

COMOROS

Capital

Moroni

Ethnic Groups

Antalote, Cafre, Makoa, Oimatsaha, Sakalava

Languages

Arabic (official), French (official), Shikomoro (official; similar to Swahili) (Comorian)

Religions

Sunni Muslim 98%, other (including Shia Muslim, Roman Catholic, Jehovah's Witness, Protestant) 2%

Population

Total: 888,380

Median age: 20.9 years

Population growth rate: 1.34%

Urban: 30.1%

Rural 69.9%

Fertility

Birth rate: 22.06 births/1,000 population

Total fertility rate: 2.69 children born/woman

Sex ratio of population: 0.94 male(s)/female

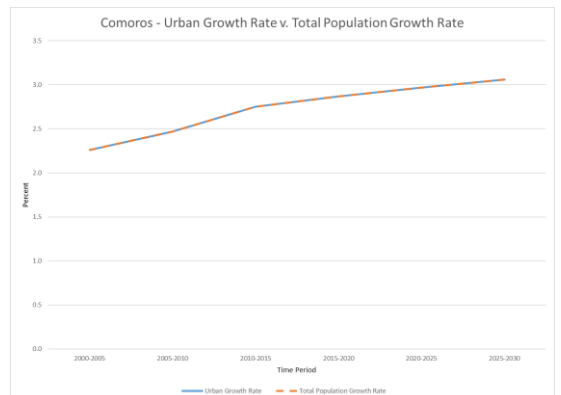
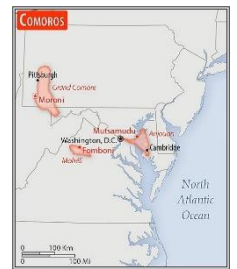
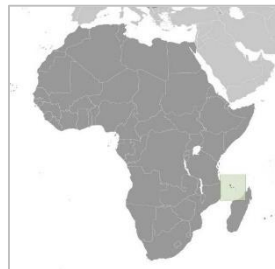
Mortality

Death rate: 6.49 deaths/1,000 population

Life expectancy at birth: 67.5 years

Maternal mortality rate: 273 deaths/100,000 live births

Infant mortality rate: 56.01 deaths/1,000 live births



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Migration

Net migration rate: -2.22 migrants/1,000 population

Health

Current health expenditure: 5.4% of GDP

Physician density: 0.26 physicians/1,000 population

Adult obesity: 7.8%

Alcohol consumption per capita: 0.18 liters of pure alcohol

Education

Education expenditures: 2.6% of GDP

Literacy: 58.8%

Population Distribution

the capital city of Moroni, located on the western side of the island of Grande Comore, is the country's largest city; however, of the three islands that comprise Comoros, it is Anjouan that is the most densely populated

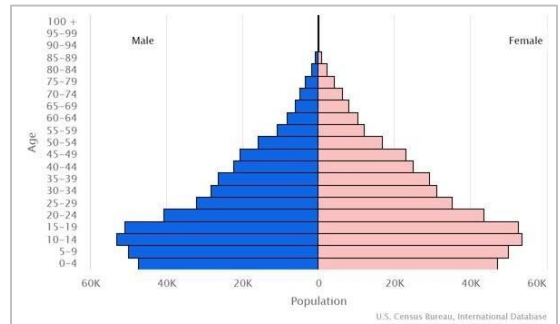
Demographic Profile

Comoros' population is a melange of Arabs, Persians, Indonesians, Africans, and Indians, and the much smaller number of Europeans that settled on the islands between the 8th and 19th centuries, when they served as a regional trade hub. The Arab and Persian influence is most evident in the islands' overwhelmingly Muslim majority – about 98% of Comorans are Sunni Muslims. The country is densely populated, averaging nearly 350 people per square mile, although this varies widely among the islands, with Anjouan being the most densely populated.

Given the large share of land dedicated to agriculture and Comoros' growing population, habitable land is becoming increasingly crowded. The combination of increasing population pressure on limited land and resources, widespread poverty, and poor job prospects motivates thousands of Comorans each year to attempt to illegally migrate using small fishing boats to the neighboring island of Mayotte, which is a French territory. The majority of legal Comoran migration to France came after Comoros' independence from France in 1975, with the flow peaking in the mid-1980s.

At least 150,000 to 200,000 people of Comoran citizenship or descent live abroad, mainly in France, where they have gone seeking a better quality of life, job opportunities, higher education (Comoros has no universities), advanced health care, and to finance elaborate traditional wedding ceremonies (aada).

Age Structure



Population Distribution

