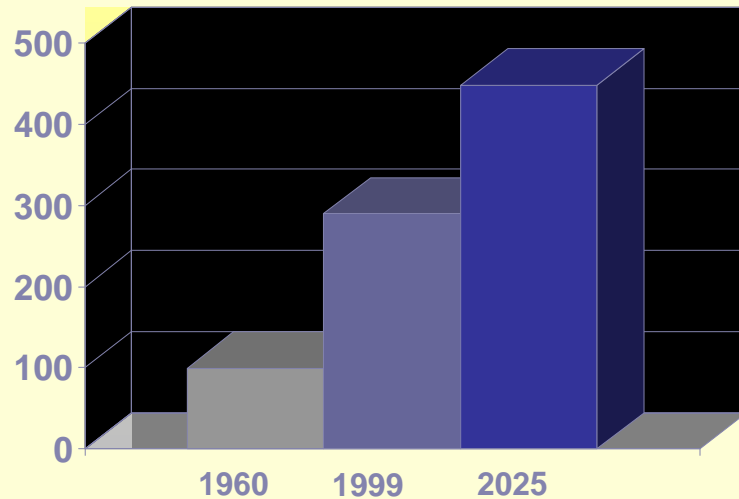
The Social Risk Management Approach to Social Policy

- Youth are a huge demographic, big opportunity but also big risk
 - MENA has had social gains over last 20 years, but has not been transmitted into large economic growth or opportunities for youth. This has costs:
 - Youth unemployment
 - High dropouts from secondary school
 - Migration to urban centers and abroad for jobs/opportunities
 - How to improve conditions? : enhance opportunities, enhance capabilities, improve second chances.
 - Opportunities: labor legislation to improve hiring, OJT, microfinance for entrepreneurship
 - Capabilities: curriculum reform, training linked to private sector, social inclusion
 - Second chances
 - Help with What else?
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Context

MENA Youth (ages 15-24)

Fastest growing population in World



Labor force pressures greatest from young adults in MENA






Context

MENA Youth (ages 15-24)

Increasingly vulnerable to...

- **Geo-political instability**
 - Intifadah and Iraq
 - Affects youth welfare directly and through impact on economy
 - **Poverty**
 - Over 30% population live on less than \$2/day
 - Large population vulnerable to fluctuating economy
 - High school attendance & employment prospects diminishing
 - **Unemployment**
 - Highest unemployment rate among regions (+40% in some countries)
 - Rapid urbanization (70% live in cities by 2020)
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Context

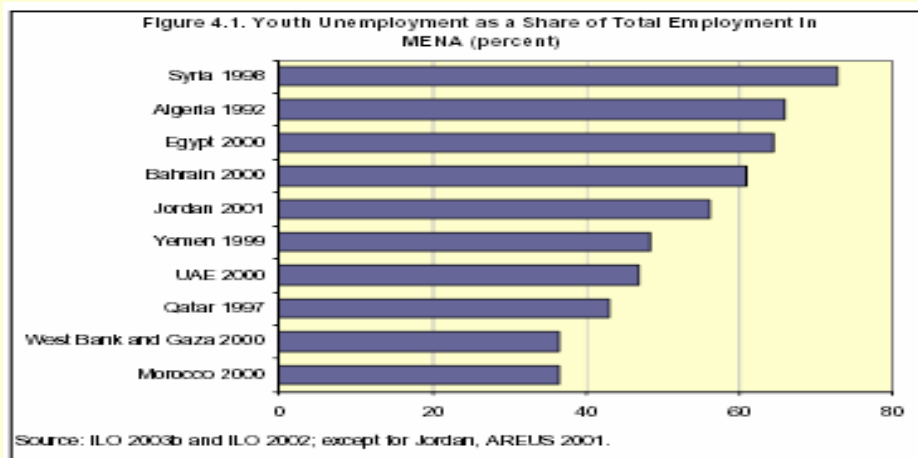
MENA Youth (ages 15-24)

Increasingly vulnerable to...

- **Women's low participation in labor force**
 - Lowest participation among regions (26% in MENA /30% in SAR)
 - **Weakening social cohesion**
 - Social organizations and networks of solidarity deeply affected by constant conflicts
 - **Insufficient public access to government transactions**
 - Inadequate disclosure reduce accountability
 - Limits ability to access opportunity and benefits
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Issues

Youth and Female Unemployment Are As High As 70%

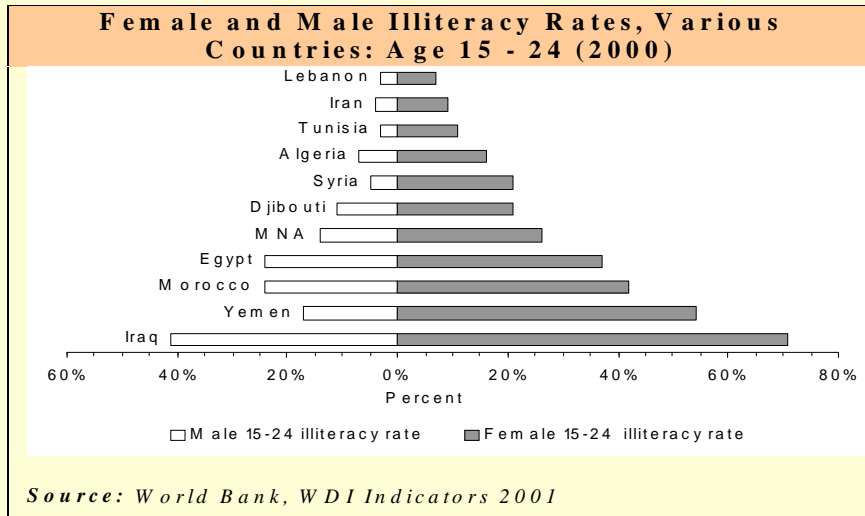


First-time job seekers make up more than 50% of the unemployed in MENA

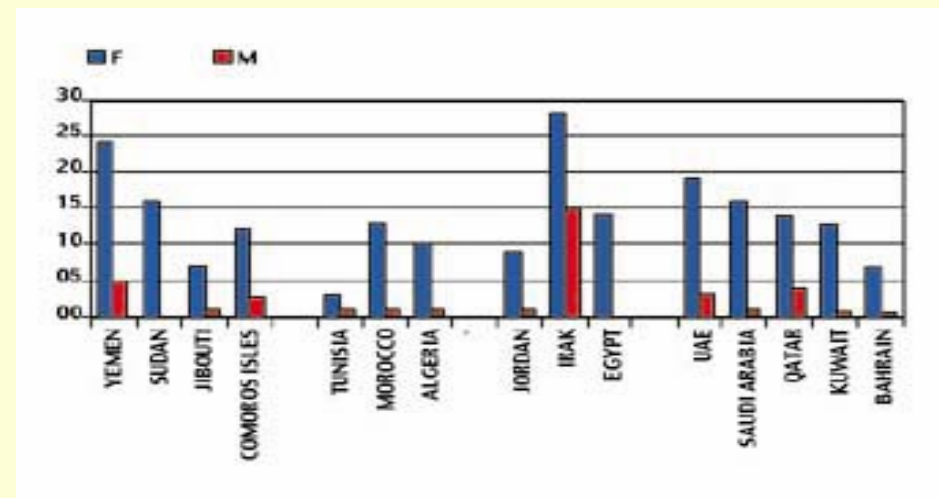


Issues

Youth and Female Illiteracy are as high as 60%



Girls (ages 15 to 19) are 4 to 10 times more likely to be married than boys





Country Responses

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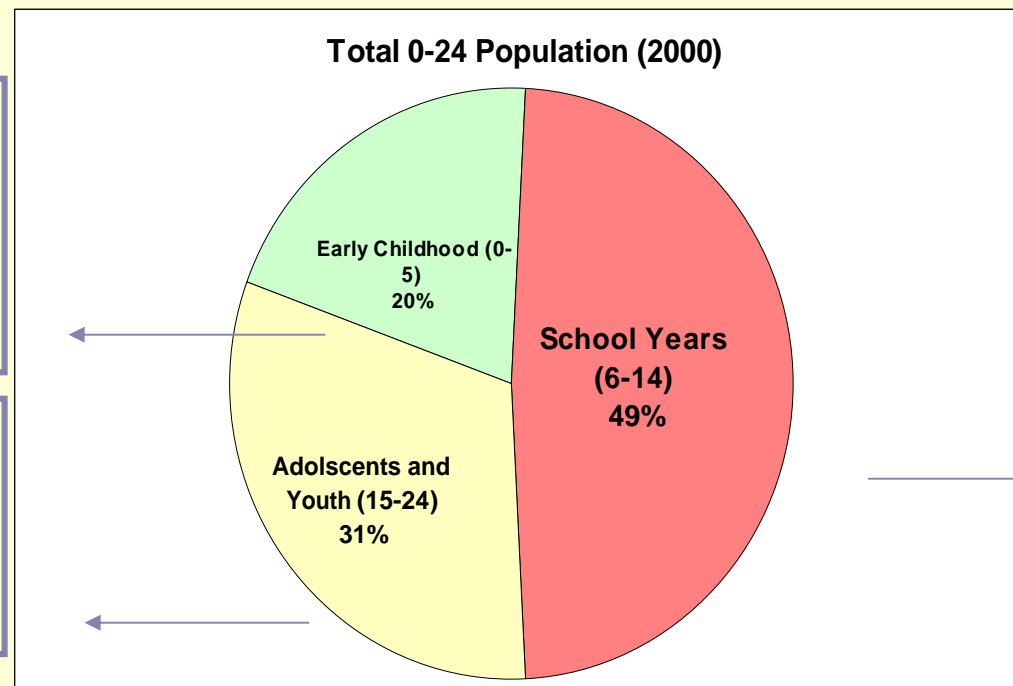


MENA's Entry Point to reaching youth

Understanding Age Specific Risks

- Death, Disease, Disability, Orphans
- Parents Neglect, Neurological Impairment
- Unsafe Environment s

- Early Marriage & Pregnancy
- Dropouts, Illegal Activities, HIV/AIDs
- Unemployment



- Failure to Enroll, Drop Outs
- Household Burden, Child Labor
- Street Children, HIV/AIDs,
- Post Traumatic Distress, Disease, Disability

Multi-sectoral nature of risks faced by youth requires multi-sectoral response

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Dropouts & repeaters 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Tertiary, Secondary, Vocational Education 	MNSHD
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Unemployment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Life Skills Training, Labor Market Preparation 	MNSEED MNSHD
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ HIV/AIDS, early marriage & pregnancy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Reproductive Health and Peer Counseling 	MNSHD
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Illegal activity & idle youth 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Youth Inclusion and Participation 	MNSRE MNSHD MNSIF



Four Pillars for Reaching Youth through Mainstreaming and Inclusion

I. Consensus building (cross sectoral analysis / policy dialogue)

- **Disadvantaged children and youth study**
- **Social development strategy**
- **Gender, youth, employment study**


II. Lending and Non-Lending Technical Assistance

- **Egypt Skills Development**
- **Jordan At-Risk Youth Integration Grant**
- **Egypt Social Protection Initiative**

III. Multi-sectoral Partnerships and Enhancing Innovation

- ◆ **Arab Adolescent Girl**
- ◆ **Egypt and Yemen Youth Inclusion & Partnership – outreach focus**
- ◆ **DGF (AUDI) – urban focus**

IV. Capacity building

- ◆ **Young women and development (GDLN)**
 - ◆ **Jordan Capacity Building for Integrating At-Risk Youth**
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Next Steps for MENA

- **Form multi-sectoral working group**

Stocktaking of ongoing work in all sectors

Developing recommendations and discuss with RMT)

- **Sensitize and raise awareness**

Country team meetings

Client/staff workshop (June 2004)

- **Form regional multi-sectoral strategy**

case examples for multi-sectoral work

