



# Mayotte

## Overseas Department of Mayotte Africa

### Geography

**Area** 373 sq km. One larger island, Grande Terre, and one smaller, Petite Terre.

Population	Ann Gr	Density
2010 199,065	2.67%	534/sq km
2020 250,252	2.23%	671/sq km
2030 302,108	1.77%	810/sq km

The French government estimates the population as already exceeding 200,000, significantly higher than UN population figures used here.

**Capital** Mamoudzou 62,000. **Urbanites** 50.1%. **Pop under 15 yrs** 39%. **Life expectancy** 61.8 yrs.

### Peoples

**Maore** 90%. Indigenes of Mayotte, speaking Shimaore (65%) or Shibushi (35%).

**Other** 10%. Includes a mix of Malagasy, Creole, Bantu immigrants (from Rwanda and Mozambique), French and Arabs. Illegal immigrants account for up to 30% of Mayotte's present population.

**Literacy** 32-58%. **Official languages** French; Shimaore (a Bantu language) is spoken by 80%, Shibushi (a Malagasy language) by 30%. **All languages** 4. **Languages with Scriptures** 2Bi 1NT 1por.

### Economy

More prosperous than the rest of the region, through the military base and French aid, but this aid has dramatically reduced local initiative and entrepreneurship. Agriculture (in the form of

subsistence farming) has declined greatly. Almost everything is imported from abroad, making the cost of living very high. Over-population and illegal immigration from other islands hinder progress.

### Politics

Ceded by Madagascar in 1843 to France with the Comoros Islands, Mayotte voted in 1974 and 1976 to forgo independence as part of Comoros and remain with France. Comoros continues to assert sovereignty, but Mayotte voted to become a French Departmental Collectivity in 2000, and in 2009 to become a French overseas department – which qualifies it for EU funding – to the consternation of both Comoros and the UN.

### Religion

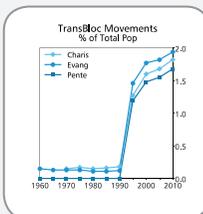
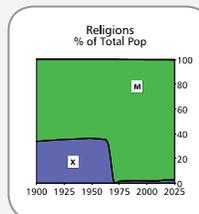
Almost all Maores are Sunni Muslim, but mosque attendance is low. Almost all Christians are non-indigenous and from other Francophone countries.

Religions	Pop %	Population	Ann Gr
Muslim	97.86	194,805	2.7%
Christian	1.64	3,265	2.3%
Non-religious	0.50	995	3.5%

Christians	Denoms	Pop %	Affiliates	Ann Gr
Protestant	3	0.11	<300	3.0%
Catholic	1	1.26	2,000	2.4%
Marginal	1	0.07	<200	-0.7%
Unaffiliated		0.20	<500	0.0%

Churches	MegaBloc	Congs	Members	Affiliates
Catholic Church	C	2	1,497	2,500
Protestant Churches	P	3	110	220
Jehovah's Witnesses	M	2	80	144
<b>Total Christians[5]</b>		<b>7</b>	<b>1,687</b>	<b>2,864</b>

TransBloc	Pop %	Population	Ann Gr
<b>Evangelicals</b>			
Evangelicals	0.1	236	4.0%
<b>Renewalists</b>			
Charismatics	0.2	365	5.2%



# Challenges for Prayer

**1 Pray for the Muslim majority.** The indigenous people of Mayotte are 99.9% Muslim. Although there is religious freedom and direct, open-air evangelism is permitted (and practiced by the **AoG**), response has been very slow and most converts have returned to Islam. Maore folk Islam is heavily shaped by magic and cults practicing spirit possession. Despite this, a spirit of complacency rests upon the people, exacerbated greatly by the increased economic assistance from France and the EU. Pray for a spiritual breakthrough. The name Mayotte means “place of death”; pray that it may become a place of spiritual life in Christ.

**2 There is some very small responsiveness to the good news,** generally expressed as curiosity more than receptivity. Students and youth, impacted by French/Western social influences, demonstrate the greatest openness. Children who have demonstrated responsiveness to the gospel have been known to be punished for such interest or even taken to live elsewhere in the islands. Illegal immigrants from the Comoran island of Anjouan are also surprisingly responsive. Pray for a harvest among these groups.

**3 The three evangelical churches in Mayotte** need a greater degree of unity and cooperation, although there are signs of improvement in these areas. Pray for an approach to evangelism that is culturally appropriate yet effective, and pray for a great emphasis on discipling converts.

**4 Pray for more labourers to be called to Mayotte** for long-term ministry, especially Francophone Africans. Those already here do a great job in a difficult field. Pray for encouragement and unity and for an increase in their number and their fruitfulness. A mission team is in place, working among the Shimaore, and one is being prepared to work among Shibushi speakers.

**5 Support ministries for prayer:**

- a) **Bible translation.** The NT is available in Shimaore and OT translation is in progress. There is no Scripture whatsoever in Shibushi. **AIM** workers also run a literacy programme to encourage reading of the Shimaore NT; pray for more students.
- b) **Radio.** There are two main gospel broadcasts from local FM stations – an open door for witness to the whole territory.
- c) **Other media.** The JESUS film and Good News Media materials have been dubbed into Shimaore. Pray for their strategic use.