

# Country Disease Outlook

## Mauritius

August 2023



World Health  
Organization

African Region

### Background

The Republic of Mauritius includes the islands of Mauritius, Cargados Carajos, Rodrigues and Agalega. The archipelago is located in the southwestern part of the Indian Ocean, 900 km east of Madagascar. The main island of Mauritius, where most of the 1.3 million population is concentrated (median population age of 36.3 years), hosts the capital and largest city, Port Louis.

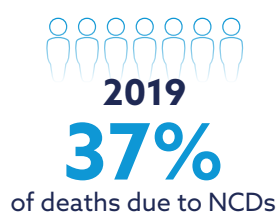
### Key points

- ❖ Mauritius has successfully met the SDG3 target for the under-5 mortality (16.6 per 1000 live births, compared to a target of 25) and the neonatal mortality rates (10.6 per 1000 live births, compared to a target of 12).
- ❖ Mauritius had 3,088 people receiving antiretroviral therapy in 2021. The country is a long way from achieving the 95-95-95 goals for HIV, reaching only 56-47-69.
- ❖ Mauritius has historically achieved high vaccination coverage rates. Since 2015, DTP3 vaccination coverage has been above 94%. However, like many countries in the region, Mauritius's recent immunisation trends suggest a dip in coverage of the basic childhood vaccines since 2020 and the country should prioritise restoring services and implementing catch-up vaccination strategies for the under-immunized and zero-dose children.
- ❖ Mauritius was certified free of dracunculiasis disease (Guinea Worm) in 2004. It is still non-endemic for all of the NTDs amenable to preventive chemotherapy.

**UHC/CN**

Universal Health Coverage/Communicable  
and Non-communicable Diseases  
WHO Regional Office for Africa





## Broad disease outlook

Mauritius has one of the strongest economies in the African region (GDP per capita of US\$ 9106.2), but also has a high burden of non-communicable diseases (NCDs), HIV/AIDs and tuberculosis. However, people generally live longer, and fewer children die in their first years of life when compared to other countries in the region.

## Communicable diseases

### Malaria

Mauritius achieved malaria elimination in 1973. It however experienced small *P. vivax* outbreaks in the 1990s, but achieved elimination in 1998 following the execution of a second elimination campaign.

### Tuberculosis and HIV/AIDs

With an estimated incidence rate of 12 cases per 100,000 people in 2021, Mauritius has the lowest TB burden. The TB mortality rate was 1.1 cases per 100,000 population. Approximately 3,088 people were receiving antiretroviral treatment in 2020. Estimates of mortality rates related to TB co-infections with HIV have steadily increased since 2015. With just over 3000 cases of HIV, Mauritius is yet to make progress against the 95-95-95 goals which stand as:

- ▲ 56% of people living with HIV know their status
- ▲ 26% of people living with HIV who know their status are on treatment
- ▲ 18% of people living with HIV and on treatment who are virally suppressed.

### Neglected tropical diseases

The country was certified free of Dracunculiasis disease (Guinea Worm) in 2004. It is still non-endemic for all of the NTDs amenable to preventive chemotherapy.

The major endemic disease are dengue and Leprosy.

## Non-communicable diseases

NCDs are one of the major health problems in Mauritius. The age-standardised mortality rate across four major NCDs (Cardiovascular Disease, Chronic Respiratory Disease, Cancer and Diabetes) was over 400 per 100,000. A national NCD policy and plan has not been implemented but there are concerted efforts to implement many NCD-related policies nationally.

## Childhood Immunization

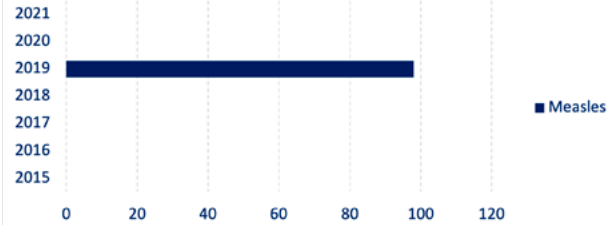
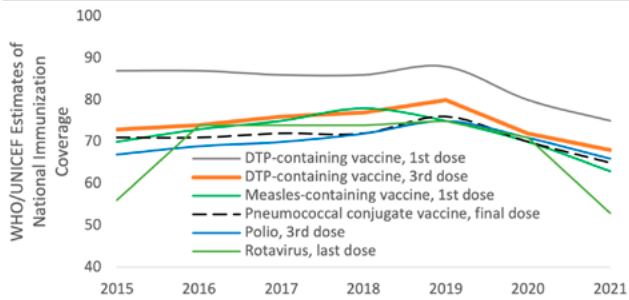
Since 2015 DTP3 vaccination coverage has been above 94%. Similar to many countries in the region, Mauritius's recent immunisation trends suggest a dip in coverage of the basic childhood vaccines since 2020. Measles vaccine coverage has fluctuated, and only reached 77% for the first dose in 2021 highlighting the need for catch-up campaigns for routine immunisation. Sub-regionally (including Madagascar) there was a measles outbreak in 2019. The estimated number of zero-dose children in 2021 was 929.

- ▲ Strengthening the immunization catch-up campaigns to restore coverage, with an emphasis on measles-containing vaccines.

## Child survival

Based on the UN Inter-agency Group for Child Mortality Estimation (UN IGME) estimates derived from national data from censuses, surveys or vital registration systems, the under-5 mortality stands at 16.6 per 1000 live births and the neonatal mortality is 10.6 per 1000 live births, thereby Mauritius has successfully met the SDG3 target of 25 per 1000 live births and 12 per 1000 live births, respectively.

**EXPANDED PROGRAMME ON IMMUNIZATION IN CHILDREN**



**Zero dose children 929**

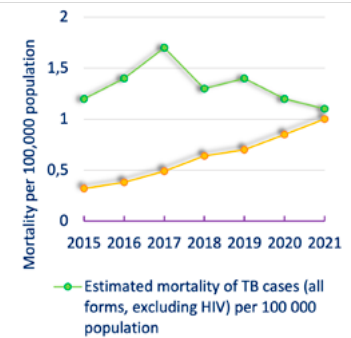
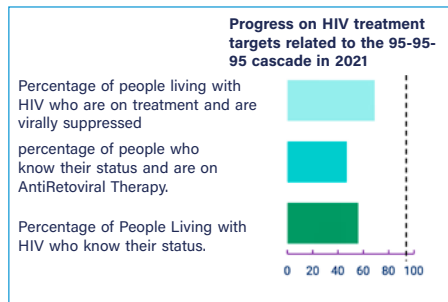
**Under-immunized 1,061**

Despite historically high vaccination coverage of basic antigens (>90%), recent estimates suggest a drop in coverage since 2019. The Islands of Mauritius had an outbreak of measles in 2019

**HIV AND TUBERCULOSIS**

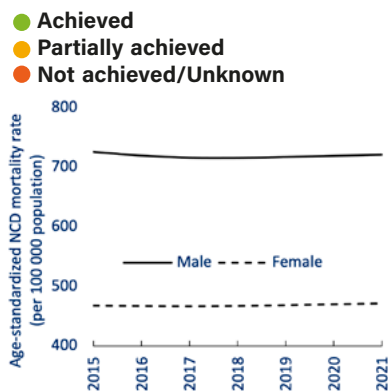
- 3,088** people receiving antiretroviral therapy in 2021
- 56%** Treatment success rate for HIV-positive TB cases
- 100%** of children (aged < 5 years) household contacts of bacteriologically-confirmed TB cases on preventive treatment

Limited data on domestic funding for TB  
Limited data on domestic funding for HIV



- Indicator 1 - Targets
- Indicator 2 - CRV Mortality
- Indicator 3 - Surveys
- Indicator 4 - NCD policy and Plan
- Indicator 5A - Tobacco taxes
- Indicator 5B - Tobacco smoke free/pollution
- Indicator 5C - Tobacco health warning
- Indicator 5D - Tobacco advertising ban
- Indicator 5E - Tobacco media campaign
- Indicator 6A - Alcohol availability
- Indicator 6B - Alcohol advertising restriction
- Indicator 6C - Alcohol taxes
- Indicator 7A - Salt policies
- Indicator 7B - Trans fats policies
- Indicator 7C - Marketing to children
- Indicator 8 - Physical activity awareness
- Indicator 9 - NCD guidelines

**NCD PROGRESS INDICATORS**



**NEGLECTED TROPICAL DISEASES**

- Endemic NTDS requiring Preventive Chemotherapy (PC)**
- Lymphatic filariasis
  - Soil-transmitted helminthiasis
  - Schistosomiasis
  - Trachoma
  - Onchocerciasis

**PC-NTDs treatment in 2021**

0 Million targeted for MDA  
0 Million treated with MDA  
Non-Endemic

**OTHER MAJOR NTDS**

- Leprosy
- Dengue

