

# COMOROS



**3230**

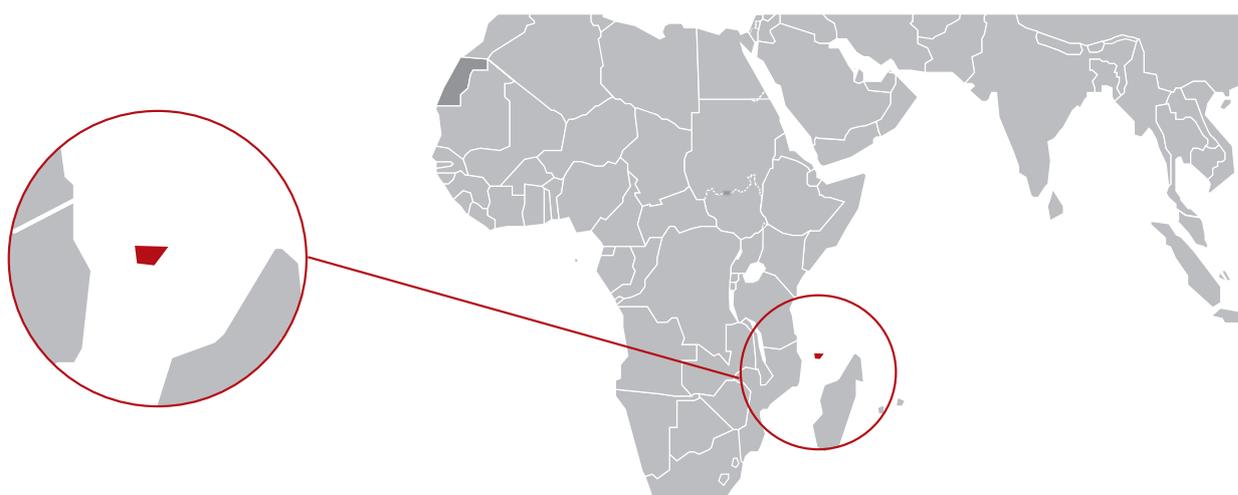
**indigenous malaria cases**  
in 2017

**/**

**imported malaria cases**  
in 2017

**3**

**malaria deaths**  
in 2017



Comoros has witnessed a sharp decline in its malaria burden in recent years: this archipelago off the south-east coast of Africa reported nearly 1100 indigenous cases in 2016, down from over 53 000 in 2013.

Over the same period, deaths dropped from 53 to one. Yet, in 2017, Comoros noted a significant increase in malaria transmission with more than 3200 indigenous cases reported and three deaths. The significant increase in 2017 signals the volatility of fighting malaria in an elimination country, as well as the fragility of gains. Nonetheless, the strong progress experienced in Comoros was made possible through a concerted approach that involved a mass anti-malarial treatment campaign, distribution of long-lasting insecticidal nets, and implementation of indoor-residual spraying. In the wake of the successful phase of malaria interventions, the national programme was reoriented towards reaching elimination status by 2020. While the government of Comoros had envisaged zero indigenous cases in 2017, the overall downward trajectory in infections in recent years bodes well for its malaria-free ambitions.

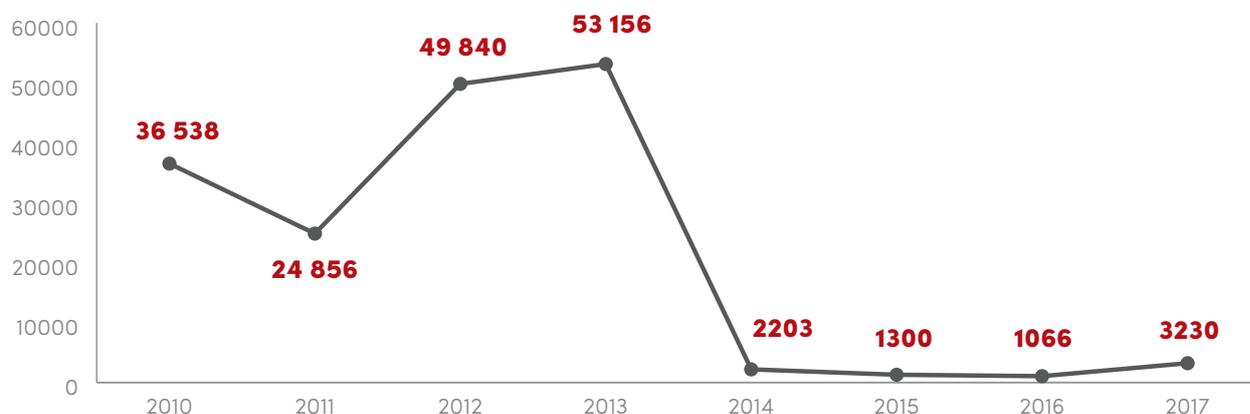
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## AT A GLANCE

- > Dominant malaria species:  
***Plasmodium falciparum* (100%)**
- > Populations at greater risk:  
**Inhabitants of Grande Comore (Ngazidja) and Mohéli (Ndzuwani)**
- > Number of areas (foci) with active malaria transmission: **throughout Grand Comore**
- > Number of people at risk of malaria in these areas: **More than 316 000**

## MALARIA IMPACT

● number of indigenous malaria cases 2010–2017



## GETTING BACK ON COURSE

Comoros will need to:

- **Update the national malaria strategic plan** to articulate Comoros' elimination roadmap as well as the steps needed to achieve interruption of transmission and prevention of re-establishment of the disease.
- **Strengthen and ensure political commitment** for elimination remains high. As malaria burden decreases, leaders may be inclined to shift attention and resources to other public health issues. Achieving elimination requires full backing across all levels of government, civil society and other key partners.
- **Finalize and implement** a malaria case-based surveillance system and bolster the technical and programmatic capacities of staff in detecting and responding to outbreaks.
- **Forge strategic partnerships** across different sectors – including the private sector – to strengthen elimination efforts.
- **Build community support** for eliminating malaria and participation in elimination activities; this includes increased use of long-lasting insecticidal nets.

Source: *World malaria report 2018*