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multidimensional poverty:
New approaches and applications in the union of
Comoros »**

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Abstract

Recent transformations in employment have destroyed post-1945 settlements involving contemporary standard work contracts and the social protection of Emerging countries' working populations. Employment restructuring, precarious jobs, and in-work poverty require new approaches and applications to reconcile current working practices with social justice. Amartya Sen's capability approach promotes a person's choice to live the life he/she has reason to value as the means to reconcile personal freedom with economic well-being. The Union of the Comoros, a small island developing state comprising four islands, continues to face significant socio-economic and human development challenges. Despite ongoing national development efforts, persistent multidimensional poverty, limited access to quality social services, weak health system governance, educational constraints, and a predominantly young and rural population continue to impede sustainable development. In response, the Government has adopted the Comoros Emerging Plan 2030 (CEP 2030) to align national development priorities with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). However, the effectiveness of social protection interventions remains constrained by institutional, socio-economic, and contextual factors.

This study examines the role of social protection programs in addressing multidimensional poverty in the Union of the Comoros and proposes a context-sensitive implementation framework. It argues that existing national institutions, civil society organizations, and non-governmental organizations constitute valuable implementation partners capable of extending social protection services to vulnerable populations when adequately coordinated. The study further recommends the establishment of autonomous monitoring and evaluation mechanisms in areas where social protection coverage is weak and multidimensional poverty remains persistent. By integrating international development principles with the socio-cultural realities of the Comorian context, this research seeks to contribute to evidence-based policy formulation and strengthen the effectiveness of social protection as a strategic instrument for inclusive and sustainable human development in the Union of the Comoros.

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this research. It is my sincere hope that the findings of this study will contribute meaningfully to the advancement of evidence-based social protection policies, the reduction of multidimensional poverty, and the promotion of inclusive and sustainable development. Although modest in scope, this thesis aspires to enrich the growing body of scholarly knowledge and to support policymakers, practitioners, and researchers committed to improving the well-being of present and future generations in the Union of the Comoros. To everyone who has contributed, directly or indirectly, to the realization of this thesis, I extend my deepest and most heartfelt gratitude.

Chapter 1

I.Introduction

Poverty remains one of the major development challenges facing many developing countries, particularly small island developing states such as the Union of the Comoros. Traditionally measured solely in terms of income or consumption, poverty is now increasingly understood as a multidimensional phenomenon encompassing various forms of deprivation, including limited access to education, healthcare, employment, housing, social protection, and basic services.

The Union of the Comoros, comprising the Islands of Grande Comore (Ngazidja), Anjouan (Ndzuani), and Mohéli (Mwali), exhibits distinctive socioeconomic characteristics marked by a strong reliance on family solidarity networks, remittances from the diaspora, the informal economy, and community-based support mechanisms.

Within Comorian society, traditional forms of mutual assistance have historically functioned as social protection mechanisms. Extended family networks, community contributions, local solidarity practices, and customary institutions play a significant role in supporting vulnerable households. However, demographic changes, economic constraints, youth unemployment, territorial inequalities among the islands, and the effects of economic crises raise important questions regarding the effectiveness of these traditional mechanisms. The adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in 2015 reinforced the necessity of establishing effective social protection systems capable of reducing vulnerabilities and promoting inclusive development.

This study is particularly relevant to the present research on social protection programs and multidimensional poverty in the Union of the Comoros, as it provides a valuable analytical and methodological framework for assessing the effectiveness of social interventions in addressing multiple dimensions of poverty. Despite various poverty reduction initiatives, a significant proportion of the Comorian population continues to experience multidimensional deprivation. Existing social protection mechanisms remain fragmented, underfunded, and insufficiently coordinated. Many hypotheses are illustrated below to conduct clearly this topic.

II. Problem statement

Despite sustained efforts by the Government of the Union of the Comoros and continued support from international development partners, poverty and social vulnerability remain persistent and multidimensional challenges. As a Small Island Developing State (SIDS), the Union of the Comoros is confronted with structural constraints, including limited economic diversification, high youth unemployment, dependence on external financial flows and remittances, vulnerability to climate-related shocks, weak institutional capacity, and significant disparities in access to quality education, healthcare, social services, and employment opportunities. These interrelated challenges continue to undermine inclusive and sustainable socio-economic development.

The socio-cultural and ethno-sociological characteristics of the Comoros further shape the dynamics of poverty and social protection. Comorian society is characterized by strong family solidarity networks, extended kinship systems, community-based mutual assistance, religious values, customary institutions, and distinct gender roles that influence access to economic opportunities and social resources. While these traditional mechanisms have historically served as informal safety nets, they are increasingly challenged by demographic change, urbanization, migration, changing household structures, and growing socio-economic inequalities. Consequently, many vulnerable households, particularly women, children, persons with disabilities, unemployed youth, and elderly populations, continue to face multiple and overlapping forms of deprivation.

In response to these challenges, successive governments have introduced various social protection interventions aimed at reducing poverty and promoting social inclusion. These programs generally seek to reduce socio-economic inequalities, improve equitable access to essential social services, strengthen household resilience against economic and environmental shocks, and prevent social exclusion among vulnerable groups. More recently, these objectives have been reinforced within the framework of the Comoros Emergence Plan 2030 and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), both of which emphasize inclusive growth, human capital development, and universal social protection.

However, despite these policy commitments, empirical evidence regarding the effectiveness of social protection programs in addressing multidimensional poverty in the Comorian context remains limited. Existing studies have largely focused on income poverty or isolated social interventions, while comparatively little attention has been given to the multidimensional nature of deprivation or to the extent to which social protection policies reflect the country's socio-cultural realities. Furthermore, limited institutional coordination, fragmented implementation mechanisms, resource constraints, and insufficient monitoring and evaluation systems may reduce the overall effectiveness of these programs.

Particular attention must also be given to gender relations and socially constructed roles within Comorian society. Women often experience unequal access to productive resources, formal employment, decision-making processes, and social protection benefits, while simultaneously carrying significant responsibilities for household welfare. Likewise, youth and marginalized groups frequently encounter structural barriers that constrain their socio-economic participation. These gendered and social inequalities may limit the capacity of existing social protection interventions to effectively reduce multidimensional poverty unless they are explicitly considered in policy design and implementation.

Against this background, several critical questions arise. To what extent do existing social protection programs adequately address the multiple dimensions of poverty experienced by households in the Union of the Comoros? Do current institutional mechanisms sufficiently integrate the country's cultural values, community structures, and gender dynamics into policy implementation? Is there a measurable gap between the stated objectives of social protection programs and their actual socio-economic outcomes? Finally, how can social protection programs be more effectively designed, targeted, and implemented to contribute to the reduction of multidimensional poverty while supporting the successful implementation of the Comoros Emergence Plan 2030 and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals?

Addressing these questions is both academically and practically significant. By examining the relationship between social protection programs and multidimensional poverty through an integrated socio-economic, institutional, and ethno-sociological perspective, this study seeks to generate evidence-based recommendations capable of strengthening social protection policy and promoting more inclusive, equitable, and sustainable development in the Union of the Comoros

III. Study purposes

1. Academic Significance

The Union of the Comoros has formally committed itself to the achievement of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly Goal 1 (No Poverty) and Goal 10 (Reduced Inequalities). Despite this commitment, significant gaps remain in the country's social protection system, including limited empirical documentation, inadequate evidence-based policy research, and a scarcity of scholarly references addressing multidimensional poverty within the Comorian context. These shortcomings constrain the formulation of effective and context-specific social protection policies.

This study seeks to address these knowledge gaps by generating empirical evidence on the relationship between social protection programs and multidimensional poverty in the Union of the Comoros. Specifically, the research will contribute to:

- Enhancing scholarly understanding of social protection systems in Small Island Developing States (SIDS), with particular reference to the Union of the Comoros;
- Expanding the existing body of literature on multidimensional poverty within African island contexts, where empirical research remains limited;
- Integrating ethno-sociocultural dimensions into the analysis of social protection policies, recognizing the influence of traditional solidarity networks, cultural norms, and community-based support mechanisms on household welfare;
- Providing an analytical framework that bridges international social protection approaches with the socioeconomic realities of the Comorian population; and
- Contributing to the achievement of sustainable and inclusive development by identifying policy pathways capable of reducing multidimensional poverty and promoting equitable human development.

Ultimately, the findings are expected to support the development of a more resilient, inclusive, and context-sensitive social protection system capable of improving the well-being of vulnerable populations and fostering balanced socioeconomic development across the Union of the Comoros.

2. Study importance

The practical importance of this study lies in its potential to inform evidence-based policymaking and strengthen the effectiveness of social protection interventions in the Union of the Comoros. By examining the interaction between existing social protection programs and multidimensional poverty, the study will provide valuable insights for government institutions, development partners, civil society organizations, and researchers.

Specifically, the study will:

- Assist policymakers in designing and adapting social protection policies that reflect the socioeconomic and ethno-sociocultural realities of the Comorian population;
- Improve the identification and targeting of vulnerable households through a multidimensional understanding of poverty beyond monetary indicators;
- Propose more effective mechanisms for integrating formal public social protection interventions with traditional community-based solidarity systems and informal social safety nets;
- Provide practical recommendations for strengthening the efficiency, equity, and sustainability of national social protection programs;
- Support national institutions, international development partners, and non-governmental organizations in policy formulation, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation; and
- Serve as a valuable reference for future academic research on social protection, multidimensional poverty, and sustainable development in Small Island Developing States and comparable African contexts.

Overall, this research is expected to contribute both theoretically and practically to the advancement of inclusive social protection strategies that promote poverty reduction, social cohesion, and sustainable human development in the Union of the Comoros.

IV. Research objectives

1. General Objective

The general objective of this study is to analyze the effectiveness and impact of social protection programs in reducing multidimensional poverty in the Union of the Comoros by assessing their institutional, financial, and socio-cultural dimensions and proposing evidence-based policy recommendations for strengthening the national social protection system.

More specifically, the study seeks to:

- Assess the effectiveness of existing social protection programs in reducing multidimensional poverty in the Union of the Comoros.
- Examine the institutional framework governing social protection, including the existence, mandate, and operational capacity of relevant institutions.
- Evaluate the extent of government recognition, coordination, and support provided to social protection institutions and programs.
- Analyze the level of collaboration among national institutions and the three islands (Grande Comoro, Anjouan, and Mohéli) in the planning and implementation of social protection initiatives.
- Measure multidimensional poverty using internationally recognized poverty measurement frameworks, including the Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) and other relevant indicators.
- Identify institutional, financial, administrative, and socio-cultural gaps that limit the effectiveness of social protection programs.
- Develop evidence-based policy recommendations aimed at strengthening inclusive, equitable, and sustainable social protection systems in the Union of the Comoros.

2. Specific objectives

- To achieve the general objective, the study will pursue the following specific objectives:

Identify and describe the existing social protection programs implemented in the Union of the Comoros.

➤ Assess the institutional and administrative constraints affecting program implementation, including:

- Excessive centralization of decision-making within ministries located in Moroni;
- Limited institutional support and coordination;
- Weak institutional capacity and organizational performance;
- Absence or inadequacy of operational offices in Anjouan and other islands;
- Insufficient staff training and professional capacity-building;
- Inadequate logistical and transportation support for field operations;
- Limited utilization of administrative reports and monitoring data in policy formulation and program improvement.

1) Measure the principal dimensions of multidimensional poverty affecting households, including education, health, living standards, employment, and access to essential social services.

2) Evaluate the effectiveness, accessibility, targeting efficiency, and sustainability of existing social protection mechanisms in reducing household vulnerability and poverty.

3) Examine the influence of local socio-cultural factors on the implementation and effectiveness of social protection programs.

4) Formulate context-specific recommendations for improving social protection policies and institutional arrangements in accordance with the socioeconomic realities of the Union of the Comoros and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

➤ **Ethno-sociological perspective of the Study**

This study adopts an ethno-sociological perspective to complement the economic and institutional analysis of social protection. In the Comorian context, poverty is not merely an economic condition but also a social and cultural phenomenon shaped by community values, traditions, and social relationships.

Accordingly, the study will examine the influence of:

- Traditional family solidarity networks and extended family support systems;
- Community-based mutual assistance and informal social protection practices;
- Religious charitable institutions and mechanisms, particularly Zakat and Waqf, as complementary forms of social protection;
- Gender relations, social roles, and intra-household resource distribution;
- Rural-urban disparities in access to social protection services and socioeconomic opportunities;

- Community perceptions, cultural norms, and social capital influencing participation in social protection programs.

Understanding these ethno-sociological dynamics is essential for designing social protection policies that are culturally appropriate, socially inclusive, institutionally effective, and responsive to the multidimensional nature of poverty in the Union of the Comoros.

V. Research Questions

1. Main research question

To what extent do social protection programs contribute to reducing multidimensional poverty in the Union of the Comoros, and how can they be strengthened to support the achievement of sustainable development under the Comoros Emergence Plan 2030 and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)?

2. Secondary research questions

What are the existing social protection programs implemented in the Union of the Comoros, and what are their principal objectives, institutional frameworks, and target beneficiaries?

To what extent have these social protection programs contributed to reducing multidimensional poverty in terms of education, health, living standards, income security, employment, and social inclusion?

How can internationally recognized multidimensional poverty measurement frameworks be adapted and applied to assess poverty in the specific socio-economic and cultural context of the Union of the Comoros?

What institutional, financial, administrative, and governance challenges limit the effectiveness, coverage, and sustainability of social protection programs in the Comoros?

How do socio-cultural, ethno-sociological, demographic, and geographical factors influence the implementation and effectiveness of social protection interventions across the islands of the Union of the Comoros?

To what extent does Comorian society possess the institutional capacity, governance mechanisms, and community readiness necessary to support the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals through effective social protection systems?

What policy reforms, institutional arrangements, and financing mechanisms are required to strengthen social protection systems and improve their contribution to multidimensional poverty reduction?

How can the objectives of the Comoros Emergence Plan 2030 be strategically aligned with national social protection policies to accelerate inclusive, resilient, and sustainable development?

VI. Research hypotheses

1. General hypothesis

To guide our empirical investigation of the relationship between social protection programs and multidimensional poverty in the Union of Comoros, we are going to propose these hypotheses below:

This present study is guided by the assumption that well-designed and effectively implemented social protection programs could contribute significantly to the reduction of multidimensional poverty in the Union of the Comoros. Given the country's socioeconomic characteristics and its commitment to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the study proposes that the effectiveness of these programs depends not only on their financial and institutional capacity but also on their ability to address the multiple dimensions of poverty while taking into account the country's socio-cultural realities.

However, their impact remains limited when they fail to adequately account for local sociocultural.

Accordingly, the following general hypotheses are formulated:

H, Alternative General hypothesis

- **Income and poverty reduction:** Social protection programs increase household income security and reduce the incidence and severity of poverty especially in the defavorated rural peripheries and areas.
- **Access to Education:** Participation in social protection programs improves school enrolment, attendance, educational retention, and learning opportunities for children and youth.
- **Access to health services:** Beneficiary households experience improved access to preventive and curative healthcare services, resulting in better health outcomes.
- **Living standards improvement:** Social protection interventions contribute to improved housing conditions, food security, sanitation, access to clean water, electricity, and other essential services.
- **Social inclusion:** Social protection programs strengthen social cohesion, reduce vulnerability and exclusion, and promote the participation of marginalized and vulnerable groups in economic and social life.
- **Institutional effectiveness and capacity:** The effectiveness of social protection programs is positively associated with institutional coordination, governance quality, policy implementation capacity, transparency, and accountability.

- **Ethno-sociological factors:** The effectiveness of social protection programs is significantly influenced by local cultural values, traditional solidarity systems, family structures, religious norms, community participation, and social capital within the Comorian context.
- **Financing sustainability:** Sustainable financing mechanisms and adequate resource allocation enhance the long-term effectiveness and resilience of social protection programs.

Null General Hypothesis

Social protection programs do not have a statistically significant effect on reducing multidimensional poverty in the Union of the Comoros. Furthermore, any observed impacts remain limited where program design and implementation fail to adequately consider institutional constraints, financing limitations, territorial disparities, and the country's ethno-sociocultural characteristics.

Specific Hypotheses

To empirically examine the various determinants of multidimensional poverty reduction, the study proposes the following specific hypotheses:

- Access to social protection programs significantly improves the living conditions and multidimensional well-being of beneficiary households in the Union of the Comoros.
- Social protection programs significantly increase household resilience by improving access to education, healthcare services, food security, and basic social services.
- Strong family solidarity, community support networks, and traditional social protection mechanisms positively reinforce the effectiveness of formal social protection interventions.
- Territorial disparities among the islands and regions of the Union of the Comoros significantly influence the accessibility, implementation, and effectiveness of social protection policies.
- Institutional capacity, governance quality, and inter-agency coordination significantly determine the successful implementation of social protection programs.
- Socio-cultural and ethno-sociological factors significantly mediate the relationship between social protection interventions and multidimensional poverty reduction.
- Sustainable and adequate financing of social protection systems significantly improves program coverage, continuity, and long-term poverty reduction outcomes.
- Greater participation of local communities, civil society organizations, and development partners enhances the effectiveness and sustainability of social protection interventions.

Theoretical model

1. Social protection in the union of Comoros

Like many developing countries, the Union of Comoros has a community-based and traditional social protection system characterized by relatively limited responsiveness and a strong emphasis on social assistance. Since then, the legal and institutional framework has been progressively strengthening through the introduction of complementary programs and policy reforms. One notable example is the Resilient and Shock-Responsive Social Safety Nets Program (PFSS-RRC), established by Decree No. 23-063/PR of 5 July 2023. This program forms part of the government's broader efforts to strengthen the national social protection system by enhancing resilience among vulnerable populations.

Existing social protection interventions in the Union of Comoros cover a wide range of sectors, including rural development, the green and blue economy, healthcare—particularly maternal and child health disability support, unemployment assistance, and family allowances (ISSA, 2019). A significant illustration of these initiatives was the agricultural fair held in Anjouan on 4 March 2026, which showcased economic resilience projects implemented under the Mayendeleyo Project, a component of the PFSS-RRC. Financed by the World Bank with a budget of US\$30 million, the program currently supports approximately 40,010 vulnerable households across 196 villages located on Grande Comore, Anjouan, and Mohéli (Afrika24).

Despite these advances, the Comorian social protection system remains highly fragmented, consisting of numerous programs with limited institutional coordination. This fragmentation has resulted in significant overlaps among interventions while simultaneously leaving certain vulnerable population groups without adequate coverage. Consequently, the Government of the Union of Comoros has recognized the urgent need for a comprehensive reform of its social protection system. This recognition became even more pronounced following the COVID-19 pandemic, which exposed structural weaknesses and highlighted the importance of establishing a more inclusive, resilient, and shock-responsive social protection framework.

In response, the Government elevated the universalization of social protection to the status of a national strategic priority and a cornerstone of its socioeconomic development agenda. The proposed reform, implemented through a series of legislative and regulatory measures, is structured around four major pillars with clearly defined implementation timelines. The first pillar focuses on protecting citizens against health-related risks through the nationwide expansion of Compulsory Health Insurance (Assurance Maladie Obligatoire AMO). The second pillar aims to strengthen child protection by extending family allowance schemes to households that currently lack such benefits, thereby contributing to improved child welfare and reducing school dropout rates. The third pillar seeks to enhance protection against old-age risks by

broadening participation in pension schemes and expanding retirement coverage. Finally, the fourth pillar addresses the risk of unemployment through the reform and gradual universalization of unemployment benefits, with full implementation targeted by 2030.

These legislative reforms are accompanied by broader institutional changes, including the revision of existing regulatory frameworks governing social protection. In parallel, a reform process initiated in 2018 has been accelerated to establish a sustainable monitoring and management system capable of improving the identification and targeting of households eligible for social assistance. Such a system is expected to enhance transparency, efficiency, and equity in the allocation of social protection benefits.

Overall, these developments demonstrate the growing importance of social protection within the national development agenda of the Union of Comoros. They also reflect the government's commitment to building a more comprehensive and inclusive social protection system capable of reducing vulnerability and improving living standards. Accordingly, this study examines several policy scenarios to assess the potential impact of these social protection reforms on the Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI). By simulating the effects of expanded social protection interventions, the study highlights the potential gains that the Union of Comoros could achieve in reducing multidimensional poverty and promoting inclusive socioeconomic development.

Chapter 2. Literature review

I. Introduction

This chapter establishes the conceptual and theoretical foundation upon which the present study is built. It provides a comprehensive review of the existing body of knowledge on the relationship between social protection programs and multidimensional poverty, while identifying the major theoretical perspectives and empirical evidence that inform the research. The chapter critically examines previous international, regional, and national studies to highlight current developments, methodological approaches, key findings, and research gaps, with particular attention to the limited empirical evidence available for the Union of Comoros.

Building on this review, the chapter presents the theoretical framework that guides the study by explaining the mechanisms through which social protection programs are expected to influence multidimensional poverty. Drawing upon established theories of development and social welfare, including the Capability Approach, Human Capital Theory, the Sustainable Livelihoods Framework, and the Social Risk Management Framework, the chapter provides a coherent explanation of the causal pathways linking social protection interventions to improvements in household well-being and reductions in multidimensional deprivation.

Finally, the chapter defines and operationalizes the research variables that constitute the analytical framework of the study. The independent variable, social protection programs, is examined through its principal components and interventions, while the dependent variable, multidimensional poverty, is measured using internationally recognized multidimensional poverty indicators adapted to the socio-economic context of the Union of Comoros. The chapter also explains the relationships between these variables and demonstrates how they are integrated into the conceptual model that underpins the empirical analysis. Collectively, this chapter provides the scientific and analytical basis for the research methodology and hypothesis testing presented in the subsequent chapters.

II. Dependant variable

1. Multidimensional poverty measurement framework

To conceptualize and measure poverty beyond monetary indicators, Sabina Alkire and James Foster (2007) proposed the Alkire–Foster (AF) multidimensional methodology, which provides a comprehensive framework for identifying and measuring multiple forms of deprivation experienced by individuals and households. Building upon this methodology, the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI) developed the Global Multidimensional Poverty Index (Global MPI), which has been adopted by the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) since 2010 to monitor and report multidimensional poverty across more than one hundred developing countries. The Global MPI has since become a key component of the annual Human Development Report, providing internationally comparable evidence on household deprivation across multiple dimensions of well-being.

Dimensions and Indicators of the Global Multidimensional Poverty Index

The Global MPI captures poverty through three fundamental non-monetary dimensions:

- Health
- Education
- Standard of Living

These dimensions are operationalized through ten indicators, which collectively provide a more comprehensive representation of household welfare than income-based measures alone. The MPI identifies deprivation at both the individual and household levels. Where information is collected at the household level, observed characteristics are assumed to apply equally to all household members, thereby enabling consistent multidimensional poverty assessment.

Recognizing the need for a measurement framework better suited to the socio-economic realities of Arab countries, the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) revised the Global MPI in its 2017 Arab Multidimensional Poverty Report. Although retaining the same three core dimensions, the ESCWA Multidimensional Poverty Index expands the framework to fourteen indicators, thereby providing a more detailed assessment of deprivation.

Within the education dimension, the ESCWA MPI incorporates:

- School attendance;
- Years of schooling;
- Educational delay (school lag).
- The health dimension includes:

- Nutritional status;
- Child mortality;
- Early pregnancy.

The standard of living dimension comprises:

- Access to electricity;
- Adequate sanitation facilities;
- Safe drinking water;
- Clean cooking fuel;
- Adequate housing materials (floor and roof);
- Absence of household overcrowding; and
- Access to essential information, mobility, and basic household assets.

1.1 Deprivation thresholds and classification

Under the multidimensional poverty framework, each household is classified as either deprived or non-deprived for every indicator by comparing its observed achievement with a predetermined deprivation threshold. These thresholds are generally based on internationally recognized standards established by specialized organizations, including:

- UNESCO, for compulsory years of schooling;
- The World Health Organization (WHO), for nutritional status and anthropometric standards;
- UN-Habitat, for housing quality and overcrowding standards; and
- Other internationally accepted development benchmarks relevant to basic living conditions.

1.2 Application in the Union of Comoros

As part of this study, qualitative evidence obtained from interviews with senior officials responsible for the National Social Safety Net Programmer and administrators of selected social protection institutions provided valuable insights into the multidimensional indicators currently employed to assess social protection and poverty in the Union of Comoros. Respondents clarified the operational definitions used to distinguish extreme poverty from general poverty, together with the deprivation thresholds and weighting systems applied within existing national programs.

The findings indicate that several deprivation criteria currently applied in the Comorian context are more restrictive than those adopted by OPHI for the Global MPI. Consequently, these stricter definitions generally produce higher deprivation rates for several indicators, leading to comparatively higher multidimensional poverty estimates.

To ensure greater contextual relevance, this research proposes a Comoros-specific adaptation of the multidimensional poverty framework. While maintaining the three internationally recognized dimensions—health, education, and standard of living—the proposed model incorporates thirteen indicators reflecting the country’s institutional capacity, data availability, and socio-economic realities. The reduction in the number of indicators necessitates corresponding adjustments to the weighting structure and deprivation thresholds to preserve methodological consistency.

1.2.1 Current Comorian Standard of Living indicators in Comoros

Indicator	Deprivation Criterion	Relevance
Electricity	No access to electricity	Rural areas remain underserved.
Drinking Water	No safe water or >30 min collection	Water shortages affect many communities.
Sanitation	No improved sanitation or shared	Health risks in rural areas.
Housing Quality	Poor floor/roof/wall materials	Reflects vulnerability.
Cooking Fuel	Uses wood/charcoal/solid fuels	Health and environmental impacts.
Assets Ownership	Owens few/no basic assets	Limited economic resilience.
Internet & ICT	No internet/digital access	Relevant for education and inclusion.

Suggested Framework

Health: Nutrition, child mortality, healthcare.

Education: Years of schooling, attendance, literacy.

Living Standards: Electricity, water, sanitation, housing, cooking fuel, assets, internet.

This contextual adaptation is intended to support several policy objectives. First, it facilitates both national and sub-national comparisons of multidimensional poverty across the islands of the Union of Comoros. Second, it strengthens the geographical targeting of poverty reduction interventions and social protection programs. Third, it provides policymakers with a robust evidence-based framework for prioritizing public investments and allocating limited financial resources more efficiently. Finally, the adapted MPI offers government institutions, development partners, and international donors a practical tool for monitoring progress towards poverty

reduction, evaluating the effectiveness of social protection programs, and advancing the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) within the Union of Comoros.

III. Independent variable

Intersection between the dimensions of multidimensional poverty and social protection

Regardless of their form, social protection measures are designed to improve the welfare of poor and vulnerable populations. Their impacts may be monetary, through direct increases in household income or consumption, thereby contributing to the reduction of income poverty. However, they may also reduce poverty from a multidimensional perspective by expanding access to essential services such as education, healthcare, and nutrition.

By examining the relationship between social protection interventions and the dimensions and indicators of the Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI), it becomes possible to identify how these interventions can be strategically designed to achieve the broader objective of reducing multidimensional poverty. The first two MPI dimensions—health and nutrition and education—can be influenced by both cash-based and in-kind social protection programs. In contrast, improvements in access to essential services are primarily achieved through non-monetary interventions, including vaccination programs, educational and healthcare infrastructure, and school feeding initiatives.

This relationship is particularly significant because poverty and vulnerability are increasingly recognized as context-specific phenomena that vary across countries and even between rural and urban settings within the same country. In the Union of the Comoros, social protection policies should therefore be tailored to these socio-economic differences to ensure that resilience-building interventions effectively address the multiple dimensions of poverty experienced by vulnerable households.

The benefits of such programs extend beyond immediate income support. As highlighted by several respondents in this study, social protection interventions generate substantial nutritional benefits, while simultaneously producing positive educational outcomes. Better-nourished children are more likely to perform successfully in school, thereby improving their long-term human capital development. Furthermore, school feeding programs encourage parents to enroll and retain their children—particularly girls—in school, thereby reducing gender disparities in educational access. These interventions may also contribute to reducing child labor across different socio-economic environments. Consequently, social protection programs create both immediate and long-term effects that extend throughout children's life cycles and may ultimately promote greater social mobility.

Another important aspect of the relationship between social protection and multidimensional poverty is its alignment with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which

provide an international framework for monitoring development progress. SDG Target 1.3 calls for the implementation of nationally appropriate social protection systems and measures for all, including social protection floors, with the objective of ensuring that, by 2030, a substantial proportion of poor and vulnerable populations benefit from these systems. Similarly, SDG Target 3.8 seeks to achieve Universal Health Coverage (UHC) by ensuring financial risk protection and universal access to quality essential healthcare services, medicines, and vaccines (ILO, 2017).

The United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA, 2017) further demonstrates the close relationship between the MPI and the SDGs by identifying that eight of the seventeen Sustainable Development Goals directly correspond to MPI indicators. These include goals relating to nutrition, health, education, gender equality and women's empowerment, water and sanitation, clean energy, and adequate housing. In addition, SDG 13 (Climate Action) has become increasingly relevant, particularly for Small Island Developing States (SIDS) such as the Union of the Comoros, which are highly vulnerable to climate-related risks.

In recent years, climate change has been progressively integrated into the design of social protection systems. Adaptive social protection measures seek to mitigate the adverse effects of climate change while simultaneously reducing poverty and vulnerability, strengthening the resilience of agricultural households, and addressing food insecurity and malnutrition. Such interventions include subsidies for food, water, and energy services, employment generation programs, and agricultural labor initiatives aimed at enhancing sustainable livelihoods.

Overall, the intersection between social protection measures and the indicators of the Multidimensional Poverty Index provides a comprehensive framework for designing integrated poverty reduction strategies. Within the context of the Union of the Comoros, strengthening this linkage is essential for improving social resilience, promoting inclusive development, and accelerating progress toward the Sustainable Development Goals. The following subsection of this thesis therefore presents an overview of the social protection system in the Union of the Comoros.

2. Social Protection in the Union of Comoros

Like many developing countries, the Union of Comoros has a community-based and traditional social protection system characterized by relatively limited responsiveness and a strong emphasis on social assistance. The country's first legislation relating to social assistance dates back to 1942, while the Social Security Act was enacted seventeen years later. Since then, the legal and institutional framework has been progressively strengthened through the introduction of complementary programs and policy reforms. One notable example is the Resilient and Shock-Responsive Social Safety Nets Program (PFSS-RRC), established by Decree No. 23-063/PR of 5

July 2023. This program forms part of the government's broader efforts to strengthen the national social protection system by enhancing resilience among vulnerable populations.

Existing social protection interventions in the Union of Comoros cover a wide range of sectors, including rural development, the green and blue economy, healthcare—particularly maternal and child health—disability support, unemployment assistance, and family allowances (ISSA, 2019). A significant illustration of these initiatives was the agricultural fair held in Anjouan on 4 March 2026, which showcased economic resilience projects implemented under the Mayendeleyo Project, a component of the PFSS-RRC. Financed by the World Bank with a budget of US\$30 million, the program currently supports approximately 40,010 vulnerable households across 196 villages located on Grande Comore, Anjouan, and Mohéli (Afrika24).

Despite these advances, the Comorian social protection system remains highly fragmented, consisting of numerous programs with limited institutional coordination. This fragmentation has resulted in significant overlaps among interventions while simultaneously leaving certain vulnerable population groups without adequate coverage. Consequently, the Government of the Union of Comoros has recognized the urgent need for a comprehensive reform of its social protection system. This recognition became even more pronounced following the COVID-19 pandemic, which exposed structural weaknesses and highlighted the importance of establishing a more inclusive, resilient, and shock-responsive social protection framework.

In response, the Government elevated the universalization of social protection to the status of a national strategic priority and a cornerstone of its socioeconomic development agenda. The proposed reform, implemented through a series of legislative and regulatory measures, is structured around four major pillars with clearly defined implementation timelines. The first pillar focuses on protecting citizens against health-related risks through the nationwide expansion of Compulsory Health Insurance (Assurance Maladie Obligatoire – AMO). The second pillar aims to strengthen child protection by extending family allowance schemes to households that currently lack such benefits, thereby contributing to improved child welfare and reducing school dropout rates. The third pillar seeks to enhance protection against old-age risks by broadening participation in pension schemes and expanding retirement coverage. Finally, the fourth pillar addresses the risk of unemployment through the reform and gradual universalization of unemployment benefits, with full implementation targeted by 2030.

These legislative reforms are accompanied by broader institutional changes, including the revision of existing regulatory frameworks governing social protection. In parallel, a reform process initiated in 2018 has been accelerated to establish a sustainable monitoring and management system capable of improving the identification and targeting of households eligible

for social assistance. Such a system is expected to enhance transparency, efficiency, and equity in the allocation of social protection benefits.

Overall, these developments demonstrate the growing importance of social protection within the national development agenda of the Union of Comoros. They also reflect the government's commitment to building a more comprehensive and inclusive social protection system capable of reducing vulnerability and improving living standards. Accordingly, this study examines several policy scenarios to assess the potential impact of these social protection reforms on the Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI). By simulating the effects of expanded social protection interventions, the study highlights the potential gains that the Union of Comoros could achieve in reducing multidimensional poverty and promoting inclusive socioeconomic development.

IV. Summary of past Studies

The international literature demonstrates an evolving understanding of poverty.

The work of Amartya Sen conceptualizes poverty as a deprivation of capabilities rather than merely a lack of income.

This study is grounded in three complementary theoretical perspectives that provide a comprehensive understanding of the relationship between social protection programs and multidimensional poverty in the Union of the Comoros.

Within the African context, numerous studies like Abdelkhalek, T., and Boccanfuso examined the impact of social protection programs on multidimensional poverty in Morocco using the Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI). The authors developed two innovative ex-ante microsimulation approaches: one based on the random targeting of beneficiaries and another relying on a probabilistic Probit model, designed to provide a more objective targeting mechanism. Using data from the 2018 National Population and Family Health Survey (ENPSF) Morocco, the researchers assessed the potential effects of social protection reforms on the dimensions of health, education, and living standards.

The findings indicate that social protection programs contribute significantly to reducing both the incidence and intensity of multidimensional poverty. However, the study reveals that objective targeting through the Probit model is not consistently more effective than random targeting. The authors conclude that social protection policies constitute an essential instrument for reducing multidimensional deprivations and emphasize the importance of adopting an appropriate targeting mechanism to maximize their effectiveness. Abdelkhalek, T., & Boccanfuso, D. (2022)

4.1 Existing situation in the Union of Comoros

Unlike Morocco, the Union of Comoros is characterized by fragmented and emerging social protection mechanisms. Existing programs are largely supported by government initiatives and

international development partners, while coverage remains limited, especially for workers in the informal sector, rural households, women, youth, and persons with disabilities. Although the National Social Protection Policy represents an important policy framework, there is limited empirical evidence regarding its actual impact on reducing multidimensional poverty. Furthermore, poverty in Comoros is influenced by structural constraints including geographic insularity, high unemployment, vulnerability to climate shocks, weak institutional capacity, limited fiscal resources, and significant dependence on remittances. These contextual factors distinguish Comoros from countries such as Morocco and require context-specific analytical approaches.

4.2 Critical gap of the previous studies

The present study addresses several important gaps left by previous research:

Existing studies have focused predominantly on North African countries, while empirical evidence from Small Island Developing States, particularly the Union of Comoros, remains extremely limited.

No previous study has comprehensively evaluated the impact of Comorian social protection programs using the Multidimensional Poverty Index within the Alkire–Foster framework.

The microsimulation approaches proposed by Abdelkhalek and Boccanfuso have not yet been adapted to the institutional, socioeconomic, and demographic realities of Comoros.

Previous studies have paid limited attention to governance quality, institutional coordination, implementation capacity, and community participation as determinants of social protection effectiveness.

There is insufficient evidence regarding how social protection influences different dimensions of poverty simultaneously—including health, education, housing, employment, and living standards—in the Comorian context.

Existing literature provides limited policy guidance for designing integrated and financially sustainable social protection systems suitable for fragile island economies.

4.3 Contribution of the present study

This research extends the work of Abdelkhalek and Boccanfuso by applying multidimensional poverty analysis to the Union of Comoros while incorporating the country's institutional, socioeconomic, and geographic specificities. It proposes policy scenarios for strengthening social protection reforms, evaluates their potential effects on multidimensional poverty, and provides evidence-based recommendations to support national decision-makers in achieving Sustainable Development Goal 1 (No Poverty) and advancing inclusive social development. Our contribution fills a significant gap in the literature by generating one of the first comprehensive analyses of the relationship between social protection reforms and multidimensional poverty in the Union of Comoros, thereby enriching both academic knowledge and public policy.

4.4 Policy scenarios to assess potential Impact of social protection reforms

Scenario 1:

Status Quo

Existing programs unchanged; limited coverage; expected marginal poverty reduction.

Scenario 2:

Expanded cash transfers

Expand beneficiaries and target poorest households; expected improvements in consumption, education and nutrition.

Scenario 3:

Integrated social protection

Combine cash transfers, health insurance, education support and employment initiatives; expected stronger multidimensional poverty reduction.

Scenario 4:

Universal child and maternal protection

Universal child benefits and maternal health support; improved human capital.

Scenario 5:

Productive social protection

Link assistance to skills, entrepreneurship, microfinance and agriculture; increased resilience and incomes.

Scenario 6:

Digital and Data-driven protection

Unified social registry, digital ID and payments; improved targeting and governance.

Conceptual framework reforms

- ✓ Better coverage, targeting, governance and services
- ✓ Improved income, health, education, living standards and resilience
- ✓ Reduced multidimensional poverty (Health, Education, Living Standards).

4.5 Theoretical proposition

Comprehensive, integrated and well-targeted reforms are expected to achieve greater and more sustainable reductions in multidimensional poverty than fragmented interventions.

The policies hypothesize that comprehensive and well-targeted social protection reforms produce larger reductions in multidimensional poverty than fragmented or narrowly targeted interventions.

Integrated programs combining income support, human capital investment, and productive

inclusion are expected to generate the greatest long-term impact on household welfare and sustainable poverty reduction in the Union of Comoros.

These policy scenarios can serve as the foundation for ex-ante policy simulation using multidimensional poverty indicators and provide a robust theoretical basis for evaluating alternative social protection reforms in the Union of Comoros.

4.6 Abdelkhalek, T., and Boccanfuso

- **Multidimensional Poverty Approach:** Poverty is as a multidimensional phenomenon rather than solely an income deficiency.
- **Ex-Ante Policy Evaluation Approach:** Impacts before policy implementation.
- **Microsimulation Approach:** Individual and household data to simulate policy outcomes.
- **Probabilistic (Probit) Targeting Model:** Probit regression model to estimate the probability that an individual benefits from social protection interventions.

V. Theoretical frameworks of the study

1. Capability Approach

Developed by Amartya Sen, this approach not only that it is recognized by internationally by the United Nations Development Program in the Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) but it is used for many countries as African as well and has been worked. Rather than defining poverty only as low income, the Capability Approach views poverty as the deprivation of people's capabilities and freedoms to live the lives they value.

Social protection programs in Comoros as recommended by more respondents in our survey should increase people's capabilities by improving:

- Income security
- Access to education
- Access to healthcare
- Food security
- Housing quality
- Social inclusion
- Human dignity
- Employment opportunities

It is a dynamic conceptual pathway because it covers social Protection Program, increased resources, improved Capabilities, better Education, better health, better income, better Living Conditions, reduction in Multidimensional Poverty.

2. Social Risk Management (SRM) Framework

Developed by World Bank, and it is so relevant because social protection helps households to prevent risks, mitigate risks, cope with shocks this concept covers many poverty dimensions that Comorian people are continuously facing risks such as:

- Unemployment
- Illness
- Natural disasters
- Climate change
- Inflation
- Disability
- Old age

Its framework are social risks, government social protection, risk prevention, risk, mitigation, risk coping, reduced household vulnerability, reduced Multidimensional Poverty

3. Sustainable livelihood framework (SLF)

Developed by the Department for International Development.

Its core idea in Comoros is poverty depends on households' access to five forms of capital: (human Capital, financial Capital, physical Capital, social Capital, natural Capital).

Social protection strengthens these assets.

Example: Cash transfers, better nutrition, improved health, greater productivity, higher income, lower poverty. "Between 1975 and 2018, the Comorian economy grew at an average annual rate of 2.8%, while per capita income increased by a mere 0.3%. This growth is characterized by high volatility and overall weakness, relying primarily on agriculture and the service sector. The Comorian economy exhibits low competitiveness and remains trapped in a "sub-optimal" equilibrium, which is defined by sluggish growth, near-constant domestic income, low investment rates, stagnant production, and uncompetitive production factor costs. This economic growth is predominantly driven by domestic demand, which is sustained by diaspora remittances, labor contributions, and financial assistance from development partners.

Over the past two decades, the Comorian economy has operated within an environment of low inflation—contained below 3% owing to a prudent monetary policy. This strategy of controlling the general price level will be maintained and is expected to keep the inflation rate below the 3% threshold.

Meanwhile, low public revenues have resulted in a heavy reliance on development partners to finance capital expenditure. Fiscal policies aimed at revenue mobilization and expenditure stabilization, implemented since 2017, have significantly improved the budget balance. This progress has occurred despite a public financial management system that continues to face

persistent structural challenges. Consequently, the public deficit narrowed to 4.5% of GDP in 2017, down from 7.3% in 2016.” H.E President A. ASSOUMANI – text summary.

4. Systems theory

This theory views poverty as the result of interactions among multiple systems rather than a single cause. It is so relevant to government, Families, communities, NGOs, International organizations, a private sector. This is highly applicable to Comoros because social protection is delivered through collaboration between government, development partners, civil society, and traditional community solidarity.

5. Human development theory

Developed by Mahbub-ul Haq together with the work of Amartya Sen.

Human development focuses on expanding people’s opportunities through: Education, health, standard of living, equality, human dignity.

This aligns closely with the Emerging Comorian Plan. “The Emerging Comoros Plan (PCE) constitutes a strategic vision spanning the 2020–2030 period. It operationalizes this ambition to guide the collective actions of all stakeholders—including the State, the private sector, intermediary bodies, civil society, and development partners—in pursuit of the shared national endeavor: the emergence of the Comoros.

This strategic blueprint is the product of constructive reflection, rigorous analysis, and extensive consultations with the Comorian people. The foundational pillars and catalysts of development identified within this plan are designed to fundamentally transform the nation, enhance the quality of life for the Comorian population, and secure a prosperous future for our youth. It is my firm conviction that the path toward emergence delineates the trajectory to this future.

The reforms initiated since my assumption of the presidency of the Republic, alongside critical investments in infrastructure and human capital development, represent merely the inception of a sustained journey of collective effort and commitment to which I invite all my fellow citizens.

In confronting contemporary global challenges and international dynamics, the Emerging Comoros Plan serves as an instrument to mobilize our nation. It aims to achieve sustainable domestic development and complete regional integration, while simultaneously reinforcing our capacity to honor international commitments for the advancement of global well-being. Consequently, the plan aligns with and integrates the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the African Union’s Agenda 2063” H.E President A ASSOUMANI, ECP summary introduction, and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), especially SDG 1 (No Poverty), SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-being), SDG 4 (Quality Education), and SDG 10 (Reduced Inequalities).

This integrated framework is particularly suitable for the Union of the Comoros because it:

Explains poverty as a multidimensional phenomenon rather than only income deprivation.

Accounts for vulnerability to economic, social, and environmental shocks common in Small Island Developing States. Connects social protection interventions to measurable improvements in capabilities, livelihoods, and human development.

Provides a strong basis for evaluating the effectiveness of social protection programs using the Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) and aligns with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

6. Social protection theory

A mechanism for reducing economic and social risks.

Multidimensional Poverty Approach

This approach simultaneously analyzes deprivations across multiple domains of well-being.

Monetary poverty

Viable approaches (income variation and household costs).

Non-monetary poverty

Focuses on how individuals and groups become marginalized from social, economic, and political participation.

From this perspective, social protection programs are important instruments for expanding individuals' capabilities and reducing multidimensional forms of deprivation. This framework is particularly relevant to the Comorian context, where poverty extends beyond monetary limitations and affects several dimensions of well-being.

Multidimensional Poverty Theory

This study also draws on the multidimensional poverty framework developed by Alkire and Foster (2011). The theory argues that poverty should be measured through multiple indicators rather than income alone.

The Alkire-Foster methodology identifies poverty across several dimensions, including:

- Health;
- Education;
- Living standards;
- Access to basic services; and
- Social inclusion.

This framework provides an appropriate analytical tool for assessing the effectiveness of social protection programs in reducing various forms of deprivation experienced by households in the Union of the Comoros.

Social Capital Theory

To capture the sociocultural realities of Comorian society, the study incorporates Social Capital Theory, particularly the works of Pierre Bourdieu (1986), James Coleman (1988), and Robert Putnam (1993).

Social capital refers to the networks, norms, trust, and social relationships that facilitate cooperation and mutual support within communities.

In the Comorian context, social capital is reflected through:

- Family solidarity networks;
- Community-based assistance mechanisms;
- Religious and traditional support systems;
- Diaspora contributions; and
- Informal mutual aid practices.

Chapter 3 Research methodology

I. Introduction

By definition, a social protection program is expected to improve the welfare of targeted beneficiaries by moving an individual i from a state of deprivation (1) to a state of non-deprivation (0) with respect to the targeted deprivation indicator j . Within the framework of multidimensional poverty measurement, such a transition should contribute to reducing both the incidence and the intensity of poverty among eligible households.

This methodological perspective is particularly relevant in the context of the **Union of the Comoros**, where the Government has adopted the Emerging Comoros Plan (ECP) 2030 as its national development strategy. According to the ECP, *"The ambition of the President of the Union of the Comoros, H.E. Azali Assoumani, is to transform the country into an emerging economy by 2030 through deep structural reforms at all levels. The strategy seeks to accelerate sustainable economic growth, increase Gross National Income per capita from approximately US\$1,360 to over US\$4,000, and achieve an average annual economic growth rate exceeding 7.5 percent by 2030."* (Plan Comores Émergents, Section 1, p. 4).

Despite these ambitious national objectives, an important methodological challenge remains regarding the effectiveness of social protection targeting and its measurable impact on multidimensional poverty. In practice, individuals who are deprived in a specific indicator (j) may not be adequately identified, registered, or reached by existing social protection programs across the entire national territory. This limitation is particularly significant in the Union of the Comoros, where administrative and governance structures remain highly centralized in Moroni, often resulting in unequal access to social protection services across the three islands.

Consequently, many deprived individuals may fail to satisfy the multidimensional poverty identification threshold ($c_i < k$). Such individuals are therefore excluded from the calculation of both the multidimensional poverty incidence (H) and the average intensity of deprivation (A). As a result, even when they receive social protection benefits, these interventions may not be reflected in the Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI or M_0), thereby underestimating the actual contribution of social protection programs to poverty reduction.

This methodological limitation highlights the importance of combining multidimensional poverty measurement with an assessment of the geographical coverage, institutional targeting mechanisms, and governance effectiveness of social protection systems. Accordingly, this study adopts a multidimensional analytical framework that integrates the Alkire–Foster methodology with an evaluation of social protection program accessibility, territorial equity, and institutional implementation in the Union of the Comoros. Such an approach enables a more comprehensive

assessment of the extent to which social protection programs effectively contribute to reducing multidimensional poverty while supporting the national aspirations outlined in the Comoros Emerging Plan 2030.

II. Research design

The present study adopts a research design supported by a mixed-methods research approach to examine the relationship between social protection programs and multidimensional poverty in the Union of the Comoros. Documentary research is particularly appropriate because it enables the systematic collection, analysis, interpretation, and triangulation of information obtained from official policy documents, government reports, international development agencies, scholarly publications, and empirical survey findings. This design provides a comprehensive understanding of how social protection interventions influence both the monetary and non-monetary dimensions of poverty while integrating quantitative and qualitative evidence.

The research is structured around two complementary dimensions of poverty. The monetary dimension focuses on household economic welfare by analysing changes in household income and household expenditure. Income variation serves as an indicator of improvements in the financial capacity of households resulting from social protection interventions, while expenditure variation reflects changes in household consumption patterns, purchasing power, food security, education, healthcare utilization, and investment in productive activities. The underlying assumption is that effective social protection programs increase disposable income, stabilize household consumption during economic shocks, and reduce the incidence of income poverty.

Beyond financial indicators, the study incorporates the non-monetary dimension of multidimensional poverty, recognizing that poverty extends beyond insufficient income. Guided by the multidimensional poverty framework developed by Alkire and Foster (2007), non-monetary poverty is assessed through deprivations in education, health, housing quality, sanitation, access to drinking water, electricity, nutrition, social inclusion, and overall living standards. This multidimensional perspective provides a more holistic assessment of household well-being and enables the study to capture the broader developmental outcomes associated with social protection programs.

To investigate these relationships, the study employs a quantitative-oriented approach. Quantitative analysis focuses on measurable changes in household income and expenditure as well as indicators of multidimensional deprivation. Data are obtained from structured questionnaires administered to stakeholders involved in social protection, complemented by documentary evidence from national statistics and institutional reports. Descriptive statistical techniques—including frequencies, percentages, means, and graphical presentations—are used to

summarize respondents' perceptions and characteristics. Where appropriate, inferential statistical methods such as correlation and regression analysis may be employed to determine the extent to which participation in social protection programs predicts improvements in household income, expenditure, and multidimensional poverty outcomes.

The quantitative findings are complemented by a qualitative-oriented approach, which seeks to understand the contextual realities influencing the implementation and effectiveness of social protection programs in the Comorian context. Qualitative evidence is derived from documentary analysis of policy frameworks, academic literature, institutional reports, and open-ended responses collected through the survey. Thematic content analysis is employed to identify recurring themes concerning governance, program implementation, community solidarity, territorial inequalities, institutional challenges, beneficiary experiences, and recommendations for policy reform. This qualitative perspective provides explanations for the statistical findings and captures socio-cultural factors that cannot be adequately measured using numerical indicators alone.

The Integration of quantitative and qualitative evidence constitutes a mixed-methods documentary research design, allowing methodological triangulation and enhancing the validity and reliability of the findings. Quantitative techniques provide objective measurement of poverty dynamics through income and expenditure indicators, while qualitative techniques offer contextual explanations regarding how and why social protection programs influence different dimensions of poverty. The convergence of these approaches strengthens the overall analytical framework and produces a comprehensive understanding of the effectiveness of social protection interventions in the Union of the Comoros.

This research design is therefore well suited to the objectives of the study because it simultaneously examines monetary poverty (through variations in household income and expenditure) and non-monetary multidimensional poverty (through deprivations in health, education, housing, and living standards). By combining documentary evidence with empirical survey data, the study generates robust evidence capable of informing policy recommendations aimed at improving the design, targeting, governance, and effectiveness of social protection programs for sustainable multidimensional poverty reduction in the Union of the Comoros. The findings from the survey reinforce this approach, as respondents consistently identified improvements in household income, food security, healthcare access, educational participation, resilience to shocks, and income-generating activities as key outcomes of social protection programs, while also highlighting persistent challenges related to governance, targeting, territorial disparities, and institutional capacity.

III. Population of the study

The population of this study comprised stakeholders involved in the design, implementation, management, and utilization of social protection programs across the Union of the Comoros. In line with the research objective of examining the relationship between social protection programmes and multidimensional poverty, the target population included both institutional actors responsible for policy formulation and implementation, as well as direct beneficiaries of these programs. This dual perspective enabled the study to capture both the policy dimension and the lived experiences of vulnerable households.

To ensure broad geographical representation, the study covered the three islands of the Union of the Comoros: Ngazidja (Grande Comore), Mohéli (Mwali), and Anjouan (Ndzuani). Particular emphasis was placed on Anjouan, the researcher's native island, where extensive field data collection was conducted in both urban and rural communities. The inclusion of respondents from all three islands enhanced the representativeness of the findings by reflecting the country's socio-economic and territorial diversity.

A mixed-mode survey strategy was adopted to maximize participation and improve data quality. First, an online questionnaire was distributed using digital platforms to reach government officials, researchers, development partners, NGOs, local authorities, and other professionals involved in social protection. This approach facilitated rapid data collection from geographically dispersed respondents while reducing administrative costs.

Second, a paper-based questionnaire was administered through direct field visits, particularly in rural and hard-to-reach communities where internet access and digital literacy remain limited. This face-to-face approach ensured the inclusion of vulnerable households and beneficiaries of social protection programs who might otherwise have been excluded from an online survey. Consequently, combining online and paper questionnaires reduced coverage bias and improved the reliability and inclusiveness of the collected data.

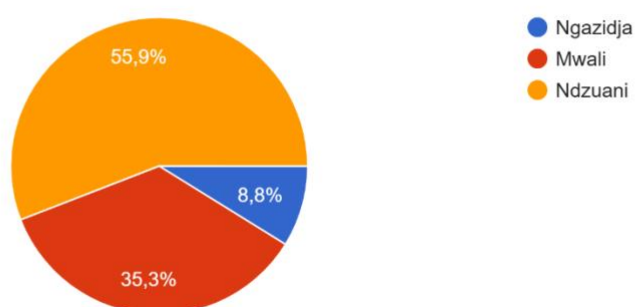
The Institutional population included representatives from ministries and public institutions responsible for social protection, territorial authorities, national and international non-governmental organizations (NGOs), research institutions, community-based organizations, technical and financial partners, and private-sector organizations engaged in poverty reduction initiatives. According to the survey results, 34 institutional respondents participated in the study. The largest proportion (41.2%) represented ministries and public institutions, followed by national NGOs (8.8%), technical and financial partners (8.8%), territorial authorities (5.9%), research institutions (5.9%), community organizations (5.9%), and several other institutions with

smaller representation. Regarding geographical distribution, respondents originated from all three islands of the Union of the Comoros. The majority were from Anjouan (55.9%), followed by Mohéli (35.3%), while Ngazidja accounted for 8.8% of participants. This distribution reflects the strong participation achieved in Anjouan through field surveys while maintaining national coverage across the three islands.

Overall, the selected study population was considered appropriate because it incorporated the perspectives of both policy implementers and program beneficiaries, thereby providing comprehensive evidence on how social protection interventions influence the various dimensions of multidimensional poverty in the Union of the Comoros. This diversity of respondents strengthened the validity, credibility, and practical relevance of the study findings.

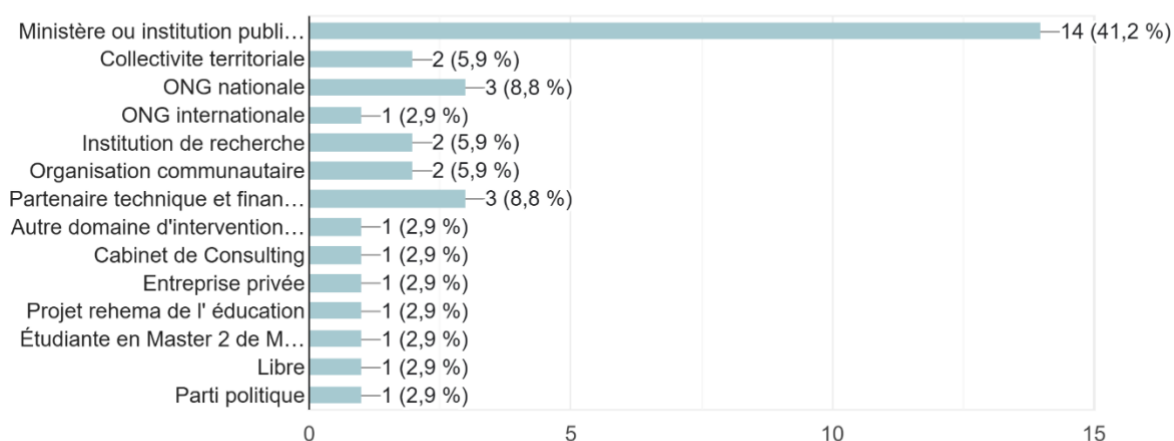
Specify your native island

34 réponses



Institution/organization

34 réponses



IV. Sample characteristic

The characteristics of the study sample describe the demographic, geographical, and institutional composition of the respondents who participated in this research. Presenting these characteristics is essential for assessing the representativeness of the sample, understanding the diversity of respondents, and facilitating the interpretation of the empirical findings. The study adopted a heterogeneous sample comprising both institutional stakeholders and beneficiaries of social protection programmes in the Union of the Comoros.

A total of 34 valid institutional questionnaires were collected and analyzed, complemented by paper-based questionnaires administered to beneficiaries of social protection programmes across the three islands of the Union of the Comoros. The combination of online and face-to-face data collection enabled the study to include respondents from diverse professional backgrounds and socio-economic conditions, thereby improving the reliability and external validity of the research findings.

Geographical characteristics

The study achieved national geographical coverage by including respondents from **Ngazidja (Grande Comore), Mohéli (Mwali), and Anjouan (Ndzواني)**.

The distribution of respondents reflects the intensity of fieldwork conducted on each island:

Island	Number of Respondents	Percentage (%)
Anjouan	19	55.9
Mohéli	12	35.3
Ngazidja	3	8.8
Total	34	100.0

The predominance of respondents from Anjouan is attributable to the extensive field survey undertaken on the island, while respondents from Mohéli and Ngazidja ensured that the study maintained a national perspective on social protection and multidimensional poverty.

Institutional Characteristics

The institutional respondents represented a broad spectrum of organizations involved in poverty reduction, social welfare, and public service delivery. Their professional diversity enhanced the credibility of the information collected by incorporating multiple perspectives on the implementation and effectiveness of social protection programmes.

The institutional composition of the sample was as follows:

Institution Category	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Ministries and Public Institutions	14	41.2
National NGOs	3	8.8
Technical and Financial Partners	3	8.8
Territorial Authorities	2	5.9
Research and Academic Institutions	2	5.9
Community-Based Organizations	2	5.9
International NGOs	1	2.9
Civil Society Organizations	1	2.9
Private Sector	1	2.9
Other Institutions	5	14.7
Total	34	100.0

The dominance of government institutions reflects their central role in the formulation, financing, implementation, and monitoring of social protection policies in the Union of the Comoros.

Characteristics of beneficiary respondents

The beneficiary component of the sample consisted of individuals and households identified as recipients or potential beneficiaries of social protection interventions. Particular emphasis was placed on rural communities where poverty remains relatively high and where access to formal social protection services is comparatively limited.

The beneficiary survey sought to capture respondents with varying socio-economic backgrounds, including differences in:

- household income levels;
- employment status;
- educational attainment;
- household size;
- place of residence (urban and rural);
- participation in social protection programs;
- perceived living conditions; and
- multidimensional deprivation indicators relating to education, health, housing, access to water, sanitation, electricity, food security, and economic well-being.

Including beneficiaries from different socio-economic categories enabled the study to examine how social protection programs influence multiple dimensions of poverty rather than income poverty alone.

Professional experience of the respondent

Professional experience is an important demographic variable that reflects the respondent's level of expertise and familiarity with social protection programmes and multidimensional poverty. Individuals with varying years of experience may hold different perspectives regarding the effectiveness, implementation, and challenges of social protection initiatives in the Union of Comoros. Collecting this information enables the researcher to examine whether professional experience influences respondents' perceptions and assessments of social protection policies and their impact on poverty reduction.

V. Sample size determination

The determination of the sample size is a critical methodological step that ensures the reliability, representativeness, and validity of the research findings. Given the mixed-methods nature of this study, both quantitative and qualitative sampling procedures were employed to capture the complexity of social protection programs and multidimensional poverty in the Union of Comoros.

The study targeted a heterogeneous population composed of government officials, representatives of public institutions, local authorities, development partners, non-governmental organizations, community-based organizations, researchers, and beneficiaries of social protection interventions across the three islands of the Union of Comoros (Ngazidja, Ndzuwani, and Mwali). The objective was to obtain diverse perspectives regarding the implementation, effectiveness, governance, and challenges of social protection programs in reducing multidimensional poverty.

For the quantitative component, an online structured questionnaire and paper-based questionnaires were administered using purposive and snowball sampling techniques. Because no comprehensive national sampling frame exists for professionals and stakeholders directly involved in social protection interventions in the Union of Comoros, probability sampling was not feasible. Consequently, a non-probability sampling strategy was considered appropriate for identifying respondents possessing relevant knowledge and experience.

The final quantitative sample consisted of 34 completed questionnaires, representing respondents from various institutional backgrounds, including ministries, international organizations, NGOs, researchers, local authorities, and civil society organizations. These respondents provided information on existing social protection programs, target beneficiaries, governance challenges, territorial disparities, and policy recommendations.

The qualitative component complemented the survey through key Informant interviews with experts and practitioners possessing extensive experience in social protection and poverty reduction. An example is the interview conducted with the President and Founder of the Collective for the Heritage of Comoros, whose professional insights enriched the interpretation of quantitative findings regarding governance, community solidarity, and regional disparities.

To provide additional methodological justification, the minimum sample size was estimated using Cochran's (1977) formula for large populations:

Where:

N = required sample size;

$Z = 1.96$ (95% confidence level);

$P = 0.50$ (maximum variability);

$Q = 1 - p = 0.50$;

$E = 0.05$ (5% margin of error).

Substituting these values:

To provide additional methodological justification, the minimum sample size was estimated using Cochran's (1977) formula for large populations:

$$n = \frac{(1.96)^2(0.50)(0.50)}{(0.05)^2} = \frac{3.8416 \times 0.25}{0.0025} = 384.16$$

Thus, an ideal probability-based survey would require approximately 384 respondents.

However, this study focuses on a specialized population of institutional experts and stakeholders rather than the general population. Furthermore, practical constraints—including limited institutional databases, geographical dispersion across the three islands, time limitations, financial constraints, and restricted accessibility to specialized respondents—made achieving this theoretical sample impractical.

Consequently, the study adopted a purposive expert sample of 34 respondents, which is considered methodologically acceptable for exploratory policy research involving knowledgeable participants. The emphasis of the research is on obtaining rich, context-specific information from respondents directly involved in designing, implementing, managing, or evaluating social protection programs rather than achieving statistical generalization.

The adequacy of the sample is further strengthened by methodological triangulation. Quantitative survey responses were integrated with qualitative interview data, documentary analysis, and an extensive review of policy documents and previous empirical studies. This

triangulation enhanced the credibility, dependability, and validity of the findings while reducing potential biases associated with a relatively small quantitative sample.

Overall, the selected sample size was sufficient to address the research objectives, identify major trends concerning multidimensional poverty and social protection, compare perspectives among institutional stakeholders, and generate evidence-based recommendations for improving social protection policies and programs in the Union of Comoros. The diversity of respondents also ensured broad coverage of issues relating to governance, targeting mechanisms, health, education, employment, food security, community solidarity, and territorial inequalities across Ngazidja, Ndzuani, and Mwali.

VI. Data collection procedures

Data collection was conducted using a mixed-methods approach, integrating quantitative and qualitative techniques to obtain comprehensive evidence on the relationship between social protection programs and multidimensional poverty in the Union of Comoros. The procedure was designed to ensure the collection of reliable, valid, and context-specific data from diverse stakeholders across the three islands of Ngazidja, Ndzuwani (Anjouan), and Mwali (Mohéli).

Prior to data collection, the research instruments were developed following an extensive review of the literature on social protection, multidimensional poverty, and poverty measurement frameworks, including the Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) and other internationally recognized approaches. The questionnaire was carefully structured to capture respondents' perceptions regarding the availability, effectiveness, governance, challenges, and impact of social protection programs on various dimensions of poverty, including health, education, employment, housing, food security, social inclusion, and access to basic services. The questionnaire also incorporated sections on community solidarity mechanisms, territorial inequalities, and policy recommendations.

Before the main survey was launched, the questionnaire underwent a pilot review to assess its clarity, relevance, and consistency. Minor modifications were made to improve the wording and logical flow of the questions. This process enhanced the validity of the instrument and ensured that respondents could easily understand each question.

Data were collected through two complementary survey methods. First, an online questionnaire was developed using Google Forms and distributed electronically through email, WhatsApp, Facebook Messenger, LinkedIn, and other professional communication platforms. This approach facilitated the participation of government officials, researchers, development partners, international organizations, and members of the Comorian diaspora with expertise in social protection.

Second, paper-based questionnaires were administered through face-to-face visits to respondents who had limited internet access or preferred printed questionnaires. This strategy increased participation among local government officials, community leaders, non-governmental organizations, and beneficiaries residing in rural communities, particularly in Anjouan, Ngazidja, and Mwali.

In addition to the questionnaire survey, semi-structured interviews were conducted with selected key informants possessing substantial knowledge and practical experience in social protection and poverty reduction. These interviews generated in-depth qualitative information concerning policy implementation, governance challenges, institutional coordination, financing mechanisms, traditional solidarity systems, and territorial disparities. The qualitative interviews also provided explanations for issues emerging from the questionnaire responses, thereby strengthening the interpretation of the quantitative findings.

The researcher personally coordinated the entire data collection process. Respondents were informed about the objectives of the study, the voluntary nature of participation, and the confidentiality of the information provided. Informed consent was obtained from every participant before administering the questionnaire or conducting interviews. No personally identifiable information was disclosed, and all responses were used exclusively for academic purposes.

Data collection was carried out over several weeks to allow sufficient time for respondents to complete the questionnaires and for follow-up reminders to improve the response rate. Continuous communication with participants was maintained throughout the data collection period to clarify questions, encourage participation, and retrieve completed questionnaires. A total of 34 valid questionnaires were successfully collected and included in the final analysis, together with information obtained from key informant interviews.

Following data collection, all completed questionnaires were reviewed to identify incomplete, inconsistent, or duplicate responses. The data were subsequently coded, organized, and entered into statistical software for quantitative analysis, while qualitative interview responses were transcribed, categorized into thematic areas, and analyzed using thematic content analysis. The integration of quantitative survey data, qualitative interviews, and documentary evidence provided methodological triangulation, thereby enhancing the credibility, validity, and robustness of the study findings.

This systematic data collection procedure ensured that the study generated comprehensive empirical evidence on the effectiveness of social protection programs in addressing

multidimensional poverty in the Union of Comoros while maintaining high standards of scientific rigor, ethical integrity, and methodological reliability.

VII. Study determinants

The study of determinants constitutes a fundamental component of empirical research because it identifies and explains the factors that influence the phenomenon under investigation. In the context of this study, the principal objective is to determine the socio-economic, demographic, institutional, and program-related factors that shape multidimensional poverty and to assess the extent to which social protection programs contribute to reducing deprivation among households in the Union of the Comoros.

Despite recent efforts undertaken by the Government of the Union of the Comoros and its development partners, multidimensional poverty remains a persistent development challenge affecting households across the three islands. Poverty extends beyond inadequate income and encompasses multiple forms of deprivation, including limited access to education, health services, decent housing, clean water, sanitation, electricity, productive employment, food security, and social inclusion. Consequently, understanding the determinants of multidimensional poverty requires an integrated analytical framework that simultaneously considers household characteristics, institutional arrangements, and the effectiveness of social protection interventions.

This study therefore examines the determinants of multidimensional poverty through a multidimensional perspective consistent with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the Alkire-Foster multidimensional poverty framework, and contemporary social protection theory. The analytical framework assumes that poverty outcomes are influenced by interactions between household characteristics, access to social protection programs, and broader socio-economic and institutional conditions.

The dependent variable is multidimensional poverty, measured through indicators reflecting deprivation in health, education, living standards, household welfare, and economic security. These dimensions capture both monetary and non-monetary aspects of poverty and provide a more comprehensive assessment of household well-being than conventional income-based measures.

The principal explanatory variable is participation in social protection programs. This includes both contributory and non-contributory interventions designed to reduce vulnerability and improve household resilience. The study evaluates programs such as social assistance, cash transfers, food assistance, educational support, health protection initiatives, livelihood support,

community-based safety nets, and other public or donor-funded interventions implemented within the Union of the Comoros.

In addition to program participation, the study investigates a range of socio-economic and demographic determinants that may influence multidimensional poverty. These include age, gender, educational attainment, employment status, household income, household expenditure, household size, marital status, place of residence (urban or rural), island of residence, occupation, and access to essential public services. These variables are expected to explain variations in poverty levels across households and communities while accounting for differences in vulnerability and adaptive capacity.

Institutional determinants are also incorporated into the analysis. These include program accessibility, targeting mechanisms, adequacy of benefits, administrative efficiency, transparency, governance quality, institutional coordination, and the level of awareness among beneficiaries regarding available social protection programmes. Weak institutional capacity and ineffective program implementation may reduce the ability of social protection systems to alleviate multidimensional poverty, whereas efficient governance and inclusive targeting are expected to strengthen program effectiveness.

Furthermore, the study recognizes the importance of contextual determinants that characterize the socio-economic environment of the Union of the Comoros. Factors such as regional disparities among Ngazidja, Mohéli, and Anjouan, exposure to economic shocks, unemployment, inflation, climate-related risks, dependence on remittances, and limited employment opportunities are considered relevant contextual variables influencing household welfare and vulnerability. These structural conditions may either reinforce or weaken the impact of social protection interventions.

Empirically, the determinants are analyzed using both descriptive and inferential statistical techniques. Descriptive statistics summarize the characteristics of respondents and describe the distribution of key variables. Inferential analyses examine the relationships between multidimensional poverty and its determinants using appropriate quantitative methods, including correlation analysis and multivariate regression techniques. Qualitative evidence obtained from institutional stakeholders and program beneficiaries complements the quantitative findings by providing contextual explanations of program implementation, institutional challenges, and beneficiaries' lived experiences.

The study adopts the hypothesis that effective, adequately targeted, and accessible social protection programs significantly reduce multidimensional poverty by improving household consumption, increasing access to education and healthcare, strengthening livelihood opportunities, and enhancing resilience against socio-economic shocks. Conversely, inadequate

program coverage, weak institutional coordination, limited financial resources, and targeting errors are expected to diminish the poverty-reduction effects of social protection interventions.

Ultimately, the study of determinants provides an evidence-based foundation for understanding the mechanisms through which social protection programs influence multidimensional poverty in the Union of the Comoros. By identifying the principal determinants of deprivation and evaluating the effectiveness of existing interventions, the research generates practical policy recommendations for strengthening national social protection systems. These recommendations are intended to support inclusive socio-economic development, enhance household well-being, and assist the Union of the Comoros in achieving the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals, particularly SDG 1 (No Poverty), SDG 2 (Zero Hunger), SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-being), SDG 4 (Quality Education), SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth), and SDG 10 (Reduced Inequalities).

- Questionnaire
- Used to measure the various dimensions of poverty.
- Interviews
- Used to collect beneficiaries' perceptions and experiences.
- Observation
- Used to analyze local practices and social dynamics.
- Documentary Analysis
- Used to examine national and international reports and policy documents.

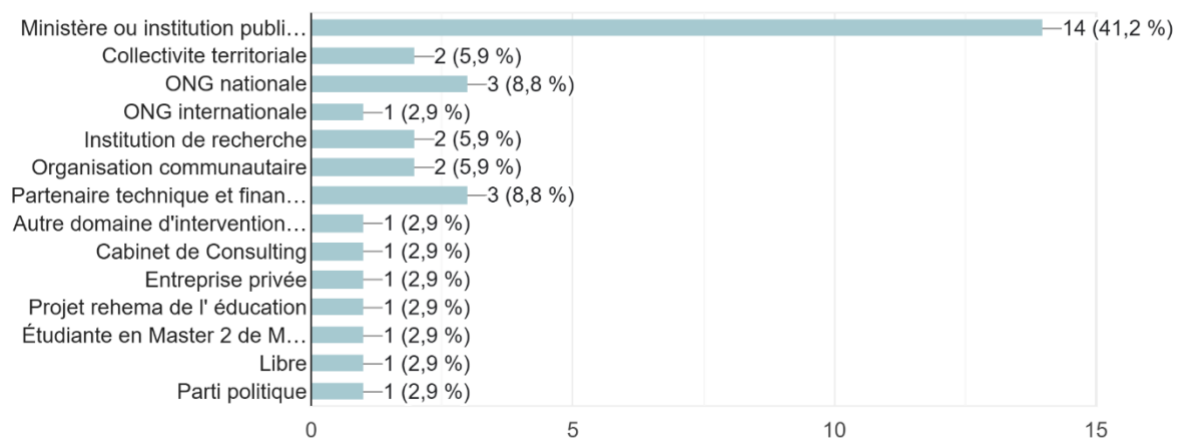
Below research used tools

1. Online survey and cumulated data

Note: Collected data both online survey and physical interview are done in French language translated into English

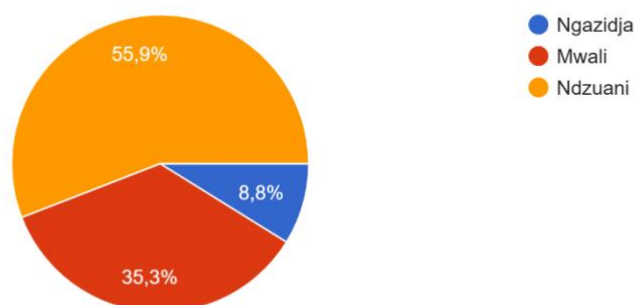
Institution/organization

34 réponses



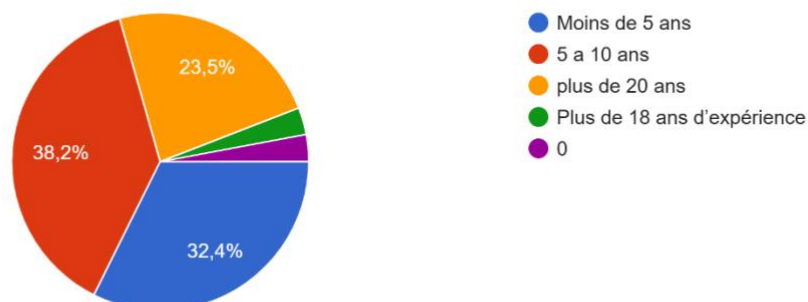
Specify your native island

34 réponses



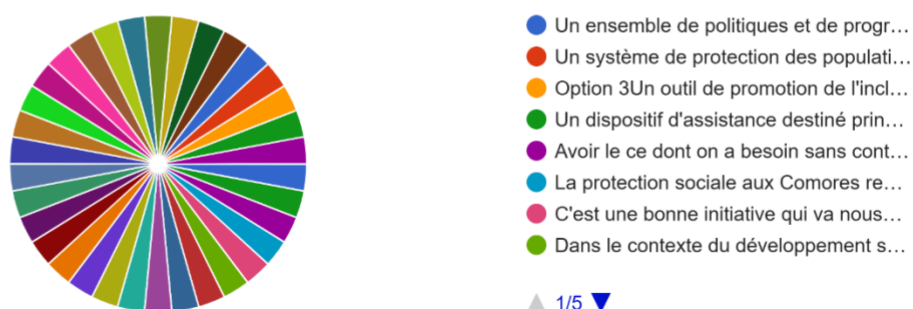
Experience

34 réponses



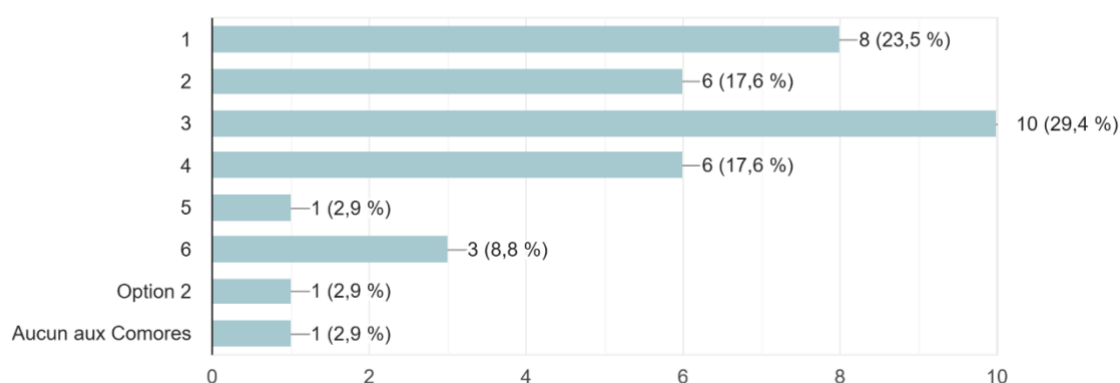
1. How do you define social protection in the context of the socio-economic development of the Comoros?

34 réponses



2. In your opinion, how many types of social protection programs are you familiar with?

34 réponses



The protection of women

Occupational social security. Universal health insurance (AMG). Aid for the most vulnerable.

Resilient and Shock-Responsive Social Safety Nets Project (pfss-RRC)

Health insurance, health insurance, civil security

Social security program, social assistance program, employment promotion program

Contributory and non-contributory social protection

AMG listening service

Protect the environment

PFSS_RRC

The contributory system (social security), the social safety nets (non-contributory), and universal protection

The social security fund, health insurance

Social safety nets/social safety nets are direct aid to the poorest and most vulnerable.

Civil security, social safety nets, health insurance funds, NGOs fighting against violence against women. UNICEF,

Fight against malaria

Social safety nets programs, microfinance, and health insurance schemes

Civil security, health insurance, pension and solidarity fund, social safety net project

Social safety net, civil security, gender protection, pension fund

Basic social services and inclusion, social insurance and safety nets and assistance

Civil defense, pension fund, gender equality, health insurance,

Health insurance; Old-age insurance (pension); Unemployment insurance; Family benefits;

Social assistance (cash transfers, household assistance); Insurance against workplace accidents and occupational diseases

1. Social safety nets and security, 2. Support for victims of gender-based violence

Health insurance

Social insurance, social assistance, safety net, social services

Social insurance, such as the social welfare fund

Social safety nets, civil security, health insurance

Gender-based abuse and violence

Social Cash Transfers (SCTs). Resilience, Economic and Productive Inclusion Activities (RISPA). Cash for Resilient Work (CRT).

I am not aware of any program of this nature in the Comoros.

Equal access to healthcare, quality of care and solidarity

TMS, ARIEP and ACTR

Reducing poverty, protecting vulnerable people and facilitating access to healthcare and education

Social insurance. Social assistance. Labor market protection. Universal programs for access to basic services.

Comoros Emerging Plan, UNICEF, AFD, UNDP

C. OVERVIEW OF SOCIAL PROTECTION PROGRAMS

3. What are the main social protection programs or mechanisms currently implemented in the Union of the Comoros? 34 responses

I don't know

In the Union of the Comoros, social protection is structured around three main pillars:

Generalized Health Insurance (AMG), the Project for Resilient and Shock-Reactive Social Safety Nets (PFSS-RRC), and the classic retirement and occupational security system.

To help women, the poor who can't make ends meet, and the elderly

In the Union of the Comoros, social protection mechanisms are primarily structured around two main pillars: formal social security and targeted assistance initiatives. The main pillar is managed by the National Social Security Fund (CNPS), which provides coverage for risks related to old age (retirement pensions), workplace accidents, occupational diseases, and family benefits, although it remains largely limited to workers in the formal public and private sectors. Faced with the precarious situation of the informal sector and rural areas, the State, often supported by international partners (such as the World Bank or UNICEF), deploys social safety nets. These assistance programs include conditional cash transfers or productive social safety net projects (such as labor-intensive public works – THIMO) aimed at strengthening the resilience of the most vulnerable households. Finally, access to healthcare is gradually being structured around community health insurance schemes and reforms towards Universal Health Coverage (UHC), complemented by targeted free provision of certain emergency care (such as obstetric care) to reduce financial barriers to care.

Health insurance, health insurance, civil security

Protection against gender-based violence, promotion of employment, and protection of health, especially for women of reproductive age.

Protecting populations against the risks associated with disease, disability, and natural disasters

AMG Listening Service

Toolmaking

Social Cash Transfers (SCTs) Cash for Work Resilient Resilience Activities, Economic and Productive Inclusion (EPI)

*General health insurance (AMG), the national fund for solidarity and social welfare (CNPS) and social safety net programs for vulnerable households.

Health insurance within traditional insurance policies

In the Comoros, the main social protection programs and mechanisms currently implemented revolve around three pillars: social safety nets, insurance, and community solidarity.

Social safety nets, UNICEF, civil protection, regional gender directorate

Care for pregnant women in public hospitals

See answer 2

The RSU of the social safety nets project, insurance and social assistance services

In the Union of the Comoros, there are virtually no main social protection programs and mechanisms. If such programs or mechanisms exist, they would be based on public and community interventions supported by technical and financial partners. They would include:

child protection measures, including support for vulnerable children and violence prevention; health programs, including vaccination, maternal and child health, and some health coverage initiatives; humanitarian assistance interventions in response to natural disasters and socio-economic crises; and traditional community solidarity mechanisms, such as family support networks, village associations, religious networks, and local solidarity initiatives, which continue to play an important role in protecting the population. Despite these initiatives, the social protection system remains fragmented and faces several challenges, including limited population coverage, insufficient financial resources, weak institutional coordination, and the absence of a fully operational universal social protection system. Strengthening governance, inter-institutional coordination and financing is a priority to improve the effectiveness and equity of interventions.

In the Union of the Comoros, social protection currently rests on 3 main pillars: social safety nets, formal social security and targeted programs with partners.

The Comorian social protection system is undergoing a major transformation, structured around 3 main axes: a contributory system, non-contributory social safety nets, and major reforms for universal coverage.

I do not currently live in the Comoros, so my answer is based on my own thoughts and general knowledge.

Social and Security Net Program

Health insurance

Coastal protection, Protection against gender-based violence

The pension and social security system (to my knowledge)

PNEG: National Policy on Equity and Gender Equality

The creation of a listening service for survivors of violence, insurance companies and public services

General Health Insurance (AMG); Social Safety Nets (PFSS-RRC); the pension scheme (CRC); social assistance and cash transfer programs.

No idea

Health insurance, civil security, waste management

The state relies on the PFSS RRC Programme financed by the World Bank.

Health coverage, social transfers, child protection, public works programs, and disaster relief

I don't know any of them

PSSF, DAHARI, Plan for the protection of women and children.

4. Which population groups primarily benefit from social protection programs in the Union of the Comoros? 34 responses

I have nothing to do with it

In the Union of the Comoros, social protection programs (particularly safety nets and assistance) primarily target households living in extreme poverty, rural communities, and people vulnerable to economic and climate shocks.

Almost all women

In the Union of the Comoros, social protection programs prioritize the most vulnerable and chronically poor population groups to reduce inequalities and strengthen their resilience to economic and climate shocks. Key beneficiaries include rural households living in extreme poverty, often dependent on subsistence farming, who receive cash transfers and productive social safety net projects (public works projects). Particular attention is also paid to young children (especially to combat malnutrition) and pregnant or breastfeeding women, who benefit from targeted free maternal and child healthcare programs and nutritional monitoring. Finally, older people without formal sector pensions, people living with disabilities, and unemployed youth are major target groups for social inclusion and assistance initiatives led by the government and its international partners.

The vulnerable, the volunteer actors and courageous humanitarians.

Women, children and young people

Low-income households, the elderly, and people with disabilities.

the entire population, those who are vulnerable, those who are minors

The researchers

Vulnerable households

In the Union of the Comoros, social protection programs (notably social safety nets) primarily target households living in extreme poverty and structured vulnerable groups.

Civil servants, professionals from "international" institutions

In the Comoros, social protection programs primarily target groups most exposed to poverty and shocks

Vulnerable households, the destitute, children living with disabilities

The most vulnerable

Impoverished families

Vulnerable, frail people, people with modest incomes, retirees, victims of natural disasters and other climate hazards.

Vulnerable populations (the destitute and the poorest)

In the Union of the Comoros, social protection programs primarily target the poorest populations and those most vulnerable to shocks, according to current legislation and projects. The beneficiaries are identified by families based on vulnerability through field requests or via listening services which are grouped into 4 zones distributed in the hospitals of Anjouan. I do not currently live in the Comoros, so I do not know the beneficiaries precisely, but I think they are the most vulnerable people.

Vulnerable people, the poorest, the farmers

Everyone benefits from the program, more specifically vulnerable people

Person exposed to dangers

Households living in extreme poverty

By identifying families according to vulnerability through field requests, or through listening services which are grouped into 4 zones distributed in hospitals.

The poor and victims of violence

Poor and extremely poor households. Children, especially those from disadvantaged families.

Women, particularly pregnant and breastfeeding women, widows, and victims of violence.

Elderly people without sufficient resources. People living with disabilities. Unemployed or precariously employed young people. Households affected by natural disasters, economic crises, or health crises.

None, to my knowledge.

The majority of the population

the most vulnerable,

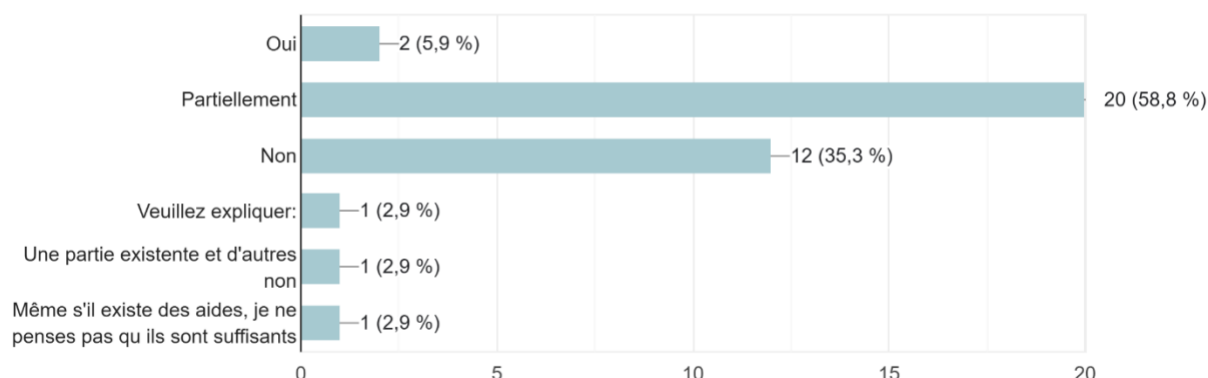
Households living in poverty, orphans and vulnerable children, the elderly, especially those without sufficient income, people with disabilities, and populations affected by natural disasters such as cyclones, floods, or volcanic eruptions.

Orphans and the disabled.

Rural areas

5. In your opinion, do existing systems adequately cover the needs of vulnerable populations?

34 réponses

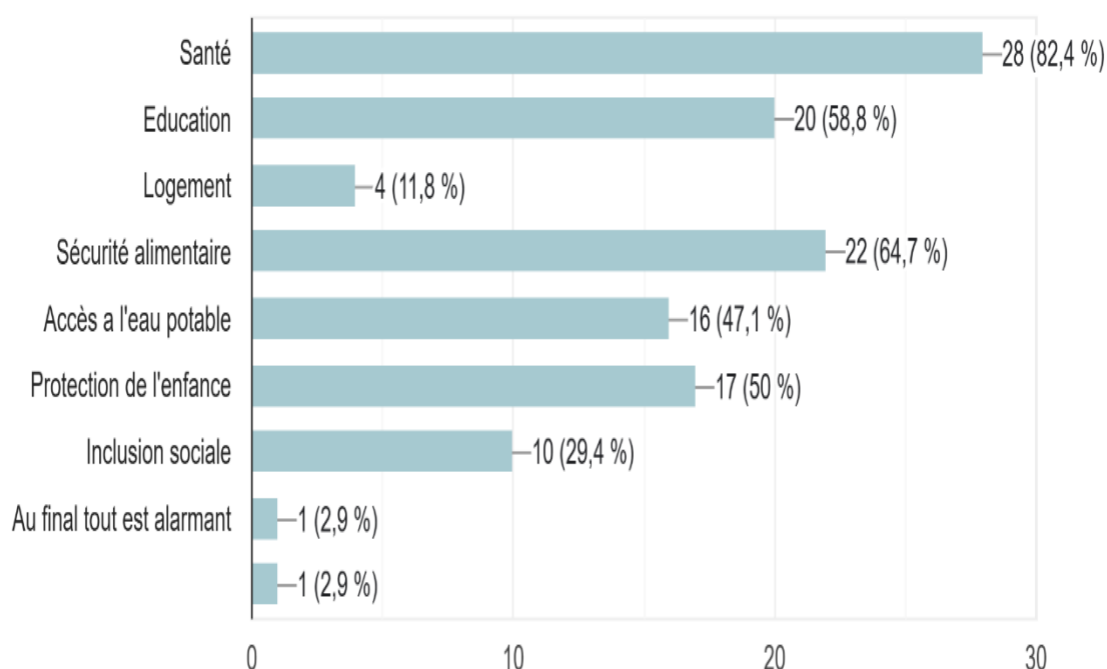


D. SOCIAL PROTECTION AND MULTIDIMENSIONAL POVERTY

6. In your opinion, which dimensions of poverty seem most worrying in the Union of the Comoros?

6. In your opinion, which dimensions of poverty seem most worrying in the Union of the Comoros?

34 réponses



7. In your opinion, to what extent do social protection programs contribute to reducing different forms of poverty?

Distribute funds to support households

Social protection programs play a fundamental and direct role in poverty alleviation.

According to World Bank data, they enable vulnerable households to absorb economic shocks, invest in health and education, and break intergenerational cycles of poverty.

To agriculture and livestock farming

Social protection programs play a crucial role in poverty reduction by simultaneously addressing its monetary, structural, and intergenerational dimensions. On the monetary level, income transfers and pensions provide direct support to the purchasing power of the poorest households, enabling them to rise above the subsistence level and smooth their consumption in the face of economic shocks. Beyond this immediate impact, social protection breaks the traps of structural poverty by facilitating access to essential social services: by sometimes linking assistance to schooling or medical care, it invests directly in human capital, allowing children from disadvantaged backgrounds to escape poverty permanently in adulthood. Finally, by strengthening the resilience of populations in the face of life's uncertainties (illnesses, job losses, climate crises), these mechanisms prevent vulnerable families from falling into extreme poverty by selling their meager productive assets, thus transforming social protection from a simple assistance tool into a real lever for economic development and social equity.

Urgent and rational food and health aid measures.

I didn't understand the question.

By providing support, whether monetary or related to social exclusion, to vulnerable households

the accommodation

3'5

Financial and educational support (training)

Social protection programs make a decisive contribution to reducing poverty: they alleviate monetary poverty through direct transfers, cushion crises (climate shocks, job losses) and promote economic inclusion.

They would help more to reduce poverty if there were a constant monitoring process

In my opinion, social protection programs in the Comoros contribute significantly, but only partially, to reducing various forms of poverty. They act as both a "shock absorber" and a "springboard."

They contribute to the fight against social exclusion

health

Health insurance schemes allow people with low incomes to access healthcare. Financial aid schemes allow some young people to integrate into the economic fabric.

Reduction of famine and unemployment, financial autonomy of households, health coverage for populations and support for vulnerable people and people living with disabilities.

Under no circumstances should this reduce anything.

Social protection programs reduce poverty, but not in the same way, depending on the type of poverty being discussed.

Poverty reduction through social protection programs is a reality, but it is very uneven. Their effectiveness depends primarily on their coverage against hardship, the aid provided, and the quality of governance.

I think they contribute to reducing poverty, but their impact remains limited.

These programs encourage productivity, reduce healthcare costs, and promote the consumption of healthy and nutritious foods.

Health insurance (mutual insurance)

I don't know exactly

We need to address the root causes of the different forms of poverty.

Support from the National Social Protection Plan (Ministerial) and partners such as UNICEF

Eliminate unemployment

Reduce monetary poverty through social transfers and financial assistance. Improve access to healthcare, particularly through health insurance. Promote access to education for children from vulnerable households. Strengthen food security for poor families. Protect households against economic, health, and climate shocks.

Elsewhere, this helps to reduce inequalities and preserve the dignity of the most disadvantaged.

Job creation and financial assistance

The individual income-generating activities (IGA) program and grouping of training on support measures.

In my opinion, social protection programs contribute significantly to addressing different forms of poverty. They help alleviate monetary poverty through social transfers and financial assistance, reduce food poverty, and combat human poverty by facilitating access to healthcare, education, and basic social services.

job creation

This program helps create jobs for families in difficulty who are in school.

8. What concrete results have you observed at the level of households or communities benefiting from a social protection project? 34 responses

No results

Nothing

Social protection projects (such as cash transfers and safety nets) generate tangible results: reduced food insecurity, sustained health and education spending, and the creation of income-generating activities. They also promote women's empowerment and strengthen community resilience to shocks.

Life is less difficult

The impact of social protection projects in the Comoros, particularly through cash transfer and public works programs (THIMO), translates into an immediate and tangible improvement in the resilience of the poorest households. At the individual level, the distributed funds allow families to secure their daily food consumption, keep children in school by covering school fees, and gain easier access to basic healthcare. Beyond this immediate safety net, these projects stimulate the local economy: some beneficiaries are able to save money to invest in small income-generating activities, such as small-scale trade or livestock farming, thus initiating financial empowerment. Finally, at the community level, labor-intensive projects leave a lasting mark by rehabilitating essential infrastructure—such as rural roads, water management

systems, and erosion control measures—which opens up isolated villages and strengthens their capacity to cope with climate shocks.

The results are favorable because Comorian humanism gains much in its existential value.

Insignificant, no follow-up

Here, the person remains unchanged because social protection only makes a small gesture

The families of some of the minors who benefit feel supported

Education

Satisfying

Evaluations of social protection projects, particularly cash transfer and inclusion programs, reveal concrete and measurable impacts on households.

There's far too much paperwork, a lot on the surface but very little tangible benefit. I get the impression that the real needs on the ground aren't being taken into account.

In the Comoros, concrete results are already beginning to be seen on the ground thanks to social protection projects, especially through the Socio-Economic Recovery Fund and social safety nets.

A certain increase in the social welfare basket

Prenatal care

Very few young households have been able to set up small production structures

Poverty reduction, household dynamics in income-generating activities.

These social protection programs contribute only in one aspect of assistance.

The concrete results most often observed at the level of households and communities benefiting from a social protection project revolve around 4 axes: income, health, education, and resilience.

There are not enough concrete results since the country is in the process of institutional reform.

I don't currently live in the Comoros, so I haven't observed any direct results. However, I believe they can improve the living conditions of the beneficiaries.

Lifestyle change, improved harvest,

Families who enroll in social protection are better off in the context of illness

No one entitled to medical and educational care

No concrete results

- Schooling (success up to university) - Profession: building housing to escape the poverty line.

Improved living conditions for households. Increased access to healthcare. Better school enrollment and retention of children in school. Reduction of poverty and vulnerability.

Improved food security and nutrition. Increased income through income-generating activities.

Almost failed

Behavioral change and self-confidence

We note an improvement in food security thanks to cash transfers or food aid, better access to health care and education, as well as a reduction in the vulnerability of the poorest households.

negative

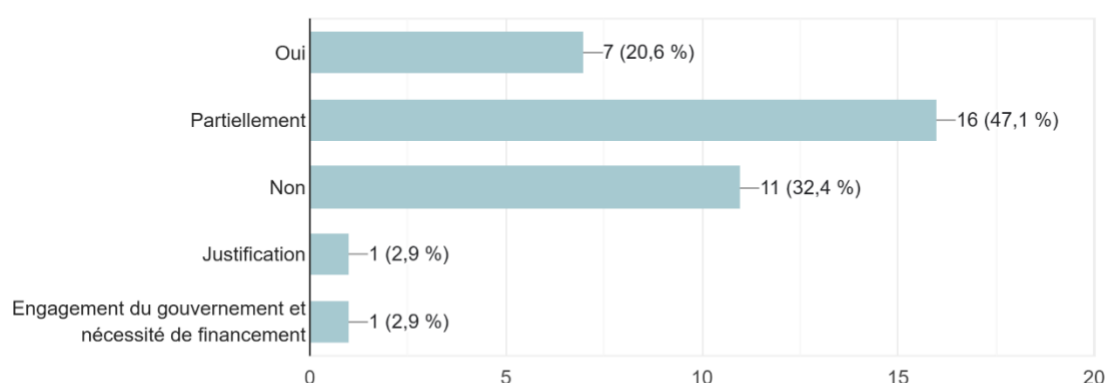
Their lifestyle has changed moderately.

E. GOVERNANCE AND PROGRAM EFFECTIVENESS

9. Do current policies and/or programs sufficiently take into account the socio-cultural realities of the Comorians?

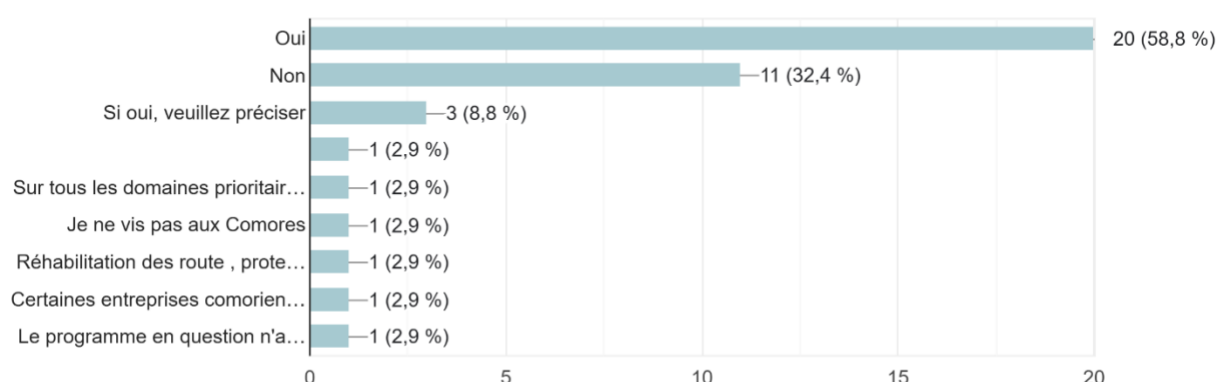
9. Do current policies and/or programs sufficiently take into account the socio-cultural realities of the Comorians?

34 réponses



10. Are there any discrepancies between the stated objectives of the Comoros Emerging Plan for 2030 and their actual results on the ground?

34 réponses



F. COMMUNITY SOLIDARITY AND TERRITORIAL INEQUALITY

12. In your opinion, what role do traditional community solidarity mechanisms play in the fight against poverty in your community?

I don't know.

In the Comoros, and more specifically in Mutsamudu, community solidarity is a key pillar of resilience against poverty. It compensates for the lack of infrastructure by providing a vital, informal safety net.

To move the country forward under sound financial conditions and improve the daily lives of the population

In our Comorian community, traditional solidarity mechanisms, such as the Anda na Mila (the Grand Marriage), the mouhadhara (community gatherings), and local rotating savings and

credit associations (shama), play a vital role as an informal social safety net. In the absence of universal state coverage, these practices allow for the redistribution of resources, the financing of village infrastructure projects (schools, roads, water cisterns), and direct support for families during key life events, whether celebrations or hardships such as illness or bereavement. This community solidarity acts as a powerful poverty buffer by strengthening the social fabric and ensuring that no individual is left entirely to fend for themselves. However, while essential for daily survival and social cohesion, these traditional mechanisms reach their limits in the face of large-scale structural economic crises, making their integration with a modern, formal social protection system necessary to sustainably eradicate poverty. Its role remains the permanent, active, and supportive solution in our country. This role is the beacon of social development in the Comoros.

This role is very important because there are mutual aid structures at the family and community level, either through contributions or rotating savings and credit associations (ROSCAs), or simply material aid and, above all, moral support.

The traditional mechanism of community solidarity plays a very important role in our community because it improves trust among the community members.

Comorian solidarity fosters poverty

To respect traditional culture

mutual aid

In the Comoros, traditional mechanisms constitute the main social safety net.

It used to be a system that worked well, but with the current difficulties it doesn't work as well anymore.

In Moheli, and the smallest part of the Comoros by far, traditional mechanisms of community solidarity play a huge role in the fight against poverty.

They enable the concrete implementation of projects of public interest. Examples include the construction by the community, with the help of the diaspora, of a health post, a water supply project, and the improvement of alleyways.

A negative role

They play no role

Complementary

In a Muslim country like the Comoros, there is a positive aspect to traditional mechanisms (marriage, death).

Yes, exactly. The same program doesn't address all forms of poverty in the same way because the causes aren't the same. We can break it down into three main categories: monetary/income poverty, chronic/structural poverty, and multidimensional poverty/living conditions.

They act as "an informal safety net", essential where the state is absent.

They provide support to people in difficulty and strengthen mutual aid within the community.

These traditional mechanisms play an important role in stability and social security, through customs and traditions.

Normally in our community there are no such mechanisms.

They do their best to help the most vulnerable.

Traditional community solidarity mechanisms historically constituted the country's very first social safety net (they formed the basis for the creation of associations, shamas, and others that provided assistance to many people).

- Solidarity (funding primarily in Anjouan) - Community microfinance - Collective associations to train people for community management

Education

Solidarity among families, neighbors, associations, mosques, and community leaders provides assistance to the most vulnerable households through monetary donations, food, contributions for healthcare, children's education, and community work. However, these mechanisms remain limited in the face of increasing poverty and cannot replace social protection programs implemented by the state and its partners.

These mechanisms constitute the only bulwark against the pervasive misery in a country where the people, abandoned by the State, are left to fend for themselves.

They still play a crucial role

we adapt the resources available on site for technical training and community awareness-raising;

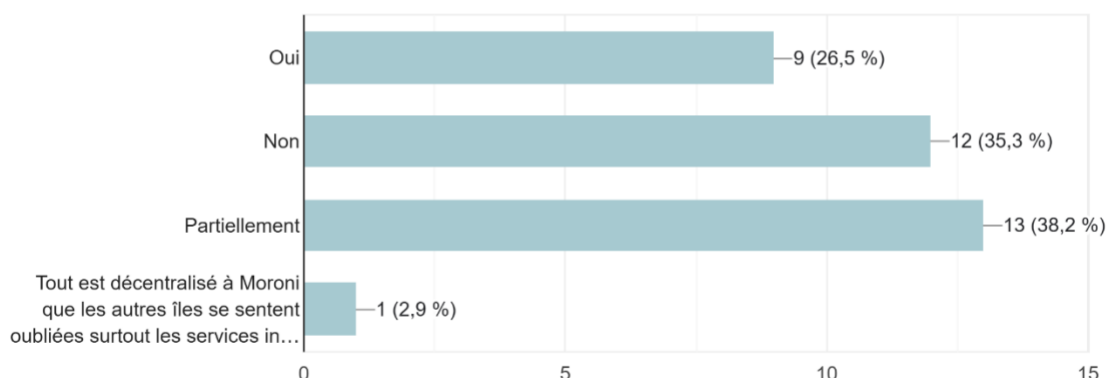
In our community, mutual support between families and the community helps to support people in difficulty by providing them with assistance.

of a crucial safety net, often compensating for the absence of state social protection structures. Social cohesion, poverty reduction.

13. Do the mechanisms effectively complement public action?

13. Do the mechanisms effectively complement public action?

34 réponses



14. Do you observe any significant disparities between Ngazidja, Ndzuani, and Mohéli?

Yes

I don't know anything

Yes, the Union of the Comoros exhibits significant structural, economic, and demographic disparities between Ngazidja (Grande Comore), Ndzuani (Anjouan), and Mwali (Mohéli). These differences are primarily manifested in terms of demographics, the economy, land-use planning, and natural resource management.

Yes, significant disparities exist between the three islands, primarily rooted in differences in economic infrastructure and the centralization of institutions. Ngazidja (Grande Comore), home to the federal capital Moroni, concentrates the vast majority of formal social protection structures, the majority of CNPS (National Social Security Fund) members, and more direct access to major referral hospitals. Conversely, Ndzuani (Anjouan), despite its high population density and agricultural dynamism, faces greater socio-economic insecurity and a dominant informal sector, which severely limits traditional social security coverage and makes the island particularly dependent on humanitarian assistance programs and emergency social safety nets. As for Mwali (Mohéli), its insularity and geographical remoteness exacerbate difficulties in accessing specialized care and basic services, although its smaller size has sometimes facilitated the experimentation of community-based pilot projects, particularly in the area of health insurance schemes. These territorial imbalances mean that the impact and actual access to social protection mechanisms remain strongly conditioned by the island of residence.

Centralization of economic, political, administrative and financial institutions in Moroni.

Yes, indeed

Yes, it exists. These disparities are explained by demographic, economic, geographical, and institutional differences.

Yes, and much more, mmem.

Union of the Comoros

Yes

Yes, we are observing significant disappearances and concerns about biodiversity in the archipelago.

The answer is YES

Yes, there are significant disparities, but the three islands face the same challenges.

Flagrant: some Anjouan schools in disadvantaged areas lack teachers while in Ngazidja there is a surplus of teachers and they refuse to be assigned to Ndzuani.

Yes Ngazidja, the contribution of the diaspora allows some young people to integrate into the economic environment, and some people to access healthcare, which is not the case in the other two islands.

Not to my knowledge

No, not only out of fairness or necessity, because it is Moroni who decides, so it is always Moroni who benefits.

Ngazidja is ahead. Ndzuani and Mwali are lagging behind on almost all indicators, especially Ndzuani for education/poverty and Moheli for housing

Yes, there are significant disparities between the three islands: Anjouan is the poorest. Grande Comore receives the majority of aid (NGO headquarters, referral hospitals, and university).

I do not currently live in the Comoros, but I think there are differences between the islands in terms of access to services and assistance.

Of course, this disparity has existed over the past few years with the current regime; Mohéli is not included, and Anjouan, to a lesser extent Ngazidja, is considered part of the Comoros.

Yes

In some cases there are some disparities between the islands, but the end result remains the same.

Mohéli and Ndzuani are disadvantaged

No

Yes, Ngazidja: generally better access to public services, infrastructure, and economic opportunities. Ndzuani: high population density, pressure on employment and resources, but a dynamic local economy. Mohéli: less developed in infrastructure and services, with more limited access to social programs in some areas.

Ngazidja, the island which houses all the major state institutions, is largely favored, to the detriment of the other islands.

Yes, in Anjouan the poverty rate is higher than on the other islands.

No

Yes

Everything is centralized in Ngazidja

G. PERSPECTIVES AND RECOMMENDATION

15. In your opinion, what reforms or improvements would you recommend to strengthen the effectiveness of social protection programs in the Union of the Comoros?

I have nothing to do with it

To strengthen the effectiveness of social protection in the Union of the Comoros, priority reforms include the effective operationalization of the Single Social Register to target the most vulnerable, the progressive implementation of Generalized Health Insurance to guarantee access to care, and the structuring of sustainable safety nets against climate shocks.

Doing the job the right way so that the people involved in the projects benefit

To strengthen the effectiveness of social protection in the Union of the Comoros, the priority reform lies in extending coverage to the informal sector and rural areas, which comprise the majority of the population but remain excluded from the CNPS (National Social Security Fund) mechanisms. This requires the establishment of a suitable legislative framework and flexible or subsidized contribution mechanisms to encourage these workers to join.

Simultaneously, it is essential to track and centralize aid through a high-performing Single Social Registry (SSR) to better target truly vulnerable households, avoid duplication, and streamline the often fragmented funding from development partners. Finally, the system's sustainability requires the maintenance of domestic financing—for example, through dedicated taxes on certain products or services—to reduce dependence on external aid, while simultaneously accelerating the operational deployment of Universal Health Coverage (UHC) to protect families against catastrophic healthcare expenses.

Reviving and prioritizing broad autonomy for all institutions for the well-being of Comorian citizens and freedom of expression for a consensual democracy.

Identifying real needs, identifying vulnerable people or vulnerable situations, monitoring progress, empowering those who manage programs, and avoiding favoritism.

In my opinion, to make the social protection program effective, those responsible for this program must involve all stakeholders.

fight against favoritism and take into account Comorian culture

Dignity

Integration of young people into the professional world

Strengthening social protection in the Union of the Comoros requires accelerating the deployment of Generalized Health Insurance (AMG) to guarantee access to care and formalizing the sector.

Increasing involvement from legal communities is needed.

In my opinion, for social protection to truly have a national impact in the Comoros, we need to move beyond "projects" to a system-wide approach.

Decentralizing decision-making by placing people in positions of power and giving them autonomy to act.

Health insurance for the most vulnerable. Making water accessible in remote areas.

We need to strengthen young people's skills in creating their own jobs.

Awareness-raising, capacity building and seamless collaboration between stakeholders

Island autonomy, institutional decentralization, program monitoring, institutional support, provision of premises in Anjouan and Moheli, staff retraining

To strengthen the effectiveness of social protection programs in the Union of the Comoros, action must be taken on coverage, financing, and governance.

Decentralizing administrative offices to the islands, fair and equitable sharing of achievements and opportunities.

Strengthen access to healthcare, improve the targeting of aid and develop job creation programs.

Encourage the informal sector. Invest in healthcare (cheaper healthcare). Reduce food costs.

Reform on improving civil servant salaries and pensions. Reform on improving the quality of medical care.

Knowing that this is an important area allows us to invest much more in it.

Create mechanisms adapted to the informal sector

- Take into account the specific characteristics of each island (Island autonomy) -

Decentralize institutions

Eliminate unemployment and improve the protection service

Strengthen beneficiary targeting to ensure aid reaches the most vulnerable households.

Increase financial resources allocated to social protection and guarantee sustainable funding.

Improve transparency, monitoring, and program evaluation to limit errors and fraud.

We need a new regime and a new political system, in line with the challenges of our time.

Strengthening the health and database sectors

In my opinion, the intervention period should be at least 5 years or more to better support the beneficiary households.

For the reform and improvement of well-targeted people regarding programs

Creation of a shock resilience fund. Improvement of governance and financing
Decentralization of projects for each island, no favoritism.

16. In your opinion, what priorities should be adopted to sustainably reduce multidimensional poverty in our country, especially in rural areas?

I don't know.

To sustainably reduce multidimensional poverty in the Comoros, particularly in rural areas where the incidence is highest, priorities must be based on resilient agricultural transformation, improving human capital, and strengthening the social safety net.

Those receiving assistance, especially in activities they enjoy, have significant financial resources in their daily lives.

To sustainably reduce multidimensional poverty in our rural areas, the absolute priority must be placed on opening up access and strengthening human capital through three interconnected levers. First, it is crucial to modernize local agriculture through investments in infrastructure (rural roads, irrigation and storage systems) and to facilitate access to microcredit to secure the incomes of small producers and stimulate youth entrepreneurship. Second, access to basic social services must be radically improved by guaranteeing universal local health coverage and adapting educational and technical training programs to the economic realities of the regions. Finally, the deployment of productive social safety nets and inclusive social protection mechanisms, tailored to workers in the informal and agricultural sectors, is essential to strengthen household resilience to climate or economic shocks and definitively break the intergenerational cycle of poverty.

Reviving the blue and green economy of our country because these are the lungs of social protection in our country for the well-being of the Comorian population and a bright future for our youth and sustainable hope for a prosperous life and health with our very long life expectancy.

Health for all, access to water, job creation for young people

Priorities should be adopted to sustainably reduce multidimensional poverty in our country, especially in the following areas: - implement a continuing vocational training program for young people over the age of 15; - create income-generating activities for young people of the same age.

to support food security and access to drinking water

To go to work

Support for training and input assistance in the agricultural sector

Sustainably reducing multidimensional poverty in the Comoros requires prioritizing rural areas, where the poverty rate exceeds 50% and particularly affects female farmers.

Community project funding

To sustainably reduce multidimensional poverty in the Comoros, especially in rural areas, it is necessary to aim for 3 things at once: eating, earning, and giving in to services.

Helping vulnerable families to develop farming would ensure a certain level of food security.

Access to healthcare and food assistance

Strengthen education and promote agricultural and processing professions

Institutional collaboration and perfect targeting

Permanent employment, local healthcare, a change in mindset regarding education (vocational training), the blue and green economy (strengthening the artisanal and industrial fishing sector), and urbanization mechanisms

To sustainably reduce multidimensional poverty, especially in rural areas of the Comoros, it is necessary to target the cumulative causes: low income plus limited access to water, energy, health and education.

Improve agriculture, fishing and tourism

To improve education, health, access to employment and to support the most vulnerable rural populations.

Promoting the sale of agricultural products; Processing agricultural products; Creating pathways to rural areas

Reform on improving wages, Reform on improving the quality of medical care

To build roads, to ensure that everyone can benefit from healthcare, and to lower food prices.

Opening up isolated areas and access to drinking water; developing technical skills and supporting local sectors; decentralizing healthcare

Unlimited access to development, access to social assistance, monitoring of the SDGs (Sustainable Development Goals), and assessment of community needs.

Helping young people learn to work and reducing unemployment

The main priorities should be strengthening social protection, creating jobs and income-generating activities, improving access to quality education and healthcare, developing rural infrastructure (roads, water, electricity), supporting agriculture and fishing, and training young people and women.

The State must place the Comorian people at the heart of all its concerns.

Job creation and aid to families in distress

to adequately support households in their activities and provide them with appropriate training on climate change to better manage their activities

To create jobs for vulnerable people
Corruption and favoritism.
Improved schooling, job creation

2. PHYSICAL INTERVIEWS DATA

MIDOCEAN UNIVERSITY

College of Management

Department / Master of Business Administration

MÉMOIRE DE MASTER EN ADMINISTRATION DES AFFAIRES

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FORMULAIRE DE QUESTIONS D'ENTRETIEN D'ENQUÊTE

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multidimensionnelle en Union des Comores : Approches et applications. »

Présentation du chercheur:

M. ABDOU-EL-KASSIM ALI ABDOU

Étudiant chercheur en Master d'Administration des Affaires

Option : Gestion des Organisations et des Personnes

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NOTE D'INFORMATION AU PARTICIPANT:

Dans le cadre de la préparation de mon mémoire de Master, je mène une étude portant sur les programmes de protection sociale et leur contribution à la réduction de la pauvreté multidimensionnelle en Union des Comores.

Votre expertise et votre expérience professionnelle constituent une source d'information essentielle pour cette recherche. Les informations recueillies demeureront strictement

confidentielles et seront utilisées exclusivement à des fins académiques.

A. IDENTIFICATION DU RÉPONDANT:

Nom et prénom (facultatif) : __BOYER Fatima__

Fonction : __Présidente fondatrice du Collectif du Patrimoine des Comores__

Institution/Organisation : _____ ONG _____ Catégorie
d'acteur :

☐ Ministère ou institution publique

☐ Collectivité territoriale

☐ ONG nationale

x ☒ ONG internationale

☐ Institution de recherche

☐ Organisation communautaire

☐ Partenaire technique et financier

☐ Autre domaine d'intervention (préciser) : _____ Île

d'intervention principale :

☐ Ngazidja

x ☒ Ndzuwani

☐ Mwali

☐ Ensemble du territoire national

Années d'expérience dans le domaine de la protection sociale:

☐ Moins de 5 ans

☐ 5 à 10 ans

☐ 11 à 20 ans

☐ Plus de 20 ans

B. COMPRÉHENSION DU CONCEPT DE PROTECTION SOCIALE

1. Comment définissez-vous la protection sociale dans le contexte du développement socio-économique des Comores ?

Réponse : A ma connaissance, il n'existe aucune loi de protection sociale et si elle existe, il n'existe aucune action

visible... ..
.....

2. Selon vous, quels sont les principaux objectifs des politiques et programmes de protection sociale en Union des Comores ?

Réponse : ...Non

connue
.....

C. ÉTAT DES LIEUX DES PROGRAMMES DE PROTECTION SOCIALE:

3

3. Quels sont les principaux programmes ou mécanismes de protection sociale actuellement mis en œuvre en Union des Comores ?

Réponse :
.....

4. Quels groupes de population bénéficient prioritairement de ces programmes ?

Réponse :
.....

5. Les dispositifs existants couvrent-ils suffisamment les besoins des populations vulnérables ?

☐ Oui

☐ Partiellement

☐ Non

Veuillez

expliquer :

D. PROTECTION SOCIALE ET PAUVRETÉ

MULTIDIMENSIONNELLE:

6. Quelles dimensions de la pauvreté vous semblent les plus préoccupantes en Union des Comores ? Réponse :

☒ x Santé

☐ Éducation ☒ x

Emploi

☐ Logement

x ☐ Sécurité alimentaire

x ☐ Accès à l'eau potable

x ☐ Protection de l'enfance

☐ Inclusion sociale

☐ Autres : _____

Commentaires : Au niveau de la santé, il existe des medecins qualifiés et très professionnels malheureusement le coût de la santé est exorbitante. Quant à l'eau, l'eau distribuée n'est pas potable donc la ^population achète de l'eau en bouteille et à la longue, le coût est est cher et n'est pas à la portée de tout le monde....

.....

4

7. Dans quelle mesure les programmes de protection sociale contribuent-ils à réduire ces différentes formes de pauvreté ?

Réponse : ...N'ayant connaissance de leur existence, je ne peux rien

dire

.....

8. Quels résultats concrets avez-vous observés au niveau des ménages ou des communautés bénéficiaires ?

Réponse :

.....

.....

E : GOUVERNANCE ET EFFICACITÉ DES PROGRAMMES

9. Les politiques et programmes actuels tiennent-ils suffisamment compte des réalités socioculturelles des Comores ?

☐ Oui

☐ Partiellement

☐ Non

Justification : Je ne pense pas. Il y a un tel décalage entre les îles qu'aucune gouvernance efficace ne peut pallier à la

situation

10. Existe-t-il des écarts entre les objectifs annoncés des programmes et leurs résultats réels sur le terrain ?

☐ Oui

☐ Non

Si oui, veuillez préciser :

11. Quels sont les principaux défis rencontrés dans la mise en œuvre des programmes de protection sociale ?

x ☐ Insuffisance de financement

x ☐ Difficultés de ciblage

x ☐ Faible coordination institutionnelle

☐ Contraintes administratives

x ☐ Manque de données fiables

☐ Faible couverture géographique

☐ Autres :

Commentaires : Tant qu'il n'existera pas de répartition fiable et de bonne gouvernance, on ne peut parler de programme de protection sociale

5

F : SOLIDARITÉ COMMUNAUTAIRE ET INÉGALITÉS TERRITORIALES

12. Quel rôle jouent les mécanismes traditionnels de solidarité communautaire dans la lutte contre la pauvreté ?

Réponse : La solidarité sociale traditionnelle a toujours été une soupape de sécurité et il y avait une entraide. Celle ci était possible car il y avait une vraie répartition économique qui permettait de venir en aide à son voisin ou à une membre de la famille. Le chômage étant galopante, on ne peut plus venir en aide à son

prochain.

13. Ces mécanismes complètent-ils efficacement l'action publique ?

☐ Oui

☐ Partiellement

☐ Non

Justification : Quelles mécanismes évoquez

vous ?.....

.....

14. Observez-vous des disparités significatives entre Ngazidja, Ndzuwani et Mwali en matière de pauvreté et d'accès aux programmes sociaux ?

Réponse : ...Oui et très importante d'année en année. Seule l'île de Ngazidja est mieux positionnée.....

.....

G. PERSPECTIVES ET RECOMMANDATIONS

15. Quelles réformes ou améliorations recommanderiez-vous pour renforcer l'efficacité des programmes de protection sociale en Union des Comores ?

Réponse : la décentralisation de chaque île avec des vraies programmes de développement et une politique d'accompagnement des jeunes à s'investir dans des activités générateurs de revenus.

Chaque île devra avoir sa spécifié afin de créer un dynamique de développement

.....

.....

16. Quelles priorités devraient être retenues pour réduire durablement la pauvreté multidimensionnelle dans le pays ?

Réponse : La valorisation des produits de rente et formation à leur transformation afin de les exporter

Encourager les jeunes à la formation aux métiers du tourisme .

Encourager le développement des activités de protection

sociale.

.....

CONSENTEMENT DU PARTICIPANT:

Je confirme avoir été informé(e) des objectifs de cette étude et accepte volontairement de participer à cet entretien.

Nom du participant : _Fatima



Boyer _____

Signature : _____

Date : 15 juillet 2026 _____

Lieu : _____

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Department / Master of Business Administration



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FORMULAIRE DE QUESTIONS D'ENTRETIEN D'ENQUÊTE

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Présentation du chercheur:

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Dans le cadre de la préparation de mon mémoire de Master, je mène une étude portant sur les programmes de protection sociale et leur contribution à la réduction de la pauvreté multidimensionnelle en Union des Comores.

Votre expertise et votre expérience professionnelle constituent une source d'information essentielle pour cette recherche. Les informations recueillies demeureront strictement confidentielles et seront utilisées exclusivement à des fins académiques.

A. IDENTIFICATION DU RÉPONDANT:

Nom et prénom (facultatif) : Anisim Mahamoud
 Fonction : Responsable affiliation
 Institution/Organisation : Institution d'Etat Catégorie d'acteur :

- ☒ Ministère ou institution publique
☐ Collectivité territoriale
☐ ONG nationale
☐ ONG internationale
☐ Institution de recherche
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☒ 5 à 10 ans
☐ 11 à 20 ans
☐ Plus de 20 ans

B. COMPRÉHENSION DU CONCEPT DE PROTECTION SOCIALE

1. Comment définissez-vous la protection sociale dans le contexte du développement socio-économique des Comores ?

Réponse : La cause de prérogance... cause... la protection sociale...
dans le domaine... Cause Nationale de Solidarité et de...
Prérogance sociale (CNSPS)...

2. Selon vous, quels sont les principaux objectifs des politiques et programmes de protection sociale en Union des Comores ?

Réponse : dans l'approche du protocole de l'urgence 2030...
la cause de prérogance sociale en faveur parti...

C. ÉTAT DES LIEUX DES PROGRAMMES DE PROTECTION SOCIALE:

3. Quels sont les principaux programmes ou mécanismes de protection sociale actuellement mis en œuvre en Union des Comores ?

Réponse :

4. Quels groupes de population bénéficient prioritairement de ces programmes ?

Réponse : ... la caisse travaille en étroite collaboration avec les employeurs mais les bénéficiaires principaux sont les employés d'ici la population.

5. Les dispositifs existants couvrent-ils suffisamment les besoins des populations vulnérables ?

- ☐ Oui
☒ Partiellement
☐ Non

Veuillez expliquer :

D. PROTECTION SOCIALE ET PAUVRETÉ MULTIDIMENSIONNELLE:

6. Quelles dimensions de la pauvreté vous semblent les plus préoccupantes en Union des Comores ? **Réponse :**

- ☐ Santé
☒ Éducation ☐ car le corps enseignants est large.
 Emploi
☐ Logement
☐ Sécurité alimentaire
☐ Accès à l'eau potable
☐ Protection de l'enfance
☐ Inclusion sociale
☐ Autres : Peuple

Commentaires :

F : SOLIDARITÉ COMMUNAUTAIRE ET INÉGALITÉS TERRITORIALES

12. Quel rôle jouent les mécanismes traditionnels de solidarité communautaire dans la lutte contre la pauvreté ?

Réponse : Les Comoriens en se mutualisant ils peuvent améliorer leurs vies mais informellement

13. Ces mécanismes complètent-ils efficacement l'action publique ?

☐ Oui

☐ Partiellement

☒ Non

Justification :

Car il y a manque de transparence

14. Observez-vous des disparités significatives entre Ngazidja, Ndzuwani et Mwali en matière de pauvreté et d'accès aux programmes sociaux ?

Réponse : La Grande Comore est mitigée dans sa croissance économique Terroir de Ndzuwani et Mwali c'est pire

G. PERSPECTIVES ET RECOMMANDATIONS

15. Quelles réformes ou améliorations recommanderiez-vous pour renforcer l'efficacité des programmes de protection sociale en Union des Comores ?

Réponse : - L'autonomie des îles permettrait améliorer la caisse de retraite - la transparence efficace et la collaboration de l'état pour la caisse

16. Quelles priorités devraient être retenues pour réduire durablement la pauvreté multidimensionnelle dans le pays ?

Réponse : la transparence des intérêts entre les îles

CONSENTEMENT DU PARTICIPANT:

Je confirme avoir été informé(e) des objectifs de cette étude et accepte volontairement de participer à cet entretien.

Nom du participant : ANRIFOU MAHAMAD

Signature : Ay

Date : 29/06/2025

Lieu : _____

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NOTE D'INFORMATION AU PARTICIPANT:

Dans le cadre de la préparation de mon mémoire de Master, je mène une étude portant sur les programmes de protection sociale et leur contribution à la réduction de la pauvreté multidimensionnelle en Union des Comores.

Votre expertise et votre expérience professionnelle constituent une source d'information essentielle pour cette recherche. Les informations recueillies demeureront strictement confidentielles et seront utilisées exclusivement à des fins académiques.

A. IDENTIFICATION DU RÉPONDANT:

Nom et prénom (facultatif) :

Fonction : Directeur de cabinet

Institution/Organisation : gouvernement - Ang. Catégorie d'acteur :

☒ Ministère ou institution publique

☐ Collectivité territoriale

☐ ONG nationale

☐ ONG internationale

☐ Institution de recherche

☐ Organisation communautaire

☐ Partenaire technique et financier

☐ Autre domaine d'intervention (préciser) : _____ Île d'intervention principale :

☐ Ngazidja

☒ Ndzuwani

☐ Mwali

☐ Ensemble du territoire national

Années d'expérience dans le domaine de la protection sociale:

☐ Moins de 5 ans

☐ 5 à 10 ans

☒ 11 à 20 ans

☐ Plus de 20 ans

B. COMPRÉHENSION DU CONCEPT DE PROTECTION SOCIALE

1. Comment définissez-vous la protection sociale dans le contexte du développement socio-économique des Comores ?

Réponse : C'est l'ensemble des mécanismes collectifs visant à garantir les Comoriens contre les risques sociaux (maladies, chômage...)

2. Selon vous, quels sont les principaux objectifs des politiques et programmes de protection sociale en Union des Comores ?

Réponse : les politiques de protection sociale aux Comores visent à construire un système universel, chiffré, et inclusif capable de protéger la population contre les risques sociaux.

C. ÉTAT DES LIEUX DES PROGRAMMES DE PROTECTION SOCIALE

3. Quels sont les principaux programmes ou mécanismes de protection sociale actuellement mis en œuvre en Union des Comores ?

Réponse : le système de protection sociale comorien est en pleine mutation, structures actuelles de trois axes principaux : le régime contributif limité, les filets sociaux non contributifs, et les programmes sociaux respectivement universels et ciblés.

4. Quels groupes de population bénéficient prioritairement de ces programmes ?

Réponse : les personnes âgées, personnes souffrant des maladies chroniques, personnes âgées et handicapées, femmes, enfants, les enfants,

5. Les dispositifs existants couvrent-ils suffisamment les besoins des populations vulnérables ?

☐ Oui

☐ Partiellement

☒ Non

Veuillez expliquer :

D. PROTECTION SOCIALE ET PAUVRETÉ MULTIDIMENSIONNELLE:

6. Quelles dimensions de la pauvreté vous semblent les plus préoccupantes en Union des Comores ? **Réponse :**

☒ Santé

☒ Education ☐

Emploi

☐ Logement

☒ Sécurité alimentaire

☒ Accès à l'eau potable

☐ Protection de l'enfance

☒ Inclusion sociale

☐ Autres :

Commentaires :

7. Dans quelle mesure les programmes de protection sociale contribuent-ils à réduire ces différentes formes de pauvreté ?

Réponse : la réduction de la pauvreté par les programmes de protection sociale est insatisfaisante, elle est très inégale. Leur efficacité dépend avant tout de leur couverture du territoire et de la qualité de la gouvernance.

8. Quels résultats concrets avez-vous observés au niveau des ménages ou des communautés bénéficiaires ?

Réponse : les résultats sont encourageants. Ils montrent des progrès significatifs dans plusieurs domaines : accès aux services sociaux de base, amélioration de la sécurité alimentaire et consommation.

E : GOUVERNANCE ET EFFICACITÉ DES PROGRAMMES

9. Les politiques et programmes actuels tiennent-ils suffisamment compte des réalités socioculturelles des Comores ?

- ☐ Oui
☒ Partiellement
☐ Non

Justification :

10. Existe-t-il des écarts entre les objectifs annoncés des programmes et leurs résultats réels sur le terrain ?

- ☒ Oui
☐ Non

Si oui, veuillez préciser :

11. Quels sont les principaux défis rencontrés dans la mise en œuvre des programmes de protection sociale ?

- ☒ Insuffisance de financement
☐ Difficultés de ciblage
☒ Faible coordination institutionnelle
☒ Contraintes administratives
☒ Manque de données fiables
☐ Faible couverture géographique
☐ Autres :

Commentaires :

F : SOLIDARITÉ COMMUNAUTAIRE ET INÉGALITÉS TERRITORIALES

12. Quel rôle jouent les mécanismes traditionnels de solidarité communautaire dans la lutte contre la pauvreté ?

Réponse : Ils agissent comme un filet de sécurité informels, essentiel là où l'état est absent.

13. Ces mécanismes complètent-ils efficacement l'action publique ?

- ☐ Oui
☒ Partiellement
☐ Non

Justification :

14. Observez-vous des disparités significatives entre Ngazidja, Ndzuwani et Mwali en matière de pauvreté et d'accès aux programmes sociaux ?

Réponse : Oui, il existe des disparités significatives entre les 3 îles. Anjouan est la plus pauvre. Grande Comore a la majorité des aides (siège d'ONG, hôpitaux de référence, Université) ...

G. PERSPECTIVES ET RECOMMANDATIONS

15. Quelles réformes ou améliorations recommanderiez-vous pour renforcer l'efficacité des programmes de protection sociale en Union des Comores ?

Réponse : Décentraliser les bureaux de distribution dans les îles. Partage équitable et juste des acquis et des chances.

16. Quelles priorités devraient être retenues pour réduire durablement la pauvreté multidimensionnelle dans le pays ?

Réponse : Améliorer l'agriculture, la pêche et le tourisme.

CONSENTEMENT DU PARTICIPANT:

Je confirme avoir été informé(e) des objectifs de cette étude et accepte volontairement de participer à cet entretien.

Nom du participant : Andi Rindhoi Zoubert

Signature : [Signature]

Date : 02/07/2016

Lieu : Patay

VIII. Method of analysis

The analysis of this study adopted a mixed-methods analytical approach integrating both quantitative and qualitative techniques to comprehensively examine the relationship between social protection programs and multidimensional poverty in the Union of the Comoros. This approach was selected because the research investigates a complex socio-economic phenomenon that cannot be adequately explained through a single analytical method. Quantitative analysis provides measurable evidence of the association between social protection interventions and multidimensional poverty, while qualitative analysis offers contextual explanations regarding institutional practices, implementation challenges, and stakeholders' perceptions.

1. Quantitative Analysis

Data obtained from the structured questionnaire were coded, cleaned, and entered into a statistical software package (e.g., SPSS, Stata, or Microsoft Excel) for analysis. Descriptive statistics, including frequencies, percentages, means, and standard deviations, were employed to summarize respondents' demographic characteristics and their perceptions of social protection programs. Tables, charts, and graphs were used to present the findings in a clear and interpretable manner.

Inferential statistical techniques were subsequently applied to examine relationships between variables. Depending on the level of measurement of the variables, Chi-square tests, correlation analysis, and regression analysis were used to determine whether participation in social protection programs significantly influences the dimensions of multidimensional poverty. The level of statistical significance was established at $p < 0.05$.

Where appropriate, the multidimensional nature of poverty was analyzed according to internationally recognized dimensions such as education, health, living standards, employment, and household welfare. These dimensions were examined collectively to determine the extent to which existing social protection programs contribute to reducing multidimensional deprivation among beneficiaries.

2. Analysis According to the Scope of the Study

The analysis was undertaken within the geographical, human, and thematic boundaries established for the research.

Geographical Scope: The study focused on the Union of the Comoros. Data were interpreted by considering the country's insular characteristics, territorial disparities, and differences in access to social protection services across the islands. These geographical characteristics were recognized as factors influencing both program implementation and multidimensional poverty outcomes.

3. Human Scope

The analysis concentrated on information obtained from government officials, development partners, local authorities, researchers, civil society organizations, non-governmental organizations, community representatives, and other professionals possessing knowledge of social protection and poverty reduction initiatives. Their expertise provided reliable insights into program design, implementation, and effectiveness.

Thematic Scope: The analysis specifically examined the interaction between social protection programs and multidimensional poverty rather than treating the two concepts independently. It explored how various forms of social protection—including cash transfers, social assistance, social insurance, labor market interventions, and community-based support mechanisms contribute to reducing deprivations in education, health, living standards, employment, and overall household well-being.

4. Study duration and data collection period

The study was conducted over a two-month period, during which all research activities related to primary data collection were completed. This timeframe was considered appropriate given the geographical characteristics of the Union of the Comoros, the availability of respondents, and the logistical constraints associated with conducting field research across an archipelagic nation.

The data collection process comprised several sequential stages. Initially, the research instruments were reviewed and refined to ensure clarity, relevance, and consistency with the study objectives. Following this, the questionnaire was administered to selected respondents drawn from government institutions, local authorities, development partners, non-governmental organizations, civil society organizations, researchers, and other stakeholders with expertise in social protection and multidimensional poverty. Documentary sources, including government reports, policy documents, academic publications, and reports from international organizations, were collected concurrently to complement the survey data.

Throughout the two-month data collection period, continuous follow-up was undertaken to maximize the response rate and improve the completeness and quality of the information received. Responses were reviewed for consistency, completeness, and accuracy before being coded and prepared for analysis. Where clarification was required, respondents were contacted whenever possible to verify ambiguous or incomplete responses.

The two-month survey period also accommodated the logistical realities of the Union of the Comoros, including travel between islands, respondents' professional commitments, and the limited number of individuals possessing specialized knowledge of the relationship between social protection programs and multidimensional poverty. Consequently, the extended collection

period enhanced the reliability of the data while ensuring adequate representation of the targeted stakeholder groups.

Following the completion of the field survey, all collected data were systematically organized, coded, cleaned, and entered into the selected statistical software for quantitative analysis, while qualitative responses and documentary evidence were classified according to thematic categories. This systematic procedure ensured the integrity, validity, and reliability of the dataset and facilitated comprehensive analysis of the determinants and effectiveness of social protection programs in addressing multidimensional poverty in the Union of the Comoros.

5. Consideration of research limitations during analysis

The interpretation of the findings was undertaken with careful consideration of the study's methodological limitations. The specialized nature of the research topic significantly constrained the identification of knowledgeable respondents. A review of existing literature indicated that studies conducted in the Union of the Comoros have generally addressed poverty, social protection programs, or multidimensional poverty as separate areas of inquiry. Consequently, the integrated relationship between social protection programs and multidimensional poverty remains relatively unexplored. This limited familiarity among potential respondents reduced the pool of individuals capable of providing informed responses and required cautious interpretation of certain findings.

Furthermore, the demographic and geographical characteristics of the Union of the Comoros also influenced the analytical process. With a national population of fewer than one million inhabitants and an archipelagic territorial configuration, the country presents logistical constraints for field research. The dispersion of the islands increased travel time, financial costs, and the complexity of data collection, thereby limiting access to potential respondents in some locations. These contextual realities were considered when interpreting the results and assessing the generalizability of the findings.

To minimize the effects of these limitations, the study employed methodological triangulation by combining survey data with documentary evidence and existing scholarly literature. This strategy enhanced the reliability, credibility, and validity of the conclusions while providing a comprehensive understanding of the relationship between social protection programs and multidimensional poverty in the Union of the Comoros.

Chap. 4 Practical study

I. Introduction

While the previous chapters established the theoretical and conceptual foundations of social protection and multidimensional poverty, this chapter focuses on the empirical investigation conducted to assess the relationship between social protection interventions and multidimensional poverty in the Union of Comoros.

The primary objective of this practical study is to examine the effectiveness of existing social protection programs in addressing the multiple dimensions of poverty experienced by the Comorian population. Unlike conventional approaches that measure poverty solely through income or consumption, this study adopts a multidimensional perspective, recognizing that poverty encompasses deprivations in education, health, employment, housing, food security, access to basic services, and social inclusion. This broader analytical framework provides a more comprehensive understanding of the living conditions of households and the extent to which social protection policies contribute to improving their well-being.

The empirical analysis is based on both quantitative and qualitative data collected through structured questionnaires administered to key stakeholders, including government officials, representatives of public institutions, local authorities, development partners, non-governmental organizations, researchers, and community leaders with knowledge and experience in social protection and poverty reduction. Documentary evidence from national policy documents, official reports, and international organizations also complements the primary data, allowing for triangulation and strengthening the validity of the findings.

This chapter further describes the socio-demographic characteristics of the respondents, analyses their perceptions regarding the design, implementation, coverage, accessibility, adequacy, and effectiveness of social protection programs in the Union of Comoros, and examines the principal determinants of multidimensional poverty identified during the survey. Particular attention is given to the contribution of social assistance, social insurance, labor market interventions, and community-based support mechanisms in reducing deprivation across different dimensions of poverty.

The data are presented through tables, charts, descriptive statistics, and analytical discussions. Appropriate statistical techniques are employed to summarize respondents' opinions and identify significant patterns and relationships between social protection interventions and multidimensional poverty indicators. Qualitative responses are analyzed thematically to provide contextual explanations and complement the quantitative findings.

Ultimately, the findings presented in this chapter provide empirical evidence to evaluate the extent to which existing social protection programs contribute to poverty reduction in the Union of Comoros. The results also identify existing implementation gaps, institutional challenges, and opportunities for strengthening social protection policies. These findings serve as the foundation for the recommendations proposed in the final chapter, with the aim of supporting policymakers and development partners in designing more inclusive, effective, and sustainable social protection systems capable of reducing multidimensional poverty and promoting equitable socio-economic development in the Union of Comoros.

This chapter presents the findings obtained from the questionnaire survey, key informant interview, and documentary review. The analysis focuses on respondents' understanding of social protection, the current state of social protection programs in the Union of the Comoros, their contribution to reducing multidimensional poverty, implementation challenges, governance issues, and recommendations for strengthening the national social protection system.

The findings are interpreted alongside the National Social Protection Policy of the Union of the Comoros (2014), enabling a comparison between policy objectives and realities observed in the field.

II. Data analysis

1. Executive scientific overview & epistemological foundations

To empirically monitor poverty dynamics, this analysis utilizes the Alkire-Foster (AF) methodology, which generates the adjusted headcount ratio or Multidimensional Poverty Index

This scientific analysis synthesizes the structural, theoretical, and empirical nexus between public social protection frameworks and the mitigation of multidimensional poverty within the Union of the Comoros. Grounded in the institutional reality of an archipelagic Small Island Developing State (SIDS) and informed by cutting-edge macroeconomic frameworks—such as the ex-ante policy simulations executed by Abdelkhalek and Boccanfuso (2022)—this analysis evaluates how formal social safety nets intersect with localized ethno-sociocultural realities

Poverty alleviation strategies have historically suffered from an epistemological bias: the reduction of systemic deprivation to purely monetary vectors (e.g., income or consumption expenditures). While monetary fluctuations capture immediate consumption shocks, they fail to map out structural, non-monetary deprivations such as compromised health governance, infrastructural deficits, educational attrition, and marginalization from key productive assets.

In response, this analysis frames social protection not as a reactive, short-term humanitarian relief mechanism, but as a strategic, long-term macroeconomic investment. By integrating the

Comoros Emerging Plan (CEP) 2030 with international benchmarks like the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs 1, 3, 4, and 10), we map out an operational pathway to transition the Comorian economy away from its volatile historical growth equilibrium (2.8\% average annual real GDP growth between 1975 and 2018, yielding a mere 0.3\% per capita growth) into a resilient and diversified economy.

2. Theoretical Mapping & Analytical Framework

To construct a robust evidence-based social policy framework, this analysis establishes an integrated matrix of five foundational economic and sociological theories:



3. The Capability Approach (Sen)

Poverty is fundamentally operationalized as a chronic deprivation of essential *capabilities*—the substantive freedoms an individual possesses to lead a life they have reason to value. Under this approach, social protection measures represent vital resources that expand an individual's capability set, altering internal functionings (e.g., nutritional health status, literacy) into structural agency and economic mobility.

4. The Social Risk Management (SRM)

Developed by the World Bank, SRM highlights how households navigate risk through pre-emptive, mitigating, or coping strategies. For the Comoros, macro-vulnerabilities are systemic: structural exposure to environmental hazards, fiscal imbalances, low domestic revenues, high

reliance on external diaspora remittances, and severe youth unemployment. Formal instruments like the *Resilient and Shock-Responsive Social Safety Nets Program (PFSS- RRC)* act as counter-cyclical buffers, mitigating the downside risks that trigger irreversible human capital de-accumulation during economic downturns.

5. The Sustainable Livelihoods Framework (SLF)

The SLF assesses household vulnerability based on access to a five-tiered asset matrix: human, financial, physical, natural, and social capital. Social protection programs alter this asset portfolio; for instance, cash transfers directly strengthen financial capital, which is then immediately reinvested into human capital (education, preventive health) and natural capital preservation.

6. Systems Theory and Social Capital Theory

Systems theory posits that poverty reduction outcomes depend on the interactions among multiple institutional systems: state ministries, international development partners, non-governmental organizations, and the informal community structures.

In the Comoros, this aligns with Social Capital Theory (Bourdieu, Coleman, Putnam), which emphasizes traditional solidarity networks, extended family systems, and Islamic charitable institutions (*Zakat* and *Waqf*). Formal public social protection must be strategically designed to complement, rather than displace, these vital informal safety nets.

7. Methodological Framework & Structural Adaptation to the Comoros

To empirically monitor poverty dynamics, this analysis utilizes the Alkire-Foster (AF) methodology, which generates the adjusted headcount ratio or Multidimensional Poverty Index (M_0 or MPI).

7. The Mathematical model

Let a population consist of n individuals evaluated across d distinct indicators. Let $y = [y_{ij}]$ represent the $n \times d$ data matrix, where y_{ij} denotes the observed status of individual i regarding indicator j . We define z_j as the normative deprivation threshold for indicator j .

A binary deprivation matrix $g^0 = [g^0_{ij}]$ is generated such that:

$$g^0_{ij} = 1 \text{ if } y_{ij} < z_j; \text{ and } g^0_{ij} = 0 \text{ if } y_{ij} \geq z_j$$

Let w_j represent the explicitly assigned weight of indicator j , constrained by $0 < w_j \leq 1$ and $\sum_{j=1}^d w_j = 1$. A composite deprivation score c_i is computed for each individual:

$$c_i = \sum_{j=1}^d w_j g_{ij}^0$$

An individual is identified as multidimensionally poor if their deprivation score equals or exceeds a multi- deprivation cutoff value k (where $c_i \geq k$). The final index is computed as the product of the multidimensional headcount ratio (H) and the average deprivation intensity (A):

$$M_0 = H \times A = (q/n) \times (\sum_{i=1}^q c_i / q)$$

8. Contextualization Challenges

Within the Comorian archipelagic geography (Grande Comore, Anjouan, Mohéli), applying a rigid global MPI model introduces significant measurement errors. Empirical findings indicate that the operational parameters utilized by national institutions are more restrictive than global standards. This structural discrepancy requires a customized 13- indicator framework, distributed across the three standard pillars:

Dimension	Core Indicators	Comorian Structural Reality & Adaptation
Health & Nutrition	Child Mortality Nutrition Early Pregnancy	Captures severe institutional weakness in health governance, supply-side medical infrastructure, and maternal healthcare vulnerability.

Education	School Attendance Years of Schooling	Designed to mitigate high school dropout rates and reduce severe territorial inequalities in educational retention.
Living Standards	Electricity Access Water & Sanitation Cooking Fuel Housing Quality Asset Ownership Overcrowding Mitigants	Accounts for spatial island dynamics. Stricter regional deprivation criteria often yield higher baseline poverty counts than standard international indices.

9. Comparative empirical insight from Comoros to Moroccan using ex-ante Approach

To optimize the impact of Comorian social spending, we examine the methodological findings of Abdelkhalek and Boccanfuso (2022) for Morocco, which evaluated social sector reforms using ex-ante microsimulation tools.

MOROCCAN EX-ANTE MODEL

- **Baseline Data:** 2018 ENPSF Survey
- **Strategy:** Multi-scenario ex-ante microsimulations
- **Targeting Testing:**
 - *Random Selection:* Averages out across deprivations
 - *Probabilistic Probit:* Targets high probability profiles

COMORIAN EMPIRICAL REALITY

- **Program:** PFSS-RRC (World Bank funded)
- **Reach:** 40,010 households across 196 villages
- **Budget:** US\$30 Million
- **Implementation Gaps:** Extreme geographical centralization in Moroni; severe spatial inequalities across Ngazidja, Anjouan, and Mwali.

The Moroccan framework evaluated two primary targeting models: a Random Targeting Model (selecting beneficiaries from the pool of deprived individuals) and an Objective Probabilistic Probit Model (estimating the likelihood of program inclusion based on observable socioeconomic vectors). Counter-intuitively, the simulations demonstrated that objective probit targeting did not consistently dominate random selection. This anomaly occurs when the target population is highly homogeneous or when the regression models are estimated using highly unbalanced sample distributions.

10.Applying the policy insight to the Comoros

The Comorian flagship social initiative—the *Resilient and Shock-Responsive Social Safety Nets Program (PFSS- RRC)*, backed by a US\$30 million World Bank portfolio—currently supports 40,010 vulnerable households across 196 villages via the *Mayendeleyo Project*. However, field data reveals two critical breakdowns in delivery:

- **Excessive Centralization:** Decision-making power remains concentrated inside ministries located in Moroni (Ngazidja), causing severe operational delays on Anjouan and Mohéli.
- **Targeting Errors:** Due to the lack of an integrated national social registry, many deserving households are excluded, while less vulnerable families benefit from program resources.

11.Strategic recommendations and sectoral integration

To achieve the targets set out in the Comoros Emerging Plan (CEP) 2030, social protection policies must move beyond traditional financial transfers and integrate directly into the core sectors of the national economy:

Blue Economy Integration	Green Economy Transformation	Tertiary Sector Mobilization
Introduce weather-indexed insurance policies for artisanal fishing communities.	Fund labor-intensive public works (<i>HIMO</i>) focused on ecological restoration and sustainable agroforestry.	Deploy mobile-money-linked micro- finance structures to integrate the informal economy.
Deploy state-subsidized cold-chain infrastructure	Provide smart agricultural subsidies for drought-resistant crop adoption.	Invest in vocational pipelines targeting digital literacy and technical ICT competencies.

to reduce post-harvest losses, strengthening food security.		
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2. Policy and governance stabilization

- **Establish a National Multidimensional Poverty Observatory:** Shift institutional reliance away from static, single-dimension metrics toward a dynamic, multi-indicator framework.
- **Build a Universal Social Protection Floor:** Legislate guaranteed, non-contributory minimum access baselines for universal health coverage (expanding Compulsory Health Insurance), child safety benefits, disability allocations, and old-age pensions.
- **Build a Unified National Social Registry:** Transition away from fragmented donor databases by building a single, digitalized, and audited registry of vulnerable households to reduce targeting errors.

3. Comparative Empirical Insight: Comoros vs. Moroccan Ex-Ante Approach

To optimize the impact of Comorian social spending, we examine the methodological findings of Abdelkhalek and Boccanfuso (2022) for Morocco, which evaluated social sector reforms using ex-ante microsimulation tools.

The Moroccan framework evaluated two primary targeting models: a Random Targeting Model (selecting beneficiaries from the pool of deprived individuals) and an Objective Probabilistic Probit Model (estimating the likelihood of program inclusion based on observable socioeconomic vectors).

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The Comorian flagship social initiative the resilient and Shock-Responsive Social Safety Nets Program (PFSS-RRC), established by Decree No. 23-063/PR in July 2023 and backed by a US\$30 million World Bank portfolio currently supports 40,010 vulnerable households across 196 villages via the Mayendeleyo Project. However, field data from 34 major institutional actors reveals a critical breakdown in delivery:

Excessive Centralization: Decision-making power remains concentrated inside ministries located in Moroni (Ngazidja), causing severe operational delays on Anjouan and Mohéli.

Targeting Errors: Due to the lack of an integrated national social registry, many deserving households are excluded, while less vulnerable families benefit from program resources.

5. Strategic recommendations and sectoral integration

To achieve the targets set out in the Comoros Emerging Plan (CEP) 2030, social protection policies must move beyond traditional financial transfers and integrate directly into the core sectors of the national economy:

6. Policy and governance stabilization

Establish a National Multidimensional Poverty Observatory: Shift institutional reliance away from static, single-dimension metrics toward a dynamic, multi-indicator framework.

Build a Universal Social Protection Floor: Legislate guaranteed, non-contributory minimum access baselines for universal health coverage (expanding Compulsory Health Insurance), child safety benefits, disability allocations, and old-age pensions.

Build a Unified National Social Registry: Transition away from fragmented donor databases by building a single, digitalized, and audited registry of vulnerable households to reduce targeting errors.

7. Blue Economy integration

As an archipelagic state, the Comoros must embed adaptive social protection measures into its marine resource strategies:

Introduce specialized weather-indexed index insurance policies for artisanal fishing communities.

Deploy state-subsidized cold-chain infrastructure and processing equipment to reduce post-harvest losses, strengthening food security and stabilizing household incomes.

Green Economy Transformation

Fund labor-intensive public works (Haute Intensité de Main d'Œuvre – HIMO) focused on ecological restoration, watershed protection, and sustainable agroforestry management. Provide smart agricultural subsidies to smallholders to encourage the adoption of drought-resistant crop varieties, reducing vulnerability to escalating macroeconomic and climate shocks.

8. Tertiary sector mobilization

Deploy mobile-money-linked micro-finance structures to integrate the informal economy into the formal financial system.

Invest in vocational and technical education pipelines that target digital literacy and information communication technology (ICT) competencies, creating sustainable paths out of structural youth unemployment.

III. Research findings

1. Understanding of social protection

The findings reveal that respondents generally possess a satisfactory understanding of social protection, although the level of knowledge differs according to their professional background.

Most respondents described social protection as a combination of:

- social insurance;
- social safety nets;
- health insurance;
- assistance for vulnerable populations;
- employment promotion;
- social inclusion;
- universal access to basic services.

Survey responses repeatedly identified Generalized Health Insurance (AMG), the Social Safety Nets Project (PFSS-RRC), the National Social Security Fund, community solidarity mechanisms, and cash transfer programs as the main pillars of social protection in the Comoros.

These findings are consistent with the National Social Protection Policy, which defines social protection as an integrated system combining contributory social security, social assistance, community solidarity, and social services aimed at reducing vulnerability and ensuring access to basic social services.

However, the interview with Fatima Boyer presents a contrasting perception. She stated that she was unaware of any effective social protection law or visible government action, indicating that policy implementation remains largely invisible to many civil society actors.

2. Existing social protection programs in the Union of the Comoros

The survey findings identified several major social protection initiatives currently operating in the country.

Respondents most frequently mentioned:

- Generalized Health Insurance (AMG);
- Project for Resilient and Shock-Responsive Social Safety Nets (PFSS-RRC);
- National Social Security and Pension Schemes;
- Cash Transfer Programs;

- Community Health Insurance;
- Civil Protection Services;
- Gender-Based Violence Support Programs;
- UNICEF-supported child protection initiatives;
- Labor intensive public works (HIMO);
- Community solidarity mechanisms.

These findings closely correspond with the official National Social Protection Policy, which prioritizes:

- Employment promotion;
- Improved health services;
- Education access;
- Water and sanitation;
- Disaster risk management;
- Extension of social insurance;
- Protection of vulnerable groups.

Nevertheless, several respondents indicated that these programs remain fragmented, poorly coordinated, and insufficiently accessible to the majority of vulnerable households.

3. Target beneficiaries of social protection programs

The study shows broad agreement regarding the priority beneficiaries.

According to respondents, social protection mainly targets:

- households living in extreme poverty;
- women;
- children;
- pregnant and breastfeeding mothers;
- persons with disabilities;
- elderly persons without pensions;
- unemployed youth;
- victims of natural disasters;
- rural communities;
- vulnerable households.

This confirms that existing programs are generally designed according to vulnerability criteria rather than universal coverage.

However, respondents also noted that many deserving households remain excluded because of weak targeting systems and insufficient financial resources.

4. Dimensions of multidimensional poverty

The study reveals that poverty in the Comoros extends far beyond income deprivation.

Respondents consistently identified the following dimensions as the most severe:

- health;
- unemployment;
- food insecurity;
- access to safe drinking water;
- child protection;
- education;
- housing;
- social exclusion.

These findings strongly support the multidimensional poverty framework, demonstrating that deprivation simultaneously affects several dimensions of well-being.

5. Contribution of Social Protection Programs to Poverty Reduction

Most respondents acknowledged that social protection contributes positively to reducing multidimensional poverty.

The principal contributions identified include:

- reduction of monetary poverty;
- increased household purchasing power;
- improved food security;
- increased school attendance;
- improved healthcare utilisation;
- greater resilience to economic and climate shocks;
- promotion of income-generating activities;
- women's economic empowerment;
- improved social inclusion.

However, respondents generally agreed that these impacts remain partial because programme coverage is limited and implementation is inconsistent.

Fatima Boyer reported being unable to assess programme effectiveness because she was unaware of their actual existence, highlighting a major communication and implementation gap.

6. Challenges Affecting Programme Effectiveness

- insufficient financial resources;
- weak institutional coordination;
- poor beneficiary targeting;
- lack of reliable social data;
- limited monitoring and evaluation;
- weak governance;
- inadequate decentralisation;
- unequal territorial development;
- low public awareness. Similarly, the National Social Protection Policy acknowledges the necessity of strengthening institutional coordination, financing mechanisms, monitoring systems, and decentralised implementation structures.

7. Role of Community Solidarity

One of the strongest findings concerns the continued importance of traditional solidarity. Respondents considered family support, community associations, religious solidarity, and informal assistance networks as essential mechanisms for protecting vulnerable households.

While our interview, some explained that traditional solidarity historically acted as a social safety valve, but increasing unemployment and declining household incomes have considerably weakened communities' capacity to support vulnerable members.

Survey response from Fatima Boyer.pdf

This finding demonstrates that although informal solidarity remains important, it can no longer substitute for comprehensive public social protection.

8. Territorial Inequalities

Respondents highlighted significant geographical disparities.

Many observed considerable inequalities among Ngazidja, Anjouan, and Mohéli regarding:

Some specifically argued that Ngazidja benefits disproportionately compared with the other islands and recommended greater decentralisation of development programmes.

9. Overall Finding

Overall, the study demonstrates that although the Union of the Comoros has established an important policy framework for social protection, implementation remains constrained

by limited financial resources, weak institutional coordination, inadequate targeting, governance challenges, and unequal territorial coverage. Existing programmes have contributed to reducing certain dimensions of multidimensional poverty—particularly in health, education, food security, and household resilience—but their overall impact remains insufficient to address the scale and complexity of multidimensional poverty nationwide. Strengthening governance, expanding programme coverage, improving decentralisation, and integrating traditional community solidarity with formal social protection systems are therefore essential for achieving sustainable poverty reduction and inclusive socio-economic development.

10. Research recommendations

Based on the documentary analysis, the findings obtained from the questionnaire survey, and the expert interview conducted during this study, it is evident that social protection in the Union of the Comoros remains fragmented, institutionally weak, and insufficiently integrated into the country's long-term development strategy. Although the National Social Protection Policy provides a comprehensive strategic framework emphasizing inclusive social protection, institutional coordination, social safety nets, universal access to essential services, and sustainable financing, its implementation continues to face significant institutional, financial, administrative, and governance constraints.

The survey findings further indicate that although several respondents recognize the existence of social safety nets, health insurance initiatives, and donor-supported programmes, many citizens remain unaware of existing policies or perceive them as producing limited tangible results because of weak governance, inadequate coordination, poor targeting mechanisms, and insufficient public communication.

Consequently, the following recommendations are proposed.

11. Policy recommendations

The Government of the Union of the Comoros should accelerate the operational implementation of the National Social Protection Policy by transforming existing policy commitments into measurable programmes with clear implementation schedules, performance indicators, and dedicated budget allocations.

A National Multidimensional Poverty Observatory should be established to regularly measure poverty using multidimensional indicators rather than relying solely on income-

based measurements. Such an institution would improve evidence-based policymaking and strengthen monitoring and evaluation systems.

The Government should gradually establish a Universal Social Protection Floor that guarantees minimum access to:

- Universal health coverage;
- Child protection;
- Disability support;
- Unemployment assistance;
- Old-age protection;
- Maternity protection; and
- Emergency social assistance.

Institutional coordination among ministries, local governments, development partners, civil society organizations, and traditional community structures should be strengthened through an integrated national coordination mechanism as envisaged by the National Social Protection Policy.

12. Institutional recommendations

The study recommends substantial institutional reforms aimed at improving governance efficiency.

Government institutions should:

- strengthen transparency and accountability;
- digitalize beneficiary registration systems;
- establish an integrated national social registry;
- improve inter-ministerial coordination;
- decentralize programme implementation to island and municipal levels;
- conduct regular programme evaluations.

Institutional fragmentation currently limits programme effectiveness, while decentralized governance would allow interventions to better reflect the socio-economic realities of Ngazidja, Ndzuani, and Mwali.

13. Recommendations based on blue development

Considering that the Union of the Comoros is a Small Island Developing State (SIDS), this study recommends integrating social protection into the Blue Economy strategy.

The Government should:

- support artisanal fishermen through social insurance schemes;
- establish climate-risk insurance for coastal communities;

- improve fish preservation and processing infrastructure;
- expand marine value chains;
- develop sustainable aquaculture;
- strengthen coastal ecosystem conservation;
- create employment opportunities in marine tourism.

These initiatives would simultaneously reduce unemployment, improve food security, increase household income, and strengthen resilience against climate shocks.

14. Recommendations based on Green Development

Green development should become a central pillar of poverty reduction policies.

The Government should prioritize:

- climate-smart agriculture;
- sustainable forestry management;
- watershed protection;
- renewable energy expansion;
- waste recycling industries;
- community environmental restoration programmes;
- ecosystem-based disaster risk reduction.

Green investments would simultaneously improve environmental sustainability, employment creation, agricultural productivity, and resilience against natural disasters.

15. Recommendations for the tertiary sector

The tertiary sector represents one of the greatest untapped opportunities for sustainable poverty reduction in the Union of the Comoros.

This study recommends:

- expanding digital services;
- strengthening tourism development;
- promoting financial inclusion;
- modernizing transportation and logistics;
- supporting youth entrepreneurship;
- expanding vocational education;
- promoting ICT-based employment;
- improving public administration through digital transformation.

The rapid growth of service industries can absorb a significant proportion of unemployed young graduates while increasing national productivity.

16.Recommendations for human Capital Development

Long-term poverty reduction cannot be achieved without investing in people.

Therefore, priority should be given to:

- quality education;
- universal healthcare;
- nutrition programmes;
- vocational and technical education;
- digital literacy;
- entrepreneurship training;
- women's economic empowerment;
- youth employment initiatives.

Human capital development should become the foundation of future social protection reforms.

17.Recommendations for Development Partners

International development partners should gradually shift from short-term humanitarian interventions toward long-term institutional capacity building.

Future assistance should prioritize:

- institutional strengthening;
- digital governance;
- national statistical systems;
- social protection financing;
- climate resilience;
- productive inclusion programmes;
- local capacity development.

This approach would reduce long-term dependency on external assistance while strengthening national ownership.

18.The researcher's position and Affirmation

Based on the documentary review, empirical findings, and critical analysis conducted throughout this study, the researcher firmly believes that multidimensional poverty in the Union of the Comoros cannot be eliminated solely through financial assistance or temporary social safety nets.

In our opinion, sustainable poverty reduction requires a structural transformation of the entire development model. Social protection should no longer be viewed merely as a

humanitarian response to vulnerability, but rather as a strategic investment in human development, productive capacity, and inclusive economic transformation.

I strongly affirm that the future of the Union of the Comoros depends on the successful integration of three complementary development pillars:

First, a strong and inclusive social protection system that guarantees equal opportunities for all citizens.

Second, a Blue Development strategy capable of transforming the country's vast marine resources into sustainable employment, food security, and economic growth.

Third, a Green Development model that protects natural ecosystems while generating decent jobs through environmentally sustainable economic activities.

I also affirm that strengthening the tertiary sector—including tourism, digital services, education, finance, and innovation—offers one of the greatest opportunities for reducing youth unemployment and promoting sustainable economic diversification.

Furthermore, I believe that institutional reform is the cornerstone of every successful social protection programme. Without transparent governance, reliable data systems, accountable public institutions, and effective decentralization, even well-designed policies will produce limited impacts.

Finally, I firmly believe that the Union of the Comoros possesses sufficient human, environmental, marine, and cultural resources to substantially reduce multidimensional poverty over the coming decade. However, this objective will only be achieved through strong political commitment, institutional integrity, citizen participation, evidence-based policymaking, and coordinated partnerships among government institutions, civil society, the private sector, development partners, and local communities.

This study concludes that social protection should become the central pillar of the national development strategy. Future policies should integrate multidimensional poverty measurement, social inclusion, Blue Economy development, Green Economy transformation, digital innovation, human capital development, institutional strengthening, and territorial equity into one coherent national framework.

Only through an integrated, inclusive, transparent, and sustainable approach can the Union of the Comoros successfully reduce multidimensional poverty while achieving resilient, equitable, and sustainable socio-economic development for present and future generations.

Conclusion

The analytical evidence demonstrates that while the Union of the Comoros has built a solid strategic foundation, its 'impact' on poverty reduction remains constrained by institutional fragmentation, centralized funding bottlenecks, and structural targeting errors. Mitigating multidimensional poverty requires shifting the policy paradigm: social safety nets should not be viewed as fiscal costs, but as foundational investments in human capital. By matching rigorous targeting models with decentralized, sector-specific initiatives across the blue, green, and tertiary economies, the Comoros can break its historical cycle of economic volatility and build an equitable framework for sustainable development.

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Appendixes

English abstract

Thesis background

Traditional monetary frameworks often fail to capture the overlapping deprivations experienced by vulnerable populations in Small Island Developing States (SIDS). In the Union of the Comoros, deep structural constraints—such as institutional centralization in Moroni, geographic disparities across the islands (Ngazidja, Anjouan, and Mohéli), and high youth unemployment—coexist with shifting informal kinship networks that historically functioned as social safety valves.

Objectives

Grounded in Amartya Sen's Capability Approach, the Social Risk Management framework, and Sustainable Livelihoods concepts, this study analyzes the operational effectiveness, structural gaps, and socio-cultural dimensions of social protection programs in reducing multidimensional poverty within the Comorian context. It aims to provide evidence-based pathways aligned with the Comoros Emerging Plan 2030 (CEP 2030) and United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Methodology

Adopting a mixed-methods documentary research design, this study combines institutional policy reviews with a specialized expert-and-beneficiary survey (N = 34) spanning the archipelago. Non-monetary deprivation was evaluated via a context-adapted Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) featuring 13 localized indicators across health, education, and living standards. Quantitative patterns were triangulated with qualitative thematic analysis of key informant interviews.

Outcomes

The empirical results indicate that while core social initiatives like the Resilient and Shock-Responsive Social Safety Nets Program (PFSS-RRC) and Generalized Health Insurance (AMG) yield positive returns in nutritional health, educational access, and emergency economic resilience, their national impacts are heavily restricted. Major bottlenecks include institutional fragmentation, targeting system errors, severe funding deficits, and pronounced territorial inequalities, leaving remote rural peripheries critically underserved.

Furthermore, traditional informal mutual assistance networks are increasingly strained under modern socio-economic pressures.

خلفية الدراسة

غالبًا ما تفشل المقاربات النقدية التقليدية لقياس الفقر في استيعاب الحرمان المتداخل والمستمر الذي تواجهه الفئات الهشة في الدول الجزرية الصغيرة النامية. وفي جمهورية القمر المتحدة، تتداخل القيود الهيكلية العميقة مثل المركزية الإدارية في العاصمة موروني، والتفاوتات الجغرافية الصارخة بين الجزر الثلاث (نجازيدجا، أنجوان، وموهيلي)، مع تراجع شبكات التضامن العائلي التقليدية التي كانت تمثل صمام أمان مجتمعي.

أهداف الدراسة

استنادًا إلى نهج القدرة لأمارتيا سن، وإطار إدارة المخاطر الاجتماعية، ومفاهيم سبل العيش المستدامة، تسعى هذه الدراسة إلى تحليل الكفاءة التشغيلية، والفجوات الهيكلية، والأبعاد السوسيو-ثقافية لبرامج الحماية الاجتماعية في الحد من الفقر متعدد الأبعاد في السياق القمري، وتقديم مسارات مدعومة بالأدلة تتماشى مع خطة بزوغ جزر القمر 2030 وأهداف التنمية المستدامة للأمم المتحدة.

منهجية الدراسة

اعتمدت الدراسة على تصميم بحثي وثائقي ذي منهج مختلط (كمي ونوعي)، حيث جمعت بين المراجعة المؤسسية للسياسات العامة واستبيان ميداني استهدف عينة قصدية من الخبراء الفاعلين والمستفيدين ($N = 34$) شملت الجزر الثلاث. وتم تقييم الحرمان غير النقدي عبر نموذج معدل محليًا لمؤشر الفقر متعدد الأبعاد (MPI) يضم 13 مؤشرًا تغطي التعليم، الصحة، ومستوى المعيشة، مع ربط النتائج الكمية بالتحليل الموضوعي للمقابلات النوعية.

نتائج الدراسة

كشفت النتائج التجريبية أن برامج الحماية الأساسية، مثل مشروع شبكات الأمان الاجتماعي المرنة والاستجابية للصدمات (PFSS-RRC) والتأمين الصحي الشامل، تحقق مكاسب إيجابية محدودة في مجالات التغذية، والالتحاق بالتعليم، والمرونة الاقتصادية الطارئة. ومع ذلك، فإن الأثر الإجمالي يبقى مجزأً وغير كافٍ نتيجة لضعف التنسيق المؤسسي، وأخطاء استهداف المستحقين، والعجز التمويلي، والتفاوتات الإقليمية الكبيرة التي تترك الأرياف النائية دون تغطية كافية. كما أظهرت الدراسة أن آليات التكافل التقليدية باتت عاجزة عن تعويض غياب الأنظمة العامة الفعالة.

التوصيات

توصي الدراسة بضرورة الإسراع في إنشاء مرصد وطني مستقل للفقر متعدد الأبعاد، وتفعيل "أرضية وطنية للحماية الاجتماعية الشاملة". كما تشدد على إلزامية تطبيق اللامركزية عبر فتح مكاتب تشغيلية دائمة في جزيرتي أنجوان وموهيلي، وتحويل برامج الدعم النمطي المباشر إلى نموذج تنموي إنتاجي. يتأتى ذلك من خلال دمج تدابير الحماية في استراتيجيات الاقتصاد الأزرق لدعم الصيادين التقليديين، والاستثمارات الخضراء في الزراعة الذكية مناخيًا، فضلًا عن تطوير الخدمات الرقمية في قطاع الخدمات لبناء رأس مال بشري مستدام قادر على تحويل المشهد التنموي في البلاد.

الكلمات المفتاحية

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مؤشر الفقر متعدد الأبعاد، الحماية الاجتماعية، نهج القدرة، الدول الجزرية الصغيرة النامية، خطة بزوغ جزر القمر 2030، الحوكمة المؤسسية.