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Madagascar at 60

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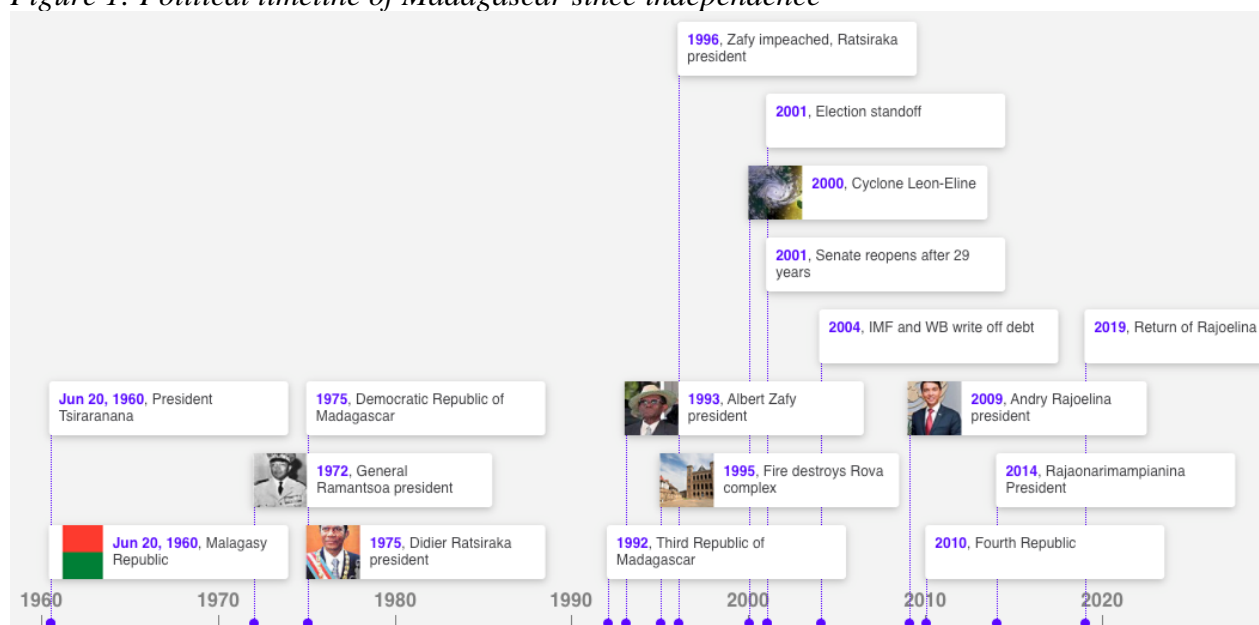
Madagascar at 60

Political history

1960 was the 'Year of Africa': many former colonies in Africa became politically independent. Of the seventeen colonies gaining independence in that year,

Madagascar was the fourth one: on June 26th. Madagascar had been a French colony from the 1890s (see Figure 1 for a political timeline).

Figure 1: Political timeline of Madagascar since independence



Although safe in terms of security, Madagascar's post-independence political history has known long periods of instability. The first years under President Tsiranana and his Parti Social Démocrate ended with an uprising in May 1972, which brought to power Major General Gabriel Ramantsoa. His government fractured relations with France and established ties with the Soviet Union, while also heavily intervening in the economy along socialist policy lines. Renaming the country the Democratic Republic of Madagascar in 1975, the subsequent president Ratsiraka declared Madagascar a Marxist republic and nationalized banks and other industries. Under his rule, economic conditions in the country deteriorated, moving the IMF to step in with a loan in 1981. Protests and resistance grew, not only in the Malagasy Churches but also in numerous militant martial arts schools.

In 1985, then, the IMF and the World Bank pushed President Ratsiraka to implement economic reforms, in particular privatization and currency devaluation. Subsequent economic hardships further instigated resistance and pushed for political liberalization. Constitutional reform ushered in the Third Republic in 1993, with President Albert Zafy, a former university professor, as the head of government. His rule proved unstable, however, and ended in his impeachment in 1996. Ratsiraka returned as president, but politics remained fraught and the 2001 elections brought a new series of political crises that lasted for years. A new constitution, introduced under a young President Rajoelina in 2010, brought hope of political reform, but it is not until 2014 under President Rajaonarimampianina that Madagascar was recognized internationally as having returned to a full con-

stitutional order. Economic conditions have improved since and, after new instability and delays, the 2018

elections resulted in the return of Rajoelina as president.

Conflict, state fragility, and travel risks

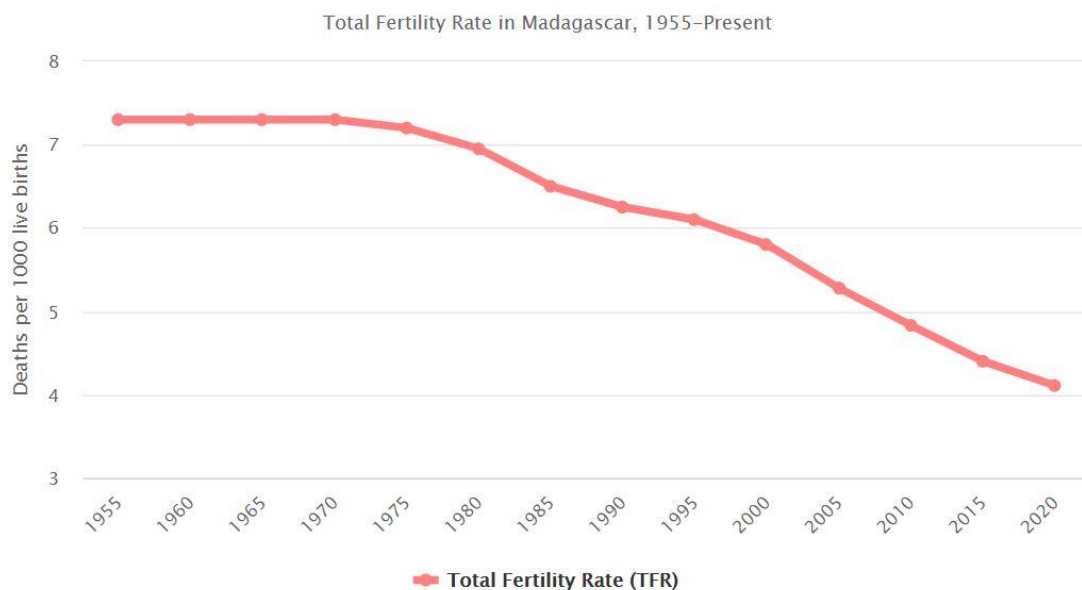
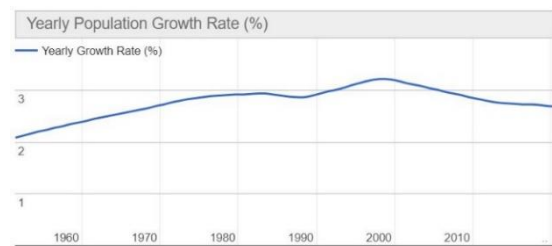
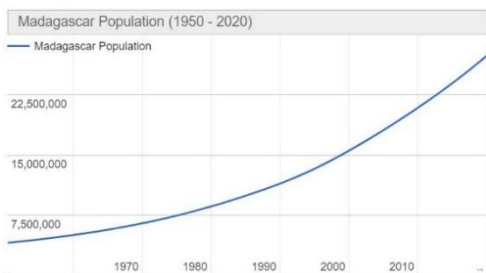
Despite political instability, Madagascar is relatively low on the 'security risk' indices. For instance, the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs until recently put Madagascar in the 'yellow zone', which means that there are some risks for travelers, but not major ones. [Currently, April 2020, all 'danger zoning' has been disturbed by the global COVID-19 crisis].

The State Fragility Index of the Fund for Peace puts Madagascar in the 'high warning range', with 80.0 points (most negative score would be 120.0 points) (<https://fundforpeace.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/9511904-fragilestatesindex.pdf>).

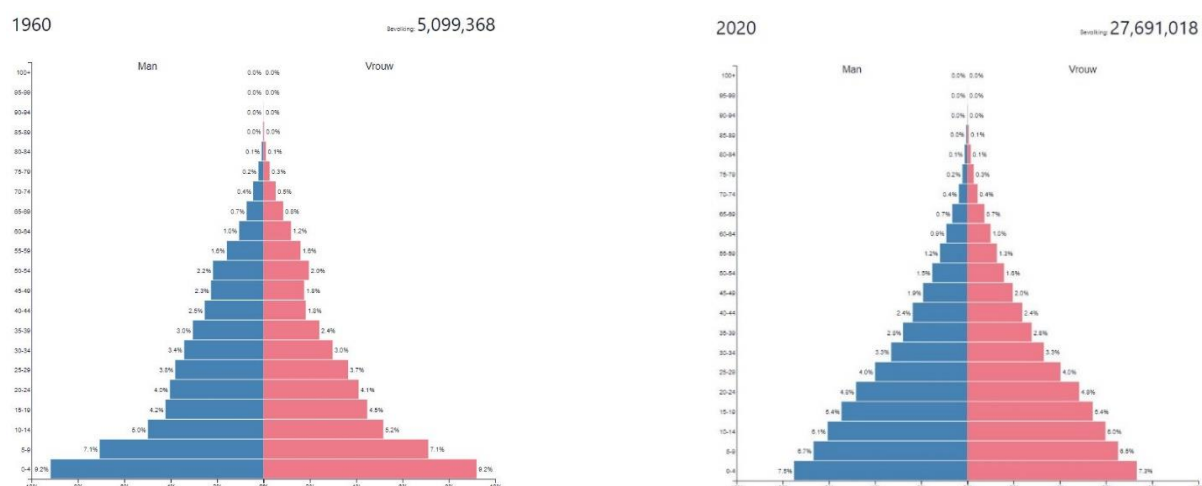
The index consists of twelve variables, and Madagascar has relatively good scores for group grievances and refugees/internally displaced people, but relatively poor scores for demographic pressure and uneven development.

Demography

Madagascar's population increased more than fivefold between 1960 and 2020, mostly through high fertility rates and longer life expectancy for both males and females (also because of rapidly improving child and infant mortality figures). Population growth figures were always more than two percent per year since the early 1950s, and beyond three percent per year between 1992 and 2005. Currently the average growth rate is around 2.7 percent per year. Total fertility was around 7.3 per woman in 1960, and started to diminish from 1975 onwards, after which year a clear demographic transition took place, with currently 4.1 births per average woman during her lifetime. As a result of these demographic developments, Madagascar has an extremely skewed population pyramid, with many more young people than adults and elderly people. The median age changed from 19.2 years old in 1960, to only 16.8 years old in 1980 and currently 19.6 years old. Urbanization is on the increase, but the majority of the people in Madagascar is still rural.



Source: Worldometers



Source:

<https://www.populationpyramid.net/nl/madagascar/>

Demographic statistics, Madagascar as a whole, 1960 and 2020

	1960	2020
Population	5.1 million	27.7 million
Fertility rate	7.3 children per woman	4.1 children per woman
Life expectancy (males)	40.3 years	66.5 years
Idem (females)	42.2 years	69.9 years
Median age	19.2 years	19.6 years
Infant mortality (< 1 yr)	156/1000	23/1000
Under-5 mortality	249/1000	34/1000
Urbanization rate	11%	39%
Urban population	0.5 million	10.7 million
Rural population	4.6 million	17.0 million

Source: Worldometers

Human Development Index, Madagascar as a whole, 2000 and 2018

Human Development Index data exist since 1990, with annual UNDP updates. However, for Madagascar these data are only given from 2000 onwards. In 2000, Madagascar's Human Development Index started at a level of 0.456. The HDI consists of a health index, an income index and an education index, while UNDP also provides data about life expectancy, and some other indicators. Between 2000 and 2018 Madagascar's total HDI increased with 0.065 points to 0.521 (158th out of 187 ranked countries). Between 2000 and 2018 Madagascar's population increased from 15.8 million people to 26.3 million people. The increase in the HDI

can particularly be attributed to improvements in health care and education. This is also clear from additional data that show that the calculated years of schooling for six-year-olds had increased from 8.2 years to 10.4 years, while the average years adults older than 25 years had gone to school increased from 5.2 years in 2000 to 6.1 years in 2018. Health levels and also the average life expectancy had increased during this period. Average income levels per capita (in US\$ of 2011, PPP) deteriorated, though: from 1418 US\$/capita (PPP levels for 2011) to 1404 US\$/capita. During this period there was an up and down trend, with 2008 the best year (1515 US\$/capita) and 2002 the worst year (1236 US\$/capita).

Madagascar: HDI composition, and life expectancy; data for 2000 and 2018

	2000	2018	2018/2000
Health Index	0.592	0.718	1.21
Income Index	0.401	0.399	1.00
Education Index	0.399	0.493	1.24
Life Expectancy	58.5 years	66.7 years	1.14
Total HDI index	0.456	0.521	1.14

Source: <https://globaldatalab.org> 4.0

Trade statistics, Madagascar: exports and imports, 2017

In 2017 Madagascar exported products for a total value of 3.42 billion \$, and imported for a total value of 3.66

billion \$ (mostly from China, France, India, UAE, and South Africa, in that order), resulting in a minor trade deficit. Leading import products were refined petroleum, and rice.

The most important export products and most important export destination in 2017 were:

Main export products (value in \$ million)		Main export destinations (value in \$ million)	
Vanilla	889	France	684
Clothing	564	USA	684
Raw nickel	410	Germany	250
Cloves	274	China	195
Cobalt	144	Japan	147

Source: <https://oec.world/en/profile/country/mdg/>

Protected areas and Forests

Madagascar currently has 19 national parks, 2 marine parks, 25 nature and special reserves, 2 global heritage sites, 4 Ramsar sites, 3 UNESCO-MAP biosphere reserves, and 4 tropical mountain forest reserves (<http://www.parks.it/world/MG/index.html>).

Currently 3.3 million hectares are protected areas (5.6% of Madagascar's total area;

<https://www.protectedplanet.net>). A small part of Madagascar's maritime area has protected status as well. Between 1990 and 2010 Madagascar lost some of its forests: from 13.7 million ha (23% of total land area) to 12.6 million ha (21%;

<https://rainforests.mongabay.com>). Other areas are mainly 'other wooded land', and areas for agriculture, livestock, hunting and gathering.

Agricultural Madagascar

Crop Area (in 1000 hectares), and total production (in 1000 tonnes), 1961 and 2018, in the order of the crop areas in 2018.

	1961		2018		2018/1961	
	Area	Prod.	Area	Prod.	Area	Prod.
rice (paddy)	804	1465	928	4030	1.2	2.8
cassava	160	926	322	2500	2.0	2.7
sw. potatoes	60	303	137	1089	2.3	3.6
maize	79	117	129	215	1.6	1.8
other vegetables	56	213	111	548	2.0	2.6
coffee (green)	162	54	106	57	0.7	1.1
sugarcane	17	838	98	3143	5.8	3.8
groundnuts	36	32	82	58	2.3	1.8
dry beans	59	51	78	86	1.3	1.7
cloves	35	11	74	23	2.1	2.1
bananas	17	135	73	384	4.3	2.8
vanilla	6	1	72	3	12.0	4.4
other fruits & nuts	22	53	59	248	2.7	4.7
other tropical fruits	15	41	57	247	3.8	6.0
mangoes	6	70	47	300	7.8	4.3
potatoes	11	72	43	257	3.9	3.6
cashew	28	44	42	84	1.5	1.9
cocoyam	13	84	38	230	2.9	2.7
coconuts	8	14	33	73	4.1	5.2
seed cotton	2	2	16	13	8.0	5.4
sisal	21	14	14	18	0.7	1.3
cocoa	2	1	13	11	6.5	11.0
Other crops (area)	33		27		0.8	
Total crop area	1644		2599		1.6	

2018/1961: red = 2018 is below 1961; green: 2018 is more than 5.0 times the 1961 figures (that is: more than population increase in Madagascar(from 5.2 to 26.3 million between 1961 and 2018); black: in-between. Source: Faostat data.

Madagascar's land area is 58,179,500 million hectares, and its crop area increased from 2.8% to 4.5% of its land area between 1961 and 2018. Almost all crop areas expanded, and expansion was very rapid for vanilla, seed cotton, mangoes, cocoa, and sugarcane, mostly crops for export. Crop yields increased for most major crops. The total production of export crops like cocoa, seed cotton, coconuts, and other tropical fruits expanded more rapidly than Madagascar's population. However, food crop production expanded less rapidly than Madagascar's population, and that is particularly true for Madagascar's most important food crop, rice.

Madagascar's food security based on own crops deteriorated during these almost sixty years.

The numbers of all live animals expanded less rapidly than the production of most crops; in fact with a population increase of 500% during these almost sixty years, livestock units only increased 140%. The best performance can be seen for sheep and chicken, livestock that is important for 'quick cash earnings' if needed, and particularly for women. However, in total one can say that, unlike most other parts of Africa, Madagascar's agricultural food sector has not been doing very well.

Livestock numbers (x million)

	1961	2018	2018/1961
Cattle	8.0	10.3	1.3
Chicken	10.0	39.0	3.9
Geese, guinea fowls and ducks	3.0	7.5	2.5
Goats	0.5	1.5	3.0
Pigs	0.5	1.7	3.4
Sheep	0.2	0.8	4.0
Livestock units	5.9	8.1	1.4

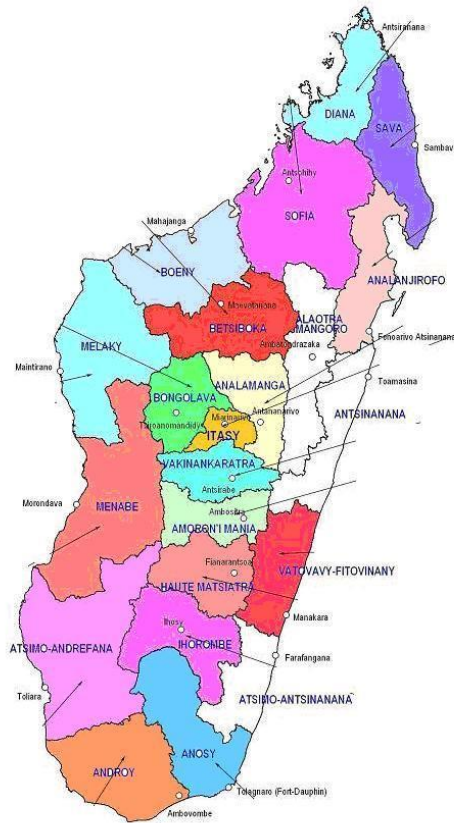
Source: Faostat data; 1 livestock unit = based on 0.7 cattle; 0.1 goats/sheep/pigs; 0.01 chicken/geese/guinea fowls/ducks.

International migration

In 2015 170,000 people who were born in Madagascar lived outside the country (only 0.7% of Madagascar's total population of 24.4 million people inside and outside the country), of which 36,000 elsewhere in Africa (mainly Réunion, the Comoros, and Mayotte), and 134,000 outside Africa (less than 0.6% of Madagascar's total population: almost all in Europe, mainly in France). In 2017 Madagascar had around 34,000 immigrants, mainly from the Comoros, and from France (UN Migration Report 2017). This figure steadily increased from 24,000 in 1990.

Urban Madagascar

Madagascar's urban population increased from a mere 500,000 people in 1960 (11% of its national population at independence) to 10.7 million in 2020 (more than 30%). The capital city Antananarivo is the biggest agglomeration of the country. Growth has been rapid for all cities (between the census years 1975 and 2018: between 2.8 and 4.2 times, with the exception of Andoany (x 18 times) as a result of major tourist development on the island of Nosy Bé.



Source: <http://citypopulation.de/en/madagascar/cities/> and <http://www.mappery.com/maps/Madagascar-regions-Map.jpg>

Cities (in Regions)	Population in thousands of inhabitants	
	1975 (census)	2018 (census)
Antananarivo (Tananarive) in Analamanga	452	1,275 (Agglom.: 2,275)
Toamasina (Tamatave) in Antsinanana	77	326
Antsirabe in Vakinankaratra	79	246
Mahajanga (Majunga) in Boeny	66	245
Fianarantsoa in Haute Matsiatra	68	190
Toliara (Tuléar) in Atsimo-Andrefana	46	170
Antsiranana (Diego-Suarez) in Diana	44	131
Andoany (Antsirambazaka; on Nosy Bé) in Diana	6	109

Source: Census 1975, and 2018: <http://citypopulation.de/en/madagascar/cities/>; also see: wikipedia (agglomerations of the world in 2017); and <https://worldpopulationreview.com/countries/madagascar-population/cities/>.


Regional Inequality

Madagascar has 22 Regions. Between 2000 and 2018 all regions experienced population growth, but the highest growth happened in Diana in the extreme

north-west, and in Androy in the extreme south, areas with major tourist facilities nowadays. High population growth was also experienced by areas in the south-west and south, and not so much in the area of and around the capital city in the centre of the country.

However, the lowest population growth was experienced by the two north-eastern regions. If we look at the regional data for human development, which for Madagascar exist since 2000, we see that across the board improvements have taken place between 2000 and 2018. Both in 2000 and in 2018 the best conditions existed in Analamanga, the area of and around the capital city, both for the HDI index as a whole, and for the education situation, while average life expectancy was also relatively high. The Androy region was the least developed in 2000, but it was also the region with the best improvements for HDI as a whole, for education, and for life expectancy. In 2018 the most problematic regions could be found in the south-west and the south-east of the country, with the

south-west also experiencing very limited improvements, and the lowest education level of the country in 2018. There is a strange anomaly in the data about life expectancy. The area with the highest life expectancy in 2000 (Bongolava) experienced hardly any improvements between 2000 and 2018 and has fallen back to the middle range. As a result of these gradual, but differentiated improvements, the regional inequality in Madagascar became less pronounced (but is still high). Particularly, the education opportunities became more equal between the 22 regions of the country, but still with major differences between the leading regions (the capital city in particular), and the lagging areas, particularly in the south-west.

Map	Region / Région	Population x 1000		'18/ 00
		2000	2018	
	1 = Alaotra Mangoro	860	1290	1.5
	2 = Analamanga	2360	3620	1.5
	3 = Analanjirofo	890	1050	1.2
	4 = Anamoroni Mania	590	870	1.5
	5 = Androy	460	1130	2.5
	6 = Anosy	480	860	1.8
	7 = Atsimo Andrefana	880	1990	2.3
	8 = Atsimo Atsinanana	540	1150	2.1
	9 = Antsinanana	860	1500	1.7
	10 = Betsiboka	220	400	1.8
	11 = Boeny	540	810	1.5
	12 = Bongolava	430	740	1.7
	13 = Diana	380	940	2.5
	14 = Haute Matsiatra	850	1420	1.7
	15 = Ihorombe	290	370	1.3
	16 = Itasy	680	920	1.4
	17 = Melaky	170	290	1.7
	18 = Menabe	390	900	2.3
	19 = Sava	710	870	1.2
	20 = Sofia	900	1520	1.7
	21 = Vakinankaratra	1440	2160	1.5
	22 = Vatovavy Fitovinany	820	1460	1.8
Total Madagascar		15800	26300	1.7

Source: <https://globaldatalab.org> 4.0, map: <http://www.mappery.com/maps/Madagascar-regions-Map.jpg>

Region	Subregional HDI			Life expectancy			Education index		
	2000	2018	18/00	2000	2018	18/00	2000	2018	18/00
1	471	536	1.14	59	69	1.17	428	518	1.21
2	555	633	1.14	63	70	1.11	558	695	1.25
3	447	542	1.21	61	68	1.11	376	522	1.39
4	451	528	1.17	57	70	1.19	423	519	1.23
5	334	425	1.27	59	64	1.08	167	329	1.97
6	377	428	1.14	55	65	1.18	255	318	1.25
7	407	418	1.03	59	66	1.12	284	290	1.02
8	365	418	1.15	54	61	1.13	246	332	1.35
9	499	541	1.08	62	66	1.06	464	545	1.17
10	422	465	1.10	58	61	1.05	335	409	1.22
11	469	525	1.12	57	70	1.23	429	474	1.10
12	456	493	1.08	64	65	1.02	363	438	1.21
13	475	597	1.26	62	70	1.13	419	632	1.51
14	449	516	1.15	56	67	1.20	422	512	1.21
15	401	446	1.11	56	65	1.16	298	349	1.17
16	434	520	1.20	59	69	1.17	356	486	1.37
17	375	463	1.23	61	70	1.15	235	356	1.51
18	419	450	1.07	58	63	1.09	321	380	1.18
19	448	570	1.27	60	72	1.20	399	556	1.39
20	468	538	1.15	60	67	1.12	420	526	1.25
21	453	531	1.17	59	68	1.15	399	515	1.29
22	371	473	1.27	50	65	1.30	301	423	1.41
Mada-gascar	456	521	1.14	58	67	1.16	399	493	1.24
Ineq	1.7	1.5		1.3	1.2		3.3	2.4	

Source: <https://globaldatalab.org/shdi>. Ineq = Inequality: high/low. Indexes are x 1000.

Further Reading

Country Portal:

<http://countryportal.ascleiden.nl/madagascar>

Selected publications: <https://www.ascleiden.nl/content/africa-2020-further-reading#Madagascar>



Reflecting on
60 years
of independence



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www.ascleiden.nl/africa2020

Country information: Ton Dietz, David Ehrhardt and Fenneken Veldkamp

Country Portal: Harro Westra

Selected publications: Germa Seuren

African Studies Centre Leiden, April 2020