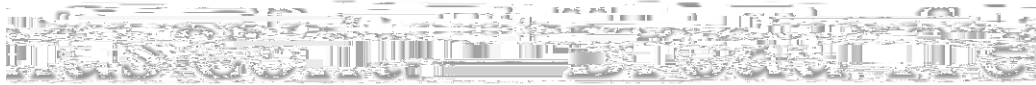
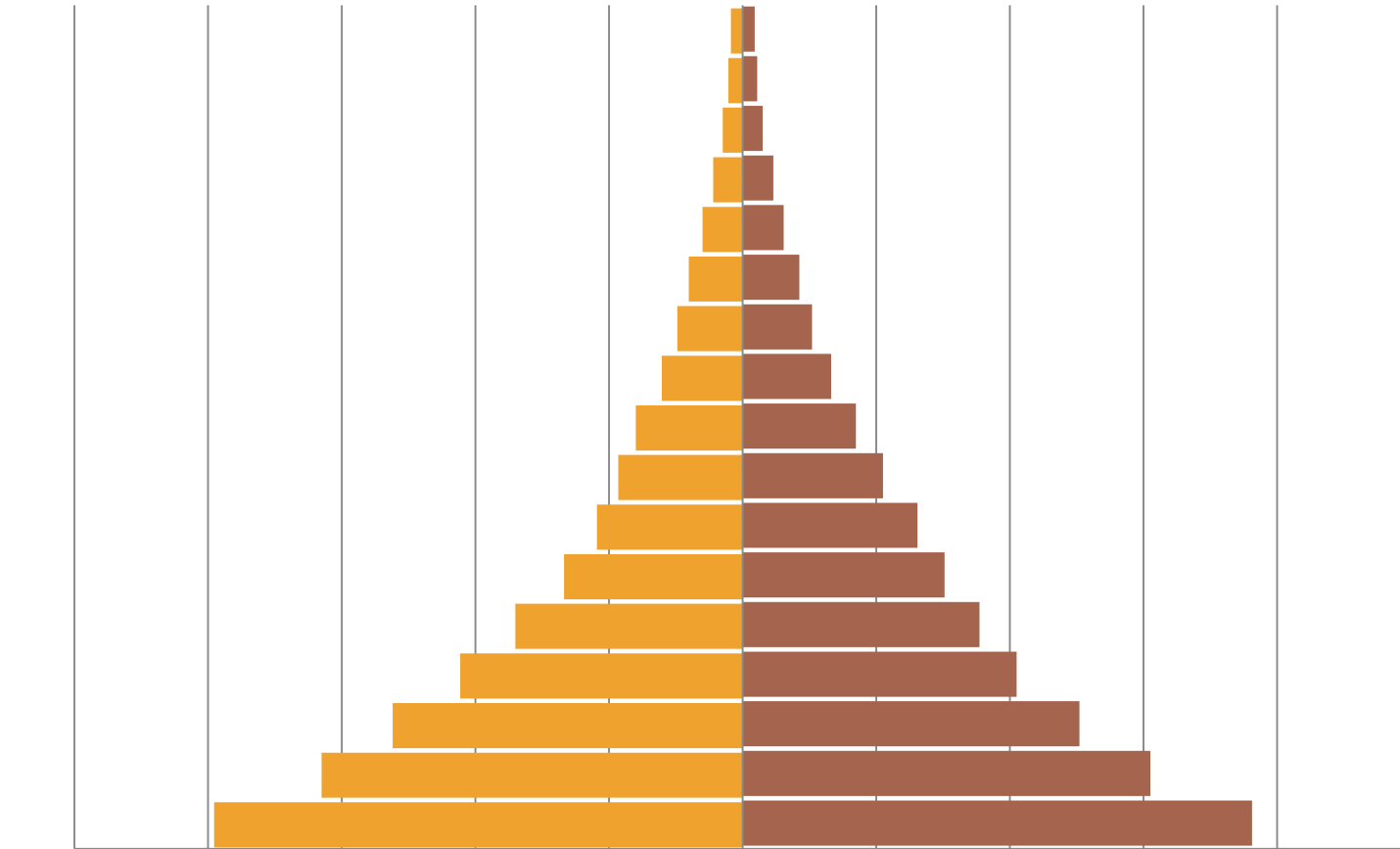
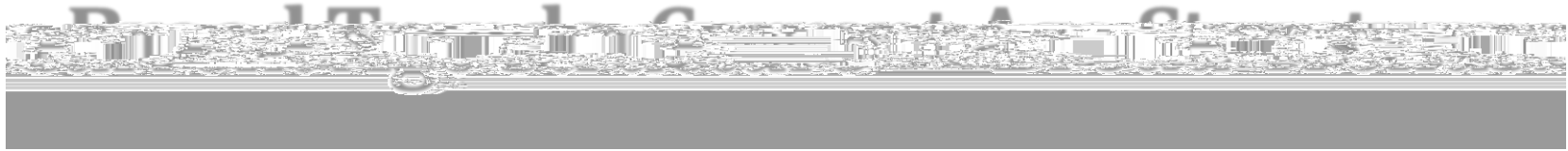




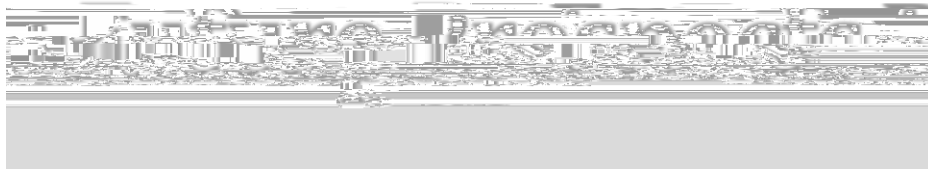
- >80 million **population**, growing at average rates of 3% per year (ranging from 2.6% in Mauritania to 3.8% in Niger)
- Wide disparities in **population densities** – Low densities observed in most of the countries located to the north of the Sahel region is explained by arid Sahara desert- populations 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.



- 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



10,000,000



- 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.

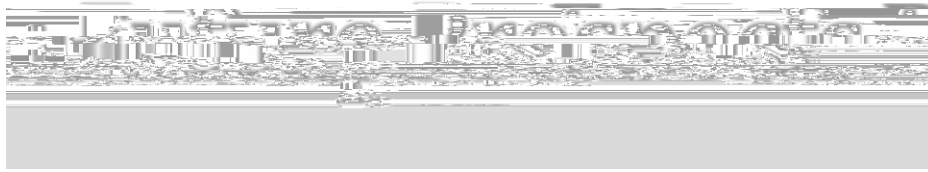
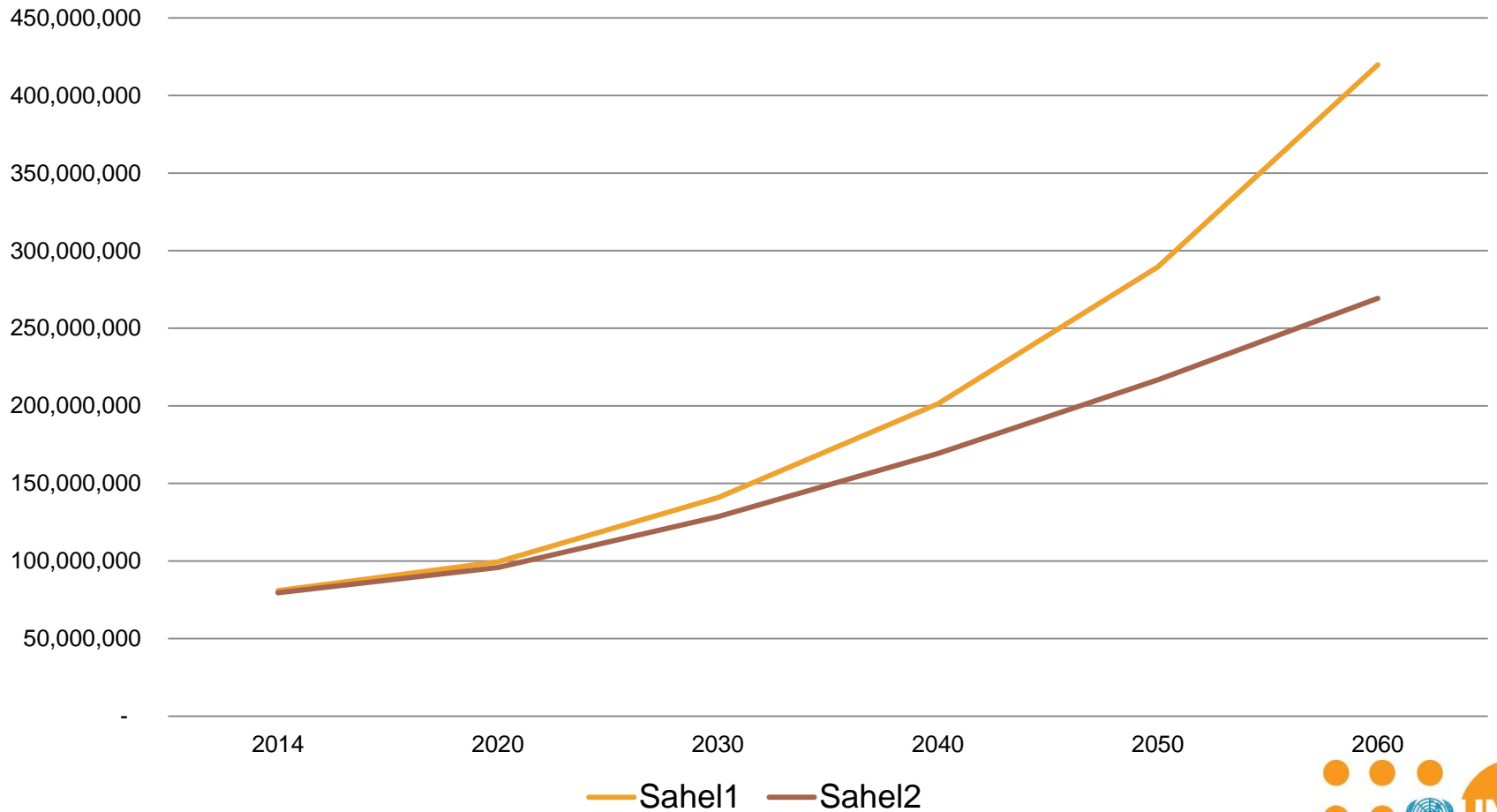
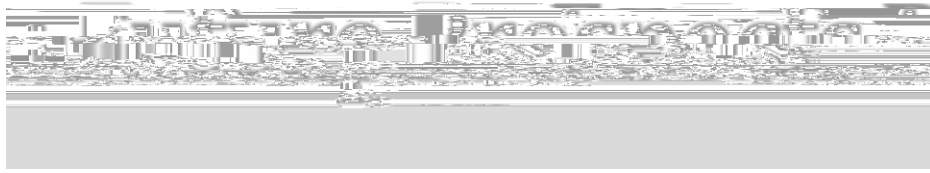


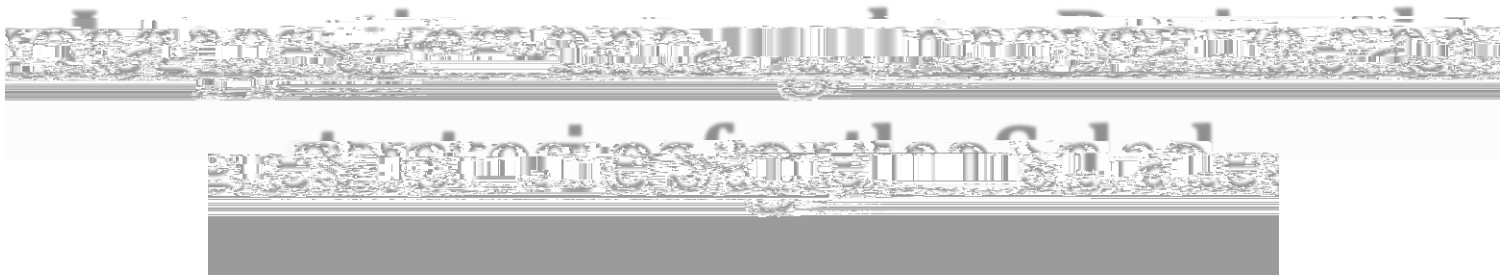
Figure 2: Population evolution -Sahel Region by scenario







- 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%.



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

Innovative Approaches





- 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
- [...]

- **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**



- **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;**

