

TABLE 3. Summary of Scenarios

SCENARIO	Elements	Implications (2040 to 2045)
1. More of the Same	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regional organization and EU sign agreement: Expanded aid package exchanged for restrictions on EU-bound migrants. Maternal allowances: Region's states use EU aid to pay stay-at-home mothers, subsidizing child health and education. Slow social transformation: In cities, the rise in girls' educational attainment and contraceptive use contribute to moderate declines in family size, widening urban-rural human development gap. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Blockade reroutes migrants: Sahelian diasporas in coastal West Africa and southern Africa outgrow those in Europe. Fragile food security: Food subsidies, food aid, and irrigation feed region in adequate rainfall years. Low reserves make this a highly drought-vulnerable region. Jihadists occupy rural Sahel: Jihadist protostates rule towns, shuttering rural schools, restricting women, taxing relief supplies. Conflict stalemate: EU supports G5 Sahel counterterrorism, but expanded effort makes few permanent gains. Cities isolated.
2. Breakthrough	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meaningful reforms: Region's states enforce age-18 minimum marriage age, mandate education to age 16, and expand women's rights in marriage and civil family courts. Surprising fertility declines: Fertility in Senegal, Mauritania, and Burkina Faso track near or below the UN's most optimistic fertility scenario (in the Population Division's 2019 projections). New urban norms: Small-family norm spreads through urban Western Sahel. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> High secondary enrollments: Sahelian women close gap in educational attainment and exceed men's participation in college. Bigger remittance impact: Cash influx to small rural families spurs educational gains and underwrites agricultural mechanization. Sporadic violence remains: Militant Islam retains some of its appeal by using backlash to women's rights to drum up support. Urban renewal: Urban growth slows. Reforms provide property rights for long-term slum dwellers, encouraging investment.
3. Downward Spiral	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local leaders reject reforms: Rural leadership eliminates girls' educational facilities and shuns women's rights reforms. Religious movement declares modern contraception "un-African." EU, US adopt containment: Donors disengage from development efforts, shifting their focus to containing militant Islamism. Persistent conflict and drought: Relations between agro-pastoral herders and farmers worsen. Water-sharing and seasonal grazing agreements abandoned. ISIS active in all Western Sahelian states. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jihadists consolidate territory: ISIS governs an inland empire. Criminal networks traffic through major airports. Mali, Chad splinter into ethnic states: Warring ethnic militias disrupt humanitarian effort. Regional famine hits hard in Niger: Crop failures and conflict trigger mass influx into urban Sahel and coastal West Africa. Senegal serves relief efforts and migrants: Dakar functions as gateway for humanitarian shipments and illegal out-migration.