

## Poverty & Equity Brief

Sub-Saharan Africa

# Comoros

April 2020

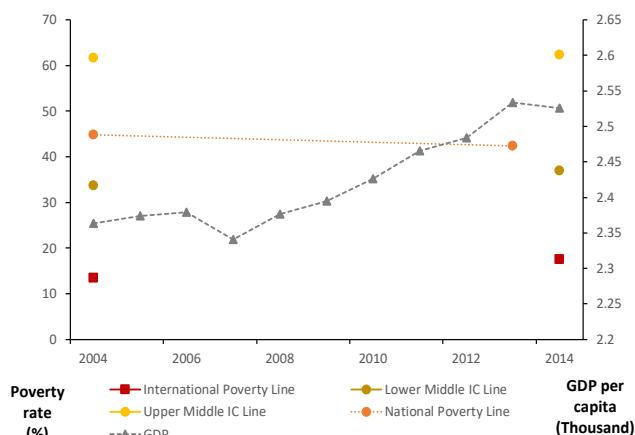
Comoros has made progress in terms of poverty reduction. This is reflected in the improvements observed in households' housing conditions and modern amenities, as well as in multidimensional indicators of poverty. In 2013 about four in ten Comorians lived below the national poverty line and nearly one fourth of the population was in extreme poverty. Comorians are among the largest African diaspora and the country is one of the top three recipients of remittances in Sub-Saharan Africa. Remittances account for a large share of GDP (25 percent in 2014), and they have contributed considerably to the decline in poverty as they are largely channeled to finance consumption needs.

The sizable slowdown in economic growth in 2020 due to COVID-19 is expected to increase poverty to 36.9 percent (measured at \$ 3.2 a day per capita), which is equivalent to the level estimated in 2013. The increase in poverty will be likely driven by the expected drop in remittances on which the Comorian poor heavily depends. Thereafter, poverty is projected to decline to 35.9 percent by 2022. In 2013 inequality was high, with a Gini index estimated at 45 and is expected to continue to rise due to the very rapid increase in consumption among the rich. Reversing this trend would require that the main drivers of inequality be addressed, including gaps in educational attainments, job opportunities between urban and rural areas and across islands, and access to basic services. In addition, expected high fertility rates (4.2 births per woman in 2014) pose a significant burden on poor households.

POVERTY	Number of Poor (thousand)	Rate (%)	Period
National Poverty Line	314.4	42.4	2013
International Poverty Line US\$1.90 (2011 PPP) per day per capita	133.3	17.6	2014
Lower Middle Income Class Poverty Line US\$3.20 (2011 PPP) per day per capita	280.5	36.9	2014
Upper Middle Income Class Poverty Line US\$5.50 (2011 PPP) per day per capita	473.3	62.3	2014
Multidimensional Poverty Measure		N/A	N/A
<b>SHARED PROSPERITY</b>			
Annualized Income or Consumption Growth per capita of the bottom 40 percent		N/A	N/A
<b>INEQUALITY</b>			
Gini Index		45.3	2014
Shared Prosperity Premium = Growth of the bottom 40 - Average Growth		N/A	N/A
<b>GROWTH</b>			
Annualized GDP per capita growth	1.07		2009-2014
Annualized Income or Consumption Growth per capita from Household Survey		N/A	N/A
<b>MEDIAN INCOME</b>			
Growth of the annual median income/consumption per capita		N/A	N/A

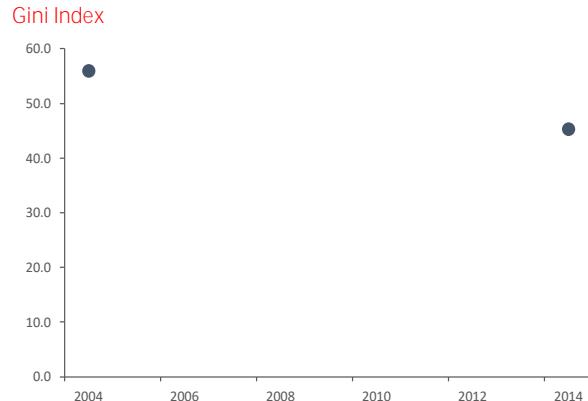
Sources: WDI for GDP, National Statistical Offices for national poverty rates, POVCALNET as of February 2020, and Global Monitoring Database for the rest.

## POVERTY HEADCOUNT RATE, 2004-2014



Source: World Bank using EESIC/SSAPOV/GMD

## INEQUALITY TRENDS, 2004-2014



Source: World Bank using EESIC/SSAPOV/GMD

## KEY INDICATORS

	Upper Middle Income line(%)		Relative group (%)		<b>Multidimensional Poverty Measures (% of people):</b>	<b>2014</b>
	Non-Poor	Poor	Bottom 40	Top 60		
Urban population					N/A	
Rural population					N/A	
Males					N/A	
Females					N/A	
0 to 14 years old					N/A	
15 to 64 years old					N/A	
65 and older					N/A	
Without education (16+)					N/A	
Primary education (16+)					N/A	
Secondary education (16+)					N/A	
Tertiary/post-secondary education (16+)					N/A	

Source: World Bank using EESIC/SSAPOV/GMD

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Notes: N/A missing value, N/A\* value removed due to less than 30 observations

## POVERTY DATA AND METHODOLOGY

In the 20 years from 1995 to 2014, Comoros completed only three surveys: the 1995 Budget and Consumption-type survey, the 2004 integrated-type survey, and the 1-2-3-type survey implemented in 2013/14. Rigorous analysis of poverty trends is constrained by changes in household surveys' design between 2004 and 2014. Going forward, more frequent and higher quality household surveys would allow a timely and better understanding of poverty, employment, and growth.

The consumption aggregate comprises food consumption as well as expenditures on a range of nonfood goods and services (e.g., clothing, utilities, transportation, communication, health, education, housing-related expenditures and imputed rent, etc.). However, the consumption aggregate does not include expenditures on larger consumer durable items (such as cars, TVs, computers, etc.), nor does it include expenditures on ceremonies (marriage, funerals, etc.). The poverty line is based on the cost-of-basic-needs approach. The basic needs poverty line—estimated at KMF 25,341 per capita per month—is based on the cost of a food basket that delivers 2,200 calories per person per day and adds an allowance for basic non-food necessities.

## HARMONIZATION

The numbers presented in this brief are based on the SSAPOV database. SSAPOV is a database of harmonized nationally representative household surveys managed by Sub-Saharan Team for Statistical Development. It contains more than 100 surveys covering 45 out of the 48 countries in the SSA region. The four countries not covered in the database are Eritrea, Equatorial Guinea, and Somalia. Terms of use of the data adhere to agreements with the original data producers.