

Youth and Livelihood Opportunities: A North-South Perspective

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CLTSUMB

CENTRE FOR LAND TENURE STUDIES

Evidence from Ethiopia

- Increasing land scarcity
- Land as a safety net opportunity for youth is eroding fast
- Rapidly growing rural-urban migration
- Rapidly growing international youth migration
- Rapidly growing youth unemployment, rural and urban



Ethiopian maids 'abused in Middle East'

- **Saudi Arabia:** “Nearly 160,000 Ethiopian women went to work in Saudi Arabia in 12 months (Ethiopian Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs). Tens of thousands more migrated illegally, according to the United Nations.”
- “*The legal framework in Saudi Arabia is extremely hostile to migrant women’s rights,*” Nisha Varia, senior researcher at Human Rights Watch.
- **Ethiopia to send 45,000 maids every month to Saudi Arabia.**
- **Lebanon:** There are currently an estimated 15,000 Ethiopian girls working as maids in Beirut alone
- Many are trapped as slaves and sexual abuses are very common

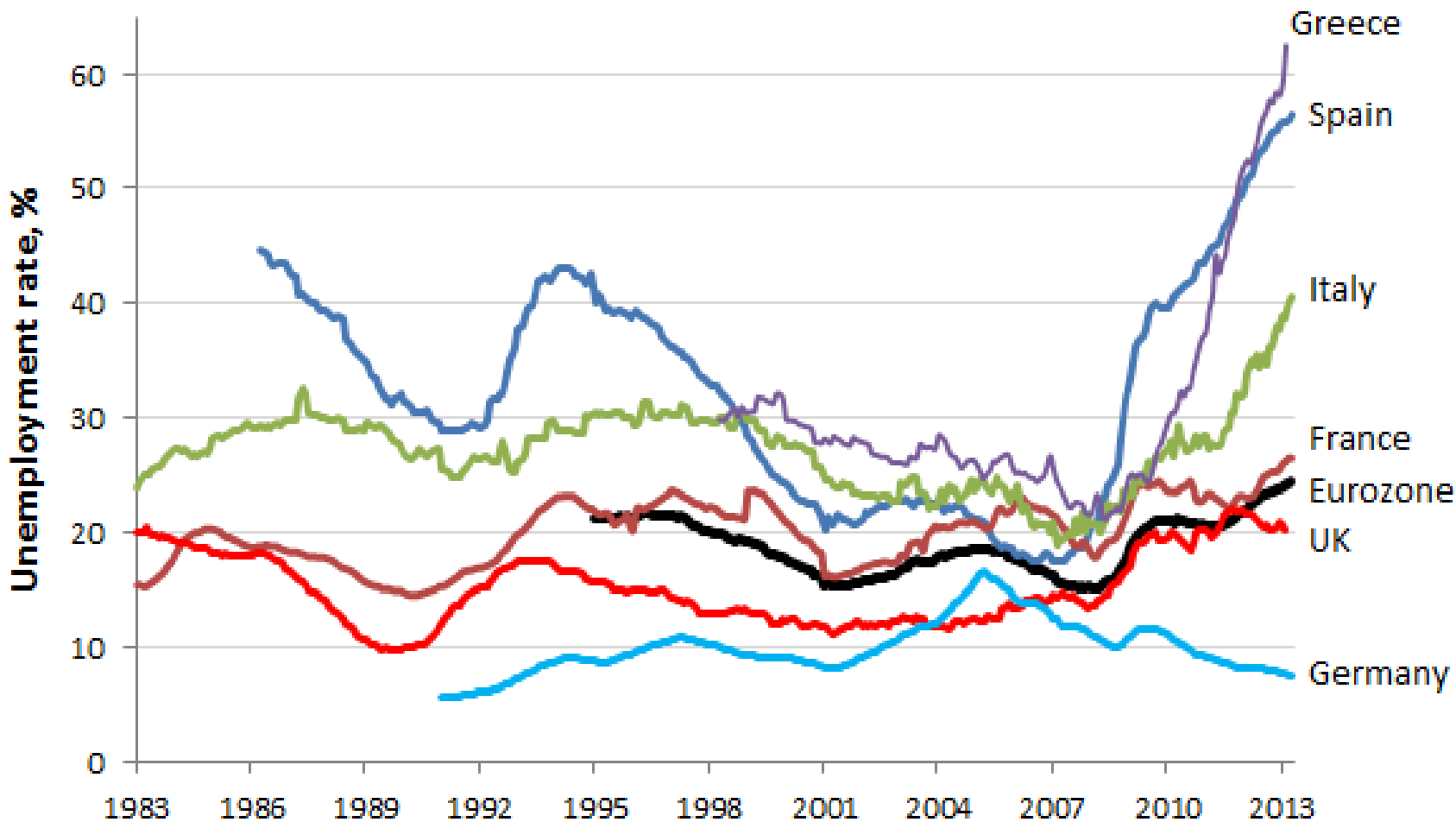


Frustration over high unemployment and rising food prices erupted in deadly riots in Tunisia with deadly clashes between youth protesters and security forces (2011)



Youth Livelihood Opportunities: A Challenge also in the North!

European youth unemployment
Monthly % unemployment rate, under 25s, 1983-2013



Global Youth Unemployment: a ticking timebomb

- Youth unemployment currently stands at over 75 million people worldwide and young people are three times more likely to be unemployed than adults (ILO, 2011)
- Africa needing to create 100 million more jobs by 2020 just to maintain current levels of employment (World Bank)
- *"The youth livelihood field is characterized by a severe lack of sound evidence... The dearth of rigorous studies – despite huge demand – severely limits large scale investments in the sector. The lack of evidence is a constraint to winning public support for youth livelihoods interventions. Government officials typically want impact and cost-benefit estimates before investing in large programmes."* (ODI, 2012)



Youth Livelihood Opportunities in a North-South Perspective

- The Youth are an extremely valuable human resource
- Youth's basic human rights are threatened: This can potentially create political instability and be very costly for society
- Concerted action by national governments and international organisations is necessary and URGENT!
- Need practical tools: Laws, policies, & programmes that can create better opportunities for Youth
- Need more research on youth strategies and outcomes: How to stimulate
 - Youth entrepreneurship
 - Youth education and training
 - Youth mobilization for public good creation/protection

