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Comoros: Malaria

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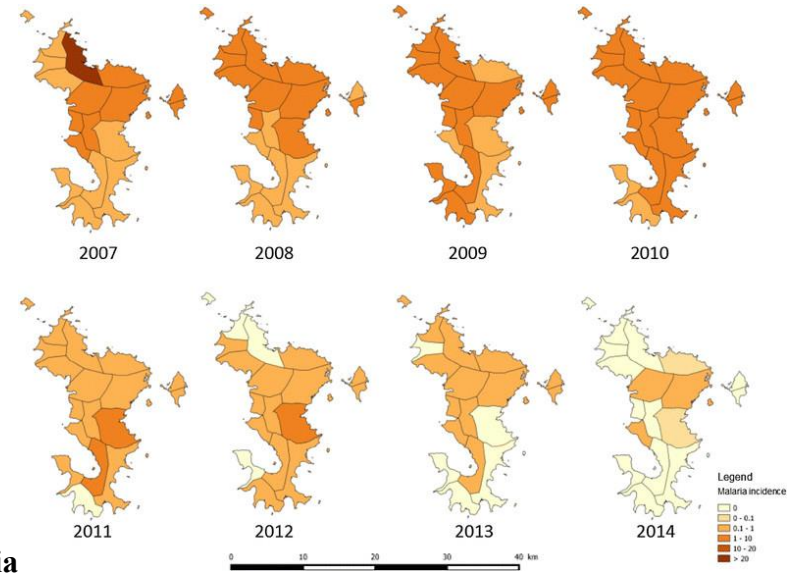
Malaria in Comoros by Elizabeth Rennolds

Background Info The Comoros is an island which can be seen in the Indian Ocean between the eastern coast of Africa and Madagascar. The population of Comoros is 737,284 people. The population of Comoros is made up of Malayo-Indonesian people with Sunni Islam as their dominant religion. Their political structure is constructed in a way that each island within this region is independent from one another and they elect their own presidents and legislative assembly. Each island is allowed to administer their own affairs, as long as the affair does not place any kind of danger onto the nearby islands or threatens the state of the Federal Union. The Comoros have a multiparty political system. The major challenges that this area faces is being considered a poor country due to the economy being solely based off agriculture and fishing, with their harvest being categorized as poor. In addition to that, the Comoros Island is overpopulated which leads to the issue of there being severe unemployment. There is also the health issue of less than half of the individuals living here have access to clean water. Lastly, the main issue that will be focused on is the outbreak of malaria in the Comoros.

https://malariajournal.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/s12936-015-0837-6



All about Malaria

Malaria is a disease that comes from a fever where a parasite takes over one's red blood cells with mosquitoes being the ones that transmit the disease. The initial reasoning behind how malaria has been a major issue in this island is due to the many occurrences of migration to and from this island causing the indigenous people to be exposed to intermittent fevers that their body couldn't handle. In addition to that, due to the kind of weather that is considered the wet season or tropical climate is another reason why there is such a large malaria outbreak in this area. More than half of the deaths that occur on this island have dealt with the exposure to malaria. The groups most affected by this disease, are women who are pregnant and children who are younger than 5 years old. The risk factors that come along with malaria can be seen as being moderate to severe shaking chills, high fever, sweating, headache, vomiting, diarrhea, and possibly death.

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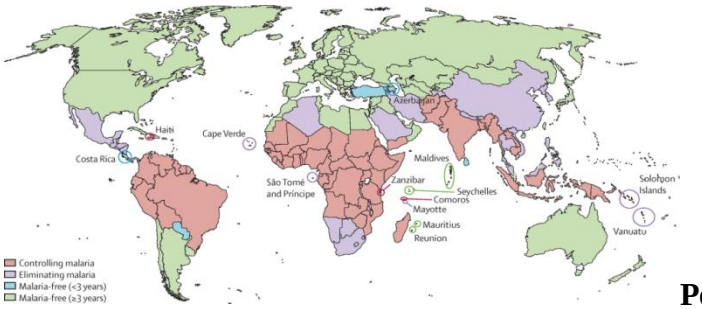
Intervention Plan The first implemented intervention plan used to help avoid the Comoros people from exposure to malaria was the establishment of the National Control Programme (NMCP) in Comoros. Within this programme were 400 nurses, midwives, and doctors all fully certified and trained for this diagnosis, treatment, and prevention of this deadly disease. Throughout this process, things like mosquito bed nets or "traps" were placed at each individual's home and indoor residual spraying (IRS) of a chemical called malathion was provided for everyone to help with getting clear of any infestations. This programme lasted for 3 years with positive results of malaria decrease, but due to lack of resources and financial stability, Comoros was not able to afford to continue this intervention plan. What can be seen as being implemented now with the intervention plans is a national plan that confirms the universal access to this kind of intervention to everyone in the Comoros which would include long lasting insecticide impregnated bed nets (LLINs) and indoor residual spraying (IRS). Through both of these intervention techniques, the people of the Comoros have seen a decrease in the amount of individuals being affected by this disease. The suggestions that have been made are to make it easier and more accessible for everyone to receive the private/public health care that they need disregarding their citizenship status within the island. In addition to that, there needs to be a malaria elimination programme monitoring committee to be established to help ensure everyone's needs are being provided for and new intervention ideas are being set in place to help lower the percentage of people being affected by malaria even more.

http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736(16)00230-0/fulltext



Personal Statement

Personally, I would have to agree with all the improvements that still need to be addressed and emphasized, like universal health care so that these individuals are being taken care of and have received resources to help prevent them from getting malaria. In addition to that, by having vaccinations readily available to help that will decrease the amount of individuals being exposed to this deadly disease.

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