

# POPULATION, CLIMATE AND RESOURCE DYNAMICS IN THE SAHEL

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# Broad Trends

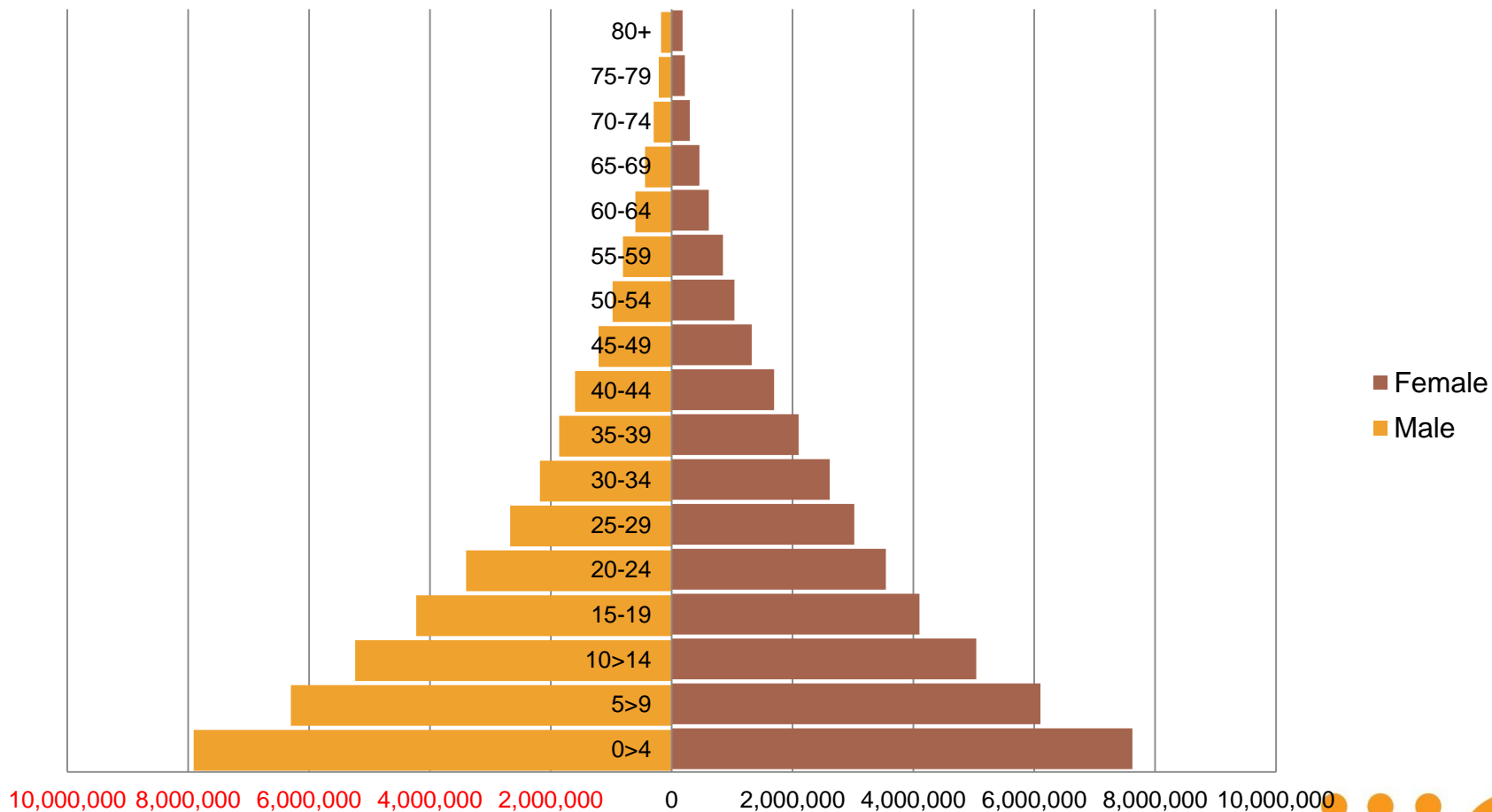
- >80 million **population**, growing at average rates of 3% per year (ranging from 2.6% in Mauritania to 3.8% in Niger)
- Wide disparities in **population densities** – Low densities observed in most of the countries located to the north of the Sahel region is explained by arid Sahara desert- populations are concentrated in the southern parts.
- **Fertility** levels among the highest in the World, with only modest declines over the past 2 decades.
- Substantial gains in terms of declines in **mortality** - however high infant mortality contributes to rather low life expectancies (even by African standards)
- Substantial decline (and even reversals) in **migration** (even seasonal) to the southern (coastal) parts of West Africa
- Flows through North Africa to Europe have been sustained in spite of the risks and restrictive policies.
- Contribution of migration to the dynamics in the region remains minimal.

# Broad Trends Cont.

- Population is largely **rural** and dependent on agriculture, animal husbandry and other **primary sector activities**
- However, high **urban concentrations** in The Gambia (57%), Senegal (47%) and in Mauritania (41%)
- Rather high **urban growth rates** over the past 2 decades:
  - Fueled by rural-urban migration and natural increase.
  - Largely unplanned
  - Not inclusive – proliferation of slum settlements, poverty, insecurity and growth of the informal sector, and insufficient urban infrastructure.
- **Rapid urbanization** resulted in increased pressure on the natural resources and pollution which all have adverse effects on the environment

# Broad Trends: Current Age Structure

SAHEL1 2014

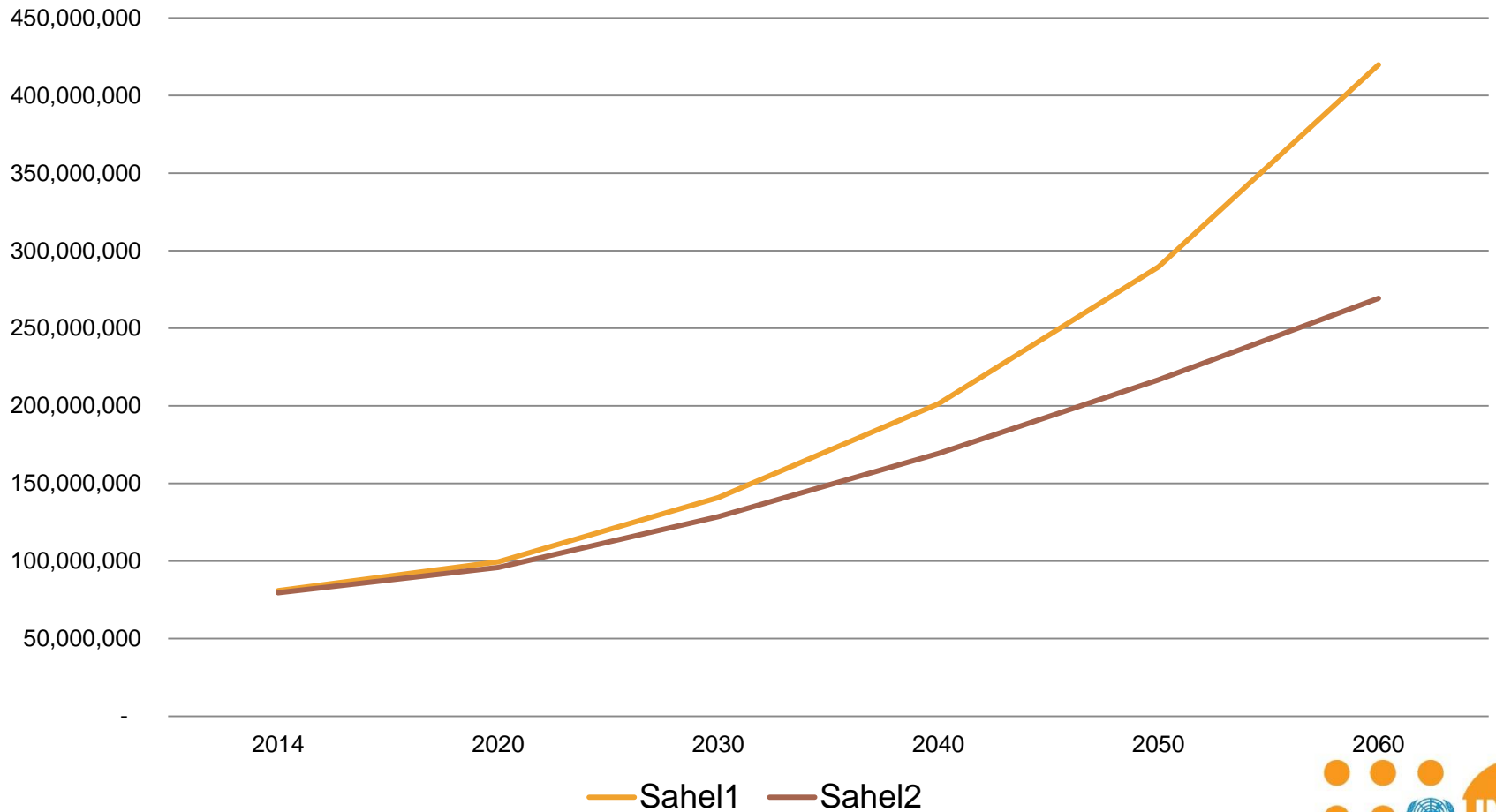


# Future Prospects

- The following slides present outcomes of the evolution of the population of the Sahel during the next 50 years based on two main scenarios of fertility trends:
  - **Sahel 1: Where current fertility remains constant**
  - **Sahel 2: Where fertility in each country decline to half of their current levels at the end of the projection period**
- For both scenarios mortality is assumed to continue declining while the impact of migration will remain insignificant.

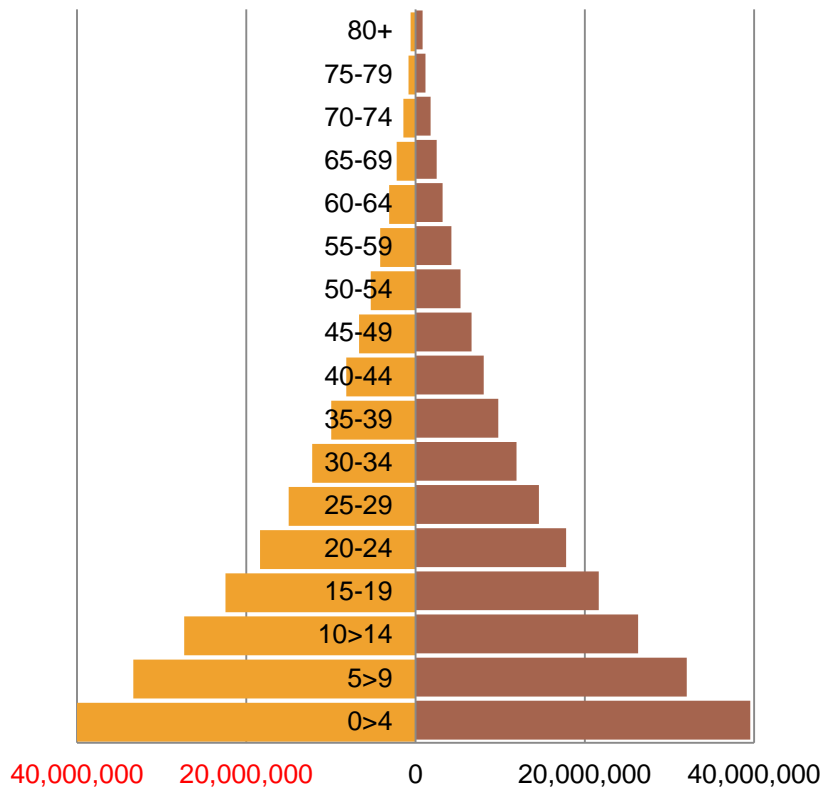
# Future Prospects

Figure 2: Population evolution -Sahel Region by scenario

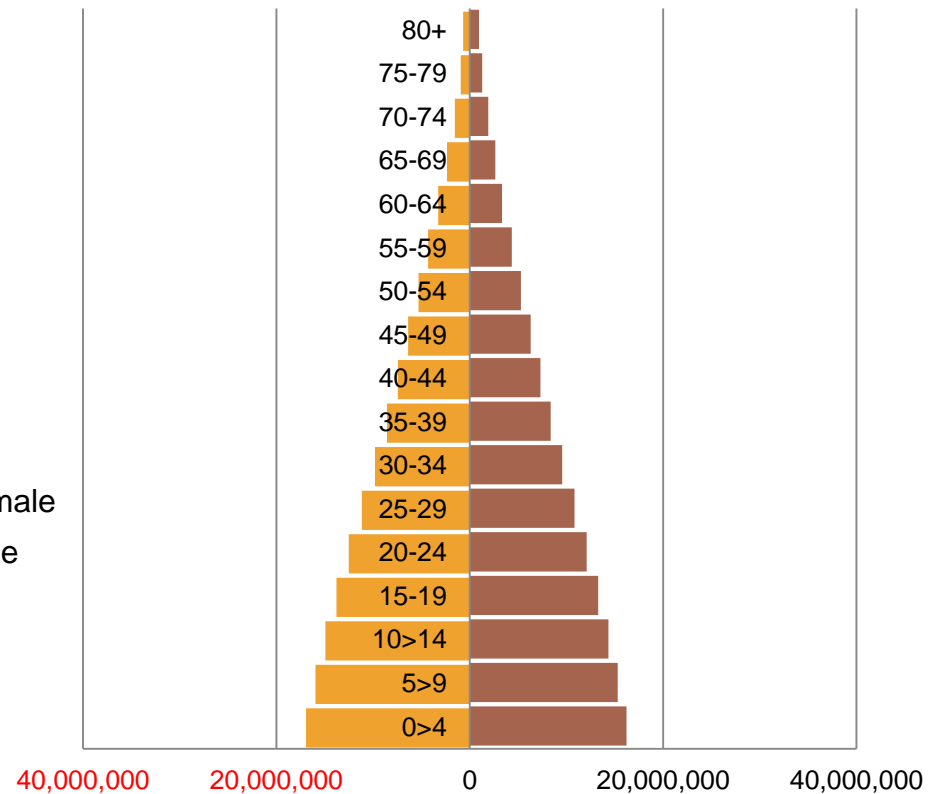


# Future Prospects

## SAHEL1 2060



## SAHEL2 2060



# WALTPS prospects -1995

- The most striking development of the last thirty years has been the rapid expansion of West African towns
- The proportion of town dwellers rose from only 13% in 1960 to 40% in 1990.
- Apart from the dramatic growth of a few major cities such as Lagos, urban expansion has been relatively balanced.
- It has slowed down in the last ten years, but it seems plausible that by 2020 the urbanization ratio will be close to 60%.



# Innovative approaches: Regional strategies for the Sahel

- Linking the dots or
- Addressing the disconnect between root causes and Long term solutions

# Innovative Approaches: The UN Integrated Strategy for the Sahel: Governance, Security and Resilience (2012)

- Resilience as a requirement for good governance and peace;
  - Strengthening Resilience = assisting Governments, communities and households break the current vicious circle and to manage and recover from crises and shocks more successfully, in order to protect development gains.
1. Vulnerability Analysis
  2. Social Protection, Safety Nets & Social Services
  3. Risk Management
  4. Livelihoods
  5. Natural Resources Management, Climate Change & Water
  6. Addressing population dynamics and its impact on resilience mechanisms

# Progress to date

- Implementation of the Ouagadougou Initiative - *Family Planning: Francophone West Africa on the Move:*
  - Targeted investments in family planning
  - Recommendations for strengthening services, mobilizing political commitment and resources, and coordinating actions
- [...]

# Sahel's Women Empowerment and Demographic Dividend Project (SWEDD) (2014)

- **Population Dynamics** as a means for developing community resilience and sustainability of the future of the region.
  - support improvements in the availability, affordability and utilization of reproductive health commodities,
  - strengthen data collection and analysis.

## Goals

1. Improve Regional Demand for Reproductive, Maternal, Neonatal, Child Health and Nutrition (**RMNCHN**) **Services** and Increase **Empowerment for Women and Adolescents**
2. Strengthen Regional Capacity for Availability of **RMNCHN Commodities and Qualified Health Workers**
3. Foster Commitment and Capacity for **Policy Making and Project Implementation**

# Challenges

- **Increasing urbanization** may mean increasing constraints to access to land within an environment where most livelihoods depend on primary sector activities
- **Ensure sustainable synergies between all implementing agencies** - Need for regional and multi-sectoral approaches poses challenges for coordination as well as for generating national and sectoral ownership and commitment to a shared regional/multi-sectoral strategies;
- **Social and political sensitivity of the project topics;**
- **Security deterioration;**

# Opportunities

- **Demographic Dividend:** In every scenario, **children, youth and adolescents** will constitute the bulk of the population in all Sahel countries
  1. Investing in the **health** and adapted **educational needs** of youth and adolescents needs to continue to be a priority - as laying groundwork for future economic growth.
  2. More attention should be given to **job creation** in both the public and private sectors + to economic, legal and governance incentives for investment in rural and urban areas
- **Financial resources** committed to the region: 1.5bn USD from the World Bank, and new projects worth around 4bn USD announced by the AfDB (Nov. 2013)