

Country Disease Outlook

Comoros

August 2023



World Health
Organization

African Region

Background

The Union of the Comoros is an archipelago off Africa's east coast, in the Indian Ocean waters of the Mozambique Channel. It is a lower-middle income country with a GDP per capita of US\$ 1,578 (2021) and has a population of 821,625 (2021).

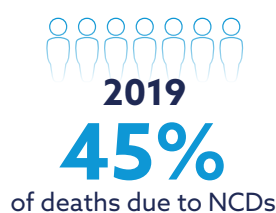
Key points

- ◇ Comoros has a high burden of communicable and non-communicable disease (NCDs), with the latter making up 45% of deaths in 2019.
- ◇ Comoros slightly improved its child survival rates between 2015 and 2021, however it is far from meeting the SDG targets for neonatal or under-five mortality rates.
- ◇ Comoros is endemic for two of the five NTDs amenable to preventive chemotherapy through mass drug administration (MDA). In 2020, 95% of the 99,550 million targeted were reached with MDA.
- ◇ Vaccination coverage dipped in 2020-21 in Comoros below the 90% target coverage rates for vaccination in children, reaching only 85% with the third dose of DTP-containing vaccine and 82% with the first dose of measles-containing vaccine in 2021. A priority for the country should be the restoration of routine immunization services to return to the previous coverage levels.

UHC/CN

Universal Health Coverage/Communicable
and Non-communicable Diseases
WHO Regional Office for Africa





Broad disease outlook

The country has a high burden of both communicable (such as malaria, tuberculosis, HIV/AIDS) and non-communicable disease (NCDs). The latter was estimated to have caused 45% of deaths in 2019.

Communicable diseases

Malaria

Malaria remains a public health problem in Comoros, although the incidence rate has fallen significantly since the early 2000s. In 2021, the incidence rate of 12.8 cases per 1,000 population. Despite this progress, the country is currently off track to meet the targets set by the Global Technical Strategy for Malaria due to recent fluctuations in the incidence rate per 1,000 population.

Tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS

In 2021, incidence of tuberculosis for Comoros was 35 cases per 100,000 people. The mortality rate of TB cases (all forms, excluding HIV coinfection) has increased slightly since 2015, changing from 7 to 8 per 100,000 population in 2021. In contrast, the TB mortality rate among HIV-positive people has remained constant and in the same period low (below 0.5 per 100,000).

Only 90 people were receiving antiretroviral treatment in 2021, although Comoros has yet to meet the 95-95-95 goals:

- ▲ 86% of people living with HIV that know their status.
- ▲ 70% of people living with HIV who know their status are on treatment.
- ▲ There is limited data on the number of people living with HIV and on treatment who are virally suppressed.

Neglected tropical diseases

Comoros was endemic for two of the five NTDs amenable to preventive chemotherapy through mass drug administration (MDA), namely lymphatic filariasis and soil-transmitted helminthiasis. In 2020, 94,457 of the 99,550 million targeted (95%) were reached with MDA. Another notable NTD that remains endemic is leprosy.

Non-communicable diseases

NCDs are a significant health problem in Comoros. The age-standardised mortality rate across four

major NCDs (Cardiovascular Disease, Chronic Respiratory Disease, Cancer and Diabetes) was 618 per 100,000 in males and 565 in females in 2021.

Comoros has implemented initial efforts on the NCD progress indicators related to NCD policy and plans, tobacco taxes, tobacco smoke free/pollution and alcohol advertising restrictions, however progress has been more limited on NCD guidelines, tobacco advertising bans, tobacco media campaigns, salt policies, trans fats policies, marketing to children and physical activity guidelines.

Childhood Immunization

Comoros's coverage rates of vaccination in children have historically been above 90% but dipped in 2020-21. In 2021, the third dose of DTP-containing vaccine was 85%, while the measles vaccination coverage for the first dose was 82%. Comoros experienced a small outbreak of mumps in 2020.

In 2021, there were an estimated 3,492 under-immunised children and 1,164 zero-dose children. Comoros should consider how to restore routine vaccination and the implementation of appropriate catch-up vaccination strategies to protect these cohorts of children from vaccine-preventable diseases and reduce the probability of outbreaks in the future.

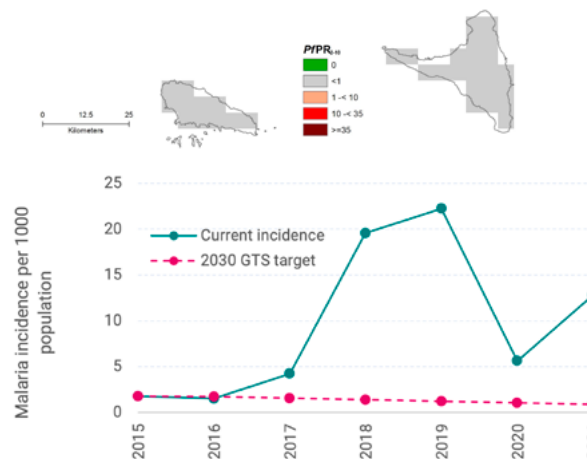
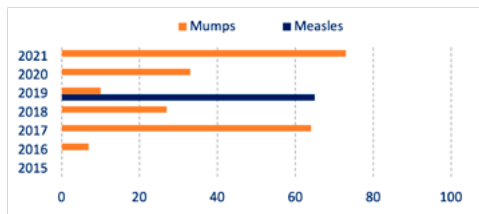
Child survival

Based on the UN Inter-agency Group for Child Mortality Estimation (UN IGME) estimates, the under-5 mortality rate has fallen from 61 to 50 per 1,000 live births between 2015 and 2021, remaining well above the SDG target of 25 per 1,000 live births. Similarly, the neonatal mortality rate decreased from 30 to 26 per 1,000 live births in the same period, exceeding the SDG target of 12.

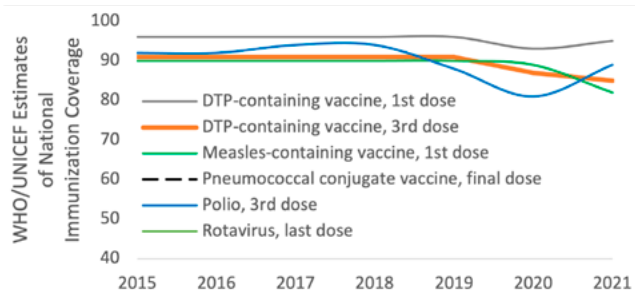
MALARIA

POPULATION AT RISK IN 2022	TOTAL MALARIA CASES IN 2021	TOTAL MALARIA DEATHS IN 2021
821,625	10,537	26

ITN use in children under five years 41.1% and 13.5% use of ACTs among those with fever for whom care was sought and received a finger or heel prick



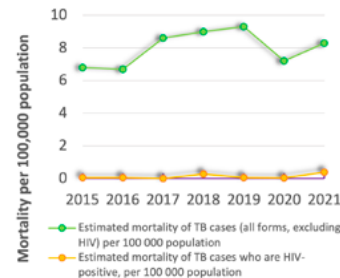
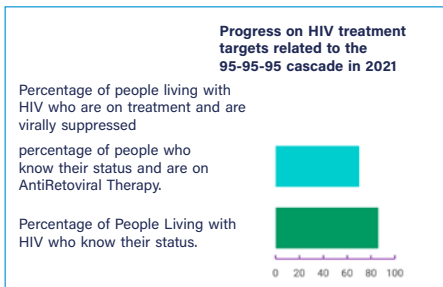
EXPANDED PROGRAMME ON IMMUNIZATION IN CHILDREN



Zero dose 1,164 **Under-immunized 3,492**
 In Comoros, the last measles outbreak was in 2019, although Mumps is a major public health problem
 WUENIC estimates show a dip in vaccination coverage in 2020.

HIV AND TUBERCULOSIS

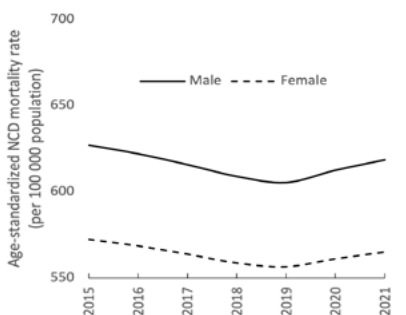
- 90** people receiving antiretroviral therapy in 2021
- Unknown** Treatment success rate for HIV-positive TB cases
- Unknown** of children (aged < 5 years) household contacts of bacteriologically-confirmed TB cases on preventive treatment
- >90%** Domestic funding for TB
- >90%** Domestic funding for HIV



- Indicator 1 - Targets
- Indicator 2 - CRV Mortality
- Indicator 3 - Surveys
- Indicator 4 - NCD policy and Plan
- Indicator 5A - Tobacco taxes
- Indicator 5B - Tobacco smoke free/polution
- Indicator 5C - Tobacco health warning
- Indicator 5D - Tobacco advertising ban
- Indicator 5E - Tobacco media campaign
- Indicator 6A - Alcohol availability
- Indicator 6B - Alcohol advertising restrictions
- Indicator 6C - Alcohol taxes
- Indicator 7A - Salt policies
- Indicator 7B - Trans fats policies
- Indicator 7C - Marketing to children
- Indicator 8 - Physical activity awareness
- Indicator 9 - NCD guidelines

NCD PROGRESS INDICATORS

- Achieved**
- Partially achieved**
- Not achieved/Unknown**



NEGLECTED TROPICAL DISEASES

- Endemic NTDS requiring Preventive Chemotherapy (PC)**
- Lymphatic filariasis
 - Soil-transmitted helminthiasis

PC-NTDS TREATMENT IN 2020
99,550 targeted for MDA
94,457 treated with MDA

OTHER MAJOR NTDS

- Leprosy

