

MADAGASCAR

Capital

Antananarivo

Ethnic Groups

Malayo-Indonesian (Merina and related Betsileo), Cotiers (mixed African, Malayo-Indonesian, and Arab ancestry - Betsimisaraka, Tsimihety, Antaisaka, Sakalava), French, Indian, Creole, Comoran

Languages

Malagasy (official) 99.9%, French (official) 23.6%, English 8.2%, other 0.6%

Religions

Church of Jesus Christ in Madagascar/Malagasy Lutheran Church/Anglican Church 34%, Roman Catholic 32.3%, other Christian 8.1%, traditional/Animist 1.7%, Muslim 1.4%, other 0.6%, none 21.9%

Population

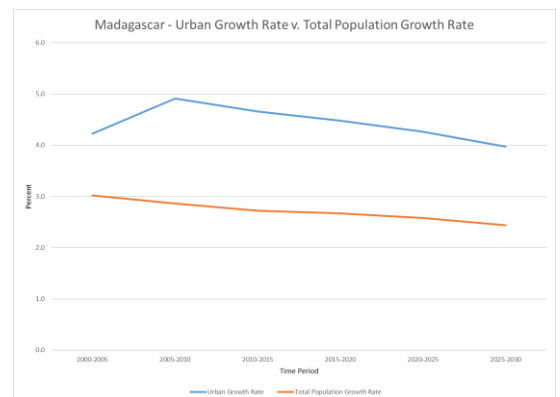
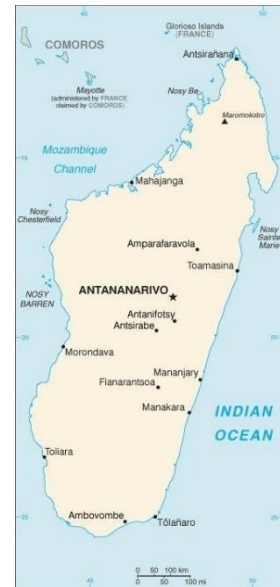
Total: 28.8 million
Median age: 20.3 years
Population growth rate: 2.22%
Urban: 40.6%
Rural 59.4%

Fertility

Birth rate: 28.14 births/1,000 population
Total fertility rate: 3.55 children born/woman
Sex ratio of population: 1 male(s)/female

Mortality

Death rate: 5.92 deaths/1,000 population
Life expectancy at birth: 68.47 years
Maternal mortality rate: 335 deaths/100,000 live births
Infant mortality rate: 38.27 deaths/1,000 live births



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Migration

Net migration rate: 0 migrants/1,000 population

Health

Current health expenditure: 3.9% of GDP

Physician density: 0.2 physicians/1,000 population

Adult obesity: 5.3%

Alcohol consumption per capita: 0.89 liters of pure alcohol

Education

Education expenditures: 3.1% of GDP

Literacy: 76.7%

Population Distribution

most of population lives on the eastern half of the island;
significant clustering is found in the central highlands and
eastern coastline

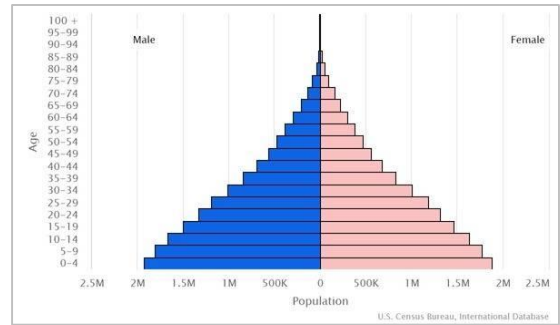
Demographic Profile

Madagascar's youthful population – nearly 60% are under the age of 25 as of 2020 – and moderately high total fertility rate of more than 3.6 children per woman ensures that the Malagasy population will continue its rapid growth trajectory for the foreseeable future. The population is predominantly rural and poor; chronic malnutrition is prevalent, and large families are the norm. Many young Malagasy girls are withdrawn from school, marry early (often pressured to do so by their parents), and soon begin having children. Early childbearing, coupled with Madagascar's widespread poverty and lack of access to skilled health care providers during delivery, increases the risk of death and serious health problems for young mothers and their babies.

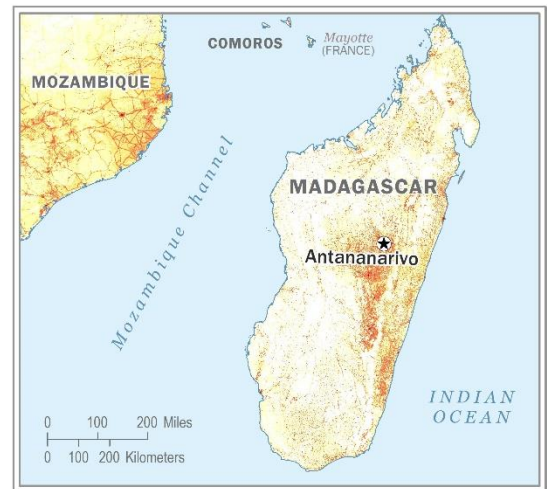
Child marriage perpetuates gender inequality and is prevalent among the poor, the uneducated, and rural households – as of 2018, 40% of Malagasy women aged 20 to 24 were married. Although the legal age for marriage is 18, parental consent is often given for earlier marriages or the law is flouted, especially in rural areas that make up approximately 60% of the country. Forms of arranged marriage whereby young girls are married to older men in exchange for oxen or money are traditional. If a union does not work out, a girl can be placed in another marriage, but the dowry paid to her family diminishes with each unsuccessful marriage.

Madagascar's population consists of 18 main ethnic groups, all of whom speak the same Malagasy language. Most Malagasy are multi-ethnic, however, reflecting the island's diversity of settlers and historical contacts. Madagascar's legacy of hierarchical societies practicing domestic slavery (most notably the Merina Kingdom of the 16th to the 19th century) is evident today in persistent class tension, with some ethnic groups maintaining a caste system.

Age Structure



Population Distribution



Population per square kilometer

