



DESERTIFICATION
AND YOUTH
MIGRATION:
A Global Perspective

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OUTLINE

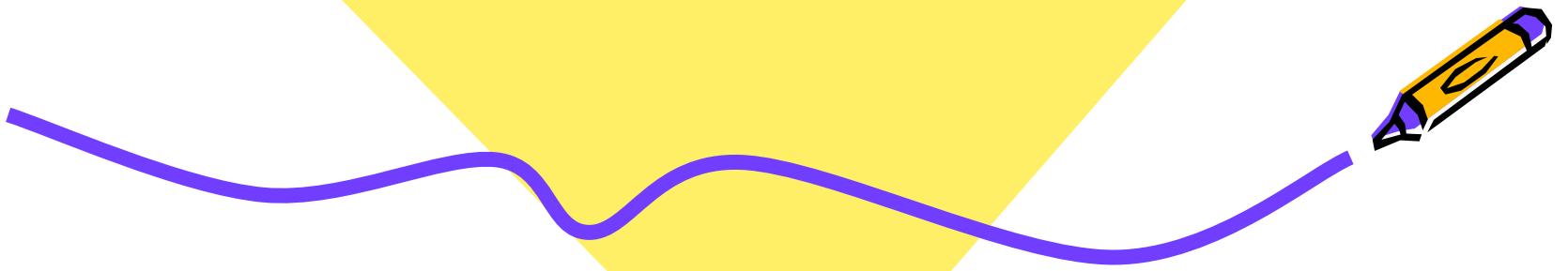


- Introduction
- Desertification and Youth Migration
- Challenges
 - Poverty
 - Unemployment
 - Access to land
- Opportunities and Success Stories
- Conclusions and Recommendations



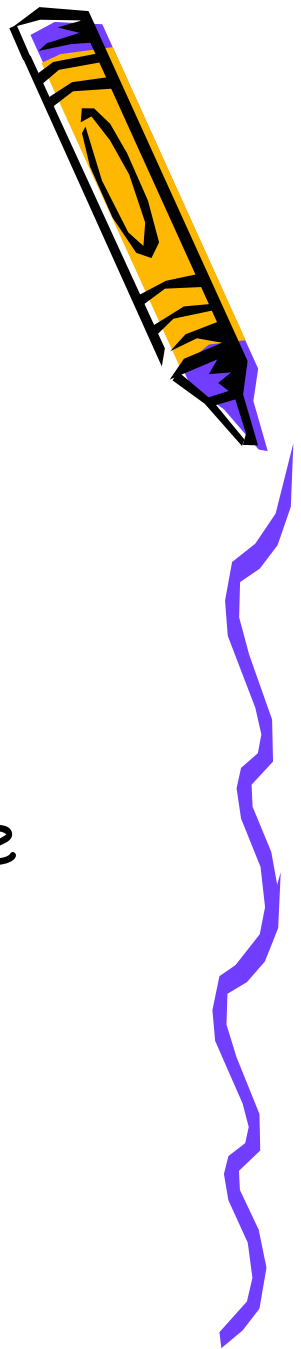


INTRODUCTION



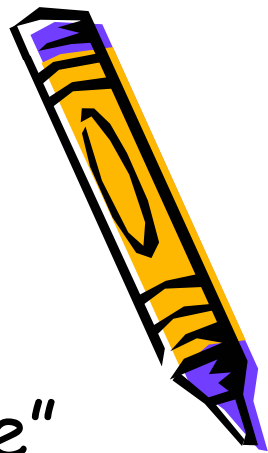
DESERTIFICATION:

- Is the degradation of drylands
- Is mainly caused by
 - climatic variability and
 - environmentally detrimental activities
- Directly affects over 250 million people
- Is of concern to the development community (UNCED, UNCCD, IYDD)



YOUTHS:

- Sometimes referred to as "young people"
- Definition:
 - 5-24 year old age group (World Youth Report 2005)
 - Varies from region to region
- Global youth population:
 - To decline from 18% in 2005, to 15% by 2025
 - But will still number over 1.2 billion by 2015



MIGRATION:

- Global migrant population:
 - Estimated 26 million migrants worldwide
 - 15% of are youths

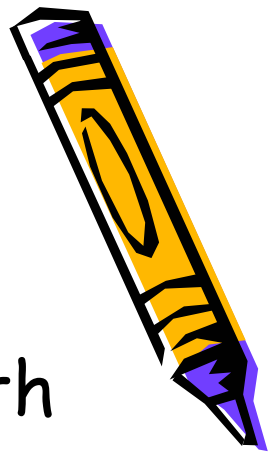




DESERTIFICATION &
YOUTH MIGRATION

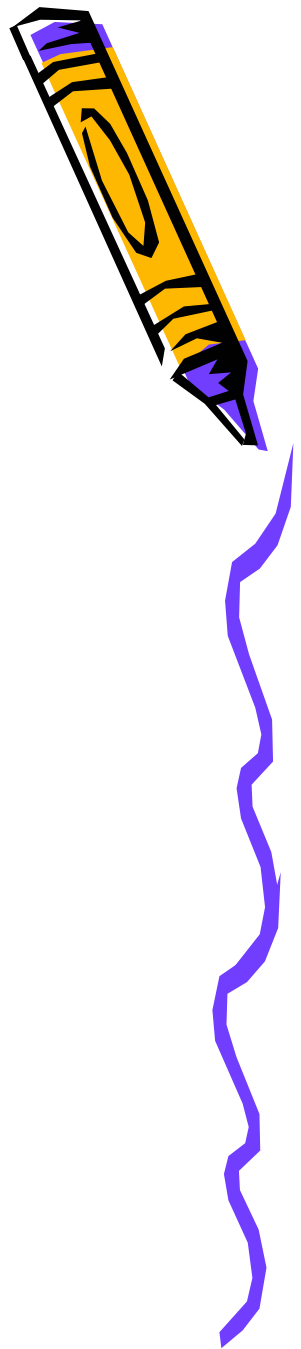
ISSUES

- Desertification fuels migration, esp. youth migration
- Linkage between migration & desertification
- Marginalized people (youths and women) are at greatest risk
- A common perception: South to North migration
- Migration effects on development is multi-faceted



CHALLENGES

- Major challenges
 - Poverty
 - Unemployment
 - Access to productive resources



POVERTY

- 209 million youths on < \$1/day in 2002
 - South Asia has 40% of youths living in poverty
 - Sub-Saharan Africa followed with 29%
- Poverty is worse in drier zones
- Youths in drylands are affected by poverty
 - Limited access to services
 - Increased vulnerability to exploitation
 - About 59 million youths engaged in hazardous work



UNEMPLOYMENT

- Global youth unemployment: 88 million in 2003
- Youths share of the unemployed:
 - They account for 18% of the world's population
 - Represent 41% of unemployed
 - Regional differences
- Desertification increases youth unemployment



ACCESS TO LAND

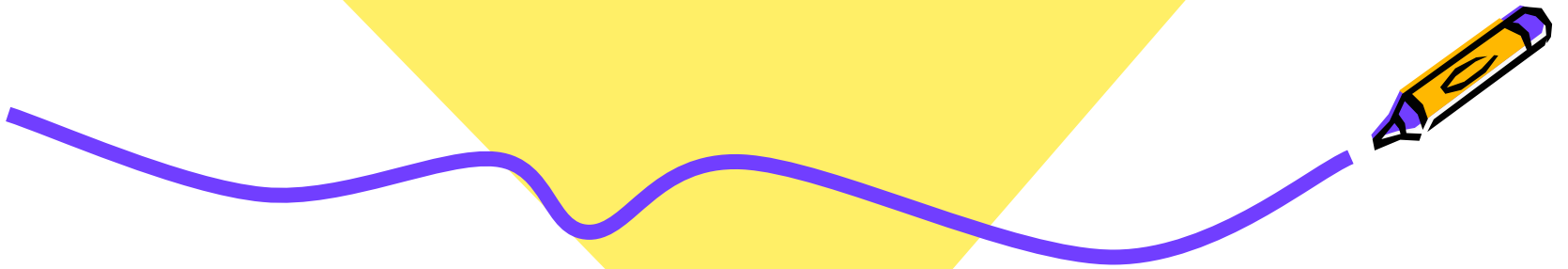


- Access to land important because:
 - Correlation between poverty and access to land
 - Providing land reduces youth unemployment
 - Youths and women are often marginalized in decision-making, esp. on land matters
- Effects of lack of access to land lead to migration
- Calls for greater cooperation - e.g. UN High-level dialog, Almeria Symposium, etc.





SUCCESS STORIES



POVERTY

- Progress in the fight against poverty
- 130 million less people living in extreme poverty
- Youths in fight against poverty
 - Philippines: youth in policy formulation
 - Lesotho & Gambia: Youth Environment Corps
 - Cape Verde: Fight land degradation and create jobs through micro-credit



UNEMPLOYMENT



- Formation of Youth Employment Network is a great opportunity
- Success stories:
 - Niger: volunteers working to build municipalities were absorbed by local govts.
 - South Africa:
 - Community-based public works program for poor youths and women
 - Rated best job-creation program in 30 countries in Africa



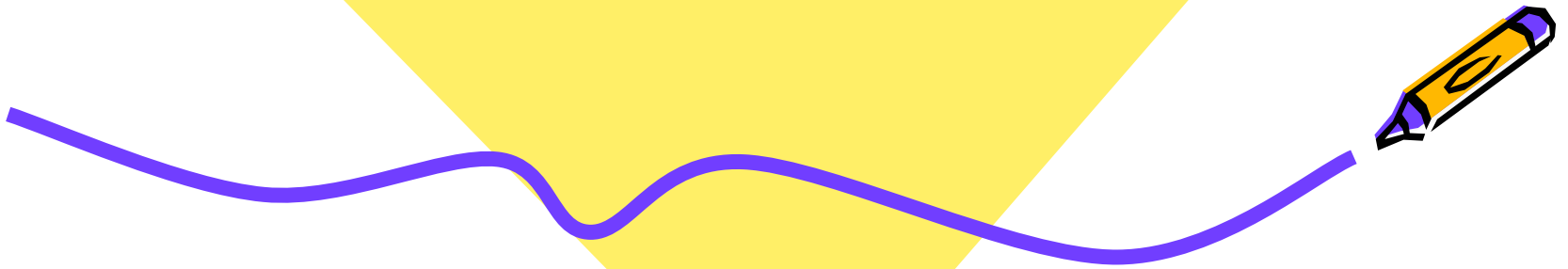
ACCESS TO LAND

- Access to land especially important in drylands
- Ethiopia: Relief Society of Tigray (REST)
 - A local NGO fighting food insecurity, reducing environmental degradation, and youth unemployment
 - Established water conservation structures on hillsides
 - Provided youths access to land, and income-generating activities





CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS



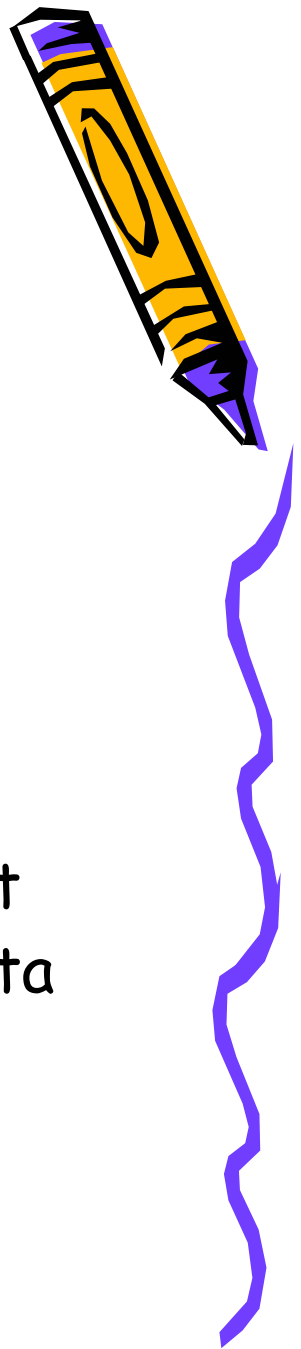
CONCLUSIONS

- Desertification often fuels on youth migration
- Youths in drylands face many challenges, including
 - Poverty
 - Unemployment
 - Lack of access to land
- Despite the problems, there are a lot of opportunities



RECOMMENDATIONS

- Adopt a multi-faceted strategy for economic development and job creation for youths
- Increase access of poor youths in drylands to education, jobs, etc.
- Provide more resources to build capacity for youths in drylands
- Adopt a rights-based approach to development
- Study the issue in greater depth/get more data





THE END

Gracias!
Merci Beaucoup!
Thank you!

