How Data-ready are African Governments to Monitor SDG Progress?

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SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT G⊙ALS

1 NO POVERTY	2 ZERO HUNGER	3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING	4 QUALITY EDUCATION	5 GENDER EQUALITY	6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION
7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY	**8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH**	**9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE**	**10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES**	**11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES**	**12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION**
13 CLIMATE ACTION	**14 LIFE BELOW WATER**	**15 LIFE ON LAND**	**16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS**	**17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS**	**SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT G⊙ALS**

Reporting on Indicators of Progress towards SDG Targets

SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities	
Target	Indicator
11.1 By 2030, ensure access for all to adequate, safe and affordable housing and basic services and upgrade slums	11.1.1 Proportion of urban population living in slums, informal settlements or inadequate housing
11.2 By 2030, provide access to safe, affordable, accessible and sustainable transport systems for all, improving road safety, notably by expanding public transport, with special attention to the needs of those in vulnerable situations	11.2.1 Proportion of population that has convenient access to public transport, by sex, age and persons with disabilities

# How well are African Governments doing on SDG Reporting?

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL 11

Make cities inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable

The UN explains: *"The challenges cities face can be overcome in ways that allow them to continue to thrive and grow, while improving resource use and reducing pollution and poverty. The future we want includes cities of opportunities for all, with access to basic services, energy, housing, transportation and more."*

The UN has defined 10 *Targets* and 15 *Indicators* for SDG 11. Targets specify the goals and Indicators represent the metrics by which the world aims to track whether these Targets are achieved. Below we quote the original text of all Targets and show the data on the agreed Indicators.

How is the world doing on this goal?

11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES
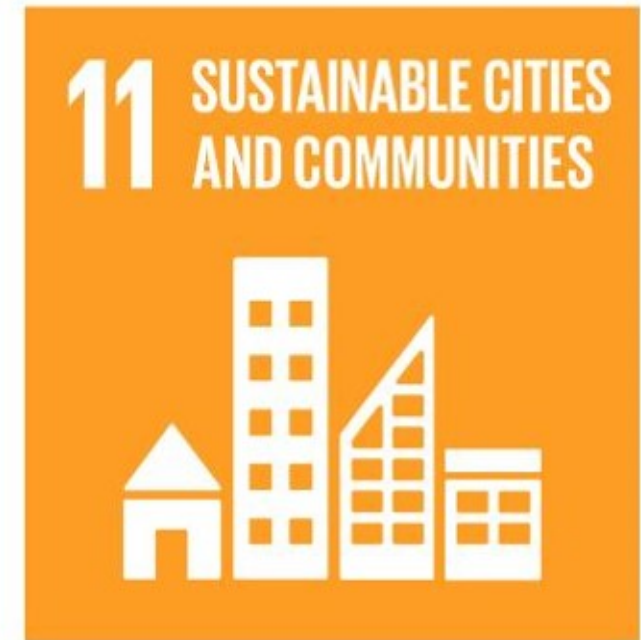
African SDG Indicators are often outdated or difficult to trace to source

Share of urban population living in slums, 2014
Population living in slums is the proportion of the urban population living in slum households. A slum household is defined as a group of individuals living under the same roof lacking one or more of the following conditions: access to improved water, access to improved sanitation, sufficient living area, and durability of housing.

Our World in Data

No data 0% 10% 20% 30% 40% 50% 60% 70% 80% 90% 100%
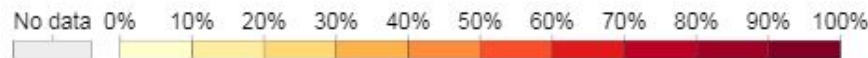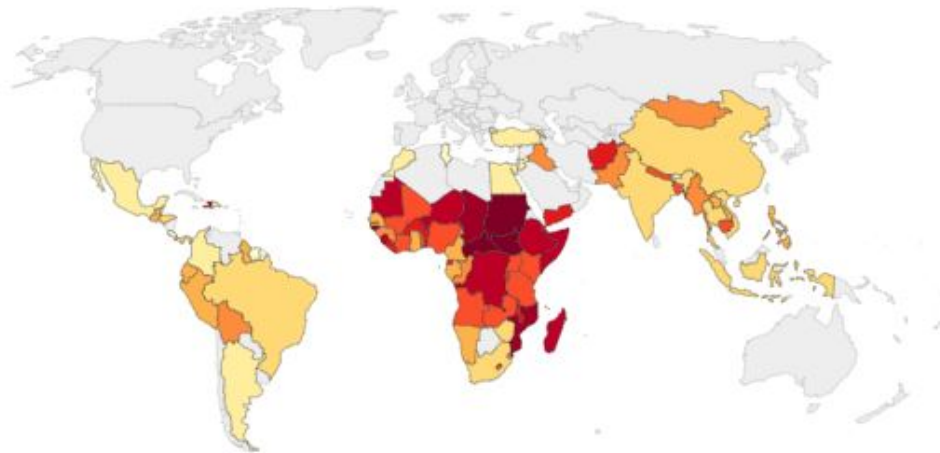
Source: World Bank

CC BY

Sources

POPULATION LIVING IN SLUMS (% OF URBAN POPULATION)

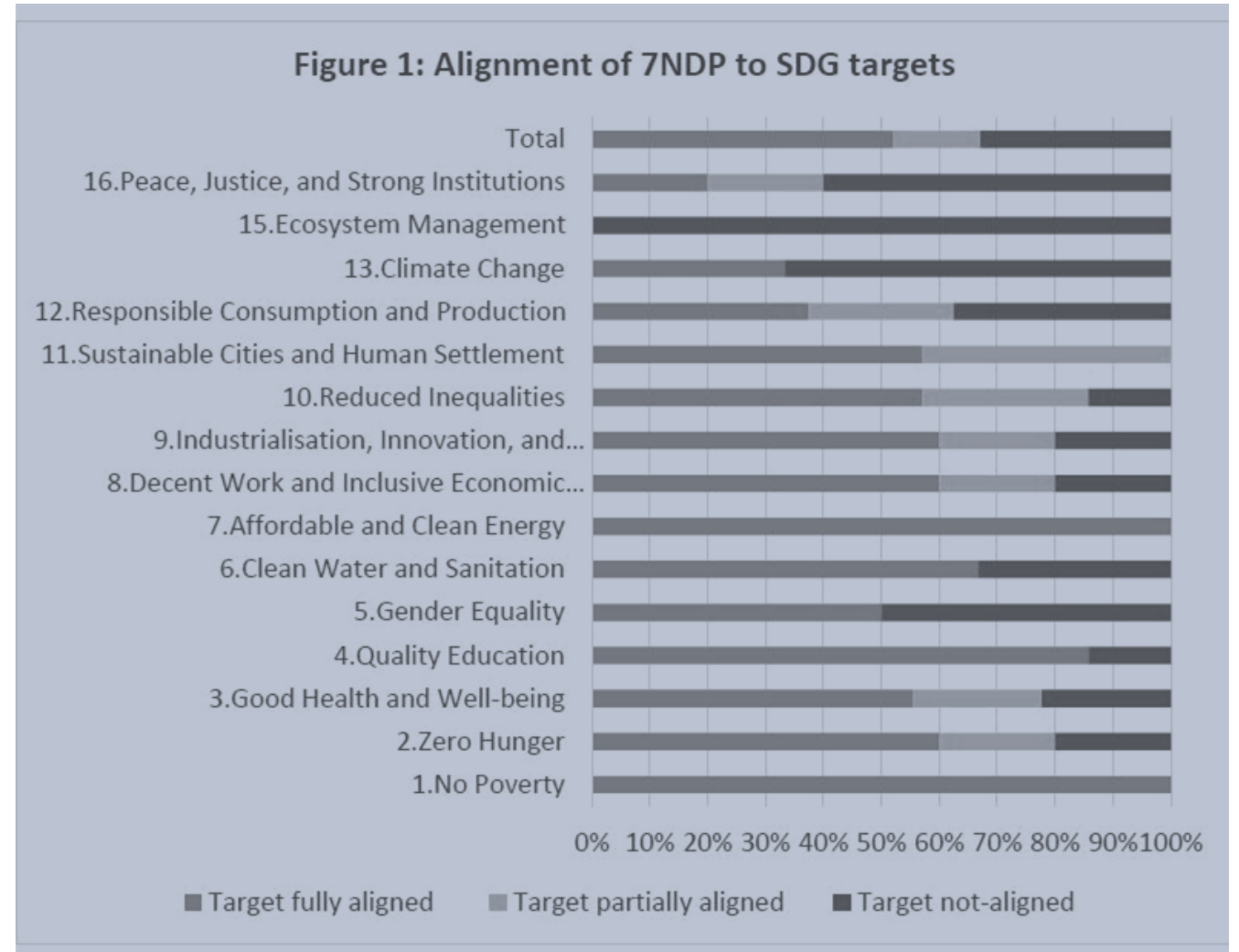|	
Variable description	Population living in slums is the proportion of the urban population living in slum households. A slum household is defined as a group of individuals living under the same roof lacking one or more of the following conditions: access to improved water, access to improved sanitation, sufficient living area, and durability of housing.
Variable time span	1960-2017
Data published by	World Bank – World Development Indicators
Data publisher's source	UN HABITAT, retrieved from the United Nation's Millennium Development Goals database. Data are available at : http://mdgs.un.org/
Link	http://data.worldbank.org/data-catalog/world-development-indicators

Misaligned with National Goals

A 2017 UNDP *Assessment* found that Zambia's National Development Plan targets are aligned with only 52 % of the SDG targets

The assessment also found that most Zambian indicators were not available at the required level of disaggregation

Figure 1: Alignment of 7NDP to SDG targets

Total
16.Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions
15.Ecosystem Management
13.Climate Change
12.Responsible Consumption and Production
11.Sustainable Cities and Human Settlement
10.Reduced Inequalities
9.Industrialisation, Innovation, and...
8.Decent Work and Inclusive Economic...
7.Affordable and Clean Energy
6.Clean Water and Sanitation
5.Gender Equality
4.Quality Education
3.Good Health and Well-being
2.Zero Hunger
1.No Poverty

0% 10% 20% 30% 40% 50% 60% 70% 80% 90% 100%

■ Target fully aligned ■ Target partially aligned ■ Target not-aligned

Data-Readiness Assessments

- UN Statistics Division's DFID-funded Project on SDG Monitoring

- Tackles the challenges of SDG planning by assessing data needs, building data platforms

- Detailed investigation of the capacity of government agencies to compile indicators of SDG progress

Background and Expertise for Assessments

- Work undertaken as a Consultant for the UN Statistics Division
- Expertise from 25 years managing data operations at DataFirst data service at the University of Cape Town, South Africa
- Open Data Repository gives researchers access to African socio-economic and health data from government and academic research
- Certified with the international CoreTrustSeal trusted data repository certification
- We work closely with researchers and government departments to widen access to African data for high-quality policy research
- Offer training in data and metadata management, and data analysis

SDG Data-Readiness Assessment

- Capacity Analysis based on a count of SDG indicators able to be reported on from government sources in each country

- Covered all 232 unique SDG indicators agreed by the UNSC, 2018

- Used pre-defined UN Statistics Division metrics looking at the % of SDG Indicators which are available or can be reported

- 4 days of in-country meetings with representatives of government agencies responsible for SDG reporting in their domains

- Review of data sources being used for indicators

SDG Data-Readiness Assessment Method

- Key informant at the Statistics Agency was sent the indicator list to pre-populated with information for each indicator, on whether the indicator:
  - Has been compiled from official data and published
  - Is easy to compile within 3-5 years because the relevant data is available
  - Can be compiled within the next 3-5 years if agencies receive funding and technical support to collect data for the indicator
  - Cannot be compiled (data does not exist)
  - Is not applicable to the country county e.g. in land-locked countries, indicators for ocean-related SDGs are not applicable
- On-site assessments confirmed, corrected or extended this information

Available or Easily Compiled SDGIs

Zambian Government

SDG indicators	Number of indicators	% of Applicable indicators
All Unique SDG indicators	232	
Not Applicable SDGIs	29	
Applicable SDGIs	203	100%
SDGIs that are currently available	27	13%
SDGIs that are easy to compile	51	25%
SDGIs that can be compiled with support	108	53%
SDGIs that cannot be compiled	17	8%
Current statistical capacity (sum of SDGIs currently available and reported as easy to compile)	78	38%

Zimbabwean Government

SDG indicators	Number of indicators	% of applicable indicators
All Unique SDG indicators	232	
Not Applicable SDGIs	29	
Applicable SDGIs	203	100%
SDGIs that are currently available	28	14%
SDGIs that are easy to compile	57	28%
SDGIs that can be compiled with support	104	51%
SDGIs that cannot be compiled	14	7%
	0	0%
Current statistical capacity (sum of SDGIs currently available and reported as easy to compile)	85	42%

Available or Easily Compiled SDGIs

| SDG Indicators already compiled for Egypt 2018	Number of indicators	% of applicable indicators
All SDG indicators (including indicators that repeat for some targets)	244*	
Not applicable	13	5%
Applicable	231	100%
Indicators already compiled	106	45%
Indicators not yet compiled	125	55%
SDGI data-readiness (compiled applicable indicators)	106	45%

Government of Egypt: Compiled Indicators

These numbers are based on the total of 244 non-unique indicators, as reported by CAPMAS in 2018
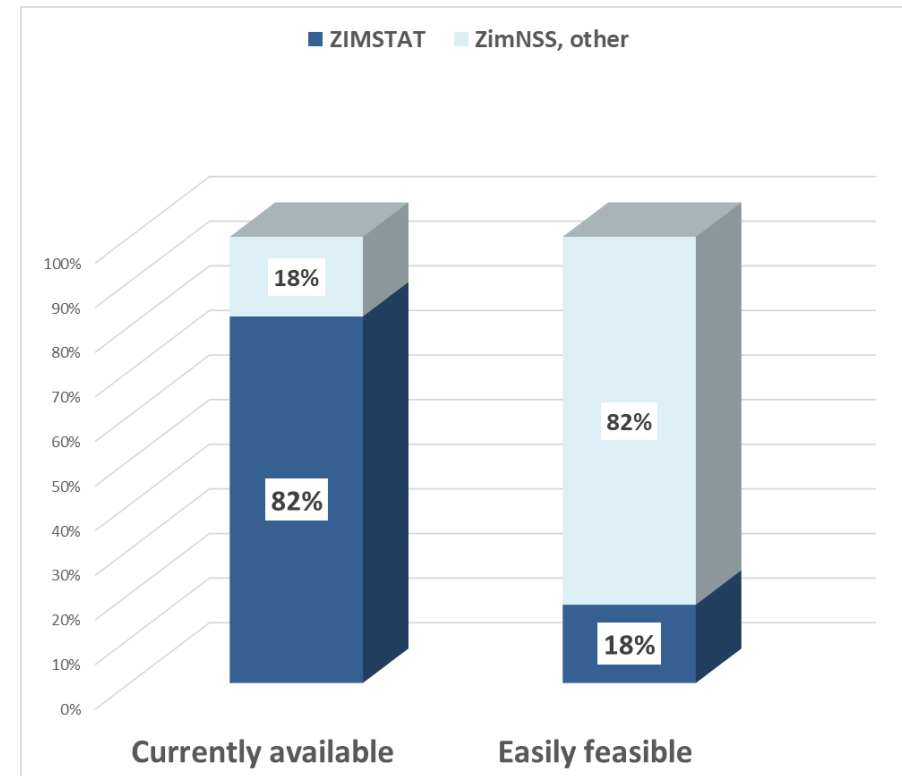
Thus these calculations are not directly comparable with SDG data-readiness figures for Zambia and Zimbabwe

SDGI Reporting Role:
Statistics Agency vs Other Agencies

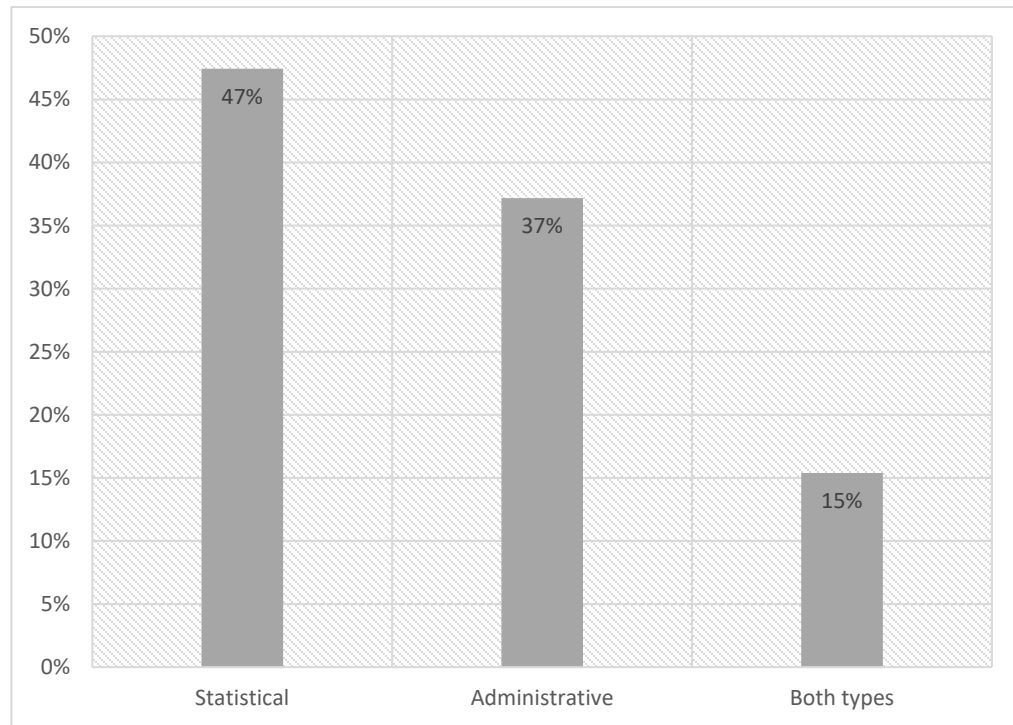**Zambian NSS**
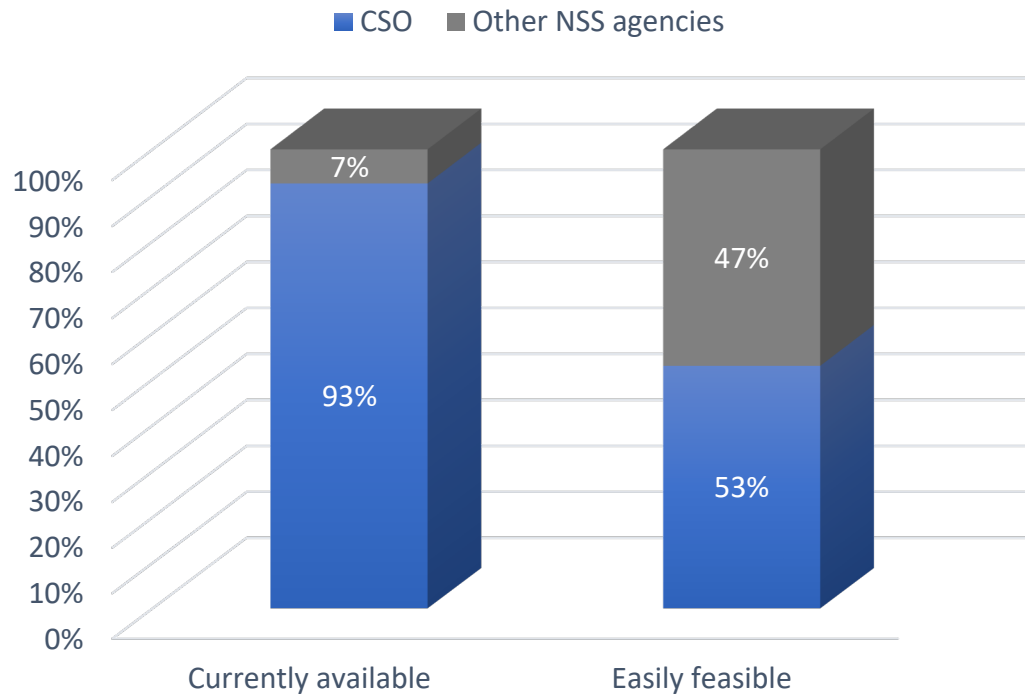
Zimbabwean NSS

Role of Statistics Agency vs Other Agencies

- National Statistics Agencies are the coordinating agencies for data collection within the National Statistical Systems

- However, they shoulder a disproportionately large responsibility for compiling SDGIs for the country

- To some extent, this is a result of poor data communication among government agencies in both countries.

- There are no official protocols for sharing microdata or even aggregated data products across agencies

Data Sources for SDGI Reporting

Zambian NSS
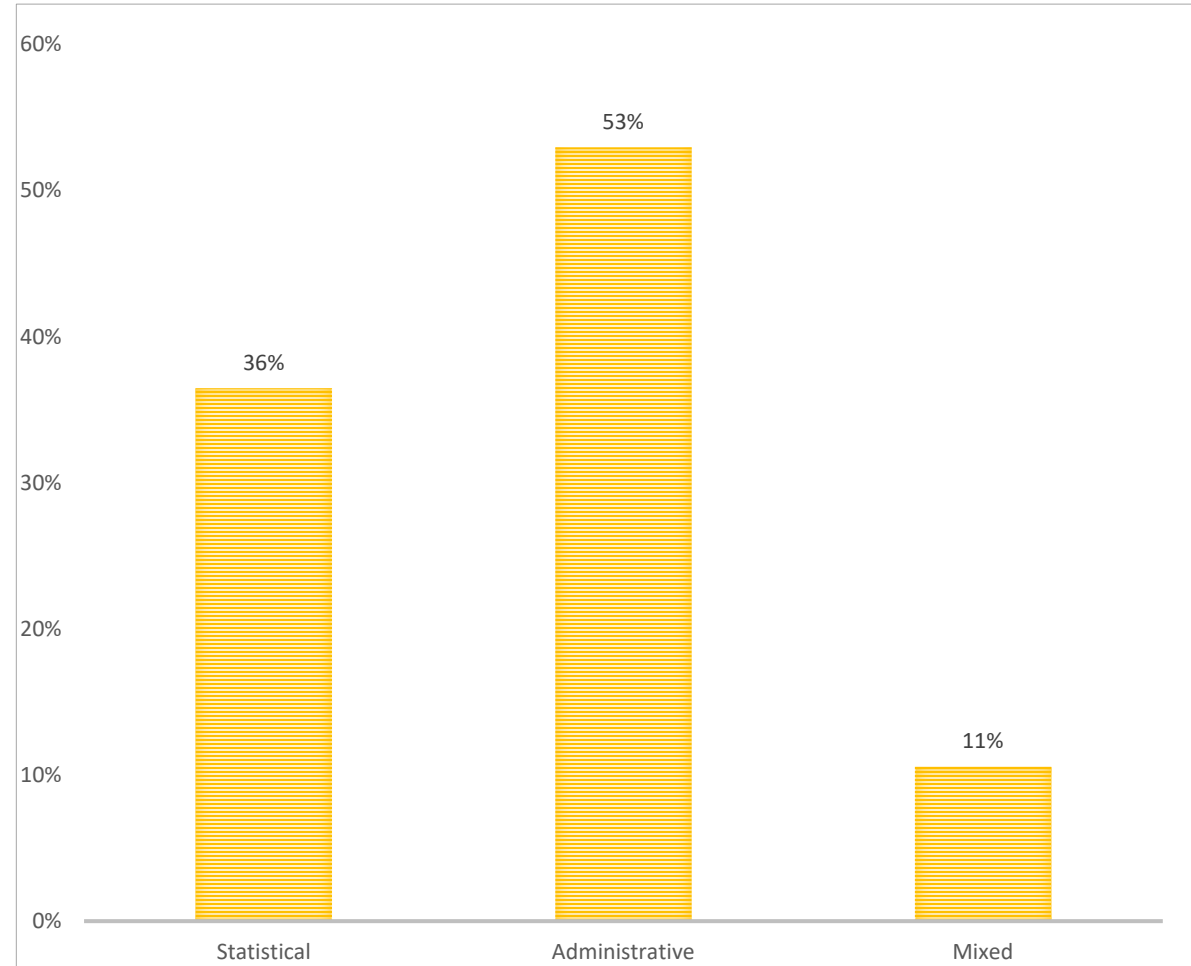

Zimbabwean NSS
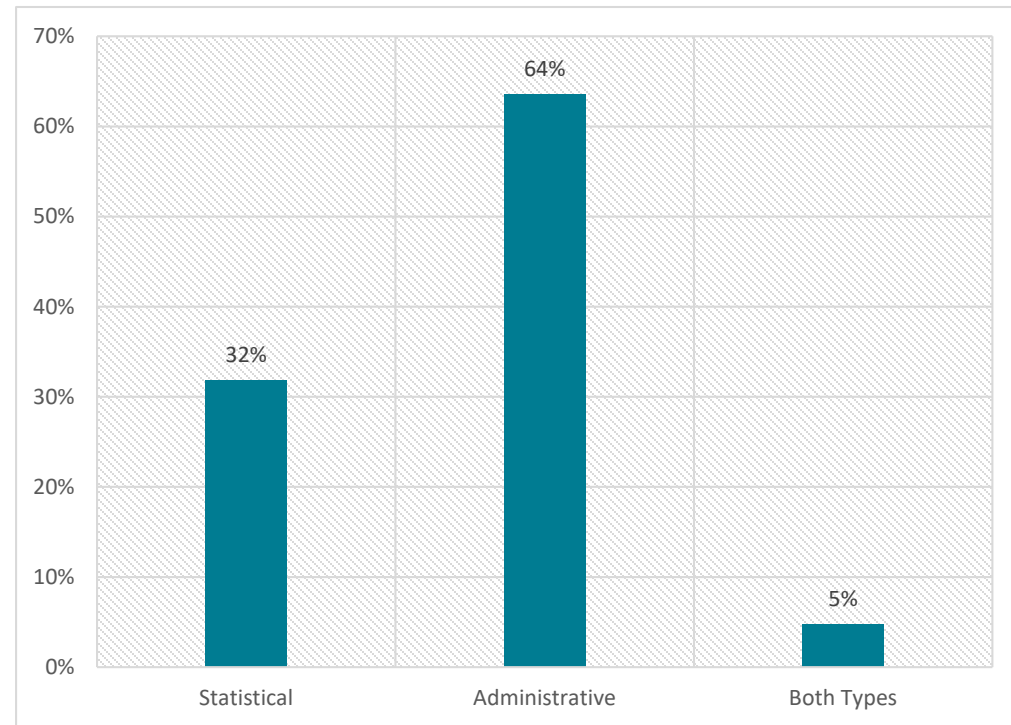
Data Sources for SDG Indicator Reporting

- Statistical sources - censuses and surveys - are the main SDGI sources in Zambia and Zimbabwe – possibly because:

- Survey project managers in their Statistics agencies are now proactively collecting SDGI-relevant data

- Administrative data often has quality issues related to inconsistencies in collection and compilation and because this data is seldom reused across agencies

- Administrative data is expected to be used more in the future

- This may have the concomitant advantage of improving administrative data collection and management

Mode of Dissemination of SDG Indicators

Zambian Government

- Downloadable from NSS websites as an Excel, CSV or other structured file for easy data processing
- Accessible from NSS websites by querying NSS databases
- Downloadable from NSS websites in a pdf document
- Currently available offline

4% 15% 59% 22%

Zimbabwean Government

- Downloadable from an agency website (in Excel, csv or other structured file for easy data processing
- Downloadable from an agency website (in PDF)
- Downloadable from an authorised external website
- Available offline (in printed reports or prepared on request)

7% 21% 61% 11%

Mode of Dissemination of SDG Indicators

Government of Egypt

Pie chart legend:
- Downloadable from an agency's website (Excel, CSV or other structured file for easy data processing)
- Downloadable from an agency's website (pdf)
- Downloadable from an authorized external website
- Available offline

Chart values: 47%, 2%, 34%, 17%
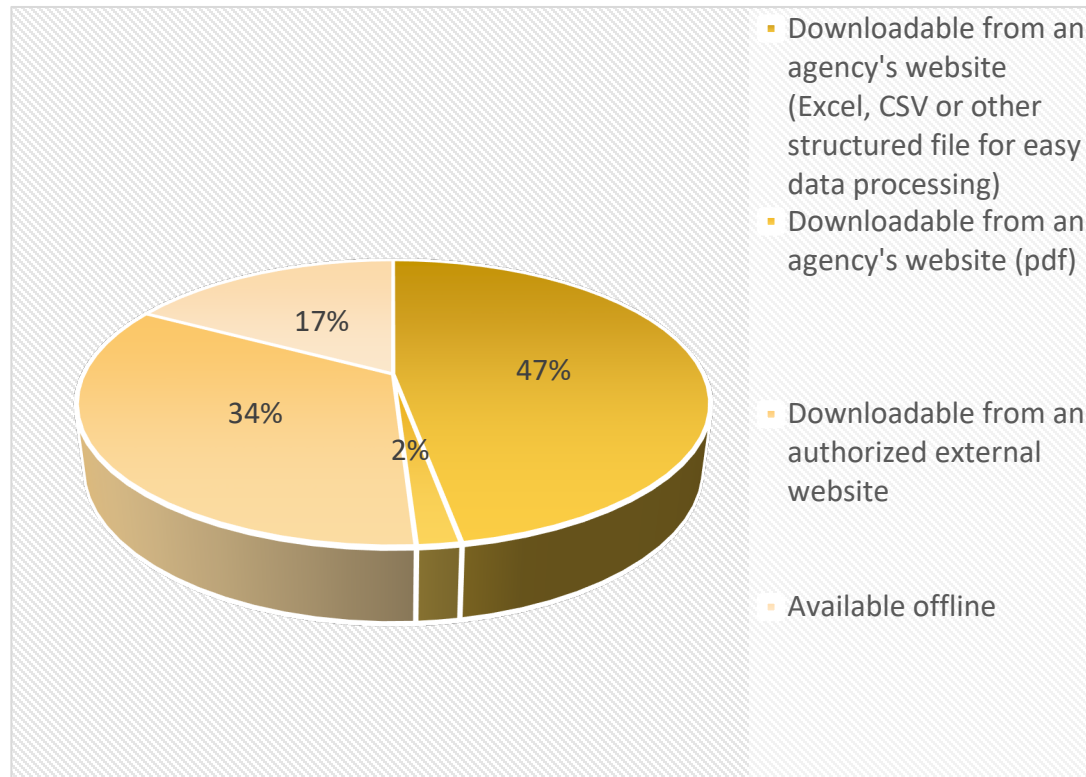
Egypt's 2018 *Voluntary National Review* reported on already-compiled SDG indicators.

This dissemination chart is based on an online search for indicators reported in the VNR

Those indicators that were reported as compiled but could not be located online were listed as available offline

Platforms for SDG Data Exchange

- The Zambian and Zimbabwean Statistics Agencies use an aggregated data dissemination platform based on Open Data for Africa software developed by contractors for the African Development Bank

- Data content is patchy and the indicator modules are not yet populated with data points

- Both statistics agencies have World-Bank developed National Data Archive web-based microdata dissemination platforms installed but are not using these to share disaggregated data

Platforms for SDG Data Exchange

- CAPMAS makes aggregated data available via their CAPMAStat dissemination platform which is based on UNICEF's DevInfo software

- Their Egypt SDG Observatory is also built on the DevInfo software and is easy to use and already populated with indicators

- CAPMAS distributes metadata using the World-Bank developed National Data Archive platform

- The agency does not use the software to disseminate microdata, but has an institutional microdata-sharing arrangement with the Cairo-based Economic Research Forum which ensures access for researchers

Data Access and Data Infrastructure

- The *Cape Town Global Action Plan for Sustainable Development Data* recommends that country-level values for indicators of SDG progress should be made available by governments "through transparent and public access".

- The assessment showed that models of limited data access in Zambia and Zimbabwe hamper SDGI reporting, because they prevent the creation of efficient interoperable data infrastructure - policies, legislation, and technologies - for data exchange

Data Access and Trust in Official Data

The assessments indicate that indicator data sources that are easy to find and download will be used more

For example, 30 of the 34 data graphs in Zimbabwe's 2017 Voluntary National SDG Review cite data that is available online (DHS, MICS). That is, while most of their data is not shared openly, the data they report from is

It seems that data held openly elsewhere is more available to government statisticians than difficult to locate data held by governments

Openly available data may be trusted more, too, because it can be widely and independently reviewed

Limitations of the UNSD SDGI Data-Readiness Assessments

- Brief intervention – no plans for sustainable support

- "One-size fits all" approach to the problems of development planning in countries

- Generally, a reliance on agency reporting, without checking data sources

- No co-ordination with other data capacity-building projects or country teams in the UN System

- An emphasis on technological solutions over a "bigger picture" approach that includes institutional change

Questions?

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