

# Aftermaths of the Tunisian Revolution

## Decentralization and the shift to new planning practices

**86** new municipalities

before the Revolution,  
1/3 of the population could not vote for  
their local leaders and had no designated  
place to voice their concerns.

**7,200**  
local representatives



washingtoninstitute.org

The Tunisian revolution began in December 2010 and culminated in the departure of dictator Ben Ali on January 14, 2011.

Three years later the country adopted a new constitution. Title VII in particular shifts power from the national to the local level through decentralization policies.

Participatory projects have since burgeoned at the national, municipal, and neighborhood levels. These strides for community participation contrasts with pre-revolution Tunisia's highly centralized bureaucratic system.

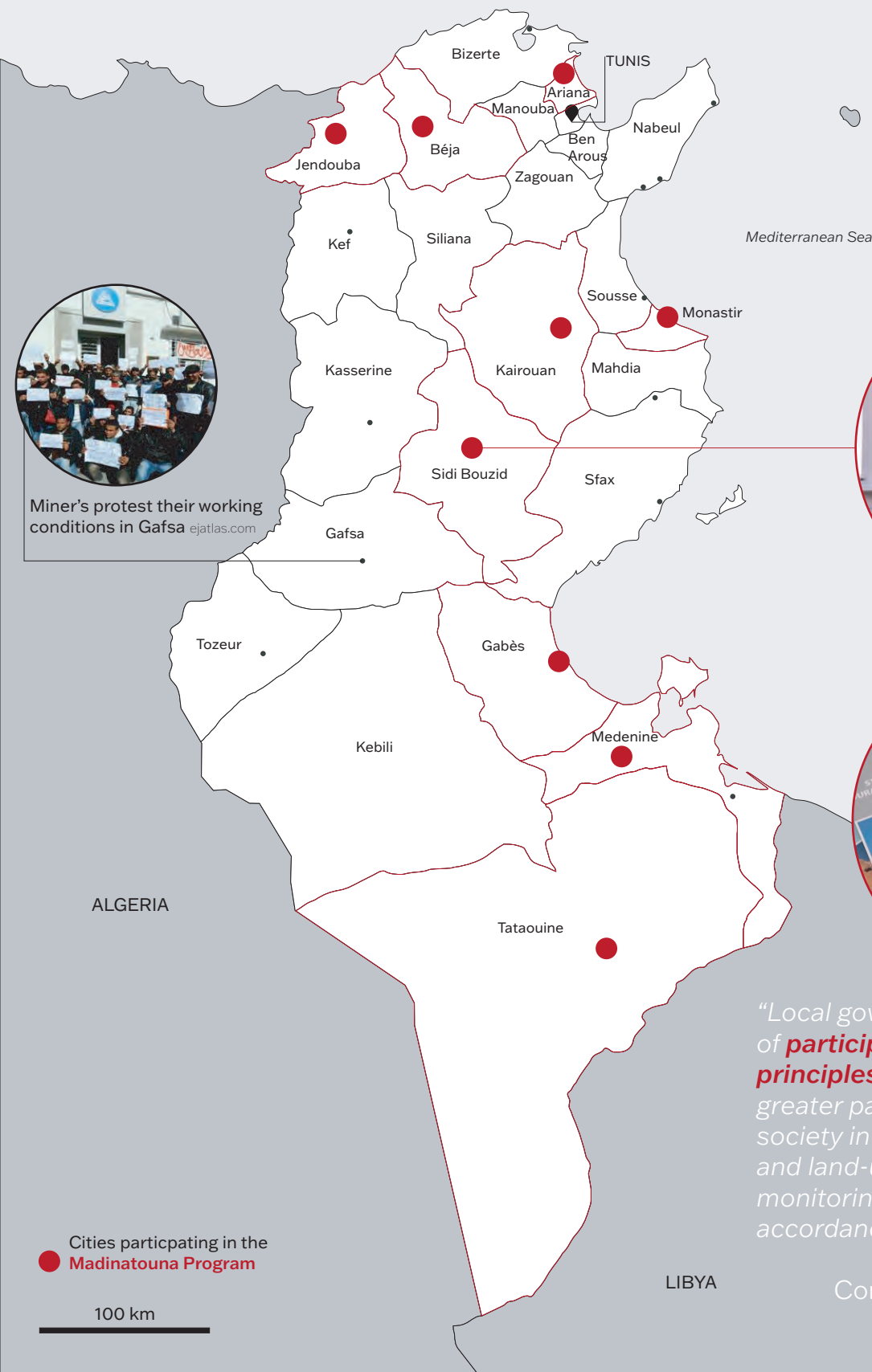
**Have decentralization policies and emphasis on participation truly influenced planning policy and project implementation since the Revolution ?**

New planning projects and interviews with local stakeholders reveal that **trust, transparency, and informing citizens of their rights** are critical to more impactful participation.

The Revolution isn't over yet.

Zeineb SELLAMI

GSAPP | Cities in Crisis, Spring 2021



Monument representing Bouazizi's fruit cart in Sidi Bouzid. © Steven A Cook

Mohamed Bouazizi's face adorns the facade of the local Post Office in Sidi Bouzid.

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**9** municipalities

have adopted Strategic Plans since 2015

Stratégies de Développement Durable des Villes  
City Sustainable Development Strategies  
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*"Local governments adopt the mechanisms of **participatory democracy and the principles of open governance** to ensure greater participation of citizens and civil society in the preparation of development and land-use planning projects and the monitoring of their implementation, in accordance with the law."*

Constitution of the Republic of Tunisia,  
Article 139, Title VII



**SafeNess App**  
developed by Selma Bel Hassine  
during SDG Camps 2017



P@trimonia 2.0

Cities participating in the  
**Madinatouna Program**

100 km