

# Knowledge Institutions in Africa and their development 1960-2020

## The Comoros (and Mayotte)

### Introduction

This report about the development of the knowledge institutions in the Comoros and Mayotte was made as part of the preparations for the AfricaKnows! Conference (2 December 2020 – 28 February 2021) in Leiden, and elsewhere, see [www.africaknows.eu](http://www.africaknows.eu).



Reports like these can never be complete, and there might also be mistakes. Additions and corrections are welcome! Please send those to [dietzaj@asc.leidenuniv.nl](mailto:dietzaj@asc.leidenuniv.nl)

### Highlights

- 1 The Comoros' population increased from 191,000 in 1960, via 412,000 in 1990, to 870,000 in 2020. In Mayotte (an Overseas Department of France) there are an additional 250,000 inhabitants
- 2 The Comoros' adult literacy rate is 59% (15 years and older, 2018), in Mayotte 86%.
- 3 The so-called education index (used as part of the human development index) improved between 2000 (earlier data not available) and 2018: from 0.328 to 0.476 in the Comoros (it can vary between 0 and 1). In Mayotte it is much higher and increased from .596 in 1990 to .756 in 2018.
- 4 Regional inequality within the Comoros is low throughout the period. Performing best overall is Grande Comore. The island with the fastest development is Anjouan. Mayotte has much better results.
- 5 The Mean Years of Schooling for adults improved between 2000 and 2018, in the Comoros from 2.8 years to 4.9 years, and from 8.1 years in 1990 to 11.9 years in 2018 in Mayotte. Within the Comoros there is low regional inequality.
- 6 The Expected Years of Schooling for children improved between 2000 and 2018: from 8.5 to 11.2 years in the Comoros and from 11.7 in 1990 to 13.0 in 2018 in Mayotte. Within the Comoros there is low regional inequality throughout the period.

- 7 The Comoros has had higher education institutions since the early 2000s. Currently there is one public tertiary knowledge institutions in the Comoros. There are no private institutions. There are probably around 8,000 students in the Comoros, as well as around 6,500 at universities abroad. In Mayotte a university started in 2011, and it had 1,500 students in 2019.
- 8 The one Comorian university is not in the 4icu top 200 of African institutions.
- 9 Think tanks: there are no think tanks in the Comoros or Mayotte.
- 10 Museums: the Comoros has one museum in the capital Moroni, and Mayotte has two.

## Part 1: The Story

### Comoros' demographic and education development

The Comoro Islands or Comoros (Shikomori Komori; Arabic: جزر القمر, Juzur al-Qomor; French: Les Comores) are situated off the southeastern coast of Africa, to the east of Mozambique and northwest of Madagascar. The major islands are Grande Comore (Ngazidja), Mohéli (Mwali), and Anjouan (Ndzواني). In addition, the country has a claim on a fourth major island, Mayotte (Maore), though Mayotte voted against independence from France in 1974 and it continues to be administered by France (currently as an overseas department).<sup>1</sup>

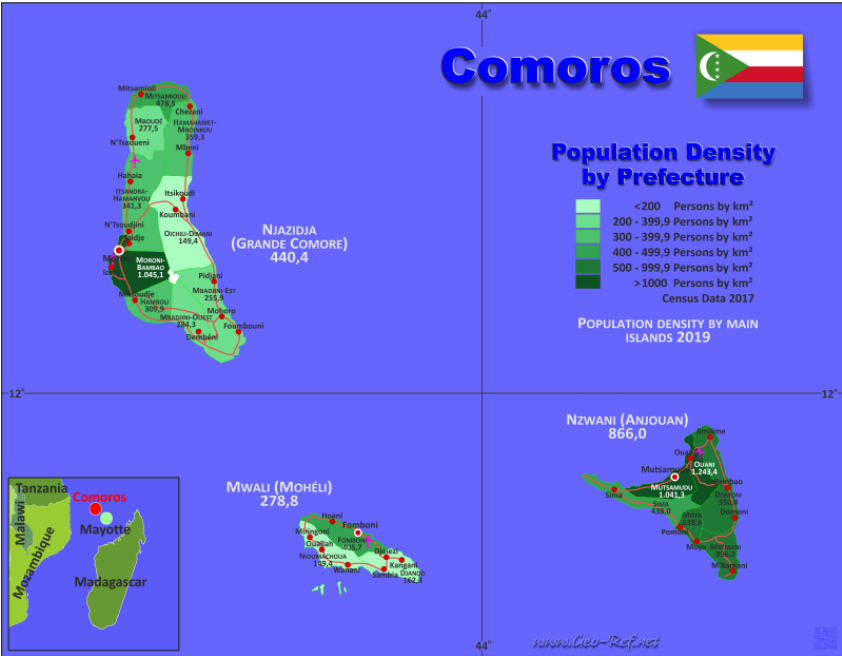


Source: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Comoro\\_Islands#/media/File:Comoros\\_rel91.jpg](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Comoro_Islands#/media/File:Comoros_rel91.jpg)

<sup>1</sup> <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Comoros>

The Comoros has been a French colony since the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. In 1946 the Comoro Islands became an overseas department of France with representation in the French National Assembly. The Comoros gained independence in 1975.

The Comoros' population increased from around 191,000 in 1960 to 870,000 in the second half of 2020. In 1960, only 12.6% of the population lived in cities (only 24,000 people), while the urban population has increased to 29.4% or 255,000 people. The Comoros' largest city is the capital Moroni (population 43,000). With 1,861 km<sup>2</sup> the Comoros rank 51st on area size on the African continent. The Comoros have an average population density of 467/km<sup>2</sup> (compared to about 511/km<sup>2</sup> in the Netherlands). The population is unevenly distributed. The population density in Moroni is 1,429/km<sup>2</sup>. The French overseas department of Mayotte had 240,000 inhabitants in 1990, and 250,000 in 2018.



The Comoros' life expectancy increased from 41 years for males and 44 years for females in 1960 to 63 years for males and 67 years for females currently. The median age first decreased from 20.6 years in 1960 to 17 years in 1990 (lowest year). Since then, it started to increase and is presently 20.4 years. In 1960 an average woman gave birth to 6.6 live-born children, which increased to 7.1 in 1985. Since then, the fertility rate is decreasing and currently an average woman gives birth to 4.2 live-born children<sup>2</sup>. In Mayotte life expectancy is much higher (76.2 years in 1990 and 76.3 years in 2018), and the fertility rate was 4.7 live-born children in 2018. The median age was 16.9 in 2002<sup>3</sup>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.worldometers.info/world-population/comoros-population/>

<sup>3</sup> Wikipedia and indexmundi.

## Literacy and enrolment

The Comoros' adult literacy rate is (2018) 59%: men 65% and women 53%. Of the youth (15-24 years old) 18,000 males and 17,000 females were regarded as illiterate in 2018. For the adult population as a whole these figures are 89,000 for males and 118,000 for females. In Mayotte the adult literacy rate was estimated to be 86% in 2010<sup>4</sup>.

The Comoros' population of primary school age children (6-11 years) is 128,000 children<sup>5</sup>. Education is compulsory from age 6 to age 11 (6 years). 81% of the primary school age group attended primary school in 2018 (later data unavailable). 127,000 children are of the age to attend secondary school (12-18). 50% are attending secondary school according to the latest figures (2018): females 52% and males 49%. Finally, 76,000 people are in the age category to attend tertiary education (people between 19 and 23). Gross enrolment rates for tertiary education was 9% in 2014, with females at 8%, and males at 10%. This would mean that there are about 8,000 students in the Comoros' higher education institutions. According to Campusfrance there were around 6,500 students in international mobility in 2017. The most popular destinations are Madagascar, France (though percentages are dropping), UAE, Morocco, Saudi Arabia, Turkey and Tunisia.<sup>6</sup>

## Regional differentiation of education results, 2000-2018

The information provided by the Globaldatalab about the subregional human development index, its components and its indicators (<https://globaldatalab.org/shdi>) provides data for the period between 2000 and 2018, for the three islands of the Comoros:

Anjouan (Ndzouani)

Grande Comore (Ngazidja)

Moheli

Data for Mayotte can be found under France (these already started in 1990).



Source: <https://www.comorosmaritime.org/en/about/comoros>

<sup>4</sup> Indexmundi.

<sup>5</sup> <http://uis.unesco.org/en/country/km>

<sup>6</sup> [https://ressources.campusfrance.org/publications/mobilite\\_pays/en/comores\\_en.pdf](https://ressources.campusfrance.org/publications/mobilite_pays/en/comores_en.pdf)



[http://www.lonelyplanet.com/maps/africa/comoros-and-mayotte/map\\_of\\_comoros-and-mayotte.jpg](http://www.lonelyplanet.com/maps/africa/comoros-and-mayotte/map_of_comoros-and-mayotte.jpg)

The Globaldatalab provides data about the education index (one of the three indexes that together form the Human Development Index), and about two relevant indicators: mean years of schooling, showing the average education level of the adult population per region, and expected years of education, showing the expected number of years current children will attend schools. This excludes the religious schools and only deals with the official, state-based, school system.

We present the data for the years 2000 (earliest year available), 2010, and 2018 (the latest year available at the moment). See tables 1-4 in part 2 ('the data').

### Education index

The education index on all three islands improved between 2000 and 2018 (see table 1 in part 2). Performing best throughout the whole period is Grande Comore. The fastest development took place on Anjouan which performed worst throughout the period. The slowest development was on Moheli. Regional inequality is low throughout the period. Mayotte had much better results: for Comoros as a whole the index was .476 in 2018, for Mayotte .756.

There could be a correlation between the education index and population growth in the Comoros. The island with the fastest development also had the highest population growth. We compare 2000 with 2018. See table 2 in part 2.

### Mean years of schooling for adults

According to UNESCO, 'Mean Years of Schooling' is an indicator about the "average number of completed years of education of a country's population aged 25 years and older, excluding years spent repeating individual grades".<sup>7</sup>

<sup>7</sup> <http://uis.unesco.org/en/glossary-term/mean-years-schooling>

The educational standard of the adult population of the Comoros has improved on all of the islands in the period 2000-2018 (see table 3 in part 2). Also in Mayotte the situation improved, and again, Mayotte's situation is much better than the Comoros: 11.9 in 2018 versus 4.9.

Within the Comoros, regional inequality has been low throughout the whole period. Performing best throughout the whole period is Grande Comore. The fastest development took place on Anjouan, which performed worst throughout the period. The slowest development was on Moheli.

### **Expected years of schooling for children**

UNDP defines the 'expected years of schooling' as the: "Number of years of schooling that a child of school entrance age can expect to receive if prevailing patterns of age-specific enrolment rates persist throughout the child's life".<sup>8</sup>

For Comorian children educational prospects have improved on all of the islands (see table 4 in part 2). Regional inequality has been low throughout the whole period. Performing best throughout the whole period is Grande Comore. The fastest development took place on Anjouan, which performed worst throughout the period. The slowest development was on Moheli. In Mayotte the expected years of schooling increased from 11.7 years in 1990 to 13.0 years in 2018. As part of France, in Mayotte education is free and compulsory between the ages 6 and 16<sup>9</sup>.

### **Historical Development of Private and Public Universities in the Comoros**

The Comoros currently has one public institute for tertiary education. The Comoros does not feature in the 4icu top 200 of African institutes.

Type	1960	1970	1980	1990	1995	2000	2005	2010	2015	2020
Public	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1
Private	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1

(Sources: see part 2)

### **Public Universities**

<sup>8</sup> <http://hdr.undp.org/en/content/expected-years-schooling-children-years>

<sup>9</sup> [www.scholaro.com/pro/Countries/Mayotte](http://www.scholaro.com/pro/Countries/Mayotte)



Université des Comores (UDC)<sup>10</sup>

The Comoros has one known public institution for tertiary education, the Université des Comores (UDC), established in 2003.

### Mayotte

In 2011 France started a university in Mayotte, which had 1,500 students in 2019. Before, but also currently, there are many students from Mayotte studying in either Réunion, or in France, but numbers are unknown to us.



Centre Universitaire de Mayotte<sup>11</sup>

### Private Universities

The Comoros does not have any known private institutions for tertiary education.

### Regional distribution of the Comoros' Universities

The Université des Comores is located in the capital Moroni (Grande Comore (Ngazidja)).

### Think tanks and other knowledge institutions

<sup>10</sup> Source: <https://alwatan.net/education/universit%C3%A9-des-comores-le-processus-de-l%E2%80%99C3%A9lection-du-pr%C3%A9sident-va-reprendre.html>

<sup>11</sup>

[https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/c/ce/Le\\_centre\\_universitaire\\_%28Demb%C3%A9ni%2C\\_Mayotte%29\\_%2834035754784%29.jpg/800px-Le\\_centre\\_universitaire\\_%28Demb%C3%A9ni%2C\\_Mayotte%29\\_%2834035754784%29.jpg](https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/c/ce/Le_centre_universitaire_%28Demb%C3%A9ni%2C_Mayotte%29_%2834035754784%29.jpg/800px-Le_centre_universitaire_%28Demb%C3%A9ni%2C_Mayotte%29_%2834035754784%29.jpg)

According to the 2018 Global Go To Think Tank Index Report there are no think tanks in the Comoros. Internet search also did not provide any information, also not about think tanks on Mayotte.

### **Museums in the Central African Republic**



Le musée national des Comores<sup>12</sup>

According to Wikipedia there is one museum in Moroni, Le musée national des Comores, and we found two museums in Mayotte.

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<sup>12</sup> Source: <https://maison-monde.com/maison-coloniale-aux-comores/>



## Part 2: the data

Table 1: Comoros and Mayotte: Education index 2000-2018<sup>13</sup>

Island	1990	2000	2010	2018	2018/2000
Anjouan (Ndzouani)	-	0.288	0.393	0.433	1.50
Grande Comore (Ngazidja)	-	0.358	0.475	0.521	1.46
Moheli	-	0.336	0.426	0.466	1.39
Total	-	0.328	0.434	0.476	1.45
Inequality	-	1.2	1.2	1.2	
Mayotte	0.596	0.715	0.737	0.756	1.27

Table 2: Comoros and Mayotte: changes in regional population between 2000 and 2018; population numbers in millions

Island	1990	2000	2010	2018	2018/2000
Anjouan (Ndzouani)	-	0.23	0.32	0.40	1.74
Grande Comore (Ngazidja)	-	0.28	0.32	0.38	1.36
Moheli	-	0.04	0.05	0.06	1.50
Total	-	0.54	0.69	0.83	
Mayotte	0.24	0.24	0.24	0.25	1.04

Table 3: Comoros and Mayotte: Regional data for 'mean years of schooling'

Island	1990	2000	2010	2018	2018/2000
Anjouan (Ndzouani)	-	2.42	3.71	4.39	1.81
Grande Comore (Ngazidja)	-	2.97	4.49	5.30	1.78
Moheli	-	2.94	4.38	5.16	1.76
Total	-	2.76	4.16	4.91	1.78
Inequality	-	1.2	1.2	1.2	
Mayotte	8.1	11.2	11.7	11.9	1.47

Table 4: Comoros and Mayotte: Regional data for 'expected years of schooling'

Island	1990	2000	2010	2018	2018/2000
Anjouan (Ndzouani)	-	7.47	9.71	10.3	1.38
Grande Comore (Ngazidja)	-	9.34	11.7	12.4	1.33
Moheli	-	8.57	10.1	10.6	1.24
Total	-	8.50	10.6	11.2	1.32
Inequality	-	1.3	1.2	1.2	

<sup>13</sup> The HDI data, and its components go from 0 (worst level) to 1 (best level). We present the figures x 1000. The inequality figure is the highest value divided by the lowest value in a particular year.

Mayotte	11.7	12.4	12.5	13.0	1.11
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Table 5: Public universities in the Comoros and Mayotte

University	Year of establishment	Location	Rank 4icu (2019)
Université des Comores (UDC) ( <a href="https://www.univ-comores.km/">https://www.univ-comores.km/</a> )	2003	Moroni	Not referred
Centre Universitaire de Mayotte <a href="http://www.univ-mayotte.fr">www.univ-mayotte.fr</a>	2011	Dembeni	-

(Sources: Wikipedia: Universities, <https://www.4icu.org/>, World Higher Education Database ([https://www.whed.net/results\\_institutions.php](https://www.whed.net/results_institutions.php)); google, and the websites of the institutions, if available).

Table 6: Regional distribution of universities in the Comoros

Island	Public	Private	Total	Number per million inhabitants
Anjouan (Ndzouani)	0	0	0	0
Grande Comore (Ngazidja)	1	0	1	2.63
Moheli	0	0	0	0
Total	1	0	1	1.20

For the last column we used the population numbers as given in table 2.

Table 7: Museums in the Comoros, and Mayotte

Museums	websites	Location
Le musée national des Comores	<a href="http://www.cndrs-comores.org/musee-national/">http://www.cndrs-comores.org/musee-national/</a>	Moroni
MUMA Musée de Mayotte <sup>14</sup>		Dzaoudzi
Ecomusee de la Vanille et de l'Ylang <sup>15</sup>		Mayotte: Jimawénie

(Source: Google) Not included: cultural centres

<sup>14</sup> <https://www.cg976.fr/actualite/355/le-musee-de-mayotte-muma-premier-musee-de-france-a-mayotte>

<sup>15</sup> <http://allier-a-mayotte.over-blog.com/2014/08/visite-de-l-ecomusee-de-la-vanille-et-de-l-ylang.html>

Knowledge institutions in Africa and their development 1960-2020: The Comoros (and Mayotte)

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